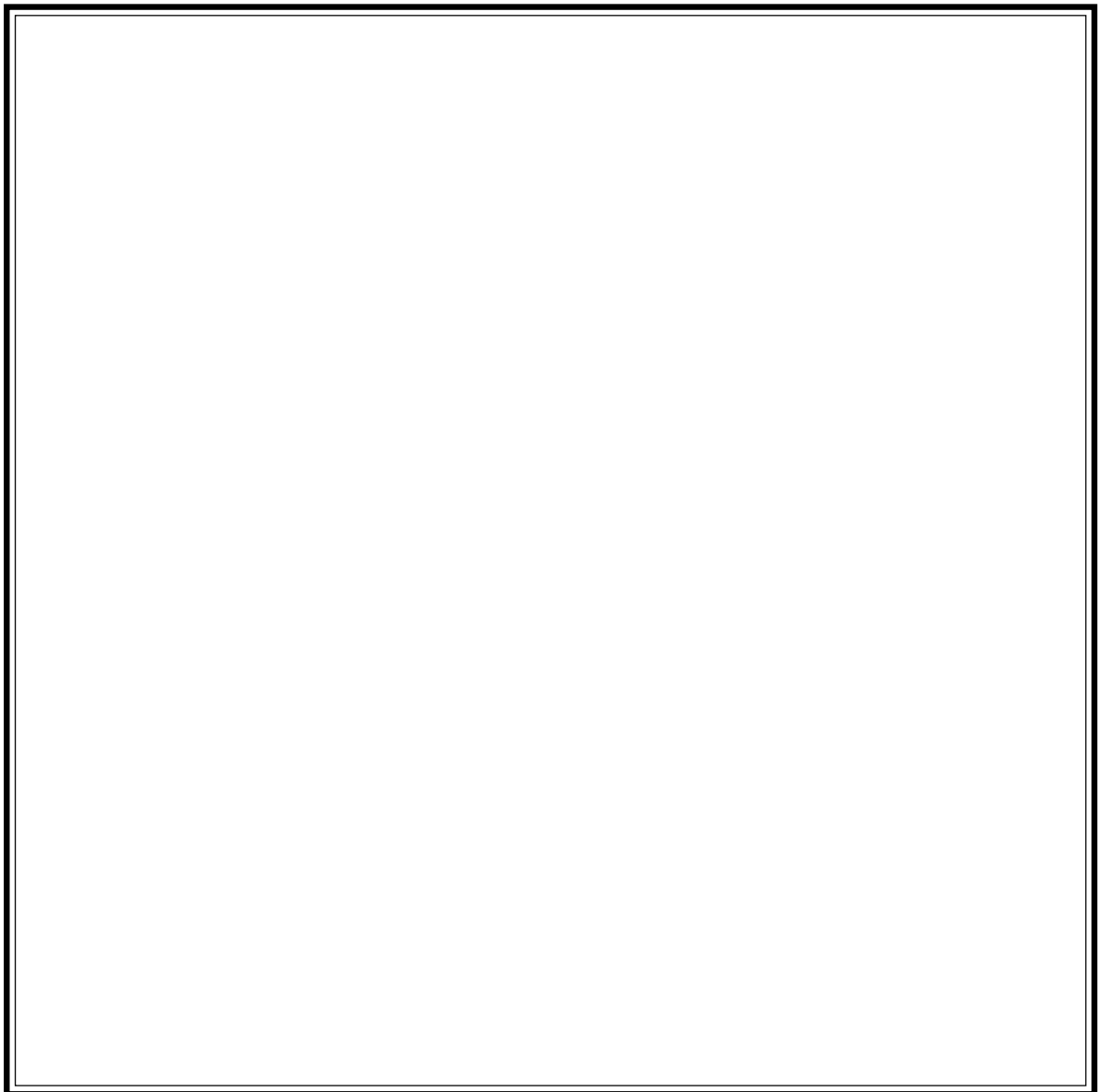


YEAR OF HARVEST

<http://www.BlessingYouthMission.org>



*AUGUST 2005*  
*Volume 34 Issue 8 No. 353*



# Harvesting Together

A. Lionel

The calling of the first disciples recorded in Luke 5:1-11 is a classic case of Team Work. This passage talks about a great catch of fish. The harvest was so plenteous that one or two harvesters could not manage the task. They had to “signal their partners in the other boat to come and help them.” The result: the catch filled both boats. I have listed below some of the requirements of an effective team, based on this passage.

## 1. *Jesus, the Team Leader (vv 4,5)*

“When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon: “Launch out into the deep and let down your net for a catch. But Simon answered and said to Him: “Master we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your Word I will let down the net.”

If Jesus is to be our leader, we have to acknowledge His headship. How do we do that? We need to go to Him, seek His counsel and follow His direction. Peter was an experienced fisherman and could have questioned Jesus’ credentials in catching fish. But his response, “At your Word I will let down the net” was the secret of the bountiful harvest. Similarly in this age of cut throat competition when the attitude is that the ends justify the means, Jesus’ rules for fishing may seem old fashioned and outmoded. But, when we take Him at his Word and follow it in letter and spirit, the returns would give us a pleasant surprise. David, an experienced warrior, always “inquired of the Lord” (1 Sam 23:1-5; 2 Sam 5:19-25). When he obeyed the Lord’s directive, the mission was always successful. Every serious harvester should internalize the teaching of Proverbs 3:5-7.

## 2. *Mutual Help (vv 6,7)*

“And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.”

When a team is united with Christ as the head, the members do nothing out of selfish ambition. Each one looks into the needs and interests of the others (Phil 2:1-4). Independent ministries seem attractive. It is only through fellowship with the

Spirit that we can be one in Spirit and purpose with our team mates. Consider the result if Peter & Co had not signaled their partners in the other boat. The nets would have torn and the fish would have slipped back into the sea. A problem faced by one person in the team should be treated as a collective problem. Nehemiah devotes an entire chapter to mention by name the people who laboured to build the wall (Neh 3). When Martha was left alone to do the house work, she was upset (Lk 10:40). There are two dimensions to mutual help. While we are to constantly look out for the needs of our team mates, we should also ‘signal for help’ as and when necessary. Very often, no one would be aware of our problem unless we express it. It is not uncommon to hear people complaining that no one helps them, while the problem is that they have not communicated their need. So, seek help when needed.

## 3. *Unity of Purpose (v 7b)*

Every team should have a goal and every member of the team should be conscious of it. When the energy and talent of every member is geared towards reaching the goal, then the results are maximised. When the partners from the other boat arrived and they hauled up the nets “together,” the catch filled both boats. According to Physics, the sum of forces X, Y and Z is X+Y+Z only if all three are working in the same direction. If Y acts in the opposite direction of X and Z, the total force is X+Z-Y! So, the team should have a clear direction of operation. Ephesians 4 teaches us that we should make every effort to maintain unity. How is that possible? The first requirement is that each partner is “completely humble and gentle, patient, bearing with one another in love” (v 2). Secondly “each one must put off falsehood and speak truthfully ...” (v 25). Thirdly, “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths” (v 29). It is important to avoid fault finding and backbiting because it leads to destruction (Gal 5:15). Whenever the early church needed to act, the apostles and elders, with the whole church made decisions in one accord (Acts 15:22-25). There should be transparency in all our dealings and no formation of a circle within a circle. The principle to be adopted is “unity in major matters, liberty in minor matters and charity in all matters.”

#### 4. Mutual Encouragement (v 10b)

There is nothing like a word of encouragement to lift sagging spirits. We can picture Peter, overwhelmed by the catch, falling at Jesus' feet. Jesus gently lifts him up, saying "Don't be afraid, from now on you will catch men." The Preacher says that two are better than one because "If one falls down, his friend can help him up" (Eccl 4:10). Scripture is replete with instances of the Lord sending His messengers to encourage His children. We see the angel appearing to Gideon and calling him 'Mighty warrior' though his military exploits were yet to be accomplished (Judg 6:12). Elkanah cheered up Hannah, telling her that he meant more to her than ten sons (1 Sam 1:8). Mordecai persuaded a fearful Esther to help the Jews. Apostle Paul was encouraged by Ananias (Acts 9:17), Barnabas (9:25-27) and by the Lord Himself (23:10,11). Depression is a tool widely used by the enemy against the Kingdom's harvesters. A vial of encouragement by colleagues and leaders is the best antidote to this. Paul constantly applauded the work of his team mates (Phil 2:19,20).

#### 5. Willingness to Suffer (v 11)

"So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him."

When the psalmist says that the harvesters return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them (Psa 126:6), it does not mean that the harvesting is painless. Harvesting involves hard toil. When the first disciples followed their Master, they had to leave everything. There is an element of sacrifice in every successful venture. Some members of the team may get a more visible role. While some have to manage the job away from the limelight, others have to make it with demanding superiors. Being part of a team may stifle personal growth. You may feel lack of space and flexibility to carry out ambitious plans to reach the people. However, the joy of the harvest over-rides all these heartaches. Perhaps, one person most qualified to talk about sufferings in the cause of the gospel is Apostle Paul (1 Cor 4:10,12,13; 2 Cor 4:7-10; 2 Cor 11:23-33). These passages go to prove that there is no 'white collared ministry.' But the result of his pain and labour has been the ingathering of the nations. His blood and sweat have borne much fruit to the Father's glory (Jn 15:8).

In this year of Harvest, let us remember that our collective endeavour is the key to bring a big catch to our Father's glory. May our Lord enable us to sincerely work together as comrades, with Him as our Head!

f

(Contn. page 16)

Â Pray for our believers who face difficulties in getting community certificate, since they have accepted Christ. Pray that God may intervene and help them.

Â Balamalai area, near Mettur Dam was surveyed. Pray for God's guidance to proceed further in reaching the unreached of this hill.

#### HEAD QUARTERS & GENERAL

Â Missionary couple Antony-Mercy organised a retreat for village children in which *Friends for Jesus* team from Vellore ministered.

Â Missionary Esther Kesavan underwent a surgery again. Pray for her speedy recovery.

Â *Nearer my God!*, a new book written by Dr. Mrs. Lilian Stanley is under print.

Â Missionary couple Ebenezer-Usha's daughter Jerusha is getting married shortly. Please pray.

Â Mr. Dilipsingh Temple, a retired senior Government officer has joined the headquarters office as Office Manager. His wife helps in correspondence and other ministerial areas like counselling. Please pray for God's special anointing upon them. Their only son Mr. D. T. Richard is serving the Lord fulltime as an evangelist. He is married and settled in Chengleput.

Â Please pray for the Literature ministry as several promotional steps are being taken. Mr. Ilango of Neyveli is the new Literature Co-ordinator. Pray for God's grace to rest upon him.

#### Mr. P. Sam called Home!

*Mr. P. Samuel, affectionately called as "Sam annachi" had his Home call on 25th June 2005. The pioneer in children's ministry, the motivating force for launching OBS in 1952, one of the founders of FMDB, the dynamic General Secretary of Bethel Agricultural Fellowship, Danishpet for more than three decades, finished his race at the age of 82. His influence has produced many mission leaders like Dr. Theodore Williams, Dr. Sam Kamalesan, Dr. Emil Jebesingh, Mr. Patrick Joshua and others. BYM family mourns his death!*

# *Does God Speak Today?*

*Mrs. Susan Sabu*

(The Second-Prize winning article of the writing contest)

Does God speak to me or doesn't He? This is what every believer gets confused about in some time of their Christian life or other. Jesus has said in Rev 3:20, "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me." His invitation is to ANYONE who hears His voice. But this gentle invitation of Jesus is drowned by the din and confusion of the big mouthed satan—the accuser of brethren (Rev 12:10) and the father of lies (Jn 8:44)—who forces his way in tempting us with more red and juicy apples of material riches of the world. All he wants for us is to not hear God's voice. Jesus also said in John 10 that His own sheep listen to His voice and in John 6:45, everyone who listens to the Father and learns from Him comes to Him.

In the early days of my walk with Jesus I used to wonder if God would really speak to me just as He talked with Adam, Noah, Abraham and Moses as in times past. I remember, fearfully expecting a flash of lightning or a thundering voice and even straining my ear for that gentle whisper all figments of my imagination from the movies I had seen and stories I had read. Before the Bible was written, God often communicated in tangible, visible and audible ways like the burning bush, the pillar of fire and the speaking donkey in the Old Testament. In the new Testament we read of God's voice from heaven affirming that Jesus is the beloved Son at Jesus' baptism and transfiguration and also when Jesus meets Saul on the road to Damascus. Saul falls to the ground blinded by a bright light and also hears the voice, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?"

When God finished writing the Bible we cannot conclude that God has stopped working and talking in people's lives. Even though God has finished His book He hasn't finished telling the story. And for that He has sent us the Holy Spirit, the Counsellor to guide us into all truth (Jn 16:13) and as Jesus says in John 14:25, "...teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

In India most of our children learn with guide books. Every text book has its own guide book. Similarly we have God's book the Bible and the guide, the Holy Spirit within us too. What more do

we need! 2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness equipping believers for every good work." I believe God's Word and the life transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

God definitely speaks to us through His Word once we turn to Him and trust Him in everything. My very first experience was when I began to seek God in a personal way. Born and brought up in a CSI background and married into an Orthodox family I lived a name sake Christian many years. God the Father by His grace worked out His plan of salvation in me, in His place, in His time. In 1998 we happened to hear the Word preached in a fellowship while my husband was in a job contract in a Muslim country restricting Christianity, and I began to take the Word seriously. One day while all alone in my room I began questioning God. How is it that the Word says "There is no one righteous, not even one" (Rom 3:10), and that "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God?" (Rom 3:23). How can I be a sinner when I follow all the commandments? I don't kill, steal or commit adultery? I go to Church on Sundays, read the Bible (just because I was told to) and pray (selfish prayers prompted by the unholy trinity—I, My, Me) and so on. But God didn't want me to believe satan's lies this time. He wanted the seed to take root and not be picked off by the bird. I believed that the Word was the truth and I asked God to show me my sin. I opened the Bible at Jeremiah 2:9, "Therefore I bring charges against you... against your children's children," which showed me that I was a sinner. On reading further, verse eleven said that idol worship was my sin. I asked God "I don't worship stone, snake or trees and then, what idol worship do You accuse me of?" Then it struck to me, when Jesus is the only mediator between God and men (1 Tim 2:5) how could I be praying to mother Mary and the saints when they were also humans created by God? Suddenly I realized I was a sinner who has been violating the very first command to love the Lord God alone. "You shall have no other gods before Me" (Ex 20:3,4). I repented of this great sin and invited Jesus into my heart to change me and correct me wherever I was wrong. Once I gave

myself totally as clay into the hands of the Great Potter to be broken, moulded, filled and used as a good vessel, the Holy Spirit came into me and filled me with love, joy and peace. Everyday He is cleansing me, moulding me and shaping me, trimming away the sharp edges of bad attitudes, pride, envy, selfishness, anger and the like which are not in our sin list. He is also showing me one by one the other different idols in my life like self, TV, Computer, Sleep, anything and everything that takes the place of God. And to confirm my salvation the Lord said he has taken away my punishment, through Zephaniah 3:14-20. I thanked and praised God for His love and grace and His dear Son Jesus.

I would also like to recall another incident when God spoke to me through His Word to show me I was a quarrelsome wife. This was in July 1999 when we had heard that reading one chapter of Proverbs everyday would make a person wiser in a month (31 Proverbs in 31 days). So my husband and I started reading chapter 1 on July 1st during our usual family prayer time. Just like any other couple my husband and I too had our own quota of quarrels but unlike others, instead of noise there used to be silence. I couldn't speak to him and he wouldn't speak to me. Sometimes we would have already forgotten what we quarrelled about by the time we got to speaking terms again.

It was on the 19th of July that we had a quarrel for some small thing. I could not get myself to read the Bible during prayer time. Two days later when the quarrel 'cooled down' I decided to read the chapter I missed. As I glanced through Proverbs 19 before my husband sat down for prayer, I found that in the chapter was the verse, "A quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping." It kept pointing to me and so I skipped that chapter and began reading Proverbs chapter 21 as it was the 21st of July. Verse 9 read like this, "Better to live on the corner of a roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife." Oh no! Why did I have to read this? Trying to sound normal I continued to read. Verse 19, there it went again, "Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife." Looking through the corner of my eyes, I hoped my husband would have nodded off to sleep and not heard what I read. But no! He was wide awake and nodding in agreement.

That night I kept asking God how he could call such a quiet person as me quarrelsome. Satan helped to defend me: I don't argue in a loud voice, throw things around or vent all the fury on the children or

even kill in a fit of rage as we read of such things happening in homes nowadays. When we listen to satan's excuses we can never agree we are wrong. We then try to defend ourselves, blame others and question God. But God wanted me to obey Him and correct my ways. I asked God forgiveness and set right with my husband promising that he would never have to live in a desert or on the corner of the roof anymore!! See how humorous God can get at times but all He wants is that His children are perfect and blameless and obedient just as Jesus.

These and many more instances have proved without doubt that God still speaks through His Word. I believe and trust God's Word. He wanted to change me and so I did. Some may say this sounds like a lucky dip or a mere coincidence. In this connection I am reminded of a story of a man who hoped to gain direction in his time of crisis by letting the Bible fall open and putting his finger on the verse "Judas went and hanged himself." That was not the guidance he expected so he made another attempt. This time his finger landed on the verse, "Go thou and do likewise." That shook him up so he made a further lucky dip. And this time his finger fell on, "And what thou doest do quickly." And a rather unlucky dip it turned out to be.

Yes, it is not advisable to open and read the Bible at random seeking direction in a crisis because the devil may come to your aid. He comes only to kill, steal and destroy (Jn 10:10). He quoted Scriptures when he tempted Jesus in the wilderness (Mt 4:1-11). This shows his knowledge of God's Word. Don't fall into the devil's trap.

So, first of all turn to the God of the Bible and He will through His Word change you to be the perfect child He wants you to be. Let God's Word be the plumbline. Learn to recognize the Shepherd's voice and follow Him. Whenever I listen to God's Word being preached, if God wants me to change in any area of my life, I know it because that specific Word is revealed every time I listen or read His Word. I have only to humble myself and obey what God wants of me. Our Father wants only our total surrender and obedience. He is always speaking to us waiting for our response. So, as the Holy Spirit says,

*Today, if you hear His voice,  
do not harden your hearts (Heb 3:7).     **f***

*(Mrs. Susan Sabu is a housewife in Ernakulam, Kerala. Her husband is a lecturer in the Engineering College. They are blessed with a son.)*

# Zest For the Harvest

*Duke Jeyaraj*

When Jesus saw great crowds that desperately needed Him, He said, The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few! (Mt 9:36,37). He referred to missionary work as the “harvest work.” In this essay we will study why we must have the zest for the harvest.

Scientist Daniel said, “Man could set foot on planet Mars by 2020. Let’s burn it in our brains that in our lifetimes, we will extend the reach of this human species onto other planets and to other bodies in the solar system and build the roots that will leave the Solar System to go to other stars, then ultimately followed by people!” The Science Community, as you can see, is pretty much excited about sending robots and Astronauts to other planets. But the Christian Community is far from excited about sending missionaries to the uttermost corners of our planet, in response to the command and call of God!

One possible reason why, by and large, the church of Jesus Christ is not excited or passionate about missions could be that it really has not understood from the Scriptures why they should do missions. When you haven’t grasped something cerebrally, chances are that you’ll never get around to celebrate it! This is true when it comes to missions. Zest for missions becomes impossible and impractical when you do not have at your fingertips the Bible reasons for doing missions. In this essay I attempt to summarize the reasons gleaned from God’s Word to underscore the responsibility of every believer for getting involved in missions.

## **1. The Uniqueness of God’s Son!**

Because Jesus alone can save humanity, all must hear the Good News to be saved. Missionary work is nothing but announcing the name of Jesus Christ as the only Savior to those who have not heard about Him.

From inside the belly of the fish Jonah prayed, “For my salvation comes from the LORD ALONE!” (Jon 2:9). Having fully grasped that, Jonah finally went to Nineveh to preach about the One Lord who alone could save (3:1)!

Peter declared, “There’s no salvation in any one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12, NRSV). This implies that all peoples must necessarily hear of Jesus to be saved.

If you really believe that Jesus is the Way then you’ll want to be a part of the harvest in whatever way you could. The cornerstone creed of Christianity that *Jesus is the only way* must bleed a missionary blood into our spiritual systems!

## **2. The Neglectfulness of God’s People!**

God chose Israel from all the nations of the earth to be a light that would reflect Him to all nations (Amos 3:2; Isa 49:6). But Israel, by and large, failed in its duty. They neglected their God-given responsibility. The failure of Israel is a warning for the present day believers. Not only that, it is a motivation for us to do what they have failed to do.

Israel had not only failed in their duty to be missionaries to peoples but they also pushed them away from following Yahweh. Isaiah painfully wrote, “The world blasphemes the name of God because of you (Israel)! (Isa 52:5). Instead of propelling the nations to the true God, the horrible lives of the people of Israel pushed them away from the true God! The Pharisees of Jesus’ day also did just that. And that is why Jesus thundered against them, “How terrible it will be for you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you won’t let others enter the Kingdom of Heaven, and you won’t go in yourselves... For you cross land and sea to make one convert, and then turn him into twice the son of hell as you yourselves are!” (Mt 23:14-15). The Pharisees did go as missionaries and did make converts—converts who were doubly hypocritical like them and converts who would land up in hell like them! God’s plan was that the Temple of Jerusalem be a “house of prayer for all nations.” But that plan sank in the sand because Israel turned into a “den of thieves” much to Jesus’ disappointment (Mt 21:13). Because of Israel’s repeated rejection of the Messiah and their mission duty,

God in exasperation told them: “The Kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation that will produce proper fruit” (Mt 21:43). Peter wrote in his epistle, “You are God’s holy nation, to declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light” (1 Pet 2:9). Believers, whether they are from the Jewish background or Gentile background, are the ‘New Israel’ who now ought to go as missionaries so that God through them can fulfill the promise He gave to the physical father of Israel, Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you!” (Gal 3:7-9). God is counting on you to finish what he counted on Israel.

The sad truth now is that the Church is as neglectful in their missionary duty as the O.T. Israel! The very fact that there are over 81 Indian languages with atleast 10,000 plus speakers still without a Bible in their language shows that even the Church is executing its missionary responsibility at snails’ pace! The very fact that several South Indian pin code areas are over-packed with churches when there are plenty of pin code areas in North India (about 20,000 of them!) without a single Church or a Christian witness is a grim reminder that we have messed up our Maker’s missions mandate! Let’s set things right, in the right way!

### **3. *The Inadequacy of the General Revelation!***

God has been speaking to all peoples of all nations from the beginning through his “General Revelation.” One can say that God has been speaking to everyone since the dawn of time through five channeled voices: conscience (Rom 2:14-15), creation (Psa 19:1), chronicles (Amos 9:7), care (Mt 5:45) and cheer (Acts 14:17). These five channels of God’s revelation of Himself to everyone who is a citizen of this planet may be cumulatively called the General Revelation of God.

But General Revelation alone cannot take any person to heaven. All that General Revelation can tell a person who has not heard of Jesus is, “There is a great yet good God out there. So be good!” But it will not be able to tell: “You are a sinner and so you need a Saviour!” Only the Special Revelation of the Gospel teaches the concept of forgiveness of sins. Only the blood of Jesus can cleanse anyone of his/her

sins (1 Jn 2:2). Psalm 19 is a wonderful piece on the General Revelation (Psa 19:1-4). But this Psalm also talks about the Special Revelation. Through the Law of the LORD a person can understand the way to forgiveness (Psa 19:7-13). So the message of Psalm 19 is, “We need both the General and Special Revelation for the forgiveness of sins; and the General Revelation alone is insufficient!” Paul gives a detailed study about the General Revelation in Rom 1:20; 2:14-15, and stresses the need to go to all people who have not yet heard of Jesus (Rom 10:14; 15:20). The sky cannot tell a pagan about the blood of Jesus, nor the voice of the conscience can! Only a believer who carries the Gospel can! Paul strongly indicates that all have disobeyed the General Revelation given to them (Rom 1:21). So there is none who has remained good all his life by just listening to the General Revelation’s voice! That all have sinned, is one of the repeatedly sounded truths in the Bible (Psa 14:1; 53:1; Eccl 7:20; Rom 3:10-12,23). This ‘all’ includes those who have never heard of Jesus.

Each time when God speaks to you through the five C’s (conscience, creation, chronicles, care and cheer), it is a reminder for you to tell those who do not know how to experience salvation of their soul eventhough they hear from God through these General Revelations! We’ve got to complete it by telling them about yet another ‘C’—the Christ! That is what missions is all about!

### **4. *The Shallowness of Gentiles’ Religion!***

From the time Abraham left his father’s gods to serve the Living and Unique God, *Jehovah*, the people of Israel have been taught that there is one God in this universe (Josh 24:2; Dt 6:4). Prophet Elijah contested with the prophets of Baal to prove that Jehovah alone was God (1 Ki 17).

Jesus declared that all others who claimed to be the gate to Eternal Life as thieves and robbers (Jn 10:7-8). Paul when he preached the Gospel in Ephesus for the first time told the pagans that their gods were not gods at all (Acts 19:26). Writing to the Corinthian believers he equates them to demons! (1 Cor 10:19-20). To Galatians, Paul taught that gods of pagans do not exist at all (Gal 4:8).

The above facts give us a clear idea of what the Bible says about the religion of those ignorant of the Gospel. Can they faithfully practise their religion and hope they will be saved? If the oceans can stop touching the sand then that is possible! The very fact that they worship idols is proof that they have spurned the General Revelation of God (Rom 1:25). That is why Paul called all of them to repent from idol-worship and trust God whom he identified as the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 17:30-31).

If we do not care about Missions and Missionary work, by our cold inaction we are actually implying that people can get saved by following their own religions. Did you get angry by reading that sentence? If that anger propels you to missionary action, I would go for a cart wheeling celebration!

#### **5. *The Smallness of the Minority!***

If everyone is going to be ultimately saved we can forget about missions and close down missionary agencies.

We are told in our Bible that some will be saved eternally and the others lost. This is repeatedly seen in the parables that Jesus taught. He compares the believers who will be saved in the end to “good fish” “wheat” and “sheep.” Those who have not believed in him and are consequently damned are compared to “bad fish,” “weeds” and “goats” (Mt 13:24-39,48; 25:46). So there is certainly going to be a day of separation between believers and unbelievers. If this is true, it definitely means that all will not be saved. We do not read in the Gospels that all the bad fish became good ones, or all the weeds were transformed into wheat or that all the goats changed to sheep, in the fag end.

What is missions, then? It is to plead with all people to join the *Narrow Way* which is Jesus Himself (Lk 13:23-24; Jn 14:6). It is calling all people to obey the Gospel so that they become part of the chosen ‘few’ (Mt 22:13). Remember only 8 were saved during Noah’s time (Heb 11:7). The people saved were always in the minority in the Bible. For one Elijah there were 450 prophets of Baal (1 Ki 18:22). Twice we are told in the book of proverbs that the human

race by the majority prefers the way which would lead them to death—not life (Prov 14:12; 16:25).

Yes, only a few will be ultimately saved, So this fact must spur us to offer the message of salvation to all. It must propel us to be missionaries. So missionary work is absolutely necessary!

If believers just sit back without throwing themselves in missionary work they are implying that all will be saved one day and therefore they have no job at hand!

#### **6. *The Hopelessness in expecting After-Grave Salvation!***

Some hold the view that Christ would arrange Gospel meetings after they die, for those who did not get a chance to hear about Him before their death. Those who hold to this opinion quote Apostle Peter (1 Pet 3:19,20; 4:5,6).

Is this going to be true? None of us can be sure. There are atleast 180 different interpretations to Peter’s words all through the history of the church. Only in heaven we will know which interpretation is correct. It is very unsafe to base your eternal destiny on an obscure passage!

There are clear-cut passages in the Bible, which teach that there is no salvation offered to those who have died. “Man is destined to die once and after that face judgment” (Heb 9:27). The only thing dead people can expect is judgment—not sermons! No one can cross over to heaven from hell (Lk 16:26).

Death is the end of all humans (Eccl 8:8). It is the way of all the earth (Josh 23:14; 1 Ki 2:2). Before death strikes mankind we must race to every soul in this earth and tell them about Jesus the Savior. Otherwise, one day, it will be all too late. Paul, the missionary, begs the Corinthians not to reject the message of salvation because, “Today is the day of salvation!” (2 Cor 6:1-2). Salvation is never a possibility after death. So believers are expected to tell every person ALIVE on this planet about Jesus!

If you are slack about your missionary responsibility, you by your spiritual numbness are indicating that either people will not die or will get a chance to be saved after their death!

## 7. *The Dreadfulness of Gehenna!*

Those who die without receiving Jesus will go to hell. Hell is a terrible place to go to. The horrible pain of hell should strain us now to save as many people as possible from this dreadful fate. The fact that there would be eternal conscious punishment for those who go to hell is seen by the imagery Jesus used for hell—the imagery of Gehenna. Gehenna is a Greek word for the garbage-dumping place outside Jerusalem. Because the supply of garbage was constant the fire which burnt in that garbage-dump was also non-stop. Jesus compared hell to Gehenna. He thundered, “It is better to enter the Kingdom of God half blind than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell ‘where the worm never dies and the fire never goes out’.” Here Jesus was actually quoting Prophet Isaiah’s words when he wanted to point out the everlasting sorrow that souls who go to Gehenna would experience. The worm in hell would not die, according to Jesus (Mk 9:47,48; Isa 66:24). Jesus knew that such a gory fate awaited sinful mankind. That is why He left His Glory and became a missionary-martyr for mankind. He came to seek and save those who are lost (Lk 19:10). The same reason that motivated Jesus to be a missionary should motivate us also to be missionaries. The reason we should preach John 8:12 is the fearful end of Matthew 8:12, where weeping and gnashing of teeth in the dark are pronounced!

The voice of the rich man pleading with Abraham to send missionaries to preach to his five brothers who were still alive is a clear-cut missions call. His torment was so severe he did not want his brothers to land up in the same place (Luke 16:28). Even Abraham’s seemingly curt reply did not seem to dissuade him from making yet another plea from Hell. He says, “No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent from the dead, they will turn from their sins!” (Luke 16:30). The rich man was worried about “five” of his brothers who had not heard the message which could rescue them from hell. But there

are millions—not merely five—who are on the verge of going to hell because no one preaches to them today!

The direct call for each believer to become a missionary who rescues people from hell comes from Apostle Jude. He wrote, “Rescue others by snatching them from the flames of judgement!” (Jude 23).

A story goes like this: A criminal was about to go to the gallows in England. A pastor read (without a sense of seriousness) a Scripture portion that talked about the hell punishment for those who fail to repent and turn to Christ. The criminal spoke to the Pastor before going to the gallows: “If I really believed in the hell that you are reading about, even if England were a bed of nails, I would roll on them and tell everyone that there is a hell to shun!”

Mordecai told Esther, “If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance for the Jews will arise from other place, but you and your relatives will die!” (Esth 4:14). In the same vein the lepers who unexpectedly discovered bread in the enemy camp, at a time when their people were dying of starvation said, “This is not right. This is wonderful news, and we aren’t sharing it with anyone! If we wait until the morning, some terrible calamity will certainly fall upon us! Come on, let’s go back and tell the people at the palace!” (2 Ki 7:9). Read those two verses about 10 times. Let their message sink into your souls. Those biting and peppery words can be treated as a prophetic message to every believer of every denomination. If we keep quiet without sharing the Gospel to those who haven’t heard it God would make alternative arrangements for the job to be done, but we shall not escape the blame on the judgment Day!

Aren’t these seven reasons more than enough for us to go ballistic about missions? Leonard Ravenhill asked: “How do you take it easy with a thousand tribes to tell? How do you take it easy with a world that speeds to hell?” What is your answer? b

# ***Bring up this Child!***

(A report of the BYM Missionary Kids' Sponsors' Meet, Chennai)

*Dr. Mrs. Manonmani Seenivasan, M.Sc., Ph.D.*

We all gathered in Dhyana Ashram, Chennai on the 22nd May 2005 which was a memorable get-together for all the 60 participants. As we entered the meeting hall, we were lovingly welcomed by the MKs with roses and broad smiles on their faces. The eager participants



## ***The participants***

came from Varanasi, Hyderabad, Chennai, Neyveli, Thanjavur, Tiruchi, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Nazareth and Kanyakumari. One family came from Dubai also. Each family was given time to tell a few words about themselves and the child they sponsor. Mr. J. Shanthakumar, the General Secretary of BYM gave the welcome address and Mr. Lionel the General overseer, inaugurated the programme.

Mrs. Lalitha Mathansingh gave an introduction about the sponsorship scheme and the purpose of the gathering. The participants praised God for the founder of BYM, Mr. R. Stanley for initiating the scheme with a foresight.

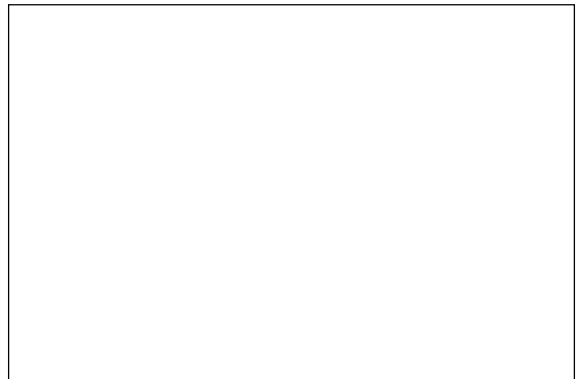
Even though many children could not be present, all the available MKs were introduced by brother E. L. Mathansingh, the Field Coordinator of BYM. The amazing all round growth of the children was well understood after the inspiring testimonies of Mercy Thomas Rajasingh and Beulah Sundaramurthy, whose parents laboured hard in remote tribal areas,



## ***Introducing MKs***

leaving their children in Santhosha Vidhyalaya, Dohnavur, a residential school mainly for the missionary children.

The time of praise and worship conducted by the MKs, led by Mr. Prince Jeyaraj was joyful. The special song in Oriya by another missionary kid Madhusmitha Rout was liked by all. One of the senior missionaries, Mr. Kingsley Chelliah shared the Lord's message focussing on the upbringing of the child Moses, in a difficult situation. He appealed to the



## ***Praying for MKs***

sponsors not to stop only with the financial support but to pray regularly for the children and write encouraging letters to them. All of us were inspired by God about our moral and spiritual responsibilities towards the overall development of the missionary kids.

The senior MKs — Selina Dawson, Pearly Oswin, Soulwin Ponraj and Prince Jeyaraj were interviewed interestingly. The precious cost paid by the MKs for the Lord’s work was really touching. The participants were able to understand the inner struggles and practical difficulties faced by the MKs.

Quality time was allotted to voice the feelings of the sponsors. I had the privilege



### **Sponsors’ Voice**

to briefly express how I became a sponsor by seeing a write up in the *Blessing* magazine. Mr. Jabez Muthuselvan, a business man, shared how his family was motivated to support a physically handicapped MK and moved the hearts of the audience. Mrs. Baby Raja, a school headmistress meaningfully explained how they mobilize funds for the needs of the missionaries and missionary children from her village, Budalur. Dr. Chandra Kumar a cardiologist highlighted the cause of the MKs and told that they should be given royal treatment since their parents are serving the King of kings. He requested the sponsors to accept the children as their own family members, since they undergo a lot of stress and strain.

The five workshops on the following topics: Basic needs, Educational needs, Higher education & Career guidance, Marriage and special needs of MKs enthused the delegates to a high level of participation and involvement. Mr. Kingsley Earnest, Mr. Victor Ponnudurai, Dr. Chandra Kumar, Mr. John Thyagarajan and Mr. Jebaseelan led these groups and made the reporting briefly.



### **Workshop**

The *Arrows* magazine was introduced by Mr. Prince Jeyaraj, focussing the news of the MKs. We had an opportunity to meet all the members of the administrative committee of BYM who were having a parallel session in the same campus and had an enjoyable fellowship lunch with them. Mr. K. Ponraj Isaac, the first missionary of BYM prayed for the family



### **Fellowship**

needs of all the sponsors towards the end. The entire programme was well coordinated by Mr. D. Ilango, Neyveli who is also one of the sponsors.

Mrs. Lalitha Mathansingh who heads the MK Sponsorship department of BYM spent time with each one of us and thanked us for meaningful partnership. The physical arrangements were neatly done by Mr. S. Thomas Rajasingh, Mr. S. Jebaseelan and Mr. D. Jeyakumar. The proceedings of the day came to a happy ending when all the child sponsors were presented a small memento by the MKs with the inscription “Bring up this child for me” (Ex 2:9). f

## **Students For Jesus**

*Victor P. S. Kumar*

The Blessing Youth Mission is an offshoot of a campus cell. Youth remains to be the focus of BYM in which students form the core group. In order to cater to the needs of this special group, a ministerial wing called, *Students For Jesus* was inaugurated in the year 1974. Apart from giving counselling and career guidance the following programmes are conducted systematically in various places reaching thousands of students across the country.

It is no surprise that India has one of the largest "Higher Education system" in the world. There are about 1,50,000 Higher Secondary Institutions educating about 30 million Students. There are about 10 million college students in about 12,000 general and professional colleges and 272 Universities/Deemed Universities. They are all well talented and many take International assignments immediately after graduation, but most of them do not know the Lord and are captives to the illusions of this world. There are about 2 million teachers and professors working in these institutions.

In India, the ministry among students is enormous and challenging. The students reached so far have been very insignificant compared to the volume but it is significant compared to the result produced. The needs of the youth are fast changing. Proclaiming Jesus to them as "the Only Answer" is a precious cause and task.

*Students For Jesus* (SFJ), the Campus ministerial wing of Blessing Youth Mission has been systematically targeting these masses from its inception through specialised programmes: Gospel rallies are conducted as "Sozos" (meaning to save or to make whole). Those who commit their lives to Christ are followed up through Discipleship Training Programmes. Students Study Programmes are conducted to enrich and establish them in the Scriptures. Probable budding leaders are trained in the Leaders' Training Programme. Field exposure is given to them through Summer Missionary Programmes during vacations. The involving graduates are nurtured through Shepherds' Training Camps. Christian Teachers' Seminars are conducted periodically to motivate

teachers. Many of the missionaries of BYM were touched during their student days through SFJ ministry and committed their lives for full time service. Many students have become Tent-making-missionaries within the country and abroad to make witnessing groups. SFJ lays the foundation for building meaningful Christian homes. Moreover the SFJ ministry continues to be the supply line for the growing Christian ministries in the country.

SFJ ministry is very active in the Southern States of the Country while an attempt is being made in the Northern States. To speed up the work among the students in other states and to realise the urgency of meeting the needs of the student community, a National level consultation meet was organised during April 2005 in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. Representatives from 10 strategic states participated and a blue print of activities was worked out for the academic year 2005-06. The ultimate aim is to establish witnessing groups in every educational institution possible.

Work among students could never be accomplished without the participation of committed Christian friends and teachers. The work is more towards influencing the neighbourhood than moving towards the remote areas. If a student is saved, his/her entire life is saved. He/she could not only live for Christ, but also contribute toward His service. The Campus Ministry is expensive but rewarding.

Thanks to all dear friends who have already joined hands in this effort to reach out to the students. Pray fervently for the ministry among students because this is just shaking the foundation of the devil. Write to us if you have a desire to involve in this important endeavour. If you are a teacher, professor, or a graduate, then the opportunities for you to involve in this ministry are great. We can help you in getting involved in the Campus Ministry. Let us join hands in building a new generation for God.

"The Lord ... is not willing that any (student) should perish but that ALL should come to repentance" (2 Pet 3:9). b

## BYM MISSIONARIES' CHILDREN

The names of the dependent children (upto 25 years) of our fulltime workers are listed here in alphabetical order along with their birthdays. The second name is that of the father. As their parents are in the frontline to liberate the captives from the bondage of darkness, the children become a prime target of the enemy. Pray regularly for these children so that what was written about little Samuel can also be said about them: "As young Samuel grew taller, he also continued to gain favour with the LORD and with the people" (1 Sam 2:26). You can also warm the hearts of these kids by sending them a Birthday greeting or a gift through Blessing Youth Mission, Church Colony, Vellore 632 006, India. Detach this sheet to be kept inside your Bible or daily devotional.

1. Abhijit Subash Kuldip	(22 Oct 2002)	51. Deborah Dhanaraj	(16 Apr 1996)
2. Abhishek Samson Masih	(20 Jul 2004)	52. Deevana Paul Dhinakaran	(28 Jul 1984)
3. Abhishek Subash Kuldip	(31 May 2000)	53. Dorathy Dhanaraj	(09 Jul 1998)
4. Abhishika Kusha	(17 Dec 1994)	54. Elgiva Paul David	(09 Jun 2004)
5. Abishek Pushparaj	(29 Sep 2000)	55. Elijah Ratnakar Rao	(30 Apr 2001)
6. Amelia Christmass David	(13 Jul 1987)	56. Elizabeth Biswanath Samal	(25 May 1984)
7. Amos Jesu Raghavan	(21 Mar 1997)	57. Enoch Subhanand Siddi	(12 Sep 1997)
8. Amy Gideon Pani	(14 Jun 1989)	58. Ephrathah Jeyakumar	(11 Apr 2005)
9. Anand Narayan Siddi	(24 Jul 1987)	59. Esme Robinsam	(07 Nov 1993)
10. Andrea Peter Luis	(24 Aug 1992)	60. Esther Jhitku Santa	(28 Oct 1997)
11. Ann Jessita Jeyaraj	(30 Sep 1985)	61. Esther Shakina Ratnakar Rao	(15 Aug 2004)
12. Angeline Samuel Jothiraj	(28 Feb 1984)	62. Esther Ashwini Siddappa	(29 Aug 1998)
13. Arpita Kusha	(27 Dec 1996)	63. Eunice Christmas David	(21 Apr 1986)
14. Asha Devakumar	(09 Jun 1994)	64. Evangeline Rajasekar	(08 May 1992)
15. Asha Hiron Khosla	(09 Dec 1996)	65. Evangeline Susai Manickam	(23 Jul 2003)
16. Asha Slessor Ramanathan	(13 Mar 2000)	66. Evelyn Tamizharasan	(01 Feb 1985)
17. Ashir Ramanathan	(11 Oct 1996)	67. Ezra Gladwin Regunathan	(05 Feb 1982)
18. Ashish Devakumar	(24 Jan 1993)	68. Faithlina Ponniah	(11 Apr 1986)
19. Ashish Prakash Nag	(17 Jul 1990)	69. Febi Mohan Deenadayalan	(25 Feb 1985)
20. Asisha Janeela Mathansingh	(10 Jul 1988)	70. Feblin Tamizharasan	(07 Apr 1987)
21. Augustin Samidoss	(31 Oct 1992)	71. Felix Biswanath Samal	(17 Feb 1991)
22. Banita Santanu Korada	(09 Aug 1987)	72. Finney Vijayakumar	(18 Apr 2000)
23. Benison Christodass Kuldip	(30 Mar 2000)	73. Gifta Samidoss	(05 May 1996)
24. Benita Albert	(30 Jul 2000)	74. Gifty Myla John	(10 Dec 1989)
25. Beulah Sundaramurthy	(20 Jul 1985)	75. Gifty Gideon Pani	(12 Sep 1991)
26. Beulah Vinayagam David	(06 Oct 1995)	76. Gilead Gideon Pani	(29 Jun 1985)
27. Bezaleel Vinayagam David	(16 Apr 1991)	77. Glory Myla John	(01 Sep 1995)
28. Bidyut Bilendra Mandi	(08 Aug 2002)	78. Gordon Ponnusamy	(04 Mar 1984)
29. Bikash Bilendra Mandi	(07 Jan 2000)	79. Gosend Ponnusamy	(23 Nov 1980)
30. Blesson Christodass Kuldip	(30 Aug 2002)	80. Grace Raja	(15 Jan 1998)
31. Blesson Tamizharasan	(28 Oct 1993)	81. Graceraj Bilod Mandi	(15 Feb 1998)
32. Blesson Udayban	(05 Aug 2000)	82. Hannah Kempanna	(20 Nov 2002)
33. Blessy Bilod Mandi	(11 Jul 2002)	83. Hanny Christopher	(09 Jun 2000)
34. Blessy Venkataswamy	(11 Oct 1997)	84. Harvest Moses	(2 Aug 2004)
35. Brengle Chelliah	(09 Feb 1984)	85. Helen Hosannah Regunathan	(27 Mar 1983)
36. Caleb Chezhan	(15 Jun 1995)	86. Helen Sundaramurthy	(02 Jan 1987)
37. Calvin Chezhan	(26 Nov 1998)	87. Hepzibah Prakash L.M.R	(19 Apr 2004)
38. Candyda Julies	(17 Nov 1997)	88. Hepzibah Rajasekar	(23 Apr 1994)
39. Chalapathi Joseph	(10 Feb 1990)	89. Hazel Samuel Gently	(20 Nov 1987)
40. Christina Simon	(11 Oct 1995)	90. Hopeland Ponniah	(12 Mar 1990)
41. Christobel Selvaraj	(04 Apr 1992)	91. Ida Sundaramurthy	(04 Mar 1992)
42. Christophony Mohendra Pal	(14 Oct 1998)	92. James Suresh Siddi	(08 Sep 1997)
43. Daniel Peter Luis	(13 Jan 1994)	93. Janes Jayakumar M.	(19 Jan 2002)
44. Daniel Sada Nag	(01 Aug 1997)	94. Jaresiah Stephen Jeyaraj	(09 Jul 1999)
45. Dale Nathan Duke	(04 Nov 2003)	95. Jasmine Lincy Stephen	(26 Mar 1985)
46. David Samuel	(19 Nov 2001)	96. Jedidah Susanna Regunathan	(14 Mar 1990)
47. Davidson Devanesan	(03 Jun 1991)	97. Jedidiah Stephen Jeyaraj	(06 Aug 1996)
48. David Vijay Amalraj	(25 Oct 1981)	98. Jelin Jeyashruthi Arun	(06 Apr 2003)
49. Dayaban Sada Nag	(23 Sep 2000)	99. Jemima Selvaraj	(21 Feb 1995)
50. Debarchan Parasuram Netham	(11 Dec 1988)	100. Jemima Titus Paraja	(17 Jan 2005)

101. Jennifer Keziah Jeremiah	(19 Apr 2001)	165. Prarthana Milind Kamble	(13 Apr 2002)
102. Jenita Albert	(29 Jun 2002)	166. Prarthana Mothis Siddi	(10 Jul 1993)
103. Jenita John Siddi	(16 Sep 1997)	167. Preeti Periasamy	(12 Nov 2000)
104. Jeremy Titus Paraja	(14 Dec 2002)	168. Praveen Mohanty Takri	(28 Oct 2001)
105. Jerome Jesupatham	(26 Oct 2002)	169. Ragland Vijayakumar	(13 Oct 1996)
106. Jeshua Jesupatham	(20 Jan 2001)	170. Rangarao Joseph	(07 Nov 1991)
107. Jeshurun Mathansingh	(26 Jun 1985)	171. Ranjan Santanu Korada	(13 Mar 1989)
108. Jesman Jeremiah	(25 Jun 2003)	172. Rashmi Raja	(20 Jan 1996)
109. Jessica Peter Luis	(21 Feb 1991)	173. Rebecca Parasuram Netham	(03 Jun 1999)
110. Jesvin Devanesan	(28 Mar 1994)	174. Reuben Subhanand Siddi	(15 Jul 1999)
111. Jezliah Stephen Jeyaraj	(09 Jul 1999)	175. Revival Queen Inbakumar	(12 Dec 2001)
112. Jim Ebenezer	(05 Apr 1985)	176. Revivan Selvam	(25 Jan 1981)
113. Johanna Susant Digal	(17 Dec 2001)	177. Richardson Premkumar	(23 Aug 1999)
114. John Paul R.	(20 Jan 1997)	178. Riya Premkumar	(10 May 2003)
115. John Pushparaj	(29 Dec 1997)	179. Ronald Rabindra Das	(21 Jul 2003)
116. Johnson Siddappa	(01 Dec 1995)	180. Roseline Rajamani	(16 Nov 2004)
117. Jonathan Jebadinakaran	(18 Jun 2004)	181. Roslin Mohendra Pal	(05 Jan 1995)
118. Joshan Christopher	(30 Jun 2004)	182. Ruban Ajay Suna	(22 Aug 1998)
119. Joshua Ebenezer Samuel	(08 May 1991)	183. Rubel Manivannan	(09 Jun 1990)
120. Joshua Jeyakumar M	(14 Jan 2003)	184. Ruchilin Dhaneswar Jena	(02 Oct 2003)
121. Joshua Mothis Siddi	(05 May 1991)	185. Rupendra Ajay Suna	(22 Sep 2001)
122. Joylin John Siddi	(13 Mar 1996)	186. Ruth Mothis Siddi	(26 May 1989)
123. Juditha John Siddi	(01 Aug 1995)	187. Ruthuja Raju kurne	(03 Oct 2000)
124. Karmugil Durai	(30 Nov 1996)	188. Sakshi Raju Kurne	(17 May 2004)
125. Karuna Udayban	(07 Mar 2002)	189. Sam Karunakaran	(23 Dec 1986)
126. Karuna Hiramani Vyas	(29 Jan 1999)	190. Sam Jeyanthan Samuel	(29 Dec 1999)
127. Karuna Revan Pawar	(14 Apr 1993)	191. Sameer Malarselvan	(23 Apr 2000)
128. Keren-Happuck Revan Pawar	(1 May 2003)	192. Samraj Gunasekaran	(22 Mar 1985)
129. Kingsley Gnanapragasam	(15 Jul 1990)	193. Samraj Silas Khosla	(26 Sep 1998)
130. Kirti Hiramani Vyas	(10 Nov 2000)	194. Samkumar Bagwan Pangi	(21 Jun 1994)
131. Kirubakaran Durai	(26 Aug 1998)	195. Samuel Paul Abraham	(13 Sep 2004)
132. Krupa Revan Pawar	(06 Jul 1991)	196. Samuel Rajamani	(24 Dec 2002)
133. Leonard Ebenezer Samuel	(14 Jun 1989)	197. Samuel Venkatasamy	(17 Apr 1999)
134. Lincy Hiron Khosla	(26 Jun 2001)	198. Sarah Jhitku Santa	(06 Nov 1995)
135. Lionel Robin Sam	(13 Jul 1997)	199. Sathwika Ramana	(20 Aug 2003)
136. Livingston Myla John	(04 Aug 1991)	200. Satya Jhothi Bostam Bagh	(15 Jul 2001)
137. Lovina Ponniah	(08 Oct 1984)	201. Shantha Raj Silas Khosla	(09 Dec 1996)
138. Madhusmita John Rout	(17 Dec 1989)	202. Shanthi Silas Khosla	(11 Dec 1994)
139. Mahima Kesavan	(07 Dec 1996)	203. Sheba Anantharaj	(03 Feb 1990)
140. Mamatha Murugan	(18 Dec 1994)	204. Sheeba Gunasekaran	(29 Mar 1987)
141. Maranatha Mohendra Pal	(11 Dec 1996)	205. Sheeba Rani Prakash Nag	(03 Jul 1987)
142. Marium Jhitku Santa	(16 Aug 1993)	206. Sheela Rani Prakash Nag	(26 Jul 1993)
143. Mary Slessor Murugan	(16 Sep 1996)	207. Simon Bostam Bagh	(23 Apr 1999)
144. Merlin Dhaneswar Jena	(28 Aug 2001)	208. Sophia Chandrasekar Sadamal	(15 Aug 1988)
145. Mirdula Kesavan	(01 Nov 1998)	209. Soundariya Paul Dhinakaran	(11 Mar 1995)
146. Nabina Bagwan Pangi	(25 Jan 1988)	210. Stanley Xavier	(12 Jul 1985)
147. Natasha John Rout	(22 Aug 1986)	211. Stephen Samuel Jothiraj	(24 Sep 1982)
148. Neha Elisha	(30 Sep 1992)	212. Stuti Samuel Rahute	(23 Aug 2002)
149. Nehemiah Jaisankar	(19 May 1998)	213. Sudhanshu Malarselvan	(16 Nov 1996)
150. Newbegin Chelliah	(01 Jan 1981)	214. Sukanti Hiron Khosla	(11 Jun 1998)
151. Nibadita Bagwan Pangi	(06 Jun 1996)	215. Sumeethkumar Solomon Doss	(10 May 2004)
152. Nikhil Elisha	(26 Feb 1990)	216. Susanna Susant Digal	(18 Apr 2000)
153. Nita Saravanan	(28 Nov 2001)	217. Sushanti Parasuram Netham	(09 Sep 1995)
154. Osborne Paul Dhinakaran	(05 Jun 1982)	218. Susil Kumar Suresh Santa	(09 Sep 2000)
155. Obadiah Jeyakumar, S. P.	(17 Apr 2003)	219. Teena Chandrasekar Sadamal	(20 Jan 1987)
156. Paul Kingsley Xavier	(17 Aug 1989)	220. Tephillah Anantharaj	(19 Aug 1991)
157. Persia Packiavathan	(10 Dec 2003)	221. Theodore Joseph, D. P.	(11 Feb 2003)
158. Prabasini Suresh Santa	(15 Jan 1998)	222. Tyndale Saravanan	(25 Nov 1997)
159. Prabhu Periasamy	(07 Aug 2003)	223. Victoria Biswanath Samal	(17 May 1983)
160. Pradeep Dano Santa	(04 Dec 2003)	224. Vijay Narayan Siddi	(25 Jun 1985)
161. Pradeep Prabhudoss Patro	(15 May 2004)	225. Vijaya Kumar Venkatasamy	(17 Apr 1999)
162. Praisys Susi Manickam	(25 Mar 2005)	226. Vimarsha Vinod	(22 May 2002)
163. Prarana Mohanty Takri	(23 Mar 2004)	227. Vinaya Christmas David	(24 Dec 1989)
164. Prasanna Allen	(22 Jun 2005)	228. William Chandrasekar Sadamal	(08 Sep 1990) b

# News from Fields

Compiled by E. L. Mathansingh, Field Coordinator

The Blessing Youth Mission has stationed over 300 missionaries in 14 States of India, namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chattishgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, for revival ministries and cross-cultural missionary evangelism leading to church planting in churchless places. The news of various fields is compiled here for PRAISE and PRAYER.

## ANDHRA PRADESH

Â 30 people prayed with zeal and burden in an all night prayer conducted in the Metropolitan Church in Vijayawada. The two evening revival meetings held in this city was a blessing to the local Christians.

Â 270 young boys and girls attended a youth retreat conducted in Vizianagaram. Missionary Duke Jeyaraj challenged the participants to be Youth for Truth.

Â In a night prayer conducted in Bhimavaram, 22 people listened to the goodnews. Pray that they may have a personal encounter with Christ.

Â The youth rally held in Kurnool was a blessing to 200 youth.

## GUJARAT

Â God enabled our team to host a National Level fasting prayer in Nadiad. 19 missionaries from 12 States participated in the weeklong fasting prayer. All experienced a fresh visitation of the Holy Spirit.

Â Our missionaries made a survey visit in Thoropa. There are nearly 350 unreached villages in and around this area. Pray for God's guidance to start an outreach centre in Thoropa.

Â God blessed the Blessing Literature Programme in Ahemedabad. A team of missionaries with some local volunteers distributed Blessing literature worth Rs 63,259/-. Thanks for your prayers.

## KARNATAKA

Â Praise God for the 525 children who have attended the Vacation Bible School conducted in various fields. Pray that the seeds sown in the tender hearts may grow and bear fruit.

Â Pray for one of our believers in Bijapur, Raju, who is searching for a suitable life partner and a job; his father needs healing from stomach tumour.

Â 50 youth of Bangalore were spiritually strengthened and motivated to lead a holy life through the ministry of missionary Mohana Krishnan.

Â Pray for God's guidance in the purchase of a land for the construction of a Church in Kathijapur.

Â 35 youth were richly benefited in a Bible Study conducted in St.Peters' Church, Hubli.

## KERALA

Â Missionary Y. Paul Dinakaran shared God's Word in the Life Fellowship Church in Parottukonam on a Mission Sunday. 50 people obeyed the missionary call. The Church came forward to support one missionary of BYM.

Â By the grace of God, Blessing book *Dare to be Different* was published in Malayalam. This is our 18th book in Malayalam.

Â In a special meeting conducted in Palayam, 100 people attended and got challenged to involve in the missionary endeavour.

## MADHYA PRADESH

Â Praise God for the 150 students who participated in the VBS conducted in two villages, Narayanpura and Ramgad Mohalla.

Â Praise God for the divine healing of Babulal, a believer from Richai, who was suffering from stomachache for the past 8 years. By seeing this miracle four families of the same village have put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Â Our believer Mr. Tejilal of Ramtoria Village is facing stiff opposition from his own people. Please pray that he may stand firm in his faith.

Â Praise God for the seven young men who participated in Summer Missionary Programme from 19-26 of June 2005. These youngsters travelled in cycle and shared the gospel of Christ to 13 villages of Sagar District through skits and Bhajans. Pray that these young boys may get missionary vision and zeal.

## ORISSA

Â 100 youth took a definite decision to follow Christ, in a special youth camp conducted in Lamtaput and 65 youth attended in Dabugaon. Pray for the follow up.

Â Missionaries B. N. Samal and N. K. Kusha systematically taught the 30 elders, in the Church Elders' Training Camp conducted in Chandahandi.

Â In Nerura village 200 people came to know about Jesus Christ through the *Jesus* Film. Pray for their salvation.

Â Pray for the 250 Christians who attended a Revival meet in Phulbani, in which missionary V. Ponnusamy edified and enlightened them through God's Word.

Â Manorama, a young girl was delivered from demon possession; Gangaram Bagh and Rita Sagaria were miraculously healed from TB and fits.

Â A Blessing Children Home is proposed for Soura tribal boys in Chatrapur. Pray for the needed resources.

Â In a Family Retreat conducted in Sankorada, missionary couple Jaisankar-Florence ministered to 143 people who participated.

Â The staff retreat held in Lamtaput for those who serve in the states of Orissa, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh refreshed all the missionaries. Rev. Susanto Patro, the guest speaker brought relevant insights from God's Word.

## TAMILNADU

Â Praise the Lord for Usha, an opposer of the gospel, who has recently accepted Jesus Christ and started attending the worship services regularly.

Â 71 women were anointed with the Holy Spirit in the special meetings conducted in Achalwadi, Chitling, Alagur and Mannur. Pray that they may live a witnessing life and give forth much fruit.

Â Vasantha, Selvam, Venkatraman, Anjala and Ravichandran obeyed the Lord in baptism. Pray for their spiritual growth.

Â 1650 people heard the gospel through the intensive evangelistic programme in Chitling area. Our believers and missionaries proclaimed the goodnews by personal evangelism and night meetings.

Â A Cricket tournament was conducted to establish youth contacts in our fields. 7 teams participated and the winners were suitably awarded. On the final day one of our partners from Coimbatore shared the gospel.

Â Gospel was shared through skits, songs and dance by the teachers of Blessing School, Sitteri in a night meeting conducted in Erumaikadai.

Â 60 people joyfully participated in the family retreat conducted in Sitteri hills, where our Tamilnadu State Coordinator Mr. A. Suthanthirasingh gave practical counsel to the participants.

*(Contd. page 3)*

This Magazine presents the message and the ministry of Blessing Youth Mission, an interdenominational Christian organisation, dedicated to Church Revival and Missionary Evangelism, functioning since 1971.

*Founder:* R. Stanley, B.E., M.Tech.



### *Subscription:*

Annual : Rs. 50/- (Inland)  
          \$ 10 (Overseas)  
Life : Rs. 500/- (Inland)  
          \$ 100 (Overseas)

The Life Subscribers will freely receive not only the Magazine but also the books published by BYM from the date of their enrolment.

### *Other Language Editions :*

Assamese, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Tamil and Telugu.

*Address for Correspondence & Contributions :*

**BLESSING, CHURCH COLONY, VELLORE 632 006, INDIA (TEL: 0416-2242943, 2248943) <bym@sancharnet.in>**