

## God's Word The Standard of the Christ-Centered Life

*T. Stanley Soltau*

We are all painfully aware that as a whole the moral standards of living have dropped considerably and are continuing to fall. As might be expected, under these circumstances, the standards which are usually regarded as the proper thing for Christians are also dropping very fast. I am constantly meeting people who are quite sure that inasmuch as they have what they call "believed on Jesus Christ," they have received salvation; but as far as their standards of daily living are concerned, they feel that they can do pretty much as they please and at the end will be certain of receiving forgiveness. To them faith in Christ is very largely a mechanical thing, involving no sense of responsibility in so far as their daily life is concerned. They look to the church, or to their Christian friends, or to the fact that they have been baptized, as a form of insurance that will somehow see them through, regardless of what their conduct may be. When I look at the Bible, however, I find no single ground for such an attitude, and I find on the contrary some very solemn facts which need to be thought through very carefully.

### *The Demands of a Holy God*

In the first place I am brought face to face with the reality of God's perfect righteousness and holiness. God, by reason of His nature, demands righteous and holy living on the part of all those who are His. He can be satisfied with nothing less than that; and He has made a perfect provision through the death

of His Son and through the gift of the Holy Spirit for you and for me and for every true believer to lead a holy and godly life, which is well-pleasing to Him.

In a number of places in the Old Testament God speaks of Himself as a consuming fire; that is a picture of His holiness and the righteousness which He demands of His people. Again and again we find the command, "Ye shall be holy; for I am holy," in the Old Testament (as in Leviticus 11:44). In the New Testament we find the same command, "Be ye holy; for I am holy" (1 Pet. 1:16) and a similar one, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matt. 5:48).

Secondly, in His Word God has set standards for His people which He expects them to learn and to obey. He gave to His people of old the Law, including the Ten Commandments. These latter have been described as one of the most unique phenomena in all literature, because of the wonderfully complete way in which in ten statements man's duty toward God and toward his fellow man has been set down.

In the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord Jesus Christ takes up those laws, which men had interpreted then as they do now, as referring only to man's outward conduct, but which Christ showed referred equally to the inner thoughts of the heart. He that hath unclean thoughts toward a woman in his heart is guilty of adultery in the eyes of God, and he that hateth his brother is a murderer.

Thirdly, these standards apply to every phase of our lives. One of the remarkable things about the Mosaic Laws as given to the children of Israel was their all-inclusiveness. They applied to every part of the life of those people, both nationally and individually. There was an intricate ritual in regard to their religious life; but there were also many laws and regulations as to their family and social life, marriage and divorce, the kind of food they should eat, the style and material of their clothes, the manner of trimming their hair, and the like. Similarly, their industrial life was also regulated; debts and interest on borrowed money, the cultivation of their fields, the sowing of seed, the threshing of the crops were all subject to specific laws.

The intention was to reveal to them that their every activity as God's chosen people was to be directed by Him, and was to be carried out in such a way that they would be well-pleasing to Him in every detail of their lives, and at the same time would be living lives entirely different and apart from those of the surrounding nations, who knew not God and were sunk in sin and worldliness.

What was true of God's people in those ancient times should be even more true of us today who call ourselves His children. The Apostle Paul in the fourteenth chapter of Romans gives us three definite standards which we can apply to every action of ours: Does it injure or help me? Does it injure or help my brother? Does it glorify God? These three tests should be applied to any habits of ours of which we are uncertain as to whether or not they should have a place in our lives.

In two other of his Epistles, Paul gives us some other all-inclusive instructions which should set the standards of our conduct, of our conversation, and even of our thoughts in all things. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31); "And whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Col. 3:17). If we all habitually lived in accordance with the principles laid down in these two verses, how very different our lives would be – every act carried out to the glory of God, even in the matter of eating and drinking; and every word spoken and every deed done being in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in order to glorify Him!

### *Making Possible the Impossible*

Of course, it is easy to pass such things off with the excuse that that is an ideal so high and so wonderful as to be quite beyond our powers of measuring up to it. All that is perfectly true. It

is impossible for us in our own strength, but for the one who is living a truly Christ-centered life it can and will be made possible. The Lord often commands His people to do what is quite impossible from the human standpoint, but whenever He commands He also provides a way.

As we think along these lines it should be very clear to us that it is a tremendously important thing for us to get into the habit of really studying our Bibles to become familiar with God's purposes and provision for His people; and then, in reliance upon the Holy Spirit, to learn increasingly to apply things which we learn to our daily lives. I am sure it would mean a number of revolutionary changes for many of us and we would discover not only many wonderful things in the Bible of which we are at present ignorant, but we would also discover new power for living to the glory of God and a new joy in the experience of being well-pleasing to Him.

In the apostolic days, before the books of the New Testament had been written, Paul had to tell new Christians, "Be ye imitators of me" (1 Cor. 4:16). They did not know what the standards for Christian living were, and so he had to tell them to watch him and be guided by his conduct under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

We ought so to live, with the Lord Jesus Christ as the center of our lives and with our thoughts and desires so fixed upon Him, that under the guidance of the Holy Spirit we may become living epistles, known and read of all men, to the glory and praise of God. If those who know us well should seek to imitate us in all things, what would be the effect on their lives and what would be the effect on the community? That is something worth thinking about! It would show us how self-centered we are rather than being Christ-centered. If we were less anxious to have our way, and were more concerned about His having His way in us day by day, there would be much more in us that would be a source of help and inspiration to others and a means of glory and praise to our God.

The psalmist of old must have been thinking of these matters when he wrote "Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee" (Psa. 119:11). May God give us grace to hide His Word in our hearts, His written Word and also His incarnate Word, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, that we, too, may be kept from sinning against Him.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## Values

- Absolute faith in God
- Humility
- Regular and focused prayer
- Unconditional love & compassion

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## 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.

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

# From the General Coordinator's Desk

Bro. John Daniel



After the pandemic this will be the first Care and Serve in hard copy after around 9 months. Our sincere apologies to each one of you. We had to do a bit of home work and God worked out things beautifully.

As a reminder I just thought of putting up the dimensions of MUT ministry.

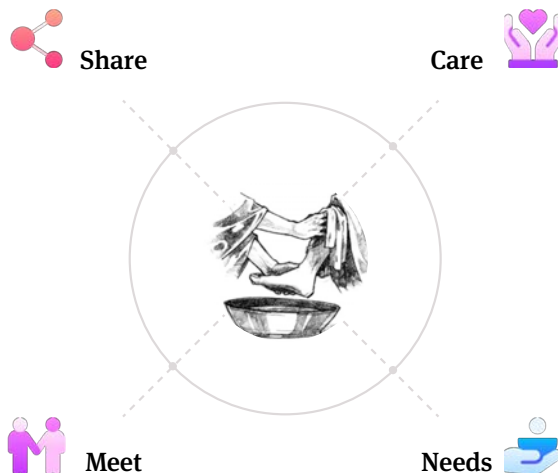
Keeping the above in perspective the different projects of MUT have been able to serve the servants of God in the best possible way. We cannot be complacent thinking the task is complete because there is a long way to go as we continue to serve. How sensitive are we in identifying the common needs yet to be met will give better impetus to the care giving ministry.

These days as we all meditate on the cross and the selfless life led by our Lord and Master and Saviour, we as Co-partners in the ministry of MUT are led to think about the MUT Logo symbolising Jesus washing the feet of His disciples. We, as His followers and partners in MUT ministry, need to realign our thoughts to serve the servants of God going to the extent of washing their feet. The words "He must increase I must decrease" keep ringing in my ears as I recommit during this Lenten time to serve my Saviour in and through MUT. I also want to urge each one of you as well-wishers, stake holders and partners in MUT ministry to join

hands to bring synergy in serving the servants of God.

## Glimpses of major milestones:

1. The MUT Consultation was conducted in 4 different regions for the 1st time. Thanks to all the supporters.
2. Releasing the Biography of JJR added greater climax to the final Consultation in Madurai.
3. The dream of our founder Late J.J. Ratnakumar to have a Rest house outside of South India is slowly becoming a reality.
4. The Care & Serve Team has been strengthened and the enthusiasm of the Team needs acknowledgement.
5. Instilling skills to develop the staff is taken seriously. Training programs are lined up for the same.
6. The salary structure was put in place and the financial assistance also enhanced.



Every project is intentionally looking at how to bring the caring aspect more and more alive in the different initiatives. The uniqueness of caring ministry has been going on for few decades. The time has come to evaluate each of the projects, of how much of member care has been provided and deviation, if any, from the basics. We are prayerfully considering an external Team to help us with the same.

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# Inter Mission Plan of Assurance in Calamity Times

## IMPACT

This Scheme was introduced to help families of Christian workers in times of death of a member missionary. The objective of this scheme is to provide Calamity Relief & sustained support to the family of a deceased Member missionary utilizing the contribution of all member missionaries. Contribution is also received from Friends of MUT in the support scheme. The bereaved family is assured of prayer support from fellow Christian workers and Friends of MUT. There are 712 bereaved missionary families as on date.

### *Numbers of Deaths from June 2022 to March 2023: 34 deaths*

The beloved missionary families are encouraged spiritually and emotionally by special retreats held by the friends of MUT periodically. A special retreat in Tamil was conducted from 8th to 11th June, 2022 for the missionary families who lost their

spouse in the past 2 years, at MUT, Oddanchatram Campus. 20 families participated and were blessed. Kindly pray for these single parent missionary families that they may be able to walk with God even during such difficult situations

Christmas Get together was conducted in Tamil for the missionary families who lost their spouse recently in 2 phases at Oddanchatram from 24th to 26th December 2022, and from 28th to 30th December 2022. Around 29 families attended this Christmas get together.

Education assistance was provided to children of beloved missionary families in the second week of June 2022. Christmas gift was given to beloved missionary families and dependent children during the first week of December 2022.



## Vellore Rest Houses

The primary purpose of the Rest house is to give comfort and rest physically and emotionally to the missionaries and their families so that they get rejuvenated both in body and in soul and return to their mission field with renewed vigour just like Elijah who was strengthened by the Master caregiver.

In Vellore, MUT has three Rest Houses – At Otteri, (20 rooms) Gandhinagar East (10 rooms) & Gandhinagar West (3 rooms).

**Otteri Rest House:** From June 2022 to March 2023, 294 missionaries have stayed in this rest house for various purposes. The occupancy for the medical purpose is 88%, for the education of children is 4% and personal reasons is 6%. Patients undergoing treatment for cancer, heart and surgery stayed in the rest house.

Daily evening prayer and fellowship at Otteri Chapel is held at 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm: Intercessory prayer is conducted every third Sunday from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm along with missionaries, volunteers, staff and friends of MUT.

Various development works viz. alteration of drain lines from

rest house, replacement of rusted mosquito meshes of windows, repair of RO plant, Borewell pump and sump motor and provision of kitchen cupboard doors in II and III floor were done during the last 9 months.

**Gandhinagar East Rest House:** From June 2022 to March 2023, 155 missionaries have stayed in this rest house for various purposes. 131 persons stayed for medical purpose, 20 for the education of their children, and 4 for personal reasons. Cancer, heart, and surgery patients stayed in the rest house during this period.

During the last nine months, rusted frame of the syntax tank was reconditioned, roof top was covered with wire meshes, and damaged sofas were repaired.

**Ebenezer Home: (Gandhinagar West)** From June 2022 to March 2023, 14 missionaries have stayed in this rest house for medical purpose -399 days & for educational needs for 8 days. During this period, cancer and kidney transplant patients stayed in the rest house. Please pray that God may strengthen the MUT staff and Volunteers so that best care may be given to the missionaries.

# Blessed to Bless

## **Introduction:**

“Blessed to Bless Scheme” (MUT Scheme) is an entry scheme to all Schemes of MUT, In this scheme member mission organizations join together upholding their co-member missionaries in the time of bereavement, sickness, and crisis.

## ***This is not an Insurance Scheme.***

Mission organizations are the vital links between MUT and their missionaries in providing care.

## **Membership details:**

Around 15,900 members of 163 missions have been enrolled under Blessed to Bless Scheme to become a blessing to other Christian workers who are working in His Kingdom at different places of India.

## **Contribution details:**

The member missionary fraternity sacrificially contributed a total of Rs. 71,90,10 from February 2022 to May 2022 to assist the

Beloved families, missionaries with various health challenges, and the missionaries faced with an unexpected crisis. It is a God given opportunity to help another missionary family going through very difficult times. But apart from this, partners of MUT and well-wishers of missionaries extend financial help through support schemes.

Following Missions joined Blessed to Bless Scheme to be a blessing to other Christian workers who are in need.

1. Eternal Grace Trust, Uttar Pradesh
2. Youth With A Mission, Kerala

We request you to kindly continue to uphold us as we facilitate missionary care among member mission organizations. It is very affirmative to see the way member missionaries are collaborating in the missionary care in caring for other missionaries who are in need.

# Vision Casting

The objective of the MUT Vision Casting team is to sensitize the believers about the challenges faced by missionaries and how MUT is taking care of unmet needs of missionaries working alongside the Missions/Christian organizations in addition to the care provided by their respective organizations. The same is done through arranging Missionary Care Sundays in various churches and informal sharing in groups.

Vision Casting was done in Whitefield Methodist Church,

Bengaluru on the August 14th, 2022 in two services. More volunteers are needed to identify new churches / groups where missionary care vision may be shared and to strategize with timely follow up. Also, prayer is sought for church support and cooperation to conduct Missionary Care Sundays.

Our future plans include member care Vision Casting programs in Pune, Chennai, Salem, Bangalore, Kerala and in North India

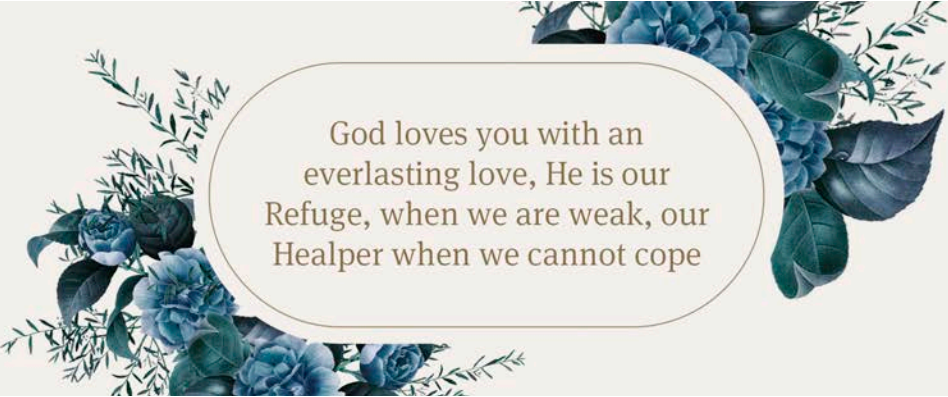
# Good Samaritan Fund

Under the Good Samaritan (GS) Fund Scheme the missions immediate help to their missionaries in meeting some of the crisis situations in their/their parents' life which affect the missionary emotionally and financially. Later MUT comes along side and reimburses the help extended from GS Fund.

During the eight-month period from July 2022 to February 2023, 100 missionaries have been assisted from GS Fund to overcome

crisis situations such as Air Travel expenses (Onward Journey only) to attend Parents Funeral, Parents funeral expenses, Parents' Treatment support, support for Daughter's-First delivery, financial support for Natural calamities, one time Travel expense to visit sick parents, marriage gift for missionaries etc.

Please do pray and partner with us in upholding the missionaries.



God loves you with an everlasting love, He is our Refuge, when we are weak, our Healer when we cannot cope

# From the Archives

letters written by JJR Annan, founder of MUT // 14th June 2016

At the outset, I would like to express my dream that I have cherished for the last 20 years, while serving as a caregiver to hundreds of missionaries in India:

“I wish to see all the missionaries and the leaders in missions – men and women, young and old – to live a life without too much stress and without burning out, to be prepared to handle crises, living with spiritual sharpness at all times, having an understanding of fasting or being joyful even in singleness, having healthy bodies, leading a purposeful life with focused vision, having all their basic needs met, leading a life with contentment and commitment.”

Is my dream realistic? If my dream comes true, I believe all the missionaries will always be physically fit, always growing in the Lord and filled with God’s abundant grace and love, focused on the divine purpose and all the Biblical values – free from all the addictions of the world, anointed with the power of the Holy Spirit to guard oneself from the cunning attacks of the evil one – having a daily walk with the Lord Jesus, with quality times of meditation soaked with the word of God, sacrificial love and kindness to love the unlovable and serving with humility that Christ demonstrated throughout His life on the Earth!

But, what is reality?

Pain, suffering, crisis, marriage problems, addictive behavior, financial problem, child-raising problem, loss of calling and vision, lack of integrity, loneliness, an absent God, depression and trauma – all a part of missionary’s life.

How do we integrate these with the normal life of a missionary?

In his foreword to the book “Thriving in difficult places” by Sister Brenda Bosch, Bro Floyd one of the greatest missionaries writes, “If I could have life over again, I would again choose to be a missionary. I have no regrets and but ‘many gratitude’s for the life I have lived.’

I have had the same thoughts many times in the last 20 years, I would also say the same thing, as would all of you sitting in this hall, because when the “call from the master” is very clear in life, there is no other way but to obey.

However, I am wiser now at the end of my life, with all the challenges that I have had faced on several fronts, but I am equally sure that I need to be different in several areas! One of the glaring mistakes that I have made was that when I took the decision to become a full timer for the Lord, I did not take enough measures to prepare my family. I was careless in many other areas also, as I did not know the power and the cunning ways of the evil one. I struggled to overcome the challenges with just my feeble strength which was not enough. I did not know how to read and understand the Bible properly and listen to His small voice.

In the last 20 years, I have come across many leaders of missions and grass root workers facing similar challenges and spiritual battles! As a supporter of missions during my days in Missionary Upholders Family, I was only interested in the task of reaching the unreached and was least concerned about His people, the missionaries and the evangelists. When God opened my eyes to see the plight of God’s servants and used me to start

Missionary Upholders Trust, my mindset changed and I started concentrating on the welfare of missionaries and their families.

But, what is Member-care? We in MUT have taken many years to understand this! All the time when we were involved in missionary care, the task which was laid in our hearts, we had very little time to care for our own colleagues, brothers and sisters working along with us!

In the year 2014, we came out with the following statement after a daylong meeting to make sure ‘member care’ is given top most priority in our ministry in MUT! The statement runs like this –

“As a family of MUT, we undertake to love, understand, pray, accept, serve and encourage one another in the spirit of love and strive to meet the unmet needs of all members in the team. All our actions must be aimed to fulfill the God given purposes for self, family and the ministry of MUT”.

One of the biggest challenges now faced by missions in India is to get quality workers for their missionary work! In the early and middle 70’s, hundreds of people from different walks of life, mostly well-educated and well placed in the society with abundant skills, knowledge and attitude required for missionary work, were leaving their comfort zone to go to remote places and doing herculean tasks without any expectations or demands, and without any prompting or cajoling or offers of attractive remuneration commensurate with their merits! Where are all these people now? People have now started demanding for their rights! Others are coming out ideas to compensate with remunerations to attract people to do God’s work! Of late, it is very sad to hear about cases filed by the servants of God at all levels before secular courts fighting for their rights and demanding justice! What a tragedy!

But my gut feeling is that if only member care is instituted in missions, we may have deliverance from all the above. Some people have started finding fault with the Member care approach! They have even come to the conclusion that member care efforts are leading their people to put their faith more on human beings than on the Lord! I have heard some people say that MUT has spoilt their workers! Some complain that the leaders are becoming ‘soft’ and the team members are getting to be more ‘worldly’.

The question before us is ‘Are we prepared to spend time, effort and money on discipling the missionaries and mentor them to help them grow in the Lord and be filled with agape love to disciple the converts reached by them and form witnessing churches? Lack of proper time with the Lord and regular meditation to discern His purpose, make the leaders and his team members lead a shallow Christian life and in turn, the Churches they establish are also filled with nominal Christians and they crumble at times like this when persecution is on the rise!

‘True Member Care’, I believe strongly, will make sure that people become Disciples of Christ bonded with His love and shared vision. What do I mean by ‘shared vision’? Everyone in the organization has one mind and one accord and the atmosphere in the mission is that there is mutual trust. This helps in building one another so that all in the ministry become

Disciples of Christ. Then they build witnessing churches to transform the society and the people groups they work among to reflect the image of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I want to urge us to find ways and means, as Christians committed to walk in love, finding ways and means to remove the distrust prevailing between leaders. What are some ways

## SMILE

“MUT SMILE” is an entry scheme to help the full-time Christian Worker’s family by providing

- a) Calamity relief and immediate cash assistance to the spouse/ family of a Christian worker on his/her death, through member contribution; and
- b) Other benefits like one time assistance for the treatment of heart attack, cancer and kidney failure and Christmas gift through the support scheme of MUT.

In addition to financial assistance, guest house facility in MUT

workers joining the mission will be cared for to actualize ‘the call’ they have received. This, I believe will enable all the missionaries to gratefully acknowledge at the end of their life to feel the same way as great missionaries like Floyd felt: “If I could life over again, I would again choose to be a missionary. I have no regrets and but ‘many gratitude’s for the life I have lived.”

rest houses, Medical Check-up at empaneled hospitals and Training camps at Oddanchatram campus (ODC), prayer support and counselling and assistance during Christmas are provided to the Christian Pastors and full-time workers.

During the period July 2022 to March 2023, 8 organizations have joined the SMILE Project. Fourteen members had their “Home call” during July 2022 to March 2023. Two members given Covid Death Relief and families of 13 SMILE members were given Death Calamity relief and 4 members were assisted towards medical expenses.

## Retired Missionaries Welfare

Purpose of Retired Missionary Care is to care for & meet some of the unmet needs of retired missionaries and build a strong relationship with them so that they will be revived and continue to live for the Lord till the end. It is amazing to see God’s provision through the sacrificial donations received from God’s Children. As on 31st March, 2023, nearly 991 missionaries have retired from 85 organizations.

Member care is extended to Retired missionaries in the following ways:

Rest houses at Vellore and Oddanchatram were utilized by retired missionaries from 12 missions for medical purpose and from 2 missions for non-medical purposes.

Medical Assistance was provided to needy retired missionaries for major / minor surgeries, hospitalizations and regular medicines.

An annual medical assistance for retired missionaries above 65 years, who have not received any other medical assistance during this year, was provided for their minor & medical needs.

Affordable cost, generic medicines were provided to retired missionaries of 15 organizations.

A four-day retreat on the theme “Encouraged to Encourage.” was held in MUT Oddanchatram Campus for the Retired Missionaries from 6th to 9th September 2022. 35 Retired Missionaries from 14 missions participated and were blessed. Prayer was offered for the nation. Medical tips were given and screening was done for retired missionaries and some went to Christian Fellowship Hospital (CFH) for further medical review. The participants went back encouraging one another and strengthening their relationship with God.

An annual retreat for retired missionaries was arranged in Oddanchatram from 21st March to 24th March-2023. 38 retired missionaries from 13 Missions participated and were blessed. 32 retired missionaries underwent medical review in CFH. Retired missionaries shared the challenges faced in their retired life. Sessions were taken on how retired missionaries can train younger missionaries and others like Timothy to become efficacious servants of God by their experience and evangelical skills. Retired missionaries went from the campus renewed in spirit by the theme “Wisdom comes with the age”.



Retired missionary retreat held @ ODC from 21.03.2023 to 24.03.2023



Retired missionaries @ Christmas get to gather

# Health Care

Providing Medical assistance to missionaries as they faced physical challenges in course of their life journey, was one of the objectives from the very inception of MUT. The assistance is done through the following interventions.

The health department of MUT through MHC program is trying to bring about the awareness of being fit to serve better and to identify their health issues. By the grace of God and due to our continuous emphasis, missions are showing interest to have their missionaries go through the MHC.

A medical health camp for UESI staff was organized for from 28th to 30th December 2022 during their retreat at Karunya Mathampalayam Campus, Coimbatore. 299 missionaries availed

the facility and were blessed.

Apart from this MHC was arranged for 35 missionaries who are spread all over India. From June'22 to March'23, totally 330 missionaries from 18 organisations underwent the same in different mission hospitals and few in other hospitals. Some are in the process of undergoing MHC. MUT wishes to see that every missionary to complete MHC at the earliest.

From June'22 to March'23, medical financial assistance was provided to Missionaries from 119 Organisations. Generic drugs for Diabetics, hypertension, Cholesterol, and calcium & vitamin deficiency were provided to missionaries from 36 Organisations.



# Lamtaput Rest House Project

This Rest House project is being implemented in Lamtaput, Koraput Dt. South Eastern Region, Odisha, to meet the common Unmet needs of Missionaries including the 'felt needs of the concerned missionaries.'

The Rest House Building project commenced in January 2022. Though during the monsoon season the building work progressed very slowly, the work developed faster after monsoon and by December, 2022 the bricks work of the 2BHK staff quarters with two floors was completed. The internal plumbing, electrical, flooring, cupboard works, windows and door wood

works are yet to be completed. The rest house building work has come up to the ground floor roof level.

Kindly uphold the new Engineer, based in Lamtaput, taking care of the project from March 1, 2023. Simultaneously we are trying to complete the staff quarters- two floors with all fittings by the end of April 2023 and the brick work of the rest house -two floors, with ten rooms by the end of May 2023.

Electricity connection was given on 27th March through our new EB Transformer. Thank God for His grace and provision.





# Book Release

## *Trailblazer in Missionary Care- JJ Ratnakumar Biography*

Mr. JJ Ratnakumar's Biography in English called "**Trailblazer in Missionary Care**" was released at Madurai on 9th November 2022. Mr. J.S. Anbu, former president of MUT, invited the members to have a few moments of silence to recall the memories of Late Mr. J.J. Ratnakumar, fondly called JJR Annan, his dedication and love for the servants of God. Mr. V.D.S. Chandrasekar, Associate General Coordinator, MUT, who journeyed with JJR Annan, shared some glimpses from the book.



Dr. Kuruville Varkey prayerfully dedicated and released the book.

Mrs. Shanthi Ratnakumar, wife of late Mr. JJ Ratnakumar handed over a copy to Dr. Kuruville Varkey. Dr. Lancelot, President, MUT presented him with the souvenir 'Mission Call to Home Call'. Dr. Selwyn remembered JJR's dedication and commitment to serve God's servants and hoped that the book would make a difference in the lives of people and offered a prayer of thanksgiving.



# MKids

The objective of the Mkids Welfare project is to Nurture, Mentor, Support and Empower Missionary Children to be Witnesses for Christ.

The MUT Volunteers from Tirunelveli had offered their time and effort in taking care of the Mkids studying in Santhosha Vidyalaya, a school for missionary children at Dohnavur, Tamil Nadu, by visiting them on Second Saturdays, and helping missionary children and their parents with transportation during their Christmas holidays. Field trips were sponsored for the students of Std 10, 11 & 12 who had to stay back for coaching purposes. Trips were organized in January 2023 for 300 students in 3 batches to Port Trust, Tuticorin, Thirparapu Falls in Kanyakumari and Trekking in the neighbourhood hillock

Two retreats were held in Madurai and Odisha on the theme Not Left Alone based on John 8: 29. 61 Mkids from 14 organizations participated in the retreat held bilingually in Tamil & English at the Retreat Center, 'His Rest' in Saranthangi, Madurai from 2nd to 4th October, 2022. Devotion and various sessions on Christian living, and facing challenges were conducted. The participants were renewed in their faith and 9 Mkids committed to join full time ministry. 62 Mkids, from 11 organizations participated in the retreat held bilingually in Odiya & English at 'Hill View Cottage',



Gopalpur, Ganjam from 6th to 8th October, 2022. Many Odiya speaking friends voluntarily stayed with the Mkids and could connect well with them. 39 Mkids surrendered their life to Jesus Christ for the first time. Follow up was also done through Zoom. Praises to God!

By God's grace MUT was able to continue support missionary children in their graduate studies. External financial assistance was also arranged to meet the unmet needs of some of the children.

The Mkids Core team members contact the children who had attended the retreats and continuously mentor and guide them. A career counselling session was done for Nursing students. Some older Mkids, even after their marriage, are in constant touch with the Core team members and seek guidance and counselling.

One of the felt needs of the Mkids is employment after graduation. With this need in view, as a pilot project, some of the final year missionary children are being trained in sharpening their aptitude for facing competitive examinations and interviews. Professional trainers have come forward voluntarily to help these children. The training will be extended in future.



# Missionary Upholders Family

MUF was formed in 1984, mainly to challenge and encourage Christian families to involve in missions by raising financial support and prayer for missionaries. There are over 1,400 missionary upholders families (MUF) who meet regularly for prayers and also support 470 missionaries from various mission organizations. 100 volunteers of MUF along with the missionaries of various mission organizations raise money for the medical assistance of member missionaries of MUT. There

are several local units at Thirumangalam, Dindigul, Madurai, Oddanchatram, Pondy, Neyveli, Trichy, Vellore, Bangalore, Chennai, Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai etc. where the contributions are collected and sent to missions.

Two meetings were conducted to decentralize the MUF collections in Madurai. Pray for effective ways that would be planned and many local volunteers to be raised.

## 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, energize and to motivate them, to build the kingdom of God effectively.

MUT is an umbrella body covering over 260 Organizations as member missions covering about 23,100 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 36 people (including 4 pensioners) 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.

## 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)**

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

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

MUT FCRA New Bank Account Details:

**SBI, New Delhi Main Branch. (A/c. No. 40102284535, IFSC Code SBIN0000691, Swift Code SBININBB104)**

FCRA Cell, 4th Floor, No.:11, Sansad Marg, New Delhi - 110001

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

**In USA**

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

**In Canada**

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

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

For further information, you may contact:

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General Coordinator, Mobile: +91 9500 989 408 | +91 9600 989252  
Email: mut.gc17@gmail.com

**Treasurer, Missionary Upholders Trust,**

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

Email: mut.treasurer@gmail.com / mut.vellore@gmail.com

# 9th MUT Member & Missionary Care Consultation

The 9th MUT Member and Missionary care Consultation was held in 4 regions in view of the pandemic situation in our country.

6th to 8th October 2022

at *Pallotine Animation Center, Nagpur*

17th to 19th October 2022

at *India Campus Crusade for Christ, Bangalore*

2nd to 4th November 2022

at *Navjoti Niketan, Patna*

9th to 11th November 2022

at *Pillar center, Madurai*

The purpose of the Consultation was as follows:

1. To bring all the member missions region-wise for a time of prayer and fellowship.
2. To discuss how to meet the challenges in member care during these changing times.
3. To identify if there are any more unmet needs of the missionaries and their families and have a better member care.

Themes for the 3 days of consultation was Stewardship, How God Cares and Hope respectively.

The core areas of Member care covered in each region during this 2-and-a-half-day consultations were:

1. Organizational Stewardship
2. Finance Planning for missionaries
3. Preventive health care practices
4. M-kids Child friendly policy
5. General crisis
6. Member care at times of persecution

Core team was formed in each region consisting of mission leaders and MUT volunteers who took up the responsibilities in organizing the consultation in each region. By His immense grace, 90% of the member missions who attended the consultation were CEO's, Board Trustees, or Member care persons. Out of 164 missions, 132 member missions attended the consultation (nearly 80%).

Consequent to the discussions, and deliberations the following proposals came up:

Initiative by MUT for better Member care

1. MUT to encourage Missions to identify a staff or a volunteer to take up the responsibility as Health Coordinator. MUT will facilitate training along with CMC.
2. All Mission organisations to conduct Master Health Checkup (MHC) for their missionaries at the earliest. Health Coordinator to Coordinate with MUT.
3. MUT to conduct Training of Trainers (TOT) and Personal Development Programs in Hindi.
4. To extend the services of MUT more effectively to all the regions of the country.
5. MUT will facilitate the following for better Member care
  - a. MUT to organize Financial Management Training for CEO's of Mission Organisations.
  - b. MUT to initiate Member Care Training for Member Care Representative of all organizations.
  - c. MUT to encourage Missions to Frame POSH Policy and Child Friendly Policy.



Bangalore



Nagpur



Patna



Madurai

# Oddanchatram // Report

Oddanchatram Campus was planned in 2003, for the welfare of missionaries and full time Christian workers for the following activities:

1. Quality vacation
2. Medical treatment & Master Health Check-up
3. Spiritual & Emotional Training Programs
4. Counselling
5. Retired Missionaries Stay
6. Rest cum Prayer

**Rest House and Medical:** A total of 155 Persons, stayed in the Oddanchatram Rest House, during the period July 2022 to March 2023. A break up tells us 30 came for MHC, 68 for medical needs, 33 for Rest & Prayer, 24 for other needs. They belonged to 40 different organizations and few Independents, as well as two Retired Missionaries.

**Personal Development Programs:** God's servants face spiritual, psychological and physical stressors and in many cases, they are unable to receive the support they need due to several reasons. The stress study results revealed that these pressures lead some of the missionaries to break down, become inefficient in their work or develop problems in relationship. The training programs are organized at a subsidized cost for improving inter-personal

relationships, enrichment of marriages, healing of emotional wounds, meditational programs for spiritual renewal and programs for team building.

God graciously enabled us to conduct 17 programs on various topics viz. Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills, Marriage Enrichment Seminar, Spiritual Development Seminar, Life Revision Seminar, Inner Healing Seminar, Biblical Counselling Seminar, Lead Like Jesus program, Pre-Marital Counselling and Pre Retirement Orientation.

**Retreats:** Santhosh Vidyalaya Students cum Parents Retreat was conducted from October 01-10, 2022. 25 Families with 27 adults and 49 children, totally 76 had a lively stay in our Campus for ten days.

**Beloved Families Retreat:** 33 Families with with 54 children attended Beloved Family Retreat in two batches from 24 – 26th and 28 – 30th of December, 2022. God used the resource persons to bring solace to the Beloved Families and send them with great Hope in the LORD.

**Retired Missionaries Stay and retreat:** 38 Retired Missionaries came for retreat from 21st to 24th March 2023. They also had their medical checkup. Mrs. Dorothy Arockiam, Retired GEMS missionary is staying in Campus.

## Friends of Missionaries

*July to March 2023*

Bangalore	Mr. Selvam George
Chennai	Mr. Lordson David
	Mrs. Jesintha Felaranjini
	Mr. Jaikar Jesudos & Mrs Kavitha Jaikar
Nagercoil	Mrs. Ruth Stanly

Tiruvannamalai	Mr. Hariharan
Tuticorin	Mr. Rajkumar S
Vellore	Mr. Baktham M
	Mrs. Jeba Charles
	Mrs. Elusurani G

### What is FOM (Friends of MUT)?

Life Membership is Rs. 1,000/-. Contribution towards FOM is kept under a separate Corpus Fund. Interest from this is spent for the expenses towards printing brochures, receipt books and Care & Serve. So requesting you to become a FOM member and encourage others too.

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

**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.

*Life membership - Rs. 1,000*

**For friends abroad**  
*Life membership - Rs. 10,000*

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

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

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

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.

# Christ Is Set Against Sin

Rich Carmicheal

One of the tragedies of our day is that many people, even a substantial number within the church, believe that Jesus Christ is soft on sin. These folks like to point out that Jesus tells us not to judge and that He told the woman caught in adultery that He did not condemn her. They emphasize how compassionate, merciful and forgiving He is toward sinners.

Of course, such things are true. The problem, however, is that when such truths are considered in isolation and taken out of context, they provide a very incomplete picture of Christ's view toward sin and righteousness. The reality is that when we take into account the whole of His life and teaching, we see clearly that Christ was (and is) absolutely and resolutely set against sin. Consider even these few vital truths:

- Christ Himself was devoted to righteousness and lived a perfect and sinless life. He was (and is) “holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners...” (Heb. 7:26). He was tempted in all things as we are, and was tempted severely, even directly by the devil himself, and yet He was without sin (Matt. 4:1-11; Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22). He was completely devoted to His Father's will, always kept the Father's commandments and always did the things pleasing to the Father (John 6:38; 8:29; 15:10; Heb. 10:5-10). He “loved righteousness and hated lawlessness” (Heb. 1:9).
- Christ had a much deeper definition of sin than the culture around Him. For example, He taught, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery;’ but I say to you, that every one who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart” (Matt. 5:27-28). He was concerned not only about outward violations of God's commandments, but about inner thoughts, motives and desires as well. He condemned hypocrisy and stressed that genuine righteousness was necessary for one to enter the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:20; 23:23-28). Instead of downplaying the significance of sinning against God's law, Christ came to fulfill the law (Matt. 5:17).
- Christ gives strong warnings to those who continue to sin. For example, He teaches, “And if your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out, and throw it from you; for it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell...” (Matt. 5:29-30). Although He does not mean we are literally to remove our eye, His point is clear: Avoid sin at all costs.

The need for repentance from sin is central in Christ's teaching. He started His earthly ministry preaching, “Repent...” (Matt. 4:17), and from heaven He continues to call people, even His church, to repentance (Rev. 2:1 – 3:22). In the example mentioned earlier of the woman caught in adultery, Jesus certainly extended great mercy toward her, but He also told her to go on her way and “from now on sin no more” (John 8:11). He warns in the closing portion of Revelation that those who continue in sin will not be allowed into the heavenly city: “Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying” (Rev. 22:15).

- Christ gave His life to save people from sin. Sin is of such consequence, it required the most costly and precious sacrifice possible to atone for it – the life and blood of the Son of God. He “gave Himself for our sins that He might deliver us out of this present evil age...” (Gal. 1:4). He was “pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities” (Isa. 53:5). He endured the Cross, despising its shame, in order to redeem us and free us from our sins by His blood (Heb. 12:2; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Rev. 1:5). How terrible sin must be in the Lord's eyes for Him to have gone to such drastic means to rescue us from it!
- Christ will judge sin. Although Jesus shares that His Father did not send Him to judge the world, but to save the world, He goes on to share that those who love darkness and whose deeds are evil are already under judgment (John 3:17-20). And what is more, a day of final judgment is coming, a day when the One whose robe is dipped in blood will in righteousness judge the living and the dead (Acts 17:31; 2 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 19:11ff.). There is a day of wrath coming, even the wrath of the Lamb (1 Thes. 1:10; Rev. 6:16), on those who are unrepentant and ungodly (Rom. 2:5; 2 Pet. 3:7). Christ will command those who practice lawlessness to depart from Him (Matt. 7:23).

## Our All for Christ

These truths remind us that we must treat sin seriously. The challenge to do this is all the greater as our culture breaks down and sin is tolerated, redefined, whitewashed and even embraced. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8), and His views toward sin have not changed and will never change. No matter what popular opinion may dictate, what the Lord sees as sin is sin.

How thankful we can be that Christ died so that we can be forgiven, cleansed and set free from sin. How thankful we can be that He sympathizes with our weaknesses and is able to come to our aid when we are tempted (Heb. 2:18). How thankful we can be that we can unite with Him in His death, dying to sin, and unite with Him in His life, becoming alive to God and righteousness (Rom. 6:1ff.; 1 Pet. 2:24). Let us embrace Christ and His love and sacrifice for us, living the holy and righteous life He makes possible. He gave all that He had to rescue us from sin; let us in turn forsake sin and give our all to Him.

*“For the grace of God has appeared ...instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession...” (Titus 2:11-14).*



1. Inner Healing Session| 22nd October 2022

2. Lead Like Jesus | 14th - 17th June 2022

3. Lead Like Jesus | November 2022

4. Life Revision Seminar | Jan 2023

5. Pre-Marital Counseling| | November 2022

6. Pre-Marital Counseling| | 28th to 30th June 2022

7. PRO | 7th to 10th March 2022

8. Person to Person- ABC Level | 13th - 18th Mar 2023

9. SYIS | 17th - 22nd October 2022

10. SYIS | 18th - 23rd July 2022

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Lord, you know better than I know myself that I am growing older and one day will be old.

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs.

Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all;

but you know, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details, give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains, they are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for growing humility and a lessening cocksureness

when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet;

I do not want to be a saint, some of them are so hard to live with, but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talent in unexpected people, and give me O Lord the grace to tell them so.

AMEN.

## Prayers for Everyday Life