

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



www.ofuesi.org

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“Hope, Vision, and Glory”

Photo taken on location at the Eastern Regional Conference © Joji Varghese

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OFUESI – Update: November 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Greetings to you in the most faithful name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ -

This letter is an update on the OFUESI Regional Conferences and other activities along with the financial information through October 2007. It is also intended to provide information on the upcoming Annual National Council meeting to be held during December 1-2, 2007 in Houston, TX and seek your prayers for the same. We trust you are in receipt of various intermittent correspondences and announcements through our OFUESI mail all through this year. We gratefully appreciate your faithful prayers, continued encouragement and financial support till to date for the ministry of UESI through OFUESI.

1. Update on the 2007 Regional Conferences

Just as in the last year, we were able to organize and conduct four regional conferences this year during four consecutive weekends from August 15th through September 15th in California, Texas, Indiana, and Pennsylvania. Bro. Richard Masih of UESI, Delhi along with Bro. & Sis. Sahayams of UESI arrived from India to participate and minister in all the regional conferences while Dr. T.V. Thomas from Canada was a special invitee and the keynote speaker for the Eastern Regional Conference. All these gatherings united many of former UESI members in respective regions for renewed fellowship and recognition of the Holy Spirit's conviction of direction and oneness in ministry. Let us continue to praise God in one accord for His continued faithfulness towards us. Here is a brief information on the speakers:

- **Bro. Richard Masih**, Senior UESI Staff and a minister of the Word of God among students for nearly four decades was the featured speaker at the first three regional conferences and a guest speaker at the fourth one. He challenged all the attendees on the Scriptural Leadership and provided a booklet on "Excellence in Leadership" for all of us (included as an Appendix in this newsletter).
- **Dr. T.V. Thomas**, an internationally renowned evangelist from Canada ministered at the Eastern Regional Conference. He was a featured speaker at the UESI Golden Jubilee in 2004 and at URBANA in 2003.
- **Bro. & Sis. Sahayams**, UESI Staff are now called to serve as missionaries through IFES in Guyana. They challenged many through their burden and calling to win the Indian *diaspora* for Christ. Formerly they served as missionaries to Fiji.

Region	Dates	Location	Coordinator(s)	Theme	Speakers
Western Region	August 18-19	Canoga Park, CA	Emmanuel Emmady	Excelling in Christian Leadership:	Bro. Richard Masih - Senior UESI Staff from India and
Southern Region	August 25-26	Sandy Creek Bible Camp, 5051 Prayer Lane, Washington, TX-77880 (979) 836-6817	Suresh Konatham, Zeno Philip, and Naga Valasagandla	“... <i>and Joshua did it; he left nothing undone of all that the LORD commanded Moses.”</i> (Joshua 11:15)	
Midwest Region	September 1-3	Institute of Basic Life Principles South Campus, 11850 Brookville Rd., Indianapolis, IN- 46239 (317) 862-7100	Abhijit Talari and Joji Varghese		Bro. & Sis. Sahayam – Former UESI Staff and Current Missionaries to Guyana
Eastern Region	September 7-9	The INN of Hope (SPADE International), 9077 Steinsville Rd., Kempton, PA- 19529 610-756-6510	Mohan Pothen, Veeraiah Batala, Abey Mathew, Pallab Gupta, Manoj Mathew, and Sushil Yesupriya	Standing in the gap: “... <i>who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land ...”</i> (Ezekiel 22:30)	Dr. T.V Thomas from Canada, featured speaker at UESI Golden Jubilee and URBANA’03

Fig-1: OFUESI Regional Conferences - 2007

1.1 Synopsis of Four Regional Conferences (2007)

Western Regional Conference (California) – was held in Los Angeles with Bro. Richard Masih and the Sahayams. About 10 people attended the conference. Though the number of participants was small this year, we praise God for this region and for this gathering. This is the region mightily used by the Lord in the past. Our OFUESI ministry was started in this region and it was originally registered by several of the committed members in the beginning more than seven years ago. The attendance from the Northern California (San Francisco area) was very low due to time conflict with other commitments for some of our OFUESI members. To accommodate these schedule conflicts it was agreed to hold the conference in this region during September instead of August timeframe for the next year, perhaps, at a half-way point between San Jose and Los Angeles if at all possible. Please continue to pray that our Lord will enable the activities of OFUESI in this region restored to full potential for His glory in the days to come.

Southern Regional Conference (Texas) - was held at a campsite near Houston, TX, with a good delegation of University students (~20). In all, nearly 50 attendees were refreshed by God's Word challenged through the faithful ministry of the four speakers: Bro. Masih, Bro. & Sis. Sahayams, and a guest speaker, Bro. John Zachariah who spoke on leadership and missions. Bro. Masih completed and provided his booklet as study notes and material to all the attendees from which he taught in four sessions. The camp fire testimonies were a great blessing for the entire gathering that lasted for more than four hours into late night on Saturday. We were also blessed by the attendance of Mrs. Saramma Philip, one of the first few UESI staff workers in the 60's who now lives in Houston area. The conference was concluded with the Sunday worship that included the observance of the Lord's Supper. Bro. Masih's booklet was well received and admired along with his teaching by many at the camp. Please continue to pray that the regional leadership will lead these committed and newer members in this region. In **Appendix-C**, (at the end of this Update), the entire booklet of Bro. Masih is included for your immediate reference.

Mid-Western Regional Conference (Indiana) – was held at the downtown campus of the Institute for Basic Life Principles in Indianapolis, IN. In all, more than 90 people participated in this three-day event taking advantage of the Labor Day week-end. Bro. Masih shared God's Word in four sessions in which he expounded a chapter each time from II Timothy and discussed his booklet on *Excellence in Leadership*. There was a time of worship and breaking of bread on Sunday. Sahayams shared on the fourth aim of UESI- missions. For children, a separate track was held throughout the three days; this parallel session was a great blessing and was much appreciated by many. A good amount of time was spent on UESI needs, financial update and prayer for UESI. It was also agreed that the next year's gathering will be planned and coordinated by the members from Michigan area. A detailed description of the Mid-West Regional Conference report is included in **Appendix-A**.

Eastern Regional Conference (Pennsylvania) – was held at a camp site in Kempton, PA with a record number exceeding 150 members in attendance. For more than a year this region has been working with the featured speaker and local arrangements for the success of this gathering and God’s glory. Bro. T.V. Thomas as the featured speaker on the theme "Standing in the gap" highlighted how the first generation Indians in this country should stand in the gap for the second generation. Bro. Masih and Bro. & Sis. Sahayams also shared briefly as part of the devotions and missions challenge. There were parallel sessions for children (like in the Midwest) throughout the conference time. There was also a great time of multilingual singing. There was an offering taken at the camp exclusively to support the Highfield project in Kotagiri (towards UESI Building Fund) which was about \$ 6,000 and the money was sent to UESI through OFUESI already. Some of the members from the Mid-West region also attended this conference. It is indeed a blessing when one can make extra efforts to participate in another regional conference apart from home area— especially for the extension of the OFUESI ministry.

The occurrence of these sequential gatherings during four consecutive weekends during August and September is only the second time experience for all of us. Last year is the first time we were able to try and implement this process with one speaker and one theme to unify our efforts for the glory of God. We have seen the blessings and we are experiencing His continued grace on all of us in the ministry through this format during 2006 and 2007. While more than 200 from four regions conferred together in 2006, we have witnessed more than 300 who met and worshipped our God in all four regions in the year 2007. Please continue to pray for the opportunities at our doorsteps to encourage one another and minister together to others in the years ahead.

Let us praise God for His faithfulness towards us in the ministry of OFUESI this year through these regional conferences. All the financial expenses including the travel expenses for the speakers were met through conference registration and voluntary sponsorship and services by many. Love offering collected from each region and a total of \$10,000 was also provided to UESI (including the above mentioned building fund money) in the month of October 2007. We thank our Lord for His provision through these gatherings and may God lead all of us for His cause and ministry.

In the month of September, during our monthly NC meeting, Bro. Masih joined us briefly as part of the telecon. He shared his ministry burden with us as he was about to leave for India after the Regional Conferences later in the month of September. He addressed from three prime and key areas: (i) his USA dairy, "My USA Lessons" including the thought – ‘Failure is not an Option’, living in fellowship together, appreciation for one another and such, (ii) he wanted us to share news updates with UESI family to enable prayer support; he suggested that we call the newsletter “KIT” (Keep in Touch), and (iii) he emphasized that we be united together - oneness is very crucial for our success. The love of God, the Spirit of God and the Word of God unite us although we are from different parts and at different understandings. He read I Corinthians 15:58 from ES, prayed and encouraged us to be immovable amidst discouraging moments so that there is a fruit in eternity. Bro. Masih also provided a “vision” paper for OFUESI which is included in **Appendix-B**.

2. Preliminary Plans - Regional Conferences in 2008

Earlier this year, some of our brothers from the NC contacted *Bro. Sathkeerthi Rao* who ministered to many of our members during the past decades in India and who also visited and ministered some of our OFUESI families in the US during the past few years. It was such a delight to learn that he is willing to visit with us. He gave his consent to minister to us as during our four Regional Conferences in 2008. Also, *Bro. L.T. Jayachandran* is willing to participate and has agreed to minister in the Mid-West and Eastern Regional Conferences in 2008. During last month, the NC agreed and planned the following preliminary dates and schedule for the regional conferences with *Bros. Sathkeerthi Rao and LT Jayachandran* in the year 2008. Please continue to pray and may God help us to be good stewards of the services of these blessed and seasoned ministers amongst us.

OFUESI Conference	Dates	Speakers
Southern Regional	August 23-24, 2008	Bro. Sathkeerthi Rao
Mid-West Regional	Aug 30 - Sept 1, 2008	Bro. Sathkeerthi Rao and Bro. LT. Jayachandran
Eastern Regional	September 5-7, 2008	Bro. LT. Jayachandran and Bro. Sathkeerthi Rao
Western Regional	September 13-14, 2008	Bro. Sathkeerthi Rao

Table-1: Preliminary Plans for the Regional Conferences in 2008 (Aug-Sept)

3. Update on Financial Matters

God's faithfulness is enormous in the year 2007 in the area of OFUESI finance receiving and distribution to UESI. A new treasurer, a new address, and a new bank are three main aspects of newer changes that took place during the past few months. We could witness the sincere outpouring of our OFUESI families and supporters who contributed more than \$ 45,000 to date from more than 200 separate contributions. So far we have reached about 50% of our annual goal in about 10 months and please continue to pray that our Lord may provide in the next two months as needed for the ministry needs in India. Last time when we checked it looks like the current deficiency in the UESI ministry is about Rs. 38 lakhs (or nearly \$ 100,000) during the current calendar year.

3.1 Update on our Bank Accounts

Our very first OFUESI bank account in California (Bank of America) is now closed as we ceased to operate from that account. The bank account in Maryland (Chevy Chase) initiated as part of our OFUESI registration in Maryland, operated until early part of this year is also now closed as we do not need to operate from this location. Now we have a new bank account in Chicago (Chase) that is being used and operated from August 2007

by our current treasurer, Bro. Marati (*Treasurer OFUESI, 1135 W 187th Street, Homewood, IL-60430*). Any questions on direct deposit information, comments on acknowledgements, and tax deductible receipts can be directed to Bro. Marati at any time via OFUESI e-mail: ofuesi@gmail.com or marati2@cs.com (Ph. 708-922-3635).

In our recent NC meeting, as we discussed, it occurred to some of us that a consistent and continued giving is a blessing not only for those who give it but also for the UESI ministry in India who can receive on a systematic basis from us. If at all we give \$ 30 per month by about 300 of us in the OFUESI consistently, we can reach our current goal of \$ 100,000 just easily. With only 50 contributors for OFUESI at this time, the ministry is moving forward with enormous strides in touching the souls of students in India through UESI. Please continue to pray with us in this regard.

Month – 2007	Sent to UESI
January	Included in 2006
February	\$ 4,900
March	\$ 4,900
April	\$ 3,850
May	\$ 4,000
June	\$ 0
July	\$ 1,732
August	\$ 3,100
September	\$ 3,368
October	\$ 10,000
November	\$ 7,000
December	TBD
TOTAL (through Oct.31st)	\$ 42,850
GOAL	\$ 100,000

Table-2: Financial Update for 2007 (Jan-Oct)

4. Update on the National Council Meeting 2007

Last year in December nearly 20 from OFUESI gathered in Houston from all around the US to confirm the National Council (NC) and identify the Executive Committee (EC) for the year 2007-2008. God led the NC and EC in His direction throughout this year and we praise God for His direction in all. This year again, in December (1st and 2nd) all the NC and EC are planning to meet, spend time in prayer and seek God’s guidance for the ministry of OFUESI in the years to come. Some of the crucial aspects of this gathering will include incorporating additional NC members and re-aligning the EC responsibilities as needed for the expansion of the ministry in the years ahead. Some of the challenges include establishing newer fellowship gatherings and strengthening some of regions and

establishing strong communication links between NC and regional activities and the rest of the OFUESI. We seek your continued prayers and support in this vital part of our ministry. Also, for this annual NC gathering, this year, a general invitation is extended for all the former leadership (EC and NC) and for those who were involved in the earlier days of the OFUESI leadership. Please pray that it may be possible for some of these past leaders will also be able to participate in this year's NC gathering. Please continue to pray for each NC member and their committed service to our Lord in the Year-2007 and for their continued efforts in the Year-2008 as listed below.

First Name	Last Name	State	Area	Region
1 Rojo	Mathai	NJ	Northeast	Region-I
2 Sushil	Yesupriya	MD	Northeast	Region-I
3 Charles	Dhanaraj	IN	Midwest	Region-II
4 Subha	Kumpaty	WI	Midwest	Region-II
5 Vinod	Malachi	IL	Midwest	Region-II
6 Paramjyothi	Marati	IL	Midwest	Region-II
7 Abhijit	Talari	MO	Midwest	Region-II
8 Joji	Varghese	OH	Midwest	Region-II
9 Emmanuel	Emmady	CA	West	Region-III
10 Suman	Nirmal	CA	West	Region-III
11 Vijaylakshmi	Guduru	LA	South	Region-IV
12 Suresh	Konatham	TX	South	Region-IV
13 AK	Lama	AL	South	Region-IV
14 Zeno	Philip	TX	South	Region-IV
15 Philip	Pothan	TX	South	Region-IV
16 Prem	Saganti	TX	South	Region-IV
17 Thirukumar	Vethanayagam	IND	India	India

Fig-1: National Council Members 2007-2008

EC-2007	Name	State
President	Prem Saganti	TX
Vice President	Joji Varghese	OH
Secretary	Subha Kumpaty	WI
Joint Secretary	Emmanuel Emmady	CA
Treasurer	Paramjyothi Marati	IL

Fig-2: Executive Committee Members, EC-2007

Prayerfully,

Executive Committee 2007

APPENDIX-A: Mid-West Regional Conference Summary

OFUESI Midwest 3rd Regional Conference (2007) Summary

The Downtown Indianapolis Training Center (ITC), the home of OFUESI Midwest Regional Conference during *September 1-3, 2007* is a nice facility to which people drove from various states: KS, MO, WI, IL, OH, MI and IN. Abhijit Talari and Vijay George welcomed us at the registration desk, provided our room assignments and led us to the Mexican style, early evening dinner. It was a joy to meet several again after last year's conference. There were additions to the Midwest fellowship such as Arul Raj's family from Chicago, Joe Sudhakar Pedavada's family from Cleveland, Gattus from Indianapolis, Joy Mammen's wife and children, Suby Wilson and Kavitha from Detroit, Nita Christopher from Champaign, Stuthi John from Cincinnati, Kishore Dhas' family from Columbus and Vimal and Ranjani Victor from Kansas. We praise God for a great turn out of close to 90 people at the conference (including 15 visitors).

The *opening session* started with a formal welcome by camp directors Joji Varghese and Abhijit Talari and opening prayer by Abhijit. After initial introductions, James Kumar and Thompson Chacko led us in worship through singing. Bro. Richard Masih, the featured speaker for the conference laid down the expectations of the conference, introduced the theme, and expounded on II Timothy Chapter 1 through the glasses of leadership. Bro. Devasahayam led us in closing prayer for the opening session of the conference. There was a time for personal meditation and visiting with one another before retiring to bed. Tea was prepared and served by Mercy Talari and Hephzibah Kumpaty.

Bro. Masih opened his time sharing God had kept him alive through the Bhopal incident by miraculously overriding the wind not to blow into his home through the unintentionally opened windows. Many died of inhalation of poisonous gases while Masih survived. With a series of ice-breaking jokes on remembrance problem of two widowed intending to get married, a speaker's problem of conceiving without bringing forth nothing and a dramatic speaker's throwing the Bible on the church secretary who according to a person in the pew was hit by the Word for the first time, he showed that he is a simple and uncomplicated person and that we can feel at ease with him. His thought was that when God speaks to us, we should be servants (sincere in) listening and not pointing that it is for the spouse or the other person next to us. We must have Samuel's attitude. We must also have Mary's attitude of choosing the best thing- "*sitting at the feet of the Lord*". Citing the fellowship of Jesus with disciples going to Emmaus, Bro. Masih expected that our hearts should "burn" with the Word. He reminded of Bro. Sylvester Prakash in Lucknow who prays: "Lord, speak to me at least one thing in this conference". Introducing the theme of the conference, Bro. Masih reminded that all of us are in some leadership position (such as parents are leading the children) and we should excel, prosper as Psa 1:3 indicates, but for His glory (Psa 115:1). The theme verse is Josh 11:15: "He left nothing undone". Bro. Masih introduced three topics 1) *Servant Leadership* 2) *United Leadership* and 3) *Man for Leadership* (Timothy as an example) before expounding on 4) *Courageous Leadership*- lessons from II Timothy Chapter 1. Leadership is not lordship; it is servant hood: providing leadership by doing, by way of example with the Lord Jesus as the supreme example for us. He shared about a story of

feeding the person sitting opposite when there is a constraint of elbows not bending. No one has to go hungry by being unable to eat but each could feed the person sitting opposite to them! Oh, how we need to feed one another and encourage one another in God's kingdom. He talked about the importance of united leadership such as both parents being on the same page with children and all of us in the kingdom not hurting each other or pulling in different directions. Jesus Christ has clearly stated the kingdom that is divided against itself cannot stand. Bro. Masih talked about the kind of person God uses from the character sketch of Timothy: in spite of coming from a mixed marriage, being timid, sickly and inexperienced, Timothy could be used by God because he had a good testimony, was genuinely interested in others, was faithful in the little. Recognizing there are 4 sessions given to Bro. Masih, he said we will look at the four chapters of II Timothy through the glasses of leadership, read Chapter 1 in its entirety, prayed and expounded on Courageous Leadership. So thus far was the great introduction. Please note only the highlights are provided in this short report and all the messages can be found in the booklet Bro. Masih has graciously provided to us at the conference. Joji has also recorded the sessions and you can request an audio CD.

Courageous Leadership (II Timothy Ch. 1)

Moses told Joshua to be strong and courageous as he passed the baton of leadership. God confirmed the same with Joshua after Moses' death. Bro. Masih shared a joke on courage/fear about a patient who was being operated for the first time by a surgeon for whom the surgery was the very first! How can we be strong and courageous leaders? Only those can be courageous leaders:

- i) who serve the Lord with a clear conscience, v. 3 (recalled the story of a brother who was in virtual slavery of his sister that knew his sin and constantly blackmailed him until he got rid of his guilt by sharing with the father who forgave)
- ii) who have sincere, vibrant and living faith v. 5 (Some have 'once upon a time' testimony, not having corresponding growth with the number of years since they received Christ; some one's written, 'once upon a time' testimony is eaten by ants; some are name sake believers; some are believer type; some are convenient believers; are we true believers? There are false believers also. Those who believe the Word of God are the happy people, said Bro. Bakth Singh.)
- iii) who keep fanning into flame the gift God has given for ministry v.6 (Some have the gift of talking, one child said his mother could talk on any subject for hours and the other replied his mother could talk for hours without any subject. Some have the gift of eating. Seriously, every part of the body must function properly for it to be an effective, healthy body. We must use our gifts for the edification of the body.)
- iv) who are not ashamed to testify about the Lord v.8 (in the place of work, while traveling not being ashamed to be called a Christian and living like one)

- v) who stand with others in their hour of need vs. 15-18 (example of Prof. Enoch telling Bro. Chandapilla that as long as he had something to eat, Bro. Chandapilla would not go hungry; in our fellowship no one should suffer alone. Weep with those who weep. A child comforted an old lady by her presence and crying along with her.)
- vi) who stick closer to the Word of God v. 13. (Let us be like the Bereans. We ought to be the people who ask: What does the Scripture say?)

With a good old American breakfast and ample time for quiet time prior to that, we were all ready to begin sessions on **September 2, 2007**. The **first session of the day** was worship as it was the Lord's day. Kishore Dhas led us in worship and encouraged us to worship Him in quietness and in song. Ashish Parmar led us in responsive reading of Ps 136. Several voiced praise and thankfulness to the Lord. Kishore led us in singing *God is so good* in several languages. Bro. Devasahayam shared a message based on Ps 24:1, I Chr 29:11-15, Mk 12:28-31 and Lk 14:26. He reminded us that we were gathered to celebrate the living Lord. Earth and all the fullness thereof are His. We don't create anything but give back to Him only what He had given in the first place. His are the victory, majesty, riches and influence. He reminded us that we can relax when we recognize He is sovereign. He challenged us to love the Lord with all our heart (emotion), soul and mind. After this message reminding the wonderful Lord we love and serve, Bro. Masih prepared us for the communion sharing thoughts from I Cor 10:15-16 and 11:23-28. The breaking of bread or communion is a time of thanksgiving/ blessing, a time of participation, a time of remembrance, a time of forgiveness, a time of renewal of the new covenant, a time of proclamation, a time of self-examination and a time of discernment. We had a short break after which James and Thompson led us in some Hindi songs. James asked us to think about not just receiving God's strength but God Himself as our strength as he led in singing. Bro. Masih shared the second message on *magnificent leadership* from II Timothy Chapter 2. The children had parallel sessions, thanks to Seena Varghese and other volunteers such as Antipas Marati and Sanath Thomas. Upon Bro. Masih's message, we had a tea break.

Magnificent Leadership (II Timothy 2)

Good, better, best; Let it never rest; Till the good is better; and the better is best. Mediocre leadership (third class job) or magnificent leadership (first class job)? How can we raise our leadership to magnificent level? Bro. Maish read the entire chapter and prayed before he shared.

- i) Be strong in the grace, v. 1. (Daily, diligent, systematic growth was emphasized. I Peter 2:2, the four disciplines of Bible meditation, prayer, fellowship and witnessing were highlighted. Use the *Search the Scriptures* and *This Morning with God* for quiet time. One pastor in Lucknow commented we had followed Jesus Christ for the past 2000 years and now it is time we went ahead of him. We should not be in that category of people. There must be growth in us over the years, not stagnation nor arrogance/ carelessness.)

- ii) Entrust to reliable men what you have learnt, v.2. (Pass on the vision and burden, not hoard it, reach out to others, all kinds of people. We should be like chimpanzees holding together, needing and protecting each other and not like crabs which pull each other down. He had a witty example of a pastor whose congregation is 100% active- 50% for him and 50% against him! We ought to be teachers and trainees (discipler and disciple). We ought not to be like the Dead Sea which only receives and does not pass. Pass on the vision.)
- iii) Endure hardship like a good soldier of the Lord Jesus Christ, v.3. (We are in the army of the Lord. We should be willing to forego even legitimate rights like Nehemiah did by not claiming the Governor's privileges. Let us please the commanding officer.)
- iv) Discipline yourself like an athlete, v.5. (For lack of self-discipline, many gifts remain unused. We must discipline in the way we manage our prayer time, outreach, work, family etc. Self-control (sober mind) is a fruit of the Holy Spirit; lack of it shows our lack of Spirit's fullness).
- v) Work hard like a hard working farmer, v.6. (Laziness is not to be seen in God's people. We should be alert, not day dream. There was a lazy guy in the church who was asked what the message was about. The preacher was talking about sin, he replied. What did he say about it? I think he was against it, was his reply. He was not paying attention. We ought to be industrious, not lazy.)
- vi) Do your best to present yourself to God as an approved workman, v.15. (Bro. Bakth Singh always asked the Lord each night, "Are you happy with me, my Lord, today?" Everyone won't appreciate your ministry. But make sure you check whether the Lord is happy with you.)
- vii) Be a clean vessel, v.21. (Without holiness no one can see the Lord. Be clean and holy. A blunt knife- *stainless but useless*. If one is not called to holiness, then he is not called to ministry- Spurgeon.)
- viii) Be a kind and gentle servant of the Lord, vs. 24-26. (not quarrelsome, not resentful)

When we met after Chai, we had first hand UESI update from Sis. Parrot, Bro. Devasahayam and Bro. Masih. Sis. Parrot shared about the pioneering states, developing states and developed/decentralized states. She shared the praise point about the sons of soil taking up the mantle of leadership such as in Bihar and Jharkhand. Bro. Devasahayam talked about the exciting partnership activities taken up by YEGF (Youth EGF of Delhi) such as purchasing and providing a car to a needy field. Bro. Masih shared about the office move from Chennai to Delhi and various needs related to that such as office help needed for the Gen. Secretary and for Bro. David Jayakumar, the Gen. Secy; for the desire to have a conference center in the North; Hindi literature work to progress; For various new secretaries such as Bro. Mathew Varghese, a team member of IFES, Bro. SDS Joel, field ministry secretary etc. Paramjyothi Marati, OFUESI Treasurer gave the update on UESI ministry- the operational budget, Highfield Update,

OFUESI finances update and how we can send funds to support UESI. Bro. Vinod Malachi summarized a few prayer points at a time and allowed us to pray in groups. He also gave some time for personal needs to be shared and prayed over. We adjourned at about 1:10 PM for a real treat- a superb lunch- Rice with delicious Sambar, Spicy Baked Tilapia (fish) and seasoned/fried Curd/Butter milk, thanks to the chefs Ed Hinley and Benhur. Benhur's family provided several ingredients for lunch and dinner; and they have done this as unto the Lord and do not like to be commended. We praise God for their love for all of us in providing this treat.

Around 2 PM, we assembled again for the *afternoon session*. James and Thompson led us in a couple of songs after which Sahayams were given the time to share their future ministry in Guyana. Bro. Devasahayam started from the fourth aim of UESI (missions) and reminded the heart cry and the call of God from Isa 6. He discussed the unreached world of Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and in particular places such as Mauritius where there is an Indian *diaspora*. He highlighted the importance of tent making ministry; God talks about Paul's ministry and not his tents, showing we are all called to be missionaries wherever we are. Either you are a mission field or a missionary. He talked about RSS wanting to make the whole Caribbean, Hindu by 2010. He shared about the hidden mission field from Lk 14:16-23. Sis. Parrot shared about God's faithfulness so far in leading them to Guyana for a 3-year commitment. Both shared a lot of pictures from Guyana educating us on the type of ministry they will be involved and treated us to a couple of Christian songs by the local youth who have come to the Lord. Guyana is below the sea level and there are so many challenges with it (water, water everywhere but there is no drop to drink- the scarcity of drinking water etc.). The mindset of Indian *diaspora* who came as coolies a couple of hundred years ago brings its own twist to the ministry. It was a great session for us to learn the ministry to which God has called Sahayams so that we can pray for them and as the Lord leads, support them financially. Peter Palaparathi was invited by Joji to pray for Sahayams and their ministry.

Bro. Masih's third message could be moved to the evening/night session as Bro. John Zachariah could not get the flight to come and be with us to share on 'Open Christian Home'. So we had an extended time to relax even as we met as local EGFs to plan the upcoming activities in our groups and stand before the beautiful camera of Joji for photo sessions of various kinds- group photo, photos with speakers, photos as local EGFs etc. The patience of Joji is outstanding and his work of course is impeccable. Praise God for Joji's giftedness that is evident through hundreds of conference pictures.

The dinner was again a blessing through the hands of Benhur. Chicken biriyani and Garbanzo beans/peas curry, chicken curry/gravy, you would not expect in a camp site organized by Americans anywhere. A fantastic dinner by all means, we thoroughly enjoyed it. In the *evening session*, Thompson shared his testimony of the Lord's comfort during his dad's loss and how he can face tomorrow because He lives. He led us in that song and also a few songs in Hindi. An international student from India, Raana shared his story of how God miraculously saved him from near death with 95% degree burns in an apartment complex which was set on fire by someone else living in that complex. Sensing his journey to faith, so far from atheism to theism, several surrounded Raana and

prayed for him that the Lord will reveal Himself to him and that Raana will come to the saving knowledge of Christ. God has purpose for his life, Jer 29:11.

We were now ready for the third message by Bro. Masih on triumphant leadership from II Timothy Chapter 3. Bro. Masih reminded that there are sections that will not be covered in the conference such as failed leadership which is provided in the booklet for us to go home and study. Also, he showed the prayer points on leadership based on these studies which we can consistently pray for ourselves until we experience growth in those points. He was generous with his wits; the biriyani in our stomachs churned leading to good digestion having laughed so much.

Triumphant Leadership (II Timothy Chapter 3)

David is a good example of successful and triumphant leadership. He never gave any tribute to any other king. To be successful, we need the hand of God upon us. We need God's blessing. Saul pursued to kill him but the Lord protected him. (Don't marry a girl whose father is after you with a pistol!) How can we have a successful and triumphant leadership?

- i) Know the times, vs.1-5. (Listen and ask questions like Jesus did at the Temple when he was a teenager. Last days- lovers of money, pleasure etc. Ungrateful. Unforgiving. Rash. Conceited. Puffed like poori- When a mouse was asked why it was so small compared to an elephant, it replied, "Nowadays, I am not keeping well". Hypocrisy too. A pastor's wife brought a suitcase and bed to the church for the pastor saying, "You look like an angel behind the pulpit. You stay here". He is a terror inside the house. A woman was so fed up with her disgusting and drunk husband that she wanted to teach him a lesson by dressing up like Satan and waiting near a tree outside the home. When the husband came home and she jumped on him claiming that she was Satan, he replied, "please come home, I am married to your sister". Wow. There are many talkative Christians. They can talk on any subject. It is for them 'a timepass' like peanuts. Sometimes while traveling in train, there will be a whole talk on religion for 'timepass'. Know the times. Analyze and make effective strategies. Do not do Christianity for 'timepass'- a sober warning.)
- ii) Continue in what we have learned and become convinced of, vs.10-14. (Godly examples of godly leaders. A young man wrote to Billy Graham," Thanks to you for keeping your integrity". Serve God. Live for God. Don't be distracted. Pussy Cat's long journey to London to look up the queen ended up in frightening the mouse.)
- iii) Be a saved person thoroughly, v.15. (An old lady asked William Booth, Are you saved? He was able to reply if she was asking whether he was saved, or is being saved or will be saved? The three tenses- salvation past from the

penalty of sin, salvation present from the power of sin and salvation future from the presence of sin. Moody met a fully drunk guy who claimed he was a convert. Moody replied you must be my convert, not the Lord's. If we are fallen in sin, we must have fallen secretly months before. There was a pastor whose pants had a patch in the knee front. Why? He prays a lot. There was a patch on the back side as well. For he backslides a lot. Let us not be a disgrace to Christian leadership.)

- iv) Be thoroughly at home with the Holy Scriptures, vs.16,17. (Apollos, Ezra, the Bereans. So many open graves believers are falling... avoid the pit falls by being grounded in the Scriptures.)
- v) Practice what you preach, vs.16,17. (Preach the gospel to ourselves every day.)
- vi) Preach what you practice, vs.16,17. (teaching and training in righteousness so we can be thoroughly equipped for every good work.)

May the Lord help us to exercise a triumphant leadership!

Tea was served by Mercy and Hephzibah. The *last session of the day* involved everyone sharing what God is doing in our lives. Mathew Thomas laid the ground rules and gently encouraged and nudged everyone to share. He asked one person to pray after three people shared their stories. Several shared about what the Lord has taught in the past year, some shared what the Lord has been teaching them in the conference, in particular Mercy and Stuthi John reminding us wonderful things learnt. Some shared personal needs in their families and their ministerial desires etc. It was a great time of fellowship showing God's remarkable faithfulness in our lives and our continued dependence on Him for various decisions, crossroads and needs. Subha appreciated this year's camp director Joji for all the hard-work with this year's conference and arrangement of speakers. Vinod appreciated Bro. Masih's humble and sweet spirit. Mathew closed the session with a prayer for Bro. Isaac Thomas who has a back problem; he is serving at Highfield, Kotagiri. It was past midnight when the session ended. We closed with the singing of 'Blessing and honor and glory be Thine' which was befitting.

After breakfast on *September 3, 2007*, the final day of the conference, various brothers from different states met to discuss the current conference and pass the baton for the next year's conference. Joji opened us in prayer. He shared all the needs of the conference were met through registration and camp fees. We noted that there was an ample allocation for free time so we did not have to feel rushed. It was unanimously felt that Detroit EGF will lead the efforts to plan the conference next year. Mathew Thomas accepted the assignment on behalf of Detroit EGF. He wanted to have Indianapolis South Campus to be the first preference for the venue. The dates are the same as the labor-day weekend. There was a thought that we could start with a lunch on Saturday and have the first session begin at 3 PM. After a good bit of discussion on various things regarding conference planning, Subha offered the closing prayer.

Thomson led us in singing at the *morning session*. Bro. Richard Masih presented the final message in his series on "Excellence in leadership" from II Timothy 4.

Bro. Masih wanted us to get up and greet one another by one saying “The Lord be with you” and another responding “and with you also”. Before that happened he shared a joke on the preacher who said “The Lord be with you” and as the microphone was fading, added “there is something wrong with the mic” to which the congregants responded “ and with you also”. We laughed as we greeted one another. Bro. Masih shared about his wife’s passing to glory and his struggles with various questions such as ‘Where did she go? Why was she not healed? Does God always heal? Should I be happy? Why are you cast down, O my soul (Psa 42,43)?’. The answers he received from the Lord are put into a book named, *Uma: A pleasing Aroma*. He said he learnt one word in this country, *awesome*. Food is awesome. Fellowship is awesome. He is thankful that he has received love and affection from the UESI family wherever he went. He touched us deeply by saying he has seen a new and refreshing thing in the OFUESI Midwest people- that we openly, publicly, privately appreciate one another. He said it has started in Houston with Dr. Prem Saganti (OFUESI President) and is continuing here. He also appreciated Prem for his testimony in the workplace and his family’s love and zeal for the Lord and His people. Bro. Masih’s remarks before he read II Timothy 4, prayed and expounded on the thoughts from this final chapter Paul wrote in his life were timely as this was Bro. Masih’s final message.

Commendable Leadership (II Timothy 4)

Joseph’s leadership in the court of Pharaoh and Moses’ leadership were examples of commendable leadership. How can we have a commendable ministry?

- i) Preach the word, v.2. (UESI is a movement based in God’s Word. Be prepared to minister the Word in season and out of season. Some people’s quiet time is too quiet except for snoring. Some want jam and not bread, like the promise calendars- only promises. You need commandments also. Some take up their own favorite topic for Bible study, not the whole will of God. How can you eat biriyani in the morning, in the afternoon and in the evening?)
- ii) Keep your head in all situations, v.5. (Elijah wanted to quit. Hardships come in the ministry but let us not waver. While some desert us, some will diligently seek and refresh us, 1:15-18. Read Kipling’s *If* poem.)
- iii) Do the work of an evangelist, v.5. (Recall the missionary command of Christ. Preach as dying man to dying men. Early on, there was only a staff worker for the state and graduates did the ministry. When the graduates started to have more money and less time, they opted for coordinators. Now they are not in the Word and left the Bible studies in the hands of coordinators. There is more work for the staff workers now. You should always be asking yourself where your Timothy is and whom you should be training. If you don’t evangelize, there is certain dryness in you. Be eager to preach the gospel for it is the power of God to save sinners.)
- iv) Discharge all the duties of your ministry, v.5. (Take your leadership responsibility seriously.)

- v) Grow up in usefulness, v.11. (Mark is an example who has grown and become helpful to Paul.) With diligence and devotion, may we pursue commendable leadership!

Upon the final tea break, an American girl named Autumn who works at ITC shared her missions experience at Visakhapatnam. Hephzibah prayed that God would bless her abundantly. Then, before the vote of thanks were proposed by the camp directors, Charles Dhanaraj took time to appreciate Joji and Seena Varghese as well as Abhijit and Mercy Talari for their hard work in making this conference a blessing to everyone. Joji thanked the speakers, the musicians, Benhur, ITC personnel and everyone who came. We were all filled with great joy and we thanked the Lord for His many blessings. With the vote of thanks and other formalities out of the way, it was time for a closing message by Subha Kumpaty.

Closing Message and Prayers –

Subha read Ex 4:1-5, I Chr 22:5,14-16, and Titus 2:11-14 and prayed before he shared the message. From the first passage he highlighted God's using whatever we have in our hands such as the shepherd staff/rod and our lives. Ex 17:9 shows the rod of Moses became the rod of God. The implicit obedience is to be noted as God asked Moses to pick the snake by the tail (not head). It shows us God is in control. Also, the fact that when God calls, He enables us and gives us strength for the task was noted. So Sahayams will receive the strength for the God-given task ahead of them in Guyana. The sister who wants to excel in teaching, the sister who desires to share her faith with Hindu friends, the sister who longs to be an excellent mother will all receive His enablement. Recalling from Bro. Masih's sharing, God enables and uses even sickly, timid Timothy. From the second passage we see the importance of passing the baton as David helped his inexperienced son Solomon by gathering the materials for the construction of the Temple. Subha reminded how we are in a relay race, even as Prof. Enoch and Dr. Sterrett passed the baton to PC and others and they continue to pass it to others. Paul and Barnabas; Paula and Silas; Paula and Timothy; Paula and Titus- such collaborative leadership where we cultivate people (and not use them) and develop people (not direct them) is what we ought to be doing. Next, Subha recalled Bro. Masih's stressing on the discipline of the athlete, hardworking farmer, workman, soldier, clean vessel etc. Subha stressed that we should not be lazy people. God cannot use lazy people; even Satan does not know how to use such a person. Subha took time to exposit Titus passage wherein the three segments-past (justification), present (sanctification) and future (glorification) are clearly portrayed. Grace that has saved us will train us for the present too. Regarding the present we are asked to live lives soberly (self-controlled), righteously (our relationship with the people) and godly (our relationship with the Lord). Knowing that we have a blessed hope, we should live lives of usefulness to the Master. Subha related that to the purpose of our living as fruit bearing. To bring fruit, we have to be abiding. We abide in Him through obeying. Our obedience is a direct result of our loving Him. We love Him by knowing Him. It takes us to the discipline of being in the Word. Know Him, Love Him, Obey Him, Abide in Him, Bear much fruit. What is our passion? The founder of Moravian Church, Zinzendorf said: *I have one passion. It is He, He alone.* The Moravian motto is

an ox between a plough and altar. All of its life, it will plough for the master. Even in death, as a sacrifice, in providing a meal to its master it is committed to pleasing Him. How do we see our commitment to excellence before the Lord? Let us ask the Lord: *Take my heart and Seal it for Thy courts above.*

All of us spent a few minutes in personal dedication to the Lord. Bro. Deva Sahayam then committed all of us to His keeping and care in the closing prayer of the conference. We sang: We give all the glory to Jesus. We had lunch together, this time an American meal, and with great difficulty said good bye to one another and headed home to practice excellence in our responsibilities at home, at work and in society. To God be the glory, great things He has done.

To provide a glimpse at one of our regional conferences, Mid-West Regional Conference report is reproduced here.

This illustrative conference report was prepared by Dr. Subha Kumpaty in October 2007.

Appendix-B: Suggestions for OFUESI Vision Statement

OF UESI

What should be the aim and direction of OFUESI? As I envisage, it should not be just a financing agency but a ministry. As such, its ministry could be the ministry of:

1. **Edification**- Helping its members to grow in their salvation (1Pet.2:2), to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2Pet.3:18), to be rooted and built up in him, strengthened in faith (Col.2:6, 7), and to be conformed in the likeness of the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 8: 29).
2. **Expansion**- Working towards the increase of its membership and area of operation (Is.54:2). Engaging itself in the pioneering work believing fully the promises of God (Deut.1:8; Josh.1:3).
3. **Evangelism**- Reaching out to Asians and non-Asians in USA with the gospel of God's grace (Acts 20:24). Encouraging and training its members to engage themselves in evangelism and witnessing (Mk.16:15; Acts 1:8).
4. **Extension**- Extending its helping hand to strengthen the UESI ministry in India and the Church in USA (cf. Jer.29:7).
5. **Intercession**- Praying faithfully for the ministry of UESI in India, the body of Christ in USA and the Church worldwide (2Chron.7:14).

For the carrying out of the ministry of OFUESI I suggest:

1. The appointment of a full time staff who will go around on a regular basis providing fellowship, encouragement, pioneering, teaching and training (cf. 1Sam.7:15-17).
2. Printing of a bi-monthly/quarterly News Letter for information and intercession, with devotional message(s) for edification.
3. Sending of bi-monthly/quarterly report for publication in the 'In Touch' News Letter for the information of and intercession by the local EUs and EGFs in India.
4. Sending annual report for publication in the 'Campus Link' magazine for strengthening the ties

***Appendix-C: Regional Conference Booklet on Leadership by
Bro. Masih***