

Overseas Friends of UESI (Union of Evangelical Students of India)-USA

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Dear OFUESI Family:

Greetings to you in the highly exalted name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. In a couple of weeks, the annual meeting of the National Council will take place for which we seek your prayers. Thanks to the host group Chicago EGF, the 9th Annual Meeting of the OFUESI National Council (NC) will be held in Wheaton, IL during Dec 13-14, 2008. Please pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as the new NC and Executive Committee (EC) will be handed out the baton to continue the vision and mission of OFUESI.

As a continuation of our effort to bring the gist of the messages from our Annual Regional Conferences, Sessions III of both Bro. Sathkeerthi Rao and Bro. LT Jeyachandran are compiled as the third installation of the series in our *Eternal Excellence Feature*. May our dear Lord help us to translate what we learned into obedience!

There are many differences of opinion about Jesus Christ in the world but 700 years before Christ, prophet Isaiah declared Him as *Everlasting Father and Mighty God* (Is 9:6). He also prophesied the virgin birth of Christ and named Him *Immanuel* (God with us) which was fulfilled at Christ's birth (Is 7:14). The beloved disciple, John testified that Jesus is the *true God* and eternal life (I Jn 5:21). Paul wrote to Titus that Jesus Christ is the *great God* and Savior (2:13). Paul shared with Timothy that He is the *living God* and Savior of all (I Tim 4:10). Peter includes us in his opening of second epistle and calls Jesus, "*our God* and our Savior". May we specifically share Christ our Savior with our colleagues and neighbors during this Christmas season! May the Lord help us share the reason for the season clearly to those around us in a gentle and respectful manner. We must never lose sight of the fact that Evangelism is the first aim of UESI. May we deliberately present the gift of this season to those that do not hold the gift yet!

Please be on the lookout for an email regarding a web link for an online survey about Marriage and Family, one of our brothers, Dr. Packiaraj (formerly Trichy EU/EGF, Chair of UESI-TN Christian Home Dept.) is preparing to conduct. He will collect and analyze data for his research study at Marywood University. This undertaking is a fresh breeze at a time Christianity and traditional family are under a major attack in the US, especially by the academe. We urge that all OFUESI families take time and participate in this survey, for the lessons gleaned will be a great blessing in bringing a new hope to many families practicing Christian faith.

We praise God for our OFUESI family for its commitment to UESI in prayer and finances. Bro. Paramjyothi's (Treasurer's) report is very encouraging and we trust that we will be generous in this month to meet our current goal. Please send your financial contributions before Christmas so the Treasurer can send them to UESI before the year-end.

Both of us, the undersigned, would like to thank our OFUESI family for the privilege given to us in serving on the NC and EC for a good length of time. While we step down, we are grateful to others on the EC (Joji Varghese, Paramjyothi Marati, Emmanuel Emmady, Abhijit Talari) who made our experience rich and we are certain that our Lord will do greater things through the upcoming leadership. Both of us will continue to support the efforts of the Newsletter and any other responsibilities the next EC entrusts us. It is indeed a privilege to serve the King of Kings and Lord of Lords through serving on OFUESI NC and EC. May God richly bless you all!

Subha Kumpaty and Prem Saganti
For OFUESI Executive Committee

OFUESI Vision: *Fostering the UESI vision in the US and strengthening the UESI through OFUESI*

Eternal Excellence Featuring the *Ministry of the Word* by Mr. Sathkeerthi Rao (SR), UESI, India and Mr. LT Jeyachandran (LT), RZIM, Singapore at the Regional Conferences '08

SR Session-III

Eph 5:18-33 *Fullness of the Holy Spirit in the Church and the Home*

Christian Identity in society vv. 18- 21; in the Christian Home vv. 22- 33

Two Commands (Eph. 5:18)

1. Do not get drunk on wine
2. Be filled with the Spirit



The *four* beneficial results of being filled with the Spirit

1. Fellowship (v.19a)
2. Worship (v.19b)
3. Gratitude (v.20)
4. Submission (v.21)

The imperative on what these fourfold participles depend – Be filled with the Spirit

It is in 1) the imperative mood 2) the plural form 3) the passive voice and 4) the present tense.

Home – husbands and wives vv. 21-33

1. Duties of wives vv. 22-24

- Two reasons for submission

- a. From Creation
- b. From Redemption

2. Duties of husbands vv. 25-33

- Christ's covenant love for His bride which husbands are to imitate

3. Paul uses 5 verbs

- He loved her
- Gave Himself up for her
- To sanctify her
- Cleansed her
- Present her to Himself. (The Cross)

There is no greater secret of holiness than the infilling of the Him whose very name and nature is holy. Eph 1: sealed with the Spirit; Eph 4: Grieve not the Spirit; Eph 5: Be filled with the Spirit. Two commands- avoid drunkenness and seek the Spirit's holiness. One who is filled with alcohol loses control. The highest center of all in the brain is self-control. Alcohol is a depressant (not a stimulant) without any pharmacological value. The Holy Spirit is a stimulant. Alcohol dehumanizes and turns humans into beasts. The Holy Spirit makes us more human and like the Lord Jesus. Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones has written an excellent book on the Spirit in marriage, home and work.

There are many benefits to being filled with the Holy Spirit. Speaking to one another in psalms refers to fellowship. Remember fellowship is sandwiched between evangelism and testimony in the aims of UESI. Guard your fellowship. Dr. Sterrett had written the song on this theme, *Jesus commanded us something to do*. Singing and making music in heart to the Lord refers to worship. Giving thanks is another benefit. Phil 4:6. Gratitude has become a foreign commodity. When we say thank you, the British trained us to say, "No mention". So we don't even say thanks. But Americans improved upon it to respond: "You are welcome". Beware of ingratitude. Rom 1 presents the most disgraceful predicament of those knew God but were not thankful. God gave them up! There is a beautiful church building in Auckland and I was told it is a gay church. How sad! Ingratitude to God can be dangerous. Finally, submission is another. 'Be filled' is a command to obey, not an option to choose. It is for every member of the church to submit. It is in the passive meaning let the Holy Spirit fill you. It is in the present tense. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. This is a command for the entire church. If you honor, worship, love and reverence Christ, you will submit to one another.

Verse 22 is a continuation of Verse 21 in that there is no verb (submit) in the Greek. (So if a woman doesn't want to submit, she can read the Bible in Greek... have a laugh.). Submission is a command of God to both church and home. Paul will discuss three relationships- husbands and wives, parents and children, and masters and servants. In the society, women are exploited. Recall the doctrine of Sati, eradicated by the efforts of William Carey and Alexander Duff. What a transformation! Children are also suppressed. In the Victorian England, children suffered and were not heard. Workers have been unjustly treated for centuries. The Bible brings about a transformation: dignity of womanhood, childhood and servanthood. Woman is not inferior to man. God created man in His own image; male and female He created them. In the blue print of the architect, woman is not an afterthought of God, not a second-class citizen but as much as man, made in His own image. However, husband's leadership is from the Creation. The woman is made after man, out of man and to be his helpmeet. Man is born from woman. Since the abolition of slavery, women's liberation movements

began. But God's plan is not liberation from man but working together in a home. He gave husbands a command to love their wives. Christ opened a beauty parlor in order to beautify His bride. Woman is asked to submit to her husband. Submission and Love are not conditional. Husbands must keep on loving their wives as Christ loved the church. You, husbands must love your wives as your own bodies, without any ifs and buts. John Wesley's wife caught him by hair and dragged him but he loved her unconditionally. There will not be a Methodist church today if John Wesley did not obey God's command. William Carey's wife stabbed him. He loved her till her death. The Father of Modern Missions obeyed God's command. How do you love in such circumstances? While it is humanly impossible, it is only possible by being filled with the Holy Spirit. There is a severe attack on family since our first parents Adam and Eve fell to the scheme of Satan. The poor man never ever opened his mouth except for fruit and it turned out to be a serious problem that is affecting you and me. Every third home in Britain ends up in divorce. Every second home in the US has this result. Even UESI graduates are not spared. Submission is a humanly impossible preposition. It is possible only if you are filled with the Holy Spirit.

Verse 31 provides insight into God's union of husband and wife. The wife is a suitable helper. Adam came up with a love song- first piece of poetry and was highly emotional. The Holy Spirit inspired Adam to compose the song- the bone of my bones and the flesh of my flesh! I am highly attached to my wife. I am Andhra and she is Tamil (Jews have no dealings with Samaritans). God gave us 5 wonderful children- Mercy, Grace, Joy (no peace), Luke and Samuel. We raised the family with a salary of Rs. 125/- p.m. (My youngest son who earns Rs. 40,000/- p.m. now tells me not to talk about the past.) How did we do it? By praying, "Fill me with the Holy Spirit". The after-effect is that we are drawn to each other. What God has joined together, let not man put asunder. There must be leaving and cleaving to becoming of one flesh. May your marriage reflect Christ-Church relationship. The Jews and Gentiles hated each other; but Jesus brought these irreconcilable communities into one. Such is the power of the Holy Spirit. Remember the words- how much more will the Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him? —SR

LT Session-III

John 13:1-17 *The Apologetic of Love*

1. The purpose of the acted parable (vv.34,35): *The criterion of our discipleship to Jesus is relational, not religious.*
2. The example of Jesus (vv.12-17):
 - a. Identity; b. Mutuality; c. Obedience.
3. The narrative in the parable (vv.4-11):
 - a. This was not merely a lesson in humility — Jesus authorizes us to bring about moral cleansing in one another; b. The one who is 'clean' offers his services to the 'dirty' one, not from a position of strength, but from one of weakness.
4. Four prerequisites for us to follow the example of Jesus (vv.1-3):
 - a. An awareness of God's sovereign purposes (v.1a);
 - b. A commitment not just to God but also to his people (v.1b);
 - c. A willingness to love the undeserving (v.2);
 - d. A deep sense of identity as a child of God (v.3).



John 5:19-20. *The Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. ... For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.* These are powerful words about the relationship in the Trinity, perfect unity but also other-ward looking: Father shows the Son all he does. Holy Spirit brings glory to Jesus Christ. The Great Wall of China, seen from space, was built such a way- outward looking. We need to have passion for God and people. Worship is God-ward and Holiness in our lives is people-ward, to summarize the other-ward-looking. In John 13:34, Jesus gives a new command: Love one another. On what model? As I have loved you, so you must love one another. In John 15:9 Jesus says, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you". If we want to see the Father, we must see the Son. If we see the Son, we see everything else we need to see. John 3:16. God, the one who creates loves the world that is created. Could God have been loved? There is eternal, infinite love within the Trinity (John 17:24 Father loved the Son before the

creation of the world) and God does not need anything outside of Himself to be complete. But out of the overflow of love within, the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the third person of the Trinity (Rom 5:5). You see, our discipleship to the Lord is relational, not religious at all. By our love toward one another, all people shall know we are His disciples (13:35). Please note John 13-17 as one piece, is the most sacred portion of the Bible.

In John 13, we see Jesus' example in the act of washing the disciples' feet. In fact, Jesus asks the question: Do you understand what I have done for you? Being the teacher, Jesus washed all the disciples' feet. They have an identity now- all of them washed by their Master. Then there is mutuality- Jesus told them they should wash one another's feet. He states he set an example for them so they should do what He had done for them. He calls them to obedience. There are many lessons for us. Many of us do not want anyone to wash our feet nor do we want to wash anyone else's feet. Some groups can make it a ritual to make every one wash one another's feet. The sense of identity that we belong to Jesus is what is important as we serve one another. In KJV, Thou is used for singular and Ye is plural. Jesus said, Ye are the light of the world (Mt 5:14). A city on a hill would mean a cluster of lights: we, imperfect people in perfect relationship through Jesus. The world sees in us a community. There is a problem with the word, purpose driven life. Driven is a word for an identity in what you do. No, our identity is in belonging to Jesus, being His disciples. Indian shepherds drive the sheep/cattle but Palestinian shepherds lead. Jesus led by example in servanthood. Jesus bore the cross and told us to carry our cross and follow Him. The vision should outlast the visionary.

How about the narrative in Verses 4-11? Jesus got up from the meal, took off his outer garments and wrapped a towel around his waist...poured water in the basin... washed the disciples' feet drying them with the towel... He is a servant of humility (Phil 2 describes his humility in leaving heaven and carrying the cross so distinctly). Peter resists and when Jesus said unless He washed Peter, Peter had no part in Him, asked for a whole bath. Peter spoke without thinking on many occasions but if he were silent, 50% of the gospel would not have been written! We learn from Jesus' answer that

ceremonial cleansing that represents day-to-day, moment-by-moment cleansing is what we need, not salvation again. In the process, remember, Jesus has given us the spiritual authority to cleanse one another. Do you realize when one is washing another's feet, that his face is closest to the other's feet? The one who serves is serving from a position of weakness. That's why when we share the gospel, we do not assume a position of strength but deal with the individuals gently (not arrogantly) and respectfully. I had several occasions in travel by train where a person would preface the discussion saying he/she would not become a Christian and I proceeded to dialogue respecting the person's views. How Jesus dealt with the woman caught in adultery is an excellent model: *Neither do I condemn you. Go and leave your life of sin* (John 8:11).

What enables us to follow the example of Jesus? Verse 1- Jesus knew time had come for him to leave the world and go to the Father. He was aware of the sovereign purposes of God. When I took up an engineering job, I made a decision before the Lord that I would not resist any transfers and respect every person with dignity. This made my work in Bharat Sarkar easy and enjoyable, living it fully for His glory. Also, we find Jesus was committed not just to God but to His people as well (will see a lot of reference to this in John 17). There are 110 instances that Jesus spent with people. First commandment: Love God. It is secret, never public. What is the evidence that you are obeying the first? Love your neighbor. This is public, words translated into deeds. Jesus showed full extent of His love by this act in John 13. Verse 2 indicates Judas being prompted by the devil to betray Jesus. We learn from Jesus, a willingness love the undeserving. Read on through to see how Jesus served the betrayer, Judas. Washing Judas' feet is not easy for us but Jesus did. Finally, Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power (v. 3) and we likewise, can have a deep sense of identity in Christ, as a child of God. It is amazing to see the contrast when Lady Diana died. Although she was portrayed as one reaching out to poor, she died with US \$205,000 ring on her empty of love and affection. A week later, Mother Teresa died, with nothing much on her but full of Christ. How important that we have a deep sense of this identity! We serve because we have been loved. Love in the body must overflow as love to others.

From the desk of Treasurer -

I bring greetings to you in the wonderful name of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There is a definition of grace given in 2 Cor. 8:9. *He who was rich became poor for our sakes so that we through his poverty might become rich.* As the chorus goes, the Father gives the Son, the Son gives the Spirit and the Spirit gives us life.. and the gift goes on. This grace-gift is our privilege as His children. I want to thank our OFUESI family for its part in extending this gift to those in colleges and universities our UESI staff members are able to touch in the past year.

By God’s grace \$8,000 was sent to UESI during November. So far, the year-to-date support to UESI is \$60,205, reaching about 80% of our goal for the Year-2008. Praise the Lord. Please remember to send your year-end contributions at the earliest so I can pass them to UESI before December 31, 2008. Please continue to pray and extend the financial support as the Lord leads in this ministry. May each of you abound in His grace!

Sincerely,

Paramjyothi Marati, Treasurer OFUESI

A PEEK INTO CHRISTMAS:

Attribute IMPLICIT SUBMISSION TO LORD'S WILL	Character = Mary	<p>34"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" 35The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. 37For nothing is impossible with God." 38"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.</p> <p>Luke 1:34-38</p>
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Attribute EXPLICIT OBEDIENCE TO LORD'S PLAN	Character = Joseph	<p>18This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. 19Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." 22All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." 24When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.</p> <p>Matthew 1:18-24</p>
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I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

OFUESI Mission: *Strengthen the bonds of fellowship among OFUESI, provide prayer and financial support to the UESI work in India, and expand evangelism efforts among Indian students in the US.*