

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

Address for Correspondence: OFUESI-USA,
1921 Narrows Lane, Silver Spring, MD-20906



Financial Contributions: Treasurer OFUESI,
1135 W 187th Street, Homewood, IL-60430

Dear OFUESI Family:

Our Father of Faith, Abram also faced once the dark night of the soul after a mountain top experience. He just won a battle in freeing his cousin, Lot the POW. And, when he was offered the *spoils* by the king of Sodom, he refused them. Now, the demons work at him and perhaps he felt afraid of the enemies who could attack him again. It might have occurred to him, "What if I had received the spoils and become rich?" We read that God appeared, assured and restored him. This is the first occurrence of the words "**Do not be afraid**" in the Bible (Gen 15:1), with as many as 365 to be featured all along. And God said, "**I am your shield and your very great reward.**" Are we afraid of the enemy? God is our shield. He is our **protection**. How about the physical needs, financial struggles and by-passed dreams? God is our reward, not the *spoil* of the king of Sodom. Abraham might have become wealthy but God is his greatest treasure. God is our **provision**. The missionary pioneer Hudson Taylor used to keep two Hebrew titles in his room "*Ebenezer*", and "*Jehovah-Jireh*". So far God has helped us and He will provide. May we learn along with Abram that our Lord God is our **Protection** and our **Provision**.

It is a distinct joy to present the birth and growth of the Detroit EGF in this month's *Eternal Excellence* feature that amazes us with God's unique plan and provision through the lives of many graduates at a crucial time in His providence. May the Lord inspire all other EGF cells through this story and use it to encourage the humble beginnings of budding EGFs!

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.*

The news from Ohio is quite thrilling. Bro. Kishore Dhas invited international students for a trip to U.S. Air Force Museum in Dayton and expected about 10 to show up. About 50 responded and it was a great outreach activity that led to plenty of good discussion and befriending. Pray that the Lord will continue to bless such outreach efforts by our brother and other EGF members in Ohio.

In closing, we leave with the compelling thoughts from the pioneer missionary to Africa, Dr. David Livingstone: "*It is my desire to show my attachment to the cause of Him who died for me by devoting my life to His service*". When his brother Charles asked him to come to the land of opportunity (US), he replied, "*I am a missionary, heart and soul. God had an only Son, and He was a missionary and a physician. I am a poor, poor imitation of Him, or wish to be. In this service I hope to live; in it I wish to die!*" When people appreciated his sacrifice in spending so much time in Africa he said, "*Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply paid back as a small part of a great debt owing to our God, which we can never repay?*" May the "Fear God and work hard" tribe of Dr. David Livingstone be found amongst us in OFUESI family, for His glorious purposes!

Prem, Joji, Paramjyothi, Subha and Abhijit
OFUESI Executive Committee

"There is a Ruler above, and His Providence guides all things. He is our Friend and has plenty of work for all His people to do. It is such a blessing and a privilege to be led into His work instead of into the service of the hard taskmasters- the Devil and sin." – Dr. David Livingstone, Pioneer Missionary Explorer to Africa

"I will place no value on anything I possess or anything I may do, except in relation to the kingdom of Christ." – David Livingstone

Eternal Excellence Featuring the *Birth and Growth of Detroit EGF – Reflections of Abhijit Talari*

God placed Mathew & Susan Thomas in Detroit purposefully whose availability and labor of love would pave way for Detroit EGF, an integral part of OFUESI family later on. This family used to invite me and Ashish Parmar to their home for Bible study, prayer, fellowship and food. Thomas & Sheena Mathai, another EGF family, used to join us often. In summer of 2004, Bro. Vijay Antony, one EU student from Tamil Nadu came to pursue MS in my University. The Campus Crusade staff worker forwarded his information to me as Vijay emailed them of his desire to get in touch with other Indian Christian students. When he arrived, he started attending our fellowship. After a couple of gatherings we all felt the need to have a regular fellowship with Bible study and prayer time for personal & UESI needs.

In 2004 we started to hear about OFUESI and I was excited to meet other EGF graduates. Then I came to know about OFUESI Eastern regional conference in Pennsylvania. I along with Ashish Parmar booked round trip tickets to New York, stayed overnight at Bro. Vijay Solanki's place and drove to the conference venue in Pennsylvania next morning. We were filled with joy to know more about OFUESI. We decided to have a formal EGF fellowship in Detroit as part of OFUESI. Bro. Suresh Chandran, a graduate in the Eastern Region and then member of the National Council and Executive Committee, shared about the move of Bro. Thiru Kumar Vethanayagam (OFUESI Vice-President at that time) to Michigan. He also mentioned that Bro. Thiru was looking for EGF graduates to start fellowship. We went back excited and full of zeal to form the Detroit EGF. We promptly contacted Thiru and Shanthi Vethanayagam. They informed us about one more contact Sis. Sarah Jacob who was also looking out for EGF graduates for fellowship. When Sis. Sarah was contacted she informed about Bro. Wilson Jacob, one more EGF graduate in Detroit. They both knew each other through Bible Study in Bangalore. When Bro. Wilson Jacob was contacted he shared about Sis. Teena, EGF graduate from Kerala looking to meet other graduates in Detroit. No wonder

God was connecting us all for His purposes and glory in such a short amount of time (within a few weeks).

With all this coordination the official Detroit EGF group first met in the month of October 2004 at Bro. Mathew Thomas's residence. Everyone was filled with joy to meet EGF graduates from Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan. We had Bible study, prayer, food and a very good fellowship time. After some discussion it was decided that we would meet every 3rd Saturday of the month at the Thomas residence. I was nominated and served as the EGF coordinator until I moved to St. Louis in 2006. Gradually we came in contact with other graduates like Sireesha, Eji Mathew, Jiji & Liji, Philip & Jibi Kuriakose, Anil & Soni Mathew, Joy & Shobha Mammen, and Kavita Karunakar.



First meeting of the Detroit EGF (October 2004)

When I look back, I can only magnify the Lord of glory, the Lord Almighty who only could have gotten this group together in a short time. Everything happened as if it was an orderly plan being implemented. We were amazed at the way the contacts had been discovered within weeks of attending the Eastern regional conference. In the first meeting many shared their emotional testimony of how much they longed to meet some EGF graduates and the joy they experienced when they came. After I moved to St. Louis, Wilson Jacob served as the coordinator until last year. Joy Mammen is the current coordinator of the Detroit EGF.

Since its inception, the Lord used Detroit EGF to play an active role in the formation of the Midwest Region. The Lord provided this group an immeasurable grace to conduct the first-ever Midwest Regional conference in September 2005 using Midwest graduates as speakers.

This conference was also the first-ever in OFUESI history to be a two-day conference while all other regions had one-day conferences. All glory belongs to the Lord for the amazing provisions and plans He has for His children.



Detroit EGF at Midwest Regional Conference 2007

In the past years the Vethanayagams, Sarah Jacob who is now Sarah Alexander, Teena and George, Jiji and Liji moved to different places. We welcomed Mercy Talari, Subi Jacob and Gene Alexander as our EGF members got married.

This month's fellowship met at the Mathai's residence as the Thomas' are moving out. Please pray for Bro. Joy Mammen as he continues the responsibility of this group. Sis. Kavita has recently started a weekly Bible Study at her apartment, for students from Oakland University, and the Detroit graduates are planning to support this study.

The Lord began a good work in Detroit and will continue it by His grace. The birth and growth of our EGF is a tribute to God's faithfulness. Our testimony is summarized in Eph 3:20- ***To Him who is able to do exceedingly above all that we ask or think, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory, forever and ever! Amen.***

– Abhijit Talari, Executive Committee, OFUESI-2008

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

From the desk of Treasurer -

I bring greetings to you all in the matchless name of Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness to the ministry of UESI through your prayers and financial support by our OFUESI family.

During the month of April we were able to send \$3,000 to UESI (YTD support to UESI is \$ 18,000). Please pray with me that our God will enable us to be faithful in our consistent giving to UESI on a **monthly** basis. The latest word from UESI Treasurer is that UESI experienced the Lord's faithfulness as all the needs were met at the end of the fiscal year, 07-08. However, there is a new challenge of the need of 12 lakh rupees per month which involves the revised salaries for the staff-workers. Let us pray and support as the Lord enables.

May we continue to experience God's protection and provision! May each of you abound in His grace!

Sincerely,
Paramjyothi Marati, Treasurer OFUESI

"Do not think me mad. It is not to make money that I believe a Christian should live. The noblest thing a man can do is, just humbly receive, and then go amongst others and give." – David Livingstone

Thought for the Month, May 2008:

Attribute= DISCERNMENT	Character = ABIGAIL	David said to Abigail, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. 33 May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands." I Samuel 25:32-33
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What is our DISCERNMENT and JUDGEMENT today in our commitment responsibilities both in our families and in the ministry? Even King David, a man of God's own heart was willing to hear, receive, and consider the wisdom that lent DISCERNMENT in his decisions from the very act of bloodshed.