

Milestone -17

Intensive Training Course in Evangelism and Literature:

In order to equip Church leaders particularly in the rural areas, three week end intensive training course in Evangelism and Literature, was organised in different areas of the Council. We are thankful to the German Christian Endeavour Union who provided a grant of Rs.18,000/- to support the programme.

The objective of this training was to strengthen and promote the talents which are latent in them. The Courses were in Tamil, and focused on the following Topics:

- Christian Leadership
- Preparation of Sermons
- Leaflet Evangelism
- Communicating the Good News through the Traditional Media, such as drama, puppetry etc.,
- Principles of Christian Endeavour, such as Commitment to the mission of Christ; Service for Christ; Loyalty to Church; Fellowship with People
- Stewardship of time and money.

Milestone-18

Workshops on Health and Wholeness of Women:

The Christian Medical Association of India and the Tamilnad Christian Council jointly organized a Workshop on "Health and Wholeness of Women" from the 23rd to 26th November, 1989 at Nagercoil, Tamilnadu. The objective of the Workshop was to deal with the issues and concerns of women and health, and to motivate the Churches in India to be actively involved in the welfare and upliftment of Indian Women. About 40-Women leaders from all over India participated in the Workshop.



A Workshop for Women was organised jointly with the Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI) and our Council between the 13th to 16th January 1990 at Nagercoil, The "Workshop on Health and Wholeness for Women" was well attended with the participation of about 25 women representing the CSI, TELC, ALC, YWCA., IELC, ECI, and the RCC. The Workshop was to educate and sensitise the participants to the issues and concerns on women and health; to create awareness of the wholeness of individual and to motivate the churches in Tamilnadu to be actively involved in Women's health and development. The workshop was divided into three plenary sessions on "Women know thyself; Women know your Body; Women know your Rights".

Milestone -19

Ecumenical Conference -1991

An Ecumenical Conference for Pastors, Health Professionals, Sociologists and Evangelists was organised from the 6th to 8th August 1991 at Madras in co-ordination with the CMAI. About 50 participants participated in this conference. Based on the success of the Workshop, it was planned to organise another Conference in 1992.

Milestone -20

Consultation on Christian Personal Law and its Relevance



This Consultation was organised in co-ordination with the Y.W.C.A. on the 31st August 1991 at Madras. About 42 participants representing different denominations including the Roman Catholic Church participated in this Workshop.

The personal Law governing Christians remains unchanged for nearly 150 years. Hence the need to change these archaic laws wherever necessary was keenly felt. This was also one of the main concerns of the NCCI. This Workshop was organised at the Tamilnadu State level in order to take up the issue for an amendment of the Christian Personal Law at the State level.

Milestone -21

Ecumenical Meeting of the Church leaders

An Ecumenical Meeting of the Church leaders in Madras was jointly organised by Unit III of the NCCI and of the Tamilnad Christian Council on the 20th September 1991. This meeting was organized with a purpose to bring all the Churches in India to come together to take up issues concerning the Socio-economic and political problems of the Christian Community.

Fellowship Meeting with Church leaders from the Middle East Council of Churches

A Fellowship Meeting with 12 Church Leaders from Egypt, Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Syria, and Palestine representing the different denominations was held on the 26th September 1991 in our campus. It enabled these Church leaders to share their experiences in the ministry in their countries.

Milestone -22

Community Drinking Wells & Health Education & Training Programme- Phase II:

The World Health Organisation reported that 25 Million people die from Water borne diseases in the developing countries every year. In India 3.5 Million children die every year as a result of water-borne diseases, while another 3.5 Million have been disabled due to the same diseases. About 360 million Indians do not have safe drinking water. According to another study, 70% of the inland water in India is unfit for human consumption. As a result, the country loses 73 million working days, costing the exchequer Rs.600/= crores every year. India accounts for a third of the five million children who die in the Developing World every year from diarrhoea. Common diseases mentioned above and typhoid, hookworm and guinea worm account for as much as 80% our health dioxide, in addition to smoke and dust. Maternal health in India is subject to a host of maladies mainly related to poverty and lack of access to basic amenities like water. This is the scenario of health care in modern India. Therefore following programmes were implemented from the year 1991.

(a) Provided 45 community drinking water wells/storage tanks in the acute water scarcity regions especially for the dalits.

(b) Community Health Education and Training Programmes conducted in the places where Wells were dug and Pumpsets installed and in some of the areas where storage tanks were constructed.



This Programme was implemented with the funds provided by SIMAVI, Netherlands; and The Church of God in Christ of the Mennonite, U.S.A.

The Health Education and Training Programme had great significance since the provision of merely community Drinking Wells/Pumpset and Storage Tanks were only to meet the physical requirements of the people to get drinking water. But training helped in the management and sustainability. Therefore wherever Community Drinking Wells/Pumpsets/ Storage Tanks were provided, “One Day Health Education Programme” was organised for the village community in those places irrespective of age or whether they were literate or illiterate. The basic knowledge to use clean and protected water and the reasons for using such water to prevent water borne diseases were taught to these people in these “One Day Health Education Training Programme for Village Leaders /Social Workers/ Community Organizers/ Church Leaders. The first one was organized in Dindigul in February and the second in Nagpur. The second programme was for a different level of people who were working in the different Churches in Tamilnadu. Being a Council of Churches, we made this attempt to make the Church Leaders to bring this kind of awareness on health in their areas and discussed with them about how they can in turn train Village Leaders in their areas to teach the people on Health. This training programme was organized in co-ordination with the Christian Medical Association of India.



The Health Education and Training Programme had great impact on the participants both at the grass root level and at the Village Leaders/ Health Workers/ Social Workers/ and Church Leaders level as well.

The other aspect of this programme was to share the knowledge on health; sanitation; observing hygienic habits; preventive methods, keeping the environment clean; awareness about environment and ecological aspects, maintenance of Wells/Pumpsets in a clean and proper manner. Magazines and some books on these subjects are also available in our library. Leaflets on these subjects in simple language were also produced for use by common village people. Posters on the subjects produced by the Tamilnadu Voluntary Health Association and the Christian Medical Association of India in the local language were given to the Village Leaders for displaying them in public places in the Village/Towns.

Community Drinking Wells Project enabled us to provide protected drinking water to about 24,000 people from 3156 families, around 3000 school children, a Rural Hospital and a

Centre for the mentally challenged. Further the Health Education and Training Programmes enabled providing basic knowledge on health to about 3000 grass root level people from remote villages, and to train 92 men and 140 women in various aspects of Environment and Health Care

Milestone -23

Faith Tribal School Project, Armeninpentah:

This was a project implemented by the Faith Foundation India Trust, Thuthipet, Ambur for which the funds are channeled through the Tamilnad Christian Council Economic Life Committee (TCC ELC).



The Rev. J. John Sundaram, the Managing Trustee of the Trust was in charge of implementing the project. The target group comprised of tribal children and tribal people in Armeninpentah village. About 60- children are given boarding and lodging, and education facilities besides child care. A School and a Hostel Building were constructed. A Community Drinking Well was dug and was installed with an Electric Motor and Pumpset. The project also provided

health care to the people in the area in the future.

Daily Bread Programme:

This programme was to provide loans for self-employment. This was supported by ECLOF-India. This programme was started in the Chingleput area and loans were given to Women through their *Magalir Manrams* to establish tea shops, cut- piece sales, purchasing goats, sheep; milch animals; mobile vegetable; fire wood shops; mobile laundry; mobile sweet shops; Idly –Vadai shop; coconut leaves making; mud pot selling; rubber stamp making etc., An amount of Rs. 5, 00,000/=., (Rupees Five Lakhs) was disbursed on 14th April 1994 at Kamaraj Nagar, Chingleput by Rt. Rev, Dr. Elia Peter, President, ECLOF and Mr. S. Ponraj, Director, ECLOF.



The *Magalir Manrams* systematically organised their meetings and arranged to recover the loan installments on a regular basis. Dr. Kaniyoro, the Director , ECLOF_ WCC, Geneva, Mr. Lee Holland and a group of members of ECLOF- Canada had a impressive visit of these places and were able to talk to the beneficiaries to ascertain the benefits people received though these loans.

Milestone -24

Ecumenical Workshop on Folk Arts

An Ecumenical Workshop on Folk Arts was organised from the 4th to the 9th September 1995 at Mahabalipuram. This was sponsored by the Traditional Media Unit of ICMC and the Association of Communication and Ecumenical Services. The objective of this Workshop

was to emphasise effective communication of the Gospel and to create awareness among the neglected sections of the society like women and Dalits for social action through traditional media, such as Street Theatre; Kummi, Kollattam; Villupattu; and Katha Kaletchebam.

Consultation on Poverty as Human Rights Issue:

This Consultation was organised for the Church leaders from all over Tamilnadu and also from a few other States in India. This was sponsored by the Asian Human Rights Commission of the UN and the Unit III of the NCCI. The Rt.Rev. John Franklin, Bishop, Arcot Lutheran Church inaugurated the Consultation. Mr. Basil Fernando, Executive Director of the AHRC participated in it, besides Dr.J.A. Oliver, Vice-President of the NCCI and other Church leaders. Justice Mr. David Annusuamy, Rtd. Judge, Madras High Court, Rev.Dr.V. Devasahayam, Prof. Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Mr. Moses P. Manohar of the NCCI were the Resources Persons. The deliberations emphasized that the Church must address the issue of poverty and join hands with concerned Groups and Organisations in eradicating it. It further emphasised that in this age of violation of human rights in all parts of the world, the Church should take into account the reality of this issue. The other point was that poverty was a human creation so eradication of it was a human responsibility.

Milestone -25

Community Sanitary Latrines Project – Phase I



This project aimed to provide low cost latrines in the villages where such facilities were not available and thereby to prevent diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery, cholera, etc. Most importantly the aim was to relieve the embarrassment of women girl children who do not have such facilities. 10 Community Latrines were

constructed in those areas where there is sufficient water to maintain these latrines in hygienic conditions.

Milestone -26

Leather Stitching Training Programme:- 1997-98



Ambur is one of the areas where most of the leather tanneries and leather factories are located. Leather garments, leather shoes and other leather articles are being manufactured in those factories. They require trained persons for such skills. Our Council started leather stitching training programme for the unemployed youth on February 11, 1998. This was sponsored by the World Council of Church, Geneva. 109 Students completed the course in four batches in the first and second

year. Most of them got good jobs in the leather factories. The programme continued till 2002.