

## 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. As a continuation of our effort to bring the gist of the messages from our Regional Conferences, Sessions II of both Bro. Sathkeerthi Rao and Bro. LT Jeyachandran are compiled in our *Eternal Excellence Feature*. It is our prayer that our Lord will help us to translate what we learned into obedience.

In a few days, the Presidential elections will be held in the US. Please pray for God's will in the choice of the leader at a crucial stage in terms of apparently economic but deeply spiritual meltdown. The Lord wants us primarily to be good Christians before we are good citizens. It is not the economist or energy guru who can fix the problems but good Christian men and women who seek the face of God for forgiveness and blessings. May our Lord be gracious!

There is a need for new members to join the OFUESI National Council (NC) for the 2009-10 term. Kindly be in prayer for our Lord's guidance to the current NC in this matter and please provide any suggestions or nominations to the current Executive Committee (EC) by November 15, 2008. The annual meeting of the NC will take place in Chicago, IL during December 13 and 14, 2008 wherein the new NC members and EC will be chosen. Please uphold this meeting in your prayers so the sweet presence of the Holy Spirit will oversee the proceedings for God's honor and glory.

Let us continue our prayer vigil on behalf of the persecuted in India at this time. Several Christians are still in refugee camps and need help before the winter arrives. The general elections in India should also be a matter of prayer that God will bring good leadership where freedom to worship is continually protected.

Thanksgiving in November is a beautiful holiday for families' get-together. It is a time to go around the dinner table and answer the question, "What am I thankful to God for?" We trust you will run out of thoughts to thank our Lord. Our lives are to be "thanks-living" ones. Taking a stanza out of the grand old hymn, *How great Thou art!* let us express our gratitude to God for the salvation in Christ we celebrate.

*And when I think that God His Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die I scarce can take it in  
That on the Cross my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin.*

Speaking of this hymn, it is a miracle how it has taken turns from a Swedish poem, "O Store Gud (O Great God)" by Boberg (1891) to German (1927) to Russian text only to be learned by an English missionary to Ukraine, Hine (1949) and translated into English by him. Interestingly the song reached India before Dr. Edwin Orr brought it to America in 1954. Bro. Bev Shea of Billy Graham Evangelistic Association sang this song over 100 times during a revival in New York which brought the song new attention. Please pray for Bro. Billy Graham who is celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday today (Nov. 1).

Wish you all a happy Thanksgiving. Be thankful...gratitude in your hearts to God...giving thanks to God the Father through our Lord Jesus.. Col 3:15-17. Just as we say God is thrice Holy, let us be thrice thanksgivingly.

*Joji Varghese 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-II**

Esther 1:1- 4 *God's Sovereignty and the Christian Identity in the total absence of any reference to God*

1. Mordecai: I am a Jew (1:4). Therefore I will not kneel down to Haman (3:2)
2. Haman: I am an enemy of the Jews (5 times). I will destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews throughout the whole Kingdom of Xerxes (3:6)
3. Esther: Fast for me – I and my maidens will fast as you do – when this is done I will go to the King – If I perish, I perish (4:15,16)
4. I am Jehovah – God – Them that honor Me, I will honor (1 Sam. 2:30)



Christian Identity and Christian Home: What a theme! We will see a home, a home of an adopted father and daughter; a Jewish home and learn valuable lessons. Look at 4:12. What a faith, what a prophet and what a confidence: *Who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?* There are serious consequences if you do not take action: you and your people will perish. When there is no prophecy, people cast off restraint. No action, no reaction. Ladies have a tremendous sense of reaction and have been used by God in transforming history. Here is one such lady, Mrs. Esther Xerxes.

Think of Abraham Lincoln's mother. She asked her son to promise her that no liquor will touch his mouth. She taught her son godly values. Her influence led him to contribute nationally and internationally. The government is of the people, by the people and for the people- democracy defined at best. It is told of St. Augustine that there was no sin he did not commit by the time he passed teenage. His mother wept over the boy night and day. God performed a miracle. The Christian faith is indebted to the contribution by St. Augustine.

Mordecai gave his prophetic word like the chief of Indian army. Then Esther did something anti-masculine. There is no telling what will happen when you give charge to the lady. Esther showed lovely leadership. Verse 16: *Go, gather together all Jews and fast for me. I and my maids will do it too.* Go to the king at once, is a worldly advice. Go to God at once, is a divine advice. Most Christian organizations are preoccupied with adding to the total neglect of seeking. Mt. 6:33. Let us not get mixed up with our responsibilities. God's is the adding and ours is the seeking. And adding is proportional to seeking. Unfortunately those of us who do not know math go for theology. God's math is this: we seek Him and He adds. Esther said, "After fasting is done, I will go to the king". Praying is a preparation for going. Many will say that they will only pray and not go. Once you are involved in prayer, the Lord will show you what to do. See Esther's determination to go to the king even though it is against the law. I will do what God wants me to do even if it is against the law. Is this your resolve? Esther is phenomenal as she declares: *And if I perish, I perish!* This resolve is very close to Gethsemane's. Serving Jesus is costly. Some turn serving Him into a profitable, material gain. But praying for His will to be done might involve perishing. Are we ready?

Verse 17 states Mordecai carried all of Esther's instructions. The commander of the army became an ordinary soldier. Yes, submission is a two-way traffic. The Lord used Esther to stop the annihilation of Jews. If Haman was successful in wiping out the Israel, there would not be Christ's coming. We are seeing sovereignty of God in total absence of any reference to God in preserving His people. Martin Luther felt the book of Esther is a flaw in the OT canon. But God's providence is all over the book and its pages.

Mordecai resolved not to kneel down to Haman. Haman's role is like you cannot have God without the devil. Esther teaches us the supremacy of prayer in times of crises. God has promised that He will honor those who honor Him. Think of DL Moody. He broke every possible grammar when he spoke English but revived America as one of its great evangelists and England as well. One soul a day was his motto. God uses people that are committed to him and honors them.

In Chapter 1 we see the king desiring to display Queen Vashti's beauty (Hollywood and Bollywood) to which she did not consent. The end result is Vashti dethroned and Esther, an orphan, adopted daughter of Mordecai enthroned. **Please note: Esther in the palace is God's answer to Mordecai's prayer before he prayed.** God does what He pleases, and it is marvelous in our sight! When Japanese tortured Koreans, their shed blood was not in vain; God turned their last prayer for survival into the first prayer for revival. Today we see Korean missionaries all over the world.

In Chapter 2 we read Mordecai finding out the plot to kill the king and saves king's life by revealing the plot to Esther. He did not get any reward, but just a record. Haman was honored and a decree was issued that everyone should bow their knees to Haman. There is an apparent injustice but God works in mysterious ways.

We see Haman plotting to kill the Jews (Ch. 3). Advani wanted to wipe out Christianity from India. Murali Manohar Joshi wanted to change the educational system by rewriting the textbooks and bringing back Gurukul system for Brahmins which was wiped out by the hard work of Carey and Duff. When he tried to work against God's plan for India's education, he lost the deposit in elections. Jayalalitha brought in anti-conversion law and in the following elections she lost her seat and the party lost badly. The corrupt man from Andhra, PV Narasimha Rao brought in Dr. Manmohan Singh into politics, a man who won international award for honesty. Thank God for performing a miracle in the recent vote of confidence motion triggered by the differences in nuclear deal. **God is in the business of turning the tables.**

We have seen Esther resolving to see the king even if is against the law after preparing in prayer (Ch. 4). When she went in, God performed a miracle as the king was pleased to see her and inquired what he could do for her. In the thick of the moment, any man in her place could lose his poise and jump up with joy but she did not. Women don't jump; they crawl. She invited him and Haman to a banquet. The best way to a man's heart is through the stomach. If a wife takes care of the dining room and the bed room, the living room will be but authentic and beautiful. The ladies can turn these rooms into anything they want. Harmony or

disharmony, what you want is what you get. Esther invited them to another banquet the next day. She did not tell anything to the king. There was a committee meeting at Haman's home. It was decided to build gallows 70 ft high to hang Mordecai.

6:1 *That night the king could not sleep.* A man stone drunk could not sleep! Who disturbed his sleep? It is God who works against alcohol. The king ordered the book to be read to him and learned of Mordecai saving his life and that no honor was given to him. God has a time factor, doesn't He? God was speaking to the king and the devil led Haman to the king just at that time (6:4) and the two met. God smashed the devil. If God be for us, who can be against us? You know Haman being asked what to do with the person who saved the king's life and as he prescribed, the honor be given to Mordecai. After that, there was a second committee meeting at Haman's home and it was not pretty. Haman was disappointed and disillusioned but had to rush to the second banquet.

Chapter 7: Esther's petition was 'grant me my life and spare my people'. When the king learned the adversary of her people was Haman, he got up in rage and went out into the garden (SR jokingly said toilet). When he returned, Haman who was begging Esther for his life was misunderstood by the king to be molesting the queen. The king ordered he be taken away and punished. Haman was hanged on the very gallows he built for Mordecai.

Mordecai's elevation to the second in rank to king Xerxes and the joyous celebration of God's great deliverance of Jews (Purim) follow. Not just Haman, but all the enemies of Jews were also destroyed. There is a beautiful phrase in 9:1- *the tables were turned.* Yes, God turned the tables and gave His people victory. Yet, God used human instruments in that process. A Christian identity and a Christian home produced a miracle in the history of the world. Are you ready and willing as God would use your Christian identity ad Christian home for the transformation of India and the world?

**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.*

## LT Session-II

Rev.3:12

### *Identity as Relational- Trinity and the Church*

The God who has called us is a Trinitarian, all-Personal all-relational God; he introduces the Persons of the Divine Being in homey terms: Father and Son! No wonder, the reward Jesus promises to the overcomer in the Church in Philadelphia is a triple identity:



1. 'The name of my God' — we are daughters and sons of the living God.
2. 'The name of the city of my God, the New Jerusalem' - we are brothers and sisters in the body of Christ.
3. 'My new name' — we are the Bride of the divine-human Bridegroom.

I Pet 3:15. *In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.* Christ is enthroned in our hearts and we study the Scripture and present Him in what I call reflective exegesis. Is Jesus not greater than the Bible, one might ask. My answer is, "What do you know about Jesus that is not in the Bible?" Look at the Jews in John 5:39,40. They were diligently studying the Scriptures but refused to come to Christ those Scriptures testified about. We can be students of the Word without letting Christ the Word in us; there lies the danger. Today's theology is dictated by cybernetics. A computer is a good servant but a bad master. The point is people are moving from interpersonal to less personal and even impersonal as the computer age is reducing people to virtual. We have identity crisis as we deal with the three avenues of temptation: sex, money and power. You wonder about the people in cults. The leader has total control of the followers. There is an identity crisis and a relational crisis in this world.

Rev 3:12. The Name. Many of us have last names or family names and first names. Some have middle names that could also relate to a granny. Names are given in the context of relationships,

based on the potential the family sees in us. When we say to God, our Father (as Jesus taught), not only the relationship with God as Father but also our belonging to one another as people of God is embedded. The Church is never used for a denomination, building or establishment in the Bible, always for people. The point is I need you as much as you need me. Not *maya*- thinking you are indispensable. Some think they are indispensable and most others are unnecessary. No. No one is indispensable and everyone is important.

John 5:18 Jews wanted to kill Jesus because he called God his own Father, making himself equal with God. John heard the heartbeat of God here. Father, Son, two household terms for two individuals but they are in a community. Please note, Godhead is three individuals in a community (Trinity). Note also errors appear in pairs: Individualism and communalism; capitalism and communism; materialism and mysticism. There is emphasis for an individual in the West and no place for community. Our model is the harmonious relationship within the Trinity.

God is infinitely free. How about human freedom? The freedom of my fist ends where your nose begins. There are free thinkers- are they really free? Are they free from the rules of English grammar? Think of an astronaut 36 km away from the Earth in zero gravity shouting "I am free". No, he is paralyzed. He is free to move related to our planet. Space and time are related to each other and we are bound/ related by these.

The Father is free to be the Father and the Son is free to be the Son but they are one through the Spirit. We are one body through the Spirit. You have freedom to be yourself. That is complementary for community and individuality. Our identity and responsibility are relational. The husband is the head of the home and as kids add on, the father is the chairman of the committee. A pastor can have Phds- pastor's holy daughters. God, Christ, man, woman...all in relational identities. I Cor 11:3. The headship of Man over Woman is to be modeled after the headship of God over Christ. Do you have a suspicion about male chauvinism from the model? No. Equal but different. *Equal in status but different in roles.* The US Open Tennis Championship is a great celebration of this aspect. Men play the best of 5

sets to win while women play the best of 3 sets. Both receive the same prize money.

What were the minutes of the first committee meeting? Gen 1:26, 27. Let us make man in our image... let them rule over the fish of the sea... This is bad grammar but good theology. Man includes male and female. Verse 27: *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.* Once again, with reference to the Trinity- One God in three persons, individuals in a community is very well expressed in these two verses. Coming back to woman, she is an after-act of God but not an afterthought of God. Woman complements man. The Son is begotten of the Father; with the Father they become one God. Woman was taken out of the man; with the man they are one flesh. Adam said WOW and sang the chorus, bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh when he saw Eve, not the rest of the creation. The humanity is different from all other species. When you share the gospel, start with the Trinity and Genesis 1.

Not only Christ gives the overcomer the name of his God, the name of the city of God but also his new name- Bride of the groom. We belong to one another in the body of Christ. We are also the bride in the marriage of the Lamb, our bridegroom. The heterosexual, monogamous marriage the Bible establishes points to the future marriage of the Bridegroom and the bride. At the Fall, Gen 3:16 points out woman will have the desire for the husband and he shall rule over her. The woman using her charm to manipulate and the man's desire to dominate were consequences of fall. That is why in marriage, God brings respective strengths and vulnerabilities for good- with the commands of 'love' and 'submit' to complement each other (Eph 5). In Christ, what happened at the Fall is being undone. The Bible is the love story of the Triune God and the love story of Christ and His bride. We have freedom to be ourselves within the communities of the body of Christ and the Christian families- husband, wife, children having relational, complementing identities.

## From the desk of Treasurer -

I bring greetings to you in the wonderful name of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness which we have experienced in the annual regional conferences held in August and September. The Lord has met all the expenses of our conferences and allowed us to raise a net amount of \$8,750 for various projects/needs of UESI.

It is our joy to be a part of the ministry of UESI through our prayers and financial support by our OFUESI family. At this time, the year-to-date support to UESI is \$52,205, reaching about 75% of our goal for the Year-2008. Praise be to Him. Please pray with me that our God will enable us to be faithful in our consistent giving to UESI on a **monthly** basis.

May each of you abound in His grace!

Sincerely,

Paramjyothi Marati, Treasurer OFUESI

## Thanksgiving... Thanks-living

*"Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness. Let the whole world know what he has done" ([1 Chronicles 16:8](#)).*

*"Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name. For the Lord is good . . ." ([Psalm 100:4-5](#)).*

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever" ([Psalm 136](#)).*

*"And you will always give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" ([Ephesians 5:20](#)).*

*"Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him, so you will grow in faith, strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with thanksgiving for all he has done" ([Colossians 2:7](#)).*

If you found a cure for cancer, wouldn't it be inconceivable to hide it from the rest of mankind? How much more inconceivable to keep silent the cure from the eternal wages of death? -- Dave Davidson