



FAMILY MATTERS!

An Urban India Ministries Newsletter

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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 **Director International**
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,

Every quarter, there is so much to share of what the Lord has done. The entire UIM team was on their toes organising the National Leadership Training and the Weekend to Remember Conference along with Family Life. 37 couples from all over India attended the Leadership Training and 160 couples participated in the Weekend Conference.

God brought in a wonderful steering committee with a very prayerful chairperson (Mr. Paul Samuel). The result of the conference fills our heart with joy. Many leaders went back burdened to minister to families in their city. The conference enabled many to build stronger bonds and bought healing in their relationships. The candlelight dinner was a new experience for many of them. God held the rains, until the conference was over and then it started to pour. How can we thank God for all His goodness?

After the conference, we have had many counseling calls and we praise God for the opening He is giving us to reach and serve the families in our city. In spite of all the spiritual revival in every religion, statistics shows India on a path of moral degradation. This land needs JESUS. Use this Christmas season to share about Jesus to someone who does not know Him.

We conducted our first one-day family conference at Mumbai which was initiated by Alex and Donetti, a couple who are burdened to reach families in Mumbai. Our Pune staff, James and Rebecca resigned due to sickness and ill health of their baby. Ranjan and Cathy who have started homebuilders will be coordinating activities at Pune till we find a full time staff for the Maharashtra region. Philipose and Jessy, felt the Lord leading them to join UIM and they have been appointed to coordinate UIM activities in Tumkur. God has been adding people who are burdened with reaching families. We need strong prayer support as we stand in the forefront of the battle.

There are 300 cities in India and we praying for 300 couples with passion for families to impact these cities. I want to thank each of you for your support and contribution towards this ministry. We need lots of resources to take this ministry to various cities, please be generous in contributing to the needs of UIM. Pray and participate to transform our cities one home at a time.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a God centered New year!

In His Mission for families,

P.C.Mathew and Ciby Mathew



Transforming Cities

ONE HOME AT A TIME

After 21 years of marriage, I discovered a new way of keeping alive the spark of love. A little while ago I had started to go out with another woman. It was really my wife's idea. "I know that you love her," she said one day, taking me by surprise. "But I love YOU," I protested. "I know, but you also love her." The other woman that my wife wanted me to visit was my mother, who has been a widow for 19 years, but the demands of my work and my three children had made it possible to visit her only occasionally. That night I called to invite her to go out for dinner and a movie. "What's wrong, are you well," she asked? My mother is the type of woman who suspects that a late night call or a surprise invitation is a sign of bad news. "I thought that it would be pleasant to pass some time with you", I responded. "Just the two of us." She thought about it for a moment then said, "I would like that very much." That Friday after work, as I drove over to pick her up I was a bit nervous. When I arrived at her house, I noticed that she, too, seemed to be nervous about our date.

She waited in the door with her coat on. She had curled her hair and was wearing the dress that she had worn to celebrate her last wedding anniversary. She smiled from a face that was as radiant as an angel's. "I told my friends that I was going to go out with my son, and they were impressed," she said, as she got into the car. "They can't wait to hear about our meeting". We went to a restaurant that, although not elegant, was very nice and cozy. My mother took my arm as if she were the First Lady. After we sat down, I had to read the menu. Her eyes could only read large print. Half way through the entree, I lifted my eyes and saw Mom sitting there staring at me. A nostalgic smile was on her lips. "It was I who used to have to read the menu when you were small," she said.

The Other WOMAN

"Then it's time that you relax and let me return the favor," I respond. During the dinner we had an agreeable conversation nothing extraordinary - but catching up on recent events of each other's life. We talked so much that we missed the movie. As we arrived at her house later, she said "I'll go out with you again, but only if you let me invite you." I agreed. "How was your dinner date?" asked my wife when I got home. "Very nice. Much

more than I could have imagined," I answered. A few days later my mother died of a massive heart attack. It happened so suddenly that I didn't have a chance to do anything for her. Some time later I received an envelope with a copy of a restaurant receipt from the same place mother and I had dined. An attached note said: "I paid this bill in advance. I was almost sure that I couldn't be there but, never-the-less, I paid for two plates - one for you and the other for your wife. You will never know what that night meant for me. I love you."

At that moment I understood *the importance of saying, in time: "I LOVE YOU" and to give our loved ones the time that they deserve. Nothing in life is more important than God and your family. Give them the time they deserve, because these things cannot be put off to "some other time."* (Source: Internet)

Nothing in life is more important than God and your family. Give them the time they deserve, because these things cannot be put off to "some other time".



Do not save your loving speeches for your friends and family till they are dead; do not write them on their tombstones, speak them rather now instead.

-Anna Cummins

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER

UIM Staff Retreat

Rev. Benjamin, speaker and leader for the retreat, took the team through a time of introspection and learning.



It was a refreshing time of setting our priorities right and refocussing on Christ.

Extending His Kingdom: In Tumkur

Home Builders Bible Study: Six families meet every wednesday for the study.

Trendsetters: We are starting Trendsetters in two schools here, catering to around 200 students.

Rev. Benjamin & others laying hands and praying for Santosh and Jessy family as they venture out to lead UIM in Tumkur



Special Prayer meeting with Dr. Pinto, Founder Chairman, Ryan International Group of School

We shared UIM's and Trendstters' vision with him. All of us were encouraged and strengthened through his testimony and exposition from God's Word.



Dear Friends, if Jesus were to join Christmas celebrations at your home today-What would he find ?

Would it just be fun, frolic, eating and drinking? "And even now in your holy feasts to God, you don't think of me, but only of the food, fellowship and fun" – Zechariah 7: 6. Or, will it be reflecting God's love?

Families are facing the biggest threat today – they are the foundation of our society and a threat in the family is a threat to the whole society. Let's begin by inviting Christ to be the head of our homes. When we follow God's word, it would reflect in our relationships, threats hindering a blessed family life would be removed and our lives and indeed our homes would look more pleasing to him.

This Christmas, as families, let's make a difference- Let's add a touch of peace and love to our Christmas trees, decorate our homes with lights that radiates Christ, dish out our goodies with purity and truth (1 Corinthians 5:8), clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience (Colossians 3:12), distribute sweets of tolerance, forgiveness and to all these add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity (Colossians 3:13-14). Share your Christmas gifts with the needy, the good news with those who haven't heard of Christ. So this Christmas, be awake and sober.(1 Thess.5:6). Is our Christmas different? Or is the Christmas followed by the world different? The choice is yours.

"MERRY CHRISTMAS – HAVE A CHRIST BLESSED CHRISTMAS"
-Mrs. Suja Shibu



In marriage, each partner is to be an encourager rather than a critic, a forgiver rather than a collector of hurts, an enabler rather than a reformer.
- Norman Wright and Gary J. Oliver

Children's Camp: National Family Leadership Training Conference & Weekend to Remember

The Children's program, which was conducted parallel to the National Conference and Weekend Conference, was a time of fun and learning. Forty-five children participated in the Weekend program. They thoroughly enjoyed the puppet show, worship, games and team activities. Fruit of this will become evident, as these children will *Dare to blaze the right trail*.



Pre- Marital Camp

“Resolved, to build my married life on the foundation of biblical values” - **Santhosh Mathew**



THE PARTICIPANTS:
Taking in every word!

“Learnt -Marriage is not just finding the right partner, but in becoming the right partner.”

-Suresh V



Campers



THE RESOURCE PEOPLE: They lived it out !

The Pre-Marital Camp was held for the second successive year and was a blessing to all who attended. The theme of the camp was “Do I?” to “I Do” or “I Don’t”. We had topics ranging from ‘Choosing Mr. & Mrs. Right! to God’s Blueprint in Marriage, Roles in Marriage, Intimacy, Family Altar.’ All sessions were enjoyed thoroughly by the participants, who went back with a deep conviction to build Christ centered marriages and be the spouse God wants them to be.



Outside a second-hand shop: We Exchange anything- Bicycles, Washing Machines, etc. Why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?

INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES OF UIM



Here is an **UNIQUE** opportunity to write your heart out!
Send in

- True Stories that have impacted you
- Anecdotal Experiences that you wish to share
- Stories of people or families that have inspired you

Our Editorial team will work with you to develop the story

Write to us at familyethos@sifymail.com

UIM has had a long held vision to share Biblical principles for marriage and family life with the secular urban families in India. The family magazine project has been one step towards realisation of this vision.

The magazine will be called "Family Ethos". Since June 2004, a small core team has been working to put together a magazine that will address critical issues that impact families such as Parenting, Suicides, Divorce, Live-in relationships, etc. through interviews, and real life stories.

Through the magazine we look forward to open up discussions on issues, facilitate reader interaction with experts on various subject, facilitate networking of individuals to form self-help groups and provide a platform to provide information about organisations and resources that support and strengthen families.

We are grateful for the timely help rendered by Mr. Jose Maliel, who designed the logo for the magazine. Our Editor-in-chief, Anita Lazarus has already begun planning the second issue, even while the first issue of the magazine is nearing completion. The team is working towards an early 2005 launch of the magazine.



Soliciting your prayers, support and inputs

Abraham Thomas

Family Magazine Coordinator



It's been our passion to see youngsters and their families fulfill their potential of all that God wants them to be. And Trendsetters provides us amazing scope to reach the love of God to families of all faiths and restore to them fullness of life.

Trendsetters is currently reaching out to 350 students in Bangalore. The responses we have got thus far shows there is a great need to make it available to many more children.

But we cannot take this movement forward without your help. Drops of water make a mighty ocean. Contribute your drop through **investment of prayer, time or funds** so that we can carry this mission of transforming young lives forward. Please contact us for further details.

www.trendsetterfamilies.org

banglaore@trendsetterfamilies.org



I think men who have a pierced ear are better prepared for marriage. They've experienced pain and bought jewelry.

-Rita Rudner

National Family Ministry Leadership Training Conference

Our hearts are filled with gratitude at what the Lord has done through the National Leadership & Weekend to Remember Conference. All the prayers and hard work of each of us has been rewarded by our Lord. In the words of the Psalmist, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His goodness." It is so amazing to see from the feedback forms the impact the conference has had on the families. We believe this is just the beginning of an explosion in family ministries in India.



JACOB VARGHESE, Participant, NLC:

"It was a wonderful experience in our family... In the church ministry we have come across many family problems, in some situations we were not able to address some of the problems successfully with suitable solution. This family conference was the time to introspect our own life and to gain resources and get strengthened to help others. In this all the topics discussed were very much relevant to the family contexts. We thank God and also the UIM leadership for taking lot of risk in organizing a conference like this for us and many who are already involved in the family ministry. It is our joy and wish that you organize many more meetings like this in the days to come. May God Bless UIM ministries."

"Conference has brought home to me more clearly about the need for me to be involved in a specific family ministry"



"Pushed me ahead to the need of the hour, renewed my vision sharpened my skills".



This is not any of our doing, but it is the LORDS doing. And we praise God for His hand at work. From Finance to every bit of the conference, we saw His hand at work. The team that worked, came together from different churches. The Lord provided the right people. The right chief guest, the right speakers, the right crowd, the right volunteers, the right number of children (to the extent that our volunteers could manage) the right amount of money..... HE DID IT ALL RIGHT!



"The more you invest in a marriage, the more valuable it becomes." —Amy Grant

Weekend to remember Family Conference

"Great!! Eye opening - it is like I was awakened from sleep after all these years..."

Weekend to remember conference was truly a memorable one for each of the participants. Around 300 participants were blessed in each of the sessions. Several families on the verge of divorce came together in oneness. From Worship to Messages, from discussions to candle light dinner, everything was so wonderful that we can only say to the Lord, "Wonderful are your works and Marvelous are your ways."

"It has brought both of us much closer, discover things we didnt know"

We had a budget of approximately Rs.5 lakhs, which was almost completely met as our Lord used each of you to contribute. Lord's promise of blessing the 5 loaves and 2 fish became a reality as we see the needs met with left over for the follow up work. At the end of it, all of us are overwhelmed at what the Lord has done.

"...I thought I was fine in my values this conference revealed so many attitudes in me that are not good for my marriage life..."

The Resourceful Resource Persons who enthralled the participants!!



The Inaugural Ceremony of the Largest Family Conference! A time of Great Beginnings!



The Children of Bethseda School glorifying God through dance! An outstanding display of young talent used to Worship the King of Kings!!



TOI, Saturday, Oct 30, 2004: The press covered the "Weekend to remember conference" by quoting, UIM as an organization involved in "Reversing the downward trend of families."

While we are glad at what the Lord has done, we also realize the magnitude of work that is left undone. One of the reason for the success of this conference is the whole hearted support of many volunteers and friends. If the families of our city needs to be reached we need your continued prayer and support to "Transform the city one home at a time."

"The emptiness has led to oneness"



"I've learned that, regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life."
-Albert Einstein

COME AND BE A PART OF THE UIM FAMILY



HOME BUILDERS

A Couples group committed to building their marriage based on Godly principles, that meets on a weekly basis.

Homebuilder groups in the city

- Vivekananda nagar
- JP nagar
- Thipasandra
- Wilson Garden
- Tumkur

Plan fo 2005

- Rajajinagar
- Indiranagar
- Koramangala
- Lingarajapuram



YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

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

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



LIGHT HOUSE

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

Come every second Saturday at 6.30 p.m. to Vishranthi Nilayam 18,Infantry Road, Bangalore-1 We at UIM envision every home to become a lighthouse in the place where they are planted! After all we are lighted to lighten!!

UPCOMING Event Jan 26th 2005 UIM Picnic

The UIM Family Wishes You



From the Treasurers Desk

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the Lord!!

We just concluded another conference by partnering with Family life. We praise God for the families that attended both the Leadership Seminar and Weekend to Remember Conference.

The financial resources raised were just about sufficient for the conference, though short by around Rs. 33,000/-. He knew exactly how many people are required to attend this conference and accordingly the Lord gave the right resources. He has always been faithful and our Jehovah Jireh thus far and he will lead us on!

Please continue to pray for the financial resources of this ministry as we see God moving us beyond Bangalore boundaries. Since our financial need is increasing can you

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

Thank God for each of your prayers, contribution and participation in this ministry. May the mighty Lord continue to use your talents of giving in a special way for the days ahead for HIS Kingdom!

In His Service, Biju K Thomas Treasurer



UIM 57728434

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