

Proclaim God's Greatness!

Daniel Lundy

"I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise Your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise You and extol Your name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend Your works to another; they will tell of Your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and I will meditate on Your wonderful works. They will tell of the power of Your awesome works, and I will proclaim Your great deeds. They will celebrate Your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of Your righteousness" (Psalm 145:1-7).

How can we praise God? First, we can learn to praise God by thinking about His greatness. Praise comes from a heart that contemplates the greatness of God. Out of that abundance of understanding the greatness of God, comes forth the verbal praise. Notice in Psalm 145 above how David describes his reaction to God. In the Authorized version: "I will tell of Your greatness." But the actual Hebrew verb means not so much to tell as to tell to yourself, to murmur, to meditate.

David is saying, "I will meditate on Your wonderful works." His mind studies the greatness of God, turning over this doctrine, examining every facet as a jeweler will carefully turn over a diamond and see how each side reveals beauty.

Creation Shows God's Greatness

What does David meditate on? He meditates on God's works of creation. In Psalm 145:15-16, He sees in the world an amazing order which provides food but not an impersonal order. No, it is God, the King of heaven and earth, who provides the food that we eat. "The eyes of all look to You and You give them their food at their proper time." You give them their food. "You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing." Look at creation and see there the evidence of the greatness of God. Ponder the mighty power of God displayed in the world He has made. The heavens declare the praises of God.

David sees the greatness of God in the world that God made and sustains. David sees the greatness of God in the fact that God provides us richly with everything to enjoy. Notice when there is a drought on the prairies, if it persists long enough, what do the newscasts report? That people are assembling in churches to pray for rain. Almost as if even the atheistic culture recognizes that it really is God who feeds us.

Look at your hand. Think of the complexity of the design of your hand. Consider that the skin on the tip of the finger is so sensitive that it merely needs to brush against something to feel it, hence the ability of the blind to read with their fingers because the fingers have nerve endings concentrated in that particular spot in a way which other parts of the skin do

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.

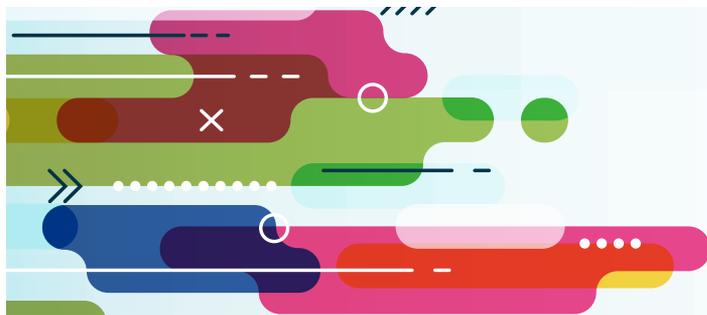
Values

- 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.



Living in God's ways

The core value of MUT in the words of Adoniram Judson, “ God’s work done by God’s people in God’s ways with God’s money will never lack God’s blessing” needs to be looked into in each and every aspect of our lives and ministry. The process in ‘ God’s ways’ is significant in terms of doing our ministry. Waiting upon the Lord and be sensitive to God guidance is the only process of knowing and living in God’s way. This process will lead us to:

1. Depend on God and not on our own understanding.
2. Fulfil the purpose of God
3. Please and glorify God
4. Stay in the plan of God
5. Understand the passion of God
6. Be a blessing to others.
7. build God’s kingdom.

As we read through the pages of this newsletter (Care & Serve Jan 2018) let us praise God for His inspiration, guidance and empowerment to be a blessing to His servants in various ministries of MUT in the last four months. Also let us continue to wait upon the Lord and be sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and submit to His authority to lead us both in our lives as well in our ministry which alone will enable us to remain in God’s ways to be a blessing to others, particularly to the servants of God in MUT. I always desire God to give us the approval before we venture into any action in the ministries of MUT. My sincere prayer is that Lord to lead us in the next step of each and every process in the ministry. May God enable us, as partners in this ministry of serving the servants of God, to be intentional in living our lives in God’s ways.

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not. Atheists would tell me that all those nerve endings are concentrated in the tip of the finger by chance. Chance? No. God. David sees the greatness of God in what He has made.

God Controls This World

Do we not even have written into our insurance contracts, “acts of God”? What is an act of God to an insurance agent? Is that not an event which is completely beyond the control of man? Again, in a technological society we worship man and his ability to control life. We even venerate the fact that we can create life in the test tube. But we still write “acts of God” into our insurance contracts because there are forces in this world over which we have no control.

We read in Psalm 74, another psalm of the Levite Asaph, “You made the seasons. You made summer and winter.” This vast array scientifically is explored on the basis of the uniformity, not the chaos, but the uniformity of events. Even secular scientists themselves admit that it is in the cradle of Christian belief that modern science has emerged. Christianity says that the world has been put in place by a divine Maker. Behind the design there is a Designer. Behind the order there is One who made it so. So science is not antithetical to Christian faith. Rather, it depends for its foundation on an orderly world.

Where did that orderly world come from? Look at the world that you live in. Look at the food that grows in the fields. Look even at the birds of the air. Jesus tells us in the Sermon on the Mount, “Who feeds those birds of the air? Chance? No, it is your

heavenly Father who feeds those birds.” The entire structure of creation is created, sustained, maintained, governed, and ruled by God.

Redemption Shows God's Greatness

Look at the world around you and marvel at the greatness of God. But even more than that, do what David does. Look at the history of redemption. David meditates not only on the greatness of God displayed in creation, but even more, the greatness of God revealed in redemption. He sees the greatness of God revealed in saving history. God demonstrates His great works not only in the world, but in the history of His dealings with His people.

Look at verse 8: “The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.” David knew that verse is almost an exact quotation from the book of Exodus, chapter 34, where God reveals Himself to Moses. This quotation occurs where God spoke to Moses after His people whom He Himself has redeemed from slavery in Egypt, fashioned the golden calf for themselves to worship, and bowed down to it and said, “This is the god who brought us out of Egypt. To this god we will give our full heart and obedience.”

Then God said to Moses, “Let Me blot out this people. Let Me wipe them off the face of the earth. I will save you alone and out of you I will make a mighty nation.” But Moses pled with the Lord to be merciful to His people and so God relented, showed compassion and mercy, forgave iniquity.

God said, “The Lord is gracious, compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.” Slow to anger! Not treating us as our sins deserve. Rich in love! Reaching out to the lost, showing mercy when those who receive mercy ought not to receive mercy, but rather judgment for their sin.

This is the character of God, revealed in the history of His dealings with His people. David knew it full well. As he looked at the story of God saving His people from sin, delivering them from Egypt, bringing them into the promised land, and displaying time after time His forbearance with them in their wickedness, in their rebellion, in their hardness of heart, in their deliberate refusal to walk in the ways of God, David was stunned by the greatness of God’s love for His sinful people. He saw the greatness of God in redemption.

The Greatness of God’s Patience

Think now not just of the choosing of Abraham. No, even before him to the promise given to Adam and Eve in the garden that “from your seed will come one who will crush Satan.” Think now forward through all those long years in which God’s people toyed with sin, flirted with it, and then openly embraced it, and to the kings which followed after the division of the kingdom into north and south. Think of God warning them, “If you do not turn away from sin, I will remove you from the promised land and I will vomit you into a foreign nation. I will even cause the house where I have chosen My name to be placed, with all its careful, intricate, oak carvings, I will cause that house to be hacked down as loggers take down a forest with their axes.”

Read Psalm 74, the psalm of Asaph, and see there the cry of his heart. “Look at what is happening to your inheritance.” Yes, and why? Because of the sin of God’s people.

But see how God, even in His anger, showed compassion and preserved a remnant and brought them back and planted them in the promised land again and caused them to grow, all to prepare them for that greatest of all His great and mighty deeds: the sending of His Son. Jesus was not merely a servant of the Lord, but the Lord Himself. He was not merely a messenger, a prophet, but the great I Am, whose creative power had made the world, whose hand had guided His people, who had appeared in the pillar of fire by night and the cloud by day, who had provided food from heaven.

Now the true bread from heaven had come. What do His people do? “We will not have this man to rule over us.” But Christ’s rejection was all part of God’s provision of forgiveness through the One whom David worshipped dimly, the Messiah, because this was the Lamb of God, the true sacrifice, to which all the centuries of sacrifices had pointed. They all pointed to this time, to this moment, to this One, to this cross. For on Him, on His own sinless Son, God would lay the sins of His people. “You shall call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21).

Think of the life of Christ. Meditate on Him. Think of His resurrection. Is that what your minds are full of? Someone who meditates has a fixation. He is continually revolving around the same thing. Let me ask you, when you wake up in the morning, what is the first thing you think of? What does your mind naturally turn to when it is not preoccupied with work? Does it meditate on Christ?

David knew of the history of God’s dealings with His people up to his own day. Marvelous they were! But they are but a shadow of the reality which has come in Christ. Do God’s people today think of the greatness of their Redeemer? Are their thoughts

preoccupied with the ascension of Christ to glory, with His heavenly session? Do they see Him as the Lord of heaven and earth?

He is ruling now over this world scene and He is returning one day to establish His eternal kingdom. David said, “Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and your dominion endures through all generations” (verse 13 of Psalm 145). But he did not really know what he was talking about. He was thinking of an earthly kingdom, whereas we know that the lordship of Christ will one day openly be displayed not just on earth, but throughout all heaven. “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth,” says our risen Lord. Think of Him! Marvel at His greatness!

Tell Of His Greatness

But this psalm does not simply stop with insight. David does more than just think of God’s greatness. He tells of His greatness. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. It is the speech of God’s people that shows whether or not their hearts are preoccupied with the greatness of God in creation and redemption. David says in verse 6: “I will proclaim Your great deeds.”

It is obvious that David has some specific kinds of speech in mind, some specific audiences in view. He has first of all in view, children. Tell children about the greatness of God, their Creator and Redeemer! Verse 4: “One generation will commend Your works to another.” We put a great deal of effort into Christian education. But where does Christian education begin? What is the foundation of Christian education? It is the home. This is where one generation commends Your works to another. Use the everyday situations of life to tell your children and your grandchildren of the greatness of God. You cannot do that of course unless first you are yourself preoccupied with the greatness of God.

And also, believer to believer. “Your saints,” (verse 10) “will extol you.” The psalms were used in the corporate worship of God’s people. These hymns of praise were sung to music. In the temple worship, there was a speaking forth in the assembly of God’s people of the greatness of God. Telling others about God’s greatness obviously spills out into the corporate worship of God’s people. “They will tell of Your awesome works. They will celebrate Your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of Your righteousness. Your saints will extol You.”

The Heart of Worship

There is a lot of discussion today about worship. Most of it focuses on the mechanics: the things that are done. But there is something far more important in the discussion than the actual things that are done in worship. We need to think about the heart of worship. What is the driving motive behind worship?

Worship is thinking of the greatness of God and then telling others of that greatness. Worship is a preoccupation with God so that all that is said and done focuses on Him, so that the music lifts our hearts to praise the greatness of our God, our Creator, our Redeemer, so that the message reminds us as even David does in verse 8, of the history of the greatness of God revealed in the way He has dealt with His people and provided for their every need. It is in worship, in fellowship gatherings, that we should tell others of the greatness of God.

Why? Because trust in God depends on the sense of His greatness. If our God is whittled down to a man-sized god of the twentieth century, that poor helpless god who is powerless in the face of suffering, who is unable to provide for His people--

then how can your faith cope with the big issues in life? It is only the God of the Bible who can provide hope for His people! That hope is sustained when we meditate on the greatness of God and tell of His greatness to one another.

Motivation for Evangelism

It does not stop there. Those who meditate on the greatness of God also tell of His greatness to unbelievers. Look at verses 10 through 12: “Your saints will extol You. They will tell of the glory of Your kingdom and speak of Your might, so that all men may know of Your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of Your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom.”

How do unbelievers learn of the greatness of God? They will learn of the greatness of God by seeing you meditating on His greatness and telling it. When they see an individual who is preoccupied, not with their own petty problems, but with the magnificence of the God in whom they trust; when they see individuals passing through the deep waters that every human life must pass through, but displaying an inner calm and peace which does not depend on external circumstances, they will wonder how that can happen. They will never know unless you tell of His greatness that all men might worship Him.

Worship has as its foundation meditating on the greatness of God, thinking of His greatness. But what does witness have as its

foundation? Again, not techniques, though there are techniques that can hinder the effectiveness of our evangelism. That is not where we should focus attention.

Rather, what is the driving force behind witness? Telling others of the greatness of God! You will never do this unless first you yourself are preoccupied with His greatness. Unless your life revolves around the greatness of God your Creator, and the greatness of God your Redeemer, you will never tell others of His greatness. It will never occur to you because your heart will be meditating on merely earthly things.

Although you may believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died for your sins, that He is returning in glory, and that you are going to heaven when you die because He took away your sins at the cross, although you may believe all of that, you may never witness because you are not preoccupied with the greatness of God. It is from that meditation on His greatness that witness springs forth. Nothing has a greater impact on unbelievers than seeing someone whose frame of reference is eternal.

When your mind is preoccupied with the greatness of God and you are thinking about His mighty power in creation, when you are thinking of His mighty deeds of salvation for His people, then you will tell others of His greatness and all men will hear that God is great and greatly to be praised.

MUT- SMILE

Missionary Upholders Trust is a Christian worker care umbrella organization meeting some of the common unmet needs of Christian worker at a cost affordable to them. The members give sacrificially every month to help some other Christian Workers’ family at times of death. The members give a portion of remuneration every month sacrificially to help another member who may not even belong to the mission in which the donor serves. It is a marvelous opportunity to help another Christian worker / another family going through very difficult times, particularly in bereavement.

MUT SMILE is an entry scheme to help the full-time CHRISTIAN WORKER’S family in times of sickness and death. Workers of Registered Christian missions and Pastors’ fellowship focusing on evangelism and discipleship, with a monthly salary less than Rs. 20,000 and aged between 18 and 55 years are eligible. If anyone seeks membership after 55 years, he/she should have put a minimum of 15 years in the Christian ministry or evangelism or church planting. In this scheme 100 Mission with 7260 members join together upholding their co-member in the bereavement.

Each member contributes Rs. 10 per death. This amount given by the member Christian workers is shared by calamity relief for the needy members. The Support Schemes (SS) are further funded by the donations received from Friends of MUT (FOM). This is not an insurance scheme. Each member contributes Rs.50 as a onetime registration amount at the time of joining to become a SMILE partner.

The MUT SMILE south India admin committee was held in MUT Resthouse, Coimbatore on 11th July and 11th Oct 2017 where 11 members from Member missions/pastors fellowship along with MUT leaders participated in the meeting. The function of the admin committee meeting is to involve the member mission/pastor fellowship to own the vision in caring another member who is in need was also discussed about the viability of medical scheme for MUT SMILE members and arrived at the consensus to withhold the medical scheme in this project for two years.

The following are the members passed away into the eternal glory in the last six months:

Name	Organization	Date of Death	Age	Cause of Death
Pr. John Saravanan	Christian Welfare and Development Society	03.06.2017	34	Cancer
Pr. Saluka Munda	National Fellowship, Kolkata	04.06.2017	61	Kidney problem
Pr. Philip vaiyapuri	Immanuel Pastors Fellowship	02.06.2017	53	Kidney problem
Pr. Enoch meghanathan	Christian Welfare and Development Society	01.08.2017	51	Heart attack
Mrs. Samathanam	Tiruppur Pastors Fellowship	26.10.2017	56	Viral Fever
Pr. Davidkumar	Indian Pentecostal Assemblies	27.11.2017	45	Stomach Cancer

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 - Rs. 1,000
For friends abroad
 Life membership - Rs. 10,000
 Annual membership - Rs. 1,000

For further information, you may contact:
Mrs. Shanthi Ratnakumar, Co-ordinator.
 Tel: +91 9600 989 245
 Email: shanthi.ratnakumar@gmail.com

Retired Missionary Welfare

By the grace of God, MUT is able to cater to some of the needs of the Retired Missionaries (RM), to a certain extent. As on 31st Dec, 2017, there are around 480 retired missionaries from 49 missions. In faith, we took the step of meeting the medical needs of retired missionaries as per the medical policy of MUT.

For those above 65 years, we also pass on Rs. 2,000 as Annual allowance. This year our target is around 300 RMs. Until now 90 Retired Missionaries have been passed on the annual Assistance. We look up to the Lord to provide the others. We praise God for enabling us to pass on medical assistance to 13 RMs for their major medical problems up to Rs. 3.45 lakh &

to 117 RMs up to Rs. 3.85 lakh to 117 RMs.

On August 8th, we had a Regional Fellowship Meet for the RMs settled in South Tamil Nadu, at Tirunelveli. 63 RMs attended and enjoyed the fellowship. IMS & BYM partnered in arranging the same. Dr. Anbu Rajan, shared lots of useful medical tips and encouraged them from the Word. After a sumptuous lunch we had two rounds of group fellowships, followed by a short Bible Study by Dr. Arthur John. They went revived and rejoicing. The next Regional meet for North Tamil Nadu to be held in Chennai in February 2018.

From Aug 21 – 23, we had the regular retreat for retired missionaries @ ODC

campus. The theme was “Strengthen your Relationship – With the Lord, His word & Family”. 21 retired missionaries from 9 missions were present. Dr. Godwin, Mrs and Mr. Mathansingh, Mrs. Jeya Thanaseelan were the resource persons. The RMs left in joy, strengthened and revived.

The number of retired missionaries and their medical needs are on the rise. We praise God for the support He has provided through His children. We continue to look up to the Lord, to enable us to care the senior servants of God. Please continue to pray and partner.

Missionary Kids

Greetings in Jesus Name. As we are nearing the closing of the year 2017, we were able to provide financial assistance to 100 Mkids as decided earlier. Praise God, that some of our friends have taken

initiative to request the Mkids who have been blessed by the financial assistance and presently employed, have started contributing to bless the other children. As a result, we are in a position to help

additional 20 Mkids further as of today. We hope and pray that we will be able to render financial assistance to about 150 children in this financial year.

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. There are over 1400 missionary upholders families (MUF) who meet regularly for prayers and also support more than 500 missionaries from various mission organisations. Volunteers of MUF along with the missionaries of various mission organisation raise money for the medical assistance of member missionaries of MUT. Last year, Dec 2016 they raised Rs 3.5 lakhs from carol rounds and Rs 2.1 lakhs from from donation cards and an average of Rs 50,000/ every month for the medical assistance of missionaries.

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 254 Organizations as member missions covering about 21,669 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.

Reward of Keeping God's Word

Martin Luther

Heaven and earth, all the emperors, kings and princes of the world, could not raise a fit dwelling-place for God; yet, in a weak human soul that keeps His Word, He will-ingly resides.

Isaiah calls heaven the Lord's seat, and earth His footstool. He does not call them His dwelling place. When we seek after

God, we shall find Him with them that keep His Word.

Christ says: “If a man love Me, he will keep My words, and My Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him” (John 14:23).

Nothing could be simpler or clearer than these words of the Saviour, and yet He

confounds herewith all the wisdom of the worldly wise. He sought to speak not in sublime but in humble language. If I had to teach a child, I would teach him in the same way.

Health Care

Health is something we should never take for granted but often do it. It is our reasonable service to glorify God in our body. (Rom 12:1-2)

"When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost". Billy Graham

MUT, from its very inception conducted lot of studies and survey among missionaries to see that health is not lost for they can serve the Lord better. Thus, emphasis on 'Prevention is better than cure' as the key word gave impetus to the health ministries of MUT to start different health programs to be a source of blessing to missionaries.

Through the following interventions, we were able to do what the Lord has burdened us to do.

MHC: 92 Missionaries from 7 Organisations had undergone MHC in 5 different hospitals; follow up care is being given priority. A survey is in process.

Affordable cost medicine and Generic medicine: Individual contact to bring about awareness and regular doctor's guidance

has helped to increase the number of beneficiaries. Hence, 58 missionaries were benefitted from 19 organisations.

Doctors data Bank: To bring treatment to the doorstep, efforts are on to develop a list of mission-minded doctors committing to help missionaries in every state if not in every district of India. A meeting of mission-minded doctors was held in Hyderabad, 30 doctors attended the same. Through the meeting, we were able to identify few doctors and a Health Centre to help missionaries. Through various contacts, we are able to develop a list of mission-minded doctors in North India.

Medical Assistance: Even though there was the great challenge of generating funds, we were able to provide assistance to 636 Missionaries from 85 Organisations in the past four months (August - December 2017). We as a medical team earnestly request your prayer support and encouragement, as we continue to serve servants of God going through physical and emotional challenges in their lives.

Rest Houses

The three rest houses in Vellore, maintained by MUT are a blessing to many missionaries from both member missions and non-member missions and Christian workers. They avail this facility when they take treatment in CMC Vellore and for spending quality time with their children during school vacation. The rooms are given at a meagre amount of donation from the member missionaries towards maintenance and the rest is met through donations. The rooms are well maintained, furnished with mosquito repellents in every room.

There is a common kitchen in every floor with gas stove, pressure cooker and needed vessels for cooking. Missionaries can cook their own food according to their taste. They need to buy only rice and vegetables from the nearby shops. In Otteri three rooms have been set aside as infection free rooms. These rooms are allotted to Cancer Patients when they are under Chemotherapy treatment.

The care givers from MUT take the missionaries to CMC after getting their appointment and guide them to their respective doctors. For wheel chair patients and for those patients who require more assistance like, being carried in stretcher, one more care giver go along with the patient. There are 20 rooms in Otteri rest house, 9 rooms in Gandhinagar RH and three rooms in Viruthampet. Every day evening 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 and MUT Staff 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 to give valuable advice. Many NRI's and Local Friends of MUT show interest in serving missionaries by their visit to MUT rest house and pray for the missionaries and the MUT care givers. The MUT rest houses serve as a home away from home and a place for relaxation and rejuvenation for the missionaries.

Puducherry

Mut rest house in Puducherry was started on 26.11.16. During this one year 24 God's full-time servants have utilized this facility. During the month of October Beulah ministries from Maharashtra, the tribal group came for translating Bible in the portion of Acts with the help of IEM retired missionary Mrs. Omana Sounderrajan. Mr. Sam Paul and Mr. Arputharaj are coordinating to help in treatment in Jipmer. Mr. Sathish Sam and Mr. Vijaya Prabu help a lot in caregiving. One donor gave a fully automatic washing machine. On November 26th, 2017 we had a small Christmas get together programme. 40 persons attended the program, which was a blessing. Please pray for a God-fearing caretaker.

ODC Campus

Praise God for the beautiful partnership with EHA Canada for the last few years in our efforts to complete "Mission Possible" in ODC

The campus has been developed with facilities to help cross cultural missionaries, evangelists, native workers and pastors who are in full time and part time service, serving in different parts of the country working among different people groups and

doing different ministries, have made use of this campus for the following reasons.

For spending a quality vacation with their children studying in boarding schools.

For taking treatment for minor ailments and for periodical health check-ups

For attending 7 different spiritual and emotional development programs organized by this ministry around the year in English and Tamil languages.

For attending training for trainers programs to enable them conducting these spiritual development programs in the Churches they have established.

For attending tailor-made retreats conducted for special groups (Beloved families, Missionary children, retired workers) to help them meet all the challenges in their lives and be a witness at all times.

For taking rest, for spending quiet time and fasting prayer. The campus is very quiet with flowering plants, birds and pet animals along with several indoor and outdoor games. Christian DVDs with songs, messages, and stories for all ages including the library with about 4000 books and magazines, help people coming for different purposes.

The lighted pathway for a prayer walk around the campus next

to the compound wall and soft music played in the mornings and evenings audible all over the campus make the stay more enjoyable.

The recently added container homes (Two family rooms, two kitchens (fully furnished) and room for entertainments with a play area for tiny tots and older children have added beauty and facilities to enjoy) 20+ bicycles *different sizes) are a big attraction to children of all ages.

Prayer requests:

Mission leaders will open their hearts and minds to understand the needs of their workers and send them to this campus to meet their needs, take rest and be blessed

Need Instrumental/songs DVDs in different languages to play

A fountain with a fish pond to be set up. This sight and the sound of flowing water will bring healing and rejuvenation to tired and worn out people coping with depression.

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)

Indian Bank, Oddanchatram. (A/c. No. SB 844743809, IFSC Code IDIB000O021)

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:

Rev. Dr. Isac Soundararaj,

General Coordinator,

Mobile: +91 9444 331 977 | +91 9600 989252

Email: isacraja@gmail.com

Treasurer, Missionary Upholders Trust,

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

Email: mut.treasurer@gmail.com

mut.vellore@gmail.com

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.

IMPACT

We praise God for the way God is leading us to help His servants at the time of bereavement.

The main Objectives of IMPACT scheme:

1. To provide Calamity Relief & sustained support to the family of a deceased member.
2. To encourage the spirit of mutual concern and oneness among Christian workers from various member-missionary organizations and enable the missionary community to help itself.
3. To provide a common platform to mobilize prayer support and comforting communications within the missionary fraternity for the family of the deceased member Christian worker.

1. Home call of member missionaries

The total number of deaths in the missions till date is 455 from the inception of the scheme and 17 deaths 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 are also given Rs. 10,000 each as funeral expense.

The bereaved families are specially remembered twice every year. During 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 each bereaved family is given a Christmas gift of Rs. 1,200 to Rs. 2,200 depending on the size of the family.

Retreats and Programs are also organized for the bereaved missionaries to help them come out of their grief and help them grow spiritually in Christ.

2. Christmas Get together with Beloved missionary families:

A Christmas get together was organized for the beloved missionary families in Chennai on 06.12.2017, at the Parish Hall of CSI Good Shepherd Church, Velachery. 15 beloved families from our scheme support members participated in this program. Bro. Augustine Asir, Managing Trustee, Word for the World, Chennai delivered God's Message.

3. Christmas Gift to the Bereaved families of Missionaries:

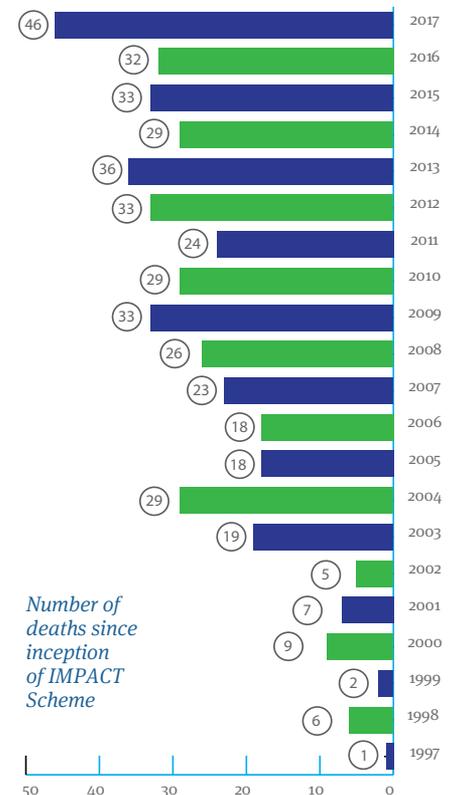
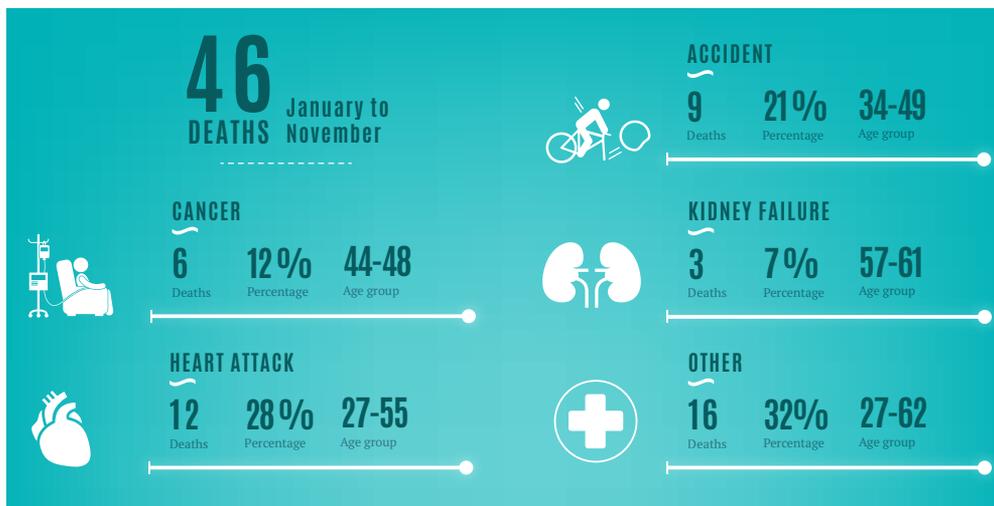
We have provided a Christmas gift of Rs. 1,200 to Rs. 2,200 to each of the 297 bereaved families of deceased missionaries during the first week of December 2017. The total expenditure was Rs. 3,90,200.

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

Pr. Etlragadda Issac Rambabu	HBI, aged 45 years, passed away on 03.08.2017 due to massive cardiac arrest. He left behind his wife Mrs. Mary Ratnam and two sons Donald Vidya Sagar (26), Rahul Dinakaran (24)
Bro. Vincent Gnanarajan	aged 45 years, of GEMS passed away on 05.08.2017, due to stomach cancer. He left behind his wife Mrs. D. Jothi Jebamani and daughter Gifty, studying 6th std.
Mr. Caleb Baskey	aged 45 years, went to be with the Lord on 11.08.2017, due to kidney failure. He left behind his wife Mrs. Ruth Baskey and 3 children Sila (26), Ashish (25) and Yabesh (23).
Bro. Paulose	aged 55 years, who was serving in GEMS, passed away on 23.08.2017, due to massive heart attack. He is survived by his wife, two sons & one daughter. His elder son Solomon completed ITI. His daughter Blessy is a teacher in GEMS English School, Sikaria and youngest son Ashish is studying in 12th Std in GES, Sikaria.
Mr. Vijay Kumar Choppara	aged 43 years, of YWAM-Western Region died on 23-08-2017. He suffered a stroke.
Mrs. Gnanaselvi Solomon	aged 53 years, working in Jesus Redeems died of dengue and pneumonia on 03-09-2017. She left behind her husband Mr. Solomon, also working in JR and 3 children, son David Jebasing married and working in JR, daughter Beulah working and son Oswald studying III B.E.
Mr. Moses Munusamy	FMPB has gone to be with the Lord on 04-09-2017. He was in ICU at a Palliative Care centre in Salem. (Had 4th stage cancer, spread to other parts). Left behind are his wife Mrs. Sivahami and 2 children Hepziba & Deborah (7th & 6th Std).
Pr. Shiva Sankar Masih	IET aged 56 years went to be with the Lord on 5-09-2017. He was serving the Lord in Patharsa village in Kanpur region. He died of Cardiac failure. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Vimala Shiva Sankar, 3 sons and 2 daughters.
Mr. Girishbhai Balubhai Macwan	aged 49 years, NLDS passed away on 11.09.17, due to heart attack. He left behind his son Prakash.
Mr. Andrews	aged 49 years, Follow Up Ministries, passed away on 20.09.17, in bike accident. He left behind his wife Margaret Lilly and 2 sons Judah (studying B.Sc. Radio therapy) and Sam (std. VII)
Mr. Daniel Bal	aged 61 years, NMS passed away on 24.09.2017, due to kidney failure. He left behind his wife Mrs. Bina Tamang and two sons Mr. Ashish Tamang who is married and Mr. Annand Tamang (Unmarried)
Pr. Xavier Gomez	aged 62 years, NIEA passed away on 30.09.17, due to brief illness. He left behind his wife Lizy (57) and three children Lawrence (27), Liny (24) and Leena (21).

Mrs. Jasmine Jebaselvi Y.	aged 57 years, NSM passed away on 07.10.2017, due to stomach cancer. She left behind her husband Mr. Seeralan and 5 children Suseela(36yrs), Prasanna Kumar (34yrs), Chandra S (33yrs), Jayashree S (30yrs), and Prasanth S (28yrs).
Pr. Potnuru Chinnaiah	aged 60 years, HBI passed away on 25.10.17, due to paralytic stroke. He left behind his wife Kanthama, two daughters Kumari, Sunitha and one son Timothy.
Pr. Timothy D	aged 43 years, IET passed away on 28.10.2017, due to Cardiac arrest. He left behind his wife, Mrs. Darshinala Pushpa, and two 2 sons.
Mr. Singaraj	aged 58 years. JR passed away on 31.10.17, due to high BP level. He left behind his wife Mrs. Christy and 2 daughters. One daughter is married and another working.
Mr. Kaveri Prasad	aged 47 years, IEM passed away on 15.12.2017, he was suffering from sickle cell anemia and affected by asthma. He left behind his wife Mrs. Saroja and 2 children, daughter (9) and son (7).
Mrs. Amarjeet	aged 49 years, RSP passed away on 24.12.2017, she was suffering from stomach infection. Her husband went to be with the Lord in 2010. She left behind her 2 children.
Non Members	
Mrs. Sastramali Dugal	W/O Pr. Binod Dugal, aged 40, serving in Voice of the Shepherd, died on 04.06.2017, suffering from month long illness. They were serving in Kandamal, Odisha
Pr. Y Samkutty	aged 48 years, pastor, NIEA, Edamon, Punalur died on 16-09-2017 due to heart attack. He is survived by his wife and two daughters who are studying.
Rev. Voruganti Satyanandam	aged 58 years, BCMII passed away on 25.09.17, due to brain stroke. He left behind his wife and children.

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 in the field. As one!



Get in Touch with Our Project Incharge

MUT Scheme and IMPACT | Mr. Ben Augustus
+91 9445 115 740 | mut.impact@gmail.com

Medical and Other Rest Houses | Mr. John Daniel
+91 9500 989 408 | mut.medical@gmail.com

GS Fund and Rest House (Vellore) | Mr. D. Joseph Sudhaker | +91 9443 370 422 | gsfund_mut@yahoo.in

Rest House (Chennai) | Mr. Christuduss
+91 9994 985 726 | chennai.mut@gmail.com

MUT SMILE | Mr. David Jebakumar
+91 960 027 8811 | mutsmile@gmail.com

MKIDS | Dr. Lancelot | +91 9740 529 068
mkids@mutindia.org

Retired Missionaries | Mrs. Juno Sudhaker
+91 9600 989 241 | mut.marm@gmail.com

Rest House | Mumbai | Mr. Edwin Ponniah
+91 9820 068 283 | edwinponniah@gmail.com

Rest House | ODC | Mr. John J. Ratnakumar
+91 9443 265 187 | mutresthouse.odc@gmail.com

About me – Friends call me JJR. I am a child of God – called by my Lord to be His child at the age of 30, given a vision to start one informal organization to help Missions in reaching the unreached with prayer & financial support - Separated from secular world at 44 to start a registered organisation to care for His full time workers reaching the unreached in India through Missions, Churches and Institutions. It is nothing but washing the feet of His chosen people – Apart from this, God gave me different responsibilities & positions, (all voluntary) to serve various Churches, Missions and Institutions in different capacity and at different stages of my life.

While I attempt to write this Concept paper, my request is to not to attach me with any organizations or church (including the ones that He used me to set up). I am writing this as a child of God with vast experience in the area of missionary care and member care. This I hope will provoke the thoughts of the readers; synergize the future attempts and activities of the readers' while building God's Kingdom in this country. My prayer is that, this paper will help understanding God's Will v/s our own actions carried out with the aim to fulfill His purpose in creating us and the organizations. Scratching each other's back during such Conferences will bring about a nice soothing feeling. What I am trying here is to 'spur' like what Paul was doing in his epistles and he mentions the same in one place. 'Spurring' is normally done by jockeys to horses they ride. They do to bring out the best from their horses. Though it may look harsh, it does not harm but makes it run faster and the reach the destinations quicker.

Since 1993, my whole concentration was on missionary care. Over a period, the Lord added partners in my ministry to help me fulfill the objectives and then I realized that I need to care (member care) for the members / partners he was giving me to fulfill the goals in the missionary care task that I was doing through the umbrella body (meeting some of the common unmet needs of full time workers at an affordable cost in physical, emotional, mental and spiritual areas to enable them to be a witness at all times in their lives).

Matthew 28:19-20- Great Commission- "Go out and train everyone you meet far and near in this way of life marking them by baptism... instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you- Messenger Bible

"Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them..... teach these new disciples to obey all the commandments I have given you"- Life Application Study Bible.

Luke 10:27 "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind and love your neighbor as yourself- Life Application Study Bible.

These are the two guiding verses for me when I was led by the Lord to involve in "Missionary Care" and "Member care" (These are inseparable according to me).

Now, Jesus has said that I must be a disciple, get baptized and start teaching other disciples to obey. While I do, I must do out of my love for my Lord with all my heart, soul, and strength and mind (definitely not half love for Him and the other half for the world!). I am also taught to put myself always in other person's shoes and do things for him or her with love.

These are mind boggling to me. Only around 2002 or 2003, I don't remember exactly, I started understanding the truths of



Bible after attending LRS (Life Revision Seminar). Every day as I meditated, God revealed the truths step by step, I started understanding His ways, His purpose for my life and ministry and the values of His kingdom for which I was preparing myself and the people around me. Well, it is a lifelong process, extremely difficult and complex, sometimes very abstract to comprehend. When I looked around, I saw my colleagues are also struggling, getting disoriented often, doing things without having eternal life in their mind.

Our country is a Hindu country, and very ancient one. Christ was introduced 2000 years ago by one of his disciples, who lived with Him for three and half years, fully instructed by Him. He had seen Him doing miracles and also His sufferings on the Cross and at the end, has witnessed the glorious resurrection of the Lord.

Now the question: Why is this country still rejecting Christ Jesus as the Messiah?

My strong feeling is that we have not become witnessing disciples who reflect Jesus, exhibiting His Godly qualities in and through our lives. We are not salt and light in this world to transform the people and the nation.

What happened?

The love of Christ is not seen in our life. Our ways are not God's ways. We have started trusting our own abilities and resources. Our faith on our Lord is very shallow. We put our trust on people and on many things than on the truth we have been taught by our Lord and His disciples through the bible.

The churches, Missions and all the Christian Institutions are being established by our Lord through His chosen people with one purpose that is to establish God's Kingdom. *Note: Matthew 13: 24-29 (we need to keep this also in mind)*

My understanding is that when He gave me the vision of setting up one informal organisation and another formal registered organisation He gave me people to work with. He did not give machines or slaves or workers to get the task carried out; only partners to accomplish a great and noble task.

I find three kinds of people to serve in His Kingdom

- Christians without having any clear mission for their life
 - Christians with a call to become full timers.
 - Christians with a definite call and mission for this life.
- 1) Now which one should I add in my team - Preferably those with similar goals for their life and mission so that there will be synergy in the mission. On the other hand I may have people with open mind joining my team, so that I can pass on the burden and make them partners in the ministry. Looking back, I now realise that I was very careless in this aspect. I notice the same in many other organisations. A very

prayerful approach is needed in selecting people as partners in the ministry.

- 2) Once chosen and added in the team, one has to ensure that they are fully equipped. Understanding God's word is very important. Daily meditation, worship is equally important. This is a continuous process, and then comes the knowledge, skills and aptitude development. Unfortunately many Christian organisations are having their priority otherwise.
- 3) Then, comes identifying the role in which he or she would fit and helping the person to understand the responsibilities involved which would lead to job description so that the person will have total satisfaction in carrying out the responsibilities and rejoice in the Lord, how much the life is going to be tough.
- 4) Now meeting the needs: Should there be any difference in meeting the needs? I wonder! In Kingdom building, when everyone belongs to a family or considered as a partner, why should there be weightage for education, position, experience or social status (Matthew 6) Jesus tells disciples to put their faith on Him for everything. If so, how to demonstrate such qualities in our organisation? If we could be role models, everyone in the team will start feeling the same and everyone will have the feeling of "being cared"

Unmet needs

What are they? They are different kinds.

Physical:

Some are healthy and some others are not. | Some have the support of friends and family, while others don't have. | Some have one child, while others are blessed with many. | Some have normal children while some other have special children. | Some have the responsibility to support their aged parents. | Some are affected by major illnesses all of a sudden. | Some face deaths in their family. | Some others lose their dear ones early in their life.

Emotional and Spiritual Needs:

The spiritual and emotional maturity is at different levels among the team members of the same organisation.

Some fall for temptations easily and quickly and the temptations placed before each one is different as the devil knows who is weak in what area.

Then some have fears, some feel lonely, some cannot bear pain, and some are over-sensitive while others are living with past hurts. Some are not having clarity in life purpose, others are stuck because of faulty teaching before they joined your mission. Fruits of Spirit are few or less in some people's lives. Denominational difference bring disunity, some in the organisation are proud and arrogant because of such differences.

Unlearning is difficult for some members.

How do we meet such unmet needs? Are we aware of them? What is the mechanism we have to address such deficiencies? How do we uphold each other? (Do we know how many times this word "Upholding each other" comes in the bible?)

Missionary Marriage Life:

It is a very important area in Christian life. Now missionary gets the call and join the mission. What about selection of spouse to join him or her in building God's Kingdom? It is very important aspect in one's life. Our Lord and also his disciples have made it very clear that they will not be separated. Divorce in the life of Christian is out of question. (Matthew 19) Today I come across hundreds of missionary couple are in deep trouble.

Some do not hesitate to go for divorce. With the full permission of extended family members and the church! Many marriages have become stumbling blocks in missionary lives. When a first generation Christian wants to get married, get a partner so that he or she could be more effective in the ministry, who cares about it? Very few Mission leaders and churches are having same burden. How are they prepared for marriage? Is there premarital Counselling before the marriage? Is there a marriage enrichment program for married couples at regular intervals? Are there counsellors in the organisation who have earned total trust of the team members who could be approached anytime for any issues which trouble the married ones? Are the leaders of the organisation trained in counselling so that they would be able to identify immediately if here is any problem brewing the lives of the team members? Do the policies of the organisation encourage, so that the missionary and spouse will have total involvement in the ministry?

Unless the common space between the three keep on growing there will not be synergy in the organisation.

Retirement:

This is another challenge. Retirement is imminent. Govt retire people and private companies retire. Here the goal is not common and not permanent. What is Kingdom building? God adds people in the organisation and how can it sever that connection abruptly as if they are workers in the organisations? If they are considered as missionaries and ministers, they will have a place as long as they are healthy and energetic. Their experience will be useful to the juniors (their faith journey and recollection how God led them can inspire juniors). How are these senior people treated when retirement age nears? Extremely sad. I know how one family felt when the man was having cancer terminally ill, and wife not so old staying in the missionary rest house and taking treatment, the Mission serves retirement notice all of a sudden!

Another mission has a policy to transfer people on the verge of retirement to evade unnecessary problems. The fear is what to do if the missionary who has planted the church, a building with mission funds and having a good number of congregations refuse to leave?

In many cases the people retiring are not at all prepared for retired life. Mission and churches have to take up this seriously. Normally every organisation does the man -power planning exercise. How many retire in the next five years (year wise) and how are vacancies going to be filled, Sad- they care least about people who are going to retire! Otherwise, they will have a person responsible to ensure those who retire will be properly settled and their needs will be taken care off.

The other important aspect is caring for children.

(Note: While I felt that I had not lost anything by resigning my secular job at an early age losing several comforts in my life. But little I knew at that time how much it would affect my children and what impact it was going to cause in their lives!)

How to care for the children, in a way that it would give them the assurance that they are very special in the sight of God and He would be rewarding them accordingly! What kind of support is possible? (physical, emotional and spiritual)? When cross-cultural missionaries put their children (on account of ministry) in boarding schools, leaving the entire responsibility of caring with school authorities, wardens, teachers and dorm parents? How does the child take it? Each one is different!

Are sending Churches/Missions or the rope holders sensitive about it?

Missionary care or Member care is nothing but loving one another. When our own son or daughter goes through such difficulties, how do we handle that situation? When the children of our ministry partner or junior in the mission face the same situation, what is our reaction?

When my Lord is so concerned about widows and orphans, how come the leaders of our Church, Mission or the Institutions are not bothered?

How come, when our Lord is so mindful of rest to the body and mind, the leaders' are not mindful of that? Why do they allow their colleagues to breakdown or burn out?

Note: The secular company in which I served for 20 years provided guest houses in several hill stations and beach sides for me to go with family any time of the year and spend quality vacation with my spouse and children. They did not do it for the love they had for me. They knew I would perform better after such a rest and holiday. How come, the royal priesthood that too at the grass root level are left to suffer? Some leaders and supporters think it is 'sin' if some missionaries wish for that. But, they have different standard for their lives. Why this discrepancy.

If only the leaders and the rope holders can put themselves in the shoes of their juniors and feel what is happening in their lives, then missionary care and member care will begin automatically.

After all, our heavenly Father is not interested in our achievement and accomplishment. I strongly feel that our Lord is only interested in seeing and knowing that His children are caring for one another, trying to imitate Him and doing their best to please Him.

Now the question to be deliberated for improving missionary care which will in turn help accomplishing the purpose for which our Lord created Organisations, and added people to build His Kingdom.

What policies in the organisation hinder caring the people in the organisation? What modifications are to be immediately carried out? (Their feelings and decisions)

How can we ascertain the information from the entire team? The leaders of the organisation and the supporters will have to be open minded to receive all sorts of criticism. Committed and matured Christian leaders with experience may be requested to extend help in this deliberation and take action to improve member care.

Is there any performance appraisal to help the individuals identifying their strengths and weaknesses? Once they were

identified and agreed upon by the job holder and his senior mutually? Effective steps can be taken for the individual to focus more on his strength while some other measures can be taken to address the weak areas. (Training-knowledge, skills and attitude)

Other Measures

Counselling support to overcome the unresolved issues which affect the performance | Change of job | Change of place | Change of leader | Giving a break | Getting medical help | Solving financial issues, if any

In the changing world, the gap is growing between top and bottom even in Christian Community, mainly due to economic policies of the Government and Media interventions. Wants are becoming 'Needs'. The desire to have high end products is growing.

When missionaries and their growing children see their supporters in the secular world enjoy (this word is not properly understood because of the new doctrines preached in churches), How can Missions/Churches and Christian Institutions come together to find solutions for this.

- Role-modelling by Supporters and supporter families (simple life style- Meaning –Do not raise your standard of living to please the society or yourself.
- This is very much applicable to Board members, Leaders of the organisation/Church and Christian Institutions, so that the people at the grass roots will not be very much affected by the changes happening in the society and all over the country.
- Efforts to help the people in the Organisation and those connected with the organisation to be aware of following things, which may affect the grass root worker.
 - * cost of living | cost of Education for children | cost of medical assistance | cost of accommodation | cost of transport/travel.

To close, Missionary care is not pampering. Missionary care will not make the people lazy. Missionary care is nothing but care we give to children. When we punish them, we don't destroy. When we love, we do not allow them to go astray.

To end on a lighter note, I heard someone saying that if our Lord applies for a leadership position in any of our Church, mission or any Christian Institution, He would be summarily rejected for many reasons. One of the main reasons would be that He is not task and result oriented and He is too soft with people!

Note: I have not given statistics which will help the readers to understand the severity and help them fix priority.

The main reason is that our Lord Jesus was concerned about one lost coin, one lost sheep and one lost soul.

Christmas @ Chennai

Christmas is a time God showing his love for us in the same we should also show our love, share with those who are in need.

In line with the above, this year Christmas get-together was organized for the Beloved Missionary Families, missionaries and FOMs of Chennai by MUT Volunteers and staffs at St. Andrews Church (The Kirk) on 25th Nov 2017. With 110 friends gathered the program began with the word of prayer by Mrs. Nirmala Alex followed by worship by Mrs & Mr. Clement. Mr. Sumithran. Bro. Paul Richard gave a brief report on MUT activities.

Few Beloved Missionary Families were interviewed by Mr. Anbu. The interview gave an opportunity for the families to open up and speak and those gathered could understand and be part their lives. Everyone present lifted the concerns of the missionaries and their families to the throne of Grace.

Rev. Premiah gave the Christmas Message highlighting the importance of "Causing great Joy to all the people".

Rev. Isac Soundaraja thanked everyone, especially the Missionaries and their families for the blessed evening.

Spiritual truths can be received only as we come to experiences for which they are adapted. There are many of the divine promises which we can never claim, and whose blessedness we cannot realize until we come to the points in life for which they are specially given.

For example: "In the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion" (Isa. 27:5). This word can mean nothing to the child playing with his toys, or to the young man or woman walking in sunny paths, without a care or a trial. It can be understood only by one who is in trouble.

Or take this word: "My grace is sufficient for thee" (2 Cor. 12:9). It was given first in place of an answer to a prayer for the removal of an unrelenting trial. It meant divine strength to offset human weakness, and it cannot be received until there is a sense of need.

Christ stands beside a happy young Christian and says: "I have a precious word to give you, one that shines with the beauty of divine love; but you cannot bear it yet." The disciple moves on along life's sunny path, and by and by comes into the shadows of sorrow or trouble. Again Jesus stands beside him and says: "Now I can give you the word I withheld before: 'My grace is sufficient for thee.'" Then the promise glows with light and love.

There is a very large part of the Bible which can be received by us only when we come into the places for which the words were given. There are promises for weakness which we can never get while we are strong. There are words for times of danger which we can never know while we need no protection. There are consolations for sickness, whose comfort we can never get while we are in robust health. There are promises for times of loneliness when men walk in solitary ways, which never can come with real meaning to us while loving companions are by our side. There are words for old age which we never can appropriate for ourselves along the years of youth, when the arm is strong, the blood warm, and the heart brave.

God Shows Us the Stars at Night

God cannot show us the stars while the sun shines in the

heavens; and He cannot make known to us the precious things of love that He has prepared for our nights while it is yet day about us.

Christ says to us then, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now" (John 16:12). We could not understand them.

But by and by, when we come into places of need, of sorrow, of weakness, of human failure, or loneliness, of sickness, of old age -- then He will tell us these other things, and they will be full of joy for our hearts. When night comes, He will show us the stars.

Older Christians understand this. There are many things in the Bible which had little meaning for them in life's earlier days, but which one by one have shone bright and beautiful along the years, as stars come out in the evening sky when the sun fades from the heavens.

Even in childhood the words were said over and over, but they were repeated thoughtlessly, because there had been no experience to prepare the heart to receive them. Then one day there crept a shadow over the life, and in the shadow the long familiar words began for the first time to have a meaning. Other experiences of care, trial and loss followed, and the precious words became more and more real. Now, in old age, as the sacred texts are repeated, they are the very rod and staff to the trembling, trusting spirit.

Thus as life goes on, the meaning of Christ's words comes out clearer and clearer, until the child's heedless repetition of them becomes the utterance of the faithful and trust of the strong man's very soul.

Benefit of Memorizing Scripture in Childhood

There may seem to be no use in putting into a child's memory words it cannot understand. They make no impression at present. They give out no light. But they are fixed in the life, and some day there will come sorrow. It will grow dark. Then from these words will flash out the sweet light of divine love, pouring the soft radiance of heavenly comfort upon the night of grief.

Memorizing Scripture

Jesus said, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63). When Scripture is memorized the mind has to meditate upon the words and these often become the words of Jesus to the heart. The soul feeds upon the words of Jesus, and power and blessing is the result.

Supplication. Ask the Lord to help you to memorize His Word each day, to love and appreciate its worth and to grasp its warnings. Draw on His strength and ability as you apply yourself to the task.

Comprehension. Sometimes you may wish to memorize a text but do not fully understand it. Read the whole passage in which it occurs, over and over until the meaning becomes clear.

Determination. There must be sincere determination! The normal mind is lazy and untrained. Often the greatest battle is with the few texts with which you begin. If you fail here, all is lost. You must not take the attitude that you will never be able to do it. Away with such thoughts!

Concentration. There must be concentration, studied application and patience! Normally the first attempts are the most difficult. Win through and you will find real satisfaction in conquering each text.

Meditation. There must be meditation! Apply the truth! As you grasp the truth, apply it to your own heart and life. Let it be operative within you.

Repetition. Review! This is the great secret of Scripture memorization. Without reviewing you have no hope of memorizing Scripture effectively.

Application. Use the texts! Scripture is memorized so that it may be used. Put your knowledge into practice and you will find great joy in being able to quote Scripture to those to whom you speak about the Lord.

Continuation. Don't stop! Satan knows the power of the memorized Word and will do his best to thwart your attempts to commit Scripture to memory.

MKIDS Retreat- Youth Encounter

By the amazing Grace of God, the Mkids Annual camp, YOUTH ENCOUNTER-2017 with the Theme RID...RUN...REWARD based on the verse Heb 12:1,2 was kicked off from September 29th at HIS REST, Saranhang, Madurai, with a devotion by Rev. Joseph Durairaj from Vellore. Welcome and Introduction was done by our Gen. Co Rev. Isaac Soundar Raja and Deepa Jebakumar. Ice breaking session was done by Bro. Isaac Peterson in which all the Mkids came to know about each other. The theme presentation was done by Rev Joseph Durairaj. The Brainstorming session that enabled to find more on the challenges by Mkids was done by Rev.Isaac Soundar Raja for Boys and Deepa Jebakumar for girls.

The first and foremost five challenges were discussed in the sessions. Br.Richard Samuel, Founder of Christian Community Ministries shared his experience as an Mkid in his school days, during his youth and his understanding of Parents love and God's love. Sis. Jasmine shared her experience in Hostels, struggles and challenges faced by her along with siblings both in Hostels and at home. They also shared how they tasted the goodness of God and so now ministering God. Sis. Jasmine, now also a Missionary Parent shared her challenges in bringing up their children both before and after leaving their children in Hostels. She shared how mentally she was broken while she left her son in Hostel. She also shared challenges faced by them as a family when her daughter was 3 years old. Mkids got answers for many of their unanswered questions and their doubts were cleared when she answered the questions asked by them.

Bro. Isaac Peterson made the Mkids realize who they are and helped them to come out of their low self-esteem and fear in different sessions. He also helped the Mkids in deciding their career and future life. Sis. Angelin led the Mkids into salvation. Bro.Isaac and Sis.Angelin helped them on how to overcome temptations & face challenges in day to day life, by taking sessions for both boys and girls separately.

On Sunday morning we had a service in which the Inmates of the campus and Old Age Home joined us. The service was led by the Mkids. The word of God was shared by Br. Richard Samuel which touched the hearts of all , especially the Mkids.

Bro. Anbu Motivated the Mkids and helped them to come out of their Low-self esteem. Mkids had open minded conversations with him and began to change the ways of their perception.

On saturday evening boys played a Foot ball match and girls played a Throw Ball Match. In the night, some of the Mkids shared their Testimonies during the Camp Fire. They were given awareness about MUT also. The Retreat came to an end with Communion service and distribution of prizes. All the Mkids enjoyed the food and spent lovely times in the campus with their friends. They were also renewed in their spiritual life. Apart from snacks, dinner, prizes and gifts they also carry a load of happiness leaving behind all the worries & queries.

Feedback of Mkids:

1. Walk with God, live for God, serve God, follow God's plan.
2. Overcome temptations & fear.
3. Respect, obey and love Parents.
4. To be holy & happy.
5. Not complain about financial situation.
6. Get Rid of things which makes me weak.

7. Parents should not underestimate the children.
8. Parents should believe, encourage and understand me.
9. I thank my parents for what they have done and sacrificed for me.
10. To do ministry.
11. Reflect God in my daily life.
12. Awesome food.
13. Expect Mkids Retreat every year

Note: out of 22 boys 13 boys and out of 18 girls 4 girls have decided to do full time ministry and others have decided to do part time ministry. Please pray for these Mkids.

Impacts in the life of the Mkids after the Retreat:

1. One Mkid told that he is attending Sunday service regularly.
2. One Mkid told that she has started to meditate Bible Verses.
3. One mkid told that he is reading Bible regularly.
4. Few missionary parents told that their children are very happy, they are talking with them, talking to their grand parents.
5. They also told that they can see changes in their life.



Good Samaritan Fund

The need to meet the financial emergencies happening in the extended family of cross-cultural missionaries had been realized during the earlier MUT consultation with Mission leaders and interaction with missionaries. This financial crisis affects missionaries emotionally thereby affecting the ministry. The Good Samaritan Fund was initiated in the year 2007 during one such meeting with the member mission leaders.

The General Secretary of the member missions has been authorized to extend assistance to the missionaries during the crisis situation and can claim reimbursement from MUT. During the financial year end, March 2017, 329 missionaries have been assisted with Rs 26.05 lakhs. From April to December 2017, 251 missionaries from 39 mission organizations have been assisted with Rs. 20.17 lakhs.

In addition, 19 missionaries were assisted up to Rs. 71,479 for the treatment of their parents from GS Support Scheme.

The following are some of the crisis identified and assisted

1. Travel allowance to missionaries to attend the funeral of their parents by Flight/Train/Bus.
2. Travel allowance for missionary children to attend the funeral of their parents.
3. Reimbursement of medical expenses of dependent parents of missionaries.
4. Marriage gift.
5. Children's Marriage gift.
6. Missionaries' daughter's first delivery expenses.
7. Assistance at the time of Natural calamities and theft.
8. Legal/bailing fee during persecution.

Please do partner with us in praying for the missionaries and upholding them during their time of crisis.

New venture: Volunteers are attending the funeral of missionaries' parents and thus provide physical and emotional care.

Christmas @ Delhi

The Christmas get-together was held on December 9, 2017 at Mount Carmel School, This was mainly organised to celebrate Christmas with the Beloved and Ailing missionary families. About 11 Missionary families were present along with the MUT Delhi Core team families and the friends of MUT. In total about 56 people took part in the Christmas programme.

The programme began with the word of prayer by Mr. Michael Sundar Singh and Dr. P Dickson welcomed the Missionaries and the Core Group members and Mrs. Tilaka Benjamin Supervised the entire programme.

Special Christmas songs were sung by Bethel Assembly Church Worship Team, Miriam, Tahira, Yasha.

Rev. Akash Roy Chowdhry gave the special Christmas message from the Word of God.

Rev. Dr. Isac Raja shared about the Ministry of MUT well in details about various MUT Schemes. He also thanked the MUT Delhi team for their efforts in caring the Servants of God in Delhi and the neighbouring states.

Mr. K. Anbalagan presented the Activity report of MUT Delhi and it was well accepted.

Rev. Dr. Isac Raja and Rev. Akash R. Chowdhry Presented the gifts to Missionary families (Rs.5,000/- cash and a Blanket).

Each Missionary has shared their testimonies how God took care of them during crisis and how MUT played an important role in supporting them.

Pr. K Stephen (Tamil Christian Fellowship, Delhi) have shared his experience during his Mater Health Check-up at Christian Fellowship Hospital Oddanchatram. He had a memorable time at ODC as he enjoyed God's blessings from His people. He was full of praises for the special care given at ODC because of the partnership with MUT.

Pr. Johnmuthu shared his experience how the MUT Delhi team helped him during the crisis specially when his wife and daughter's sickness.

Mr. G. Chidambaram thanked the Missionary families and friends of MUT for their participation in the Christmas Programme.

The programme concluded with word of Prayer by Rev. Immanuel Durairaj and the programme ended with the fellowship Dinner.



MUT Scheme

“MUT Scheme” is an entry scheme to all Schemes of MUT, to help the Missionary family in times of sickness, death and crisis situations. Workers of Registered Christian missions focusing on evangelism and discipleship, with a monthly salary less than Rs.20000/- and aged between 18 and 55 years are eligible. In this scheme 145 Mission with 15020 members join together upholding their co member missionaries in their bereavement, sickness and crisis. Each member contributes Rs.50/- and the Mission contributes an equal amount. This amount (Rs.100) given by the member missionaries is shared by LYB, IMPACT and GS Schemes for the needy members

in the area of Medical, Calamity, Crisis Relief and Retired Missionaries Welfare.. The Support Schemes (SS) are further funded by the donations, received from Friends of MUT (FOM). As on 31st December 2017 total Organization enrolled in MUT Scheme: - 145 Mission with 15020 members. God willing we are aiming a total of 250 mission organizations with 20,000 missionaries to join in this MUT Scheme to bless other member missionaries who are in need in the Next 3 years by 2020.

#	Organisation	Place
1	Messenger Mission	Chennai
2	Union of Evangelical Students	Telangana
3	El - Shaddai Missionary Prayer Band	Kanyakumari
4	Union Of Evangelical Students Of India	Delhi
5	Faith Prayer Group Ministries	Tirunelveli
	Christ for All Ministries - India	Chennai

Christmas @ Beloved (Bereaved) Families

"Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory." There are many around us who shared beautiful moments with their loved ones, now shrink into shells with their painful memories of their lost loved one. Festive times make the situation even more painful. When it happens in the lives of God's servants it challenges their faith and leaves lot of unanswered questions. A get together of beloved families of full time servants of different Churches and Missions, was held during Christmas season & New year 2018 meet was organized in ODC Campus of MUT. Twenty-Seven missionaries (Female-25, Male-2) with their children (youth-23, children-17) attended in batches. We had 17 families from missions, 8 pastors' families and 2 non -members.

Activities

A set of new dress and welcome kit were given to all the families on arrival. welcome kit included Tooth paste, brushes, face powder, soap, washing powder, biscuits, chocolate & Scripture union book.

On 24th Dec, Christmas Eve function was held, followed by fellowship dinner with friends of MUT from ODC churches, friends from CFH and CFCH hospitals and the caregivers' families in the campus. All were divided in to 4 groups (Love, Joy, Peace & Patience) and competition was held to exhibit their talents. Their team work and their portrayal of the program with-in the short time was commendable. That brought them few steps closer to

each other. On 25th evening, Christmas Tree function was held along with activities and indoor games. Santa arrived and made the children have lot of fun. All of them attended Church services on Christmas day and on New year day.

We had worship services on two Sundays in between Christmas and New year in the campus itself. These Sunday services were made meaningful by the testimonies and sincere intercessory prayers. The living witnesses encouraged the others who are in the same path of pain and struggle.

Individual & group counseling sessions were organized every day. The group was split into 2 batches. Each batch enjoyed a day of picnic to kodaikanal on 26th & 28th of Dec, respectively. On both these days breakfast and lunch were provided by a friend of MUT, at his hotel.

We had the maximum number of families between 27th to 29th. Sessions and activities were planned for them to relax & recall the goodness of God and to get rejuvenated to move forward. On 29th lunch was provided by the Men's Fellowship of a local church. Gift Boxes from Samaritan purse were distributed to all the Children by another Church in ODC.

On 30th, with the help of staff from two children ministries, a Christmas tree program (half a day) was conducted by the children of beloved families and those in the campus for the non-Christian children in a nearby colony with high tea. About 70 children attended.

On 31st Dec, all the families were encouraged to spend the last day of the year, thanking the Lord for all that happened in their life by counting the blessings that they had enjoyed in 2017 in spite of all the challenges they had encountered.

We started 2018 with the devotion "Focus on Jesus - Run your race" from the lives of Saul and Saul (Paul), which encouraged and kindled many to live a witnessing life amidst their struggles. On the evening of the 1st day of the year 2018, there was a get together again where we had activities for the entire group.

The thought for the day was on feet washing. Several people gave ideas on how this can be practiced throughout the new-year. Fellowship dinner was arranged out door & hot idlis, dosas, uthappams and chapattis were served. ladoos from Bangalore and rich plum cake pieces from Chennai were donated by FOMs. Three bundles of clothes neatly packed and sent by FOMS in Dubai, were distributed to the families.

At the end, we found many of the single parents were encouraged & consoled. Young people were rejuvenated through the activities with experiential learning, conducted by different volunteers. Children happily used the bi-cycles, audio visual room and the indoor and outdoor games and had lots of fun.

Few Feedback from families.

1. 'Me and my children had a blessed time with the other beloved families like us.'

2. 'After the death of my husband I thought of ending my life.... After the times spent in MUT God helped me to come out from the negative thinking and reminded me that He is for me....'
3. 'I thought of giving a resignation from the ministry in 2018. But during these days God strengthened me to run forward for HIM and not to quit.'
4. 'We would have been in tears if we had stayed back in our homes.'
5. 'We were waiting for a call of invitation from MUT because we are the forgotten ones by our own families and friends.'
6. 'MUT made us feel at home with their hospitality. Relaxed & enjoyed a good rest. Had fun & fellowship & received a spiritual rejuvenation.'

Children and youth shared a very good friendship among them. Many were in tears when they were about to travel back. We hope many are connected to each other even after they departed to their places. Parents were surprised to see their children sharing a heartfelt relationship with other children who they met at MUT for the first time, which they felt hard to share with their own relatives.

Praise God for all the volunteers who came from different places and the caregivers in the campus who went an extra mile to give their best and make every one enjoy the season. Praise God for all the partners from ODC and different parts of India, and from UAE. A friend from Canada also supported financially. Thank you all for joining us in building up

the broken, giving hope to the hopeless, & lending hands at the time of their struggles. Every contribution of yours is making a difference in the lives of the bereaved.

In all these, we could see the hand of God as every need was met in a wonderful way. All Honor and Praise be to Him

At the end of the program, an invitation has been extended to all the families, that they are welcome to visit the campus any time during the year to spend quality vacation with children & have time with counselors available in ODC or for any medical checkup for those who don't have such facilities in their organization or churches they serve.

Make Me a Cake First

Anna Hoppe

"The jar of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of Jehovah" (1 Kings 17:16).

How refreshing is the narrative of Elijah's visit to the widow of Zarephath! (1 Kings 17:8-16). What encouragement to us to "seek first the kingdom," knowing that God will never fail those who put their trust in Him! (Matthew 6:33).

It was a sad day indeed when the widow in that famine-stricken land went out to gather sticks with which to build a fire to prepare her last meal. What a test of her faith must have been the prophet's words, "Make me a little cake first!" But as a reward for her obedience the handful of meal in God's hand increased a hundredfold. "Her house did eat a full year" (margin). Till the famine was over, every meal in that home was a miracle. The supernatural was a daily occurrence. "The jar of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail," because in serving the prophet of God the woman sought first the kingdom.

The way of carnal reason has ever been to make a feast for ourselves first and to give God the leavings. The lesson taught by crumbling investments, financial losses, losses of position and prestige, reveals the unstableness of earthly things, but they whose first desire is the prosperity of the kingdom can even sign away the title to the old homestead, smiling through the tears, when the eye of faith can see "the title clear to mansions in the skies," the eternal habitation of God's people.

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who shed His last drop of blood for us, is worthy of our "first love," of the first place in our affections and an abiding first place in our lives. Someone has said: "Only one life, 'Twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ Will last!"

It is in the putting of first things first that we invite the promised stream of God's blessings, and though we may not be able to hold much, we can overflow! How often he has honored the faithfulness of those who were faithful "over a few things!" The widow's cake in Elijah's day and the widow's mites in the Lord's time of earthly sojourn are considered of sufficient importance to be inscribed by the Holy Spirit on the eternal records of the Bible.

"Give and it shall be given unto you," is as true today as when the inspired scribe penned the line (Luke 6:38). And it need not always be money. The love gifts of talents consecrated to the kingdom's cause, the hands and hearts and willing feet ready at every call, the prayers of intercession holding up the prophet's hand, these are as acceptable to the Lord of the church as was that first little cake to Elijah.

Moody once stated that the word "according" was God's yardstick. "According to your faith be it unto you" (Matthew 9:29). He who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think delights to honor the faith that surmounts earthly problems and brings heaven's blessings down.

The past triumphs of the church are due, under God, to that undaunted faith of the pioneers who dared opposition, discouraging desertions, and poverty. Knights of the Cross they were, in the world but not of it, fired with enthusiasm for the extension of the kingdom, breaking barriers down.

Today we are called upon to arm with spiritual weapons for a new crusade. God has given us a spiritual ministry, and there is a widespread desire for divine enabling on the part of thousands whose faith in human power has been shattered. There are new fields to be entered and present ones to be cultivated and expanded. The Lord of the Church can still accomplish wonders through the medium of transformed lives that gladly and willingly give Him "the first cake."

Faith, mighty faith, the promise sees, And looks to God alone, Laughs at impossibilities, And cries, "It shall be done!"

True, there will be trials and tribulations, but God's sure Word will continue to shine brighter and brighter until the dawn of eternal day. We are enjoined to bear one another's burdens and He who has promised us the victory will supply conquering strength. His Word gives us a glimpse of the uncounted throngs of overcomers singing the praises of the Lamb through all eternity.

Having given our Lord our first cake, we may go in our work secure in the trust that He will provide the increase both for our temporal needs and for the advance of His kingdom.

Christmas @ Madurai

The United Carol Service was held at All Saints Church, Madurai on 25th November 2017, organized by Mr D.J. Chelladurai, MUF Coordinator. Members from 40 organizations participated in the Carols. Village Missionary Movement, Viruthunagar got the 1st prize.

In addition, Carol rounds are being conducted from house to house from 30th November to 19th December. The collection from the carol rounds will be sent for the medical needs of missionaries.

Christmas @ Vellore

MUT Vellore FOM Christmas get together was blessed by 300 people on 8th Dec`17 at Priya Mahal, Otteri.

Rev. Leo Samuel, Ida Scudder Church, Vellore did the opening prayer, followed by singing by MUT staff, few special numbers, and a game. A Bajan by missionaries and a testimony were the highlights.

Dr. Ezhil Christudhas, a long-standing associate of MUT and Rtd. Principal, Voorhees College shared God's Word on "vulnerability of Jesus". The closing prayer was done by Rev. Suresh Anandakumar, Bethel Church, Vellore.

The program was coordinated by Bro. C.J. Kirubhakaran and Staff of Vellore.



Christmas @ Tirunelveli

God provided us an opportunity in Tirunelveli on the Saturday evening 18 November 2017 to meet around 150 missionary kids from Santhosha Vidyalaya, Dohnavur and upto 10 families of Senior missionaries and share the joy of Christmas. The audience from Palayamkottai comprising of Pastors, Mission partners, FOMs and others enjoyed the band music played by the SV kids, their choir singing and a telling skit on Martin Luther. There were two other groups of local singers as well who entertained us with Christmas melodies. The messages that were shared in between brought out that need for expanding our prayer boundaries as MUT is entering its 25th year of service to the missionaries and ministers of God.



Friends of Missionaries/MUT (September 2017- January 2018)

Bangalore	Mr. Daniel
	Mr. Noel Thomas
Chennai	Mr. Uthayaraj
	Mr. Vijayakumar
	Mr. Victor Nathan
	Mr. Wesley John
Dharmapuri	Mr. Sam Jebaraj
Hyderabad	Mr. G. M. Johnson
Hosur	Mr. Samuel Livingston
Kottayam	Mr. Santhosh
Lamtaput	Mrs. Tharamani
	Mrs. Evangeline J. Rani

New Delhi	Mr. Robert
Oddanchatram	Dr. Bejoy Abraham
	Dr. Immunuel
Sivakasi	Mr. V. James
	Ganaprakash
	Mr. Shanthi Manohar
Thirumangalam	Mr. Edward
Vellore	Assembles of God
	Church
	Mr. Navaneetham
	Durairaj
	Mrs. Lily Kathiravan

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Viruthachalam	Mrs. Sornalatha Peter
Yercaud	Mr. K. Samuel
Nizamabad	Mrs. Ruth Anantha
	Rao

Urgent Need

Interested couples who are dedicated, willing to oversee everyday

activities at the MUT Oddanchatram campus, please write to us

mut.vellore@gmail.com.
Call us at
+91 416 2260 368



1. September vacation | 22nd Sept to 2nd Oct 2017

2. Biblical Vounseling Tamil | 8th to 11th Nov 2017

3. Inner Healing | 13th to 15th Nov 2017

4. Life Revision Seminar- English | 20th to 25th Nov 2017

5. Preparing for Retriement | 6th to 12th Oct 2017

6. Person to Person | 4th to 9th Dec 2017

7. Retired Missionaries retreat | 21st to 23rd Aug 2017

8. Spiritual Enhancement | 16th to 18th Oct 2017

MUT Representatives

Arakonam (04177)

Mr. Joseph +91 9600 989 248

Bangalore (080)

Mr. Rajan Abraham +91 9731 981 172

Dr. J P Lancelot - 2844 4905

Mr. Victor Arputharaj +91 9900 866 289

Chennai (044)

Mr. Alex Soundararaj - 26193 233

Mr. Samuel Jebakumar +91 9445 565 415

Mr. Eugene Pandian - 2620 2055

Mr. Fletcher +91 9500 260 027

Mr. D. Rajkumar Davidson +91 941846620

Mr. Richard +91 9443 460 672

Rev. Isac S. Raja +91 9444 331 977

Coimbatore (0422)

Mr. Rajashekar +91 9486 420 065

Mr. Manoharan +91 9487 220 026

Delhi (011)

Dr. V.K.Williams - 24115 544

Mr G..Chidambaram +91 9350 255 752

Mr. K.Anbalagan +91 9810 093 569

Dr. Dickson +91 9873 558 994

Hosur (04344)

Mr. Ruben +91 9443 637 847

Hyderabad (040)

Dr. Spurgeon Anandaraj +91 9849 271 377

Kumbakonam (0435)

Dr. M. I. Baburao +91 9487 738 081

Madurai (0452)

Mr. D. J. Chelladurai - 2389523

Mr. D. G. P. Dharmaraj 2607337

Mr. Balasingh - 2380306

Mr. Periasami +91 9442 280 907

Mrs. Ebenezer Jebamani +91 9842 952 882

Mr. Mohan +91 9442 262 540

Mumbai (022)

Mr. Kirubaharan +91 9967 032 607

Nagercoil (04652)

Mr. John Ranjan - 279827

Nagpur (0712)

Rev. Dr. D.B. Kulothungan +91 9822203 407

Mrs. Pushpa Waghmare +91 9420 252 781

Nazareth (04639)

Dr. Daniel Sundararajan - 277301

Mrs. Megala Daniel +91 9942 256 543

Mrs. Kalaiarasi +91 9442 578 541

Neyveli (04142)

Mr. Jebakumar Solomon +91 9443 074 544

Mr. E. Samuel +91 9443 432 565

Mr. Manivarman +91 9442 222 213

Mr. Royappan +91 9443 539 498

Mr. Maria Joseph +91 9443 117 147

Mr. Maria George +91 9443 404 128

Oddanchatram (04553)

Mr. Jacob Thomas - 240901

Dr. Joseph Nellimala- 240226

Mr. Paul Pandian +91 9976 719 310

Mr. Jeyaraj Moses +91 9600 989 247

Dr. Latha Paul +91 9444 353 074

Dr. Abraham Kurian +91 9443 447 244

Pondicherry

Mr. Joseph Neil +91 9486 535 887

Mr. Selvakumar +91 9281 342 468

Mr. Sam Paul +91 9489 229 540

Ranipet

Dr. Anbu Suresh +91 9003 845 643

Rev. Walter Sundersingh +91 9245 472 830

Mrs. Daisy Chitra + 91 9677 913 779

Tanjore (04362)

Mr. Williams - 240659

Mr. Victor - 232454

Mrs. Sumathy Jason +91 9443 839 295

Mr. J. Suresh +91 9487 534 311

Tirunelveli (0462)

Mrs. Selvi Godwin +91 9842 172 094

Dr. Selvakumar +91 9442 063 330

Mrs. Ida Premkumar +91 9443 581 818

Trichy (0431)

Mr. R. S. Baliah +91 9042 050 491

Mr. Varam Viji - 2770123

Mr. C. Balasingh +91 9443 273 876

Tuticorin (0461)

Mrs. Beulah Augustine - 2356476

Vellore (0416)

Mrs. Ananda Chandran - 2252976

Dr. R. E. Dhanaraj +91 9489 510 177

Mr. John Daniel +91 9500 989 408

Mr. V. D. S. Chandrasekar +91 989 4412 117

Mrs. Violet Jeyachandran +91 9944 796 794

Kerala

Mr. C. P. Solomon +91 9840421136

Mr. Malcolm & Mrs. Annie +91 9845718731

Australia

Dr. Mrs. Chellam Kirubakaran

chellamk@yahoo.co.uk

Mr. Santhosh

santhosarajan@gmail.com

Bahrain

Mr. Mathew Parrakal Isac

mathew170280@yahoo.com

Mr. Thomas Julius

kirusthu@yahoo.com

Canada

Dr. Mrs. Kalyani Premkumar

kalyani.premkumar@usask.ca

Oman (Muscat)

Miss. Evelyn Chitra

evelynchithra7@gmail.com

Bro. Stephen +91 8754 406 245

gstheng@gmail.com

UAE

Abudhabi

Mr. Rajesh

rajeshabudhabi@yahoo.com

Dubai

Mr. G. Rajkumar, jansi@emirates.net.ae

Mr. Jernaus Britto, mutdubai@yahoo.com

Mr. Alex Isac

+97 142 547 117 | +97 1506 354 428

alex_isac@yahoo.com

Fujairah

Mr. Daniel Godwin

daniel.godwin@vopak.com

USA

Mr. Julius David julius_david@excite.com

Mr. Naveen & Mrs. Surya Naveen

chryso_surya@yahoo.com

Sam Nelson Siluvaimani

samsnelson@yahoo.com

For more information on projects and programs, please reach out to

Rev. Isac Raja

isacraja@gmail.com | www.mutindia.org

