

Care & Serve



Missionary Upholders Trust

God at His own initiative voluntarily gave us, His people, the covenant of revival. No human being begged God until He promised to revive. Because He is the God of revival, He voluntarily gave us His covenant as His invitation to us to seek revival. God is more hungry to give us revival than we are hungry to be revived.

God stated His covenant of revival in various forms throughout the Bible, especially in these Old Testament passages: Isaiah 41:18; 44:3; 62:1,6-7; and 64:1-2,4-5. But probably the most well-known and often-quoted promise is 2 Chronicles 7:14:

“If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

God wants us to remember and reflect on how He has worked in the past. He wants this remembrance to make us hungry to see Him work again in all His historic power. If God's people hunger deeply enough, God will hear and send revival.

Let us fulfill our part of His revival covenant. Let us accept His holy challenge in 2 Chronicles 7:14.

1. **“If My people will humble themselves.”**
 How many of God's people do you know who take God's covenant seriously? How many are truly humbling themselves? Humble yourself in private prayer. Humble yourself in prayer meetings and solemn assemblies before God. Humble yourself with fasting like David did (Psalm 35:13).

2. **“And pray and seek My face.”**

Every time in the history of the church revival has come, it has followed extensive prayer and seeking of God's face by some of His children. When we study the history of God's work on earth, we will always find faithful praying saints, often hidden, holding on before Him in prayer, pleading for God to revive His people. Always there were people- often many- who in the privacy of their hearts cried out to God over and over.

God requires more than casual prayers for revival. He wants His people to hunger and thirst for His mighty working. To seek God's face is far more than occasionally mentioning revival in our prayer. It involves repeated and prolonged prayer. It requires holy determination in prayer, examining ourselves to see if anything in our lives is hindering God. A revival seeker is prepared to take any step that can help to bring answers. A revival seeker is eager to obey God in everything. Seeking God's face often requires asking forgiveness from others (Matt. 5:23-24; 6:14-15; Mark 11:25; Luke 6:37; Col. 3:13). It often requires resolving friction that has hindered prayer from being answered (1 Peter 3:7). Are you seeking God's face?

3. **“And turn from their wicked ways.”**

Anything that grieves God- whether things we did or things we failed to do- will hinder our efforts to respond to God's revival covenant. We need to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and to His efforts to point out areas in our lives that hinder His working



Mission

Missionary Upholders Trust will strive for meeting the common unmet needs of missionaries in the area of Health Care, Calamity Relief, Crisis Relief, Renewal of emotional and spiritual life, Rest and Recuperation, Social - Spiritual enhancement of Missionary/Pastor children and retired missionaries' welfare. The purposes of carrying out these activities are to equip, energize and encourage the Missionary Community to be a witness as salt and light of the Society at all times.

Vision

As followers of Christ, we exist to care for, share with, and meet some of the common unmet needs of missionaries, at their affordable cost, working beyond all man-made boundaries, in a spirit of Christian love.

Values

- Absolute faith in God
- Humility.
- Regular and focused prayer.
- Unconditional love & compassion
- Accountability in all areas.

MUT Ethos

Love, Understand, Pray, Accept, Serve and Encourage in the spirit of Lord Jesus Christ and meet the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of all the members in the team, to fulfill God given purpose for self, family and the ministry in MUT.

- Transparency in all the areas of the ministry.
- Holiness and integrity in life and activities.



We thank God for His grace, strength, wisdom, guidance and provision to serve the servants of God in the ministries of MUT. The information you read in this Care & Serve issue are the experiences of both member care and missionary care in MUT. It wasn't an easy road to pass through particularly in the context of the challenges and the unmet needs of His servants. But God who is the Owner of this vision and mission. He has been admonishing, teaching and moulding us in His path to accomplish His purpose. I can say this humbly that we are more and more into His purpose and His ways in all of our being and doing though we still have to inculcate more of Him. As you go through the articles and reports I pray that God will help all of us to be His faithful stewards in carrying out His purposes in this ministry.

Many times, I could not answer the question about the future direction in the ministries of MUT though I attempted to write them down. But in the Month of Jan 2017 God clearly led me to pen down His plans for us in this ministry based on our prayers and discussion in the last two years. This future plan of God for us in MUT emerged in the context of life in serving the servants of God in the last 23 years.

The following are some directions for the future initiatives: (Five year plan)

1. Missionary care: To look into physical, emotional and spiritual aspects simultaneously. It means that in all of the welfare schemes the caring aspects to be intensified in all the three aspects of life. Financial assistance in each scheme is only one aspect of missionary care. Praise God for the partnership of both Mission organizations and missionaries. We have a total of about 241 mission organizations and church bodies with over 21,000 members who are partnering in this ministry and blessing the other member in his or her unmet needs. But, God is calling us now to go deeper in their lives and families and help them in their emotional and spiritual challenges.
2. Developing the NxT GeN: The uniqueness of our ministry is the work done by volunteers. God has been raising volunteers in serving the servants of God. In order for this God given vision and mission to continue we need the younger generation to take up this ministry forward. We praise God, already God has given two levels of generation (volunteers & staff) and are now involved in this ministry.
3. Member care in member missions: It is to see that that the member missions inculcate member care as their ethos in mission. MUT awaits in seeing the mission organizations caring for their own missionaries and co workers in all the three aspects (physical, emotional and spiritual)
4. Vision casting on Missionary care in the churches of South, North & N. East India. It is to see that the church at large in India to be aware of the challenges and the unmet needs of the missionaries and facilitate both missionary care and member care in and through their churches.
5. Developing Missionary care teams for N. Indian missions. God has placed this burden in our hearts to see that member care teams are developed in North India among North India Christian - Missionary leaders. As we had already signed MoUs in N. Indian mission hospitals and will also pursue the same we need a team of people to care for missionaries when they go for treatment to the respective hospitals.

We want to continue seek God's guidance to unfold these future initiatives. As you journey with us in this ministry of missionary care, we request you to kindly pray for these future direction in MUT. In our discussions and deliberations we seek God's peace and consensus for this direction.

Revival is coming if...

Continued from previous page

and rob us of God's full blessing. The Holy Spirit may at times with His strong voice correct us with deep conviction of our failure. At other times, His is a gentle touch to direct us more fully into God's will.

Instant obedience to anything the Holy Spirit shows us, instant repentance for anything that has grieved God- this is what prepares the way for revival. No one is as quick to sense the Spirit's reproof, no one is more sensitive and responsive to God than a Spirit-filled person. So it follows that no one should be as quick to repent over any failure as a Spirit-filled person! That is why God needs Spirit-filled people to play key roles in His revival strategy.

The above are the three essential steps in preparing the way of the Lord for revival. These are God's covenantal conditions if we would see His mighty working. But as sure as God is in heaven, when we fulfill His clear conditions, God will do two things: forgive us for any way we have grieved Him and give gracious healing to our land.

The whole world is wounded by Satan and sin. Every nation today is desperately in need of healing. Many churches, groups, and families need healing. Revival always brings healing to

homes, churches, communities, and nations. "Oh God, heal our land" should be the heart-cry of every Christian.

Will Another Great Revival Come?

It is never too late for God. If we will fulfill God's covenantal conditions, we will see God's covenantal promises fulfilled. So the question is not so much, "Will revival come?" but rather, "Will we meet God's covenantal conditions for revival?"

Is it God's time? Just as it is always God's time to save, it is always God's time to give revival. Just as surely as "now is the day of salvation," so surely now is the day of revival, for now is the day of grace. It may take time for us to meet God's conditions, to prepare the way of the Lord, and to pray until we win the battles in prayer warfare. But God does not delay revival because He is arbitrary. He does not need to be begged.

Over the past several centuries God has given many revivals, large and small. The Finney revivals were perhaps more extensive than the Wesley-Whitefield revivals. The 1858-59 revivals were far more extensive than the Finney revivals and may even be considered God's follow-up to the Finney revivals. Certainly the 1858-59 revival was the first truly international one. The 1905-1909 revival was probably preceded by prayer and

hunger on a more international scale than any previous revival. God's blessing was poured out in more nations than in any previous revival movement.

But never in Christian history has there been such a longing for revival in so many parts of the world and by people from so many denominational backgrounds as there is today!

Surely this hunger is the result of the Holy Spirit calling God's people to prayer. There have been more books written on prayer than ever before. More organizations and more denominations have called for a year of prayer or a year for revival than ever previously known. Undoubtedly the Holy Spirit is calling God's people to their knees. Undoubtedly He is guiding His people to join Christ our great High Priest in His great longing and holy determination to see another great revival. Undoubtedly the Holy Spirit Himself is groaning in prayer today for revival in the church (Rom. 8:26).

The Holy Spirit does not play games with us or with our prayer lives. When He gives us hunger and prayer burden for revival, He Himself and our beloved interceding High Priest are one with us in that holy desire. Ours is but a faint echo of the deep yearnings and desires and intercessions on their parts. Will their intercession be in vain? God's prayer call in our hearts proves the Triune God is longing to send revival. It is God's time.

Why should we not expect God to give one more great outpouring of the Holy Spirit before our Lord's second advent?

Why should this not be the most widespread revival the church has ever known? Of course the millennium will be the greatest revival of all. God has used the media in the past to help spread hunger and expectancy and news of revival. Why should God not do this in even greater dimensions in this age of radio, television, and international communication?

More Prevailing Intercession Needed

But we are still too careless and ineffective in our prayer lives. We need to recruit many more of God's children for serious prevailing intercession for revival. It will probably be the regret of millions of Christians throughout eternity that they failed so tragically in their prayer lives.

How ashamed they will be when they stand before Christ's judgment throne. But, oh, the joy of those who wake up now and invest quality time and an adequate quantity of time in earnest intercession, particularly for revival.

Praise God for His revivals over the centuries. Praise God that He is still the same today. Praise God that He has promised to send revival if we meet His stated conditions. We cannot earn revival; it is given through grace. But we can share in preparing the way of the Lord, if we choose to do it.

Make a new prayer commitment to God. Join God the Son and God the Spirit in revival intercession. Set apart time regularly for prayer. Fall on your knees now and pray.

MUT- SMILE

In the last few months we have seen a growth in membership to 3300 pastors, after the introduction of medical scheme. This was achieved with God's guidance and the efforts of SMILE team.

We participated in few pastor's fellowships in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. Many expressed their wish to join MUT SMILE.

After streamlining we are now able to help pastors who had seek medical help. We thank God for making it possible.

Since January, 2017 we lost only 4 members in SMILE family. With respect to bereavement, we have a team of members constantly in touch with the bereaved families.

Pray for more volunteers to support SMILE and also pray for the SMILE members who are facing persecution.

On 8th of April a counseling programme was organised to train the volunteers helping the bereaved families. Uphold Ms. Uma Victor, bereavement Councillor in your prayers.

Missionary Upholders Family

MUF was formed in 1984, mainly to challenge & encourage Christian families to involve in missions by raising financial support & prayer for missionaries. As of 31st November 2016, 496 missionaries of 68 mission organisations are being supported by the MUF missionary supporting family.

Central Co-ordinator | Mr. D. J. Chelladurai | +91 9865 391 285

MISSIONARY UPHOLDERS TRUST (MUT)

MUT was a spin off from MUF (Missionaries Upholder Family) in the year 1993. The role of MUT is to care for missionaries by meeting some of the common unmet needs at a cost affordable to them in physical, emotional and spiritual areas, with a view to equip, energise and to motivate them, to build the kingdom of God effectively.

MUT is an umbrella body covering over 218 Organizations as member missions covering about 19,000 missionaries and christian workers. MUT is governed by a Board of Trustees and managed by the General Coordinator assisted mostly by over 60 volunteers; recently some of the Member Missions have taken keen interest in the ministry and are giving their committed workers on deputation for a period from 6 months to 2 years. There are over 37 people on MUT payroll, receiving monthly remuneration. The operational costs and administrative expenses are kept low through sponsorship and donations towards administrative expenses. MUT does not append any money from any of its earmarked donations received.

*Become Friends of MUT/Missionaries.
Care & Serve magazines and other
important news from MUT will be sent to
these friends at regular intervals.*

*Life membership
For friends abroad
Life membership
Annual membershi p*

*- Rs. 1,000
- Rs. 10,000
- Rs. 1,000*

*For further information, you may contact:
Mrs. Shanthi Ratnakumar, Co-ordinator.
Tel: +91 9600 989 245
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8th MUT Member Care Consultation

The 8th MUT Member care Consultation was held from 14th to 16th June 2016 at Karunya University, Coimbatore.

At the outset, Rev. Isac Raja, General Co-coordinator, made clear the theme and purpose for the meet was “Serving to serve; to share the unmet needs of the missionaries”. He underscored the fact that MUT was there to facilitate the overcoming of challenges faced by missionaries but not directly do the work themselves.

The core areas of Member care are:

- Care for the missionaries
- Care for the mission leaders
- Care for the missionary families
- Care for the missionary kids and
- Welfare of missionaries.

The Associate Director of World Evangelical Alliance, Mr Rajendran, said when IMA introduced the five areas of member care, MUT picked up all of them and rolled out many Indian schemes and presently missions abroad follow the Indian pattern!

The founder of MUT, Mr J. J. Ratnakumar, shared his dream of 20 years: “I wish to see all the missionaries and the leaders in missions – men and women, young and old – to live a life without too much stress and without burning out, to be prepared to handle crises, living with spiritual sharpness at all times, having an understanding family or being joyful even in singleness, having healthy bodies, leading a purposeful life with focused vision, having all their basic needs met, leading a life with contentment and commitment”. He admitted candidly, “one of the glaring mistakes I made was I did not take adequate measures to prepare my family before I moved into full time work”. He went on with characteristic humility, “I was careless in many other areas also”. He challenged- Are we prepared to spend time, effort and money on discipling the missionaries and mentor to help them grow in the Lord and be filled with agape love to disciple the converts reached by them and form witnessing churches?

Mr. John Amalraj, Executive Secretary, Interserve, defined the different kinds of ministry and explained how tent-making ministry, which was inspired by St. Paul’s

life, consisted of a cross-cultural sharing of the Word as he spoke in Athens, Corinth and other cities.

Mrs. Pramila Rajendran, WEA Mission Commission, pointed out that many have the false notion that while in ministry, one has to accept whatever struggles or excessive work that come our way. A positive attitude is required to be an able leader and the responsibility of leadership must be looked on with joy! Though a little stress is healthy, needed and can be a driving force to accomplish great things, continually trying to adapt and adjust causes us to finally snap, driving us into a world of chaos and depression.

Mr. J S Anbu, Executive Director, CIM, took the examples of Moses and Joshua, Elijah and Elisha and Paul & Timothy as he spoke on the importance of second-line leadership. He cautioned that there are several factors that can hamper a successful transition of leaders, such as ego, insecurity, relational issues, not giving priority to the future and reluctance in letting go. In conclusion, he encouraged the leaders to think of their organisations’ future.

Ms Deepa Jebakumar who has worked closely with over 200 Missionary Kids shared her findings. There was the heartrending story of how a boy who was promised a cycle if he secured top rank when he was in Standard III waited till Standard VIII and still the cycle did not materialise because his missionary parents could not afford it; the boy was now angry with God. Then there was this child who did not get a single new birthday dress all through life. This is only the tip of the iceberg. The challenges faced by these MKids include loneliness, difficulty in overcoming fear and disappointments, lack of finance and criticism from parents and others.

It was a poignant moment when Dr Anish Jacob who works as a family physician and in palliative care in Oddanchatram, took the stage and recounted his life’s journey the past years when he lost his dad and his mom slipping into a coma more than 14 years ago- and his parents were missionaries. It’s amazing that he has not turned bitter but instead serves

the Lord cheerfully as was evident from his brief testimony.

One of the dominant areas of concern that emerged at the consultation is the welfare of retired missionaries. Ms Juno Sudhakar of MUT who’d spoken to over 200 missionaries in the last ten years had many poignant points to ponder. Several missionaries had imagined they’d die in their mission field. In short, they’d not bargained for a life after retirement let alone problems of old age. The very news of retirement came as a shock to them. “Where do I go?” was the refrain of many. They’d adopted the community they lived in and adapted and served the Lord the past many years, ‘if this were not home, what is?’ seemed to be their reaction.

Rev Benjamin Christian, Director, FEBA, who both opened the first day proceedings by focusing attention on Generosity during the final day devotion spotlighted Caleb following the Lord wholeheartedly and urged everyone present to do likewise. In a fitting finale, Holy Communion was served with all participants walking up to the front in twos and praying together. Great is our Lord, greatly to be praised!

After an update and discussion on MUT Scheme components such as calamity, crisis and SMILE, came the most salient part of the three day deliberations – the consolidated recommendations by a coordination committee which included Mr. John Daniel, Dr Alexander, Dr Matthew, and Mr. Sandeep among others.

Member Care

- Retreats, trainings and get-togethers to be held regularly among Mission CEOs
- Management to be more involved in the care and development of grass-root level workers
- Create awareness and practice member care in churches and other religious institutions Finance
- Workers to be paid Government-prescribed minimum wages
- Organisations should have a good Provident Fund scheme for their missionaries
- Equal salary for men and women

Capacity building and nurturing – Training/inputs

Training for:

- Conflict resolution,
- Life-skills
- Premarital, financial counselling

Leave/Rest

- Annual leave
- Weekly off
- Sabbatical leave

M-Kids

- Children to remain with parents during primary school years (explore schools in the state or nearby or home schooling)
- Family-friendly policy
- Counselling –parents and children

Retired Missionaries Welfare

- Senior missionaries' committee to be set-up in every mission to take care of retirement and post retirement concerns
- Retirement scheme to be made a must. It includes retirement benefits –

organizational / government insurance schemes

Bereaved Family Care

- Structured programmes can be made mandatory for bereaved missionary families
- During post-bereavement period, the following to be provided:
 - Communication and counselling
 - Visits
 - Financial support

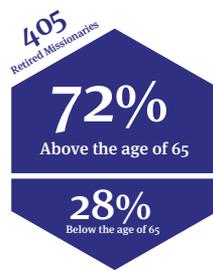
Retired Missionary Welfare

We praise God for the burden given, to care for the senior (retired) missionaries- the ones who have invested their life in the war front, saved souls, planted churches, helped in transforming lives, trained, disciplined, and have led many who were in darkness into the light of the Lord – sacrificing their own comforts, family, desires.

Caring for a missionary starts on the day he is recruited, obeys the call and it should go on till he gets the Home call. Caring shouldn't end with his retirement from a mission. The clarion call is 'Care & Serve a missionary from 'Ministry Call' to 'Home Call'. "Once a missionary – Always a Missionary" is a maxim that should be engraved in the heart of every believer.

We want to thank each and every person, who caught this burden and partnered with MUT, in meeting some of their unmet needs. God, our Master provider, provided through you, His children, to serve His servants, who had toiled night and day and are still continuing to do so, wherever they are. We are humbled & glorify God for HIS provisions. God enabled to meet some of the unmet needs like Medical – hospitalisation expenses, cost of regular medicines, Children's wedding expenses, as per the norms set.

As on 31st Mar 2017, there are around 405 retired missionaries from 43 missions



in our roll. Nearly 290 are above 65. God cares for His servants, even in their old age - 148 (claims) Retired missionaries were assisted up to Rs.12.84 lakh during the financial

year Apr'16 – March'17. Out of which nearly 5.80 was for regular medicines & Cataract surgeries. 21 retired missionaries had gone through major problems like heart, kidney, cancer & surgeries due to accidents. Please pray earnestly that God will protect them, heal them from all the above said diseases & also the regular problems like BP & Diabetes. Apart from the medical bills, God enabled to pass on Annual assistance of Rs.2000/- to 230 retired missionaries who are 65 years & above. This year God provided Christmas Gift to 296 retired missionaries @ Rs1000/- per person, through GPN. All this was possible only by the sheer Grace of God, who burdened your hearts to share your mite.

April is a month of looking back and giving thanks. We praise God for He enabled us to conduct 3 retreats for the retired missionaries last year – which strengthened the 90 retired missionaries emotionally and they went back rejoicing.

That also gave us the opportunity to meet face to face and listen to them personally. He provided the exact fund needed for all the three programs. We praise God for the partnership with the missions as we could meet as an Admin Committee 3 times last year, to pray & plan for retired missionary care. 6 – 8 mission leaders could participate in each of the committees and give their valuable inputs. We also praise God for giving a platform to put across to more than 120 mission leaders, the unmet needs of retired missionaries, during the MUT's consultation with mission leaders in June 2016. Many were challenged to plan more for bringing the fold of retired missionaries, under their 'Member Care'

Please pray for the future Needs:

- Pre-retirement counselling program
- Two retreats for the retired missionaries
- Take off- Retirement Home @ ODC
- A care giving couple- for retired missionary care
- The growing medical needs

Please continue to pray for the ailing retired missionaries, strength to bear the present heat wave, unsettled children, general health and strengthening of relationship within the family and that all should grow spiritually closer to God. All Glory to God and God alone.

Missionary Kids Financial Assistance

In the financial year April 2016 - March 2017, financial assistance was provided to 173 Mkids for their higher studies.

We praise and thank God for His provision to provide financial assistance (Advance) for 173 children @ Rs. 15,000 per child per year. We request you to continue pray that God will provide the financial assistance for about 200 children in this financial year 2017-18. We also thank God



for enabling us to provide one time scholarship to 305 bereaved family children of both IMPACT & SMILE with the partnership of NLCI which came forward to help 68

primary school children with Rs. 9,000 each; 112 secondary school children with Rs. 12,500 each; and 125 college going children with Rs. 11,900 each for 2016-17.

It is proposed to arrange a consultation to understand the concerns of Mkids in order to create suitable support systems and action plans. Working Mkids fellowship is being planned in Chennai and Bangalore.

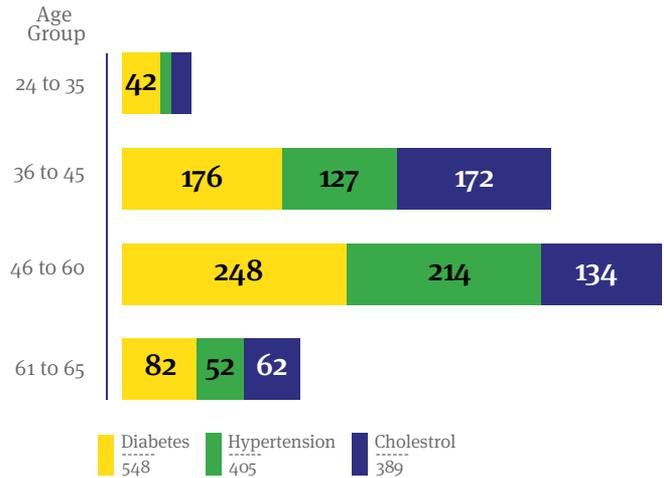
Health Care

“To know that I am healthy is a joy but knowing that I have health challenges is truly disturbing.” But early detection helps to keep things on check.

A three years study was conducted of MHC done by missionaries. The result is alarming. The age between 36- 45 shows steep rise in diabetes, hypertension and cholesterol. A survey is being conducted to understand the health condition of missionaries in this age group from all missions.

Medical Assistance From October 2016 to February 2017, we were able to assist 2002 missionaries from 109 organisations.

Affordable Cost Medicine: The awareness among missionaries about the use of generic medicine is on the rise. MUT is making all out efforts to see that missionaries switch over to the same. For Diabetes 24, hypertension 6, cholesterol 16 and Calcium 13 missionaries were provided with drugs.



Good Samaritan Fund

Good Samaritan Fund scheme is one of the schemes covered under MUT Scheme. At present, the General Secretaries of member missions can extend financial assistance to missionaries during a crisis situation and can claim reimbursement from MUT. The number of claims has gone up from 158 during the year 2014-15 to 249 during the year 2015-16 and 333 during the year 2016-17. The amount of assistance extended has increased from Rs. 11.03 lakhs for the year 2014-15 to Rs. 18.62 lakhs for the year 2015-16 and to Rs.26.34 lakhs during the year 2016-17.

The number of Missions which have claimed from Good Samaritan Fund has increased to 51 during the year 2016-17 from 38 Missions during the year 2015-16.

Apart from these 20 missionaries have been assisted from GS Support Scheme to the tune of Rs. 91458.00 during the period from April 16 to March 2017.

The following are some of the benefits available under GS Fund.

1. Travel assistance to missionaries to attend the funeral of their parents by Flight/Train/Bus

2. Travel assistance to missionary children to attend the funeral of their parents
3. Travel assistance to missionaries to visit their parents who are seriously ill.
4. Reimbursement of Medical expenses during cancer, heart attack, kidney transplant, stroke and terminal illness of dependent parents of missionaries.
5. Marriage gift.
6. Children's Marriage gift.
7. Missionaries' daughter's first delivery expenses.
8. Assistance at the time of Natural calamities and Theft.

The funding of these schemes are from Missionaries and the amount overspent is raised through donations from the friends of MUT. Please do partner with us in praying for the missionaries and upholding them during their time of crisis.

Rest House

God sent ravens to feed Elijah, in the morning and evening, who was hiding by the side of brook Cherith and that he was sustained until God's direction was let known to him. Similarly, our missionaries need care and rest when they are physically sick and emotionally down. The need for a good place to stay with their family; the fellowship of other missionaries to pray for them; and a place to prepare good food of their choice during their time of treatment in CMC Vellore are met through the provisions in the Rest Houses which help greatly in the healing process.

MUT provides well maintained, furnished rooms with mosquito repellent in every room. There are 20 rooms in Otteri rest house, 9 rooms in Gandhinagar RH and three rooms in Viruthampet. Every day from 7.00 pm to 7.30 pm the missionaries assemble in the MUT Chapel for prayer and fellowship. Every third Sunday from 4.30 pm to 6.15 pm many friends of MUT assemble in the

Otteri Chapel and on first Sunday in the Gandhinagar Rest House to pray and praise God along with the sick missionaries. A volunteer Doctor comes daily to encourage the sick and give valuable advice. Many volunteers come and pray for the sick missionaries and also share the word of God. The MUT rest houses serve as a home away from home. A meager amount is collected as donation from the member missionaries, for the maintenance cost and the rest is met from donations. The average occupancy is above 60% and 90% of the missionaries come for medical purpose. Kindly pray for the care giving team.



Sure Covenant

“And because of all this we make a sure covenant.” Nehemiah 9:38

There are many occasions in our experience when we may very rightly, and with benefit, renew our covenant with God. After recovery from sickness when, like Hezekiah, we have had a new term of years added to our life, we may fitly do it. After any deliverance from trouble, when our joys bud forth anew, let us again visit the foot of the cross, and renew our consecration. Especially, let us do this after any sin which has grieved the Holy Spirit, or brought dishonour upon the cause of God; let us then look to that blood which can make us whiter than snow, and again offer ourselves unto the Lord. We should not only let our troubles

confirm our dedication to God, but our prosperity should do the same. If we ever meet with occasions which deserve to be called “crowning mercies” then, surely, if he hath crowned us, we ought also to crown our God; let us bring forth anew all the jewels of the divine regalia which have been stored in the jewel-closet of our heart, and let our God sit upon the throne of our love, arrayed in royal apparel. If we would learn to profit by our prosperity, we should not need so much adversity. If we would gather from a kiss all the good it might confer upon us, we should not so often smart under the rod. Have we lately received some blessing which we

little expected? Has the Lord put our feet in a large room? Can we sing of mercies multiplied? Then this is the day to put our hand upon the horns of the altar, and say, “Bind me here, my God; bind me here with cords, even forever.” Inasmuch as we need the fulfilment of new promises from God, let us offer renewed prayers that our old vows may not be dishonoured.

Let us make with him a sure covenant, because of the pains of Jesus which for the last month we have been considering with gratitude.

Finance Policy:

Ear-marked funds will be used exclusively and entirely for the purpose donated.

Operating cost is kept to the minimum and funds donated towards MUT general expenses is utilised for the same.

Sponsorships are sought and fund-raising events are held to meet other specific expenses.

Whether you are in ministry work, a church, a mission organisation or a Christ-follower with a passion for missions, we welcome all those who wish to join in encouraging missionaries and other Christian workers, and sharing in their efforts for the kingdom of God. Become partners with us in praying for them and this ministry. You may wish to volunteer your services in different ways as the Lord leads you. You can donate money for the support of this work on a regular basis or as and when you are led by the Lord.

The four major support schemes under MUT are for Bereavement relief, Health care, Crisis relief and Retired Missionary Welfare.

Contributions can be sent through MO/DD in favour of “Missionary Upholders Trust” or directly to the below mentioned MUT account at along with an email intimation.

ICICI Bank, Vellore. (A/c. No. 614301013520, IFSC Code ICIC0006143)

Indian Bank, Anna Nagar, Chennai (A/c. No. 840063713, IFSC Code IDIB000A025)

SBI, Purasawalkam, Chennai. (A/c. No. 10507878317, IFSC Code SBIN0001515, Swift Code SBININBB458)

Foreign contributions can be sent to the MUT account at **SBI Bank, Purasawalkam, Chennai. (A/c. No. 10332929984, IFSC Code SBIN0001515, Swift Code SBININBB458)** along with email

intimation. Donors in USA and Canada may also route their contributions through the following agencies:

In USA

Christian Aid Mission, P.O. Box 9037, Charlottesville, VA 22906, USA

In Canada

Emmanuel Hospital Association, 3220 Faul Bay, Regina, SK, S4V 2W9, Canada.

For all earmarked donations feedback on the amount utilised/ person benefitted will be given to the donor, if address is available.

For further information, you may contact:

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Treasurer, Missionary Upholders Trust,

30/AP 341, 29th street, Kambar colony, Annanagar West - 600 040, Chennai. India

Email: samuelrupa@gmail.com |

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MUT mobilises prayer support by:

Publishing a prayer bulletin. Project updates in its newsletter ‘Care & Serve’.

MUT actively raises volunteers:

Works with churches and mission organisations who can depute personnel to manage projects.

Financial support for the projects by:

Creating awareness in Christ-followers in India and abroad about the needs of missionaries.

Encourage missionary organisations to partner not just to receive support for their own but also support members of other organisations.

Encouraging missionaries to make affordable contributions towards specific projects to help them and their fellow workers. We have hospitals partnering with MUT in providing treatment for the missionaries challenged by health issues.

God is leading us to help the families of His servants at the time of bereavement emotionally, spiritually and financially.

Home call of Member Missionaries

The total number of deaths in the missions till date is 421, from the inception of the scheme and 19 deaths have occurred from last care and serve issue to till date. All the families of the deceased missionaries are given a financial assistance of Rs. 10,000/- towards funeral expenses and Rs. 1, 25,000/- as death relief.

Bereaved families of retired missionaries and non-members were also given Rs.10, 000/- each as funeral expenses.

The bereaved families are specially remembered twice every year. During the first week of June, all the children below 21 years of age are given a Child Support Payment of Rs. 1200/- and during Christmas time every year, each bereaved family is given a Christmas gift of Rs. 1200 to Rs.2200/- depending on the family size.

Retreat Programs are also organized for the bereaved

missionaries to help them come out of their grief and grow spiritually in Christ.

Christmas Gift to the Bereaved families of Missionaries:

We have given a Christmas gift of Rs. 1200 to Rs. 2200/- to each of the 245 bereaved families of deceased missionaries during the first week of December 2016. The total expenditure was Rs. 3,35,000.

Christmas Get together with Bereaved families of Missionaries:

8 bereaved missionary families attended the Christmas get-together held at Chennai and Support Scheme Members was held, at the Parish Hall of CSI Good Shepherd Church, Velachery, on 14-12-2016. Bro. Augustine Asir, Managing Trustee, Word for the World, Chennai delivered God's Message.

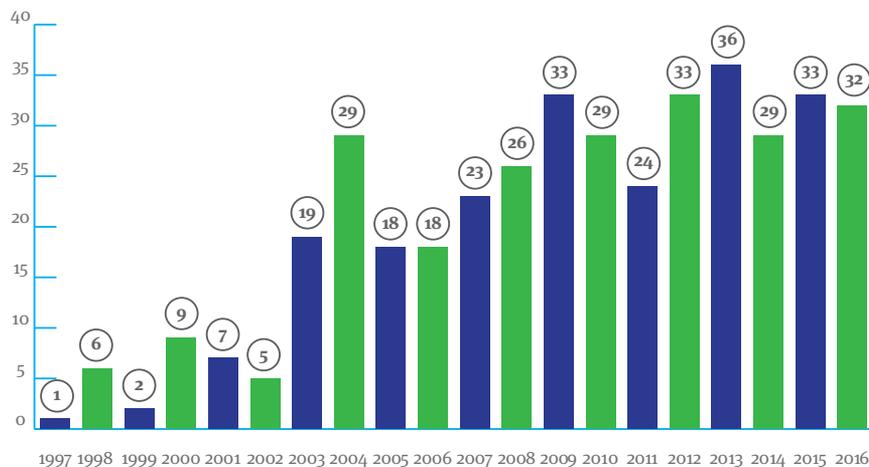
A Christmas Get together had been organized for the bereaved families at MUT, Oddanchatram from 23rd December 2016 to 2nd January 2017. 26 families participated of which 10 families had bereavement after 2015 Christmas.

Details of member-missionaries who had their home call since reported in last issue.

Mrs. Savitri Devi	aged 44 years, GEMS passed away on 23.10.2016, was suffering from Hematological Disorder. She leaves behind her husband Mr. Durga Das, and 4 Children Alpana (21), Ramesh (18), Sweety (16) and Suraj (13)
Mr. Lukas	aged 41 years, IMS passed away on 27.11.2016, due to kidney failure. He leaves behind his wife and two children
Mr. N. Suthakar	aged 35 years, JRM passed away on 17.12.2016 due to heart attack. He leaves behind his wife Mrs. Jebaselvi and 2 children Yahin (3yrs) and baby of 4 months old
Pas. Kisan Patekar	aged 46 years, HBI passed away on 27.12.2016 He has suffered stinging headache and he collapsed, he was taken to the hospital for medical treatment. He leaves behind his wife Mrs. Latha (40 years), two sons and one daughter. Rishi (18 years), Reena (11 years) , Biswas (8 years).
Pas. N. Joseph	aged 58 years, HBI passed away on 29.12.2016, he had a fall and was under medical treatment for 2 months. Besides, he was a Tuberculosis patient also. He is survived by his wife N. Susheelamma , 44 years of age and has three sons and one daughter. Two of his sons are married and the rest are still to be married.
Mr. David Chinnasamy	aged 48 years, FMPB passed away on 18.10.2016, in a road accident. He leaves behind his wife Mrs. Vasantha and 3 children Usha (26 yrs), Surya (22 yrs) and Michael Raj (20 yrs).
Mr. Jalamsingh Bhai I Vasava	aged 58 years, FMPB passed away on 09.01.2017, due to Chest Pain. He leaves behind his wife Mrs. Bhaguben Jalamsingh Vasava and 3 children- all married.
Mr. Sathanam Gowtham	aged 40 years, IMS passed away on 22.01.2017, About 6 Months back, he fell down from terrace. Due to the injury, he got a heart problem and had Blood clot in the Brain nerve. Consequently, he had stroke. He had been taking Medical treatment. But suddenly he passed away. He leaves behind his wife and a 6 months old baby boy.
Bro. Laldev Prasad (Paul David)	aged 56 years, GEMS passed away on 25.01.2017, he died because of suffocation caused through inhaling the smoke from the chaff fire pot kept inside the house to heat the room during winter. He is survived by his wife and five children; Kundan (21), Ruby (20), Aradhana (14) and twin boys Ashish and Anand (10).
Mrs. Inbam Ganaoli Gnanaprakasam	aged 62 years, NSM passed away on 27.01.2017, due to massive heart attack. She is survived by her husband Mr. Gnanaprakasam, and 2 sons.
Mr. Dapat Janebhai Babanbhai	aged 55 years, FMPB passed away on 17.09.2016, due to Chest Pain. He leaves behind his wife Mrs. Saliben J. Dapat and 4 children.
Pastor John Bedika	aged 32 years, HBI-INEC passed away on 02.02.2016 due to Sick Cell Disease for some time and succumbed to his illness. He leaves behind his Father and 2 brothers
Mrs. Perike Aleesamma	aged 63 years, HBI-INEC passed away on 20.05.2016, due to cardiac arrest. She has left behind her beloved family.

Pas. Ballikuri Michael	aged 51 years, HBI-INEC passed away on 04.07.2016, due to cardiac arrest. He left behind his wife Mrs. Yesamma, aged 48 years and two sons: Nagaraju (25 years), Gopi (20 years).
Mrs. Sheela	aged 45 years, GEMS missionary passed away on 20.02.2017, She and her husband Bro. Isaac Badal (Ram Nagina) were on the bike going for ministry when she suddenly fell off the bike & a speeding truck ran over her. She leaves behind her husband Bro. Isaac Badal (Ram Nagina) and 5 children (Four girls and one boy) 2 girls are married.
Pastor Jagadish Palaka	aged 48 years, IET passed away on 21.02.2017. He was having high BP and was undergoing treatment for kidneys in Berhampore Medical College. He leaves behind his wife Mrs. Sabitamoni Palaka and 2 daughters.
Mr. Raju Barela	aged 42 years, FMPB-Gujarat, passed away on 02.03.2017, due to blood cancer.
Mrs. Jalanti Nag	aged 33 years, IET passed away on 07.03.2017, due to burns. She leaves behind her husband Pastor Prasanta Hantals and two sons and 3 daughters.
Pastor Basanth Samuel	aged 48 years, IET passed away on 15.03.2017. He was fully paralyzed since last 5 months unfortunately he didn't recover from his problem. He leaves behind his wife, Mrs. Esther Samuel, and three children one son and two daughters.
Pastor Dane Digal	aged 45 years, HBI- INEC passed away on 14.11.2016, He leaves behind his wife Mrs.Subajini digal (40 years). He has two sons and two daughters. They are Sujith Kumar Digal (25 years), Esther Digal (22 years), Anu Lisa Digal (20 years) and Abalio Digal (15 years).
Non Members	
Mr. Sarat Kumar Pangi	aged 25 years, ICGM passed away on 17.10.2016, due to viral fever. He leaves behind his old father and mother.
Mrs. M. Usha	aged 43 years, GMS passed away on 22.12.2016. She was suffering from tissue growth problem on her stomach Unfortunately she didn't recover from her problems. She leaves behind her husband Mr. S. Mark and 2 sons Master. M. Jefferson (21 years) doing his B. E. 4th year and Master M. Lordson (17 years) doing his B. A Eng. Lit 1st year.

Uphold these families in your prayers. Stand in the gap for missionaries who face ill health and other difficulties in life. Let us rise, bend our knees- to build a wall of protection for those who toil if the field. As one!



Number of deaths since inception of IMPACT Scheme

Get in touch with our project incharge

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With the completion of Phase III, I feel the place and facilities will be ready to carry out all the activities which will enable us to fulfill the purposes for which God set this up for his choice of people who needed to be ministered.

In 2003 God gave the burden to look into the unmet needs of emotional, spiritual and mental issues of a child of God who commits for full time services. In India, physical needs only are predominately met. It is only when the full time workers are strengthened spiritually, emotionally and mentally they become holistic and fruitful.

Hence, it was decided that a common retreat Centre is set up and managed by a small group of totally committed people of God who will show through their life and services the love of Christ to the full time workers who come to take rest and get renewed in their spirit.

This place will be like a workshop, a garage or a service station for all the living vehicles who come and get serviced to their requirement get fit for the tasks to be performed when they get back to their fields. Over the period, we have understood that God does not want the ministry in this campus to grow big and become unmanageable

The care givers in the campus and the decision makers are to concentrate on 'felt needs' of people rather than the 'perceived needs' of God's people.

The proposal regarding shelter for retired missionaries has not taken off, though we had one couple for some time. Hence we are not going to actively pursue. If God brings retired couples we will accept. But we will not publicize anywhere about this, since the need is not much.

The health checkup scheme has become unworkable since we could not extend the services to all who come for such help, because the hospital has a different policy. Ambilikai hospital is open but the distance from ODC campus prevents missionaries from opting for the same.

What is working well?

1. This place is very much liked by missionaries to come for a short stay to spend time with spouse and children, enjoy nature, the facilities available, the food served with love and join in the common activities to enhance fellowship with one another
2. This is an ideal place for conducting seminars, retreats and training programs to help different groups of missionaries and or their family members to grow in the lord, do self-examination in light of the word, renew their spiritual strength and faith, confirm their call and acquire some skills needed for a witnessing Christian life. At the same time we have found bereaved families have this need and we must be very alert and sensitive as we minister to them. If and when we find a family in need of shelter and security, we will go all out to bring them into this campus.
3. This place is also meant for people who become disoriented in personal life, family and ministry needing proper rest, relaxation, spiritual counseling Matured mentors and counselors inside the campus & outside will help them.

Several people mentally troubled or with psychiatric problems come and get healing through the services of specialists in the nearby mission hospitals.

People who wish to have time for self-reflection, prayer with fasting (alone or with spouse or in small group) come and get blessed.

The recent developments:

- The lay people from the nearby churches participate in the retreats and training programs organized by MUT. Some are using the facilities alone to conduct their ministry programs
- Friends are requesting us permission to use the place for conducting their evangelistic programs or some general programs.
- Some mission leaders are using the place and facilities to conduct business meetings with their leaders / supporters or with their workers.
- Some churches with very little exposure to missions request this place and facilities to have their programs to fulfill their objectives.
- Some People have started offering extra money to use this place and facilities for their functions as this place is very attractive, having all the facilities.

Future action plan

1. Missionaries from member missions will be given priority when they come for vacation, stay with family members to get medical treatment or for their children's education, or for resting.
2. Member missions will not be encouraged to have their business meetings or for any promotional work. People will not be encouraged to stay here and do any evangelical ministry in and around ODC.
3. Non Members with proper reference will only be given accommodation for medical purpose or for spending time with family or to attend the programs organized by MUT.
4. Spiritual development programs for lay people from known mission minded churches will be allowed to use this place and the facilities (some time we organize special programs for them exclusively)
5. We also extend services to other churches in ODC to make use of this place when it is vacant as a gesture of partnership).

Financial policy

Money will never be the focus in this ministry. God provides funds and we carry out activities accordingly to accomplish the purpose

The usual contribution expected is:

For Individual missionary/ family

For room stay 10 + 10 + 5 = (Rs.25) (medical and personal reasons) per day.

For member missionaries – ministry purpose – Rs. 100 per day

Rs. 20/- per meal per person (if they take food from common kitchen) during their stay

For programs (for member missions)

Spiritual development programs

Rs.90/- per day, per person when expenses for the programs are for food and room stay only.

Rs.125/- per day when expenses for the programs where honorarium for resource person & course material cost are involved.

For non-members

For normal programs 125/- per day per person

Rs.200/- per day when expenses include honorarium for resource person & course materials.

Medical and personal reasons Rs.50/- Per day per room.

The time has now come to say 'NO' to programs which are not at all connected with the objectives of this campus. This is to facilitate enough rest for the care givers in the campus. We are here to fulfill god's purpose and not to please people. But when it comes to serve people as per objectives, all possible efforts will

be taken to accommodate and serve them even on Sundays and holidays

This is a value driven ministry. All the values are to be preserved and cherished in the campus.

We are in need of care givers, mentors, coaches and counsellors to minister to the singles and families staying inside the campus (for short term or long term). Volunteers or workers on deputation are welcome. This will have to be informed to all the mission centered churches and other Christian institutions when MUT leaders go for vision casting.

For all training programs, we aim to have 75% full time missionaries and 25% non-missionaries with mission burden.

There will be more programs to train the trainers who will conduct such programs for native missionaries in their mother tongues.



Grief Counseling

A one day Seminar on Grief Counseling was conducted on 8th April 2017 for MUT Bereaved family Volunteers in Hope Chappell, Bangalore. 14 volunteers of MUT from different places like Chennai, Oddanchatiram, Bangalore and Hosur attended the seminar.

Mrs. Uma Victor, a professional counsellor from Bangalore was the resource person.

- The program started with prayer by Brother Victor Arputharaj. Brother Ruben introduced everyone and explained the purpose of the seminar.
- Mrs. Heavenlin Theodore took the devotion session. She shared thoughts on what it cost Christ to bring hope to His disciples after His death and resurrection and to us, today. She also pointed out the impending risks after a death from the lives of the disciples.
- Mrs. Uma Victor explained about grief and bereavement and the different stages of grief which an individual passes through after a loss. She also highlighted on how children grieve differently from adults. Discussion about the thoughts and questions of the children and adolescents of bereaved families were really an eye opener. The session was expounded with case studies whom Mrs Uma Victor had counseled. Importance of listening and use of empathetic statements in grief counseling were highlighted.

- Volunteers raised queries which they came across in dealing with the bereaved families, which cleared many doubts of the volunteers.
- In addition, special focus was given for telephonic counseling. Challenges in meeting the spiritual and financial needs were also discussed.

Few important suggestions that came up during the discussion.

- It was suggested that one volunteer to follow up few bereaved families continuously which includes at least one visit to their family. The practical difficulties such as limited number of volunteers, gender, availability etc. may hamper the concept being brought into practice.
- There was a serious discussion about the remarriage. It took time even for the volunteers to come to an acceptance in this regard. Suggestion to set a “marriage bureau for the widows and the widowers” in MUT in the long run came up.
- At the end of the seminar the volunteers were convinced that any kind of help from our side (MUT) either tangible or intangible should enhance their dependency on God rather on an individual or MUT

Hope our God Almighty will enable the volunteers to bring consolation and hope to the bereaved families of God’s servants.

MUT Scheme

“To encourage every member missionary to sacrificially uphold a fellow missionary in meeting the unmet needs.”

“MUT Scheme” is an entry scheme to all Schemes of MUT, to help the Missionary family in times of sickness, death, crisis situations and after retirement. Workers of Registered Christian missions focusing on evangelism and discipleship, with a monthly salary less than Rs.20000/- and aged between 18 and 65 years are eligible to join this scheme through their respective mission organisation.

Each member contributes Rs.50/- and the Mission org contributes an equal amount. This amount (Rs 100) is shared by Love Your Brother (LYB), Calamity Relief (IMPACT), Crisis Relief (GS) and Retired Missionaries Welfare (RMW) Schemes. The individual members are eligible to avail assistance and the member’s contribution is utilized 100% for the needy members in the area of Medical, Calamity, Crisis and Retired Missionaries Welfare

benefits. The Support Schemes (SS) are further funded by the donations received from Friends of MUT (FOM).

As on 31st March 2017 the total number of member missionaries joined this scheme to bless another member missionary is 14019 members from 143 Mission organizations.

Praise God, this scheme is in operation since April 2014 and many missionaries were blessed by this scheme. We praise and thank God for the MUT Scheme Admin Committee members for giving their valuable time and suggestion for the welfare of the missionaries.

New missions joined in MUT Scheme in this year 2016 -17:

1. CFI Ministries, 261 members.
2. CFI Charitable Trust, 54 members
3. New Life Development Society, 23 members
4. Christian United Prayer Band, Tuticorin, 31 members

5. Kirpa Bhavan Ministries, 27 members
6. Metro Missions, Chennai, 21 members
7. Gilgal Gospel Mission, Chennai, 12 members
8. Gilgal Prayer Fellowship Ministries, Kodaikanal, 16 members
9. Jeeva Velicham, Chennai, 11 members
10. New Life for India, Odisha, 10 members
11. Diocesan of Cuttack, Odisha, 17 members

Kindly pray that many will join and be a blessing to the missionaries in need. By 2020 we are aiming to envision 100 new mission organizations with 6,000 missionaries and enable them to join this scheme to be a blessing to another member missionary in crisis.

We praise and thank God for the MUT Scheme Admin Committee members for giving their valuable time and suggestion for the welfare of the missionaries.

Faith and Feeling

ARE two distinct and separate things. Faith is an exercise of the mind, while feeling is a state or condition of the mind. A person may feel well and very happy who has no faith, while the possessor of faith is often called to pass through many dark

hours, many trials, and inward sorrow and anguish.

Good and happy feelings may result from outward circumstances, as success in life, the smile of love and friendship, pleasant scenery, the cheerful home circle, congenial

pursuits, the smile of fortune, or advancement in fame or learning, or apparent usefulness, and all without a grain of faith.

Faith is an exercise of the renewed mind, and it is called forth by reason of doubt or uncertainty, and appears most beautiful and lovely when exhibited during times of trial.

Thus when Job had lost all earthly treasures at a blow, when in addition to these trials, his body was writhing in agony, and to crown all, God withdrew himself from him, then was the very time for Job to manifest his faith, and so he did: his wife advises him to curse God and die. He answers, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speakest. What! shall we receive good at the hand of the Lord, and shall we not receive evil?

Here is the difference: Job exercised faith and acted accordingly, even in times of darkness and trial, while his wife was governed by her feelings. She might have been exemplary in prosperity,

happy in times of plenty, but not possessing faith, and being under the control of feelings, the trial was too heavy, and she rebelled against God, and counselled her husband to curse God. But Job was controlled by a higher principle. Faith unlocked to him a future reward. By faith he viewed the heavenly inheritance, and grasped for enduring riches; with such a faith what was pain or poverty to him.

As a reward for his faith so tried and tested, Job's prosperity returned. God was pleased with his faith because it stood the test of adversity. God honored Job because he was not under the influence of mere feeling, was not driven about by the winds of adversity and trial, but was governed by the law of God. Having faith he exercised it. When tossed upon the sea of trouble, when in darkness and doubt and uncertainty, God was his rock, his fortress and his tower of strength.

“Feed My Lambs” - How To Do It

C. H. Spurgeon

The best of the church are none too good for this work. Do not think because you have other service to do that therefore you should take no interest in this form of holy work, but kindly, according to your opportunities, stand ready to help the little ones, and to cheer those whose chief calling is to attend to them. To us all this message comes: “Feed My lambs.” To the minister, and to all who have any knowledge of the things of God, the commission is given. See to it that you look after the children that are in Christ Jesus. Peter was a leader among believers, yet he must feed the lambs.

The lambs are the young of the flock. So, then, we ought to look specially and carefully after those who are young in grace. They may be old in years, and yet they may be mere babes in grace as to the length of their spiritual life, and therefore they need to be under a good shepherd. As soon as a person is converted and added to the church, he should become the object of the care and kindness of his fellow-members. He has but newly come among us, and has no familiar friends among the saints, therefore let us all be friendly to him. Even should we leave our older comrades, we must be doubly kind towards those who are newly escaped from the world, and have come to find a refuge with the Almighty and His people. Watch with ceaseless care over those new-born babes who are strong in desires, but strong in nothing else. They have but just crept out of darkness, and their eyes can scarcely bear the light; let us be a shade to them until they grow accustomed to the blaze of gospel day. Addict yourselves to the holy work of caring for the feeble and despondent. Peter himself that morning must have felt like a newly-enlisted soldier, for he had in a sense ended his public Christian life by denying his Lord, and he had begun it again when he “went out and wept bitterly.” He was now making a new confession of his faith before his Lord and his brethren, and, therefore, because he was thus made to sympathise with recruits he is commissioned to act as a guardian to them. Young converts are too timid to ask our help, and so our Lord introduces them to us, and with an emphatic word of command He says, “Feed My lambs.” This shall be our reward: “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto Me.”

However young a believer may be, he should make an open confession of his faith, and be folded with the rest of the flock of Christ. We are not among those who are suspicious of youthful piety: we could never see more reason for such suspicions in the case of the young than in the case of those who repent late in life. Of the two we think the latter are more to be questioned than the former: for a selfish fear of punishment and dread of death are more likely to produce a counterfeit faith than mere childishness would be. How much has the child missed which might have spoiled it! How much it does not know which, please God, we hope it never may know! Oh, how much there is of brightness and trustfulness about children when converted to God which is not seen in elder converts! Our Lord Jesus evidently felt deep sympathy with children, and he is but little like Christ who looks upon them as a trouble in the world, and treats them as if they must needs be either little deceivers or foolish simpletons. To you who teach in our schools is given this joyous privilege of finding out where these young disciples are who are truly the lambs of Christ's flock, and to you He saith, “Feed My lambs”; that is, instruct such as are truly gracious, but young in years.

It is very remarkable that the word used here for “feed My lambs” is very different from the word employed in the precept, “feed My sheep.” I will not trouble you with Greek words, but the second “feed” means exercise the office of a shepherd, rule, regulate, lead, manage them, do all that a shepherd has to do towards a flock; but this first feed does not include all that it means distinctly feed, and it directs teachers to a duty which they may, perhaps, neglect—namely, that of instructing children in the faith. The lambs do not so much need keeping in order as we do who know so much, and yet know so little: who think we are so far advanced that we judge one another, and contend and emulate. Christian children mainly need to be taught the doctrine, precept, and life of the gospel: they require to have Divine truth put before them clearly and forcibly. Why should the higher doctrines, the doctrines of grace, be kept back from them? They are not as some say, bones; or if they be bones, they are full of marrow, and covered with fatness. If there be

any doctrine too difficult for a child, it is rather the fault of the teacher's conception of it than of the child's power to receive it, provided that child be really converted to God. It is ours to make doctrine simple; this is to be a main part of our work. Teach the little ones the whole truth and nothing but the truth; for instruction is the great want of the child's nature. A child has not only to live as you and I have, but also to grow; hence he has double need of food. When fathers say of their boys, "What appetites they have!" they should remember that we also would have great appetites if we had not only to keep the machinery going, but to enlarge it at the same time. Children in grace have to grow, rising to greater capacity in knowing, being, doing, and feeling, and to greater power from God; therefore above all things they must be fed. They must be well fed or instructed, because they are in danger of having their cravings perversely satisfied with error. Youth is susceptible to evil doctrine. Whether we teach young Christians truth or not, the devil will be sure to teach them error. They will hear of it somehow, even if they are watched by the most careful guardians. The only way to keep chaff out of the child's little measure is to fill it brimful with good wheat. Oh, that the Spirit of God may help us to do this! The more the young are taught the better; it will keep them from being misled.

We are specially exhorted to feed them because they are so likely to be overlooked. I am afraid our sermons often go over the heads of the younger folk—who, nevertheless, may be as true Christians as the older ones. Blessed is he who can so speak as

to be understood by a child! Blessed is that godly woman who in her class so adapts herself to girlish modes of thought that the truth from her heart streams into the children's hearts without let or hindrance.

We are specially exhorted to feed the young because this work is so profitable. Do what we may with persons converted late in life, we can never make much of them. We are very glad of them for their own sakes; but at seventy what remains even if they live another ten years? Train up a child, and he may have fifty years of holy service before him. We are glad to welcome those who come into the vineyard at the eleventh hour, but they have hardly taken their pruning-hook and their spade before the sun goes down, and their short day's work is ended. The time spent in training the late convert is greater than the space reserved for his actual service: but you take a child-convert and teach him well, and as early piety often becomes eminent piety, and that eminent piety may have a stretch of years before it in which God may be glorified and others may be blessed, such work is profitable in a high degree. It is also most beneficial work to ourselves. It exercises our humility and helps to keep us lowly and meek. It also trains our patience; let those who doubt this try it; for even young Christians exercise the patience of those who believe in them, and are therefore anxious that they should justify their confidence. If you want big-souled, large-hearted men or women, look for them among those who are much engaged among the young, bearing with their follies, and sympathising with their weaknesses for Jesus' sake.

Friends of Missionaries/MUT (Nov 2016 to Apr 2017)

Bangalore	Mr. Ebenezer Augustine
Chennai	Mrs. Helen Mohanraj
	Mr. Kishore Victor
	Mr. Samuel Thomas
	Mr. Sathish Kumar M.
	Mr. Asishkumar Dukhu
	Mr. Sujeevandas J. S. J.
Coimbatore	Mr. Michael Raj
Delhi	Mrs. Catherine Julius
Karur	Mr. S. Jebaraj
Madurai	Dr. Mrs. Nirmala Jeyaraj
	Mr. D. D. Rajeswaran
	Mr. M. Rosary Raya

Nagercoil	Mr. Wilby Premkumar
Nazareth	Mrs. Princess J.
Pollachi	Mr. John C. Sanandam
	Mrs. J. S. Priscilla
Sivakasi	Mrs. Prema Edward
Sikkim	Mr. K. Inbaraj
Udumalpet	Mr. Finny D.
Vellore	Mrs. Ruth Jothi Ashley
	Mrs. Reena Graceline Ashley
	Mrs. Shalini Getzy D.
	Dr. Godwin Christopher J.
	Mr. Rajan
	Mr. Sam John

Training Calendar

Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills

Date: June 19 to 24 | Medium: Tamil

Resource Person: Mr. Antonysamay & Team

Life Revision Seminar

Date: July 03 to 08 | Medium: Tamil

Resource Person: Dr. K. O. John

Person to Person- Level 1

Date: July 10 to 15 | Medium: English

Resource Person: Mr. Syrus & Team

Inner Healing

Date: Aug 07 to 09 | Medium: English/Tamil

Resource Person: Dr. Latha Paul & Team

Preparing for Retirement

Date: Aug 14 to 17 | Medium: Tamil

Resource Person: Dr. Alex

Marriage Enrichment Seminar

Date: Aug 28 to 31 | Medium: Tamil

Resource Person: Dr. Alex



1. Missionary kid's Retreat | 8th to 10th October, 2016
2. Marriage Enrichment Seminar (English) | 2nd to 4th February, 2017
3. Christmas Get Together | December 2016
4. Life Revision Seminar (Tamil) | 6th to 11 February, 2017.
5. Inner Healing Seminar | 8th to 10th March, 2017
6. Advance Biblical Counseling Level- II | 20th to 27th January, 2017
7. Marriage Enrichment Seminar (Tamil) | 22nd to 4th Feb, 2017
8. Marriage Enrichment seminar (Tamil) | 22nd to 28th, October, 2016
9. Life Revision Seminar (English) | Feb 27th to 4th March, 2017

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