



# Who Cares?

**I**n the early 1990s, the mission scenario in India was not very ideal. There were many mission agencies that were started but the personnel recruited by them were expected to sacrifice many of their needs. Young men and women enthusiastically left their jobs, extended families and culture to live thousands of kilometers away, learning a new language, living in a new culture and struggling to communicate the good news and disciple people. However, these young people did not realize that many times they had to deny themselves several basic physical, emotional and financial needs. Over the years these young men and women got married and raised children and their needs kept growing. The mission leadership overwhelmed by the enormous challenges on the field and pre-occupied with achieving the goals never realized the brewing storm.

It was difficult to talk about personal needs, since the church and mission leadership assumed that their personnel have sacrificed all their needs and was happy serving the Lord. They were often treated as spiritual heroes. Nobody realized that in some of the fields, a few personnel were no longer enthusiastic and had already left the field mentally, though they remained their physically.

C. B. Samuel\* says that caring according to Apostle Paul was

**Paul was a care-giving and care-receiving missionary. Who cares to follow Paul's example?**

two-way. First, he received, feeling encouraged even by new believers. In his letter to the Corinthian church, he wrote that he was refreshed in the company of Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus. (1 Corinthians 16:17, 18) In his letter to the Romans he addressed Rufus' mother as his own mother a new family on the field. (Romans 16:13). The emerging church at Philippi gave needed supplies, and found blessings in return. Paul was both relaxed and transparent in requesting his colleagues to get books for writing and reading as well as warm clothes to help him prepare for the winter (2 Timothy 4:13,21).

However, the second aspect, his care for them, is also clear. He gave of himself. When there were misunderstandings in Corinth (2 Corinthians 6:5-13), Paul honestly expressed his concern and affection for the congregation. In crisis, Paul restored relationships. For him

member care was both pastoral and holistic. Paul was a care-giving and care-receiving missionary. Who cares to follow Paul's example?

Eappen John\* says that people on the field face much stress in ministry. There may be insufficient staff, a poor job fit, and even misunderstandings in a multi-cultural organization.

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Death was approaching. His friends were confused. The Master was concerned. This evening was significant. A ceremonial meal has been arranged. The Master took on the role of a servant. He lovingly washed His friend's dusty feet. He blessed and served the special meal. He shared his heart out to them in his farewell message. Some of them unconscious of the solemnity of the occasion were arguing with one another as to who will be the greatest? The master knew that one of them will betray him, another deny him and the rest will all run away. The only message he wanted to leave behind before taking up the cross was the commandment to love one another. He told them that the world will know that they are his friends only if they love one another. (John 13:35) He not only gave the commandment but set an example since the highest standard of love was for one to lay down his life for his friends. The master laid down His life for His friends and showed how much he loved them. He wanted his friends to love one another the same way that he loved them. This is the only way our master, Jesus Christ wanted the world to



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Limited cultural adjustment may surface over language, climate, cultural norms, chaotic administration or corruption. Losses may even go unrecognized grief on separation from close family, loss of security, loss of familiarity, of possessions, of hopes, of stability. Who cares to meet the needs of our front line personnel?

M. C. Mathew\* says that the pace and profile of urban life in India have changed. Young professionals in India move jobs to advance, moving up socially and economically. In three years, about 40 percent in any urban setting will be middle class people involved in competitive career growth. But all this engenders stress on lives and life style, resulting in life style related diseases. Families become unstable; turning to substance abuse or descend into anxiety disorders an epidemic of preventable diseases. This dynamic middle class sustains the prosperity of a society, yet they are lonely and isolated. Desperately they visit resorts and therapy centres, investing time and resources.

Some churches keep their campus open for professionals to pray. Some organize social gatherings on Saturday evenings. Some 'watch' families for indications of stress or need. Some Christian professionals serve as "pastors" in the corporate office and market places. We need more innovative ideas to meet these needs and disciple middle class people to follow Jesus Christ. Who cares for such innovative ministry?

## COUNTRY TEAM LEADER'S HEART TALK

recognize us that we are His friends and followers. I have been shocked and surprised many times to see how Christian workers and leaders refuse to love and forgive their own colleagues. It always seemed easier to love people on the streets whom they never knew personally than love those who worked along with them everyday. One of the startling facts in a research said that most attrition in Christian organizations was due to problems in inter-personal relationships.

More people will know and experience the love of Jesus Christ if they see us sharing that love within our family, extended family, church and within our own faith communities. We will have more opportunities to talk about our Master Jesus Christ, when people around us watch us laying down our lives for one another in our every day situation and want to know more. Member care simply means we become obedient to the last commandment of Jesus to love one another. May we personally experience the love of our master and share that love with one another!

*- John Amalraj*

Eappen John further adds that interestingly, many field personnel prove resilient in stressful situations, often thriving through their sense of call. Yet some become depressed or anxious leading to burnout and anger. Timely member care is essential. Care can revive motivation and efficiency, enabling them to stay at the task. Member Care should include the entire family including the spouse and children. This will prevent problems, restore confidence, nurture spirituality and develop resilience, skills, and virtue resulting in inner perseverance as well as external interpersonal skills. Do we care for our people?

**Member care depends on all of us. God asks all of us to do it daily. It is a "two-way" street: we receive and we give.**

Member care depends on all of us. God asks all of us to do it daily. 'But encourage one another daily, while it is called today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:13).' It is a "two-way" street: we receive and we give, and we would hardly survive without it. Rightly so Interserve India has made 'Excellence in Member Care' as one of its major goals serving those on the front line ministry as well as serving people in need.

Let us model excellence in caring for one another!

*Compiled & Edited by Beulah W & J Amalraj*

(\*Mr. C. B. Samuel, former General Director, EFICOR & former Chair of Interserve India Board, Mr. Eappen John, Educationist & Interserve Partner, Dr. M C Mathew, Developmental Paediatrician & Interserve Partner)

# careFORCE

Rajesh hails from Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh from a high caste family and was trained. During his college days, he decided to follow Jesus Christ and was disciplined among the evangelical students community. Rajesh is a Veterinarian and a Senior Scientist by profession and works in a government research institute in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh from 1984 and has lived there since with a vision for the city.

Rajesh was active in the local churches and also led city-wide initiatives to spread the Good News. As a follow up he along with his friends founded a ministry initiative to serve the needs of the backward classes and Dalit people groups in and around the villages near Bareilly in 1992. The ministry has steadily grown over the years. It excelled in adopting various welfare measures for their workers and established a philosophy that the

Joseph Jacob (Jose) began his career as a cross cultural professional in 1980, when he worked as a lecturer of English Literature in a college in Punjab. A year later he joined the staff of UESI (Union of Evangelical Students of India). God has been using Jose and his wife Laila since 1982, when they began serving together through UESI in disciplining many students and graduates. They were involved, for a brief four year period, in the Transformation Initiatives and Church Relations ministry of World Vision International.

Jose joined the staff of Interserve India in 2004 as Secretary Admin, Finance and Personnel and now serves as the Director Development since April 2007. He is responsible to implement strategies to build relationships with the sending churches and supporters of the Indian Partners and the wider donor constituency. His ministry involves mobilisation of prayer and funds for the Indian Partners serving in different parts of India,

David trained as an Electrical Engineer worked for 6 years in the corporate world. He later served in Christian hospitals as a maintenance engineer in Chennai. Beulah, on the other hand graduated in Chemistry, Sociology, Theology and even Journalism! She worked as a staff worker with UESI before marrying David.

David and Beulah were challenged to move to North India as cross cultural professionals. In 1990, David found a job with St. Stephen's Hospital in Delhi and served for a few years before free lancing as a consultant in the corporate world. They founded the Tentmaker Center to challenge professionals for cross cultural ministry with a special focus on the needy North Indian states like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. They regularly published a newsletter providing information about job openings and also a guide for tent makers called "Breaking New Ground", the first Indian publication on tent making ministry. They mentored and cared for several

## Rajesh and Renuka Agarwal

workers are as important as reaching the unreached. Annual medical camps along with the local Christian Hospital mobilising volunteer doctors from within India and outside were initiated successfully.

In 1985, Rajesh married Renuka, who grew up in Punjab. Renuka founded the Grace Public School in their living room to serve the needs of the lower strata of the society in Bareilly in 1996. They had a few children of Christian workers (Mks) to stay in their home and study in this English medium school. In the last ten years, the school has grown to more than 80 underprivileged students and they have just bought land and are raising funds for building construction.

They have three children, Aradhana, Anandita and Akshay.

## Joseph and Laila Jacob

speaking in churches, conferences & meetings and mobilizing more people to be involved in missions.



Laila serves along with him in supporting his ministry in different ways, especially mentoring women in leadership. She also serves as a volunteer staff coordinator with the local evangelical graduates' fellowship in Pune. Occasionally they minister together as resource persons for Family Life Seminars.

They have three adult children, Sudeep, Sowmya and Sneha.

## David and Beulah Chandran

young professionals who continue to serve in North India.



Beulah also served as the On Track Coordinator for Interserve India. Later David was invited to serve with EFICOR as Director - Operations in Delhi. Presently, David and Beulah are based in Chennai serving as Director, Tsunami Operations of EFICOR while Beulah enjoys teaching in a local bible college.

They have two adult children Sharon and Shalom.

# interserve news

## What's up at Interserve

### Prayer Weekends

Three weekends in April and the last week in May Interserve India Partners gathered together in regional prayer conferences in Bangalore (South), Siliguri (East), Kandala (West) and Mussoorie (North). It was exciting to find God answering prayers sometimes beyond our expectations.

One of the participants says that prayer weekends are times where we find that we really get to know the other Partners life and ministry. Many of them were in a phase of transition and fortunately much time was given for sharing and praying. This helped to foster a relaxed atmosphere for the weekend as the sharing was not rushed. The kids enjoyed many activities and movies as the adult volunteers took turns looking after them. All in all the weekend was a time of retreat and refreshment for those who were able to come. We got to catch up on news with each other and continue to grow closer to each other as we grow closer to our Father.



**Mr. Sathkeerthi Rao**, (former Secretary for Revival & Evangelism, Evangelical Fellowship of India) who has been serving as Minister at Large based in Hyderabad continues his role as good will ambassador for Interserve India.

**Rev. Ivan Raskino** of Mumbai was elected as the new chair for Interserve India Governing Body. He takes over from Mr. C. B. Samuel who stepped down as Chair after completing his term of service on the Society for the last six years.



## Calendar of Events

**SYIS Kolkata** - 3-7th Nov 2007

**Family Reunion** 28th Dec 2007 to 1st Jan 2008

**E2S International Orientation**, Pune - 2 Jan to 9 Jan 2008.

**Governing Body** - 16th-17th Feb 2008 & 18th Jul 2008

**AGM** - 19th & 20th Jul 2008.

### New Appointments

**Winnie Thuma** has been appointed as Regional Director - South Asia wef 1st July 2007.

**Ellen Alexander** has been appointed as Director for Ministry Development, Interserve International, wef 1st September 2007.

**Dr. L. N. Tluanga**, Aizawl (former Executive Secretary of IS India) and **Prof Ravi Kant**, Pune (former Admin & Personnel Secretary) were appointed as Minister at Large to represent Interserve India as good will ambassadors among the churches in the North East India and Western India respectively.

### BizOpps & ProOpps Seminars

Interserve facilitated two hour seminars in 5 cities Delhi, Chennai, Bangalore, Pune and Mumbai in the last week of July and the first week of August for Indian Christian professionals and entrepreneurs. There were around 20-30 participants in each of these seminars. The seminar started with a presentation on Indian context and the need for Indian Christian professionals and entrepreneurs to go cross culturally within India and overseas. The second presentation dealt with the theological foundations of Professionals in mission and Business in mission and challenged the participants to accept the call of God to move beyond their comfort zones. Several case studies and the importance of India's contribution into the global economy and business was highlighted. Almost all participants felt that the seminars were unique and left yearning for more time to internalise the concepts. One of the participant said that "full time ministry is heresy", another said that the second reformation of the lay people taking the word and sharing with others has started", another participant shared that "years of false guilt of not making a commitment to serve full time was in one stroke wiped out".

## Farewell

Nigel & Judith, Benjamin, Joshua and India (Mussorie) and Uli (Pune) returned home for extended leave. We pray for God's blessings in their transition. Jessica (Pune) resigned from Interserve India after her marriage with Shine. We congratulate the new couple and wish them God's blessings in their future ministry.

## Welcome to the Family

Interserve welcomes the following partners along with their children who have joined the fellowship between June and August.

- Ivan & Silvia Kostka (Pune/Delhi)
- Alex & Sheila Zahnd (Delhi)
- Vijay & Ellen Alexander (Bangalore / KL)

Please write to us your comments, criticisms and suggestions for improvement of the newsletter. Your feedback is valuable for us as we publish our future issues.

All donations (DDs/cheques) to be made in the name of 'Interserve (India)' payable at Pune (Indian donations) and Delhi (overseas donations). Your donations help us serve the people better. Thank you.

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