

## ***Milestone -48***

### **Adult Literacy Centres**



Twenty one Adult Literacy Centres have been established in different places in Tamilnadu. Adult men and women between 30 to 60 years of age attend classes regularly. One Centre has been established exclusively for leprosy affected adults and 6 Centres for Tribals (Irulars and Gypsies).

Most of these adults have never had an idea of reading and writing. We could see the sadness on their faces for not having education or for having missed the opportunity of going to school. Many old women who attended the adult literacy programme expressed their excitement about their reading abilities to write their own names, of their husbands and of their family members which was once a dream and a miracle for them. We could now see the joy of achievement and sense of satisfaction and fulfillment on their faces.



## ***Milestone -49***

### **Community Development Project:**

We have undertaken Community Development Project for the Dalits, affected by Tsunami in the Irukkam and Vaenadu islands and at Vepanchery near Kalpakkam. Irukam and Vaenadu are located in a dry island near Gumidipoondi (border of Andhra Pradesh). It will take an hour by boat to reach these villages from the main land. The Dalits in these villages are very poor and live in de-motivated condition. There are about 210 Dalit and tribal families in Irukam and 250 families in Vaenadu. They have been rendered poor schematically, and their children and women have fallen into systematic oppression without any choice. They have no ways and means for education, learning and recreation. These people are bonded labourers for generations and now their condition is that of being un-employed without any basic skill.

The whole community remains unorganized. Most of the men spend their wages on alcohol. The Dalit women of these colonies are the most oppressed. There is no school, no hospital and not even a first aid clinic in the villages and no market.

Our President visited the Irukkam village on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 2005 and dedicated the programmes for the people. The building construction of the Community Centre at Irukam has been completed. The construction work at Vepanchery is nearing completion. Land for construction has been acquired in Vaenadu and construction will commence soon.

The following programmes are proposed in these Centers

- Adult Literacy Programmes
- Education for Children
- Skills Training Programme (already in progress)
- Ecology Programmes
- Health Programme is in progress
- Medical Camp is in progress



A new boat fitted with 10 HP motor was donated by UELCI for transportation is now plying between the island and the main land. We are thankful to Rev. Dr. Chandran Paul Martin and Rev. Dr. Augustine Jeyakumar for sanctioning the boat.

### ***Milestone-50***

### **Ecumenical Conference on Socio-Spiritual awareness and campaign on the eradication of HIV/AIDS**



This was an unique venture to organize the free lance preachers and independent and Pentecostal Pastors. Pastors from other denominations were also invited to participate. The objective of this programme is to help the pastors to understand the Mission of God in today's context to interpret the Word of God relevantly and to meaningfully organize the ministry of the church to the people of God. With this theological orientation, the participants were expected to have their attitude

transformed towards HIV AIDS and especially towards the victims. and especially towards the victims.

The Consultations held previously revealed how in the midst of the insensitive and stigmatizing society most of the Christians instead of showing the love of Christ have become more unconcerned about the victims, and have dishearteningly turned cold and become supremely judgmental in their attitude, words and actions. Such infected attitude towards HIV/AIDS not only makes Christian presence ineffective, but also deprives the community at large from information, prevention and remedy.

It was therefore decided to first reach Pastors to help develop a right theological perspective, methodological relevance and social sensitivity because they can really reach Congregations with the right Message. During 2005, this programme was conducted at 3 places viz. Annaikadu at Pattukottai, Virudhunagar and Tirunelveli.

## **Milestone -51**

### **Writing for Transformation:**



A Workshop on “Writing for Transformation” was conducted at YMCA, Yellagiri Hills from 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> June 2005. The aim and objective of the Workshop was to educate and train participants to write short stories that will serve as an effective tool to transform people from superstitions, oppressive ideologies, misleading trends, and exploitative practices.

The resource person Mr. Prabanjan is popular among prolific writers social animators and has scores of stories written to his valuable credit.

The participants were given various assignments and were encouraged to write short stories. They were instructed to learn systematically on how to write stories and short stories that would create sensation and vibrations in the public feelings, prick human conscience, and kindle social awareness in the communities. The participants were encouraged and motivated to write stories and send it to our Council. Most of the stories were published in the Manai Malar magazine- the publication of the Tamilnad Christian Council. About 28 writers participated.

## **Milestone - 52**

### **Personality Development Programme:**



This programme was organized for the students on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2005 the purpose of which is to improve their involvement in studies, develop brighter perspective about life, freeing from negative thoughts and concepts of low self-esteem. We received positive feedback from all the students and there was request from students to include this subject in to main curriculum.

## **Milestone -53**

### **Motivating Women for Transformation: 2006**

This Workshop was held at Community Service Centre, Kellys on January 26<sup>th</sup> 2006. The aim of the training programme was to motivate women to involve themselves in the transformation of the communities they live in. The main subjects were “understanding womanhood and identifying hidden potentials, realizing the role of women as indispensable agents and potential leaders for transformation”. About 35 women from various Churches participated.



## ***Milestone - 54***

### **Children Home at VOC Nagar, Chingleput:**



Our President, Bishop Devasahayam dedicated children's home at VOC Nagar in Chingleput on 06-07-2006. This home will provide shelter for HIV+ and Mentally Challenged Children. There are 29 children staying in the home (18 HIV+, 6 MR, and 5 poor children). These children are now under the care of Mr. Franklin of Karunai Jeevan Trust.

## ***Milestone - 55***

### **Kondamangalam –(Rural Centre, Chingleput)**

Women development programmes in Kondamangalam village are carried through as joint scheme with the Forest Department at Chingleput. Forest Department is keen in encouraging women to do more skills oriented jobs than to rearing goats that consume large quantity of greenery. With the sanctioning of Rs.1, 38,800/- as loan with 1% interest to the women group at Kondamangalam village we have trained women and some of the women are now in the production of materials based on the Skills Training. Others have started tea shop, provision shop and petty shops.

## ***Milestone - 56***

### **Rally on tree planting**

Environment is being polluted and destroyed in many ways and De-forestation is one of the main factor which speedup the process.

A Rally was organized in collaboration with the Forest Department in Chingleput to create awareness among school children and the general public and motivate them to grow trees and raise their voice against cutting off trees.

## ***Milestone - 57***

### **Consultation on Right to information Act -2005:-**

A day long Consultation on Right to Information Act 2005 was conducted in November 2006 at four places, Bishop Neil Research Center, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu, Theological Seminary, Madurai, TELC Lutheran Church, Pambarpuram, Kodaikanal; and Ziegenbalg Spiritual Centre, Tranquebar respectively. The main objective of these Consultations was to create awareness among Pastors, Lay Leaders, Women fellowship Leaders and Youth on the Right to Information Act 2005. CASA sponsored these Consultations.



## **Milestone -58**

### **Churches Leaders Consultation on the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations: 2007**



Two Consultations were organised for Church leaders on the Millennium Development Goals. The first Consultation was held at Kanyakumari from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> February 2007, and the second at Trichirapalli from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2007.

The main objectives of the Consultation were:

- To create awareness among Church Leaders about the MDGs.
- To explore the possibilities of engaging proactively in contributing towards the MDGs process
- To emphasise on the role of the local congregations in the field of social work and development activities of the country.
- To help the Church become more visible in terms of development

#### **CONCLUSION**

Down the memory lane when we look at the road we traveled we are able to see only the mighty hand of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was and is our strength and guide and with Him and in Him all our planning, effort and hard labour found meaning and fruition. We are enlightened to see the power of love, wisdom and word in all our activities from generation to generation. To God be the glory for He had done great things through everyone who participated in His mission and struggled and suffered with Him.

I am indebted to all the servants of God who by their life, dedication and commitment inspired me to God's mission. Especially- names of all seniors-

I wish to acknowledge my sincere thanks to- all our leaders, donors, well-wishers, friends, colleagues.