

JAMMU & KASHMIR



UESI ministry made its foray into J & K in the late 70s with Mr P.C. Varghese visiting J&K from South India and some input from Ms Jillian Steward, a missionary from Australia. Later, Deva & Parrot Sahayam made a survey trip.

But it was only 2006 that UESI sent Mr. Jim Reeves and me to J&K to pioneer the work among students. Since it was the first time that staffs were specifically appointed for J&K we had to start from a scratch. We made an unlikely pair as Jim is from Nagaland and I am from Andhra Pradesh. It was God's doing that we both came together to work in a place which was far from home for both of us. Jim had a special vision for Kashmir while studying in Kolkata. I was burdened about J&K when

I heard in a Missions retreat while I was a student in AP that there was no student work happening here.

We were helped a lot by Emmanuel Hospital Association team in our initial days, without their help and fellowship we wouldn't have survived. I found it difficult to travel in the hills as the terrain was unfamiliar to me. During travels encountering the army was a frightening. But God gave us immense joy when we were able to begin our work with a DTC for EHA staff and some local believers. It was something we hadn't dreamed. When we met a CNI pastor in Jammu, he welcomed us warmly and asked us to start a Bible study for the youth in the church. On the first day itself, four students accepted the

Lord. One of them was Poonam who has joined as a UESI staff. The churches in Jammu were very supportive to us and encouraged us to start Bible studies for their youth.

After a year, Jim was sent to Kashmir and I continued in Jammu. His struggles were identity, lack of response and spiritual oppression while I struggle to nurture the students as we lack seniors to mentor them. I was afraid to travel in such a rough terrain, feared losing my life in an accident. I felt lonely, discouraged and cheated by the locals.

Since the usual ways to minister wouldn't work especially in a tough place like Kashmir, Jim tried to make contacts by teaching guitar and

'Paradise on Earth'

Jammu and Kashmir is divided into three regions: Jammu, the Kashmir Valley and Ladakh. Kashmir Valley due to its beautiful landscape was named 'Paradise on Earth'. Jammu is an important pilgrim centre for the Hindus. Ladakh also known as 'Little Tibet' is sparsely vegetated but beautiful, and famous for Buddhist culture. Jammu and Kashmir is multi religious and ethnic. , Today, the beautiful Valley remains strife torn and under developed. Efforts are on to bring about peace, development and employment. There has been a relative decrease in terrorist activity but the Valley erupts whenever there is an incident of military atrocity. Under such circumstances ministry has no doubt been arduous and difficult. It is much more peaceful in Jammu and Ladakh as people in these regions do not support militancy or the secessionist movement.

...J&K, Contd from page 1
 playing football. He taught music in St. Paul's International Academy. He toiled on for two years and now has moved to Chandigarh.



Miss Goyir Nyodu

At present J&K has one affiliated EU(Jammu ICEU), Bible studies and student contacts in Srinagar, Udhampur and Samba. This year we organize two evangelistic camps and one DTC. We have two coordinators, Miss Goyir Nyodu from Arunachal Pradesh is based at Srinagar and Mr. Ramakrishna from Andhra Pradesh is based at Udhampur. Miss Poonam Sotra is undergoing staff training with UESI. I am based at Jammu with my wife Aarti.

We are working out different ways to make contacts. Mr. Ramakrishna is giving weekly classes in a school and tuitions to some students. I have started a spoken English classes and I am about to finish with the first batch.

The Christian population of J&K is a measly 0.16%. Christians do not have a good reputation and looked down upon. The reasons are varied; many local Christians do not study well, while some are addicted to drugs and alcohol. There is a great need for a revival and unity among Christians. The so called Christian students are more hardened than those from other faiths. At times we feel that they are more receptive

than those who are in the churches.

The challenge before us is developing students for effective leadership and sustaining the spiritual growth of students from other faiths. Apart from this we have severe manpower crunch. We need more missionary students, tent makers and staff to nurture students and establish ministry at different places.

There 21 Christian institutions in J&K which require committed Christian teachers and there are other industries which can provide job opportunities. South Indians are generally welcomed and in fact an owner of a school who is a Muslim asked me personally to send some teachers for his school. I think we need to eliminate the fear about Kashmir from the minds of the people. There is no problem for anybody to come and work in Kashmir. Now the situation has improved a lot in terms of militancy. We need to exercise much wisdom and grace when we share the Gospel as the land is still closed to the Gospel especially in the Valley. It may be difficult



Madhusudan & Aarti

to share the Gospel openly and verbally but nobody can stop us sharing the Gospel through our lives.

The Gospel can certainly redeem the people of this state and set them free from sin. But it needs a lifelong commitment and the results

From the Desk of The State Secretary

Paul's reason for existence was Jesus Christ and Him alone. His letters all point towards it and in Phil 1:21 he says, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain." His desire was to see Christ exalted in his life, whether alive or dead.

Paul was known as Saul and he was a man of great standing and influence in the society. But when he met Christ, his life changed forever and he came to realize that all that he had inherited and achieved was a waste compared to knowing Christ. His purpose in life was to fight the good fight, finish the course by keeping the faith and awaiting the crown of righteousness kept for not only him but for everyone who finishes the course, by the righteous Judge (2 Tim 4:8).

This did not happen with Paul alone but also with many who encountered Christ and were captivated by Him. The people who understood the real worth of knowing Him have followed Him passionately. In the forthcoming UESI Kerala Missions Conference we will have the opportunity to study and meditate on the topic of God's mission and passion.

Last month as a family we were able to visit the North Malabar region. It was an encouragement to see our graduates and students along with Bro. Thomas Mathew, our new staff, working as a team. The first North Malabar Regional Conference was a blessed experience. Kindly keep the North Malabar Region in your prayer as they are working on making a new five year plan for the ministry.

I had the opportunity to visit Wayanad along with Bro. Sam Alexander, the



KEGF Secretary and Regional staff, Bro. Jojo C. Kurian. It was a joyful occasion seeing our ministry growing as a result of the hard work put in by our graduates and staff. The South Malabar Regional Conference had a good participation especially from the students. Let us praise God for the positive involvement of the students in Calicut.

As God opens up more and more doors for the ministry we need more manpower to cater to the needs of the ministry. We do not know how long we can work freely in this country. Let us make use of the time God has given to us. The kind of response we get after the magnum opus programmes is a sign that UESI ministry is relevant and needed. Going through the response sheets of one programme in South Central Region, I could see that a lot of students are looking for help to deal with their personal problems. So, let us gird ourselves and equip ourselves for this important ministry to the youth in the state and the country. Then we will witness the transformation that will take place in our society as a result of transformed students when they encounter Jesus Christ.

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cannot be seen in a year or two. We need a lot of patience and a long term commitment to bring about change in this part of the country. But I feel it was worth leaving my home and toil in this needy place. Things have not been easy, but have experienced God in a real way and there are no regrets.

Praise and Prayer

Praise God for all the inroads we have made and the growth

of ministry in this region.

Pray for the coordinators, staff, contacts and the groups in Srinagar, Udhampur and Jammu.

Pray for this state as a whole, peace to prevail and the Prince of Peace is enshrined in the lives of people.

In His Vineyard,

M Madhusudan Reddy, UESI
 Staff in Charge for J&K
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NEWS

South Central Region

Magnum opus programme for HSS students, NSS HSS Thadiyur was held on 23rd September 2011. The topics dealt were related to adolescence and academic issues. Mr. Reji Jacob led the sessions. 400 students attended.

Work shop on Hebrews was organized on 18 and 19 October 2011 for graduates. 80 graduates from the region and their contacts attended the first day and around 50 attended the second day. Dr. T. V. Varghese from USA led the sessions.

A session on **academic and developmental issues** of teenagers was held on 27th October 2011 at Thadiyur. 90 parents of teenagers attended Mrs. Lata George Kuruvilla, graduate from Changanacherry led the sessions.

A retreat for teenagers was held at Tiruvalla on 1st October 2011 9.30am-1pm at MTRS Tiruvalla. Teenage students from MTRS and a few from the neighbouring schools attended. Our graduate Gigi from MTRS coordinated the programme. CSSM leaders from Chennai led the

sessions on youth and temptations. 60 students attended.

North Central Region

New Groups started: God helped us to start new cell groups at Mother College of Nursing, Olari and Marthoma Girls HSS, Thrissur. Pray for their continuity.

Leadership Training Camp: North Central Regional LTC was held at Jyothis, Poomala from 4 to 6 October 2011. 8 students attended. Mr. K.V Christudas, Mr. George Thomas, Mr. Selvin Josey Bai, Mr. Win Wilson and Mr. Rajesh George took the sessions. The students committed them-



selves to be witnesses for the Lord Jesus in their campuses and thus fulfill the vision of UESI.

International Students Get-Together: International Students get together was held at the residence of Mr. George Thomas on 16th October



2011. 14 students from Thrissur and Calicut attended. Dr. Alexander George anchored the programme. A decision to meet once a month was taken.

Seminar on Hebrews: Thrissur EGF organised a seminar on Hebrews held from 21st -23rd October 2011 with Dr. T V Varghese at ESAF Conference Hall. 30 graduates attended the programme.

Family Seminar: Thrissur EGF organised a family seminar with Dr. T V Varghese on 22nd October 2011 at the residence of Dr. Alwin Jayaraj. 15 people attended.

Home Camp: As a follow up of the LTC, a home camp was organised by the Thrissur ICEU on 25th and 26th October

2011 at the residence of Dr. Z Abraham. 12 students attended and Mr. Dileep Joseph took various sessions.

Evangelistic Retreats: Friends retreat was held at Thrissur. Mr. Alexander George anchored the programme. 26 new students attended, 16 students made a positive response.

Life retreat was held at Pallakkad. 14 new students attended, 1 student made a commitment, Jacob Samuel took the sessions.

Magnum Opus: God helped us to conduct Magnum Opus programme at Seventh Day School, Thrissur on 28th October 2011. Mr. Georgie Oommen was the speaker. 40 students attended.

CONNECT '11

MACE EU conducted its fresher's program, CONNECT '11 on 27th October 2011. It started with a prayer and followed by singing. The students participated in the singing with gusto. A few tips by Bibin (Graduate MACE EU), on how to face college life was helpful. It was an interactive session and there was a good response from the students. After which the students were given an opportunity to interact with one another informally which served as an ice breaker.

The Gospel was shared by Mr. George, MACE EU Secretary. He began by showing a 5 minute video named "The Bridge". Then he gradually moved through the basics of the Gospel, covering namely the sinfulness of humankind, the need for us to be saved and accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. His message was clear and precise.

Samson Philip, staff before closing with a prayer highlighted on the work of UESI and MACE EU and invited the Fresher's to attend the meetings on Thursdays.

Some students agreed to join the EU, some declined and some were non committal. Please pray that we may be able to effectively follow them up in the days to come. We are grateful to our graduates for all their prayers and support. Without them, we would not have been able to conduct this program successfully.



The Treasurer Reports

"As a prisoner for the Lord, then I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received" (Ephesians 4:1)

God, our creator, has a noble purpose for each one of us. Nothing happens to us by accident. God allows sufferings in order to strengthen us and to make us grow spiritually. This theme runs through the Bible. Take Paul for example. Once he was falsely accused of bringing Greeks into the temple and defiling the holy place! When the crowd heard this, there was a great uproar and Paul was taken into protective custody (Acts 21:27-40). Subsequently, he faced many hardships and finally was brought to Rome to appear before Caesar. There he was imprisoned and chained. But under such circumstances he wrote the epistle to the Philippians, in which he mentioned the word 'joy' 19 times in one way or another. How was it possible? Because he had a constant fellowship with the Lord. In this epistle he also described the kind of temperament Christians must have if they are to enjoy Christ's peace and joy. Even in the prison, his concern was not for himself but for Christ and the Gospel. He looked at these circumstances as sent by God for the purpose of exalting Christ. In Philippians 1:12, 13, he wrote, "What has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ." How amazing it is to read that Paul considered him not as a prisoner of Rome but as the prisoner of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 3:1). Even while in prison he proclaimed the gospel to the guards and won some of them to Christ. He did not allow circumstances to overcome him. But he turned those circumstances into opportunities to magnify Christ and to win souls. Paul saw the hand of God in his hardships and sufferings. He knew for sure that nothing had happened to him by accident and that God had been working out His purpose.

Dear friends, we sometimes lament about some painful incidents that have happened in our past. Did you note that Paul did not mention in great detail about his painful experiences. Because he had the attitude that said, "It makes no difference what happens to me just as long as Christ is glorified and the gospel is proclaimed." So let us not allow hardships to break us, but let us take them to glorify Christ and bring honour to His name.

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Pray for the sick:

Prof. George Mathew (Kottayam) was hospitalized now recovering.
Father of Samuel John (Son In-law of Varghese John, Ernakulam) was in the ICU, getting better.

Saramma Wife of Cherian (Babu, Chathanoor) had a fall and recovering after a surgery.

Rev. Pratheesh Babu Kurien met with an accident at Dehra Dun and had a fracture in the right arm.

Mother of Sijomol Siby (Staff) in under treatment for uterus cancer.

Particulars	Oct '11 Budget	Oct '11 Actuals	Nov '11 Budget
Office Expenses	20000	32572	15000
Field Staff Salary	135000	125960	135000
Office Staff Salary	20000	16850	20000
Water &Electricity			12000
Telephone Charges	2500	5729	13000
Contibution to NUESI	65000	65000	65000
Contribution to NEGF	1000	1000	1000
Support to West Bengal Ministry	5000	5000	5000
Support to UP Ministry	3000	3000	3000
Transfer to Staff Medical	6000	6000	6000
Transfer to Staff Training	4000	4000	4000
Transfer to Gratuity Fund	12000	12000	12000
Transfer to Centre Maintenance	10000	10000	10000
Transfer to Staff Housing Welfare Fund	25000	25000	25000
Transfer to Graduate Welfare Fund	15000	15000	15000
Travel Advance to Staff	12000	8805	12000
Total	335500	335916	353000

UESI Kerala Account Details

**Federal Bank, Edappally Branch,
Cochin**

SB A/c No. 11840100159397

**Account Name: Union of
Evangelical Students of India -
Kerala**

IFSC Code: FDRL0001184

**ICICI Bank, Elamakkara Branch,
Cochin**

SB A/c No. 626401071031

**Account Name: Union of
Evangelical Students of India -
Kerala**

IFSC Code: ICIC0001160

Bank: State Bank of India

SB A/c No: 31520993777

Name: Union of Evangelical Students of India-Kerala

Branch: Punnakkal

IFSC Code: SBIN0012856

SWIFT Code: SBININBB402

To transfer your contribution Via internet banking

UESI Publication Trust Account Number:

Federal Bank, Current A/C No: 11840200015440