

# INTERACTION

A NEWSLETTER OF THE HENRY MARTYN INSTITUTE:

International Centre for Research, Interfaith Relations and Reconciliation



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**HMI Newsletter**  
**Volume 31, no. 2**  
**July - December 2010**

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Varghese Manimala  
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Sribala Mylavarapu

*Interaction*, the newsletter of the Henry Martyn Institute, is published twice yearly.

The Henry Martyn Institute (HMI) established in 1930, is a study and praxis oriented centre specialising in the study of Islam and working for reconciliation between people of all faiths. HMI's efforts are in response to the contemporary context of inter-religious misunderstanding and violence, and it promotes activities that remove prejudice, resolve conflict and increase trust and cooperation between individuals and groups.

Academic programmes at HMI include a nine-month Post-Graduate Diploma in Islam and Interfaith Relations, one year Post-Graduate Diploma in Conflict Transformation, Peace-Building and Interfaith Relations, and a Master of Theology Degree Programme in Islam offered through the Senate of Serampore and Luther Seminary in USA. Each May, the Institute also organises a two-week intensive Summer Course on Islam and Interfaith Relations. HMI also offers daily language classes in Arabic, Urdu, and Persian, a ten-week Intensive Summer Language Programme and a two-week Peace Building Programme.

HMI's commitment to the work of reconciliation translates into ongoing Praxis programmes for building bridges of understanding between Muslims, Hindus and others at grass-root levels. This includes practical work in three community development centres in slum neighbourhoods of Hyderabad, an HIV-AIDS awareness programme, and short and long-term training programmes in conflict transformation and peace building.

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## Editorial

Once again we at HMI are glad to meet and converse with you through the *Interaction*, our newsletter. It is a pleasure to let you know the events that happened at HMI and how we managed to run the institute in spite of the various vicissitudes. Life is moving as a stream or even as a path to be trodden with aspirations and uncertainties accompanying us all the way. But at the same time what is required from the part of each one is to contribute the maximum and move ahead leaving the impacts one has created for posterity. Moreover, there is a need on the part of an institute like ours to let others know how the plans were successful or how we failed due to various factors some of them beyond our control.

Let me open the account with a note of gratitude to our partners who supported us, some of them beyond our expectations and made us feel happy and contented. No words are sufficient enough to express our feelings but sitting at a distance what we can do is to send a mail or write a letter appreciating their contribution. We further feel the importance of acknowledging our thanks in our newsletter too. To you, dear partners, we offer our salutation and raise our hearts to God in gratitude and love, and acknowledge all that you have done for us. God is the reward-giver and I am sure it will be in abundance for you. We assure you our special prayers.

With all the ups and downs of life it is gratifying to note that with the assistance of God and support of many good-willed people we could achieve a good bit in all the sections of our institute, and as you glance through the pages you will get a fair glimpse of all the activities during the period. All the sections at the institute tried their best to come through with as best a performance as possible, but as we depend on human and other factors for the implementation of the plans many of the ideals that we set for ourselves may not have been fully achieved or got postponed due to unexpected events in the political arena. Still we face a lot of political uncertainties. Yet, holding fast to our own ideals of promoting peace and harmony we surge ahead. We are sure that your support in various ways will accompany our onward march towards justice, peace and harmony. May the good God accompany your life's journey as well as ours!

Varghese Manimala  
Director, HMI



## 'Interfaith Co-operation for Fostering Peace in the Context of Affiliations'



From left - Gsman Shaheed Mohammed, Prof. Mohan Ramanan, Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Julios, Dr. M. T Cherian, Fr. Packiam Samuel and Priscilla Reuben - Started the Seminar by lighting the lamp

A National seminar was co-organized by HMI, the Senate of Serampore, Kolkata & Interfaith Coalition for Peace, New Delhi, on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at Aman Shanthi Nilayam, HMI, Hyderabad. More than 50 delegates attended the programme including students & faculty from the local seminaries (ACTC and MBCBC).

Prof. Mohan Ramanan (Dean, Dept. Of Humanities, Central University of Hyderabad) the keynote address followed by paper presentations by various university professors and representatives of local social work organizations, and there was a panel discussion as well.

Papers were presented by:

- Dr. S. Robertson (Principal, Bethel Bible College, Guntur)
- Dr. Varghese Manimala (Director, the Henry Martyn Institute)
- Rev. Dr.Ch. Vasantha Rao (Principal, Andhra Christian Theological College, Hyderabad)

- Rev. Dr.T. Swami Raju (Faculty, Andhra Christian Theological College, Hyderabad)
- Dr. Asma Rasheed (Asst. Professor, English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad)

Women Panel members were:

- Rev. Priscilla Reuben - St Georges Church
- Sr. Jyosta - Brahma Kumari Spiritual Centre
- *Dr. Farida Hussain* - All India Women's Conference
- Dr. Hemalatha Devi, Rtd. Professor, Women's College, Hyderabad
- Moderator: H.G. Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Julios, Orthodox Church, Kerala

Among the interesting lectures at HMI, was one by Mr. Nurdin Kaparov from Indialogue, entitled 'Muslims in Central Asia'.

# Academic News & Events

## Summer Intensive Language (SIL)

This year HMI offered SIL in Urdu, Persian and Arabic. Six students from various universities took part in a ten-week intensive language course.

## Short Term Programmes:

### Centre for World Mission - India, face-to-face programme to understand theology in lived context

August 18 - 21: A group of theological students from various theological colleges (Pacific Theological College, Suva, Fiji, Taiwan Theological College and Seminary, Taiwan, Theological College of Lanka, Sri Lanka, Rarongo Theological College, Papua New Guinea, Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary, South Korea, United Church of Zambia Theological College, Zambia, Seghe Theological College, Solomon Island) were at HMI for a face-to-face program organized by the Centre for World Mission. The group was in India for an exposure visit to study interfaith relations in the Indian pluralistic context. Apart from attending some lectures on interfaith relations the participants visited our Community Development projects, and various religious and historical places in Hyderabad.

Mr. Prabhakar Dayam, faculty member from United Theological College, Bangalore coordinated the programme along with HMI's Programme Secretary.

### Training in context - student group from University of Hamburg, Germany

September 13 - 18: Twelve students and two professors from the University of Hamburg visited HMI. The purpose of their visit was to understand various Indian religions, HMI's work and philosophy in relation to interfaith relations, conflict transformation and reconciliation. The programme also involved visits to religious and historical places. Face-to-face interaction with some of the Muslim women in the city was very encouraging to

the group which was hosted by Ms. Najma, HMI's Associate Facilitator.

## SWINDIA- Project Programme

September 27 - October 2: A group of 18 social work students from four universities in Sweden visited HMI as part of their Swede-India project. The programme included input sessions on understanding religions such as Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism and Buddhism. Apart from the lectures, the students interacted with people in HMI's Community Development projects, at Sultanshahi, and with some Muslim women in the city. Students also had interesting visits to religious and historical places in Hyderabad.

### Swedish Youth Programme

October 27 - November 9  
Twelve youth and six adult members of Church of Sweden visited HMI to have an exposure to its work and to understanding the numerous religious traditions in India. The trip also included visiting various youth projects in



Swedish girls are preparing garlands to decorate HMI Campus for Diwali celebration





Hyderabad as well as HMI's Community Development projects. The group also presented a special song during HMI's Diwali celebrations on 04 November.

### Interns, Volunteers and Pastors on Sabbatical

September 23 - October 23: Training In Mission (TIM) programme is hosted by Tamilnadu Theological Seminary (TTS) and supported by Council for World Mission (CWM). This is a youth programme, where CWM selects young people from across the world and gives a ten-months training programme on "Christian mission in

d i f f e r e n t contexts". During their stay in India, they are sent to d i f f e r e n t institutions which have a wide perspective on the concept of mission.



Left - William and Right - Roger

Roger (22) from Guyana, South America and William (24) from Karnataka, South India, spent one month at HMI for their internship. HMI

provides opportunity for such interns to learn about inter-religious dialogue and to understand HMI's activities.



October 18 - Feb 2011: Rev. Christoph Wildfang, from EKHN, Oberursel, Germany started his sabbatical at

HMI. His purpose was to study religions in South India and to visit various religious places in Hyderabad. He will also be working on his paper 'stumbling blocks in the process of inter-religious dialogue. He showed much interest to work with children at Sultanshahi, one of HMI's Community Development projects in the Old City of Hyderabad.

### Staff Development

October 4 - 22: Our Programme Secretary, Ms. Shobha Gosa, visited some partner organizations



Shoba Gosa graduation ceremony

in Europe. She had various meetings and discussions with EKHN (EVANGELISCHE KIRCHE IN HESSEN UND NASSAU) and Wiesbaden youth project in Germany, Utrecht University, Utrecht, the Netherlands, St Philips Centre, Leicester, UK and CMS (Church Mission Society), Oxford. While in UK, she attended her M. A. graduation ceremony on October 13 (in Youth & Community Work and Applied Theology) at Oxford Brooks University, Oxford, UK.

### HMI Collaboration and Network

- R. Rajender Kumar from American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) visited HMI and had meetings with the Director and other academic staff to discuss ongoing research scholarship programmes of AIIS.
- Franklin Ishida, ELCA visited us and had discussions and sharing of views and plans for the future with the director and others.

### Visitors

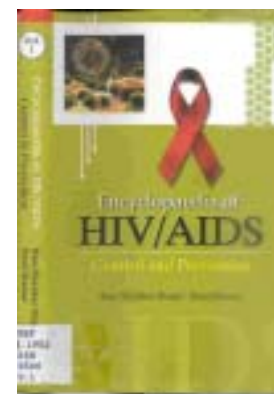
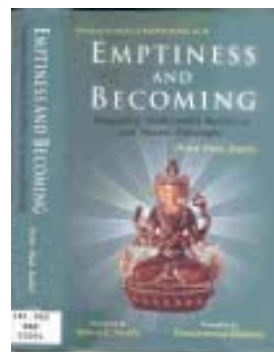
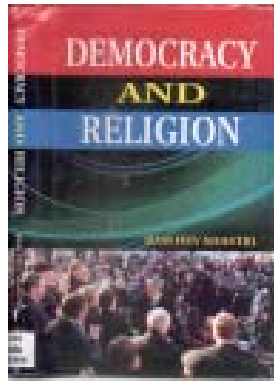
- Mr. Robert Schick, former faculty member of HMI visited the institute. Along with PGD Islamic Studies students, he took part in the 'ashura (10<sup>th</sup> Muharram) procession in the Old City of Hyderabad. Earlier, Dr. Fatima Alikhan - gracious enough on her part - took the students to a *majlis* session and gave them valuable insights and historical background about the various 'ashur *khanas* of the Old City.
- Dr. Simonetta Casci, professor from the Pavia University, Italy visited HMI as part of her research.

## Library

Library continued the process of procurement of useful reading material (i.e. Books, journals and CDs) that successfully fulfil the needs of Students, faculty, researchers and workshop participants and facilitators, especially on Religion, Sociology, Philosophy, Interfaith Studies, Conflict Transformation. During April to November, 2010, more than 124 books were purchased. Apart from subscription, the Library also receives a large number of journals gratis and in exchange with HMI's journal.

In order to save and protect the books from high summer temperatures, the stack room area has been air-conditioned. Library software was pruned and a periodical display-cum-storage rack has been ordered.

## New Arrivals



## Publications

The January - June 2010 issue of the Interaction Newsletter was brought and in the month of August 2010. The Director's *Annual Report 2009-2010* was published in August.



"Peace, Development, and Environmental Protection are interdependent and indivisible - Calendar 2011," is once again a joint work of Interfaith Coalition for Peace (ICP) and HMI. This initiative resulted in putting together photographs of nature photography by HMI Staff during the period 2009-2010; nature quotes and verses we used in every page are taken from different religious scriptures.



## Summer Course in Islam and Interfaith Relations 9 - 22 May 2011

A two week residential course that gives the participants an understanding of Islam, its practices, history, philosophy and theology. It also provides a time to examine and deepen the knowledge of one's own faith and the meaning of encounter/relationship between people of different faiths. Its objective is the promotion of peace between people of different religious traditions.

Space is limited to 35 participants, so register before 20 April 2011 to ensure placement in the program.

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## Community Development

In this period lot of emphasis was given to organizing the programmes planned for the year 2010-2011. The programmes have been implemented and monitored regularly.

The following report highlights the Community Development project activities - Aman Shanti Community Centre programmes, Young Men's Initiative activities, Partnering for Peace project that have been carried out in the Community Development Department of HMI.

### Aman Shanti Community Centres

#### Education

- ◆ One hundred and two students are attending the primary school in Sultan Shahi Centre. Out of these fifty four are girls and forty eight are boys.
- ◆ Five students who receive educational scholarship from HMI continue their education. Play for peace games, mid morning snack, art and cultural activities continue to be organized regularly as part of peace education in the school.
- ◆ Literacy classes are conducted for the young women in Sultan Shahi and Shankernagar centre to develop the reading and writing skills.
- ◆ Coaching classes in Chandrayangutta centre have been offered as a bridge class for twenty seven girls and boys to complete their regular education.



School children



Hindu and Muslim girls attending classes together

#### Vocational Training

- ◆ More than eighty young women are learning Tailoring, Hand Embroidery, Fabric painting and Typing course during this period from the three projects.
- ◆ Mehndi / henna designing and Karchop, a local handicraft, classes were started in all the three centres on self sustaining basis. Thirty young women are attending the classes regularly. After the completion of the course these women will take up petty job orders from the locality and make an earning to meet their expenses.
- ◆ Tailoring students also volunteer in pulse polio immunization programme. In this programme the students make door to door visits and immunize the children with polio vaccination. This effort encourages the young women to work together for a social cause and also learn to be together with women of other faiths.

#### Clinic

- ◆ 731 patients benefited from the health services in the clinic.
- ◆ 63 members benefitted from the Eye Camp organized in Sultan Shahi Centre in collaboration with Hy Lep Lepra Society.
- ◆ Eighty two children received immunization in this period. Vitamin A Dose was given to all the community children for the healthy development of the children.
- ◆ In collaboration with the Arogya Shri Department of Government different health awareness programmes on women and children were conducted in Shanker Nagar.





Eye Camp in Sultan Shahi

- ◆ In the recent survey it was found that the safe drinking water was not available for the community members. The Local government hospital conducted an awareness programme at the centre and distributed chlorine tablets as a preventive measure in the community.

### Interfaith Building Initiatives

Cultural and festival celebration have been an important occasions to develop relationship between people from both Hindu and Muslim background. As a part of this the following days were celebrated in all the three centres - Independence Day on 15<sup>th</sup> August, Teachers Day, Ramzan and Sakranthri festival in September, Diwali celebration and Children's Day in November. Community members enjoy the occasion and also develop bonds with people from other faiths.

### Community Empowerment Processes

#### Dialogue and Peace building

Regular meetings with community members are organized to discuss and dialogue among school children and young women who brought out beautiful encounter paintings on different interfaith and peace building. These paintings will be displayed in HMI office.

#### Economic Development

Women continue to save and raise income by doing petty jobs from home. We have also received a government loan of Rs.70, 000/- for Chandrayangutta centre. This amount will be given to the women to start petty jobs with minimal interest.

Training programme for women of unorganized sector was organized. Different awareness

sessions for women on crafts and government schemes were given.

### Monitoring and Implementation

Community Development Core team members - Ms. Jahan Ara, Mr. Abdul Majid. Ms. Jalaja Devi has joined the CD Team as project officer in July. The core team along with the project staff from the three community centers and from the other programmes monitor and implement the activities as per the action plan of this year.

### Interns / Mentoring

Mentoring the different scholars and students in the area of peace building through community development is one of the crucial aspects of our work. The different members who took the internship as students and scholars are as follows:

- Pemmi and Borsali from College of Social Work
- Till From Germany
- Madeline Race from St.Philip Centre, UK
- Tom S. Russel and Sathia Rabbin Das
- Roger and William from TIM
- PGDCT students - Peter, Kennedy and Denis Sindano
- Emanuela interviewed the community members for her research study.
- Catherine Buckell is the present intern with us now.

### Cultural Events Organized by Volunteers

- Anwar, a musician conducted a musical show for children.
- Cultural exchange programme by Swedish children's group.
- Rev. Christopher on sabbatical for three months took internship at our centre. He conducted different games and painting competitions for children and tailoring students - Sultan Shahi and Chandrayangutta centre.

### Visitors

Exposure visits were organized for different groups / members. Some of them are as follows:

- Pastoral colleagues
- Students from University of Hamburg
- Sweden-India Social Work students
- Rev. Bernd, EKHN



Cultural exchange programme  
HMI Aman Shanti school and Swedish students

## Young Men's Initiative Project

### Vocational/technical training

- 'Computer Hardware/Networking' and 'Air-condition & Refrigeration' courses are continued to be offered for the young men. Twenty young Hindu and Muslim men are undergoing computer hardware training and 15 of them have taken up A/C and Refrigeration course.
- 'Typing classes' are carried out with twenty students participating in it.

### Peace Meetings

- Peace meeting in view of '*Ganesh Festival*' was conducted in September 2010. Forty young men from both the Hindu and Muslim backgrounds participated in the programme.
- Peace meeting in view of '*6th December*' (Babri Masjid demolition anniversary) was conducted in December 2010. The participants included young men and local leaders from the community. Fifty young men from Hindu and Muslim backgrounds took part in the above meeting.

### Interfaith Festivals

- '*Iftaar party*' was celebrated in September 2010 with seventy young men from both Hindu and Muslim backgrounds. The young men from the community organized the celebration by contributing fruits for the Iftaar.
- '*Diwali*' was celebrated with sixty Hindu and Muslim young men in November 2010. The celebration was marked by the bursting of fire crackers.

- '*Bakrid*' was celebrated in November 2010 with Forty young men from both Hindu and Muslim backgrounds
- '*Sankranti*' was celebrated with forty Hindu and Muslim young men. Here Hindu youngsters shared about the background of the festival, with a special focus on 'kite flying'.

### Other Activities

- Reading room continues with newspapers, employment related magazines and sports magazines. Newspapers in English and local languages (Urdu and Telugu) are provided at the reading room. Twenty five young men availed this facility.
- We observed 'World AIDS Day' on 1st December 2010. Apart from organizing an awareness session on HIV/AIDS, we also conducted painting and slogan writing competitions. Fifty young men from Hindu and Muslim backgrounds participated in the programme.

### HIV/AIDS Project

- Six HIV/AIDS awareness programmes were organized for 180 Hindu and Muslim women at Sultan Shahi, Shanker Nagar and Chandrayangutta project areas.
- On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010, World AIDS Day event was organized at the project areas with 150 Hindu and Muslim women. Competitions like slogan writing, painting and quiz were conducted and gifts distributed to all the participants.
- Twenty One Hindu and Muslim women from the three project areas were identified and selected to work as peer educators.
- A three day training programme on HIV/AIDS and its related concepts was organized for the selected peer educators in October 2010.
- The peer educators are creating awareness among the community women on HIV/AIDS by going door to door in their respective project areas.

### Partnering for Peace Project

#### Mahila Sahyog Society

MSS continues to organize literacy classes in local Urdu and Telugu languages for Hindu and Muslim

needy women and school drop outs. The health needs of the community were met through health camps and monthly health checkups in coordination with the local Government hospitals. MSS continues to provide training for Hindu and Muslim women in various arts and crafts like tailoring, hand embroidery, sea shell craft training, Crocia Zari work, perfume making, general packing, mosquito net stitching, candle making, night gown stitching, etc. Festivals like Iftaar, Dussera, Diwali, Gandhi Jayanthi, Christmas, Bakrid, and Raksha Bandhan were celebrated by involving Hindu and Muslim men, women and children.

### Padmapani

Padmapani organized different activities on the occasion of National Foundation for Communal Harmony Week (19<sup>th</sup> Nov to 25th November) at kamareddy town in Nizamabad District. They conducted essay writing competition for 324 students from three degree colleges. Fifteen winners were awarded with prizes. A Peace rally with NCC, NSS volunteers and more than 1500 students was organized. The aim of the rally was to create awareness on Peace and Communal Harmony. A Photo Exhibition with 42 photos of different personalities and communities promoting communal harmony in India were displayed. A Tailoring centre is being run at Baba Colony at Kamareddy. 36 Hindu and Muslim women are undergoing tailoring and embroidery courses.

### Spandana

SPANDANA continued to organize monthly community level meetings with women at its target areas. Some of the topics discussed during



Peer educators training- group activity

these meetings were skill development, self help groups, sustainable livelihood programmes, etc. They organized different Hindu and Muslim festivals to help the people understand each other's religion, culture, traditions, etc in a better way. Raksha Bandhan, Dussera, Diwali, and Iftaar were celebrated. As part of skill development, SPANDANA continues to offer 'Dress making training courses' for Hindu and Muslim women in its project area at Musarambagh.

### Community Development Programmes Evaluation

An external evaluation of all the Community Development Programmes was conducted in the month of December. Dr. Mohan Raj, an External Consultant for different Social Development organizations conducted the evaluation of all the three Community Development Centres - Sultan Shahi, Shankernagar and Chandrayangutta, Young Men's Initiative, Health for Peace HIV/AIDS project, Partnering for Peace. The final report of the evaluation will be submitted in the next month.



World AIDS Day-Painting competition



Partnering for peace- training





## Conflict Transformation

The second half of 2010 has been very important phase for HMI's Conflict Transformation Programme. The CT team conducted 8 workshops training 235 people (68 women and 167 men) from Manipur, Gujarat, Nagaland, Assam, and Andhra Pradesh. These workshops have helped the participants and organizations in understanding key issues, challenges, complexities and also enabled to find ways to address/transform conflicts by working in collaboration with individuals/local organizations/networks.

Five students completed their summer and long term internships. The internship opportunities have enabled them to interact and work with people who have long term association in conflict transformation work, gain greater understanding of how conflict transformation work is done practically in particular settings. This helped bridge the gaps between theoretical learning of conflict transformation and its practical application in the field. Few important strategic meetings were held during this period which fostered our relationship with Ekta Parishad and South Asia Peace Alliance, thereby strengthening HMI's engagement with other actors committed to principled non-violence and engagement as practitioners engaged in capacity building for peace, justice and reconciliation.

### Ekta Parishad Networking

~Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, 13- 14 July 2010

Ramesh and Varghese Chakkummootil attended the *National Conference on India's Contemporary Freedom Struggle: People's Non-violent Responses to Conflict and Poverty* for two days in July. The conference was attended by many groups engaged in non-violent social action for the rights of the poor, landless, tribals and Dalits especially focusing on land reform and rights to water, land and forests. One of the aims of the conference was to discuss if there was a third-way between silence and violence. Many Gandhians, social-reformers and activists took part in the conference and shared their experience of working non-violently for social, economic and political change and the need for concerted efforts to handle the alarming growth of poverty and violence in India. It was a blessing

to meet with Gandhians, such as Dr. Lavanam, Dr. Subba Rao, Swami Agnivesh, and many others who have believed in and practiced non-violence for many years.

Ramesh shared HMI's experience of working for peace, justice and reconciliation and its learning that in peace work it is necessary to include economic, social and cultural rights as much as political and civil rights. He shared that development should not exclude a vast number of people, or create more poverty and displacement. It should also not be based on the externalization of costs and consequences onto other stakeholders to feed the greed for accumulation and concentration of wealth of the few. He emphasized the need for non-violent economics as a necessary area to explore to counter the reproduction of poverty, inequality and marginalization.

Varghese and Ramesh met with Rajagopal and Jill of Ekta Parishad to discuss HMI's role in the training of *Dal Nayaks* (Leaders of the Ekta's non-violent social movement) in active non-violence for the 2012 *Jan Satyagraha* (people's nonviolent resistance). They also met with Vijay of the South Asia Peace Alliance regarding collaborative work on training peace activists in South Asia.

### Naga Women's Union Workshop

~Liwa Changning, Manipur, 14- 16 July 2010

The CT Team conducted a *Basic Level Peace Building and Conflict Transformation Workshop*



Naga women's workshop



at Liwa Changning, in the Chandel district of Manipur. The workshop was organized by the Naga Women's Union, Chandel Unit and participants included 21 women and 14 men from five different tribes. During the workshop participants were given the opportunity to gain clarity on the concepts of conflict, peace building, conflict transformation, responses to conflict and conflict analysis. Suresh and Robin from HMI along with Ngamvar from Peace Core Team Manipur (PCTM) facilitated the workshop.

### CRBC Workshop

-Zunpha, Nagaland, 22 - 24 July 2010

A workshop on *Peace Building and Conflict Transformation* was organized with the Council of the Rengma Baptist Churches (CRBC) in Nagaland. Forty church leaders participated in the workshop including seven women and 33 men. For the Rengma tribe this was the first workshop of its kind. The participants felt that the skills and knowledge they gained were extremely important because in their work as Church leaders they come across conflicts at the family, village and societal levels constantly. The workshop was facilitated by Robin from HMI and Angelus from Volunteers for Village Development (VVD), Manipur.

### SHIDO Workshop

-A. Changta, Manipur, 28- 31 July 2010

The Self Help Initiatives Development Organization (SHIDO) and HMI organized a workshop for 47 participants, eight women and 39 men, on the theme *Peace Building and Conflict Transformation*. The participants were both staff of SHIDO and church, village, and youth leaders from the communities where SHIDO works. The workshop gave a basic understanding of conflict transformation and peace building along with conflict transformation skills and working in group settings. Since the participants came from various sections of the society, including different age groups and socio-economic backgrounds, they realized that to truly resolve problems in their contexts it is important to include the voices from all these various groups. Robin from HMI and Somi and Reishim from VVD facilitated the workshop.

### Gujarat Retreat/Workshop

-Mount Abu, Rajasthan, 5- 8 August 2010

The Social Movement for Educational Thinking (SMET), based in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, and HMI organized a retreat/workshop for victims of the 2002 Gujarat riots. The intention was to bring together participants from Hindu, Muslim and Christian communities. Unfortunately, due to floods in the region many participants were not able to come at the last minute. In the end only 18 were able to attend, three women and 15 men, all of whom were from the Muslim community and who were working through their own process of healing and transformation. SMET member, Hakim Bhai, hoped that the workshop would help people that have experienced the worst of communal riots to actively work for peace and social justice and to give them an opportunity to reflect, have fun and think outside their comfort zones about interfaith relations and dialogue as tools for building peace between communities. The activities focused on team building, self-awareness, justice, love, mercy, the cycle of revenge, forgiveness, dialogue and conflict transformation skills. The workshop was facilitated by Varghese Chakkummootil, Robin and Jessica.

### Chetan Peace Award

-HMI, Hyderabad, 26 August 2010

The first annual *Chetan Peace Award* was presented on the second anniversary of the death of Chetan 'Che' Sharma, an artist and cultural activist from Kakching, Manipur who helped HMI to see the value of art as a medium for peace and reconciliation. His work reflects beauty, love, compassion, respect and tolerance; it also brings to light the social realities of oppression and human rights violations in a way that inspires creative responses to transcend apathy and cynicism. As a way to remember Chetan the hall was decorated with his painting along with a floral tribute, sharing memories by his





friends and the live performance of some of his favorite songs. The reflections highlighted Chetan's work for peace, justice and reconciliation and his long relationship with HMI. This relationship helped to deepen the work of the Institute, not only in use of art, but also in respectfully engaging with artists, musicians and many other social and cultural activists. The first annual *Chetan Peace Award* was then presented to Shiva Shankari, a class nine student who won a drawing competition to design the logo for HMI's Culture of Peace Programme. The logo was unveiled and Shankari received a certificate, cash prize, and drawing materials. The *Chetan Peace Award* will be given each year to an individual who uses art for peace, justice and reconciliation.

### South Asia Peace Workshop

-HMI, Hyderabad, 5- 26 September 2010

The CT Team organized the *South Asia Peace Workshop (SAPW 2010)* which was a three-week residential workshop conducted at HMI. The workshop contained a two-week basic module and a one-week advanced module covering a vast range of topics. The 31 participants, six women and 25 men, came from various regions of India as well as Nepal, China, South Korea and Tanzania. The CT Team wanted to utilize resources of HMI and its networks. Therefore, along with eight CT Team facilitators, members of HMI's Academic and Community Development departments, six visiting resource people working at the top of their fields were invited to facilitate. This brought the facilitating team to a total of 16. The aim of the *South Asia Peace Workshop (SAPW)* is to create a



South Asia Peace workshop



International Peace day

competitive course that is tailored to and located in South Asia, increasing the relevance to the region and reducing the financial and logistical barriers of international travel. If you are interested in applying for *SAPW 2011* keep an eye out for the brochure and application form coming soon to [hmiindia.com](http://hmiindia.com).

### International Peace Day

-HMI, Hyderabad, 21 September 2010.

Participants from the *South Asia Peace Workshop* observed *International Peace Day* by creating posters and paintings expressing messages of peace and harmony. Suresh, the workshop coordinator, highlighted the importance of observing *International Peace Day* and led the group in a creative exercise. The art work was displayed at HMI's interfaith devotion hall and participants sang "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace."

### Maytal Saltiel, Harvard Divinity School

- HMI, Hyderabad, June-August 2010, Internship

Maytal completed her two month internship with the CT team in the month of August 2010. Here are few words of her experience and learning from her internship. "My time at the Henry-Martyn Institute has truly been a learning experience for me this summer, opening my eyes to dynamics of life on the other side of the world, and reaffirming many of my ideas about the critical work of building peaceful and respectful societies.



In the Art of Public Leadership, Community Organizing and Planning I was able to engage in many conversations with different staff and community members about their own ideas of leadership, their spiritual journeys, and the importance of interfaith work in the world. Much of my time in theological reflection this summer was spent discussing issues of identity and safe space - how communities are formed and individuals feel connected or disconnected to these communities. Throughout the summer I met with Varghese Chakkumootil, my supervisor and the CT team coordinator once a week to discuss these issues.

I am deeply thankful for my experience this summer at HMI and in Hyderabad. I know that these past two months will have a lasting influence on the rest of my life, and these relationships are not ones I have simply left behind but will continue to follow me on the rest of my life's journey.

### Tom S. Russel and Sathia Rabbin Das

- HMI, Hyderabad, July - Sept 2010, Internship

Tom and Sathia, 3<sup>rd</sup> year Bachelor of Divinity students from Serampore College, West Bengal completed their three-month practical field placement at HMI. They attended *PGDCT* classes, daily interfaith devotions, cultural events and the *South Asia Peace Workshop*. Sathia who has been writing rap songs was encouraged to fulfill an assignment by writing and performing a rap song about the current water crisis. The song was a big hit with the staff and students and he was asked to perform it many times. He never imagined that this talent could be used to fulfill an assignment or that anyone would be interested in this form of expression. In his own words, "I am very thankful to the CT Team because I learned many things from them and they also recognized and acknowledged my talents."



### Watson Hanse

- HMI, Hyderabad, Sept - Nov 2010, Internship

Watson Hanse, an intern from Karbi Anglong and a member of Karbi Human Rights Watch,

started his three months internship with the CT Team on the 5<sup>th</sup> September. In Watson comments "The South Asia Peace Workshop helped me gain a lot of knowledge about the context, issues, models, methodology that are very important in the analysis of conflicts.



The power of non-violence has been rediscovered and strengthened through study materials, especially through video documentaries (films about contemporary social movements like the *Ekta Parishad* and the struggle of the indigenous people of the *Niyamgiri Hills*) is very encouraging for me. Apart from national and international social movements, discussion on *globalization, consumerism, gender, climate change* has widened my learning areas and interest. Interfaith Relations is a completely new subject of learning and experience for me. Respect for other faiths through study, observing and listening has also clarified many misgivings that I had about them. The interfaith practice in the institute in the form of devotion has actually made me realize the need to know and study my own religion and has made me spiritually stronger.

HMI will always remain as one of the most powerful institution that has guided me in learning and polishing the skills of doing and organizing things.

### Jessica Lane

- HMI, Hyderabad, December 2010, Internship

Jessica Lane spent the past 13 months in Hyderabad at our Institute studying a range of topics including conflict transformation, community development and interfaith relations. During her experience she became inspired to learn more about how women become involved in community development and movements for social change in the slums of the Old City of Hyderabad. Her Master's thesis entitled, *Emancipation of*







***Courage: Leadership and Women's Empowerment in the Old City of Hyderabad***, discusses how participants and leaders in a women's empowerment movement perceive the role of leadership as influencing their process of social change. Jessica recognizes that the current status of the Muslim community in the Old City is steeped in the regions of historical background; she attempts to depict the evolutionary context of the past to the present and highlights the status of women as the backdrop of women's empowerment happening today in the Old City.

In Jessica's own words "One of the most powerful things I learned from conflict transformation is recognizing there are multiple variations of truth, depending on one's perspective at any given moment. In order to understand the truth held by others we must be able to understand one another, through dialogue. In order to do that, we must be with people, interact with them, see them as human beings and respect their dignity.

### **EED Evaluation**

~27 Sept - 15 Oct 2010

The phase II of the EED project is coming to an end and so as part of the process the Team conducted an external evaluation. Th. Robinson from HMI accompanied Bindiya, the evaluator from the Association for Stimulating Know How (ASK), for the 22 meetings with people representing various organizations in the states of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, and Gujarat.

### **Rewben's Live Performance**

~HMI, Hyderabad, 11 October 2010

It was not an ordinary evening for those who gathered at the Aman Shanti Nilayam's conference hall on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010 for the hall was completely filled with air of peace, love and harmony. It was because of the music and a number of heart-throbbing songs performed by Rewben Mashangva, a peace lover popularly known as Guru Rewben, the king of Naga Folk Blues and Saka, his son. A Tangkul Naga from the Ukhrul district of Manipur, a musician, a composer, a researcher of Naga folk songs and a maker of musical instruments, Guru Rewben also took great



Rewben's Live Performance

initiative in producing the music album 'Spell Peace' in which he sang the song entitled "No more killing".

Rewben carried everyone present to a different musical experience by playing the Tangkhul Naga flute called 'yangkahui' which he modified to suit the western musical tone. The excitement of the audience was increased by his son Saka Mashangva, a young boy of 12 years who accompanied him as his percussion player.

### **Chandel Workshop**

~1-2 November 2010

Twenty four youth (12 women and 12 men) participated in a twoday workshop on basic level Peace building held at the Panchai Catholic Church, Chandel from 1-2 November 2010. This workshop organized by the Christian Youth Volunteers (CYV), Chandel, a voluntary organization working to bring about a constructive change. in the Chandel District of Manipur with special focus on education, health and environment. Pillar Jasa Anal, an alumni from HMI's Post Graduate Diploma in Conflict Transformation studies, founded the Christian Youth Volunteers (CYV) and has initiated peace building programs in his local region. The workshop was facilitated by Suresh Naorem from HMI and Tong Pao and Ngamwar, facilitators from PCTM. The workshop dealt on understanding the stages, responses to conflict.

### **Manipur workshop**

~2-4 November, 2010

A three days workshop on the Role of Mediation was organized by PCTM on 2-4 Nov, 2010. The workshop was jointly sponsored by All Manipur Christian Organization (AMCO), Forum for Social



Harmony (FSH), Peace Core Team Manipur (PCTM) and Diocesan Social Service Society (DSSS), Catholic Diocese Imphal and the workshop was facilitated by Ramesh Prakashvelu (Moon), Acting Associate Director, Praxis HMI, along with PCTM members, Aram Pamei, Thekho, Deben Sharma and Ms Shumsot. 28 persons (8 women and 20 men) representing 11 civil society organizations and churches participated in the workshop

At this workshop the participants discussed on the role of mediators in long term dialogue engagements among civil society organizations in Manipur and across other states. Edda Kirlei and Heiner, representatives of EED our donor agency, were present at the workshop.

### Meeting with National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI)

-Hyderabad, November 2010

In November 2010, Ramesh Prakashvelu and Varghese Chakkumootil met with Dr. Srinivasulu at the National Council for Rural Institute, Hyderabad. This was to discuss ways HMI and NCRI could work together on individual/Organizational capacity building projects. In the meeting with Dr. Srinivasulu and later with Mr. Prabhat, the chairman of NCRI, it was agreed that HMI will submit a proposal to NCRI for capacity building of individuals and organizations in the North East region. The team has sent a proposal to NCRI and is awaiting NCRI's response.

### CT's Labyrinth Project

-HMI, Hyderabad, December 2010

Maytal Saltiel, from Harvard University, interned with the CT team this last summer. During her internship, she proposed an idea of having a



Meeting with NCRI



Labyrinth

labyrinth in HMI campus. Consisting of a single, unicursal path, walking the labyrinth is meant to inspire reflection and contemplation. "The labyrinth has long stood as a metaphor for life's journey, combining the sense of unity and purposeful wandering into a complicated and beautiful symbol. The earliest labyrinths were constructed in Ancient Greece, c. 2000-2500 B.C.E. and have passed from culture to culture since."

### CT's Vegetable Garden Initiative

-HMI, Hyderabad, December 2010

As part of the Slow and Fair Food for peace program planning, the CT team initiated the idea of vegetable garden at HMI campus. Poonam Lakra, took personal interest and worked very hard along with Grandy Jescinta, Kishen, Ramulu, and Ashok to plant vegetables and today the garden looks beautiful with green and colourful plants. Radish, Green Chilli, Tomatoes, Spinach, Coriander, Onion, Brinjal (Egg Plant), and Mustard are some of the plants/vegetables that are presently in our Vegetable Garden.

### A Workshop on Understanding Non-Violence

-HMI, Hyderabad, 14 and 15 December 2010

On the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010, a workshop on "Understanding Non-Violence" was held at HMI. T. Thayaparan from Sri Lanka facilitated the workshop. Mr. Thayaparan has been involved with peace building, conflict transformation and reconciliation work for the last 11 years with his organization, the Peace and Community Action (PCA), a national organization,



Poonam and Dan were taking part in Vegetable garden

committed to peace work in Sri Lanka. The entire CT team participated in this workshop along with 3 participants from Gujarat. This workshop helped us to analyze the role of violence and its disastrous effects. Thayaparan, personal experience, helped us to critically analyze "Non-Violent Communication Model". Mr. Vijaya Bharatiya, the Secretariat from South Asia Peace Alliance (SAPA), helped us in creating network with Peace and Community Action (PCA).

### National Consultation

~Delhi, December 2010

A Two Day National Consultation on orienting 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan for Conflict Mitigation and Redress was organized by COVA (Confederation of Voluntary Associations) in collaboration with Ekta Parishad, Asha Parivar, SANSAD and WNTA, at Indian Social Institute, Delhi on 16-17 December 2010. The Two Day National Consultation on "Orienting the XIIth Five Year Plan to Conflict Mitigation and Redress" focused on deliberating about how development in different spheres is contributing to generation / enhancement of conflicts and suggest possibilities of using XII Five Year Plan process for mitigation and redress of conflicts.

Thematic presentations and group discussions on day one were held on Enhancing the Capacity for Growth; Managing the Environment; Enhancing Skills and Foster Generation of Employment; Rural Transformation and Sustained Growth of Agriculture. On day two the presentations and discussions themes were centered on Decentralization, Empowerment and Information; Managing Urbanization; Challenges and Perspectives not covered by the Draft Format of the 12th Five Year Plan, followed by Valedictory Session which was addressed by Harsh Mander.

Ramesh participated and observed discussions on Enhancing Capacity for Growth and participated in discussions on Rural Transformation and Sustained Growth of Agriculture on day one and took part in discussions related to Decentralization, Empowerment and Information on day two.

### Network Meeting with South Asia Peace Alliance

~17 December 2010, Delhi

Ramesh attended South Asia Peace Alliance, India meet on 17th December held at ISI. The meet was to discuss how to strengthen the capacity of common people at the community level (in South Asia) to handle conflicts in nonviolent ways, bringing change in their lives through the tools of mobilization and advocacy leading to sustainable peace.

### Planning Meeting with SAPA

~ 18-20 December 2010, Delhi

A three day planning meeting of South Asia Peace Alliance was held in Gandhi Bhavan, Delhi on 18-20 December 2010. Thayaparan of Peace and Community Action (Sri Lanka) representing SAPA-Sri Lanka was the key resource person who facilitated the meeting which was attended by Babulal Sharma (SAPA India), Rita and Vijay (SAPA-India secretariat), Ravi a research and training intern with Ekta Parishad, and Ramesh representing HMI. P. V. Rajagopal of Ekta Parishad participated in the orientation meeting and in the end it helped clarify goals, strategies and links for exposure visits as part of the training programme. The objective of the planning meeting was to develop a workshop outline for a 10-day training programme, to be held at HMI, and identify resource persons, thematic areas, identify criteria for participants, venue etc., for training 20 peace trainers from the South Asia countries of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal and share it within SAPA network for finalization and follow-up action leading to a 10 day training programme in April 2011. The overall goal of SAPA is to facilitate the emergence of 10,000 peace activists, through a process of country level and regional training programmes over a period of 5 years.

## CT- Staff Development Programme

~27-29 December 2010

Two members from CT team Mr. Hemendar and Mr. Suresh attended a three day workshop on "Research Methodology and Application of Statistical Package for Social Sciences(SPSS)" organized by the Roda Mistry College of Social Work and Research Center, Gachibowli, Hyderabad. This workshop has helped them to enhance their research skills and better understanding about Social Research, Sampling Methods, Levels of Measurement and Tools of Data Collection, Data preparation and Processing, data analysis through SPSS, use of library for research and writing of research report.

## New Staff

The CT team hired Hemendar Pusa as a facilitator in the month of December 2010. Hemendar was working in the Community Development team of HMI from 2005-2010. He had experience in community development



work and he worked in Nellore in the 'Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation Project.' He has a Masters in Social Work and is presently doing his PG Diploma in Conflict Transformation studies.

## Administration

### The Hostel

One of the main goals of the Hostel is to provide high quality accommodation and wholesome food for participants in workshops, both in-house and external programmes.

### Landscaping/Garden

The kitchen gardens produced tomatoes, raddish, capsicum, brinjal, spinach, green chilli, okra, coriander, etc. The product of the fruit garden includes banana, papaya and guava which are served with the hostel meals. There are plans to produce more variety of vegetables and fruits.

## Staff Matters

We felt extremely sad that Mr. Vinod Kumar, Office Manager, had a stroke in the month of August and was affected by paralysis left side and hospitalized for 45 days. But with God's grace having recovered partially he joined back to duty in the month of October 2010.



## Board

The Annual General Meeting of the Board and Council took place on 3 & 4 August 2010. Attending the meetings were Rt. Rev. Dr. Christopher L. Furtado (Retd.) - Chairperson; Ms. Christine Lazarus - Vice-Chairperson; Dr. Wilfred D'souza - Treasurer; Dr. Varghese Manimala - Director/Secretary; Rt. Rev. Dr. P. Surya Prakash - Church of South India; Dr. P. Judson - Co-opt; Dr. Daphne Rebello - Co-opt; Mr. M. David K. Sarma - Canadian Baptist Mission; Rev. Dr. Packiam Samuel - Co-opt; Mrs. Prema Christian - Co-opt;

Rt. Rev. Dr. Christopher L. Furtado, served as Chairperson of HMI Board for over a decade, at the end of the meeting, on the occasion of the retirement from the HMI Board, staff and the board members gathered and conveyed thanks for being a Chairperson and serving HMI for such long period. We welcomed the new Chairperson Rt. Rev. Surya Prakash, CSI bishop of Karimnagar diocese and new treasurer in the person Dr. P. Judson who has been a board member for a long time. The outgoing treasurer Dr. Wilfred D'souza was thanked for his meritorious and selfless service. Also we were happy to have new board members in the persons of Richerd Saldhana (co. opt.) and Sri Mayasandra (MCC).

## Interfaith Festival Celebrations

Students and staff celebrated Independence Day on August 15 at ASN. Director - Varghese Manimala hoisted the flag.

The Diwali (Hindu festival of lights): on November 5<sup>th</sup> was celebrated at ASN with beautiful decoration of flowers and lamps. The celebration started with goddess Lakshmi puja and students, staff and a group from Sweden took part in lighting the oil lamps and bursting of fire crackers, and distributed sweets to commemorate the true essence of the festival.





During the month of Ramadan, HMI held its interfaith Iftar (breaking of fast) in September. Staff, project staff, students, some board members and HMI friends took part in it.

The Christmas celebration was held on December 16<sup>th</sup>, organized by staff and students. A large

bonfire, skits, songs and games were the highlights of the programme apart from the dinner, of course. Nearly 100 people, including staff, their families, board members and friends of HMI attended the celebration. The bonfire made bearable the chill night air.

## Director's Travel

During the second half of the year our director undertook many travels in India and abroad for conferences, participation in some celebrations of the partnering institutions and also visiting partners. Early July he was in Bangalore to attend the **Centenary Celebrations of United Theological College (UTC)**, as UTC is one of our partnering institutions. From 6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> August director went to Agra to participate in the **South Asia Fund Raising workshop** organized by the SAFRG (South Asia Fund Raising Group). Methods of various forms of fundraising were discussed in this workshop and tips offered. Again middle of September he was in Bangalore to take part in the General Body meeting of the NCCI held at the Ecumenical Resource Centre of UTC. From the end of September and throughout October director was in the US for various activities like taking part in seminars, meeting partners as well as for some fundraising. He visited various places in the US meeting active partners as well as non-active ones. He held discussions with USIP (United States Institute for Peace), UCC (United Church of Christ), Cleveland, Templeton Foundation, Philadelphia, etc. Also there was the opportunity for him to participate at least for a few days in a seminar organized by the Council for Research in Values

and Philosophy at the Catholic University of America, Washington D.C. This was a reminiscence of his participation in a three months' seminar more than 20 years back. He could also raise some funds through his interaction with a few friends and relations. Early November director went to Germany to participate in a consultation organized by EKHN in Frankfurt. Ms. Jalaja from the Community Development also joined him for this consultation. Prior to the consultation director took time to visit some of the partners like NMZ, EMW and also friends like Rev. Eberhard Will, Rev. Eberhard von Hyde. He also got chances to address some groups who are interested in HMI's vision and activities. From 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November director was in New Delhi to participate in the silver jubilee celebrations of CISRS presence in Delhi and also to offer directions to the publishers of the new book of HMI: "*Jesus Verses of the Qur'an.*" On 30<sup>th</sup> November he went to Chennai to address the national consultation of UELCI (United Evangelical Lutheran Churches of India); the address was based on the theme: "Conflict Management in Ecclesial Congregations." Again he is booked for their International Round Table to be held at Mahabalipuram at the end of January 2011.



Fr. Manimala & Jalaja from HMI and Rev. Dr. Jhony Thonipara from EKHN