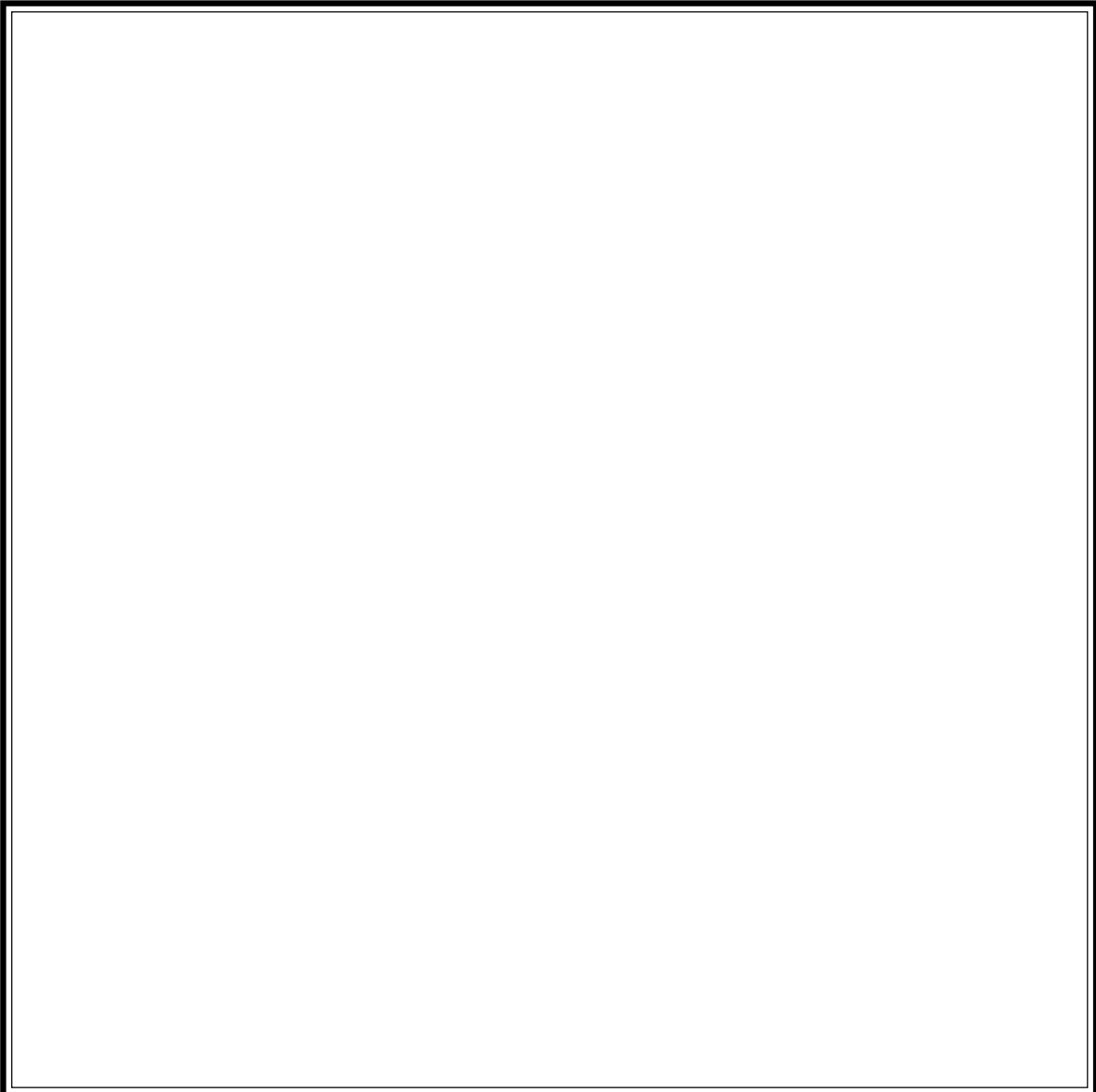


YEAR OF EXCELLENT

<http://www.BlessingYouthMission.org>



JANUARY 2006
Volume 35 Issue 1 No. 358



From the Chairman ...

THE YEAR OF EXCELLENCE

Dear Friends,

Praise God for His enabling grace to reap a good harvest of souls during 2005, the year of harvest. We all know that building the Church of Christ and attacks from the Enemy's quarters go side by side. So, during the process of building the Church of God in the year of harvest, we all had to face different kinds of attacks and challenges. Personally, on several occasions I felt that I almost came to my wit's end. But God's comforting word, especially 2 Cor 4:1 has been a source of encouragement on such occasions: "Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart." God's ways are totally different from man's ways (Isa 55:8). When Red-sea like challenges stand on the way to reach the promised land of goals in the ministry, God comes to our rescue granting us abundant grace and faith to march forward with courage (Ex 14:21,22). When gold is refined by fire, it proves better and excels in its shining (1 Pet 1:7). As we have passed through many trying situations, in the last year, it seems that the Lord wants us to excel in shining forth for Him in this New Year. As the Lord has prompted the leaders of Blessing Youth Mission in this direction, it was decided to declare the year 2006, as the year of Excellence:

"A man who excels in his work ... will stand before kings" (Prov 22:29).

As we are called to stand before the King of kings, one day, we also need to excel in all the areas of our life and ministry.

Excellence is essentially a divine quality. God is excellent in every way. His name itself is excellent (Psa 8:1); He is excellent in greatness (Psa 150:2); excellent in power, in judgment, in justice (Job 37:23) and so on and so forth. When the first man fell in sin he lost his divine traits, but through the redemptive work of the Son of God, man has regained the potentiality to excel. After refining us by the fire of trials and tribulations, perhaps, God expects us to shine for Him in every area of our day to day life and ministry.

Excellence should commence in personal life. In a world drowned in utter darkness of sin and every kind of corruption, as Christians, we are called to shine as lights in our behaviour towards humanity (Mt 5:16; Eph 5:8; Phil 2:15). Apostle Paul exhorts in the book of Romans that we should not lag behind in our Christian conduct in the society (Rom 12:11). Reading chapters 12, 13 & 14 fully will be rewarding.

Excellence should be aimed at in all Christian homes. Children should be brought up and trained to excel in life. The present generation of children are exposed to different kinds of ideologies and values through different kinds of media. So, as responsible Christian parents, it is upto us to give home training to our children so that they may grow in the fear of God which is the real source of true wisdom. God commanded through Moses to the people of Israel: "And these words, which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up (Dt 6:6,7). It is our primary responsibility to pass on godly values to our children and to teach them various lessons for their lives from a godly perspective, before their minds are exposed to other ideas from other sources.

Another area we need to excel is with regard to obeying God's commandments. Obedience is better than sacrifice. Moses taught the people of Israel: "You shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord, your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you" (Dt 6:17). These are days when people go on preaching and preaching, but without taking any efforts to practice the truths that they preach. From the very beginning of the New Year, let us be reminded of the truth Jesus taught in Matthew 7:21, so that we will excel in the area of obeying His commandments.

(Contd. page 9)

Quest for Excellence

Dr. Mrs. Lilian Stanley

There are many ways of coming up in life. Some young people spend a lot of time before the mirror to impress others. That's good. There are others who go crowcatching. Some crowcatching is necessary in life. Some others blow away their notes for bribery. But very few young aspirants have discovered the big secret that will put them on the fast track to success—Quest for Excellence!

We read in the Bible about a young man called Jeroboam. "He was a mighty man of valour; and Solomon, seeing that the young man was industrious, made him the officer over all the labour force of the house of Joseph" (1 Ki 11:28). Jeroboam had no father who could find him a well-paid job. So he was just a servant to Solomon. (v 26). He had no green notes to pass under the table; neither did he hit the jackpot. But he was industrious and diligent. Solomon had legions of workers under him; but this man's prowess was noticed by his superiors and soon came to the knowledge of Solomon who had him promoted.

It is this Solomon who wrote, "Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before unknown men" (Prov 22:29). Jeroboam's fame did not stop there. God took notice of this youth and had a bag of surprise for him. Solomon was becoming more and more unpopular with God because of his sins. God wanted a man to rule His people after Solomon and His eyes fell on Jeroboam. The prophet Ahijah tore his new garment into twelve pieces and asked Jeroboam to take ten. That meant God would take the kingdom from Solomon and give ten tribes to Jeroboam (1 Ki 11:26-40).

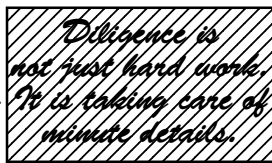
Hard workers were a rare sight even in the days of Solomon and that's how this youth caught everyone's attention. Even so it is today. Young people have a lot of hopes and ambitions but they don't like to soil their sleeves. It was Joshua, who didn't see his wristwatch to go home at the strike of five, who was found a worthy claimant to the

mantle and not Moses' son. This young man "departed not out of the tabernacle" (Ex 33:11). Such dedication paves the way for a bigger and higher future.

"He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich" (Prov 10:4). Maybe David did not qualify for the army because of his age. But even before he joined the army he was a man of war. That shows he was not indolently waiting but training himself. The self-discipline made him excel all in the army in the killing of Goliath. Gradually he ascended the throne.

"The hand of the diligent will rule, but the lazy man will be put to forced labour" (Prov 12:24).

Why? Because the diligent do things willingly but the lazy ones need to be forced or driven to do something. Few young people realize that their destiny lies in their own hands.



Diligence is not just hard work. It is taking care of minute details.

You must be up and about by five in the morning, be dressed and smart for the day at least by eight. He who rises late must trot all day. Even holidays should not be wasted. Fun is just a change of occupation. So get used to physical labour. Learn whatever comes your way. Being an all-rounder will come in handy in future. Join a team of builders and try your hand at building. Help in the printing press and see how things are done. Do whatever household chore you can take up and relieve your parents. If possible go with your daddy to his workspot and observe him at work. If you take up a little more than you can possibly do in a day, your movements will become quicker and you'll look smarter.

Whatever is assigned to you must be done fast and flawless. Never leave a work half done. Do it to the best of your ability. When someone comes and points out a flaw or shows a better way of doing it, instead of getting irritated learn the knack. Careless and shoddy work will take you nowhere. Diligence is not just hard work. It is taking care of minute details. It is earnestly and persistently

attending to a matter. If you are asked to clean a house, just sweeping is not enough. Remove the cobwebs, dust the furniture, wipe the windows, clean the toilet and bathroom, wash the vessels and wipe them, arrange the flower vase and then see if there is anything else to be done. Do it till there is nothing else to be done.

*Good, Better and Best
Should not rest,
Till your good is better
And your better best.*

That need not be the end. You can make your best better too! In the race for quality there is no finish line. In India, why do we need a hammer and nail to open a face powder tin? Why do our narrow-bottom tumblers tumble and spill water? Why do our bottles leak and we can't carry them for journeys? Because, no one wants to think and improve. Still we cannot "open" our matchboxes; we can only "break open" them and spill the matchsticks! Make a list of all such inconveniences you come across. They are too many to write. Develop a quest for excellence and never settle for anything less than the best. Just keep doing without caring for credit. Shakespeare worked without knowing that he would become Shakespeare.

Even an application form will speak for you. A letter neatly written on a clean paper with a margin tells the kind of person who has applied. Be faithful over a few things, and God will make you ruler over many things (Mt 25:23). Jeroboam was faithful as a servant and he was promoted over a tribe. Then the Lord made him king.

Try to meet a few who have come up in life and spend time with them exploring their secrets to success. You will invariably find that there is no elevator to success. You have to take the stairs. A graduate is assigned the job of chopping wood. He looks around, pays a labourer and gets the job done. There's a girl stretched forth on the sofa watching TV. Mummy calls her for help in the kitchen. "Why can't the servant do?" she whines. These two don't realize they accumulate black

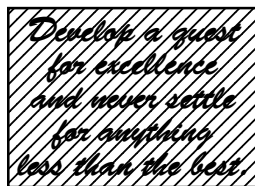
marks to their credit. For those who want to come up in life, TV, novels, love of sleep, vain talk, overeating and such things are corrosive. They taint your image and tear away precious pages from your biography-to-be-written.

Joseph was sold out as a slave. One of my uncles was a Deputy Inspector General of Prisons. I have watched hefty prisoners clean toilets. I have no doubt Joseph was first assigned that job. But he was able to impress his supervisor by the way he did the menial jobs. May be he finished his job quickly and volunteered to help others, taking the supervisor by a surprise. So he became Potiphar's servant (Gen 39:3,4). Then he was made the overseer of his house. When he was thrown in the prison, in spite of the dark despondency, he impressed the jail warden there. Then one day he stood before the king and was given the signet ring of Pharaoh (Gen 41:42). He

was not catapulted to fame by a strange quirk of fate. It was an unfolding development of thirteen long years including hard labour, trials and suffering (Gen 37:2; 41:46). He was a rich carefree boy and the pet of his father.

But when the inevitable happened, he accepted it and put his neck to the yoke he was so unused to. Young people, it is never too late to train yourself for hard work. It only needs a willing mind. Strength is not physical capacity. It is an indomitable will and sheer persistence.

"The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, but diligence is man's precious possession" (Prov 12:27). How can a lazy man go hunting? This shows youngsters passionately throw themselves only into things that interest them. Hunting is interesting but cooking is boring. Young people should not say, "This is not my calling. I am a doctor or engineer or M.A. or M.Phil." Mark Twain said, "Make it a point to do something every day that you don't want to do. This is the golden rule for acquiring the habit of doing your duty without pain." It can make the difference between success and failure in your life. "The soul of a lazy man desires and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich" (Prov 13:4). Yes, the sleepy fox catches no chicken.



*Develop a quest
for excellence
and never settle
for anything
less than the best.*

“The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty” (Prov 21:5). One who fails to plan, plans to fail. Many failures are due to improper planning. A young lady forgets an important paper and hurries back home to get it. She misses the bus and arrives late for her interview. There is no need to say that she found herself on the wrong side of the door. She not only missed her interview but also a prosperous future. If she had got everything ready on the eve of the interview her life would have taken a brighter turn. At least mentally plan your tomorrow and aim to finish one or two major works. That gives you a strategy to work on. Filling up forms meticulously and noting down oral or telephone or written messages accurately are also very important disciplines. Never be in a position to say, “Oh, I thought you said...” God doesn’t help those who don’t help themselves. See that you don’t need to be told twice to do a thing. Do a little more than expected. Eliminate “I-have-forgotten” from your vocabulary.

Paul knew Titus from the early days of his ministry (Gal 2:1). Observing him over the years Paul testifies of him: “Our brother whom we have often proved diligent in many things” (2 Cor 8:22,23). See how carefully the leader was observing the subordinate before he could call him a coworker and partner. One who is not a diligent subordinate cannot be a diligent leader. So Titus was entrusted with the Macedonians for whom he cared earnestly and diligently (2 Cor 8:16,17). He was diligent to know the state of his flocks, and attend to his herds (Prov 27:23). Then he rose up to the position of appointing elders (Tit 1:5).

One who sweeps under the carpet will one day surely own a carpeted house!

Divine Blessing

Diligence is good; but without divine blessing it will come to nought. That’s what happened to Jeroboam. The prophet Ahijah told God’s word to Jeroboam when the two were alone (1 Ki 11:29). Then how did Solomon know about it? (11:40). Maybe Jeroboam started to brag and rebel against the king (v 26). He did not patiently wait for his

time but used fleshly tactics to capture the throne. When Solomon tried to murder him, he fled to Egypt. When King Solomon died, he returned and God gave him the ten tribes.

God had very clearly told Jeroboam that if he kept His commandments and walked in His ways, He would bless him (11:38). But when he became king over ten tribes he secretly feared in his heart that the people may go to Jerusalem to worship and become subjects of Rehoboam. So he made two golden calves and put one in Bethel and the other in Dan. He told the people not to go to Jerusalem but to worship the calves (12:28,29). So God was angry with him and destroyed him completely.

Isn’t that a very sad end of a man chosen for his Quest for Excellence? You may be physically strong and industrious, socially influential and intellectually brainy. But all will come to nought if you are not spiritually-minded. Anything that you do must be blessed by the Lord. Joseph, Daniel, David were all diligent. But their success was because God was with them and prospered all they did (Gen 39:3,23; Dan 6:28; 1 Sam 16:18). God may be Alpha and Omega in your lips when you worship. But is He A to Z in your life? Are you careful to study God’s Book as you study your textbooks to diligently obey it?

Many industrious people have lost everything because they did not walk in the ways of God. Many godly people have achieved nothing because of laziness. We need both. We need to be industrious and we need to walk in the ways of God. The horse should be prepared for the day of battle; that is our part. But deliverance is of the Lord (Prov 21:31). We must labour and build the house. Then the Lord will enable us to complete it. The watchman should not pray for safety and go to sleep. He should stay awake and watch. Neither should he think if he watches over, everything would be safe. He should plead to God for safety. Then all shall be well (Psa 127). Work as if everything depends on you, and pray as if everything depends on God.

How to thrive when others flop? A Quest for Excellence and Divine Blessing are the answer! **f**

God doesn't help those who don't help themselves.

WORTHY BARGAIN

Mrs. Sugirtha Livingston, Missionary, Orissa

The famished Esau entered the tent to get his nostrils pounded by the delicious smell of the steaming red stew his brother Jacob was making. Jacob quietly demanded the birthright in exchange for a morsel. The delirious hunter was unmistakably outwitted by his cunning brother when he said, “Look, I am about to die, what good is the birthright to me?” Thus Esau ate, drank, got up and left. The Bible says, “So Esau despised his birthright.” (Gen 25:34). It wouldn’t take a second thought for anyone to pronounce Esau too foolish and rash in his bargain. But what about those bargains we keep losing all our lives, every day and each minute?

The devil has so much to offer in exchange for the birthright every Christian is promised when he/she is born again. However, his schemes are the same old stuff as in the garden of Eden—coming in new attractive wrappers. These schemes target the vulnerable centers of man: pleasure centre, pride centre and ego centre. The devil strikes a bargain with man. When the bargain is actually lost, the devil gives man a sense of achievement and some applause which blinds and motivates him for more such defeats! Lo! When man realizes he is thoroughly defeated, he also realizes that his race is finished.

APOSTLE JOHN says that Judas Iscariot, the custodian of the money bag was a thief who used to help himself from what was put into the bag (Jn 12:6). Judas had been facing spiritual defeats now and then. When each time he stole and was not noticed, it was his success. This led him to the fatal bargain—the Son of God for thirty pieces of silver! When Jesus was condemned to death, Judas tried to undo what he had done. He told the chief priests, “I have sinned for I

have betrayed innocent blood.” To which the chief priests said, “What is that to us? That’s your responsibility” (Mt 27:4). Although he was filled with remorse, that was his ultimate defeat.

Least do we expect that subtle tricks could be played on those mundane bargains of life. A kindergarten kid’s school bag had so many pencils and erasers. When his mother admonished him for the theft, he said, “Mom, I didn’t steal. I only got them exchanged for my snacks.” When it comes to pleasure, it is astounding how many Bible characters fell for the pleasure of taste. When Eve looked at the forbidden fruit, she felt its taste in her tongue and she did not hesitate to believe that God had lied. When Samson found honey in a dead lion his calling to be a Nazarene was found tasteless. When the Israelites craved for the cucumbers, melons, onions and garlic of bondage, manna seemed flavourless. All those who tried to please their taste buds made such foolish exchanges that cost them their lives! With so many restaurants and fast foods mushrooming in every street corner, the growing addiction of man to the pleasure of taste is apparent. Indeed, God very much wants man to savour the different tastes, but in a bargain, worthy things might turn distasteful for a less alert Christian.

Nowhere in the history has sex been so much blown up out of measure creating a bizarre notion about pleasure in the young minds than now. We have reached the point where people believe, ‘anything goes as long as it is pleasurable.’ So much has media assimilated immorality and violence into culture that in the past 55 years there is a drastic change in the attitude of the young

people. When it has become the culture, where is the question of guilt? When there is no guilt, who cares whether his bargains are worthy or unworthy? When the young people get raw exposure to this culture wherever they go, how has the Church equipped itself to meet out the increased moral and spiritual responsibilities? If not, one must not be surprised to see the young ones make foolish exchanges and perish under its nose.

The definition of pleasure in the recent years has deteriorated to ‘anything that appeals to or pleases one’s senses.’ Aldous Huxley, in his essay, “Pleasures,” traces the changing concept of pleasure along the centuries. He says that the pleasure according to our ancestors is to exert the mind or body ‘to an uncommon degree.’ He says, “In the place of old pleasures demanding intelligence and personal initiative, we have vast organizations that provide ready made distractions—distractions which demand from pleasure-seekers no personal participation and no intellectual effort of any sort.” For instance, if someone says, “I love soccer,” it is understood that he likes watching soccer in Television and not playing soccer!

It is a well known fact that it is impossible to attain a long lasting satisfaction in any kind of pleasure. The more you get the more you want. So what is the end of this pursuit of passive pleasures? In the same essay, Huxley says that the civilization would suffer from ‘a chronic and mortal boredom’ when uninterested in the ready-made distractions, the most violent forms of entertainment of blood shed and violence is the only other option to alleviate boredom. Increasing terrorism and violence could be the direct result of passive pleasures that corrode the civilization. Pleasure is a terrible tool in the hands of the devil. David took pleasure in meditating and obeying the laws of God. Guess, how obsolete it would sound in the ears of internet generation!

When a person learns to make sensible choice of pleasure, he is less susceptible to the enemy's attack on the pleasure centre. Didn't Daniel receive divine wisdom in exchange to the pleasure of taste? Didn't Moses choose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time? (Heb 11:25). With the privilege of birthright being lavished on us, let it not be said, “You have despised your birth right.”

WHEN SATAN took Jesus to the mountain top, he showed Him the grandeur of the world and said, “All this will I give you, if you bow down and worship me” (Mt 4:9). He tried to fill His eyes with the pride of life and lure Him into a lethal bargain—the status of God for the splendour of the world! If he would not spare the Son of God, would he spare the man of mud? Some Christians keep wondering why God should bless the idolaters with so much of wealth. Does money and power come only from God? No, Satan is more than willing to bathe someone in gold and silver in exchange to a single soul.

Satan might not take us to a hill top to make a bargain. But he may say, “Give me your time, I’ll give you knowledge.” The necessity to survive in the competitive world and the pressure of standing up to the expectation of the family, force the students to exchange several hours for the sake of knowledge (of the texts of course!). Once the knowledge is acquired, the devil says, “Give me your knowledge and I will give you money.” The learned young man hunts globally for a job that would accredit his knowledge in currency. Then he is the pride of his parents and no more an ordinary man in the eyes of the society. Then the devil says, “If you give me more time, I shall give you more money, more pride and status.” How many Christians have abandoned themselves to their work-tables with a little

or no time for God? It doesn't seem to bother their parents as long as their children hold an enviable position in the society. Jesus said, "What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight" (Lk 16:15). Even a very successful man could be a miserable loser if his success is at the cost of things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

As a part of self introspection in the presence of God, a Christian ought to search his pride centre. What do I take pride in? Apostle Paul says, "Therefore I will boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me" (2 Cor 12:9). Who would like to flaunt his weaknesses? How much effort do we put up to conceal those inward weaknesses? The nature of the flesh is to boast of its strengths (our boastful little tongue never becomes tired of doing this) but when the weakness is acknowledged in the presence of God, God is given an opportunity to display His mighty power of resurrection in our weaknesses. This divine power in weak vessels accomplishes things that are beyond the capacity of the human strength to the glory of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength. This is a bargain you could boast about—God's strength in the place of human weakness!

"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world," writes St. Paul (Gal 6:14). Those people who do not want to suffer for the sake of cross put an impressive exterior to the world. Does a sort of uneasiness creep in when it comes to confessing Christ before fellow students and colleagues? Kindly check the pride centre for you might be on the verge of losing a worthy bargain. It is with the same sense of caution St. Paul says that he would boast in the cross and nothing else. A healthy pride of a healthy Christian!

Let us not take pride in the insignificant things at the cost of the crucial ones lest it would be said, "You have despised your birthright."

THE GULF between the rich and the poor is widening. Still there are many parts of the world where people starve to death while in some parts an individual wastes food that would be sufficient to feed twenty people! We simply cannot address the poor and the rich at the same time. The terminology and the issues of one section are radically different from the other. This has been the concern of the economists, sociologists and humanitarians for centuries. But it is not as threatening as the chasm that each post-modern man has started to create around himself. A closer look at the things will show how individuals have started to detach themselves from the people around. Every man is becoming an island. We talk about, 'violation of one's space' and 'schizophrenia' which are the brand new terms of this era. What does all this signify? Men have become lovers of themselves, ego centric. It is ironic that the technology that has defied distance through advanced communication systems has distanced man from his neighbour. The expert in the law asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbour?" (Lk 10:29). This is what many Christians ask today. Jesus narrated the selfless, rather the sacrificial love of the Good Samaritan in reply. In a day, how much time do I spend to think or pray for other's (not the family)? When is the last time I conveyed my co-workers and family that they are loved and cared? When is the last time I went out of the way to help someone in need? Answers to these questions should decide if we are ego-centric or not. It is only when we Christians start to think and pray for others, the love of Christ starts to bloom and keeps the relationships intact. No more will there be congregations that visit the churches on Sundays, but the love each

believer has for the other will keep increasing like the Thessalonians' (2 Thess 1:3).

Is there a bargain to lose by being selfish? Yes, Christ could be crucified for selfish gains. Pilate, the Roman governor was convinced that Jesus Christ was innocent. Thrice he told the Jews, "I find no basis for a charge against him" (Jn 18:38). At a certain point the Jewish leaders put Pilate in a fix—to assert the innocence of Jesus and lose the favour of Caesar or let the Jews crucify Jesus subduing the fair judgment of his conscience. Pilate chose selfish ends. He washed his hands (selfishness again) and handed over the Lord to be crucified. Apostle Paul says, "If anyone thinks he has reasons to put confidence in flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews in regard to the law a Pharisee, as for zeal persecuting the church as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. But whatever

was to my profit, I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ..." (Phil 3:4-8). While Pilate crucified Christ for selfish gains, Paul despised his credentials to gain Christ. Let us despise all that constitutes 'I' for it should not be said, "You have despised your birthright."

There are plenty of things to give and take in day to day life. Few exchange good for evil, but many exchange the best for the good. However learned or experienced, human discretion is powerless to put us always on the winning side. Total dependence on the word of God is the only way to be sure footed. Even Jesus who was a combination of human as well as divine nature while on the earth, did not use words of his own when Satan tried to rob His glory in exchange to some goodies (Mt 4:1-10). Rely on God, His word, the wisdom and power it gives. Best wishes to be in the winning streak until you get that big prize! **f**

(Contn. page 2)

Praise God that today He has exalted the members of His Body and they are placed in high offices in an atmosphere where mediocrity, casualness and compromise prevail. Let us not forget that the King of kings has placed us in high positions to discharge our duties excellently. Moses taught the people of Israel, "The judges shall make careful inquiry ... so you shall put away the evil from among you" (Dt 19:18,19). Apostle Paul calls for excellence in governance from those who are in leadership positions (Rom 12:8 NIV).

One more important area in which we need to excel is in God's ministry. Jesus obtained "a more excellent ministry" (Heb 8:6). Apostle Paul considered his ministry as an offering to the Lord (Phil 2:17). He exhorted young Timothy to be diligent in his ministry (2 Tim 4). He quoted the name of Demas for having fallen from the excellent standard of God's ministry (v 10). Because Paul excelled in God's ministry he had the blessed hope of eternal reward for his ministry (vv 7,8).

God willing, we will learn several truths on the theme of 'Excellence,' this year. Several articles will be published in the Blessing Magazine throughout the year. Those of you who have the grace of writing, please write and send articles for possible publication.

Thank you, dear partners and well wishers of BYM, for your prayerful support to this ministry. We appreciate your sacrificial involvement. May the good Lord, the Lord of Excellence reward you suitably with eternal dividends and strengthen the bond of partnership in this ministry even in the days ahead.

May the Lord grant you all grace from above to shine forth for Him excelling in all the areas of your life and ministry in the New Year!

May you excel in every way!

*Your Friend,
M. ARTHUR JOHN*

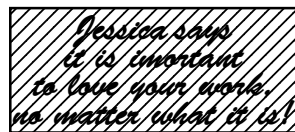
Love your Work!

Jessica Luis, class IX, Nazareth Convent High School, Vasai

When God created man, according to the scriptures, work was assigned to them. God told Adam and his wife Eve, "You shall work by the sweat of your brow, for your bread."

Different people have different insights on work. There are mainly two angles from which we can see work. One is in the optimistic way, the other in the pessimistic. While optimistic people have dedication and love for their work, the pessimists regard work as lengthy and grueling. Optimists sacrifice their time, energy and go to any length to complete the work assigned to them. Pessimists find work monotonous and work is done by them only for the greed of money. An optimist works tirelessly only with the final goal of satisfaction in mind, not having any regard for remuneration.

The outcome of the work of both these types of people is due to their attitude towards work, or their understanding and grasp of work ethics.



From a young age, an individual is taught values of work at school. This teaching takes years, but what is important is how we apply it to our daily lives. This application can be achieved only by the proper understanding of work ethics.

What are the ethics of work?

Work ethics are the insights and values of an individual towards the work he does. These values are stored in his subconscious mind, and are revealed when he is at work.

Mere intelligence or professional skill and competence will not do the job. Even if these are absent, it does not matter. It is the person's ethics that affect his job. Loyalty, integrity, sincerity, punctuality, etiquette, grooming, efficiency, dedication to work and fluency, above all honesty and love for work may make a long list. But these are the gems that will affect or influence your attitude, thus your work, in the long run. This will also influence your insights on work. Work is not

just worship for the sake of money, but there is more to it. We have moral, mental, economic, physical and emotional abilities involved. Writers, scientists, technicians, peons are all involved in work, be it light or strenuous.

I believe that a person's work reflects his character. Both are interrelated because your understanding of the values needed for work influences your attitude. A cluttered mind produces haphazard work, while a calm mind can solve the hottest of problems. The way you work can shape your destiny by guaranteeing your success or failure.

Most people who are poor understand the value of work because they don't get anything free. They understand that one has to strive to succeed. After all, success is only one percent inspiration but 99 percent perspiration. Slum children who have studied under streetlights have gained high positions. There is one man who used to sell *bhelpuri* on roadsides, but his determination and toil have led him to open a large company selling foodstuff.

To quote, "The village Blacksmith" by poet Longfellow, "He toils from morn till night and earns whatever he can." I am so touched by the character of the blacksmith who not only works hard day in and day out, but is also so honest, that he can look any man in the face. He is content with what he has and lives a good life. Hence we see that your work shapes your life. Like the story of the man who disobeyed the master's orders and built a slipshod house, but later realized it was his, we, too, build our lives in a careless and distracted way. We take the least care of it, not realizing the effects of haphazard work. It is only later on that we realize what a mess we have made of our lives, when nothing can be done. If we knew it, we would have done a better job.

The whole problem today is, people have got it all wrong. They understand work not as a privilege but as a monotonous routine. Especially in the metropolis cities, if you mention work, you are sure

to get deadly stares, bored yawns, sorrowful, haggard looks and long complaints to go with them. People have no love for their work. They work like mere robots—no dedication, no efficiency. They just work for their salary. If you love your work, it can do more for you than you can ever imagine. There are people who love their work—they anxiously wait for Monday to come! That’s why the main emphasis of many education counselors today is, choose a job you love. The scriptures firmly state, “If a man shall not work, he shall not eat.”

The importance of this saying is dwindling in modern times. Many resort to earning by unfair means. This attitude actually springs at a young stage of life. A student who feels doing homework is a waste of time leaves it undone, and then unfairly gains by copying another student’s homework, to the extent of even copying in exams. This contradicts the saying above, because he gets by taking from another’s work. But this affects one’s character in the long run.

This attitude is taken to work where the individual resorts to bribes and other cheating measures, which is a very common thing with the politicians of today. Today even servicemen have forgotten their duties. While the work of a police is to protect the citizens, one constable shocked many by raping a minor. Truly, in modern times, work is getting lesser value. Even in the domestic class of individuals young girls and ladies work washing pots and pans, whereas the men lead a luxurious life in the comfort zone. They live a life of wine, woman and song, and are not even ashamed of leading such a lethargic life. If the chariot of success has to run speedily, the walls of religion and caste barriers have to be broken down, with both men and women at the wheel.

Also, the degree you have earned or the work you do have no relative importance. No work is big or small. It is the ethics you go by and the way you do your work that matters. An honest peon is more trusted than a deceitful officer. Also, we have to understand that there is no discrimination between any work. If everyone were rocket engineers, who would fix and clean drains? If everyone joined politics, who would sweep roads?

In the end, it’s the way you do your work that determines your directions. Because, he who

performs his duty without any sense of gratification, attains the highest. Your grounding in the ethics will make sure the type of person you are going to become. The long list of values like love for work and dedication, will go a long way in shaping your personality.

Someone said, “Do not sweep only on the top, but even under the rug.”

All work will be exposed on the final day. No one can hide if he/she has resorted to any “hook or by crook” ways.

Success can be gained from any road. You can get success by jumping through the windows but the real key is constancy of work.

The long but right way has better results than the wrong shortcut.

Work will always be the determination of the future.

Work exists as long as life exists. **f**

(Jessica is the daughter of our missionaries Peter and Elizabeth Luis, Vasai, Maharashtra. Out of 5000 students from Indian schools, abroad and Home, who wrote an essay on Work Culture and Ethics, 90 were chosen and published as a book. The first edition was released by President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. The 90 authors were invited to Delhi to meet the President of whom Jessica was one. Congratulations Jessica, you have brought pride to BYM.)

**ATTENTION,
LIFE SUBSCRIBERS!**

If you are a Life Subscriber to Blessing Literature and not receiving our publications, please let us know immediately. Mention your address and the language in which you would like to receive the books and magazine.

BLESSING YOUTH MISSION
Church Colony, Vellore 632 006

LATEST BLESSINGS...

(Compiled by Dr. Mrs. Lilian Stanley)

Dear Pillars of BYM,

2005 has been a year of sunshine and shadows, an amalgam of achievements and problems. God has brought us through it all and it has already receded into history. We start the Good New Year in a joyous note.

The General Body gathered for two days in November to discuss the many facets of the mission. The first evening was for spiritual fellowship. Bro. Mohan C. Lazarus delivered a forthright message comparing Moses and Jesus based on Hebrews chapter two. His emphasis was on the Original vision, Revival and Youth. All were moved to make a fresh commitment to bend our knees and grow in virtues. The next day's message on Revival and Evangelism shook one and all and opened our eyes to see where we had failed. Thanks to dear brother for giving us a whiplash at the right time.

What a Relief!

The National consultation of Relief work for church planters was the maiden attempt of BYM to consider if social work should be integrated with Evangelism. Thirty seven delegates from nine States gathered to contemplate and contribute in this consultation on the 21, 22 and 23 of November. Mr. Santhosh Thomas, Programme Coordinator, EFICOR, New Delhi and Dr. Abel, former Director of RUHSA, CMC Vellore, were the resource persons. Mr. Santhosh dealt with "Biblical Basis for Social Concern ministry." Dr. Abel dealt with, "Integrating Relief and Development with Evangelism in BYM." The aim was to motivate delegates for wholistic mission. Plenty of group activities enlivened the sessions, showcasing creativity and talent. Three views on our motive behind the involvement in the social concern ministry were presented. Social action as a means to evangelism, social action as a manifestation of evangelism and social action as a partner of evangelism. The

resource persons carried the message across with clarity and precision. Social problems in BYM fields were identified. After adequately exposing the delegates to the pros and cons in integrating social concern with evangelism, Dr. Abel called for a vote of confidence supporting the idea, 'BYM should integrate social concerns with Evangelism.' The delegates unanimously stood for the idea.

Some of the pitfalls while the missionaries take up the added role of social workers were analyzed. Mr. Santhosh gave a talk on, 'Disaster management, Networking, Capacity Building and the role of EFICOR.' After discussion the delegates concluded that networking with the Government or other Christian organisations is permissible as long as there is no compromising with the faith, doctrines and evangelism. After an informal valedictory function the curtains rolled down and the three day consultation came to an end.

—Thomas Livingstone

Coordinators Get-together

Amids heavy rains and floods that disrupted normal life in Chennai, all the Regional, State and Departmental Coordinators with Associate and Assistant Coordinators got together in VGP Temple of World Peace, a conducive campus in the seashore on the 24, 25 and 26 of November. The morning Bible studies led by Mr. James Rathnaraj, the former General Secretary of UESI were edifying. Discussions on various matters related to Staff, Prayer and Revival, Social Concern, Literature, Church Planting, Projects and Constructions, Finance, Audit and Assets and Administration were led by the respective Administrative Committee members. The game conducted by the HRD Department—finding your personality style was both interesting and revealing. In the planning session, the Action Plan for the year 2006 was worked out in faith prayerfully. Pray for these fifty Coordinators that they

may be deeply rooted and firmly built up in Christ, to discharge their duties faithfully.

—D. P. Joseh Devaraj

Seeing in Believing

There is no comparison to what you really see in the mission fields to what you hear about them. 20 partners of BYM from Tamilnadu under the leadership of Mr. Johnson visited 17 villages around our centres in Ramagiri and Umerkote, 8-16 October last year. They were challenged to see the sacrificial labour of the missionaries for the past several years, in interior villages, where there is no proper road or electricity or medical facility. When a missionary suffered from malaria they witnessed the dangers firsthand. The welcome by tribal believers with garlands and dance was thrilling. We were burdened by the scene of worship under trees and verandas and we decided to build churches in selected places.

What a joy it was to see the tribal children in our hostel memorizing the entire 119 Psalm. It was a blessed time to fast and pray with the missionaries. The testimony of magician-turned-missionary, Mr. Bhagwan Pangli gave us all a kick. Most of our workers in Orissa are sons of the soil including the State Coordinator. We returned with a deeper commitment to pray, plan and participate in all ministerial programmes in the coming days.

—R. Jeyakumar

Bengali Lead Soldiers!

Our titles *To Dear Students...* and *How to be Saved* were released in Bengali. Praise God.

The Palamalai ministry is marching ahead. Deliveries are being conducted and many sick are benefitted. We need lot of medicines for this centre. Please send what you can spare or collect and send.

Our native worker Indra Jitku Santa wanted to learn cycling to go for ministry. It was granted her and she was too quick to learn. One evening when darkness was falling a tribal lady came to her to call her and her

husband to pray for her daughter down with severe vomiting, and diarrhoea. Indira hesitated since her husband was away and the village was four kilometres inside the jungle. However she prayed and went by cycle and prayed. The Lord honoured her faith and the child was healed. Praise God for such acts of courage.

After fourteen years of marriage missionaries Solomon and Shakuntala have adopted a cute little boy baby, Sumith.

Missionary Leela John had bypass surgery and is convalescing. Missionary Ruvalya Paul Dinakaran underwent hysterectomy. Esther Swamidoss had a biopsy, but praise God, there was no cancer. Rosalind Kumar is still suffering like Job, being afflicted with an incurable skin disease from head to foot. Please pray that God may relieve her of this unbearable misery. Pray for Leelan, MP our native worker who is suffering from severe allergy since 10 years.

Tintinnabulation!

f Our Tamilnadu Coordinator, Mr. A. Suthanthirasingh's elder daughter Diana married Christopher in Chennai on 27 October 2005 amidst torrential rains.

f Administrative Committee Member—Audit, Assets and Liaison, Mr. A. Jeyaraj's third son Prince married Idaline, daughter of Mr. John Kirubakaran, the General Secretary of FMPB, in Chennai on 29 December 2005.

f Our Trichy Zonal Coordinator, Mr. D.M. Hastings' only son Jasper married Eunice, daughter of Mr. Nallaraj Edward of IEM, on 29 December 2005 in Trichy.

We wish the couples a very blessed married life.

We need your prayers more than ever to run our race this year. We also remember you in our prayers as we know you also have a race to run with so many demands on your time. May this New Year bring new hope and good cheer to you all. **f**

How we (Ad)minister

(The present administrative set-up of the Blessing Youth Mission)

The Blessing Youth Mission is registered with the Government as a Religious and Charitable Society. A Board of Directors, in which no paid staff of the Mission is a Member, holds the legal ownership of the Mission. The Board comprising of the Chairman, Vice Chairmen, General Secretary, Treasurer and three other members is an elected body. The Board meets twice a year and the General Body once. Currently Dr. M. Arthur John is the Chairman, Mr. Anoop Ambrose & Mr. J. Santhakumar are the Vice Chairmen, Mr. J. Gabriel is the General Secretary, Mr. J. D. Sapphire is the Treasurer and Messrs. Suthanthirasingh, D. Samraj and P.G.A. Victor are the Board Members. Mr. R. Stanley is the Chief Advisor.

Major Matters Management (MMM)

This is a small body comprising of the General Overseer, the Chairman and a few others nominated from time to time as its members. The MMM exercises the overall spiritual and administrative oversight to the Mission. Mr A. Lionel is the present General Overseer.

Administrative Committee (AC)

This body is nominated by the MMM for policy formation, decision making, consultations and monitoring of all the Mission's activities, collectively and for taking up individual functional responsibility of one or more departments of the ministry. The following members are nominated by the MMM for the year 2006:

1.	Mr. A. Lionel	—	<i>Chair Person</i>
2.	Mr. Y. Paul Dinakaran	—	<i>Revival & Prayer</i>
3.	Mr. E. L. Mathansingh	—	<i>Field & HRD</i>
4.	Mr. J. D. Sapphire	—	<i>Literature</i>
5.	Mr. A. Jeyaraj	—	<i>Audit, Assets & Liaison</i>
6.	Mr. J. Gabriel	—	<i>Finance & Staff Welfare</i>
7.	Dr. M. Arthur John	—	<i>Administration</i>
8.	Mr. John Thomas	—	<i>Lands, Buildings & Constructions</i>
9.	Dr. Mrs. Lilian Stanley	—	<i>Social Concerns</i>
10.	Mr. J. Santhakumar	—	<i>Promotion & Sponsorship</i>
11.	Mr. Victor P. S. Kumar	—	<i>Youth Ministry</i>

The Administrative Committee Members will be assisted by departmental overseers and organisers to attend to the day to day work.

Executive Coordinators Committee (ECC)

The Executive Coordinators Committee includes the Regional Coordinators, the Lady Staff Coordinator and Special Invitees from among the Leaders who hold ministerial responsibilities (both fulltimers and layleaders).

Regional Coordinators

The Regional Coordinators give the primary oversight to all the ministries of the Mission at the regional level. The following are the Regional and Associate Regional Coordinators for 2006.

<u>Region</u>	<u>Regional Coordinator</u>	<u>Associate Regional Coordinator</u>
1. Northern	Mr. E. L. Mathansingh	Mr. A. Malarselvan.
2. Southern	Mr. Y. Paul Dinakaran	Mr. M. C. Ponniah
3. Western	Mr. Mohan Deenadayalan	Mr. S. Regunathan
4. Eastern	Mr. V. Ponnusamy	Mr. A. Philip Bishoyi & Mr. V. Chelliah (North East)

The Lady Staff Coordinator gives the spiritual oversight to the lady staff, who is assisted by the Regional Lady Staff Counsellors. Currently Mrs. Rebekah Thomas is the Lady Staff Coordinator and Mrs. Ruth Manivannan is the Assistant Lady Staff Coordinator.

Mrs. Lalitha Mathansingh, Mrs. Bimala Samal, Mrs. Jeya Anbu Jothiraj, Mrs. Esther Samidoss and Mrs. Sathiavathy Ponniah have been nominated to function as the Regional Lady Staff Counsellors for the Northern, Eastern, Western, Southern Regions and Headquarters office respectively.

State, Associate and Assistant Coordinators

Each Region has State, Associate Coordinators, Assistant Coordinators and Stations-In-Charge. The Coordinators for each Region currently are as follows:

I. NORTHERN REGION

<u>State</u>	<u>State Coordinator</u>	<u>Assoc. State Coordinator</u>	<u>Assistant Coordinator</u>
1. Madhya Pradesh	Mr. J. J. Devanesan	Mr. J.J. Selvaraj	—
2. Chhattisgarh	Mr. Rajadhas	Mr. R. Elisha	—
3. Rajasthan	Mr. S. Raja	Mr. E. Anantharaj	—
4. Uttar Pradesh	—	—	Mr. Joseph Devaraj

II. SOUTHERN REGION

<u>State</u>	<u>State Coordinator</u>	<u>Assoc. State Coordinator</u>	<u>Assistant Coordinator</u>
1. Tamilnadu	1. Mr. A. Suthanthirasingh (Revival & Promotion) 2. Mr. J. Karunakaran (Fields)	1. Mrs. Sakuntala Israel (Women) 2. Mr. S. Samidoss (Fields) 3. Mr. A. Sundaramurthy (Fields)	Mr. S. Saravanan (HRD—HQ Office) — —
2. Kerala	Mr. S. Wilson	Mr. Prince Sounderaraj	—

III. WESTERN REGION

<u>State</u>	<u>State Coordinator</u>	<u>Assoc. State Coordinator</u>	<u>Assistant Coordinator</u>
1. Maharashtra	Mr. Samuel Jothiraj	Mr. Peter Luis Mr. Stephen Dhanaraj	Mr. Vinod Mallappa
2. Karnataka	Mr. Chandrasekar Sadamal	Mr. S. Mohanakrishnan	Mr. R. Paul
3. Gujarat	Mr. R. Robin Sam	—	—

IV. EASTERN REGION

<u>State</u>	<u>State Coordinator</u>	<u>Assoc. State Coordinator</u>	<u>Assistant Coordinator</u>
1. Andhra Pradesh	Mr. P. Selvam	—	Mr. P. Ramana
2. Orissa	Mr. Biswanath Samal	Mr. P. Chezhan	1. Dr. M. Jaisankar 2. Prakash Ch. Nag 3. Solomon Das
3. Jharkhand	—	Mr. N. K. Kusha	—
4. Assam	—	Mr. J. Gnanapragasam	—

The other ministerial wings like The Students For Jesus, Graduates For God, Literature Ministry etc. are being given oversight mostly by our lay leaders at present. We request the Readers to pray regularly for all these leaders so God may grant them a daily anointing to administer His affairs in His way.

Dr. M. ARTHUR JOHN
Chairman

Have you Excelled?

If you have excelled in any work and field please let us know how. Was it through your hardwork? Did someone help you? Did God help you miraculously? Any counsel, book, suggestion, idea sharpened you? Did your life turn around from failure to a success story? Share with us to the glory of God your valuable experiences in the pathway to excellence!

EXCELLENCE

Blessing Youth Mission
Church Colony, Vellore 632 006

WRITING CONTEST

Here's an opportunity for you to use your writing skill for God. Write on any topic in English or any of the major Indian languages. The article should be original and within five pages of foolscap paper, neatly typed. Articles already published elsewhere will not be accepted. Write your name and address on top. Keep a copy for yourself. The manuscript will not be returned.

Last Date: 31 March 2006

Dr. Mrs. Lilian Stanley, MBBS, DCH.
Blessing Youth Mission
Vellore 632 006

BEST WISHES!



A three day camp for unmarried **BOYS**
to make their lives shine with the
light of Jesus

13-16 January 2006

Friday evening 6 to Monday noon

SITTERI HILLS

3500 feet altitude

Footstation: Harur

(Between Salem and Tirupathur)

Strict age limit: 16-25

Boarding & lodging fee
payable at Campsite: Rs. 70/-

Delegates to bring their own plates, tumblers,
bedding, warm clothes, torchlights, etc.

- < **Music & Songs**
- < **Practical Counsel**
- < **Cultural Programmes**

Medium: TAMIL

Organised by BYM

Get ready to attend!

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>