



India seems to be bursting at its seams with a growing population of more than a billion. Urbanization is very rapid around the country as villages disappear faster than urban infrastructure can be put in place. The young middle class open their wallets in the sprawling shopping malls even as street kids pick up rags and beg at traffic lights. Women are worshipped as goddesses and yet the birth of a girl child is not desired and her birth is prevented by educated people. A country of ethnic, linguistic, cultural, social and economic diversity that is unique in the world.

154 years ago, the vision of transformation of Indian women, gave birth to a women's missionary movement. After a century of exemplary service, the movement expanded to become a family missionary movement as men were allowed to join this women's movement. Now we stand in the beginning of a new millennium seeking transformation of not just individual lives but that of whole communities through encounter with Jesus Christ. We need to grow and expand the movement to the bigger family of God's people in the church. It is not just the few who are 'called' but the whole church needs to be mobilized to realize her calling for missions. We need to mobilize the whole church in India to participate in meeting the global needs of missions. Indians are called to develop, operate and trouble shoot computer

programs in every part of the world, answer customer calls from all time zones, take over business operations in other continents, become an ally to the world power in global politics, partner in trade agreements and so on. The global church needs the involvement of Indians in missions world wide as the western church faces the challenge of decreasing participation. Macedonian calls for Indian Christians come from every part of the world. We need to send out Indian Christians as bearers of the Good News not just within India but outside India. Interserve India is poised to lead the Indian mission movement in this exciting phase of global missions.

The development of the strategic directions for Interserve India in the midst of a leadership transition brought clarity to who we are, what we want to see in the future and how we will fulfill God's purposes. We believe in providing care and nurture to our partners by constantly challenging ourselves to innovate newer ministry models and partner with others to build the church

and society. We believe not only in an individual calling but also in a corporate calling which we have received as part of being God's family through Interserve. We have developed 76 action plans for the next five years. But in essence all these can be summarized into five major goals. (Please see the box). It is with great hope that we look to God for His wisdom and grace as we together move forward fast forward 2010.

goals at a glance

Strengthen Member Care
Caring for those on the field

Equip Local Churches in Missions
Getting more people involved

Recruit more Tentmakers
Facilitating more people to go across cultures

Mobilize Indians to be placed overseas
Enlarging our vision globally

Network with other Mission Agencies
Working together with others

“I sold my car, finally I sold my old car”, I shouted with a sense of achievement as I entered my home that evening. I explained to my son that after several unsuccessful attempts I had finally sold my car for a reasonable price. To my surprise he reacted very emotionally. He asked me “Why did you sell the car?” I casually replied that the car was old, and I had to dispose it. Then he shocked me with the words “So when you get old, can I sell you too?” It was some time before I recovered and reminded him about the difference between cars and human beings along with an explanation of the situation, which called for a change of the car. It was important to understand his genuine feelings for the old car. Not many of us are willing to let go the old things. A look at our cupboards, lofts, shelves and drawers will reveal the truth. Seldom are we willing to let go the old ways. Change calls us to give up the old, the past and accept the new, the present. We live in a changing world. The world changes, circumstances change and we change too.

Change is difficult for any of us to accept. Malcolm Gladwell in his book *The Tipping Point* writes, “We need to prepare ourselves for the possibility that sometimes big changes follow from small events and that sometimes these changes can happen

COUNTRY TEAM LEADER'S HEART TALK



very quickly.” Many events in the different stages of our normal life change us. Births, deaths, marriage and sickness are some of them. Sometimes unexpected events that take place in a distant land change our lives. Remember the phrase 9/11 or September 11th. The day many say that changed the world. The world changes, our circumstances change and we change too.

Change is so much part of us that the call to repentance, the born again experience, the daily renewal of our mind, the process of sanctification are all part of the whole spiritual transformation that are related to change. Our creator calls us to create new ways of living. We know that God's mercies are new every morning. (Lamentations 3: 22, 23) We all hope for a new heaven and a new earth and the Lord who sits on the throne says “Behold, I make all things new.” (Revelation 21: 1, 5). The creator God wants us to be creative and reflect his image in our lives.

I can change, you can change, and we all can change with God's help so that lives and communities can be transformed through encounter with Jesus Christ. Would you join me in the roller coaster ride of change? As you read this issue of “In Focus” reflect on how you can change and also become a change agent?

strategic directions ►►

TARGET MINISTRIES

(Includes selected diverse types of ministry involvement by Partners presently and in future)

Church Ministries: Equipping and empowering churches for missions, discipleship, community reconciliation, women leadership and other allied areas.

Communication Ministries: Promoting Gospel values & perspectives through Media, journalism, advertising, free lancing, research & publications, etc.

Community & Care Ministries: Caring for the uncared and uplifting the marginalized.

Education Ministries: Shaping children's lives through training academicians and developing new methodologies.

Health Ministries: Promoting healthcare by sustaining mission and church run institutions and promoting new enterprises.

Leadership Enhancement Ministries: Developing able leadership for Churches, Missions and for the Nation.

Member Care Ministries: Promoting, modeling and providing member care for partners and missionary kids.

Tent making Ministries: Promoting Kingdom values through Tentmaking Ministries.

TARGET GROUPS

(Includes groups among whom Partners are now serving and may serve in future)

Children: Missionary Kids, special needs children, children at risk & others.

Diaspora Indians: Indian Christian diaspora.

Elderly: Retired missionaries and others.

Faith/ Ideological groups: i.e. Neighbours (special focus on women), Bandhus, Parsi and tribal religions.

Marginalized: Socio-economically marginalized in rural and urban centres.

Non Indian Communities in India: Nepalis, Tibetans, Burmese, international students and refugees.

Urban Middle Class: People with surplus disposable income to ensure financial independence and security and who have other needs that must be addressed. (Eg. *Family issues*)

Women: Women leadership in church (eg. Pastor's wives) & mission agencies and others.

Youth: Church youth (Teens and above), and young adults.

TARGET AREAS

(Includes locations where Partners are present and lists the order of priority for future placements within 250 km radius in each of the present locations)

India

Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Delhi, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Orissa, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu.

Overseas

South Asia, Arabian Gulf, PEN Asia, CAR.
(Placement through existing regional Interserve structure)

(The complete document can be made available on request.)

agents of change ▶▶

Change (productive, of course!), if you noticed, has been the main focus of this issue. In Interserve, apart from the new strategic goals and directions, 2006 saw an important change in the leadership of Interserve India. We had to say farewell to one Executive Secretary and welcome another one. Both exemplary leaders and visionaries. Two people who have been instrumental in shaping Christian missions in India in their own ways. It would be appropriate that we celebrate them and their contribution and commit their future ministries to the Lord. We present a brief profile of both of them. We pray God's anointing and blessings on them as they have taken up their new responsibilities.

13, contrary to popular belief, was a 'lucky' number for Indian missions in general and Interserve in particular. For it was after 13 years of service in the Indian Army that Dr. Bijoy Koshy resigned to heed God's unmistakable call to join full-time Christian ministry. An outstanding student throughout his academic life, Bijoy joined the prestigious Armed Forces Medical College in Pune and passed out as a doctor from there to join the Indian Army in 1983. He took over in 1996 as the Executive Secretary of Interserve India and has been instrumental in shaping the Indian Missions scenario. He has provided godly wisdom, guidance and direction to missions as part of his responsibility on the Board of many Christian agencies/ministries in India. As Executive Secretary of Interserve India, he has been instrumental for building Interserve into a truly 'holistic ministry'. Interserve India has partners in almost every field of developmental ministry and have been pioneers in many areas.

Premi, on the other hand, exemplifies servant leadership as very

Farewell

Bijoy and Premila Koshy



few people can. Her willingness to serve, even to the point of personal discomfort is indeed commendable. Moreover, it extends to one and all, without class or colour. A pre-school teacher by profession, her love for pre-schoolers and little children is a special gift from God. Her contribution to Missionary Kid care in India is legendary in 'Griha Shiksha' (Home Schooling), the first Home Schooling program for missionary kids in India. Those who have had to leave their little children in boarding schools will know the blessing that this has been to rural missionaries.

The Koshys as a family (along with their children Anisha and Rohan) have been a model for Christian families with their infectious Christian lifestyle. Anisha finishes her graduate studies this year while Rohan is doing his B.Com.

The Scriptures teach us that to those who are faithful in little, more will be given. Bijoy and Premi have been faithful in their calling in Interserve India and now God has called them to provide leadership to the Interserve ministry in the difficult region of PEN Asia.

John Amalraj, who took over from Dr. Bijoy Koshy as Executive Secretary (Country Team Leader) is a qualified lawyer and HRD/Personnel Manager. John worked briefly as a lawyer in the post of manager with an exports company and later as Personnel Manager with a group of companies in Chennai. He was then invited to be a volunteer with India Missions Association as part of the initiative to set management standards for IMA members. Later he joined IMA as Office and Projects Manager in Chennai in 1993. He then proceeded to complete his first degree in Theology from Trinity Theological College, Singapore. Returning to IMA, John set up the first regional office of IMA in New Delhi. After four years, he was moved to Hyderabad to set up the IMA Centre there.

During his time with IMA he has been used to envision, set-up, coordinate and teach at the Advanced Mission Leadership training programme, coordinate IMA National Conferences and take the lead in facilitating the

Welcome

John and Jessie Amalraj



think-tank meetings in various areas of ministry in India. He has during the last four years been over-seeing the IMA regional offices and also played an active role in the networks of IMA.

Jessie, has completed her Bachelor's degree in Corporate Secretaryship and also taken a course in Computer Applications. She and John have two sons Jason (13 years) and Joash (4 years). Jessie apart from short stints of part time work in Trinity Theological College and the IMA Delhi office has been a home maker, providing the children with the stability and consequent security they have needed as John traveled extensively. She took on the responsibilities of Group Coordinator of the Interserve group in Hyderabad, which was one of the few groups that managed to meet regularly in the midst of heavy work and travel schedules of the partners. Since their move to Pune in May last year, Jessie is involved with care for Interserve partners' children.

interserve news

new office

Interserve India purchased two flats in Pune for the use of our office. The new office was inaugurated on 21st Jan, 2006 by the Governing Body members. Rev. C. B. Samuel shared from the Word and blessed the new premises.

The office was dedicated on 27th Mar, 2006 by Rt. Rev. V. Sathe, Bishop of Pune Diocese of the Church of North India. Rev. Dr. Samson Parekh, Principal, UBS, shared from the Word of God at the function attended by local church and mission leaders.

appointments

Bijoy Koshy has been appointed as Interserve International's Regional Director - Pacific and Americas, based at Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Mrs. Ellen Alexander the chairperson of Interserve India has been elected to the TIC (Transitional International Council) as a voting member.

prayer weekends

The annual Prayer Weekends will be held in four different parts of the country. It is these get-togethers that provide the much needed getaway to our partners who labour hard throughout the year.

- South: 28th - 30th April at Coonoor.
- West: 12th - 14th May at Panchgani.
- North: 26th - 28th May at Mussoorie.
- East: 9th - 11th June at Serampore.

new publication

Together with God, a booklet explaining Interserve's policy on relationships with the Church was released on 27th March, 2006 during the dedication service of the new office.



budget

The GB approved the budget for the next financial year for a total of Rs. 89.95 Lakhs. Pray that God will stir the hearts of people to give generously that we may continue to serve Him through all the activities we have planned.

welcome to the family

Interserve welcomes the following partners who have joined us in the past few months. We pray for God's protection and provision for you as you settle in your respective ministries.

- Johns George

news from partners

Iris Paul's son Remo tied the knot with Dr. Susan on 29th Dec, 2005.

Chungnunga and Hliri's daughter Elizabeth got married to Joseph on 29th Dec, 2005.

In March 2006, John Amalraj and Iris Paul participated in an International People Groups Seminar in Indonesia where John presented a paper on Leadership Transition.

In March 2006, Shantanu Dutta and Beulah W. participated at the Annual Conference of Interserve Partners in Bangladesh as resource people.

Winnie is on her Home Assignment from April to mid-July.

family reunion

The Annual Family Reunion was held from 28th Dec 2005 - 1st Jan 2006 at Secunderabad. 86 Partners and their children representing 18 countries and 13 Indian states participated at the Reunion.

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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