There is one great truth that we must acknowledge and not neglect in order to experience in all reality a life of obedience to the Word of God, a life controlled by the Holy Spirit, a life of prayer and faith, a life of soul-winning, and the revival that is so desperately needed. This truth we must acknowledge is: “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” (Psalm 66:18).

The Lord is greatly concerned about the inner part of men. He knows also the outer part. He knows all! This is why He tells us: “...For out of the heart the mouth speaketh” (Matthew 12:34).

“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies” (Matthew 15:19).

“This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honoureth Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me” (Matthew 15:8).

What Is Meant by “Regard Iniquity in My Heart?”

It is to look on the iniquity with approval instead of disapproval. It is to know there is something wrong in one’s life and to neglect or reject doing anything about it. “To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:17).

In Hebrews 12:1 we read, “Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset [attack] us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”

The besetting sin is the sin that conquers you and me. It is the area of our weakness. It is the sin that beats, defeats, defiles and eventually brings about disgrace. It is a sin that one ignores, but is known to God. We must be aware of the fact that Satan is always studying the child of God and will quickly enter by way of that weakness.

Therefore, I must strive to know if such a weakness exists in my life, as a child of God. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9).

“Who can know it?” The Lord knows our weakness, the sin that is believed to be covered. We read, “O Lord, Thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising; Thou understandest my thought afar off” (Psalm 139.
Iniquity in the Heart Divides

Iniquity in the Heart Drives

Iniquity in the Heart Dulls

Iniquity in My Heart Dulls God’s Ears

The Cure for Iniquity in the Heart

The Word of God teaches the result of the dullness of the ear: “And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat; for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal; for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?” (1 Cor. 3:1-3).

The harbor of sin in the heart, which we know does exist, will effectively prevent us from sharing with our Lord Jesus Christ. He will not endorse sin by answering prayer when sin is in the heart.

The cure for iniquity in the heart must be to get alone with God and allow Him to lead you to the place of confession. First consider it: “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23,24).

Many years ago a group of men of my congregation gave of themselves to pray for revival and the salvation of souls. One day while they were praying, one of the men rose from his knees and halted the prayers of the others. Essentially this is what he said: “Men, I cannot continue praying with you because I have a besetting sin in my life which is known by no one but God.” He named his besetting sin and then confessed it to the Lord, after which he rejoined the men in prayer. There was joy in the circle that night!

The following day, which was the Lord’s day, who should be present in the morning service but his son, for whose salvation he had been praying. When the invitation was given, who should come walking down the aisle but his son! When the besetting sin was confessed, forgiven and cleansed by the blood of the Lamb, the father’s prayer for the salvation of his son was answered. Truly, “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” (Psalm 66:18).

Iniquity in the Heart Divides

As we read in God’s Word, “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear, but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear” (Isaiah 59:1,2).

The “besetting sin” in a Christian’s life prevents him from abiding in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord says, “I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without Me ye can do nothing” (John 15:5). Satan attacks in this area to break that closeness with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Iniquity divides from power, from fruit, from prayer, from faith, from love, from abiding in the Spirit, and from the will of God. It all culminates in “Not Christ, but I” instead of “Not I, but Christ.”

Iniquity divides the ears. The Apostle Paul desired to impart the deep truths that are so needful for a Christian to mature in the Lord. We read as follows: “Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing you are dull of hearing” (Hebrews 5:11).

The Word of God teaches the result of the dullness of the ear: “And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat; for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal; for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?” (1 Cor. 3:1-3).

The Word reveals the result of sin’s dulling the ears. We become insensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit, the result being that Christians remain babes in Christ. Iniquity of the heart not only dulls the ears of man, it darkens the eyes of man’s understanding. It deprives the heart of man’s love. It diverts the feet of the believer’s walk. It poisons the tongue of man’s talk. It deprives one of the fellowship of God.

Iniquity in My Heart Dulls God’s Ears

“If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me” (Psalm 66:18).

“Therefore, will I also deal in fury; Mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity; and though they cry in Mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them” (Ezekiel 8:18).

“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear” (Isaiah 59:2).

The harboring of sin in the heart, which we know does exist, will effectively prevent us from sharing with our Lord Jesus Christ. He will not endorse sin by answering prayer when sin is in the heart.

First consider it: “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23,24).

“Make me to know my transgression and my sin” (Job 13:23).

Second, confess it: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). The confession of sin brings us back into fellowship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

How about the iniquity in your heart? I pray you will be honest before God, so that you can be honest before others. Let us seriously, in His presence, search our hearts before a Holy God. Then “Whatsoever He says to you, do it!” (John 2:5).
As we experience the lockdown in our country as well as around the world due to the pandemic COVID19, it is important to take stock of our lives: the way we are living, our lifestyle, our world view and the wants and desires that we run for. As we receive various responses from both the believers and nonbelievers of different walks of life from various media on the impact of this COVID19, it’s important now to look back how we had lived our lives in the light of the Word of God and to restructure the life towards abundant living.

I could recollect my experience that I learned from the Life Revision Seminar: to be quiet, to give space for ourselves, to listen without any prejudice and to have a meaningful, compassionate look at our own lives. It is a personalised learning time paying attention to our bodies how to live in right relationship with our bodies in God. It is to recover the worth of our bodies as it is the temple of the living God. I think God is calling us to experience such a life change at this time of lockdown.

In the last Care & Serve December 2019 I was sharing my thoughts on ‘the importance of slowing down’. Now it is appropriate to correlate those thoughts in this context of lockdown that the world is experiencing. How far this lockdown is impacting my life in the light of life changes by the Word of God. As we take some quality time in meditating God’s word let us prayerfully look for some life changes at this juncture even at the micro-level in our lives. Here is another opportunity God is giving for life changes that leads to inculcating Christlikeness in our lives. Let’s make our life as the lifestyle of this psalmist signifying in the Word of God, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” Ps.119:105.

Retired Missionary Welfare

The purpose of Retired Missionary Welfare Scheme is to care, meet some of the unmet needs and build a strong relationship with them so that they will be revived and continue to live for the Lord till the end.

As of 20th March 2020, there were around 640 missionaries retired from nearly 66 missions. One of the primary wishes is to meet them and interact with them. As we are unable to invite all of them to our Retreat center at Oddanchatram, God led us to plan to meet them in areas where they reside so we started planning One-Day Regional Fellowship meets at various regions.

**Retired Missionaries Regional Fellowship Meet:**

In February 2020, a meeting was organized for those settled in Kerala from the 25th evening to the 26th evening at Tiruvalla. The Theme was: “Being Fruitful in Retired Life”. We are grateful to NIEA, a member mission of MUT, who provided their campus, the meeting hall, food and accommodation for the program. We praise God for their excellent care and partnership.

22 retired missionaries of 8 missions attended the same and enjoyed the fellowship, excellent food, reviving sessions and group discussions and the beautiful campus of New India Bible Seminary, Paipad.

Br Cherian George of Mission India revived and challenged them from the life of Epaphroditus (Phil 2:25-30) They were encouraged to be a true brother, a faithful worker, and a courageous soldier. In short, a disciple till the end.

Dr. George Chandy, Director of Believers Medical College, Tiruvalla spent ample time with them to give them tips on moving towards Holistic Health and answered their queries.

They had group discussions and sharing time and a strong prayer group has been formed in Pattanamthitta area to meet once a month for fellowship and prayer. Rev Isac S Raja – GC, MUT, Mr. Charles John – NIEA, Dr. Babu John and the RMW team (Rev Isaac Raja, Ms. Leela & Mrs. Juno Sudhaker) pitched in to serve the missionaries and got to know them and their needs better.

Pray for future plans: Fellowship meets in Orissa, Andhra and a 3-Day Retreat in Hindi, for North India.

**Medical Assistance:** 51 Missionaries of 15 missions were assisted up to Rs.4.06 lakhs during the last 3 months for their surgeries, hospitalizations and regular medicines (168 RMs up to 12 lakhs from Apr’19). Affordable cost medicines are also being supplied to RMls for Diabetes, Calcium & Iron deficiency.

Medical Annual assistance (MARM) of Rs.2000/- per family, (those above 65 years and have not received any medical assistance in 2019) has been passed on to 162 families, till now. The rest to be covered soon after COVID -19 control.

Mr. David Chandradas retired from Tribal Mission had his Home Call on 29.03.2020, please pray for his wife, Mrs. Sushila David. A few are confined to bed. Please uphold them.

We praise God for His provision thus far; it is amazing in our sight. God is good and He cares for His Senior Servants who have served Him faithfully all these years. We want to thank each one of you who liberally and regularly contributed towards the needs of the retired missionaries. God is blessing them through you. All glory and honour be to Him alone.
Blessed to Bless

“Blessed to Bless Scheme” (MUT Scheme) is an entry scheme to all Schemes of MUT, to help the Missionary family in times of sickness, death, and crises. Workers of Registered Christian missions focusing on evangelism and disciplship, with a monthly salary of less than Rs.20000/- and aged between 18 and 65 years are eligible. This is not an Insurance Scheme.

Operation of the scheme: Each member contributes Rs.50/- and the Mission contributes an equal amount. This amount (Rs 100) is shared by LYB, IMPACT and GS Schemes. The individual members are eligible to avail assistance and the member’s contribution is utilized 100% for the needy members in the area of Medical, IMPACT Calamity, Crisis Relief and Retired Missionaries Welfare. The Support Schemes (SS) are further funded by the donations received from Friends of MUT (FOM).

Objectives:
- To provide medical help, Calamity Relief & crisis relief to the family of a member.
- To encourage the spirit of mutual concern and oneness among Christian workers from various Missionary Organizations and enable the Missionary Community to help itself.
- To provide a common platform to mobilize prayer support and comforting communications within the Missionary Fraternity for the families of the Member Christian worker.

Total Organisation enrolled in Blessed to Bless Scheme (MUT Scheme): - 151 Mission with 15770 members as on 20.03.2020

We praise God for the following new missions joined Blessed to bless Scheme to be a blessing to other member missionaries in meeting the unmet needs.

Calvary Christian Mission, Chennai
Servants of Jesus Christ Welfare Society, Bangalore

MUT - SMILE

“MUT SMILE” is an entry scheme to help the full-time CHRISTIAN WORKER’S family in times of death.

Objectives:
- To provide Calamity Relief to the member/family of a member.
- To encourage the spirit of mutual concern and oneness.
- To provide a common platform to mobilize prayer support and comforting communications.

MUT Smile benefits available for members include:
- Calamity assistance Rs. 1,10,000 to the bereaved family
- Immediate cash assistance Rs. 6,000 to the spouse of the beloved member who passed away
- Medical Check-up at empanelled hospitals
- Training camps at Oddanchatram campus (ODC)
- Prayer support and Counselling/Psychological Care

Other benefits extended for Smile members through support scheme of MUT:
- Medical assistance of Rs. 10,000 for the treatment of heart attack, cancer, and kidney failure
- Christmas gift of Rs. 1,000 per annum (for three years) to the beloved family

Immediate cash assistance was provided to 3 bereaved families.
- Late Pastor Stephen Nagaraj R
- Late Pastor Vincent
- Late Mrs. Esther Thavamani

Death Benefit of Rs.1,10000 was provided to 4 families.
- Late Pastor Charles
- Late Pastor Vinson Gnanadhas R
- Late Pastor Harisingh Ad
- Late Pastor Stephen Nagaraj R

Medical Assistance of Rs.10,000 was given to Pastor. David

We would like to welcome Jesus Mercy Home Association and United Christian Fellowship to the MUT Smile Family which brings our current count to 96 organizations comprising 7,094 members enrolled in the project.

Vision Casting Report: Praise be unto God, in the past months, SMILE carried its vision casting at Pollachi, Tirupur, Mettupalayam, Puliyampatti, Sivakasi, Chengalpattu - 70 pastors attended the meeting, Sivagangai-60 pastors attended the meeting, Madurai – 100 pastors attended the meeting

Few of the bereaved families and some pastor’s in need were given a small token amount to take care of provisions during the time of crisis.

Live your Faith

Hebrews 11:6
Providing Medical assistance to missionaries is one of the objectives since the very inception of MUT. From 2001 the Medical assistance scheme was started to meet the vital unmet need of missionaries as they faced physical challenges in their course of life journey. The same is done through the following interventions.

**Master Health Check-up (MHC):** Prevention is better than cure and through this, health issues of missionaries are identified and then set on track for proper treatment and continuous follow up. MUT medical team is putting up a lot of effort to encourage missionary children who were benefited by this scheme in the past years are now contributing to this purpose. Praise be to God. We were also able to grant financial assistance to about 30 first-generation needy missionary children’s marriage. All Glory and honor unto His Name.

The Neyveli team members under the guidance of Mrs. Deepa have started their planning for the forthcoming retreats at Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. Pray that Gods’ wisdom may be upon the Neyveli team members as they engage themselves in different stages of planning.

By the grace of God, some students have completed their examinations and reached home safely before the corona pandemic. Some missionary children studying in SV, Dohnavur were held up at different locations and later en-routed to their destinations. Some students are still held up in the School. Kindly uphold these missionary children in prayers for their physical and mental wellbeing.

**Missionary Upholders Family**

MUF was formed in 1984, mainly to challenge & encourage Christian families to involve in missions by raising financial support & prayer for missionaries. There are over 1400 missionary upholders families (MUF) who meet regularly for prayers and also support more than 500 missionaries from various mission organisations. Volunteers of MUF along with the missionaries of various mission organisation raise money for the medical assistance of member missionaries of MUT. Last year, Dec 2019 they raised Rs 3.5 lakhs from carol rounds and Rs 2.1 lakhs from from donation cards and an average of Rs. 50,000 every month for the medical assistance of missionaries.

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

MISSIONARY UPHOLDERS TRUST (MUT)

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

MUT is an umbrella body covering over 254 Organizations as member missions covering about 21,669 missionaries and christian workers. MUT is governed by a Board of Trustees and managed by the General Coordinator assisted mostly by over 60 volunteers; recently some of the Member Missions have taken keen interest in the ministry and are giving their committed workers on deputation for a period from 6 months to 2 years. There are over 37 people on MUT payroll, receiving monthly remuneration. The operational costs and administrative expenses are kept low through sponsorship and donations towards administrative expenses. MUT does not append any money from any of its earmarked donations received.

**Mission**

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

**Vision**

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

**Values**

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

**MUT Ethos**

Love, Understand, Pray, Accept, Serve and Encourage in the spirit of Lord Jesus Christ and meet the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of all the members in the team, to fulfill God given purpose for self, family and the ministry in MUT.
Can a Rest be a home away from Home? Is the question many people ponder unless and until they come to MUT Rest houses. The difference is the care, love, warmth, and affection that are provided along with the rooms to stay. Also, a place to spend time in silence, introspection, to have a closer walk with the Lord motivates God’s children to choose to stay in MUT Rest houses. Rest Houses are an answer to the prayers of many God’s servants, who on treatment time had to look out for an affordable place to stay.

Caregivers and volunteers try their level best to be sensitive to the emotional need of the missionary when the unexpected news comes at the most unexpected time. The counsel and prayer backing help the missionaries to overcome their crisis, look forward, and keep moving. Journeying along with them in their pain and financial constraints is the key to member care in the Rest House ministry.

Rest House Otteri and Gandhi Nagar are mostly visited by missionaries who come for medical treatment. From December to March the average occupancy was just above 50%. Praise God that the no. of missionaries falling sick has come down and those with small ailments have started using the facilities of mission hospitals in and around their area. At Otteri and Gandhi Nagar we have as on date 4 missionaries staying and undergoing treatment for cancer.

**Rest House in Chennai:** Mostly used as transit by missionaries. Praying for God to provide a place with more rooms.

Rest House in Coimbatore: Basically, for missionaries who come for a break along with their children for vacation.

**Rest House in Mumbai:** Thanks to the total team in Mumbai who despite their busy schedule continues to do their best in giving member care to the missionaries who go for treatment to Bethany hospital in Mumbai.

**Rest House in Bangalore:** A room at Mr. Malcolm’s residence is used as Rest House.

**Rest House in Puducherry:** Used by missionaries who come for treatment to JIPMER. The volunteer team takes care of the same.

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### Good Samaritan Fund

The GSF Scheme helps the missionaries in meeting the following unmet needs, during crises in their life and the life of their extended family members. The mission leader has been authorized to extend support to the missionary during the following crises and can claim reimbursement from MUT by forwarding the GSFund application along with the necessary documents.

- Travel assistance to missionary and their family to attend the funeral of their parents by Flight/Train/Bus. (Only for Onward Journey)
- Travel assistance to the missionary to visit their parents during their serious illness. (one time only)
- Travel assistance for missionary children to attend the funeral of their parents and to visit their parents when they are seriously sick (one time only)
- Funeral expenses of dependent parents and dependent children.
- Small assistance to meet the Major Medical expenses of their dependent parents.
- Missionaries’ daughter’s first delivery expenses (Only for two daughters)
- Assistance at the time of Natural calamities, Theft, and Persecution.

During the four months from 01.12.2019 to 31.03.2020, 76 missionaries have been assisted from GSFund to the tune of Rs. 5,35,907/- to overcome various crises. Out of donations raised, a missionary has been assisted to the tune of Rs. 3,000/- during the four months from 01.12.2019 to 31.03.2020. First Generation Christian missionaries have been assisted at the rate of Rs.7,000/- during their marriage from the General Crisis Fund. This assistance helps them to overcome their financial struggles up to some extent at the time of their marriage. During the four months from December 2019 to March 2020, six missionaries have been assisted and the total amount assisted was Rs. 42,000/- . Similarly, at the time of marriage of first-generation Christian missionary’s children, assistance at the rate of Rs. 10,000/- is being extended and during the four months from December 2019 to March 2020, sixteen missionaries have been assisted to the tune of Rs. 1,60,000/- from Mkids welfare scheme.

During the death or serious illness of a missionary’s extended family, it will be of great encouragement if volunteers from MUT visit them, pray with them and comfort them. We require more volunteers in Tamilnadu, Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra so that they can attend the funeral of missionary’s parents and comfort them and pray with them at the time of bereavement in their family.

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

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### Report from Pondichery

Praise be to God! MUT Pondy rest house was fully occupied and utilized by missionaries while taking treatment in JIPMER hospital.

Third Thanks Giving prayer of MUT Pondy rest house was held on 8th of March 2020. Rev. Isaac S. Raja shared God’s word; Mrs. Joni Kirubakaran shared their testimonies.

Deepa Jebakumar highlighted recent developments in MUT ministry and Mr. M Sam Paul shared about the MUT Pondy rest house functioning in the last year. More than 100 MUT Supporters and Volunteers participated. Pr. Selvakumar & Mr. Pr. Selvakumar & Mr.
Greetings to all the members of the MUT family in the wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We thank God for His guidance and help.

- The Coimbatore MUT rest house was used by seven people extensively for medical and ministry purposes.
- The Christmas day function also took place on 14th December 2019. More than 60 people attended and a small gift was presented to one of the bereaved families from Serve India Ministries. Reverend Suresh Abraham of Peace Makers Tabernacle gave a thought-provoking message on ’Mission Giving’. Many promised to support the ministry.

**Finance Policy:**

*Ear-marked funds will be used exclusively and entirely for the purpose donated.*
*Operating cost is kept to the minimum and funds donated towards MUT general expenses is utilised for the same.*
*Sponsorships are sought and fund-raising events are held to meet other specific expenses.*

We welcome all those who wish to join in encouraging the missionaries and the Christian Workers, in their efforts to build the Kingdom of God, to partner with MUT in praying for them and the ministry of MUT. Those who are in ministry, a Church, a mission organisation or a follower of Christ with a passion for missions, may volunteer your services in different ways, as the Lord leads you.

You may send your donations towards the support of this caring ministry, on a regular basis or as and when you are led by the Lord.

The four major support schemes under MUT are for Bereavement relief, Health care, Crisis relief and Retired Missionary Welfare. Contributions can be sent through MO/DD in favour of “Missionary Upholders Trust” or directly to the below mentioned MUT account along with an email intimation.

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

**Indian Bank, Anna Nagar, Chennai (A/c. No. 6688144561, IFSC Code IDIB000A025)**


**Indian Bank, Oddanchatram. (A/c. No. SB 844743809, IFSC Code IDIB0000021)**

Foreign contributions can be sent to the MUT account at **SBI Bank, Purasawalkam, Chennai. (A/c. No. 10332929984, IFSC Code SBIN0001515, Swift Code SBININBB458)** along with email intimation. Donors in USA and Canada may also route their contributions through the following agencies:

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

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

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

For further information, you may contact:
**Rev. Dr. Isac Soundararaj,**
General Coordinator,
Mobile: +91 9444 331 977 | +91 9600 989252
Email: mut.gc17@gmail.com

**Treasurer, Missionary Upholders Trust,**
30/AP 341, 29th street, Kambar colony, Ananagar West - 600 040, Chennai. India
Email: mut.treasurer@gmail.com
mut.vellore@gmail.com

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**MUT mobilises prayer support by:**
Publishing a prayer bulletin. Project updates in its newsletter ‘Care & Serve’.

**MUT actively raises volunteers:**
Works with churches and mission organisations who can depute personnel to manage projects.

**Financial support for the projects by:**
Creating awareness in Christ-followers in India and abroad about the needs of missionaries.

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

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**Encouraging missionaries to make affordable contributions towards specific projects to help them and their fellow workers. We have hospitals partnering with MUT in providing treatment for the missionaries challenged by health issues.**
This Scheme was introduced in 1997 to help families of Christian workers in times of death of a member missionary. The objective of this scheme is to provide Calamity Relief assistance & sustained support to the family of a deceased Member missionary by providing financial assistance of Rs. 1,25,000 from members’ contributions. They are also given child support, Christmas gift, financial Assistance for children higher education (Rs. 15,000 per year), Donor Support Payment of Rs. 10,000 on the death of a member missionary through a Support scheme.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>Cause of death / Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Fulmati Devi</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>GEMS</td>
<td>passed away on 16.12.2019, due to brain stroke. She left behind her husband Sr. Surendra Kumar aged 50 years, and six children, one daughter was married.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Rathod Royal Manilal</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>BYM</td>
<td>passed away on 23.12.2019, after a brief illness of kidney stones and jaundice. He left behind his wife Mrs. Shanthi Sulochana Rathod (36 years) and daughter Alice (11 years) and son Elim (3 years).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Pradeep Nand</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>National Missionary Society of India, Gonda UP</td>
<td>passed away on 08.01.2020, due to Renal failure. His wife Vineeta passed away on 24.10.2019, he leaves behind his 2 sons Joydeep Nand (23 years) and Yashdeep Nand (21 years).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Sukumari Raman</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>The Pocket Testament League (India)</td>
<td>passed away on 17.01.2020 due to cardiac arrest. She leaves behind her two children Manoj (29 years) and Rahul (27 years).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Solomon Ramaya</td>
<td></td>
<td>YWAM-TN</td>
<td>passed away on 18.01.2020 after suffering from multiple organ failure. He left his wife Mrs. Grace Baby and two daughters who are married.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Beena Gigi</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>Wycliffe India</td>
<td>passed away on 24.01.2020 after a prolonged illness. She leaves behind her husband Gigi Chayan, children Sam, Feba, and parents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Rajaram</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>Gospel Echoing Missionary Society,</td>
<td>passed away on 27.01.2020, due to stroke. He leaves behind his wife Mrs. Atwaro Devi aged 55 years and three married children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Dipit Ranjan Dandia</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Orissa Follow Up</td>
<td>passed away on 25.01.2020, He was suffering from various illnesses. He left behind his wife Amrita Digal, eldest daughter Amisha Dandia aged 9, second daughter Ditisha Dandia aged 7 and third daughter Alisha Dandia aged 16 months and his widowed mother.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastor Ghanasyam Nanda</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>Indian Evangelical Team</td>
<td>passed away on 15.02.2020, due to an attack by paralysis. He leaves behind his wife Mrs. Rina Nanda, two sons and one daughter.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Uphold these families in your prayers. Stand in the gap for missionaries who face ill health and other difficulties in life. Let us rise, bend our knees- to build a wall of protection for those who toil in the field. As one!
By the immense grace and the discerning love of God 19 MKids from seven different organisation were blessed in the Retreat from 13th to 15th January 2020 at UESI Retreat Center, Nambur, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. The theme of the retreat is a TREASURE HUNT from the Bible verse 2 Corinthians 4:7. The resource persons for this retreat are Bro. Isaac Peterson and his wife Sr.Angelin, Sis. Deepa Jebakumar, Bro. Jerald, Bro. Anbu and Rev. Isac Soundararaja.

The entire retreat sessions were designed into various segments like devotions for spiritual enrichment, brainstorming sessions just to find out the challenges of MKids who are attending the retreat. In the pre-lunch sessions lots of issues of the MKids like handling sins, overcoming peer pressure and fear, were addressed. The kids were led to the confession of sins and guided them to experience personal salvation. The post-lunch sessions are mostly group/panel sessions that enlightened the MKids to handle some of their life issues Biblically. Some sessions gave a clear understanding of their identity in Christ Jesus and encouraged them that they are more precious in the sight of God. The sessions on understanding missions and how to share the gospel to their friends motivated them to commit their lives to God to be a witness for Him and to serve God as missionaries. Lots of questions about understanding God, salvation is cleared both in the sessions as well as in the informal gatherings.

Bro. Jerald led the Mkids in worshipping God and action songs and the children enjoyed and were blessed. Bro. JEBAKUMAR organised sports on the first day evening and entertained the MKids. Bro. Samuel Johnson a Mkid working in VIT Guntur shared his experience as a Mkid and also the blessings from God. The mkids were motivated and they felt very happy and relaxed and also relieved from mental agony. On the second day, we had campfire in which all the Mkids shared about their 2 days’ experiences and blessings in the retreat. They also exposed their talents. As usual, food was delicious and stay was comfortable.

Thanks to UESI Retreat Center, Nambur, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. We also thank all the supporters who stood with us in prayers and financial assistance. We thank the Telugu church, Neyveli who partnered with us in this retreat by sending some of the church members like Bro. Selvakumar and his wife Sis. Sabitha to help in coordinating this retreat. We also thank the MUT Neyveli team who had been a great support to facilitate the retreat. Bro. James, Bro. Dalton and Sis. Shobhana Manivarman from Neyveli were a great blessing in all of the admin work at the retreat Center.

Feed back from the Mkids
- Understood the love of God
- Love God more
- Worship Him more
- Follow Jesus
- Live like Jesus
- Follow the lifestyle of Jesus
- Desiring to have Godly nature (holiness)
- Enhancing the relationship with God
- Intentionally desiring walking with God
- Making effort to talk to God, listening to God, being with God, Serve God, do best to God
- Obey God’s will
- Know about sins and how to overcome them
- Every problem can be solved only through God
- Obey parents
- Handling anger
- Be humble, be patient
- Love others, pray for others, forgive others
- Share the Gospel without hesitation
- Stay away from fear and sins
- Be happy with what God has given

To God be the glory… great things He had done!!!

**Report from Sivakasi**

On January 12th, 2020 we got the opportunity to conduct MISSIONARY CARE SUNDAY at CSI Church, Sivakasi East. Bro. Jebakumar from Tirunelveli shared God’s word. After the service, we met the youth and they assured us to help us in organising and conducting meetings. We also met the women’s fellowship. Two prayer groups have been started.

On March 17th we got an opportunity to share MUT Vision Casting to Bible Society Sivakasi Branch-Pastors Fellowship. 18 pastors attended. Three pastors assured to conduct Missionary Care Sunday in their Church after April.

**Get in touch with our project incharge**

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**Rest House (Chennai)** | Mr. Christudass  
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Care and Serve | April 2020
Retreat for the Beloved Families

- The vision of BFW is Emotional healing with hope in Christ from the bereavement at the earliest. Rejuvenate, Revive and Reunite with the Lord so that they can go back with renewed strength to the field. Meet the unmet needs (Emotional, Financial & physical).
- MUT Vellore Regional Beloved retreat was attended by 55 members from 13 beloved families and 9 non-member families. As an outcome, a regional team was formed for prayer and connecting Beloved Families region-wise.
- Christmas gathering for Beloved families was conducted from 22nd Dec 2019 to 2nd Jan 2020 in the MUT Oddanchatiram campus. Around 70 members from 27 beloved families spent quality time at the Christmas gathering.
- During the Christmas gathering, the one-day outing was organized to the nearby Kombai Dam and Ajay Natural Farms. Everyone enjoyed the trip and understood the need to eat natural foods for good health. This gathering gave them togetherness and mutual strengthening to the Beloved families.
- Grief counselling was given to a few of the Beloved families as soon as they lose their loved ones and to be strengthened emotionally to continue their mission.
- Pray to meet the unmet needs of the Beloved families in the areas of Emotional, Spiritual, Medical and Educational requirements of the family members.
- Pray for more regional groups to pray together and strengthen each other.
- Pray for the planned regional retreats in Tamil, Telugu, Oriya, and Hindi.
- Pray for the two Beloved family retreats planned in May 2020.

Oddanchatram Campus

**Training Programs:** 90 Missionaries (AEFI, AGAPE, BYM, Corner Stone, DMPB, GEMS, Gilgal, IEHC, IEM, ICGM, FMPB, FEF, KI, Mut, Mahanaiam, UESI, SU, VOS, YWAM) from 20 member missions and 97 others (SMILE Pastors, Independent Pastors and Friends of MUT) attended 11 seminars from Dec 2019 to March 2020.

**Other Programs & Retreats:**

- Biblical Counseling (Tamil) was held from 10th to 12th Dec 2019 for 27 missionaries Gilgal prayer fellowship ministries.
- Retreats for EU students, Nursing college staff and students, Experiential learning Training, and Teens camp were also held.
- Christmas gettogether for ODC pastors fellowship was held on 16th Dec 19
- 27 Missionaries from FMPB, KI, ICCC, NMS, UMI, SMILE and Independent Pastors with 41 children spent their christmas,
- Newyear gettogether at MUT ODC campus.
- Christmas program for non christians children was held on 29th Dec 19
- Meetings: MUT consultation with member missions planning meetings were held on 8th Dec 19 & 10th March 2020

**New things bought for ODC**

- 30 plastic chairs – Feb 2020
- 100 bed sheets in March 2020
- A Friend of MUT from Chennai replaced the old bulbs with new LED bulbs to reduce the cost of electricity in Jan 2020.

**Medical**

- MHC – 13 missionaries from GEMS, ICGM, BYM, FMPB, DMPB, MTB
- Medical Treatment – 29 missionaries from BYM, FMPB, IEM, ICGM, ICRM, DMPB, IMS, Mahanaim, MTB, GM, TVGM, MOM, GEMS

Report from Delhi

**Prayer**

The Delhi Core Group member meets every third Saturday to uphold the servants of God.

**Health Care-St. Stephens Hospital, Delhi**

We are thankful to St. Stephens Hospital management for giving approval to avail medical facilities by the MUT member missions at a concessional rate.

**Mission Enrolment**

During in the month of February and March, 2020, two Pastors Associations have requested to take membership under MUT SMILE,

- Influential Mission Trust, Uttar Pradesh and United Christian Association, Panipat, Haryana have approached for membership and currently it’s under process.

**Rev. Akash Choudhury’s visit to Chennai**

Delhi Core Group member Rev. Akash recently made a visit to MUT Chennai office to know more about MUT’s work and he could able to meet Bro. Isac Raja, Bro. Samuel Jebakumar and Bro. Ebenezer.

**Vision Casting Meeting**

A Vision casting meeting held in August-2019 at Panipat, Haryana with United Christian Association members.
MUT activities in Thirunelveli are centered around Mkids studying in Santhosha Vidyala School for Missionary Children in Dohnavur about 45 km from Thirunelveli town. It was an opportunity to organize government-buses to take the missionary parents traveling from up north to take their children home during their holidays and bring them back after the half-yearly holidays.

The senior class children who stayed back in the hostel for systematic coaching for public examinations were taken to Nazareth 50 km from Dohnavur on Christmas day on a picnic. Friends in Nazareth treated them to a special dinner and the traditional cracker show in St Luke’s church Nazareth. The entire programme was sponsored by friends from Odanchatram.

On New Year’s Day, volunteers from Thirunelveli met the children again in SV hostel. The children enjoyed the cakes and a short entertainment programme provided to them.

On the reopening day in January missionaries who had health needs were given assistance by the Paramasugasalai hospital functioning in the same campus.

On the 21st of March when all of a sudden the schools had to be closed because of the global health crisis, we could provide transport to the parents who managed to travel and take their children home.

Around 100 children are still in the hostel along with 40 helpers and hostel staff. Let us praise God and thank the SV management who are taking good care of the children. Some are still in Thirunelveli, Trichy and Chennai as ongoing traffic was halted. Let us continue to uphold the families of these precious servants of God and their families.

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**Friends of Missionaries/MUT (Dec 2019 to Mar 2020)**

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<tr>
<th>Bangalore</th>
<th>Mrs. Florence Pandiakumar</th>
<th>Dr. Jesudoss</th>
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<td>Chennai</td>
<td>Mrs. Godwin Ponsam</td>
<td>Mrs. Joyce Mallika</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mrs. Nirmala Jeyaseelan</td>
<td>Mrs. Kiruba Kalavathi</td>
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<td>Mr. V.J. Premkumar</td>
<td>Mrs. Mala</td>
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<td>Mrs. Rebeka Charles</td>
<td>Mrs. Minnalkodi</td>
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<td>Kovilpatti</td>
<td>Mrs. Faith Slacer Paul</td>
<td>Mrs. Mary Packiamani</td>
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<td>Ms. Ida Hope Paul</td>
<td>Mrs. Malar Charles Mohan</td>
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<td>Ms. Lovely Paul</td>
<td>Mrs. Mercy Muthukumari</td>
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<td>Madurai</td>
<td>Mr. Benjamin Raja</td>
<td>Mrs. Mercy Edwin</td>
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<td>Mr. N.A. Thiyagarajan</td>
<td>Mrs. Niranjana</td>
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<td>Mrs. Jebakani Immanuel</td>
<td>Mrs. Rani Jeyachandran</td>
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<td>Mrs. Rani Jeyasekaran</td>
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<td>Oddanchatram</td>
<td>Mrs. Gladys Stelma</td>
<td>Mr. Rajasingh</td>
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<td>Mrs. Pearl Anand</td>
<td>Mrs. Ruth.Ponraj</td>
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<td>Palayamkottai</td>
<td>Mrs. Betty Monsingh</td>
<td>Mr. Samson</td>
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<td>Mr. Alam Francis</td>
<td>Mr. Sakthivel</td>
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<td>Mr. Dhirmakanan Israel Muller</td>
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<td>Mrs. Geetha</td>
<td>Mrs. Usha Masillamani</td>
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**Report from Thirunelveli**

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

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

For further information, you may contact:
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Tel: +91 9600 989 245
Email: shanthi.ratnakumar@gmail.com
Next-Gen Caregivers Development & Progress

To develop next level caregivers within MUT, 62 persons who are already involved in various projects of MUT as volunteers/full-time workers, across 13 regions viz. Chennai, Vellore, Pondicherry, Arakkonam, Neyveli, Tirunelveli, Oddanchatram, Coimbatore, Bangalore, Cochin, Delhi, Kothagiri, and UP have been identified.

As the first step towards our objective, a Spiritual Gifts Questionnaire was sent to all to identify how their ministry would fit in MUT and to identify and know the gifts.

A temperament study should have been done and completed now. We are not taking this forward. Grouped each to a mentor and we want mentors to groom them further.

It is proposed to launch Caregivers one on one Training for those committed to the ministry of MUT.

Nourishing Our Faith In God

Faith is the condition of all the spiritual life, of the entrance into that life, and the steps to progress in that life. It behooves us, therefore, to give it all the nourishment possible. Faith can be strengthened and fed and will grow. But the growth of faith is often the very opposite to our thoughts concerning it.

We often suppose that faith is made strong by receiving great encouragement, by having quick and abundant answers to prayer, by high states of joy, by lofty visions of divine things. In reality these things do not strengthen our faith as much as we imagine. Our faith is to be nourished on the promises of God. Those promises are contained in His written Word. When God first called Abraham, He inundated his soul with a sea of promises. He spoke to him from the starry heavens, and from the soil of Canaan on which he walked, and by the visits of angels, and by the Holy Ghost in the depths of his being. Abraham saw great fields of light--great possibilities of things for himself and his posterity. His soul drank in these promises until his faith became wide and powerful, even before any of them were fulfilled.

God deals with souls today in a similar way. Yet when He calls any one to great degrees of perfection or of usefulness, He begins by opening up to them the promises of His Word, and the possibilities which they may achieve even before there are any outward signs of their fulfillment. The heart that anchors itself in the promises of God until those promises become as real as God himself, will have strong faith.

Another nourishment to faith is the removing from the soul of natural and human props. Naturally we lean on a great many things in nature and society and the Church and friends, more than we are aware of. We think we depend on God alone and never dream of how much we depend on other things until they are taken from us. If they were not removed we would go on self-deceived, thinking that we relied on God for all things. But God designs to concentrate our faith in Him alone by removing all other foundations and by detaching us from all other supports, one after another.

There are many souls which cannot endure this utter desolation of secondary supports. It would be more than they could bear.

They would react in open rebellion, so God allows them to have a junior faith and to lean on other things more or less. But to those who are able to undergo the strain of faith, He allows all sorts of disappointments--the death of bright hopes, the removing of earthly friendships or destruction of property, the multiplied infirmities of the body and mind, the misunderstanding of dear ones--until the landscape of religious life seems swept with a blizzard, to compel the soul to house itself in God alone.

At the time the soul is having all secondary support removed, it does not perceive what is taking place within itself. Afterwards it finds that faith has been growing and expanding with every wave that has beat against it. Faith grows when we least expect it. Storms and difficulties, temptations and conflicts are its field of operation. Like the stormy petrel on the ocean, faith has a supernatural glee in the howling of the storm and the dash of the spray.

Faith not only is nourished by the removal of earthly props, but by the seeming removal of divine consolation. Our answer to prayer seems too long delayed, and faith is tested to its utmost. It seems as if the Lord has turned against us and all we can do is to continue holding on with the pitiful cry of, “Lord, help me!”

Even then faith is expanding and growing beyond all we are aware of, by the very extension of the delay of the answer. The longer the Lord delayed in answering the prayer of the woman of Syrophoenicia, the more her faith became purified and intense. Long delays serve to purify our faith until everything that is spasmodic and ephemeral and whimsical is purged out of it and nothing is left to it except faith alone.

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Faith not only is nourished by the removal of earthly props, but by the seeming removal of divine consolation. Our answer to prayer seems too long delayed, and faith is tested to its utmost. It seems as if the Lord has turned against us and all we can do is to continue holding on with the pitiful cry of, “Lord, help me!”
Another nourishment to faith is God’s dealings with us by which He is constantly changing the providential channels through which He sends blessings to us. If God’s blessings flow on us in a certain way for any length of time, we unconsciously fix our trust on the way the blessing comes more than on the invisible fountain.

If the Lord gave the Jews water in the wilderness, sometimes it was from the rock and sometimes it was from a well dug in the dry sand. (See Numbers 21:16-18). When God sends us great spiritual refreshings, He will change the circumstances under which they come. When He sends temporal blessings in answer to prayer, He will change the channels through which they flow. He does not want us to become attached to any mode or phenomenon. He wants our faith perfectly united to Himself, and not to His mode of doing things. Hence He will disappoint us on the old lines of expectation and reveal His favors from a new quarter in a new way and surprise us with some great and sweet device of His infinite wisdom.

Thus our faith is strengthened by disappointment until it reaches such perfect union with God that it never looks to anybody or anything or any mode or any old channel or any circumstances or any frame of mind or any meeting or any set of feelings or at any time or season. Strong faith keeps itself swung free from all these things and dependent on God alone. This degree of faith can never be disappointed, can never be jostled because it expects nothing except what God wills, and looks to no mode except infinite wisdom. Its expectation is from God only.

**Hindrances to Faith**

The unbelief of the human heart startled and amazed Jesus at every turn. It pierced His sensitive nature on every side.

One hindrance to faith is that of looking at our surroundings and not to the fixed promises of Jesus. When Peter walked on the water and began to sink, Jesus said, “O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?” (Matt. 14:31). There were two things upon which Peter might fix his attention. One was the word “come,” uttered by the Saviour. The other was the waves of water.

Peter was not destitute of faith, for he asked the Lord to bid him walk on the sea. He felt an inward inclination to go out to Christ on the water, but wanted the authority of the Master’s word like a plank under his feet to authorize him in doing so. That sublime inward prompting which was evidently of God did not break down until his eyes were diverted to take in the danger of the waves.

Here we have the conflict in every life—that between the prompting of the inward Spirit to trust God without reserve and that of the senses which survey the instability of outward things. It is a battle between the invisible truth and the visible shadow, the stability of the rock and the motion of the sea.

The appearance of the waves and the significance of the word “come,” were to human reason directly the opposite of each other.

Through all ages the waves had never failed to drown, and on the other hand, God’s word had never deceived any one. Here were two invariable things that met as opposites. The only question was, which of these was the stronger? Which law should have the precedence—that of natural gravity or that of the word of God? The word “come,” from the lips of Jesus had more authority than all the rolling seas, for it was the power of His simple word that set every sea in motion. The water had the appearance of power, but in the word of Jesus was the real power.

Most of our life is illustrated by this incident. We live on a rolling sea. We are repeatedly shut up to the alternative of trusting either the appearance of things or the invisible truth of God. If we listen to the blowing of the wind, it will shut out the omnipotent voice of Jesus. If we look at the white-capped waves of circumstances, we shall not see the outstretched hand of Jesus. Each of us must come for himself to a fixed, irreversible decision as to which is reality, the wave or the word, and fasten ourselves to unchangeable truth.

Another hindrance to faith is that of receiving honor of men. Jesus asks us, “How can you believe which receive honor one of another, and seek not the honor that cometh from God only?” (John 5:44). It is not seeking honor but receiving it, that is, opening our heart to the cordial reception of human praise or flattery or fame. This utterly comes against the repose of the soul in God.

Receiving honor from men is a great virtue in the eyes of the world, but this is an instance in which things highly esteemed among men are an abomination to the Lord. It may not be seen at first glance how receiving worldly honor can prevent true faith in God. A little reflection will show us, however, that receiving worldly honor is an insidious, subtle and malignant form of idolatry. It has in it the element of man-fearing as well as man-worship. It is a subtle way of putting self in the place of God. It implies that our chief happiness comes from man. This is an ignoring of the true fountain of joy and instead the hewing out of broken cisterns.

This catering to man, this fearing or cringing to man, this love of place and distinction for self severs the soul from Christ, diverts its trust to some other object and destroys true faith.

Another hindrance to faith is the low state of faith in those around us, and especially the unbelief of those occupying high places in the visible Church. In the days of Jesus it was asked, “Have any of the rulers...believed on Him?” (John 7:48).

The great mass of nominal Christians today are in such an infantile state of grace as to lack the independence to launch out boldly and alone and trust God bravely in spite of the coldness and half-heartedness of those in religious authority over them. How often it occurs in every age that those who are set to guide the affairs of the Church and its education and economy have no warm, living faith in God.

Faith kindles faith. Fervent holiness inspires others to pursue it. Saints multiply in great revivals. In the world, great authors rise in clusters. The same thing is true of inventors, and there have been epochs in Church history where saints rose in constellations. We need to be aroused by those of faith, but let us beware of toning down our trust to the level of the half believers and doubters that swarm around us.

**Lack of Personal Consecration to God**

Perhaps the greatest hindrance to faith is a lack of personal consecration to God. We are taught this in the twelfth of Hebrews, where in order to look to Jesus as the “beginner and perfecter of our faith,” we are to lay aside every weight and the easily besetting sin. As long as there is defect in our consecration there will be corresponding defects in our faith.

We can trust God only to the extent that we are given up to Him. Your risk in a bank is up to the limit of your deposit. Consecration puts us right on believing ground. Consecration is cutting the shore lines, and faith is launching out into the deep. The real question is not why should I trust all to God, but why should I doubt anything of Him?
A Mother’s Prayer: The Lord’s Secret Weapon

Josh Walker

How many times have you heard in Christian circles over the years, the testimonies of men and women talking about how their mother had been praying for them for years before they turned to Christ? I feel like I hear this all the time. What is it about faithful, prayerful mothers and their children? What is it that often wakes them up early to pray for their son or daughter or what is it that compels them to sneak into their kid’s bedrooms at night and pray over them?

*A mother’s prayer is natural*

I’ve really been thinking lately about the intentionality that I notice my wife has as a mother. Don’t misunderstand me, I’m the dad, and I pray a lot for my kids, but I’m not afraid to say my wife is so much more intentional about it than I am. And I don’t think it’s something she has to do much planning for. It seems like she’s just naturally driven to pray for our kids in a way that I have to personally work for. It just seems so natural to her. I know it probably is work, but that’s just what it seems like in our household.

I think about my life and I remember my own mother. She would often come into my room, even as a teenager and come pray for me. I would see her in the mornings sitting in her ‘study chair’ reading the Bible and praying. She had four kids, and we were a handful, so I’m sure most of that time was praying for us.

I don’t think this is uncommon. A mother’s prayer is so powerful. It seems like it’s the Lord’s ‘go-to’ move to lead his children to repentance and a deeper walk with God.

*Bothering God*

I cannot think of a particular place in the Bible where it talks specifically about a mother’s prayer, but I think from some of the basic passages about prayer we can draw some pretty clear implications for why a mother’s prayer is so powerful and seemingly effective.

In Luke 18 Jesus tells his disciples a story about a persistent widow. He tells them upfront the point of the story in verse 1, “He told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.”

The story is pretty familiar to most of us. There’s a judge in a particular city and there is a widow who keeps asking him for justice against her adversaries. He consistently refused to help her in any way until he finally says to himself, “This woman is annoying.” (That’s my translation) “I’m going to help her because she will not stop bothering me.”

It’s an interesting parable because this judge is not even a good judge. He doesn’t fear God or respect man. Yet even he can be bothered to the point of helping this widow.

So Jesus turns it on the disciples and tells them that if a judge like this would help this widow out, because she bothered and pestered him, the same can be said of us in prayer.

I recognize that he’s talking directly to his disciples and I know that it applies to all of us, but I think there is something within our wives, our mothers that drives them to bother God with their prayers for their children.

“Day and night” it says that the widow asked the judge to give her justice. “Day and night” our mothers find themselves on their knees for their children. God, like this judge, hears these consistent prayers and moves to answer.

Obviously God is not annoyed with us for continuing to ask for the same thing over and over again. I think he’s actually inviting us to pray about the same thing over and over. Not because He wants to hear us beg him over and over, but because He has a sovereign plan to move in response, in his time, to our prayers.

*Don’t lose heart*

Remember the point of the parable? “…that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.”

Do you ever lose heart in prayer? I do.

The truth is, we all have something in our life. Maybe it’s a wayward son or daughter or you want your children to make a right decision in their life. My heart goes with you. Don’t lose heart today. God doesn’t want you to lose heart. God wants you to pray. He wants you to bother him over and over with your prayers. God is a good father who knows what we need before we even speak a word. But He is a God that loves to hear those words offered up to him in earnest petitions for the things that matter in our lives.

I’m thankful for my wife. I’m thankful for my mom. I’m thankful for my grandmother. All of these women consistently praying for their children. It matters. Don’t lose heart. I know it’s easy to lose heart. God hears your prayers. Ask him again!

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Training Calendar (May to Jun 2020)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills</strong>&lt;br&gt;Date: May 04 to 09&lt;br&gt;Medium: Tamil&lt;br&gt;Resource Person: Mr.Antony Samy &amp; Team</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Beloved Family Retreat</strong>&lt;br&gt;Date: May 13 to 21&lt;br&gt;Medium: Tamil&lt;br&gt;Resource Person: Mr.Ruben &amp; Team</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Life Revision Seminar</strong>&lt;br&gt;Date: Jun 08 to 13&lt;br&gt;Medium: English&lt;br&gt;Resource Person: Dr.K.V.</td>
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<td><strong>Marriage Enrichment Seminar</strong>&lt;br&gt;Date: Jun 15 to 18 / Medium: Tamil&lt;br&gt;Resource Person: Mrs.Hannah Alex &amp; Team</td>
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Report from Madurai

Prayer: MUF/MUT monthly prayer was held every month at Sis. Ebenezer Jebamani’s residence, Bro. James house, Mr. Joe’s house regularly. Sis. Maria Joe leads the prayer. In recent days due to covid-19 online prayer is going on twice a week. About 8 to 10 people are joining in this prayer. Prayer points related to missionary care, the challenges we face during this time are shared and prayed for.

We praise God for the opportunity given to Madurai team to mobilise about 60 city pastors from the Pentecostal churches in Madurai to facilitate vision casting in their church on missionary care. Through this vision casting about 21 pastors had already invited to their sunday worship service for casting the vision on missionary care in India. But due to the lock down it will be facilitated later. We also shared about MUT SMILE program to AG pastors at Madurai South Pastor’s meeting and Madurai Pentecostal Pastors meeting during 5.3.2020 and 10.3.2020 in Madurai.

9th MUT Member care & Missionary care consultation.
The Madurai team has taken the responsibility to facilitate the 9th MUT Consultation at PILLARS Center, Madurai from 2nd to 4th Sept 2020. The main purpose of this Consultation is to bring the member mission leaders, church leaders, missionary supporting families, Christian institutional heads for a time of fellowship and to wrestle with them in understanding the need to facilitate missionary care and member care for missionaries in the context of Indian missions today. We are hoping to have about 300 member mission leaders, church leaders, Christian institutional heads and missionary supporting families in this Consultation. Different Committees were formed and responsibilities were shared to work towards the effective conduct of Member Care Consultation at Madurai. It is decided that Special fasting prayer meetings is organised on 20th June from 10 am to 4 pm at Madurai. The venue for the fasting prayer will be announced later.
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