OUTREACH

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Magazine Statement

"To inform our readers and create an interest in missions and impact them to get involved in IEM's missionary work and mission in general."

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Theme for 2009

Holding on to faith

1 Timothy 1:19

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Our dear precious prayer partners,

"Anand's lover Renuka stormed into the marriage hall, and brought the marriage to a grinding halt. The bridegroom, Anand, a Pre University drop out, was marrying another girl after promising to marry Renuka, an MBA student who was already pregnant by him!" Such news is seen everyday in our newpapers. There could be many reasons for broken promises in love affairs between boys and a girls. But, Joseph and Mary were different.

In our cultural setup, we want to stick to traditions. In the story of Jesus' birth, we see that Joseph & Mary also lived through a similar situation, even though theirs was an arranged marriage. Both were troubled, as the Sovereign Lord decided to become man and live and walk among men. Both faced humiliation and challenges because they were part of a tightly knit Jewish society. Joseph faced all this, having understood that he was chosen by God to play a unique role. When a person understands that they are in the providence of God and they yield to God's plan, they will become strong enough to face any adverse circumstance because their faith is in the Lord and in His purposes. Joseph held on to faith till the end of his life.

Three important aspects in Joseph's life ultimately changed the entire course of his life. He understood the plan of God and wanted to be useful to Him and His purposes. Joseph **woke up, got up, and lived up.**

Woke up - Surrendering to the Plan of God: "When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife."(Mathew 1:24) In everyone's life there should be a time when they wake up to see what God wants them to do. They should receive a clear vision from God. It makes them return to their senses and stop living just to enjoy the pleasures of the world. (1 Corinthians 15:34)

We are asked to do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for us to **wake up from our slumber, because our salvation is nearer now**. (Romans 13:11) Christmas should enable us understand that we need to be more available to God. The entire course of our lives should change. Past thoughts, assumptions and selfish ambitions should be placed at the feet of the Lord and we ought to be willing to do what God commands us to do. The Christmas story teaches us a good lesson about yielding ourselves to the plan of God.

Got up - Submitting to Please God: "So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt." (Matthew 2:14) When Joseph began his journey of obedience to God, everything was settled. In the midst of many challenges, he and Mary accepted everything that came their way. No alternative arrangements and no negotiations were made. The human tendency is to find benefits in everything one is involved in. Joseph was instructed to facilitate the entire process of the birth of Jesus and have no sexual contact with Mary. As a young married man, Joseph was expected to exercise self-control. He went through difficult circumstances and yet he did

not gain anything emotionally, socially and economically. Who would be interested to get involved in this kind of a venture? But Joseph did. Once we yield to God's purposes, we should go all the way to please our Lord. No turning back!

Lived up - Striving to bring Praise to God: "…and Joseph went and lived in a town called Nazareth." (Matthew 2:23) This small verse talks about the rest of Joseph's life. Though we do not know about how he completed his life, we are sure that his only aim in life was suffering and striving to live for God and bring glory to Him. Historians say that he did not live long. However, he lived in accordance to the will of God. He determined to please God amidst hardship. His journey with Jesus began not knowing where it would take him. If we were to interview Joseph at the end of his life, he would have said, "I am a blessed man to protect and care for Jesus. I was privileged to carry Jesus to Bethlehem, Egypt and Nazareth." As a true missionary, he crossed all barriers for the sake of Jesus. What is more important in life than to bring honour and glory to God! May we rise up from our slumber and be active for God as we step into 2010. May our lives be totally yielded to the will of God. May we live to "walk the talk!"

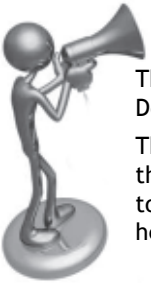
Our theme for 2010 is **"Suffering for the Gospel"** found in 2 Timothy 1:8 - "So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God." God is calling us to live faithfully, sacrificially, and be willing to suffer for the Gospel, in the power of God. We will feature several Bible studies on this theme and we hope you will enjoy reading them.

My family and I had the joy of visiting Kullu mission field. We met many believers including one of our earliest fruit – Mr Gajuram and his dear wife. We enjoyed seeing the snow-capped mountains and the beauty of the place. Yet our hearts were overwhelmed with a burden - that the people here are still far away from the Lord. Our visit to Keylong in Lahaul was an eye-opener as we saw that our missionaries are visiting villages located in difficult terrain, for the past 14 years. In this issue, we focus on our work here. Please pray fervently that God's Word will not return void.

We thank you for your prayers and partnership in the Gospel. Mercy and I along with our children, wish you a Blessed Mission- centred Christmas and a Year of Victory and Happiness as all of us strive for the sake of the Gospel.

Yours in His joyful ministry,

P John Wesley



Your Kind Attention Please

The IEM Head Office, Bangalore will remain closed from December 23, 2009 to January 1, 2010.

The multi-colour IEM Calendar for 2010 is off the press and in the hands of the people. A few copies are still available. Write to us today and we'll send you a copy absolutely free. This will help you pray for our ministries intelligently and effectively.

Editorial

Christmas and the "Cross"-over

In spite of the economic slow-down, the festivity of Christmas does not seem to lose its "shine." For some, it is a mere holiday, for others it's business boom time. A third group, strangely enough, spends time in church or in their homes, remembering the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and what that means for a world groping in the dark dungeon of sin. Christmas cannot be truly celebrated unless we keep the **CROSS** in focus. The Lord Jesus Himself declared in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Father, if you will, please don't make me suffer by having me drink from this cup. But do what you want, and not what I want."(Luke 22:42 CEV) He knew that the Cradle was the only means by which He could reach the **CROSS**! He knew that His death on the **CROSS** was the only way sinners could **CROSS-over** from death to life! What a Sacrifice! What a Saviour!

Incidently, Christmas and New Year are just a week apart, according to the Roman calendar. I believe that this is not a coincidence! God is not bound by time or space and yet, we know that with each passing year, many who committed their lives to the Lord during the Christmas season are challenged to turn over a new leaf and begin a brand New Year in the strengthen of the Lord. This happens in our mission fields. Please pray that even this time around, as our people celebrate the "cradle" they will be transformed by the work of our Lord Jesus on the **CROSS** of Calvary and **CROSS**-over from death to life!

In this issue, we take you to the foothills of the mighty Himalayas, to the picturesque state of Himachal Pradesh. Our missionaries began sowing the seed of the Gospel way back in 1967 in Kullu, the "Valley of gods." God used ordinary men and women to brave the inclement weather, the hostile topography and even resistence from the friendly Kullui people to move "mountains!" Field Secretary, Luke Titus declares, "…the baton of ministry passed on from missionary to missionary andwithout break, God's work moved on in the face of opposition and poor response." Now, our missionaries minister to Lahauli, Nepali and Tibetan people as well. Those who have visited Kullu Valley know that the sun sets early, especially during winter. Suddenly you see houses lit up on the hillslopes – a truly breathtaking spectacle indeed! Would to God that the hearts of these beloved people be lit up by the life-giving Gospel of the Light of the World Himself!

This is double issue. We have praise and prayer points for December 2009 and January 2010 in the Praise and Prayer Calendar. We plead with you to be steadfast in prayer especially during these 2 months because God has great things in store for us.

Friends, as we Cross-over and make a brand new start, may I, on behalf of the entire Communication team of IEM, wish each one of you a Blessed Christmas and a Glorious New Year 2010!

Timothy Austin

Christmas Faith

(Faith by itself is a powerless word! It all depends on whom we place our faith in that makes all the difference. In a nation where gods and godesses can be coerced, cajoled or even cornered into "blessing" their "worshippers," we find that the Lord Jesus, in His birth, death and resurrection presents a refreshingly different perspective of the God whom we love and serve. In this Bible study, ***Brother Vijay Hebbal****, the National Director of Ambassadors for Christ, India lays emphasis on the need for faith to* ***believe*** *Jesus!)*

Great leaders of the world are more often remembered on their birthday rather than on the day they died. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation is remembered more on October 2, the day of his birth than on January 30, the day he died. We prefer to think of our loved ones on happy occasions.

In the case of our Lord Jesus Christ, both days are equally important. But the world would rather remember His birth rather than His death. We have commercialised His birth and ignored His death. While December 25 is a hot favourite with Christians and others alike, Good Friday is a low-key affair.

There is more "hype" than heart in the Christmas celebration. It appears that true believers too find it difficult to worship the Lord as they ought to at Christmas. The advent season is especially attractive as it is filled with celebrations of various kinds including the dramatisation of the nativity event. Children are dressed up as characters, and dialogues are recited to bring out the emotions of the people involved in the incarnation event. The birth of Christ is indeed a happy occasion. But the events surrounding the birth of our Lord demand faith! We can celebrate His Birth every year of our lives and yet not enjoy the blessings of the incarnation. Studying the lives of those who had a role in the first Christmas will be worthwhile because it will help us generate and boost our faith in the Son of God.

The response of the righteous in the birth narratives can be summed up in one word: FAITH. Those who were informed that the Messiah had come as a babe in a manger, *believed*. By faith Mary *believed* that God would cause her to conceive and to bear a child though she was a virgin. Joseph *believed* that the child which Mary bore in her womb was not the product of infidelity. By faith, the shepherds and the magi *believed* that a child born in such humble circumstances could be the King of Israel. By faith Simeon and Anna *believed* that the child they held in their hands would become the Savior of the world and the ruler of Israel.

The faith of these godly people who beheld the Messiah as a babe was not without base. Their faith had its reasons and yielded results.

1. Faith Based on Scripture

They read and believed the Old Testament wherein the first coming of the Lord Jesus is recorded over and

over again. (Isaiah 7:14, Hosea 12:1) This was God's method of reveal the entry of His only Son from eternity into time. Zacharias, Elizabeth, Mary, Simeon, and Anna referred to the hope of Israel based upon the words of the prophets. Their words reveal a familiarity with the Scriptures. Their faith was a faith based upon divine revelation. It was a biblical faith.

2. Faith focussed on the future

It was not as a baby that the Messiah would be the Saviour of the world, but as a man. The birth of Jesus in the manger was the first step in the outworking of God's promise for the Messiah. There was to be a delay of 30 odd years before the Lord would begin His public ministry. Even after His death, burial, and resurrection, we still await the final outworking of the Messiah's ministry. Faith is always focused on the future. It is not so much compelled by what is presently apparent, but by what God's word assures us will happen.

(3) Faith Displayed by Actions

A genuine faith is one which is not only active but also productive. (Ephesians 2:10) Their faith resulted in obedience. Mary expressed her obedience when she said, "I am the Lord's servant . . . May it be to me as you have said." Joseph did as he was commanded in the dream and later took Mary and the Child to Egypt as he was told to. The shepherds immediately left their flocks behind and went to see their Messiah. The magi rose to the revelation they received and strained long enough to find Him.

The faith of these people drove them to worship their Redeemer when they found Him. Having shown their honour and adoration to Him they could not keep quiet. A Messiah worthy to be sought after, obeyed, and worshipped is also worthy of the faith and adoration of others. Elizabeth and Zacharias shared their joy with their neighbours. The shepherds would surely have proclaimed what they had seen and heard. Simeon and Anna stood in the temple as they uttered their testimonies.

When we consider the faith of men and women at the first Christmas, we may say that they had a more solid basis for their faith than us. Mary was spoken to by none else than Gabriel himself. Joseph had divinely ordained dreams, and the magi had a spectacular scene in the skies. This in no way is an excuse for our lack of faith. "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed" (John 20:29). Those were our Lord's stern words to Thomas.

John wrote these words 2 verses later: "But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name." (John 20:31).

The same, simple faith is required in us today. The Jewish community expected the Messiah to be revealed in a blaze of glory and splendour, not in a cattle-shed. They had become accustomed to look for God in the glorious.We too equate God with glamour, glitter, and glory. While God did manifest Himself occasionally in glory in the New Testament, this is an exception, not the rule. It is in His incarnation that His outward glory is veiled for a time. When our Lord comes again, that glory will be awesomely visible, but for now the majesty of God is veiled and the Lord of Glory is to be found in a manger, not a majestic temple. That is why faith is required. My friend, if you have not believed in Jesus until now,

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God "Grows" the Vision

(Our ministry in the Valley of gods began 2 years after the IEM was born! Since then, we've made slow yet steady progress as missionaries braved the harsh conditions, all for the sake of the Gospel and God gave the increase! Gradually, the ministry took root and bore fruit.
***Mr Luke V Titus**, Zonal Field Secretary, North Zone 1 skillfully recounts the wonderful way in which God gave and continues to give the increase, as souls are ushered into the Kingdom of God and Worship Groups dot the steep hill slopes of this rugged Region. This is an exciting story!)*

God sows His Kingdom seed- a small beginning

The Kullui ministry started in May 1967 with 2 young men landed in Lady Willingdon hospital, Manali. They faced the severe challenge of the lofty mountain terrain, the long cold winter, the strange culture and language and overcame them by His grace. God gave us the first fruit.

The 1970s saw several baptisms in Kullu leading to the establishment Worship Groups in Kullu and Shalwar areas. Meanwhile, the baton of ministry passed on from missionary to missionary and without break, God's work moved on in the face of opposition and poor response.

The Kingdom seed grows into a tree

The ministry of our missionaries impacts other people in Kullu town, apart from Kulluis. Two growing Worship Groups among the Hindi and Nepali speaking people were established. Both these groups meet in the same building. That

Church Service

apart, 2 Worship Groups were established in Shalwar and Rikhly which are located in interior Kullu. The Group in Shalwar has its own building and is managed by an Evangelist while in Rikhly worship service is conducted in a house and is managed by a senior Elder since 2008.

The tree branches out

From May 1996, a full-fledged ministry was started among Lahauli people. The ground is hard ground with several challenges like religion, social setting,

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trust in the Son of God as the One who became the Savior of the world today. The Christ in the cattle-trough is the Christ of the Cross. It is faith in His person and in His work that saves you and me from sin.

My Christian friend, have you come to see God in those events and areas of your life which seem unlikely or unworthy of God's intervention? The God who was willing to intervene into human history by being born in a cattle-shed is the God who is concerned with the seemingly insignificant and inglorious areas of your life. It is here where the Christmas faith is most required and most evident. Have a Faith-FULL Christmas !

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topography of the land and harsh climatic conditions. However our missionaries are prayerfully persevering, hoping to see the great breakthrough among these dear people. We expect to see a Worship Group formed among the Lahauli people in Kullu.

IEM's partnership with CNI had grown. In 2006, one missionary couple was seconded to the CNI to serve as pastor of a Worship Group which meets in the Lady Willingdon hospital campus in Manali.

Further, the Kullu town church reached out to a village 23 kilometres north of Kullu and a new Worship Group was established in August 2009.

From 2004, God prepared two Evangelists from Kullu church to become full-time missionaries of IEM. One is effectively serving the Lord in Dehradun and the other is currently going through the Candidates' training course.

Our Testimony

Continuity, Consistency and overcoming Challenges mark the onward movement of God's work initiated 43 years ago. God started in a small way and His Kingdom grows like the mustard seed-insignificant to the significant. Transformed lives and freed lives are our testimony.

Our Vision

To press on to higher ground in the lofty mountain ranges and create a lasting impact of transformed lives and transformed communities.

A Recent Report

Literature and Personal Evangelism during Dusshera

The Dusshera featival is celebrated with much endour in Kullu at the end of September or October every year. More than 360 gods and goddesses of Kullu valley take their place on the grounds of Kullu town. Earlier, a small bookstall was set up and the Hindi New Testament and tracts were distributed. From 1998, we errected a bookstall outside our Kullu church. A lot of Scriptural-based material, songbooks, cassettes, message CDs and cassettes, VCDs of Jesus film and other Biblical films as well as Bible verse Calendars are sold. We also conduct Gospel meetings in our church every evening for seven days focussing on a particular theme.

Our goal is to reach out with the Gospel to many unknown Himachalis and provide Christian audio visual and printed material to believers and the Christian workers across Himachal. Police officials on duty, sadhus and others come to our stall and attend the meeting in the Kullu Church. They have opportunities to hear or read about Christ. We praise God for this work and the entire Kullu team takes part in it for His glory.

D Paul Surendar, Kullu

Committed to Christ for a Cause

*(Those who have experienced the love of God in Christ will naturally want to share His love with others. Our missionaries, **Rev Naresh Lall & Shanta** hailed from non-Christian families. Once they met the Lord, they desired to serve Him wholeheartedly. Now, they serve in a CNI church in Manali. Great is God's faithfulness to them!)*

Called By God

Before we moved to Manali in March, 2006, the Lord spoke to us through Isaiah 61:1-4. He assured us that He will restore, rebuild, and renew lives devastated by the evil one. I work as Chaplain in Lady Willingdon Hospital besides pastoring the local church.

Love meal during Easter/Christmas

New Experience

After we moved, I had a strange vision everytime we sat for prayer. Initially I did not understand what it meant; later God showed me a crooked thing which cannot be straightened. I prayed, "If this is from you, please explain what it means." God revealed that unless I fast and pray for 40 days, I will not be able make an impact in Manali.So I fasted from March 1- April 9, 2006. Then I experienced freedom came in our life and ministry. On the seventh day, I collapsed. So I prayed, "Lord didn't you ask me to fast for 40 days? Where is the strength and grace I need?" After that prayer, I stood up and fasted for the remaining days. On April 10, one family turned to the Lord. People were healed and others were delivered from demon-possession. We shared Gospel and a few people turned to the Lord.

Difficulties

When these things happened, my wife became very sick. She become blue and could not breathe properly. In my heart I knew she will be all right. She had a surgery and recovered quickly. Then our son developed some serious problems in the school we had to take him to CMC, Vellore 5 times for counseling during 2008-09. We suffered financially as never before. But during these difficult times, we have seen many lives, devastated by evil one being restored rebuilt and renewed by the mighty power of God.

One man was a heavy drinker for 16 years. Every evening, he beat his wife and children. On February 17, 2009, some one called me 11pm and asked me to pray for this man who was in a bad condition. I said I will be there in the morning.

Women's retreat

When I visited him in the morning he was still drunk. Yet we prayed for him and he "experienced God" and surrendered his life along with his family to Him. Now that brother is my prayer partner and a vibrant witness for the Lord here in Manali. All glory to God!

Prayer Cell

My wife Shanta started a daily prayer cell among. She went to different homes and prayed with woman. This led to a tremendous transformation in many home as prayers were answered and more and more prayer cells were started. Now more people are turning to Christ. Praise God!

Accountability Agreement

One of the struggles we had in the church was to see believers living ungodly lives because it was affecting our ministry. We asked the Lord how we could help them. He guided me!

The Agreement(Valid for one year)

The believers will

a) Write down their problems and how we can help them

b) Have regular family prayers

c) Commit themselves to attend church activities including house groups

d) Inform us about their whereabouts

e) Get involved in fasting and prayer meetings

f) Be open for review once every 3 months

g) Be willing to extend the validity for more than a year

On our part, we will

a) Visit them every week for prayer

For the glory of God, we saw families transformed and becoming instruments in God's hands. Now more and more people are committing themselves to seek help. The principle for this is God's grace, mercy and love. (Psalm 103:8, Romans 12:2)

Our Vision

Our vision is to see a church planted outside the campus. We have already started Worship Groups in 2 places twice a month. We also wish to see the church grow in number and local leadership develop. We want missionaries to be sent from Manali church.

Some families live in isolated places so getting to meet them regularly is tough. Pray that we will enjoy good health as we strive to serve our Lord and Master.

God's Wondrous Work In Kullu

(When God works, He does wonders! Testimonies of believers in the growing Kullu Church reveal that God only saves, He also equips and enables. After labouring here for many years, our missionaries know that that their sweat, tears and blood is not in vain. Our missionaries ***Yoke S Rumnong & Yoffecca*** *recall God's wondrous work and challenge us to pray that the church will reach out to their own people in the years ahead. It's already happening! Read on…)*

Two years ago, a 25-year old man visited the Church. He said, "This is the first time I am entering into a church compound. I had read many accusations about the Christians in the newspapers and I want to know the truth." Ever since, he has been regular to the fellowship. Glory to God! Soon after, he came to me at 6am and gladly declared, "Last night, I do not know why so much tears come out as I was praying and asking God to forgive my sins." "How do you feel now?" I asked as I put my hand around his shoulders. "I am happy! I know that God has forgiven all my sins. I invited Jesus to come and stay in my heart. Now, I want my family members also to know about Jesus. Please pray for them too– my father, mother and my younger brother. *(John 6: 37 "All that the Father gives me shall come to me; and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away.")*

A Changed-Life

During the latter half of January 2008, a young couple was going through a misunderstanding in their relationship. One "fine day" the young lady left her in-laws

home for an unknown place. When she didn't return home, the next morning, the search began! A few days later, we received the news that she had gone to stay with her aunt, 40 Kilometres from Kullu. But she purposely didn't inform anyone about where she was nor did she tell her aunt the truth of the matter.

We missionaries had to face the issue and tried to reconcile both the families. It was not an easy because there was so much misunderstanding among them. We were sandwiched in between. Praise God that through this incident, the 2 young people drew closer to God, to each other and to us. Their relationship was restored. Soon they will be celebrating their third Wedding anniversary! Apart from taking a responsible part in the church services, they also share Christ to their

neighbours and co-workers. Please continue to pray that they will continue to abide in the Lord and be a living example through their family life.

Tooth for a Tooth?

"An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth!" goes the adage. But the believers here do not believe such sayings. For example, recently a believer got a job. However, her supervisor treated her very badly. When we visited her, she looked very discouraged, "I needed a job and I got it. But why should I be humiliated in this way?" She questioned. "I'm suffering a lot so I better leave this job!" We discussed the pros and cons related to her leaving the job. We also encouraged her from the Bible and personal experiences to "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you...pray for those who abuse you" (Luke 6:27-28). After prayer we returned home.

About 2 weeks later we visited her house again. To our surprise, even before we asked anything about the issue, she gladly exclaimed, "After receiving my first salary, I went to my supervisor and gave her a small gift as a token of appreciation for the good things she had done to me. From that day, her mind was changed! Now I'm being treated equally with my fellow workers."No one never loses by doing a good turn! Praise Him!

IEM Ministry during the Biggest Festival in Kullu

Dushera is the biggest festival in Kullu. The first impression of the festival is the colorful images of decorated gods and goddess brought to Kullu town during this time. In October this year, about a hundred of them were brought. Why are these gods and goddesses invited here every year?

There is a very interesting legend behind this. Raja Jagat Singh, the King of Kullu during the seventeenth century was very ill. He could not eat or drink for many days because his food turned into worms and his drink into blood. The remedy for this was to bring the sacred idol of *Rama* from *Ayodhya*. So the tiny bronze image of *Rama* was brought to the palace. As a result, the King was able to eat and drink as usual. In gratitude, the king set '*Raghunathji*' – the idol of *Rama* on the throne in his palace and made him the ruler of Kullu. Hence, '*Raghunathji*' became the principal god of the Valley.

To commemorate this event, once a year the idol is brought from the palace to the "temporary mandir" in the Dushera mela ground. During this time, some of the gods and goddess of these hills are also invited to pay homage to '*Raghunathji*'.

Kullu is congested during Dushera with people from different places of Himachal and elsewhere. Some come to fulfill their religious rites while others come to shop and meet friends and relatives.

The Kullu church is also busy during this time. Every year, a stall is set up for 7 – 8 days where spiritual books, CDs, Bibles, calendars and so on are sold. Hundreds of tracts are picked up from the stall during those days. At night, evangelistic meetings are conducted inside the church.

Do you also wish to go away?

"They said no Christians should be allowed to stay in Kullu", one of the believers told us as soon as we entered their home last week. "Who said so?" we asked. "It was written in the newspaper", she replied with fear on her face!

After a few days, another believer came running into our house looking very confused, "I read in the newspaper

Praise and Prayer Calendar

*(When God's people pray, God acts decisively. The history of missionary work rides on this basic premise. During the months of **December** and **January**, our missionaries prayerfully conduct many programmes in which the local believers actively participate. Amid the celebration, many will experience the joy of knowing the Saviour. Remember these babes in Christ! This being a bimonthly, the Praise and Prayer calendar contains 62 prayer requests. May God inspire you to pray intelligently for the ministries of IEM.)*

"If you want God to listen to you when you pray, shouldn't you listen to God when He speaks to you?"

- Rev Ikechukwu Ikeocha

December 2009

1 Christmas Month

Praise God

For enabling us to begin yet another Christmas month, with all its glorious opportunities to share the Gospel

For the various programmes lined up in our mission fields during the month of December

Pray

That the Holy Spirit will speak clearly to the people and that many will turn to the Lord

That those who respond to the Gospel will be effectively followed up

2 Kullu, Himachal Pradesh

AS Ayo & Wungreiwon, Yoke S. Rumnong & Yofeeca, Tek Bahadur Khatri

Praise God

For the visible, living testimonies of transformed believers who show forth the greatness of our God

That the beleivers are gaining spiritual stature as they feed on the Word and spend time in prayer

Pray

That believer Neethu who fell from the first floor of her house and injured her spine will experience the healing touch in her life

That the Kullu church's vision to reach out to the people in the surrounding hills will bear much fruit especially during the Christmas season

That evangelist in Shalwar, Gulab Singh and his family will be used by the Lord effectively among their own people.

3 Manali, Himachal Pradesh

Naresh Lall & Shanta

Praise God

For the good response from the church members to the ministry of the Word

For the leadership team who are ably assisting our missionaries in their ministry

Pray

Continously for a committed worship team who will participate in programmes within and without the church

That members will be committed to fasting and prayer and get involved in reaching out to people without Christ and discipling them

4 Lahauli Ministry, Himachal Pradesh

Luke V Titus, D Paul Surendar

Praise God

For good health granted to our missionaries as they crossed the hills on ministry

For those who listened to the Gospel message

Pray

That **one Worship Group** will be established among the Lahaulis in Kullu before March 2010

That atleast 10 people will accept the Lord Jesus within Lahaul

That our missionaries will be able to spend quality time with Lahauli friends during the winter months

That our missionaries' close friends, Dorje Tengripa and Vishal Paansu will accept the Lord as their personal Saviour

That one evangelist/helper will be identified and appointed to work among the Kullui people

***Pray** for the **Regional Convention** at Kottayam which will be held from today till December 7, 2009

5 Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh

Gin Khen Mung Guite & Niang Saanching

Praise God

For granting our missionries health and strength. Our missionary Niang Saanching and her new born child are doing well

Pray

That our missionaries will be able to establish the ministry among the Tibetan people in the next few months by establishing friendships and building contacts with the local people

That people who listen will respond positively to the Gospel message

6 Finance Department

R Solomon Swamidoss & Thangam

Praise God

For His abundant provision of the Mission's needs during 2009 in spite of the global recession

For His healing touch those who were unwell in the department

For the successful completion of the Internal Audit

Pray

For the daily provision of atleast Rs 2,00,000 to run the Mission

That the salaries and bills will be dispatched in time every month

That the needs of our supporters will be met even as we commit them to the Lord

7 Bathinda, Punjab

Lehra Mohabat *D. Sunny & Bindhu, George Mathew & Sherley*
Mehraj *Satish Christie & Shyla, Stephen Joseph & Bindu*
Nathana *Rakesh Kumar and Mrs. Neeta*

Praise God

That some believers openly confesed their faith in the Lord during October, 2009

For keeping our missionaries in good health in spite of the dusty environment

Pray

That seeker Balvinder Singh and his family will turn to the Lord

That seeker Kuldeep who has heard the Gospel several times will decide to follow the Lord Jesus

For the provision of a suitable place for worship in Mehraj village

That many people will be added to the worship groups in Mehraj, Silbara and Phul villages

That the believing girls in our Worship groups will find suitable life-partners

That seeker Sarabjeek will experience the Lord's healing touch

That Sadana, Bhat, Bairupa, Madepane villages will also open up for ministry

That needs like white boards, literature and so on will be met

8 Bastar, Chhatisgarh

Bison Horn Madiya Ministry
C Rajakumar & Ebenezer Gnanakumari
Jeevan Paul & Mercy
Bible Translation ministry
Chennai *Joseph Soundararaj & Omana*

Praise God

That our contact Lakko from Jogapara who was bitten by a viper is recovering well

That seeker Lingu from Monar village with whom we shared the Gospel is now asking our missionaries to visit him regularly

Pray

That the seekers' meeting which was scheduled to be held in October but was postponed owing to a local festival will be conducted in the near future

That believers, Lakma, Pakli and Durwal who are regularly listening to the Word will be encouraged to take a bold stand for Christ among their own people

For plans to visit new homes in Jogaphara village where our missionaries will be presenting the Gospel using Gospel cassettes. Pray that God will open the hearts of people

9 Bhatri Ministry, Bastar District, Chhatisgarh

Wilfred Kirivasan & Mary

Praise God

That the believers are strong in the faith

That the believers are actively involved in bringing many seekers for the Worship Service

Pray

That the believers will continue to grow in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and display their love, especially to those who insult them

That our missionaries will be used mightily by God

For their protection

That 17-20 supporters will come forward to sponsor the Day Care centre

10 Church Ministries, Andhra Pradesh

Vijayawada *Gideon Vijayakumar & Vijaya*
Hyderabad *G Daniel & Suvarna*
Secunderabad: *John Mark & Sheela, Suvarna Raju & Beulah*
Kurnool *M Paul Augustine & Ratnaprabha*
Anantapur *R Shalem Raju & Kommu Rani*
Nellore *K John Douglas & Jyothi*
Rajmundry *Vijay Kumar & Victoria*
Hyderabad *Ch Subbarayudu & Thangamani*
Warangal *R Benjamin & Salome*
Vijayawada *P Sirish Kumar*

Praise God

For the Steering Committee which is working hard to make sure that the Andhra Pradesh State Convention at Eluru in January 2011

For the supporters who have expressed their willingness to attend the Convention

Pray

For the churches and prayer groups which have come forward to support the ministries of IEM to stand firm in their commitment

For the Christian young people from Andhra Pradesh to step out for missionary work

11 Church Ministries, Orissa

Cuttack *Satya Ranjan Soren & Shino*
Roorkela *Sushoban Nayak & Jyothi*
Bhubaneswar *Ashish Kumar Nayak & Sunita*

Praise God

For the new supporters that are enlisted from time to time

For sustaining our church ministries' missionaries as they constantly travel to new areas for ministry

Pray

That the Christians in Orissa will be strong in faith and continue to testify to others despite indications of persecution from time to time

That young people will respond to the challenge of mission and fan out to various parts of the nation with the Gospel

12 Kheri, Uttar Pradesh

Danny Venton Warjri & Dianghun; Gnanasekaran & Sheeba; Tiatimjen Jamir & Imtilia

Praise God

That seekers who are ready to openly confess their faith in the Lord are witnessing to their own people

For good health granted to our missionaries

Pray

For a suitable computer which can handle Bible translation work

That funds to run the hostel may flow in regularly so that the children will not be affected

Pray for the **Christmas get-together** today at Kolar Gold Fields, Karnataka

13 Dehra Dun, Uttarakhand

Chandmari *Ratna Rai & Nirmala, S Hau Sawm Thang, K Lalmuan Langel*
Indra Nagar *Suraj Majhi & Poonam*
Nayagaon *Athang Serto Aimol & Romila*
Jamunwala *R Wilson & Nimreiwon*
Doiwala *Basheer Sheikh& Annamma*
Evangelists
Karna Bahadur Thapa
Shankar Gurung

Praise God

For enabling our missionaries to freely visit different villages

That a seeker Puran accepted the Lord as his personal Saviour

Pray

That the Holy Spirit will move in the hearts of people in Jamunwala, Dholas, Haruwala, Dayanagar, Masandawala, Bajeawala villages

That Puran who is now a believer will stand firm in the faith

14 Lakhnadon, Madhya Pradesh

Satyajit B Desai & Sanyogita, Nganingkhui, Rasing

Praise God

That our missionaries could visit Malanvada and Dongariya villahes where people are wanting to know more about the Lord Jesus

For God's protection over our believers and missionaries when people threatened them during a non-Christian festival

Pray

That our helper Bharati and her family who have been suffering with various ailments over the last few months will experience the Lord's healing touch

That believer Raju will be able to continue his studies after a short break

Pray for the **IEM Prayer and Planning Meeting** which will begin today at **Outreach Training Institute, Bagalur, Tamil Nadu.** Heads of various departments as well as second line leaders will participate. It will conclude on December 18, 2009

15 Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh

Kunal Parichha & Anupama, Zamik Tamreichan

Praise God

For helping our missionaries to persevere in the midst of persecution

That some seekers are willing to listen to the Gospel even though they know the consequences of believing in Him

Pray

That the new believers will grow in spite of opposition from anti-Christian groups

That our missionaries will be able to arrange for 3 believers to openly confess their faith in the Lord

16 Church Ministries, Tamil Nadu

Chennai *Anand Dayavaran (State Secretary) & Rachel, Y D Thamby Raj & Sulochi, Sunder Raj & Helen, Chitrarasu & Rosamma*
Madurai *K Duraisingh & Rebecca*
Coimbatore *Edwin & Getzie*
Palloor *Indra Jacquiline*
Nagercoil *J Rajaiah & Stella*
Tuticorin *VE Ravikumar & Grace*
Trichy *M Soundarajan & Kantha*
Vellore *C Thomas Edison & Sheela*
Tirunelveli *D Jeyasekaran & Rethinam*
Salem *Devapaul Raja & Mrs Latha*
Pudducherry *Nelson Dhinakaran & Shobana*

Praise God

For the fruitful ministry in various church throughout 2009

For our new sponsors who donated money for IEM's ministries, our missionaries' children and for church buildings

For the 4 supporters who came forward to purchase two-wheelers for our missionaries

Pray

For plans to conduct Training-in-Mission (TIM) Camps for those who made commitments during the Youth Convention at Tuticorin

That God's Name will be glorified as the team preaches the Word in various churches during Christmas and New Year

17 Utraula, Uttar Pradesh

Shibu Matthew & Sija, Lawrence Gangte & Vunglianmman, Samuel Thiek

Praise God

That the believers who openly confessed their faith in the Lord Jesus are vibrant witnesses for the Lord

For our evangelists who are working hard alongside our missionaries to share the Gospel with their own people

That new missionary Samuel Thiek is picking up the work quickly and adpating to the new situation

Pray

That the Lord will provide the funds to construct a church building in Utraula

That our seekers will be drawn to the Lord after the Lord's healing touch on their lives

18 Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh

Robert Joy & Bimla, Jaimon Joseph & Varsha, Theba Timothy

Praise God

That the children who are attending the tuition classes are eager to know about Jesus as well

That many seekers are keen to follow the Lord Jesus wholeheartedly

Pray

That there will be more openings for ministry especially during the Christmas season

That the believers will stay close to the Lord and give a good account of themselves among their own people

19 Robertsganj, Uttar Pradesh

Nehhao Doungel & Hatkim, Vijay Kumar & Praneetha, Hastu Ram & Taramani, Pranicharan Basumata

Praise God

That the seekers and women who received the Word joyfully are responding to the Lord wholeheartedly

That more villages have opened up for ministry in and around Robertsganj

Pray

Continuously that local helper Mahinder who is being treated for Tuberculosis will be completely healed and serve the Lord among his own people

20 Raxaul, Bihar

Joychandra & Aquino Singh, Suku kachhua & Sukanya, Andrew

Praise God

That our missionaries could screen the Jesus film at Daboulia and Tilkahani villages.Many gathered to view it and the response was very good

For the 20 children who regularly attend the Sunday school at Champak village

That Bible studies and coaching classes could begin at Daboulia, Laxmanawa and Tilkahani villages

For the significant improvement in the health of our missionary Sukanya's health

For contacts Keilash, Budhan, Bhagh from Nandalali village who responded to the Gospel

For the 2 pandits who received Bible in Belapur village

Pray

That ministry opportunities will open up in Basatpur and Beiriya village. People are interested

That the new believers will grow spiritually

That our missionaries will be granted wisdom to teach the Bible to the people

That they will be able to screen the Jesus film in Karbola and Laxmanawa villages

That our believer Jagdev' son Rajesh who is missing will be found soon

That many of our believers' children who are suffering from various ailments will experience the Lord's healing touch

That our missionaries will be kept healthy during the winter months

21 Church Ministries, Karnataka

Paul Khude & Leena, G Isaac & Esther, Mulato Chishi & Kashini, Alice Peter, Anand Isaiah & Roshini, D Jeyaseelan & Daisy

Praise God

For His blessing on the ministry in KGF, Mysore and other cities

For the possibility of churches in north Karnataka opening up to support IEM ministries

Pray

That more Area Secretaries will join the team in the coming year

That more churches in Bangalore will welcome the challenge of missions and act upon it

22 Zonal Field Secretaries

North-I *Luke V Titus*

North-2 *Lawrence Gangte & Vunglianman*

West *Venganna & Regina*

North Central *AM Bijoy & Jaisy*

South East *Joseph Sounderaraj & Omana*

Central *Jeevan Pratap & Sarah*

South Central *Jebakumar & Jebacrownie*

South *J Jackin Isravel & Jaya*

Andamans *S Akhai Haokip & Lois*

Praise God

For the selfless services of our Zonal Field Secretaries who travel extensively providing pastoral care for the missionaries under their care

For the plans and strategies imparted to the missionaries in keeping with the Mission's goal of **250 New Worship Groups by 2011**

Pray

That our ZFSs will be granted safety in travel as they visit the mission fields

For blessings of the Lord as they minister the Word in various places

23 Kolam Ministry, Maharashtra & Andhra Pradesh

Nehemiah & Kumari, Sudhakar Mavli & Ruth Sudhakar, Rajiv P Shelke & Snehal Rajiv, P D Thole Veonah & Elizabeth Vaveinai

Praise God

For His healing touch on our missionary PD Thole. He is much better now

That our missionaries were able to conduct bhajan programmes in 2 villages. Many heard the Gospel during the meetings

Pray

That our evangelist Ramaji Rampure will be able to settle his land ownership problems soon

That seeker Sunil Athram who is suffering from diabeties will know the Lord's healing touch

That seekers in new villages will accept the Lord Jesus as their personal Saviour

24 Church Ministries, New Delhi

MG Daniel & Rosamma

Praise God

For the churches and prayer groups which have come forward to support IEM

For granting our missionaries the strength to travel long distances in the city of New Delhi and surrounding areas carrying the challenge of missions

Pray

For more honorary workers to join the team here especially in new areas

25 Christmas Day

Praise God

For the implicit obedience of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who left heaven's glory to die for us on the Cross

For the one who shared the Gospel with you so that you can celebrate His birth today

Pray

That you will be enabled to share the Good News with those in your area of influence today

That many will be ushered into God's Kingdom as they listen to the message on this day throughout the world

26 Missionaries' Children

Praise God

That many of our missionaries' children are doing very well in their studies or work

For the provision of funds to meet the educational expenses of our children

Pray

That our children will continue to be missionaries wherever He has planted them

That our missionaries will be strengthened and comforted especially during the Christmas season

27 Chikaldara, Maharashtra

Sam Sukumar & Surekha, Pranab Kauri & Mrs Rasmi Rekha Kauri, K Leela

Praise God

That a 12-year old girl Sumithra was completely delivered from demon possession in Pasthalai village

That many women were blessed after attending a meeting at Mangiya village

Pray

That the family of Goma Chimote, our believer from Awagad village who lost their young son recently

That our missionary Sam Sukumar will experience the Lord's healing touch in their lives

That our ministry in Keli village will bear fruit

Pray for the IEM Administrative Committee Family Retreat at Thekady, Kerala from today till December 30, 2009

28 Hadothi, Rajasthan

Senthil Kumar & Kanagamani, Durgam Sakaram & Pagidi

Praise God

For His grace upon our missionaries as they settle down in the mission field after their training at OTI

Pray

That the Lord will strengthen our missionaries in the midst of perilous situations including persecution

29 Abu Road, Rajasthan

J John Praveen, Firsttime Rynthathiang

Praise God

That the Garasia people are growing steadily after receiving the writtten Word in their hands

That many children attended the VBS programme during the first week of October

Pray

That the Word sown in the hearts of the little children will bear much fruit

That the Garasia church leaders will lead their own people and nurture future pillars of the Garasia church

30 Church Ministries (South)

ED Rajasingh Elias & Fanny

Praise God

For the Area Secretaries who joined the Church Ministries' team during 2009

For the missionaries who joined IEM because of the efforts of our church ministries missionaries

Pray

That more honorary workers will join the team in the 4 southern states

That more prayer groups will be started thereby generating valuable prayer support for the Mission

31 Forgetting the Past, Focussing on the Future

Praise God

For all His blessings on us as individuals, families, churches and ministries - they are more in number than the sand

For giving us the grace to go through difficult times successfully - truly He was with us, holding our hands firmly in His

Pray

That we will be willing forget the past and firmly focus on the future

That we will make use of every opportunity to serve Him and give Him the glory

January 2010

1 New Year

Praise God

For the gift of a brand New Year He has given to each one of us

For many people who were ushered into the Kingdom of God during the year 2009 through the ministry of our missionaries

Pray

That our nation will acknowledge the Lord Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour

That the Church in our Land will display the love of Christ in their words and actions

2 Dehra Dun, Uttarakhand

Doiwala

Praise God

For the 3 families who were contacted by our missionaries in Lacchiwala area

For the 15 seekers who visited our missionaries' home to watch the Jesus film on September 25, 2009.

For the 3 believers who openly confessed their faith in the Lord

That 150 contacts are regularly listening to God's Word

That the believers are believing in the Lord in spite pressures from their neighbours

Pray

For the moving of the Holy Spirit in Lacchiwala, Dudhli and surrounding areas

That our regular contacts will truly seek to know the truth of God's Word

That God will protect our believers from the attacks of anti-Christians

3 Dehra Dun, Uttarakhand

Praise God

That seeker Mrs Soui accepted the Lord Jesus as her Saviour

That believers Mrs & Mr. Man Bahadur Thapa are growing in the Lord

Pray

That our believers will be bold in their witness for the Lord among their own people

That our tuition children will understand who the Lord Jesus really is as they listen to our missionaries

4 Kullu, Himachal Pradesh

Praise God

For the new people who are attending the Worship Groups from time to time

For helping our missionaries to faithfully conduct regular programmes to edify and nourish the seekers and believers

Pray

For our former evangelist Tek Bahadur Khatri who will be completing his practical training in Kullu during the second week of January

5 Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh

Shadrach Daniel & Jyothi

Praise God

That a new village, Palemcheruvu has opened up for the Gospel

That the 13 Chenchu hostel children are progressing well in their studies

That Guruvaiah who opposed our missionaries has now turned to the Lord

Pray

That many Chenchu seekers will turn to the Lord and join the church during 2010

For the Vacation Bible School to be conducted this week

That God will send another missionary couple to join the team working here

6 Personnel Services

Bangalore *Mrs Selina Mohandoss (Personnel Secretary), Mrs Thangam Solomon, Mrs Christina Daniel*

Vellore *Mrs Gnanamani Jeyaseelan*

Praise God

For the 19 IEM Candidates who will completing their on-field training next week and returning to OTI for the next session

For the 4 missionary families to attend the family seminar organized by *Family Foundations* in September, 2009

For 4 missionaries who attended the Prayer and Reflection seminar in September 2009

Pray

That the candidates under training may be focused on equipping themselves for future ministry

For more suitable candidates to be identified and processed to join IEM

For the 12 candidates who will be presented to the IEM Board in February 2010

Outreach Training Institute, Bagalur, Tamil Nadu

Mathews P Mathew & Shiby, Milton Robert & Evangeline, Mrs Esther Rajamani

Praise God

For helping the missionary staff to cope with the pressures of conducting the missionaries' training programme

For the provision of funds to run the Institute

Pray

For the trainees who will be travelling to OTI for the second session of their training from next week till May, 2010

That the visiting faculty may arrive in time and leave a lasting impact on the trainees

7 Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu

Bargur *Esther Gnanamani, B B Raja & Shanthi*

Krishnagiri *James Raj & Prabha*

Hosur *Mr Amiyanand Nag & Anna Mary(***Community Health Care and Development)**

Praise God

That the girls and boys in our hostels continue to show forth the love of Christ through their behaviour

Pray

That these dear children will make use of every opportunity to build a bright future and serve their own people

For our missionaries who are involved in regular outreach programmes in the villages

8 Jalpaiguri, West Bengal

Hamiltonganj *C S Joseph & Mariamma, Pishang Thouman Maring & Anita, Imlongtosu Chang & Sometnaro, Rachel Chinthem Tuboi*

Coochbehar *Eric Basumata & Bironi, Aimson Mavei & Delimond, John Kashyap*

Praise God

For the seekers who are keen to know more about the Lord Jesus despite hindrances from time to time

That through the screening of the Jesus film people are hearing about the love of the Lord Jesus

Pray

For funds to build a worship shed in the mission field

That local leaders will be developed to take on leadership roles in the mission field

That more worship groups will be established in this mission field

9 Hosur, Tamil Nadu

S Mahendran & Jaya

Praise God

For the good response from the Gypsy people to the Gospel

For the girls who are using their skills acquired during the tailoring course to make an honest living

Pray

For good health for our missionaries

For new openings for ministry in and around Berikai

10 Bastar, Chhatisgarh

Bison Horn Madiya

Praise God

~~Literacy ministry~~

That seekers Lakmal and Sanni are eagerly participating in the Firm Foundations course taught by our missionaries

That our missionary Mrs Ebenezer Rajkumar could preach at the ladies' meeting at the Orissa State Convention

Pray

That seekers Lakmal and Sanni will make definite commitments to follow the Lord Jesus wholeheartedly

That as our missionaries regularly visit PV village, seekers Bose and Bime will also decide to follow the Lord Jesus

That our missionaries will be able to quickly prepare manuscripts for fluency reading materials (simple story books) in Madiya

11 Church Ministries, Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh & Uttar Pradesh

Bilaspur *Emmanuel Prakash & Abha*
Jabalpur *B Joshi & Bharathi, Mrs Nisha Lal*(Mission Coordinator)
Ujjain *Praveen Kumar Joshi* (Mission Coordinator)
Jhansi *Jasper Paul*(Mission Coordinator)

Praise God

For the good response during the special mission emphasis meetings for youth and families at Bhilai in November, 2009

That many families were blessed by reading Bible studies and Missionary Biographies in the Hindi edition and have come forward to support us

Our Mission Coordinator was able to challenge Christians in the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh as well as in Rajasthan

That Emmanuel Prakash & Abha are sharing the missionary vision effectively in Chhatisgarh

Pray

For our missionary B Joshi and Bharathi who assumed responsibility as State Secretary for Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh on January 1, 2010

That more full time missionaries and honorary Area Secretaries will join the team here

That our missionaries will be able to conduct an IEM Regional Convention at Jabalpur this year

12 Andamans

Port Blair *Akhai Haokip & Lois*
Rangat *V Sridhar Stephen & Susheela*
Kadamtala *Paul D Newton & Chella, David Vaiphei & Vungkhannuam*
Billy Ground *Lumdemo Kikon & Athunglo*

Praise God

That after the fruitful youth camp at Diglipur, Nimbutala Jetty and Kadamtala many young people committed themselves to get involved in establishing new Worship Groups

For enabling our young people to establish the first ever prayer cell in a Mayabundar college

That 7 seekers are preparing to openly confess their faith in the Lord in Nimbutala Jetty, Long Island and Diglipur

For the Friends of IEM, Australia who have come forward to support the Jeevan Jyothi Girls' Hostel project at Diglipur, North Andaman

Pray

For the three new Worship Groups which our team plan to establish by March 2010

For the salvation of 15 key contact families from 4 stations of our field, particularly for Kishor & family, Somra & family, Budhua & family, Krisnadas & family, Debal Ram & falmily, Ramesh and his sister Sukni

For the spiritual growth of our new believers and seekers who are facing indirect opposition from their own community

13 The General Secretary

P John Wesley & Mercy

Praise God

For keeping our General Secretary healthy in spite of his hectic schedule over the past months

For enabling him to provide able leadership to the Mission along with his team of Administrative Committee members

Pray

For Rev John Wesley as he participates in the Partners International Summit at Chennai from today till January 15, 2010

For a special anointing and wisdom from the Lord to take difficult and far reaching decisions as and when required

14 Papumpare, Arunachal Pradesh

Praise God

That our missionaries could conduct a one-day women's retreat at the Neepco Baptist church recently. Thirty women attended

For helping our missionaries to nurture the believers and challenge them to reach their own people

Pray

That the leaders and believers in Satsang village will grow spiritually

That the church building in Hoj village will be completed soon

That our missionaries will be able to conduct a one-day retreat for children in the coming months

Pray for the **Andhra Pradesh State Convention** which begins today at Eluru- for the speakers, arrangements, Steering Committee, good response from the participants and good weather. It will conclude on January 17, 2010

15 Golaghat, Assam

Praise God

For helping our missionaries Mr & Mrs Minthang to reach the field on transfer from Kheri mission field

That the people hungry for the Word are waiting to hear the Gospel

Pray

That more able missionaries will be sent to minister to the people here

16 Field Ministries Central Office, Nagpur, Maharashtra

Jonathan Chavan & Shalini, Felix M John & Omana, Mr Cheriyachan & Mrs Rosamma, Ashok Todasam & Aruna

Praise God

For sustaining our Field Ministries' Secretary Jonathan Chavan and his family during his recent set back in health

For the fruitful partnerships with mission-related social service organisations without whose help many projects could not have been carried out

Pray

That the missionaries who are unwell will experience His healing touch

That more new mission fields will be started during 2010

17 250 New Worship Groups by 2011

Praise God

That 61 New Worship Groups have been established (as of November 2009)

For the vision and enthusiasm of our missionaries who are labouring tirelessly to surpass our God-given goal

Pray

That more local leaders will be identified and motivated to take on leadership roles in the churches

That our missionaries will be adequately equipped with required skills to play their roles effectively in ther respective mission fields

That our believers' children will be challenged to lead exemplary lives wherever God plants them

18 Mission Support Staff (MSS)

Praise God

For the commitment of our Mission Support Staff who handle adminstrative and other tasks assigned to them

For some MSS who are actively involved in raising prayer and financial support for the Mission among their family and friends

Pray

That our MSS may keep the vision for missionary work ever before them as they serve the Lord

That more committed MSS will join the Mission in all our offices

19 Khamman, Andhra Pradesh

Lankalapally *C Jebakumar & Jebacrowni,*
Jaganathapuram *D.Prabhakar & Susheela,*
Palvancha *Victor Samuel & Prisilla,*
Mondikunta *Vetri Samuel & Gladys,*
Aswapuram *Vineet kumarMasih & Ranjana,*
M.P.Banjar *Narsimha Rao and Sunanda, D Samson Prabhakar & Sandhya, Sosamma, Mary Yesudial, Sallikutty, Jerin and Vimalakumari,*
Bhadrachalam *Stanley Tatpati & Sudha Tatpati, Eswar Rao & Usha,*
Thotapally *Rebecca and Sushanthi,*
Ambur (Tamil Nadu) *Devagnanavaram & Vanitha*

Praise God

For Radio Distribution Programme by TWR in Koya field which was held from November 11-13.

For God's healing touch on our missionary Sallikuty Joseph who is recovering from cancer

For the many potential Koya believers who attended the Koya Leadership Training camp in December, 2009

Pray

For the 3-month Short Term Bible School (STBS) beginning from February, 2010

That our young believers will be able to find suitable life-partners

For suitable marriage partners for our believers

That the goal to establish 35 New Worship Groups among the Koya people by 2011 will be fulfilled

That 12 new evangelists and 40 ministry helpers will be added to the team to speed up the ministry

That the Worship Service at Katukapally village will be revived

20 Araku Valley, Andhra Pradesh

Om Shanthi Nagar *Johnson Kuruvilla & Jayamol*
Borapalem *Thangzalun Simte & Linda*
Domangi *Gurrala Kanakaratnam*

Praise God

That the 9 believers who openly confessed their faith in the Lord late last year are growing in the Lord

That 2 seekers who attended the State Youth Champ at Srikakulam accepted the Lord Jesus as their personal Saviour

For Mohan Das, from Musri village who is the first Kotia believer to secure a B Pharma free seat in Bhimavaram College

For the 2 local helpers who have begun leading the Worship Services from October 2009

Pray

That new Worship Centres will open in Kappalagondi and Pulguda villages

For the Lord's healing touch on Bimo from Billaput village. Doctors say that the clot in his leg might lead to cancer

That those who joined the church recently will be strong witnesses among their own families

Pray for the **IEM Administrative Committee** which begins today at OTI

21 Overseas Associates

Praise God

For our wonderful team of Overseas Associates in Australia, Brazil, Cannada, Mayasia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States of America

For their keen interest and action-oriented plans to support projects in our mission fields

Pray

For God's choicest blessings to rest upon these dear ones as they give their valuable time and money for the sake of missions

That more prayer groups and churches will join in

22 Church Ministries, Gujarat

Ahmedabad *Shailesh Amin & Sheela*
Vadodara *Harold Waghela & Sheela*
Surat *Sabu George & Elvina*

Praise God

For the 13 young people who committed themselves for full-time ministry at the Youth Convention at Vadodara

For the 27 young people who decided to serve the Lord full time at the Methodist Camp where our missionaries ministered

For the blessed ministry of the "Gospel Triumph Choir" from Meghalaya Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Surat

For the 200 women who attended the one day missions retreat

Pray

That those who made commitments will be effectively followed up

That more Area Secretaries and Mission/ Area Coordinators will join the team in Gujarat

23 Konnapady, Koraput, Orissa

Joseph Peter & Sheela

Praise God

For keeping our missionaries in good health as they serve in a hostile environment

For the people who were able to receive medical aid through our missionaries

Pray

That the seekers who are listening to the Gospel will be bold enough to decide to follow Him

Pray for the IEM Finance Committee Meeting today at Bangalore. Members will grapple with Budgetary and related issues

24 Toyaput, Koraput, Orissa

Jikhario Naik & Ratna

Praise God

For granting our missionaries good health after their recent setback

For the fruitful ministry among the children

Pray

That through the children, their parents will also turn to the Lord

That a new Worship Group will be established here

25 Church Ministries, Maharashtra

Mumbai *D Arulmani & Christy*
Kalyan *V T Samuel & Valsamma*
Panvel *K C Abraham & Grace*
Pune *Thomas George & Moni*
Nashik *Sudesh Gaikwad & Kalpana*

Praise God

For the churches and prayer groups which are open to the missionary challenge in new areas of Maharashtra

That the Marathi edition of IEM Outreach inspires our readers to get involved in missionary work

Pray

Continuously for those who made commitments at the Maharashtra State Convention in Ahmednagar in October, 2009

That a missionary couple will be stationed in Ahmednagar to develop the ministry there

26 Administrative Services

P Vethanayagam & Arun Janaki

Praise God

For the successful completion of the audit of the moveable and immovable assets

For the provision of 10 motorcycles for our missionaries

Pray

For the need for 20 motorcycles to help our missionaries reach out to more villages quicker

That our supporters will come forward to sponsor tribal children in our hostels

27 Church Ministries, North East India

Meghalaya *GP Kharchandy*
Nagaland *R V Thakzii & Paosiiru, Lian Min Thang & Hoineiniang, R Mangyang Chang & Chaya*
Manipur *T Sholal & Kim. Miss Ting Lam Kim Vaiphei*
Mizoram *G K Ngaihte & Teresa*
Assam *Lalchawl Thang Thiek & Lienkhawtling, B Chin Lam Thang & Gou Siam Ching*

Praise God

For the good response at the Conventions in Meghalaya and Manipur

For the partnerships we enjoy with churches and other missionary organisations

Pray

For preparations being made for the National Convention at Shillong, Meghalaya

That more missionaries will join IEM from the "7 sisters" of the North East

28 Chitradurga, Karnataka

Chitradurga *Shibu K Issac & Smitha*
Bharamasagara *H N Manjunath & Hannah*
Donihalli (Davangere) *Anandha Kumar & Malar*

Praise God

For helping our missionaries to venture into Davangere district and establish the ministry there

For the girls who are doing the tailoring course and also being taught from the Word

Pray

That the church at Chitradurga will be willing to venture into nearby villages with the Gospel

That our missionaries will be granted good health as they serve the Lord faithfully

29 Chinnoor, Andhra Pradesh

Chinnoor *Joseph & Ammukutty, Manoharan & Nirmala*
Udumpur *Sudheer Naik & Nirmala*

Bheemaram *Solomon & Suguna*
Bobbaricheluka *Sathia Raja & Jenita*
Bonagiripally *Kishore Paul & Mercy*
Secunderabad *GS Ananda Rao & Premalatha*

Praise God

For the believers who are being equipped to lead the local church

For the good progress made in the Lambada Bible translation work

Pray

That the Lambada believers will be able to read the Written Word in their heart language

That the believing girls will find suitable life partners

30 Nasik, Maharashra

Bose Kuriakose & Elsamma, Bijoy Jajo & Wonreila, Daniel Kom & Kapneihoi, Ranjit Tirkey & Sunita

Praise God

For the local leaders who are willing to share the Gospel with their own people

For our new missionaries Ranjit & Sunita who joined the team recently

Pray

That new Worship Groups will be established in this mission field

That the believers will continue to stand up and testify powerfully before their own people

31 Communication Services

A Jenny Christopher & Vijayakumari, Timothy Austin & Alice, Stephen Daniel DC & Christina

Praise God

For helping us to publish the IEM Outreach regularly in 9 languages

For the commitment of our Regional Editors and their teams who work tirelessly to bring out their respective editions on time

For helping us to publish the book, "My Utmost for His Highest" in Hindi and Malayalam, by permission from the Oswald Chambers Trust. Mr Yohan John coordinated this work on behalf of IEM

Pray

For the production and distribution of a "Devotional book", "Servants of the Cross" and "The Touch of His Goodness" before the end of this year

For the production and distribution of documentaries on our ministry in the Andamans and Chikaldara mission fields for promotional purposes

That the IEM diaries for 2010 will be produced on time

That promotional brochures in all languages will be printed soon

For the appointment of full-time web designer

Field News

The Blood of Christ Unites

On September 6 2009, a new believers from Kullu church, Mrs. Neetu, fell from her first floor residence and broke her spine. She was the only earning member in her family of 4. Her husband and a few missionaries rushed her to the government hospital where doctors declared that she had a compressed fracture in one vertebra. She was advised complete bed rest for 2 months. During the one week in hospital, her entire whole family was totally confused. However, the church members belonging to different backgrounds took care of the various needs in a wonderful way. This proved that they were truly united by the precious blood of Christ Jesus. The whole family is strengthened in the Lord and they are grateful to the family of God into which they have been added to. Hallelujah!!!

that 151 Christians in Shimla has been reconverted" he narrated. "Is that true or is it just "cracked-news"? How can this be?" In a split second these thoughts jammed my mind. I read the news myself and struggled to respond. Should I brush it aside? No, that wouldn't do any good! Instead, I should boldly face the issue. "Pray without ceasing" happened even as I spoke to that dear brother.

Thank God for John 6: 66, "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him!" God's Word encouraged us. We understood that backsliding is not new. It happened during the time of our Lord and it is still happening even now. Instead of getting discouraged, let us listen to what Jesus said to the 12 disciples, "Do you also wish to go away?" (John 6:67). Our Lord never forced people. He left it to them! That should be our principle too.

Satisfied with Jesus

Based on their testimonies, we are sure that the 30 people who attended the seekers' meeting on March 6, 2008 went back home immensely satisfied. We taught the seekers about salvation, repentance, the sacraments and new life in Christ.

They decided to follow Christ diligently and determined to leave their old ways in obedience to God's Word which says, "If any one is in Christ, He is a new creation, everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). We attempted to answer their doubts related to their lives as disciples of Christ, during the question hour session. A time of sharing and prayer made them more familiar with each other's concerns. Please pray that their commitments will remain true to the end (Mark 13:13).

Children & Youth Summer Camp Comments and…

"It was really great over here. I was never bored. The teams were great. The games were good. One problem: It was too short!" - **Eagle Team**

"Great fun! I loved it. Thank you so much" – **Lion Team**

Decisions

"…I will give the first place to God…" - *Shishupal*

"I decided to attend this camp next year also" – *Sameer*

"I will read the Bible everyday" – *Sujata*

"I decided not to get angry" - *Anita*

"I have given my life in the hands of the Lord" – *Komal*

"From now on I will never give excuse for my studies and prayer" – *Priya*

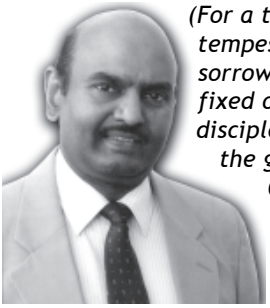
"I rededicated my life to the Lord and to grow in Him" – *Marilyn*

"I want to serve God and God's people forever and never tell a lie forever, Ever 4 ever" – *Anon*

The Cross and the Flag:

As responsible citizens of our great nation, India, the believers of Christ Church, Kullu gather together on August 15 every year in the Church compound to celebrate the Independence Day. After the flag hoisting and the singing of the National Anthem we have the special speech on "freedom" followed by special prayers for our country and our state Himachal Pradesh. As usual, sweets sweetly ended the sweet celebration!

Into the Sunset



*(For a true Christian, life on earth is a passing phase. It is a tempestuous journey, filled with victories and defeats, joys and sorrows, pain and pleasure and so on. With his eyes firmly fixed on Jesus, the author and perfector of our faith, the disciple of Christ understands that all things work together for the good of those who are called according to His purpose. Our Founder-General Secretary, **Rev Dr Theodore Williams** who is a missionary-statesmen in his own right unveils his heart as he travels through the 3 stages of life - sunrise, noonday and sunset, reminding us of the fact that we are God's chosen people and our destination is our heavenly Home. May God minister toyou through this inspiring article)*

Jesus said, "As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work "(John 9:4). He was talking about the sun set in each life. There are different stages of life we all go through if the Lord grants us life. Each stage has its ups and downs. Blessed is the person who has learned to accept, enjoy and use it for the Lord. This is the month of Thanksgiving and let us celebrate the stage of life in which we are, each one of us, boys and girls, young people, men and women and senior citizens who are walking into the sunset and let us express our Thanksgiving.

The Lord said, "For you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go our and leap like calves released from the stall "(Malachi 4:2). In Luke 1:78 Zechariah prophesied, "The rising sun will come to us from heaven." The time of sunrise is a time of joy, hope and strength. This is the experience of childhood and youth. No clouds in the sky, many desires, plans and ambitions loom large over the horizon. Standing at the threshold of life, the sky seems to be the limit. If we do not allow sin to make inroads and take control and if we keep our desires and plans committed to the Lord, it is a road of victory and fulfillment. We can thank our Lord for His continued protection and guidance.

Then there is the noonday experience. Our physical, intellectual and emotional powers are at their height. To achieve, climb high and reach out for the top rung of the ladder seems to be the passion and the drive. The danger is that we may become driven people and not a God-led or God-directed people. There can be emotional and spiritual accidents and catastrophes manifested in the family life and in the spiritual life. This too can be a time of Thanksgiving and Joy provided we have the Lord as the Captain of the ship and not assume mastership of our own destinies.

Finally there is the sunset. Some of us including myself are in this stage of life. We do not know how long it will be before the sun will set but we are moving into it. There is so much to give thanks to the Lord for. We can thank Him for life itself. He has saved us from

serious illnesses and deadly accidents and brought us thus far. We can thank Him for the spiritual enrichment and the spiritual heights through which He has led us. For the privilege of being useful to Him and to others and for making our lives meaningful we can thank Him.

There are struggles and battles peculiar to the sunset period. There is the struggle against loneliness. This is not just the absence of company or people around us. You may live in a crowded family with umpteen relatives around you each one trying to help you and order you around. Or, you may have a lot of friends offering their counsel and advice. In the midst of all this, you may have a gnawing sense of loneliness, of being an orphan. Bereavement might have robbed you of the constant companionship of a spouse. You might have had your fights, arguments and cold war sessions but the fact that she or he was there was a source of strength. But now, you feel cruelly alone! It is at such times that we remember the words of our Lord, "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you" (John 14:18). He spoke of the coming of the Holy Spirit to be our companion for ever. Is this not an occasion of Thanksgiving?

There is the struggle against loss. Sometime back I received Dr John Stott's personal newsletter. He is moving into the sunset with poise and dignity. One of the things he mentions is the list of things he misses which he has lost. In his prime time he traversed the length and breadth of this world preaching and teaching the Word of God and enjoying his hobby of bird watching. But now, he is confined to a wheel chair, so dependent on others. The risen Christ told Peter, "When you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go" (John 21:18). We have celebrated our independence and self sufficiency. Now is the time to celebrate the fact that God is our Strength and we can lean upon Him and also thank Him for those whom He has given in the family of God who are there for us. Is this not a matter of Thanksgiving?

There is also the time when we part with our possessions and past time which we cherished and held close to us. The house we built, the hobbies we cherished and the recreation which we enjoyed most, all of this we have to part with.

There are physical handicaps and ailments which prevent us from doing those things which we did earlier. There is the loss of opportunities and avenues of service. But there are unexpected opportunities that come at sunset. So there is much material for Thanksgiving.

Of course, the sunset is not the end. It leads to a glorious new day and heavenly glory. Hallelujah!

We Slipped!

In the November, 2009 issue of *IEM Outreach*, the following errors crept in.

- On page 5, the second line of the first paragraph of the Bible Study titled, "Rhythm of faith" should read, "Though highly qualified, he does **not** seek for more money than what is due to him."
- On page 11, the 4th name from the bottom of the second column should read **Mr** Sam Sukumar & Surekha.

These errors are deeply regretted.

Onward Christian Soldiers!

(Discipline and dedication are hallmarks of any defence set-up. When it comes to being soldiers of the Cross, the importance of these hallmarks assumes greater significance. At a time when the battle against principalities and powers in high places is at it's peak, the Founder and first commander in chief of The Salvation Army, ***General William Booth*** *helps us understand what it means to "sound the battle cry" and preach the Gospel fearlessly, in the Name and for the sake of the King of kings and Lord of lords. Here's his story)*

Humble Beginnings

Born into a devout Christian home, William's parents work hard to make a living in the city of London. As a boy, William worked under a pawn broker and was educated by a private tutor instead of a regular school. He worked long and hard for a megre salary. These experiences inspired him to help the poor later on in life.

William turned to the Lord when he was 15 in 1844. Soon after, he developed a deep desire to win souls for Christ. He preached his first sermon at 17 and was licensed by the New Wesleyan Connection. William spent long hours at the pawnshop during the day and went to late night payer meetings or prayed for the sick and dying. His leadership qualities were noticed and he was appointed as a local preacher. He had a great desire to see London turn to the Lord.

The Salvation Army

Although his leaders discouraged him, he pastored a chapel belonging to the "Reformers group." A businessman offered to support him and he began preaching in Methodist churches. William met Catherine Mumford and married her in 1855. She was his perfect co-worker. They had 7 children between 1856 and 1868, all of whom eventually got involved in the ministry of the Salvation Army.

In July 1861, William & Catherine stepped out by faith to do the work God had called them to. In 1863, nearly 5000 people attended his open-air campaign. On July 2 1865, the Salvation Army was born. Converts came streaming to the tent where the meetings were conducted. By 1869, the work was firmly established as the Christian Mission. People attended the evangelistic meetings at dancing salons, stables, sheds, theater stages, circus rings, ship-captain bridges, open- air services and street corners.

Opposition leads to Growth

Opposition came in the form of physical violence. Ruffians from a 'Skeleton Army' damaged halls and other furniture. The police offered no protection to Booth and his Army. By January 1879 the Salvation Army had 81 stations, 127 full-time evangelists and held 75,000 services per year. It

expanded to the United States, France and even India. Regular uniforms were used by the workers.

In 1855, Booth conducted a successful crusade against white slavery. He led an 11-week campaign from New York to Kansas city in which he spoke for 200 hours and was heard by 180,000 people.

The image of the Army changed as social service programmes began to expand in 1887. General Booth realized that the masses could not comprehend the message of the Army because of their physical and social conditions. He arranged services that included night shelters, free breakfasts and selection plus training of prospective immigrants and their settlement.

Booth published his bestselling work "Darkest England and the Way Out" in 1890. It was a guide to Victorian England in dealing with poverty and other vices. Reclamation of unemployable persons in farm colonies was advocated.

General Booth's wife Catherine won the sympathy of the upper classes. She was stricken with cancer at 59 and passed away in October, 1890. Her funeral procession was four miles long with more than 10,000 people in it. At this time their daughter Emma also died in a rail accident. After 25 years the Salvation Army had 2,900 centres in 34 countries. It received 600 telegrams and 5,400 letters a week.

When Booth visited America in 1895, he opened the Senate with prayer on 2 occasions. He also had the opportunity to speak to President Mckinley for 20 minutes. Men such as Charles Spurgeon, Winston Churchill and Cardinal Manning spoke highly of him while the Prince of Wales became an ardent patron. Booth even signed his autograph album.

Fire in his Bones

He was a hard man to work with. Gypsy Smith forsook him and DL Moody declined to support him. Booth had fire in his bones that kept him going. Once he spoke for seven hours in South Africa. People were spellbound when he spoke against sin. They would be deeply convicted and turn emotional. Once, nearly 3,000 listeners were moved to tears. His hunger for souls was insatiable.

In 1904, he made a 29-day, 1,244 mile motor tour in Great Britain. At that time, he held 164 meetings which were attended by vast crowds daily. In 1907, he visited the United States once again and gave his farewell message to 2,500 people on the steps of New York City hall. After that he traveled to Scandinavia, Switzerland, Holland, Germany, Italy and Denmark. His last major speech was delivered to 7,000 Salvationists at London's Albert Hall.

Home Call

Towards the end of his life, he gradually turned blind. At his death, 150,000 marched past his body. Queen Mary also attended, sitting next to an ex-prostitute who was one of his converts. London's traffic came to a halt for two hours. He was succeeded by his son Bramwell Booth. Later, his daughter Evangeline took the position of Commander – in – chief.

During his lifetime, General William Booth preached 60,000 sermons. Sixteen thousand officers served in his Army. He authored many revival hymns and books, and published "War Cry" the official mouthpiece of the Salvation Army.

Happiness Quotient!

(Human beings have emotions. Often, emotions fluctuate like the weather; they can soar or fall, depending on external stimuli. Young people tend to "look at others with their lands and gold" and forget to "think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold!" Former IEM missionary and Bible translator in the Hill Madia language, ***Mrs Ruth Manimekalai Vaz*** *draws our attention to the fact that what really matters is having a great God to work with you! Read on…)*

Young people worry about their IQ. How about their Happiness Quotient (HQ)?

I was sharing about God's love with a group of homeless men. They had lived as reckless youth, got into drugs and troubles, been in and out of prison, and ended up on streets! They came from good families, enjoyed good health and held good jobs, but lost them all. Those of you who dream the American dream might be surprised to know that these men live in that great country! They had every opportunity to live a happy life but weren't living it! Having great opportunities is not what matters. What really matters is having a great God to work with you.

Have you had thoughts like these: "I wish I had wealthy parents." "If I were slim and fair, a rich and handsome guy would propose to me!" "I must go abroad". "That boy/girl is popular, but I'm invisible!" "Truly life isn't fair." God never promised equal opportunities for everyone. But He has promised this: "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life." (Psalm 32:8 NLT)

This Christmas, I suggest that you meditate on the not-so-happy things in Jesus' life. It was not an opportuntune time to be born during a chaotic census. To be born in a smelly manger was not a way to get connected to famous people. The Saviour baby brought only "ill luck" on countless innocent babies! Did people whisper derogatory terms behind Jesus' back – names for an illegitimate child? His parents were most ordinary people, they didn't own much. As a young man, the farthest Jesus travelled was perhaps 150 kilometres! Jesus had "limited" opportunities and was "disadvantaged." Think of what He accomplished!

If you don't have the wonderful things you wish for, don't be unhappy. Here is a beautiful quote: *I asked God for happiness; God said "No! I have given you blessings, and happiness is up to you."* How true! Nothing "gives" you happiness; you must "find" it! Be grateful for what you have; but gratitude is just an *attitude*, and it isn't enough. What is also required is your *action* to enjoy what you have. You must intentionally seek ways to enjoy life in God. Think of creative ideas to enjoy your present situation. Never forget that enjoying God is the foremost of them all! Out of your HQ should flow a service to God spreading "joy to the world" around you, making true the angels' song at first Christmas. Otherwise you might choose serving God for all the wrong reasons.

May you have a Happy Christmas and happiness every day!

Break the "Bondage" Barrier

(Every tribe and nation must hear the Gospel before the Lord Jesus returns as King of kings and Lord of Lords! In spite of the glare and blare of the media, proclaiming the Gospel in every conceivable language, cutting across geographical, political and linguistic barriers, we find that some pockets of our world have yet to hear about the Lord Jesus even once! One such group is the ***Toucouleur people*** *of Africa. How will they hear the Gospel unless we pray?)*

Battle-Scoured History

The Toucouleur people are battle-weary! Spread across Senegal, Mauritania and other West African nations like Guinea Bissau, and Burkino Faso, these dear people have never had the privilege of hearing the Gospel from missionaries. In fact, there seems to be little or no Christian work among them.

Widespread

The Toucouleur people are a Negroid Muslim people who largely occupy the middle course of the Senegal River valley in northern Senegal and the far southern regions of Mauritania. Innumerable Toucouleur expatriates are reportedly dispersed throughout Europe as well.

The spoken language of this group is Pulaar and not Toucouleur. Unlike other ethnic groups, the Toucouleur like to read their language. The literacy rate in Senegal is about 40 percent which is the highest for the sub region. However, this is low compared to the rest of the world. The Toucouleur are about 20-25percent literate.

Most of them are tradesmen, fishermen and farmers. Agricultural processes are backward dating back to over a century. Crops like rice, beans, corn and so on are grown, depending on the seasonal rainfall. Livestock and agricultural produce are the main source of income. No industry is known to exist in the region.

The favorite dish of the Toucouleur people is "Tieboudienne," a rice and fish often served with vegetables. Their traditional dish, Couscous is served with a sauce made from green leaves of the peanut or sweet-potato plant.

The average life expectancy stands at 46 years. In some towns, while one house might have electricity and running water, the next one might have no such amenities. Education is not compulsory for boys rather than girls.

The infant mortality rate stands at 126 deaths per 1,000 people.

Islam is the very fibre of Toucouleur culture. The cultural value of Islam permeates all areas of their lives. The ancient Toucouleur leaders and intellectuals were among the first black Africans to adopt the Islamic faith.

Social Structure

Their social structure of the Toucouleur is based primarily on the lineage of the male. Marriages are preferred between cousins, but always within the same social class. Divorce is common. On average most women will remarry 4 times in their lives!

The Challenge Before Us

The Toucouleur people need to hear the Gospel! This is the huge challenge before the Church today. So even as we pray with great burden to the Lord of the harvest for these precious people, may God send out labourers into His harvest field and may thousands of them be ushered into His Kingdom! Can the light of the Gospel be lit in every heart so that one day they may stand before the Throne of God, voicing His praises through endless ages?

Maharashtra State Convention - A Report

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways" Isaiah 55:8

By God's grace and leading, we decided to conduct IEM Maharashtra State Convention at Ahmednagar which is the Jerusalem of Maharashtra from October 16-18, 2009. The Steering Committee met regularly to pray for and plan this convention.

Suddenly we heard that our main speakers, Rev Dr Theodore Williams was down with viral fever and Rev Jonathan Chavan had had a heart attack. We did not know what to do. But as I mentioned above, His thoughts and ways are not our thoughts and ways! God decided to bring our General Secretary, Rev P John Wesley as Speaker for this convention, 2 days before the Convention!

We had a blessed time at Clara Bruce High School ground at Ahmednagar. The night meetings were attended by 300-400 people attended. Our General Secretary spoke on the topics "Build the faith", "Barriers of the faith" and "Bring people to the faith".

Our missionaries and local evangelists from Nasik mission field challenged the people through sharing of their testimonies, skits and reports of their missionary work. As a result many people decided to get involved in the ministry of IEM and follow Jesus Christ more closely than before. Please continue to uphold us in your prayers as we work on the follow up programmes.

His ways are higher than ours and His thoughts are higher than our thoughts. May all glory be to the Lord Almighty alone.

Rev D Arulmani, State Secretary, Maharashtra

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the passing away of the **mother** of our missionary Mr VT Samuel (Church Ministries, Kalyan, Mumbai) on November 6, 2009.

Our missionary Mrs Regina Vengana's (Vyara, Gujarat) **mother** went to be with Lord on October 17, 2009.