



# FAMILY MATTERS!

608, 7th Main, 6th Cross  
HAL 3rd Stage, Bangalore 560 075  
Tel.: 5115 3642 Help Line: 2527 7757  
Email: uim@bgl.vsnl.net.in  
www.urbanindia.org

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*An Urban India Ministries Newsletter*

## ABOUT US

Urban India Ministries is an indigenous Christian Ministry for the growing urban populace of India. It is a registered trust in the state of Karnataka with its headquarters in Bangalore, India

## OFFICE BEARERS

Rev. P. John Wesley Hon. Chairman  
Mr. Sam George International Director  
Mr. P. C. Mathew National Director  
Mr. Biju K Thomas Treasurer

## OUR MISSION

To **APPLY** Biblical principles and values for marriage and family.

To **ASSIST** individuals and communities to face the challenges of urban living.

To **ADVOCATE** sanctity of life and the institution of marriage.

To **ALERT** the society about the forces that threatens families.

Among the emerging generations in the cities of India by providing resources and working through individuals, local churches, schools and colleges, organizations, media and government.

## VISION

To bring glory to God by:

**Sharing** the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
**Helping** people to become fully devoted followers of Christ

**Building** the people of God to be effective leaders

**Fulfilling** the mission of Jesus Christ in the world

## *From the Director's Desk*

Dear Friends,

*The beginning of this year was not pleasant for many families in Asian countries with the Tsunami devastation. Even today's newspaper (31st Jan.) had news on earthquake measuring above 5 in Richter's scale in Andamans and Nicobar islands. It is more than a month since the tsunami, but even now people are constantly living in fear. When the earth underneath our feet shakes, what is there to live? So, in the midst of an uncertain beginning, what is the message of God for us human beings?*



*I have been reading this fantastic book by Philip Yancey "Finding God in unexpected places" where he explores the message of God in every circumstance of life, from health club to trying to find God in the sexual urges of this sex tainted world. He quotes G.K Chesterton by saying, "A man who knocks at the door of a brothel is knocking for God." Philip Yancey feels people without their own knowledge are acknowledging God through every action of theirs. So is there a message of God even in this time of uncertainty? Some questions that flashes in our mind are, "Has God ceased to be in Control? "or Is God so cruel? or "Is it just a natural disaster that happened to the world" or is there something beyond what we see?*

*I hear two strong messages in this happening. The first, the uncertainty of human life! Death is the surest of all the happenings we can expect in life. It can come in the most unexpected way and in the most unexpected time. UIM staff had a picnic on the beachside of Chennai on 26th Nov, enjoying the waves and the sea, but one month later, the ones who chose the same sea to enjoy could not return back with life. The death of John Mathew is another shocker wave that hit UIM, reconfirming the message of human fragility and uncertainty.*

*The second message I hear is the return of the King. Incidents unheard are happening with nature. The Bible talks in Rom 8:21 about nature groaning to be renewed in His coming. The Bible reminds us of these signs as birth pains before His coming. So, the crux of the message is "Redeem the time." There is lots for us to complete in establishing His kingdom. We do not know when the race marked for us will end. So, lets participate in His work, till the Lord allows us to live. Every day, we see families breaking down and so every day is too precious to loose. UIM has very ambitiously planned so many programs for 2005 to fulfill the mission of reaching families with the eternal principles of God's Word.*

*The theme we chose for this year is 'Take root, Blossom and Bear Fruit' from Isaiah 27:6. We want us as an organization to take deep root in our relationship with God and also bear fruit to fill the whole of India. We are dreaming and praying that the Lord will continue to extend our boundaries and bless this country and many families through this ministry. Our needs are on the increase. Please pray and participate for the cause of families. Be involved in His mission and become a blessing for families. We have appointed Alex and Donnetti as Hon. Regional Directors of UIM for Mumbai. By May, we are looking at a staff in Cochin. Please pray for the same. Trendsetters have planned to reach more schools this year. We need help in fulfilling that dream. Join us and let us be in His business!*

*Gripped in His Love,*

*P.C.Mathew and Ciby Mathew*

## Reclaim Your Family Time

It is the rare family that takes the bold step of making lots of changes all at once. Most start by subtracting one outside activity, or reducing the time devoted to it, then perhaps adding one family activity or ritual. Every family is different, so there is no cookie-cutter approach that will work for everyone, but here are some strategies that can help:

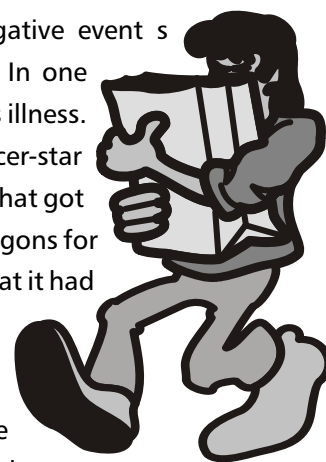
**Reduce outside activities.** Pick one that consumes a lot of time or interferes with an important family activity such as dinner, bedtime, or church. In one family, the parents decided that one sport had to go and they let their son decide which one. Another family told their twelve-year-old that he could stay in soccer but not be on the traveling team.

**Add family activities.** Family meals are a good place to start, if you are not having many of them. You might add just one dinner a week, say, on Sunday night when there are usually no outside activities. Make it special. You might also add to two or more areas of family time simultaneously, such as regular bedtime rituals and a weekly game night. Put a family vacation on your calendar and inform the world that nothing will keep you from it this year, even if your kid reaches the Little League World Series. The point is to look for what you can add positively to your family activities, whether or not you reduce your outside schedule.

**Eliminate** television and other media from activities where you want family conversation. Move the television from the area where you eat, or at least make sure it is turned off before you eat. Move a television and computer out of a child's bedroom in order to promote more family interaction.

**Seize opportunities.** Moving to a new home can provide a choice moment for rebalancing the family, but if you are staying put you might consider creating a summer sabbatical from outside activities. This can be a time to relax and regroup as your family takes part in meaningful activities, and then make decisions about priorities for the next year.

Unexpected or even negative events can also open the door. In one family it was the mother's illness. In another, it was the soccer-star daughter's broken ankle that got the family to circle the wagons for a time and experience what it had been missing.



**No weak links.** In two-parent families, the parents have to be together.

Both have to agree first on the values at stake and then on how to implement these values. If you don't agree, then spend your energy talking with your co-parent before you try to steer the family in a different direction.

**Persevere.** You have to be committed to the change. If your children let you know they think having regular dinners is inconvenient and boring, resist the temptation to cave in before the payoff. Just as with good bedtime rituals that children will love once they adjust to having a bedtime, many other changes require perseverance in the parents.

Children have a way of getting on board when we make changes based on our values about family life, so when you discuss changes with a child make sure you stress the family reasons as well as any benefits the child will gain (such as more free time).

Stress that this is not a punishment, but a re-balancing, and acknowledge the child's feelings of loss or anger, if these are present.

Adapted from William J. Doherty's book, *Putting Families First: Successful Strategies for Reclaiming Family Life in a Hurry-Up World*, co-written by Barbara Carlson (Owl Books, 2002).



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER

### EXPANDING BOUNDARIES

#### One Day Seminar at Mumbai

A one day family seminar was organized by Mr. Alex and his wife Mrs. Donetti at Mumbai on 13th Nov. We had nearly 50 people attending the same. Mr. P.Abraham and his wife Mrs. Lilly Abraham did the session on Family Altar, while Mr. P.C Mathew.and Mrs. Ciby did sessions on God's purpose for Oneness, Love Language and Resolving Conflict. From the feedback we have 8 people who want to volunteer with UIM. We would like to form a UVC and also start Home Builders among them. The sessions were well appreciated and many made decisions to build Christ centered families. Mr. P.C.Mathew was requested to counsel a broken family after the conference.



#### Presenting Family Ministry in Two Leading Seminaries

##### UNION BIBLICAL SEMINARY

It was a great opportunity to present the ministry of UIM and also present a paper on the 'Relevance of Family Ministry in India' from a Biblical perspective at UBS, Pune. The one hour session and the interactions that followed brought out the relevance and need of family ministry in India.

##### SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Missions Conference SAIACS : SAIACS had invited Mr. P.C Mathew to present a paper on 'Family Involvement In Mission' for the mission conference. This paper also created lots of interactions with the student body and many have shown interest for family ministry as their future ministry.

#### St. Thomas Evangelical Church National Conference (outside Kerala)



Mr. P.C.Mathew was invited as the main speaker for the National Conference of the St. Thomas Evangelical Church at Pune (Nov 8-11). The theme was 'Live by the Spirit and Be Led by the Spirit'. More than 400 people participated in the conference.

Mr. P.C.Mathew was asked to handle the family sessions and also a special seminar on interfaith marriages. It evoked good response, during the altar call many gave their lives to Christ. Many testified to the working of God's Spirit. We praise God for this opportunity to also introduce UIM.

*"Forget the times of your distress, but never forget what they taught"*

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER

## BANGALORE

### Christmas Outreach

The Christmas outreach was planned by UVC headed by Mrs. Grace as the coordinator under the leadership of Mr. Philips. We were able to reach out to 160 people through this outreach program. It was a time of fun, enjoyment and also a time to give the gospel to our friends of other faith on the true meaning of Christmas. The theme was LOVE IN ACTION. We could project the love of God in action by sending his son through Jesus. The program ended with a fellowship dinner.



### Stall at Benny Hinn's Festival of Blessing

UIM had taken a stall at Benny Hinn's festival of blessing and distributed around 10,000 pamphlets about our ministry and sold books and caps at the venue.



### Family Fellowship at First A. G. Church

Family fellowship started off at the First AG Church with 13 families attending the meeting. Mr. P C Mathew and Ciby shared on "God's purpose for marriage" and "Danger signals to watch in marriage." The response was overwhelming as couples expressed their gratitude for having conducted the evening seminar. A presentation on possible activities in a family fellowship was also shared. The Church intends to continue the fellowship at a regular frequency.

### Ministry at First A. G. Church Youth Camp

It was a treat to watch the way the Lord ministered to the needs of people in the youth camp of First AG church. Youth from various churches were represented at the camp. Mr. Philips Dayanidhi took two sessions on the "Power of a saint in Christ" and "Dare to be Different." There was an absolute spirit of repentance as young people began to weep and cry before the Lord and confess their sins. Several of the youth recommitted their lives to the Lord.

## Counseling Centre



We were able to counsel married couples and pre-maritals through our relationship center. Each of the couples who came went back greatly blessed, with a deeper commitment to build Christ centered homes. The transformations the Lord is making in their lives encourages us to persevere against all constraints of time, counselors, etc.

## Home Builders

A group of couples who meet weekly with a commitment to build their marriage on Godly principles.



### Homebuilder groups in

- 🏠 Vivekananda nagar
- 🏠 J.P Nagar
- 🏠 Thippasandra
- 🏠 Wilson Garden
- 🏠 Tumkur

### Plan for 2005

- 🏠 Rajajinagar
- 🏠 Indiranagar
- 🏠 Koramangala
- 🏠 Lingarajapuram

## Youth Bible Study



"How does a young man cleanse his ways, by taking heed according to Your Word."

Premarital camp participants have been meeting every Saturday at the residence of Mr. P.C. Mathew for Bible study that helps them to focus on Christ in a corrupted world.

## To Dad with Love...

An old man lived alone in Minnesota. He wanted to spade his potato garden, but it was very hard work. His only son, who would have helped him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and mentioned his situation:

Dear Son,  
I am feeling pretty bad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my potato garden this year. I hate to miss doing the garden, because your mother always loved planting time. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. If you were here, all my troubles would be over. I know you would dig the plot for me, if you weren't in prison.

Love, Dad  
Shortly, the old man received this telegram: "For Heaven's sake, Dad, don't dig up the garden!! That's where I buried the GUNS!!"

At 4 a.m. the next morning, a dozen FBI agents and local police officers showed up and dug up the entire garden without finding any guns. Confused, the old man wrote another note to his son telling him what happened, and asked him what to do next.

His son's reply was: "Go ahead and plant your potatoes, Dad.. It's the best I could do for you from here."

NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE IN THE WORLD, IF YOU HAVE DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING DEEP FROM YOUR HEART YOU CAN DO IT. IT IS THE THOUGHT THAT MATTERS...

## Light House

Interactive young families get-together to enrich, equip, encourage families to shine brighter for our Lord.

We at UIM envision every home to become a lighthouse in the place where they are planted!

After all we are lighted to lighten!!

Come every second Saturday at 6.30 p.m., Vishranthi Nilayam, 18,Infantry Road, Bangalore-1



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER

### TUMKUR

#### St. Johns Marthoma Church Family Seminar

The Church had invited UIM to conduct a one-day family seminar on January 23, 2005. The UIM team ministered through separate sessions running parallel to the couples, the youth and the children.

The couples sessions included Love Languages and Parenting. The program was a blessing to all who attended. The UIM staff were encouraged and blessed to be used of the Lord.



#### Trendsetters at Bishop Sargent School

The students of classes ninth and tenth of Bishop Sargent have been participating in the Trendsetter student module from the month of November. Under the coordination of Santosh, Trendsetters has been making considerable impact on the students which is evident by their enthusiasm and feedback. Trendsetters had an opportunity to address the parents and present Trendsetter Parent module to them. The Trendsetter parenting seminar has been scheduled for February 12th.

#### Christmas Outreach at Kunigal



A Christmas program was arranged at Daya Bhavan – home for children of AIDS patients, where couples from Tumkur went and shared the joy of Christmas with the children.



The couples also had a time of fun and fellowship together. Mr. Philips and Mr. P.C. Mathew led the sessions.



## CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF TRENDSETTERS

It has been one year since the launch of Trendsetters and as we look back at this year, it has indeed been an eventful one. A year of seeing dreams turn to reality, a year of learning, a year of walking by faith and seeing God lead us all the way through.

We leave behind with thankfulness a year of accomplishments and look ahead to a year of greater challenges and responsibilities.

### Milestones

**Trendsetter Student Curriculum:** It was only His grace and abounding presence that gave us the wisdom to develop the extensive student curriculum. As we use it we are amazed to see its impact!

**Trendsetter Summer Camp 2004:** This indeed was a test of faith. It was the pilot camp for the curriculum and the team and the turn out was below our expectation. But the feedback from those who attended proved that God was at work according to His ways not ours!

**Trendsetter in Schools:** Trendsetters has been implemented in four schools this year and has touched 400 student lives. It has been a learning experience with many a tough situations but through it all God has used us to help students out. The feedback from the students stands testimony to this. The parenting seminars in these schools are scheduled for this month and through these we look to reaching out to the families of these students.

**Trendsetter Resource:** We trusted in our billionaire Father to provide us with all we needed and He did not let us down. All that we needed- money, people, schools- His provisions sufficed!

**Trendsetter Website:** [www.trendsetterfamilies.org](http://www.trendsetterfamilies.org), [Bangalore@trendsetterfamilies.org](mailto:Bangalore@trendsetterfamilies.org)

### COME JOIN THE TEAM! BE A TRENDSETTER!

**Join** our team as Facilitator for the sessions or as Counselor.

**Introduce** Trendsetters to a school you know and help us start the module there in the coming academic year.

**Help** us with designing the Website.

**Generate** resources and funds for the project.

**Pray** for God's redeeming power to transform these students and their homes.



S U M M E R C A M P 2 0 0 5

Academics alone is no longer sufficient to succeed or even survive.

These holidays let us make sure our children are equipped to cope and rise above the demands of this stress driven, media-dictated world as Trendsetters.

Enrol for **TRENDSETTERS SELF-ENRICHMENT PROGRAM** for 7th to 10th standard from **12th to 17th April 2005**.

*Happy moments, praise God.  
Difficult moments, seek God.  
Quiet moments, worship God.  
Painful moments, trust God.  
Every moment, thank God*

"You have changed me completely!"

"There has been a difference in the way I see myself as a result of these sessions."

"This is the best class that has changed me a lot and I have got accepted by my parents. I want Trendsetters to teach me more and more."

"I made up my mind to change and left my gang... My mother told me she was very happy seeing the changes in me..She kissed me and hugged me and was very happy that I expressed my love for her...My whole family is happy and I too am happy to see them happy."

"I loved it very much. It has helped me and changed me so much. Thank You very much."

*"People will forget what you said...People will forget what you did...  
But people will never forget how you made them feel..."*

## From the Treasurer's Desk



Dear Friends,

Greetings in the Lord!!

Another New Year has dawned with an air of expectancy and resolutions! For UIM the Year 2005 has begun with the hope of venturing to cities outside Bangalore. God willing the seeds sown thus far in Mumbai and Pune will materialise and we will also be able to move to Cochin this year.

I am amazed at the way God has been providing resources all through 2004, though we have very few regular donors. Each month He has touched people's heart to contribute the sum exactly required. We Praise God for each of our Donors!

Here is an opportunity for each one of you to be a part of this great movement God has entrusted to us. Since our financial need is increasing can you

- a. Sponsor a missionary family's monthly salary (average of 10,000/=)
- b. The regional operational expenses at a location (average of Rs. 15,000/-)
- c. Sponsor an event.
- d. Raise monthly support from well-wishers from your area.
- e. Give a monthly/ quarterly/ annual donation
- f. Help us with some office equipments (FAX, COMPUTER, EPABX etc)

Please continue to pray for the financial resources of this ministry as we see God moving us beyond Bangalore boundaries. Thank God for each of your prayers, contribution and participation in this ministry. May the mighty Lord continue to use you through your giving in a special way for HIS Kingdom!

In His Service,

Biju K Thomas

## Companionship

Do you remember times when your spouse was not ok and you recognized it without a word being spoken or any action to betray it? If you can, you are doing well.

For oneness to develop you need to spend time with each other.

Deut 24:5 lays down rules for a newly wed husband

- i) not to be sent for war
- ii) not have any other duty laid on him
- iii) to be free to stay at home for a year
- iv) to bring happiness to his wife

How we spend that time depends on each couple but the main theme is "allow intimacy to develop".

An honest answer to the following question will determine the amount of time you spend with your spouse. How much time do I spend with my spouse.

- a) On weekdays
- b) On Saturdays
- c) On Sundays

Remember being at home in separate rooms or in the same room doing separate activities will not constitute spending time with your spouse.

Give time for intimacy to develop. Time Management is a crucial aspect if husband and wife are to build companionship.

Husband's point of view: Full day at the office, problems galore, travel at the end of the day and a desire to cool down.

Wife's point of view: Full day's work at home/office, cooking and domestic chores of cleaning and cleaning and yet at the end of the day she would love to chat with her husband. How does one stay fresh at the end of the day? A short nap after returning home will definitely help.

Don't let resentment rob you of these precious moments and don't allow other things compete for this time. It could be your friends, TV, your work or even your ministry. This is not to belittle one or another, but just to make you aware that time well spent is time redeemed.

Make yourselves available only if you look for it you will find it. If you think your spouse doesn't need you, look again. There are specific areas and times when you and only you can do something, may be a word, or just be there, anything.

You have value! You are needed!

## Upcoming Events

- Feb. 24 : Kingdom Investor's Meet
- Mar. 19 : Seminar on Grand Parenting
- Apr. 8-10 : Trendsetters Training of Trainers
- Apr. 12-17 : Trendsetters Summer Camp

## BOOK-POST

To : .....

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STAMP

If undelivered, please send to :  
**FAMILY MATTERS** C/o. Urban India Ministries, 608, 7th Main, 6th Cross, HAL III Stage, Bangalore 560 075