

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:

Greetings to one and all in the most exalted name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our father of faith, Abraham was given a three-fold blessing: *personal and family* (I will bless thee), *national* (I will make of thee a great nation) and *universal* (in thee all families of earth be blessed). God specifically told him, **“You shall be a blessing”**. Indeed, with the advent of Christ in the lineage of Abraham, this blessing resulted in our being grafted into the family of God. What a blessing it is to ponder that we, who were once afar, are now reconciled to God and have become the children of Abraham by faith! We are in turn called to be a *blessing* to many.

Dr. T.V. Thomas has challenged the OFUESI family adequately with the thought that we are here for **Operation Rescue**. Yes, we enjoy the fellowship (*Operation Maintenance*) but we are called to be actively engaged in evangelism (*Operation Rescue*). He presented that 92% of the people are at best unreached, indifferent and haven't seriously considered the claims of Christ who we have sadly and wrongly assumed that are opposed to the gospel. Based on the book of Jude, there are some whom we have to snatch out of fire and this population is 6%. Of course, there is a danger group- 2% with whose acquaintance we will be contaminated and we would be better off avoiding them. In the process of avoiding this 2%, one could neglect the rest- 98% as well. The challenge is to be consciously involved in the *Operation Rescue* wherever we are planted- in our neighborhoods, among Americans, among Indians, among American students and International students, representing and sharing Christ in a lifestyle evangelism mode. A dear man of God asked this question: When was the last time you asked someone, 'Do you know the Lord'? May the Lord help us to be creative in evangelism!

The OFUESI National Council has prayerfully designated 2008 as the **Year of Evangelism** and so this monthly KIT will feature stories of His marvelous grace in various evangelism efforts by our OFUESI family. Please feel free to share what God is doing in your area so that we all can rejoice with you and pray for the specific efforts more meaningfully. You can send the write-up to ofuesi@gmail.com which will be a great blessing to all of us. Have you heard of the words: **Shaswat Shobhatisayam** (Eternal Excellence)? My Bible is now open to Isa 60:15. This was God's promise to the forsaken (Jerusalem). God promised he would make it an everlasting excellence and the joy of many generations. We would like to feature the evangelism efforts under the title: **Eternal Excellence**. The eternal value embedded in our outreach calls for such a grand title. It is God who makes those efforts **Shaswat Shobhatisayam**. Praise be to Him!

The news from various quarters is encouraging. The Eastern Region leaders are meeting in the month of February for fellowship and to pray for its 2008 Regional Conference to be held in September 2008. Detroit EGF is gearing up in prayer for planning the Midwest Regional Conference. Chicago EGF is meeting on the Super Bowl Sunday for planning its quarterly gatherings for the year. The Southern Region is meeting on March 8 for its quarterly one-day retreat with Bro. Sudarshan Rao as the speaker. The theme is 'Evangelism and Purity'. Sis. Eva from West Coast appreciated receiving the updates through January KIT. Once again, please keep us informed so we can share the praise and prayer points to all our OFUESI family. Please pray for the NC subcommittee which is looking at the feasibility of holding a National Conference in 2009 as it researches appropriate venue and time for such an event. Here is a praise item. Bro. Ravi came to Iowa State in Spring 2008 as a Ph.D. student in Mechanical Engineering. We connected him with another student, Bro. Anand who is

pursuing Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering. They both are now involved in an International Students' Bible Study. God-willing, these brothers from Iowa will be an addition to the 2008 Midwest Regional Conference.

As I close, I am reminded of the words of the cricketer turned missionary C.T. Studd, "***Some wish to live within the sound of the chapel bell; I wish to run a rescue mission within a yard of hell***". Personally and collectively, let us take our posts in the mission *Operation Rescue*.

Subha Kumpaty

For all of us in the Executive Committee

"The Great Commission is not an option to be considered, a command to be obeyed"- Hudson Taylor

Eternal Excellence Featuring

Impressions of Antipas Marati

I spent my New Year in West Memphis, AR, a pleasant surprise for a Chicago native, thanks to uncle Subha Kumpaty who volunteered to take me with him on his trip at my parents' joyful consent. My first, week-long visit to the South was a memorable, spiritually enriching experience with an eternal significance worth sharing with y'all.

Besides the great hospitality of Subha uncle's sister Asha aunty and her family, I was touched by her husband, uncle Charles Foster's powerful and focused sermon, "Looking Unto Jesus" who is the pioneer and the perfecter of faith, based on a single verse text (Heb 12:2). We had a great fellowship, superb food and an absolutely amazing time playing Bible Trivia at their home. I also had a particularly fun time playing with Anna and Joy, Subha uncle's little nieces who were five and six years old respectively. The day after we arrived at Charles uncle and Asha aunty's house, Subha uncle took me to the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss), his alma mater and I appreciated the rich history including the Manning family's football legacy at the school. During our visit to the school, we met Tyrus Hodges, whom Subha uncle taught and mentored a decade ago. It was a joy to see Tyrus' love for the Lord and appreciation for his mentor. I was especially touched by the fact that Tyrus said that Subha uncle was like his adopted father and mentor in matters both physical

and spiritual. The amount of love Subha uncle must have shown to elicit such a strong sentiment and action was inspiring in my walk with the Lord. This experience gave me a prime example of how we must love others as Christ loved us, and the wonderful results we see once we allow His love to flow through us and touch those around us.

My journey continued as we traveled to meet some spiritual giants, the MacKenzie family (Mr. Bill and Mrs. Crystal), who direct an International Guest House (IGH) and disciple international students. Mr. Bill was uncle Subha's mentor during his Ph.D. days and I learned a lot as I observed the genuine love of the Lord expressed in the discussions and what followed.

The MacKenzies, instead of owning a home like most of us do, started IGH so that they could minister to International students on a close-range affirmation of the gospel basis. Subha uncle had been there during the primary growth of the IGH (1987-91, uncle's Ph.D. period), the MacKenzies built a cottage, moved into it first, then built a barn, bought horses, and from there used horseback riding as a means of befriending international students. Later on, they built a large home, in which they now stay upstairs and use the first floor for meetings with students, wherein the kitchen area and the Christian literature room are made available for ministry. There is also a beautiful pond Mr. Bill dug for fishing and quiet walks around it. The international students then lived in the cottage and had access to the family and their Christian faith. Many from Singapore, Malaysia, China, Thailand and India have been reached over the past two decades as Mr. Bill mentored several people on a one-on-one basis. Many mentees are in tent making ministries: leading evangelistic studies or pioneering in church work among Malays, Indians and Chinese. I saw two international students, one a recent believer and one, an unbeliever who has just come to Ole Miss for study. To think that Mr. Bill invests time in the lives of these people is an out-of-the ordinary reality for me and I am very grateful to meet this spiritual giant. Seeing Mr. MacKenzie's work in God's ministry was great, but talking with and listening to him and his wife was an incredible experience. I gained many valuable insights and was spiritually strengthened as we conversed with this wonderful family. It was such a joy to hear the recent story of Neha (first Christian in her family from Bombay)

who came to Ole Miss, completed her Ph.D. in Pharmacy and is now married to a believer (her Indian classmate) at the church MacKenzies attend. Her marriage in and of itself was a unique miracle only God could have performed. To top it all off, I learned that Mr. Bill retired soon after a required minimum of 25 years service, in order to invest his time in God's kingdom even more. The NavPress will bring out a book "Tent Making" by Bill MacKenzie in the near future. After our conversation we were taken to the barn which now housed horses on the bottom and students in the loft, which bears resemblance to a one-storey house. I am also glad that I am invited to bring my brother for a summer camp next year. As I review this meeting, I can say, I met a spiritually gigantic person that lives for eternal values, humble and gentle. I was greatly touched by this experience and was once again inspired by the MacKenzie model on how I must go about serving Christ in principle and practice.

We later went to see another spiritual giant, a 73-yr old Dad Garfield Foster in Pangburn, AR, Asha aunty's father-in-law. It was a joy to see firsthand Mr. Foster's legacy- all his children walking with the Lord and all of them teaching and preaching God's truth with joy and vigor. I could spend days listening to Dad Foster, a godly man. Mom Foster is no less who pours out her love of the Lord to you as if you are one of her children. Both Mom and Dad Foster were so humble and genuine in their walk with the Lord that I was once again inspired by their model regarding how to live my life for the Lord. Both of them make God their first priority and everything else second, and in doing so, God has been faithfully taking care of them. Dad Foster, although 73, is still strong in the Lord, pastoring a church near his town. I hope and pray that in my life ahead God's calling will be a top priority and not a secondary activity.

I was blessed by Uncle PC Verghese's ministry two years ago to learn what is important and this trip down South showed me great examples of those who purposefully live for eternal values. I am refreshed and challenged at the same time. I want to emulate these giants and make a difference for my Lord. Please pray for me.

– **Antipas Marati**, Freshman-Northwestern University, Chicago.

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 UESI through prayer and financial support by our OFUESI family. I praise God in reporting that we had 30 new members giving financially during the year 2007. Let us continue to be faithful in serving Him through our OFUESI ministry.

We have sent \$ 6,000 to UESI during the month of January. Please pray with me that our God will enable us to be faithful in our consistent giving to UESI on a monthly basis. I have mailed your tax receipts for the year 2007. If you do not receive your receipt in the next week or two, please call me.

I'd personally urge and encourage each one of you to be systematic in your giving to OFUESI as the Lord leads for the current UESI needs. You may make your work easier and more efficient of your specified monthly giving via direct deposit to our CHASE bank a/c. Any information regarding this can be obtained directly from me at any time. May each of you abound in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Sincerely,
Paramjyothi Marati, Treasurer OFUESI

Thought for the Month, February-2008:

Attribute= DIGNITY	Character = ESTHER	<p>For <u>if you remain silent</u> at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position <u>for such a time as this?</u>"</p> <p>Esther 4:14 (NIV)</p>
---------------------------	---------------------------	---

How best can we take responsibility and *not remain silent* to restore the dignity of our beloved and faithful laborers in the Lord at *such a time as this!*

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.*