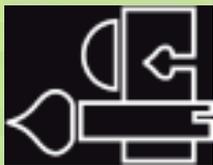


INTERACTION



Volume 32, No.12
January-June 2011

A NEWSLETTER OF THE HENRY MARTYN INSTITUTE:

International Centre for Research, Interfaith Relations and Reconciliation



Glimpses of our work



HMI Newsletter
Volume 32, no. 1
January - June 2011

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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

It is more than six months since we encountered you through the pages of the *Interaction*, our newsletter. We are happy to note that many of you are interested in the activities of HMI, and send mails with congratulatory messages as well as questions. Our website has proved to be very helpful in posting the latest events as e-news, but still we believe the printed version of *Interaction* has a role to play in keeping us connected. Also we believe in the proverbial Latin expression: "*Verba volant, scripta manent*" (spoken words fly written ones remain), and it is a proven fact. When you glance through the pages of this issue of the *Interaction* you are able to gauge to some extent our aspirations, the levels of achievement we have reached, and the limitations and falling short of our pronounced goals and aims. We are grateful to our partners who support us so generously, and earnestly desire our growth. May God the bestower of all good gifts and the rewarder of our deeds shower His abundant blessings on you. We hope you will enjoy perusing the pages of the *Interaction* that has come out with a new and attractive facelift.

Varghese Manimala
Director

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Annual Summer Course (9 - 22 May)

HMI's annual intensive two-week programme on Islam and Interfaith Relations was held at HMI's Aman Shanthi Nilayam, Hyderabad.

The summer course on the Introduction to Islam and Interfaith Relations for the year 2011 commenced from 9-22 May 2011. Altogether, there were 10 participants for the course. The two weeks study program was focused on an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of Islam as a religion and the importance of interfaith relations in a pluralistic context.

We invited several guest speakers to give lectures on specific topics. Prof. Mohan Ramanan (Dean, Dept. Of Humanities, Central University of Hyderabad) gave a long and informative session on Introduction to Hinduism. Dr. Papan Martin (US research scholar doing research in Hyderabad under the AIIRS programme) delivered a lecture



PG Diploma Course - 2010-11 graduates

Post Graduate Diploma Courses

(Islamic Studies and Conflict Transformation):

This academic year, eight students took part in three terms of classes totaling to nine months of study and other course related activities in Islamic Studies, Conflict transformation and Interfaith Relation courses. As part of their requirements, PGDCT students presented their research after their completion of two months' internship (field exposure).

The award ceremony of the Post-graduate Diploma courses was held on 31 March. Those who graduated are:

PGDIS – C. Purseula Ozukum (Nagaland), J.M.P Thomas Birla (North), Hyang B. Jung (South Korea), Shankar (Andhra Pradesh) and Moses (South).

PGDCT – Denice (Tanzania), Peter (Nagaland), Kennedy (Maniupur).

Pre-M.Th.: Magbool Moses (Hyderabad) and Loyivani Odyuo (Nagaland) successfully completed the nine-month Pre-M. Th. Arabic qualifying language course.

Language Programme (Arabic, Persian, Urdu)

Intensive Language Programme/ Summer Intensive Language Programme (SIL): The ten-week intensive language course is designed to train international students in Urdu, Persian and Arabic. This year one student from Germany enrolled for a short term Arabic language course as part of her sabbatical at HMI.

Summer Course students with faculty





Swedish India Group at the Session

on Introduction to Sufism and Sufi saints of Deccan. HMI faculty included, Dr. Manimala (Director), Dr. M. M. Abraham (Associate Director), Dr. Qadeer (Assistant Professor), Mr. Abdul Kareem (Lecturer), Ms. Christy Femila (Lecturer), Mr. Vijaya Shastry (Lecturer). A highlight for many was the extra-curricular activities and exposure visits during the course.

On the whole, the course took a holistic approach to address the issue on the vitality of religious understanding of different religions, the importance of ecumenical perspective in a pluralistic context and the significance of interfaith relations to bring about mutual understanding and peace in the society and the world as a whole.

Short-term Programmes

Dutch Group

9 - 13 Feb & 2 - 4 Mar 2011

A group of seven members from the Church of Netherlands led by Rev. Piet Kruizinga visited HMI in March 2011. The two-day programme at HMI focused on interfaith relations and ministry of reconciliation. The event involved

interacting sessions with Academic Staff and exposure visits to religious places in Hyderabad. The group also visited HMI Community Development Projects. They continued their stay at HMI to visit various CSI projects and other NGOs in Andhra Pradesh.

Pastoral Collegium, Germany

1 - 12 March 2011

Nineteen pastors from Protestant Church in Hesse and Nassau, Germany (EKHN) spent two weeks at HMI to study the major religions in India, interfaith relations and reconciliation. The two-week programme catered for various input sessions on understanding religion along with exposure visits to religious worship places and some historical places in Hyderabad. The programme provided sharing the living experiences for some who had never encountered friends from other faiths and culture. Sharing faith through morning devotion, solidarity and social evenings was an enriching experience for both HMI community and the pastors. HMI staff and interns joined the group to visit Krishna Godavari Diocese, Church of South India, on a fruitful partnership visit. HMI

acknowledges and appreciates the efforts and valuable time put in by Bishop Matthias Schmidt & his team. HMI is also grateful for Rev. Detlev Knoche (Director, EKHN) and Dr. Johny Thonipara (Asia Director, EKHN) for their leadership and kind support.

Swede-India

10 - 16 April 2011

Eighteen students from two Swedish universities visited HMI as part of their Sweden-India Project. The programme included input sessions on understanding religions such as Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism and Buddhism. Apart from the lectures, students interacted with people at HMI's Community Development Projects at Sultanshahi and some Muslim women in the city. The discussions focused on current trends and issues related to women in India. The aim was to give the participants a comparative outlook that would help them to understand the issues in the Indian context while comparing them with the situation in their homeland. Students also had interesting visits to religious and historical places in Hyderabad.



Research Scholars

Independent Studies: Most of the research scholars come from various institutions abroad. At HMI, scholars receive guidance through lectures, discussions with staff members and faculty, exposure visits, and time in the library.

Ms. Emma Eriksson – a student from Pavia University, Italy, spent few weeks at HMI working on her research on Sufism in the Deccan. She is an independent research scholar who accessed research materials at HMI library and had few discussions with the Academic Head, Dr. Qadeer, on Sufism.

Ms. Julia – an Urdu research student from USA studied for four weeks on her research topic under the guidance of Ms. Asma Nuzhath. Her work involved translation of early Moghal fiqh literature and included interviews with some local Muslim scholars and visits to local libraries and museums.

Dr. Papan Matin – a US research scholar doing research in Hyderabad under the AIIRS programme and HMI affiliated scholar. She is utilizing HMI library and some informal discussions with our faculty for her ongoing research on 'Sufism and Sufi saints of Deccan'.

Interns, Volunteers and Pastors on Sabbatical

Rev Carsten Tag, Dean (Evangelisch rund um den Rodgau) spent few weeks (February – March 2011) at HMI on his sabbatical trip to India. His study was guided by Dr. Qadeer and focused on Islamic Spirituality and Sufism. His visit involved an exposure visit to local dhargahs to understand various traditions and practices of the Sufis. He also visited HMI CD Project.



Rev Carsten Tag visit to community centre

Ms. Helga Lamm-Gielnik, Evangelische Landeskirche in Baden, Germany spent a few weeks in June 2011 as part of her sabbatical at HMI. Her visit focused on interfaith relations among Christian, Muslim and Hindu communities in Hyderabad. She also attended various seminars and lectures in connection with it.

Visitors and Groups

This year we had several new visitors besides our old friends of HMI visiting us.

Prof. Edward Joseph Alam, Secretary of Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (CRVP) - Beirut & Washington D.C- visited HMI on 18-20 Jan 2011. His meetings with the Director and various members of academics focused on possible collaboration between HMI and CRVP.

Rev. Susanna Dominick, Freiberg, Germany visited HMI on 20 Jan 2011. She is planning to organize a programme with HMI on 'Women's Journey in Interfaith Relations'.

Rev. Bernd Apel, Pastor for Ecumenics, Protestant Church in Oberhessen, Germany, visited HMI 18-21 January 2011. His trip focused on 'January 2012 Partnership Visit to HMI and Krishna Godavari Diocese - CSI' with a team of pastors to develop a programme on Interfaith Relations and Peace Building. He is also interested in building a network programme with Lebanon, Germany and India.



Mr & Mrs. Paul Jenkins

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Jenkins visited HMI 15-19 Feb. 2011. Paul Jenkins, is a former Archivist Basel Mission and Hon. Lecturer in Non-Western History in the University of Basel. Both of them have been associated with former members of HMI and spent a few days knowing more about HMI's interfaith work. They also shared their experiences with various staff members of HMI and visited the Aman Shanthi CD Project in Hyderabad.



Ms. Johanna Sondergeld (23, Germany), visited HMI 15-19 Feb. 2011. She is an under graduate student doing her internship in India and interested to work in the field of interfaith relations and dialogue. She had discussions with faculty members about approaches towards interfaith relations, especially focusing on Muslims. She also shared her travel experiences in India as well as her interfaith work in Germany.

Prof. Eric Rothgery from Roanoke College, Salem, Virginia had a one-day visit and informal meetings with academic faculty and programme staff. This involved discussions on future visit to HMI with students of Roanoke College.

HMI Partners and Collaboration and Network

HMI worked on the final draft of MoU with University of Hyderabad to collaborate on M.A. and Ph. D.

programmes in various fields. The MOU is scheduled to be signed soon in this academic year.

Yet to be signed: American institute of Indian Studies (Indian languages), New Delhi.
Renewal: Luther Seminary, USA, Virje University, Amsterdam, University of Utrecht, the Netherlands, St Philips' Centre, England

Three-day Strategic Planning for Study & Research meeting was held at ICP (Interfaith Coalition for Peace), New Delhi. Rev. Dr. Abraham, Mr. Kareem, Ms. Shobha and Ms. Christy spent three days discussing on possible programmes in collaboration with ICP, HMI and local universities. Rev. Packiam Samuel, Secretary & Treasurer of ICP facilitated the programme.

Seminars/Lectures

Dr. Manimala, was specially invited by UELCI (United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India) to address their national workshop held at

Gurukul, from 27 to 28 April. He gave a talk on "Conflict Transformation and Developing a Culture of Peace in Church and Society: An analysis of Contemporary Challenges and Suggestions to Transcend them". He also facilitated the discussion.

HMI-Pastoral Seminar on "Challenge of Pluralism: Blessing or Curse?" was held on 30 March 2011 for Pastors from various denominations in India. The event was intended to be a preparatory programme for a future workshop to help Indian pastors to engage in inter-religious living and dialogue. The seminar sessions were led by Rt. Rev. Surya Prakash, Bishop of Karimnagar Diocese, Church of South India and Rev. Packiam Samuel, Secretary & treasurer, Interfaith Coalition for Peace, New Delhi. Thirteen pastors (2 women and 11 men) from various churches in and around Hyderabad participated in this colloquium. Among the observers were HMI's staff and students, visiting research scholars and few family members of some of the



participants. The second Phase of this seminar is going to be conducted in July 2011 with 30 pastors from South India.

Others

Academic Evaluation: Academic programmes evaluation (2006-2010) was done by Ms. Lakshmi Raman in the month of April 2011. Evaluation involved feedback meetings from academic staff, students and others. The suggestions would help the academic department in preparing the future strategic plans.

Academic team conducted a **special interfaith devotion** on the occasion of 'International Women's Day'

Dr. Manimala and Ms. Shobha led a service on **Maundy Thursday** (21 April 2011). It was observed by washing the feet of the members of HMI staff and students and with special prayers.

Staff Development

Ms. Christy Femila attended a one and a half month theological course on Land, Peoples, Theology, and Sustainability from 5 Feb - 20 Mar 2011 conducted by Swedish Theological Institute in



Jerusalem which is funded by the Church of Sweden. The course comprises of lectures, exposure visits, encounters with people of Jewish, Christian and Muslim faith traditions, discussions with scholars, meetings with practitioners from social work organizations, peace workers and political representatives from both Israel and the West Bank, and visits to archeological sites.

Ms. Shobha Gosa, joined a ten day trip with Indialogue Foundation on "Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue Journey to Turkey" from 25 May - 2 June 2011. The dialogue trips are a powerful tool to develop kinship among the participants and insight in to the region. The group members visited various religious places, institutions and NGO's. Indialogue Foundation shares similar goals with HMI in the field of Interfaith Relations and Peace Building. Ms. Gosa's trip was jointly sponsored by HMI and its partner in Germany (EKHN).



Academic Team

Dr. Varghese Manimala (Director), Dr. M. M. Abraham (Associate Director), Dr. Qadeer Khwaja (Assit. Professor), Ms. Christy Femila (Lecturer), Mr. Vijaya Sastry (Lecturer), Ms. Shobha Gosa (Programme Secreatary), Mr. Abdul Kareem (Arabic-Faculty), Ms. Asma Nuzhath (Urdu-faculty),

Special thanks from the academic team to all the Staff members: Prof. Mohan Ramanan, Dr. Papan Matin, Mrs. Arshi Ayub, Mrs. Najma and Dr. Bhupendra Kaur and representatives of local religious places.

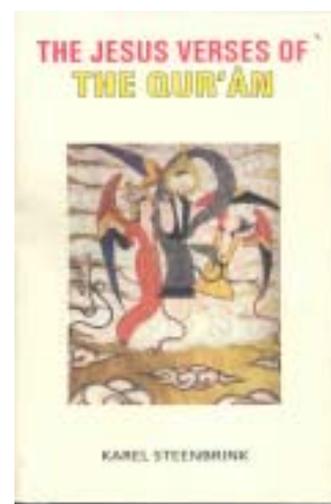
Publications

There is a felt need for HMI to broaden the scope of HMI's Publications by increasing publishing of books, Journal and by printing various communication materials.

Newsletter: The issue Jul – Dec 2010 printed in Feb 2011.

HMI Journal: The semi-annual publication - Journal of Henry Martyn Institute, a combined issue of vol. 28, no. 1 & 2 (2009) came out in Mar 2011. The first issue of vol. 29, no. 1 Jan – Jun 2010 is expected to be out at the earliest.

Book: The long awaited publication of the book, *The Jesus Verses of the Qur'an*, by Karl Steen Brink, Professor of Emeritus of Intercultural Theology, Utrecht University, Netherlands, is expected to happen in July 2011.



Library

The library of HMI is fully computerized and it caters to the needs of the students and faculty. Also we take into account the need of workshop participants and staff, and the procurement of materials is need-based, which includes books, research material, journals and other materials (DVDs and CDs).

During the financial year (1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011) the library, added 341 titles, which cover the important subjects like religion, philosophy, conflict transformation, gender studies, psychology and sociology. HMI's library receives journals and periodicals: 82 journals are received in exchange with HMI's Journal, 24 journals and newsletters gratis and 24 by subscription.

The software of the library is regularly pruned.

Three air-conditioners have been installed in the stack area and one in the periodicals section.

Indialogue Foundation, a Turkish NGO working in Hyderabad contributed around 70 books to Andreas D'Souza's Library in March 2011. The books are a publication of Tughra Books publication house in USA, which is a sister organization of Indialogue. The books are mainly translations of original Turkish works and are authored by Turkish Scholars.

The present collection of the library is 23619 books.



Asif, 11 year old is one of the brightest students at our Aman Shanti Interfaith Primary School, Sultan Shahi. He has a great desire to go to school and become an officer after studies. Despite all his dreams, attending school on a regular basis has always been a challenge for him as he had to shoulder the responsibility of taking care of his four siblings. Poverty stricken and family responsibility made him to drop from studies and he started to work in one of the petty grocer grocery shop.

Knowing Asif interest and academic performance, HMI's Community Development (CD) Team decided to help Asif continue his studies. Based on this the CD members approached Asif's parents and tried to convince them but did not receive any positive response since the family needed financial support to maintain the family.

During regular follow up visits to the family members the CD team met the shop owner where he was working. After a lot of negotiation with the shop owner it was agreed that he can go ahead with his education and all adjustments will be made for the same.

After this adjustment was made, we found that Asif did not have enough money due to poverty to buy text books. Some of his classmates both from the Hindu and Muslim faith gave him their text books to read and learn. All his classmates cooperate with him and help him to learn effectively.

*We are glad that Asif regularly attends the classes and is able to get the necessary support from all his classmates, shop owner and teachers. **Such incidences make us conscious that humanity still exists wherein concern for each other's progress is seen, and that even children at a young age are able to practice an interfaith dialogue.***



The Community Development program strives to bridge the gap between people of different faiths by bringing them together through different activities that focus on social, economic and cultural needs of the community. These activities help the Hindu and Muslim communities to come on a common platform to share perspectives, learn about each other's faith, develop respect and strengthen relationships.



Aman Shanti Community Activities

➤➤➤ Education

- Interfaith Primary-level school offers education to 104 students from both Hindu and Muslim communities which comprises of 54 girls and 50 boys.
- Eight students completed the fourth standard this academic year (June 2010 to April 2011) and have enrolled in the local schools to continue further education.
- Five students who receive educational scholarship from HMI continue their education.
- Literacy classes are conducted for the young women in Sultan Shahi and Shankernagar centre to develop the reading and writing skills among them.
- Coaching classes in Chandrayangutta centre have been offered as a bridge class for thirty girls and boys to complete their regular education. All the children completed their respective classes successfully.

- Outing for the school children, play for peace games, mid morning snack, art and cultural activities continue to be organized regularly as a part of peace education in the school.
- Clean and Green rally was organized to create awareness about the cleanliness, health and hygiene of the community members.

➤➤➤ Vocational Training

- One hundred and twenty seven young women attended the Tailoring, Hand Embroidery, Literacy and Typing course during this period from the three projects.
- Mehndi / henna designing, Fabric painting, 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.
- Students' meetings and peace building dialogue meetings are organized to develop

friendship with one another across Hindu and Muslim faiths.

- Outing - Outing is one of the most favourite activities of women's unit students. Each year they look forward to this day. This year outing was jointly organized for the 110 tailoring students from all the three centers to Jalvihar, an amusement park in Hyderabad. This initiative also helps the students from three centres to develop friendships with one another across the Hindu and Muslim faiths.

➤➤➤ Health

- 506 patients benefited from the health services in the clinic.
- With the assistance from the Local Urban Health Post (UHP) free health camps have been organized in the community to screen the health problems among the community members at the earliest stages. Patients with problems related to Gynecology, heart, eye, etc, have been identified and referred to the respective government or private hospital as per the patient's economic condition.



- Monthly health talks and immunization is given to the pregnant women and children. Vitamin A Dose is given to all the community children for their healthy development in collaboration with the local government hospital.
- On the National Pulse polio Immunization Days the volunteers, young women and the staff members conduct awareness campaign by home visits, informing their neighbors and also volunteering their services for immunizing the children in polio booths. Awareness level for Polio Immunization has increased among the community members.

➤➤➤ Economic Development

Local women are undertaking tailoring job work from the different local marketing outlets and making an earning from it. Women stitch readymade garments, bags, nighties, shirts, etc.

- The students who have completed the tailoring course stitch their own clothes and make a saving by this and they

also take orders for stitching the clothes in their neighborhood and make an earning which would be sufficient to meet their basic needs.

- Thrift & credit programmes for community women are undertaken in all the three projects. Women save money in the self help groups and avail loans with minimal interest on rotation basis to meet their house hold needs and also to start petty business to generate income for sustaining their family needs. From HMI each centre will receive an amount of Rs.45, 000/- towards self help group fund.

➤➤➤ Interfaith Building Initiatives

Interfaith Religious festival was celebrated on 26th January 2011. Community members, children and women enjoyed the occasion a lot. Children performed many cultural programmes, women participated in skits and sang songs to mark the happy occasion.

Mentoring

➤➤➤ Volunteers

- Paint a Picture - Picture Painting event was organized for children in January 2011. Children of Sultan Shahi and Chandrayangutta centre and HMI staff children participated in this event. The main theme of the painting was based on peace, interfaith encounter, reconciliation, friendship, dialogue between religions, celebrating together. Children actively participated in the event and were very excited to demonstrate their painting talent. The programme was sponsored by Rev. Christopher Wildfang from Germany, who was on a sabbatical leave.
- Emmanuela, an intern from Italy visited the centre to carry out her research program. She had discussions with the women and children from the project centres. She also conducted few activities for the children.

➤➤➤ Visitors

Some of the groups/ individuals who visited the CD projects last year are:



was conducted and daily regular classes were organized for Twenty five young Hindu and Muslim men.

➤➤➤ Interfaith Festival Celebrations

'Sankranti' was celebrated in January 2011 by bringing twenty five young Hindu and Muslim men together. The Hindu young men shared about the religious background of Sankranti. They also shared about flying Kites, one of the unique important features of this festival.

These occasions are very useful for the young men to gain knowledge on each other's different traditions, values and festivals. This helps them to develop respect, confidence and acceptance of other religions.

➤➤➤ Picnic

A Picnic / outing trip for fifty young Hindu and Muslim men was organized to a local popular water resort 'Jala Vihaar' at Hyderabad, in March 2011. Picnic attests to be a fun filled event that witnesses Hindu and Muslim young men rejuvenating / having fun together and developing friendships.

➤➤➤ Library/Reading Room

Reading room continues with newspapers, employment related magazines and sports magazines. Newspapers in English and local languages (Urdu and Telugu) are provided for the reading room. Twenty five young men availed this facility.

- ◆ Swed India Social work students
- ◆ German Pastoral group-EKHN
- ◆ Rev. Bernd from Germany
- ◆ Rev. Carsten Tag from Germany
- ◆ A study group from the Netherlands

➤➤➤ PGDPS

Community Development team prepared the curriculum for the course it plans to offer as part of PG Diploma in Peace Studies program (PGDPS). This year the team initiated and designed a course on community development which consists of theoretical classes as well as practical field placements. The course would be offered in the first two terms and shall be taught by the CD team members.

Community Empowerment Processes

Women and Peace-building –

One day workshop was organized for the members of the self-help groups from the three centres. The workshop helped the women to gain confidence and motivated to take part in peace building initiatives. .

Young Men's Initiative Project

As young men are one of the most vulnerable groups to communal riots, HMI believes that for sustainable peace-building, it's very essential to address their needs. Hence, HMI is engaging with them to address their needs and interests at Sultan Shahi project in the old city of Hyderabad. HMI has been organizing various activities based on the requirements of the young men.

➤➤➤ Job oriented technical training for youth

'Computer Hardware/Networking' and 'Air-condition & Refrigeration' courses are continued to be offered for the young men. Closing ceremony of 'Computer Hardware and Networking' and 'A/C and Refrigeration' courses was organized on 21st April 2011. Fifteen young Hindu and Muslim men passed out the computer course and thirty Hindu and Muslim men successfully completed the A/C & Refrigeration course. These young men were awarded with certificates for the above courses. Typing course

➤➤➤ Capacity Building Training for Young Men

A training programme on 'Conflict Transformation & Peace Building Skills' was organized for Fifty Five Hindu and Muslim young men in March 2011. The sessions were on understanding 'conflict', various types of conflicts, various approaches/ styles to deal with conflict, tools of conflict analysis, peace building and skills of peace building. We also created space for them to share their experiences of 'conflicts' in their respective areas through enacting / performing drama. Participatory methodology was used in discussing the concepts of Conflict and Peace. The young men participated very enthusiastically.

Partnering for Peace Project

HMI initiated this project to promote the concepts of peace building, interfaith relations and conflict transformation among the NGOs that are based in riot prone areas of Andhra Pradesh. Under this project HMI is continuing to support three organizations- MSS, SPANDANA and PADMAPANI. While MSS and SPANDANA are based and working in the old city of Hyderabad, PADMAPANI is in Kama Reddy town, a communally sensitive area, in Nizamabad district of Andhra Pradesh.

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. HIV/AIDS and TB awareness programmes were organized in the communities. 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 Sankranti and Raksha Bandhan were celebrated by involving Hindu and Muslim women, men and children.

SPANDANA continues to work with women and youth in the communally sensitive areas of Saidabad mandal of the old city of Hyderabad. They organized monthly community level meetings with women at its target areas. Some of the topics discussed during these meetings were skill development, self help groups, sustainable livelihood programmes, etc. As part of skill development, SPANDANA continues to offer 'Dress making training courses' for Hindu and Muslim women in its project area at Musarambagh. Essay writing competitions on 'Festivals for Peace' were conducted for Hindu and Muslim students at four schools in the Old City of Hyderabad. The children participated very enthusiastically



and shared their views on various festivals and how these festivals can help in building interfaith relations and peace in the communities. Apart from this, street plays on 'Peace' and 'Health' related issues were organized in the Old City of Hyderabad. Through this programme, Hindu and Muslim men and women were sensitized on importance of maintaining peace and good health.

PADMAPANI continues to work in Kama Reddy town of Nizamabad District. They organized a mass 'Kite Celebration' on the occasion of 'Sankranti Festival' on 14th January 2011 at college Grounds at Kamareddy town. The purpose of the programme was to involve both Hindu and Muslim community members together to celebrate the festival and thereby help them to build friendship across the faith barriers. The programme was highly successful in attracting 400 Hindu and Muslim participants, out of which a majority of them were youth.

Essay writing competition for 324 students from three degree



colleges was organized. The topic of the competition was 'Role of students in building Peace and National integration'. The competition triggered the thoughts of the students on their role in promoting peace and integration in the society. 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 67 photos of different personalities and communities promoting communal harmony in India were displayed. A Tailoring centre is being run at Batukammakunta at Kamareddy. Hindu and Muslim women are undertaking tailoring, embroidery and paper bag training courses.

HIV/AIDS Project

HIV/AIDS project is continuing with its objective of creating awareness and spreading the message on HIV/AIDS at Sultanshahi, Shanker Nagar and Chandryangutta neighborhoods in old city of Hyderabad. The project is also working for identifying and referring STI/HIV suspect cases to the Government hospitals for the tests and consequent treatment.

- ◆ 18 awareness sessions were conducted altogether at Sultan Shahi, Shankernagar and Chandrayangutta project centres in the old city of Hyderabad. Through these sessions Adolescent girls and women from the communities got an opportunity to know

about HIV/AIDS and increase the awareness in the community.

- ◆ The monthly awareness program provided space / opportunity for Hindus and Muslims to interact, during the HIV and AIDS awareness sessions. The Hindu and Muslim women came together and attended the programs through which they increased their knowledge on HIV/AIDS as well as it helped them in spending time together, knowing each other deeply and strengthening their friendship.
- ◆ Peer educators continue visiting households and educate women in the community. During their visits HIV/AIDS cases were identified. Many cases of STI were identified and referred for treatment to the nearest ICTCs.
- ◆ Monthly review meetings were organized for peer educators. This helped them in gaining confidence and improving their skills in reporting their activities, writing case studies, etc.

External Evaluation

The evaluation of the Community Development Program was conducted in December 2010 by an external evaluator Dr. Mohan Raj, a consultant based in Bangalore. The report presents an evaluation for a period of three years from 2007 to 2010. The



report also gives helpful recommendations to frame the future directions for the community development work.

Swedish Partner's Visit

Dr. Kerstin Pihl and Mr. Johan Hasselgren from the Church of Sweden visited HMI on 8th and 9th March 2011. This meeting helped the CD team to strengthen its relationship with the Church of Sweden.

New Staff

The CD team got strengthened by hiring **Ms. Jalaja Devi** as a Project Officer. She has been working with HMI's Conflict Transformation team from the past five years. With a Masters Degree in Social Work and valuable experience in HIV/AIDS and conflict related issues, she is an asset for the team.



Conflict Transformation

An attempt was made to search for more relevant programmes by the CT team. We want to address contemporary burning issues and do not want to sit in ivory towers speculating on peacebuilding, conflict transformation, human rights, etc. We want to become more relevant by concentrating on poverty, food security, inequality, gender issue, dalits, indigenous people, and look for transformation through non-violent means. In this endeavour one of the novel programmes that we found to be meaningful is a pilot project on Slow and Fair Food for Peace; and we are glad that this initiative paid off in rich dividends through the different action plans designed and implemented by the workshop participants. The beneficiaries are almost 1,500 in different parts of India and outside India as well.

Slow and Fair Food for Peace Workshop -Hyderabad, 16th - 24th Jan 2011

This nine day workshop was designed to explore areas where food and peace building overlap. Industrial scale agriculture is fast replacing traditional methods of food production with monocropping, industrial farms and the use of genetically modified seeds and industrial fertilizers

and pesticides. The workshop brought together students, activists, NGO professionals, social workers, academics and artists to talk about issues and work on ways to revitalize food cultures that are traditional, healthy, sustainable, economically fair and environmentally friendly.

Held at HMI the workshop included 24 participants (7 women and 17 men). The workshop also sparked a number of new initiatives including follow-up workshops, research, and artwork. This area is new for the CT Team but one that is vital and that the Team is learning more about and is interested in becoming more involved in.

The impact of this workshop was the emergence of five action plans designed by the participants.

- Research on Food Security and Grassroots Advocacy in East Godavari, A.P.
- Falgun Kaleva Food Festival, Rajasthan
- Awareness program on food crisis in 6 different villages of Nalgonda, A.P
- Producing Comics by three artists from the North East India
- Trend Setters Workshop on Food Crisis in Sri Lanka

This report will highlight the five actions plans that were implemented in this project period. To access the video documentary on this workshop please go to http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_244113555612

➤➤➤ Research on Food Security and Grassroots Advocacy in East Godavari, A.P.

~10-20 February 2011

As a follow-up of Slow and Fair Food for Peace Workshop two intern students of Communication, Peace and Development studies from the Linnaeus University, Sweden. Åsa Ljusenius and Julle Bergenholtz along with Mr.Hemendar –CT Facilitator visited SUJANA organization in East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh from 10th to 20th February 2011. In this study, students were able to receive professional assistance in the field from Mr.Rajendra (SUJANA) and in conceptual framework development from Mr.Satya Srinivas (SAMATA).

To have in-depth understanding about the issues and conflicts escalated by development projects, they have conducted a small research study on "Food Security and Grassroots Advocacy" in the areas, where the people were displaced and lost their livelihood due to different development projects imposed by government. During these ten days tenure students visited the displaced communities at Yeleru Reservoir, Vanthada mining and Special Economic Zones of Kakinada coastal region. They interacted with different social activists, volunteers, Sujana staff, journalists and community leaders. Through these interactions they were able to understand the efforts made and techniques used by people in



advocacy work. It also helped the intern students to prepare a detailed report to explain the connection between Food Security and land grabbing, Special Economic Zones, and environmental destruction.

➤➤➤ **Falgun Kaleva Food Festival, Rajasthan**

~Udaipur, Rajasthan, 26th & 27th March 2011

During the 'Slow and Fair Food for Peace Workshop 2011, we had a participant from Udaipur who along with few others have been experimenting with food, using different varieties of food grains and cereals and thereby creating awareness about usage of multi-grains rather than using just commonly available rice and wheat. Post workshop, this participant from Rajasthan organized a food festival where they served healthy and tasty local organic food, using different kinds of grains. This event brought together 200 people who appreciated their efforts and also realized the importance of healthy organic food. To know more about this event and its impact, follow the link <http://www.udaipurtimes.com/falgun-kaleva-food-festival-udaipur/>

➤➤➤ **Food Security and Organic Farming: An Awareness Programme in 8 different villages of Nalgonda, A.P**

As a follow-up of Slow & Fair Food for Peace workshop, social work student participants from Mahatma Gandhi University, Nalgonda planned to organize

awareness programs on "Food Security & Importance of Organic Farming" in eight villages of Nalgonda District from 3rd March to 8th March 2011. To document and participate in these programs Mr. Suresh and Mr. Hemendar from the CT team visited M.G.University, Nalgonda for 3 days.

Following are some of the responsibilities the students were involved in creating awareness and promote and slow and fair food for peace initiatives.

- ◆ Students together formed a committees to facilitate the awareness programs, wall writings and street play. (Committees like documentation, food arrangement, financial management, community mobilization, etc.)
- ◆ One team of social work students conducted door to door visits in the villages to create awareness and inform the villagers about "Food Security & Importance of Organic Farming" program. Specific groups like women self help groups, youth groups, children, formal and informal leaders were approached to spread awareness on the food crisis and its related issues.
- ◆ Another team of social work students facilitated writing peace and justice slogans on the walls.
- ◆ Students organized the rally by holding the placards with Slow and Fair Food for peace slogans.

- ◆ Street plays were performed on negative impact of green revolution, using more pesticides in agriculture, negative effects on health, social and economic conditions, superstitions, etc. They also performed folk songs related to different social issues.

Most of the villagers initially thought this was a program related to the Telangana (political) movement, but later on with the explanation given by the social work students they have realized the importance of Food Security and Organic farming. The villagers have appreciated the efforts taken by the students and have requested for more awareness programs to be implemented so that the youth from the village can be part of such movements for social change.

➤➤➤ **Producing Comics by three artists from the North East India**

Artists Giri, Arun from Manipur and Bethoka from Nagaland have produced comics that depict the food crisis situation in the North East India. These comics will be used in workshops, and will also be used for publication under slow and fair food for peace. COMICS¹ from Giri Sharma and Arun Mayanglambam

➤➤➤ **Trend Setters Workshop on 'Food Crisis' in Sri Lanka** ~Colombo, Sri Lanka, 12th-13th March 2011

The first workshop of the series was done on the 12 and 13 March 2011. 32 student leaders from the University of Kelaniya, Colombo, Sri Lanka participated. More than half of the participants were female students. The issues of "lack of awareness on slow food and food security in Sri Lanka and what is to be done" were discussed. It was a new area of knowledge for many of them and for some it was the first time they had heard of the term 'slow food'! The group decided to function as a loose collective and decided to meet again. It was decided to prepare a set of reading materials and a collection of films also.

➤➤➤ Designing and Production of T-Shirts ~Hyderabad, 30 March 2011

Varghese Chakkummootil and Dan Shetler worked on the design and wordings for the T-Shirt. This T-Shirt will be used to promote Food Sovereignty and to create awareness on the Food Crisis. HMI will dispatch T-Shirts to our partnering organizations in the regions and thus spread the message of Food Security, Food Safety and Food Sovereignty. The T-Shirts have been dispatched to Nagaland, Manipur, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, USA,

➤➤➤ Film Making Workshop ~Udaipur, Rajasthan, 28 January - 7 February 2011

Video can be a powerful tool in peace building and the CT Team has invested in the tools for making peace videos but until

now has lacked the technical expertise. The Team also has hundreds of hours of video footage from past workshops. To put these resources to the best use Suresh and Poonam attended a film making workshop to learn the technical and artistic skills required. During the workshop they produced two documentaries about their life experiences and one short movie on peaceful coexistence. With these new skills the Team has now started working on peace videos.

Slow and Fair Food for Peace Video Documentary

Acquiring the knowledge and skill from the film making workshop, Suresh and Poonam later produced the video documentary on Slow and Fair Food for Peace. To access the video please go to the link. <http://www.facebook.com/video/?v=101528767829&id=24113562&comments>

➤➤➤ Strategic Meeting – SMART ANALYTICAL TOOL ~Goa, 10th-15th February 2011

The CT Team spent four days conducting a strategic analysis of their work using the SMART analytical tool. This framework is an effective tool for result based planning and reporting. During the analysis the team took into consideration the recommendations from the funding partner, and also the recommendations from the recent evaluation. This analysis and planning session has led to the finalization of the CT Team's 2011-2012 strategic plan in line with the 5 year plan.

➤➤➤ Workshop on Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation ~Chandel, Manipur, 23rd-25th May 2011

The workshop was organized in collaboration with Chandel Naga People's Organization and Lifeway, Chandel. Altogether 30 (seven women and 23 men) participants attended, representing various civil society organizations of the district. The workshop was facilitated by Varghese and Robinson from HMI. The main focus of the workshop was to help participants understand the basics of Conflict Transformation, Conflict Analysis, Non-Violent Communication (NVC), Team Building and Dialogue. It was also aimed at bringing civil society leaders together in order to facilitate discussions and address issues in the community. At the end of the workshop, the participants expressed the need to have similar workshop involving other leaders of the district.

➤➤➤ "Our Story - Winning Peace Together" – A Music Album ~Nagaland and Manipur, February-April 2011

Guru Rewben Mashangva, a folk singer from Manipur will produce a new music album titled "Our Story - Winning Peace Together." The songs will be a fusion of traditional tribal and contemporary pop/blues styles with messages of peace and harmony. This project is jointly funded by ICCO & Kerkinactie and Dr. Reddy's Foundation, India. The first stage of recording is complete and the



album is in the process of mastering and production. A total 5000 CD's will be produced. HMI will receive 1000 CD's to distribute it to its partners. Several copies of the CD will be sent to National and International Music networks for a greater publicity.

➤➤➤ Peace Education in Schools in Nagaland.

~Dimapur & Kohima, Nagaland, 21 February - 06 March 2011

Varghese Chakkummoovil and Th. Robinson conducted a small research project on peace education in schools of Nagaland. They visited 10 schools, met with more than 45 teachers and around 200 students. One of the important findings was that very little about peace education is taught in these schools. One of the Principals even stated that, "this is the first time an organization has come to the school talking about the importance of peace education and the need for peace education in school programmes." Using the findings from this trip, HMI will be writing a project proposal to its donors to implement peace education programmes in Schools in Nagaland. Two individuals, one from Nagaland and one from Manipur have been selected to study and research on peace education so that they can implement relevant peace building initiatives in their regions.

➤➤➤ Research on Peace Potential in Cultural Resources: *Avvaiyar's Aathichuvadi* or *Aathichoodi* Ramesh Prakashvelu

~Tamil Nadu, 26th March– 03rd April 2011

Based on the working assumption that attitudes, behaviours, actions and contradictions as contributing factors for conflicts, the research aims to re-discover cultural resources that can positively contribute towards designing appropriate peace education content and pedagogy which will help in bringing about positive change.

With this intention a Tamil cultural resource was chosen that is highly relevant and appropriate for peace education content and pedagogy. *Aathichuvadi* is an immensely rich resource, which appears to have been an attempt to squeeze into a mustard seed the wisdom of seven seas. This resource produced in the 12th century by a Tamil woman saint called *Avvaiyar* has been used as a primer for learning Tamil alphabets, along with learning the virtues of right thought, right speech and right action. The focus of research paper is to highlight the lessons *Aathichuvadi* offers in terms of providing richness in terms of content, simplicity in terms of structure and innovation in terms of designing content for peace education.

➤➤➤ Communalism Explained - A Comic Workshop

~Hyderabad, 22nd - 24th March 2011

World Comics India in Collaboration with HMI organized a book launch titled *Communalism Explained - A*

Graphic Account a book that illustrates the phenomenon of communalism in India co-authored by Ram Punyani and Sharad Sharma. The book is being published by Vani Prakahsan in both in English and Hindi. Following the book launch, a three day workshop from 22-24 March 2011 on "communalism" was organized which was attended by 27 participants and was facilitated by Sharad and Sunder.

➤➤➤ Workshop on Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation ~Chandel, Manipur, 23rd-25th May 2011

The workshop was organized in collaboration with Chandel Naga People's Organization and Lifeway, Chandel. Altogether 30 (seven women and 23 men) participants attended, representing various civil society organizations of the district. The workshop was facilitated by Varghese and Robinson from HMI. The main focus of the workshop was to help participants understand the basics of Conflict Transformation, Conflict Analysis, Non-Violent Communication (NVC), Team Building and Dialogue. It was also aimed at bringing civil society leaders together in order to facilitate discussions and address issues in the community. At the end of the workshop, the participants expressed the need to have similar workshop involving other leaders of the district.

➤➤➤ Workshop on Peace Building and Conflict Transformation

~Zungpha, Nagaland, 1st -2nd June 2011

A two day Advance Level workshop on "Peace Building and Conflict Transformation" was organized in collaboration with the Council for Rengma Baptist Churches, Nagaland. Participants included 25 (2 women and 23 men) Rengma Baptist church leaders and Rengma Students Unions. The workshop was facilitated by Varghese and Robinson from HMI.

This workshop was a follow-up of a basic level workshop held in July 2010. The main focus of the workshop was to help participants deepen their understanding of conflict transformation, conflict analysis, levels of CT, responses to conflict, Non-Violent Communication (NVC), team building, dialogue and role of church in peace building. The themes/topics covered during the workshop were- Introduction to Dialogue and Negotiation, Non-violent Communication, Cycle of revenge and Conflict Transformation, Episode and epicenter of conflict Workshop on Peace Building and Interfaith Dialogue

➤➤➤ Workshop on Peace Building and Interfaith Dialogue

~Ahmedabad, Gujarat, 11th-12th June 2011

A two day workshop was organized in collaboration with

SMET, Ahmedabad, bringing together 40 (seven women and 33 men) participants from different organizations, social movements, students and volunteers. The workshop was facilitated by Poonam and Robinson from HMI and Safiq and Alpesh from SMETH and KSSS respectively. The main focus of the workshop was to help participants understand the basic concepts of peace building, conflict transformation and interfaith dialogue. It also included skills that would help the participants to work in group settings. At the end of the workshop, the participants expressed the need to have a longer workshop on interfaith dialogue which is vital for the area which still suffers from communal tension. Structural violence, Ladder of Tolerance, Strategic Peace building.

Post Graduate Diploma in Conflict Transformation

Four Students graduated from the PGDCT programme in the month of April 2011. The students gained a greater understanding of conflict transformation and peace building work from the class room inputs and from their internship experience. Kennedy from Manipur did his internship with the Center for Experiencing Socio-Cultural Interaction. This internship has helped Kennedy to meet with Gandhians and engage in discussions related to peace and justice work. Through CESI,

Kennedy met with P.V. Rajagopal, the founder of Ekta Parishad, and went to different villages in talking to people and to know their struggles. This experience has left a big impact on Kennedy's life and in his peace work. Dennis Sinadno from Tanzania went to Karbianglong in Assam and did his internship with our partner organization, Manja Mission Home. Fr. Tom supervised his internship and Dennis visited several villages along with the staff in understanding the different peace initiatives and the struggle for justice.

The name of the course has been changed to Post Graduate Diploma in Peace Studies (PGDPS). This name will be used from 2011-2012 onwards. This change was done keeping the five year plan in mind and in making sure that this programme will move towards becoming Masters in Peace Studies programme. During the period under report the CT team prepared course packs for the PGDCT students for the year 2011-2012. The course pack contains reading materials on *Introduction to Conflict and Peace Building*, *Working with Conflicts*, *Strategies for Non-Violent Social Change*, *Training Design for Experiential Learning*, *Organizational Behavior*, *Leadership and Change*, *Conflict Transformation Skills*, *Case studies on Regional conflicts* from various scholarly, practitioner and activist resources.



Internships

➤➤➤ Robert Danzi, Program Associate, HMI. School for International Training, USA

Robert joined the CT team for a one year internship. Robert is a graduate candidate at the School for International Training in Brattleboro, VT, pursuing his MA in Intercultural Conflict Transformation. Robert earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the City University of New York at Hunter College. Robert has studied and worked internationally with fieldwork and cross-cultural exposure in twenty countries. Robert is committed to the principles of conflict transformation, with a special interest in peace education and the ability of children to bring social change. Robert is also interested in the cultural diversity of peace. Robert has been working closely with the CT team to coordinate the Post Graduate Diploma in Peace Studies (PGDPS) 2011-2012 program, as well as working with Hemender to coordinate the 2011 South Asia Peace Workshop. During Robert's time with HMI he will also be completing his graduate research on initiatives in education to bring about a culture of peace within the region.

➤➤➤ CH.Shravan, ManneVasanth & Daramalla Pulliah

~June-July 2011

Three Masters of Social Work students from Mahatma Gandhi

University, Nalgonda, Andhra Pradesh, joined the CT Team for their one month internship. They will be working on gaining conceptual clarity into peace building, conflict transformation, advocacy and community development. They will also be provided exposure visits to the Centre for World Solidarity, Hyderabad and HMI's community development projects to enhance their understanding about tribal issues in Andhra Pradesh and the strategies being used by people of different faiths for interfaith dialogue.

➤➤➤ Emily Clawson June-July 2011

Emily Clawson is interning with the CT Team for June and July 2011. She is pursuing her Masters in Divinity at Harvard Divinity School. During her time at HMI, she is helping to develop a Peace Building and Conflict Transformation course for seminary students in Nagaland, working with the Culture of Peace Program, and assisting in coordination of the Post Graduate Diploma in Peace Studies (PGDPS) 2011-2012 programme. She is especially interested in how interfaith education can be used to foster just societies and cultures of peace.

Creative Conflict Transformation Blog

~Online Now

The Conflict Transformation Team is happy to announce the launch of our new Creative Conflict Transformation Resource Blog, which is located at, <http://creativeconflicttransformation.wordpress.com/> This site will be used as a forum for resources and information from the Conflict Transformation Team and our friends and partners in the pursuit of conflict transformation and peace building. On this site you will also find a link to our flicker page if you wish to see some pictures of our recent work.

<http://reativeconflicttransformation.wordpress.com>

Management

In General the Administration Department functioned rather smoothly without any major hurdles. There was good support provided by Administration team to Praxis and Academic Departments for their regular programmes.

Addition to the capital items and to improvise the infrastructure in the campus, we had extended the existing aluminum partition in the library for book rack area in order to keep the area cool with the existing air conditioning in library. We had purchased a periodical table to place the library magazines' in order. HMI has provided two good laptops for both praxis and academics departments for their better functioning.

Preventive maintenance was done by painting the Director's Residence and Staff Guest House in April 2011 and the work is still going on in Programme block. To prevent mosquito's in the Campus a fogging machine was purchased and is in use on a weekly basis.

➤➤➤ Hostel

Workshops & long-term residents – The Aman Shanti Nilayam hostel has gained recognition and bookings are on the increase. Over 16 workshops by different NGOs were conducted at the ASN hostel, with an average of around 25 participants per workshop. The user groups include local ones like Andhra Pradesh Mahila Abhivruddi Sangam, South Asia

Peace Alliance, 24/7 Customer Pvt., Ltd., South Asian Fund Raising Group, Canadian Baptist Ministries, Chidu, Basix, Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty, NIRD, Action Aid, Prajwala Group and overseas groups like SWEDEN INDIA Project, EKHN, Germany (Pastoral Group) and group from Netherlands and so forth. An overall occupancy of about 1000 people helped to generate income for the maintenance. All of them appreciated the welcoming atmosphere of the hostel and thanks to all our customers

The in-house workshops included the "Conflict Transformation" Slow and Fair for Food held in January 2011 and the annual Summer Course on Interfaith Relations and Reconciliation held in May 2011 and few other ones and two day events for the Community Development and HIV/AIDS awareness projects. An overall occupancy of 500 residents over the last 6 months has helped to generate a fair income. One of the objectives of the Hostel is to generate income to meet maintenance expenses of the campus. This has been achieved to a large extent over the last six months.

More than anything else everyone enjoy the beautiful garden and the peaceful surrounding made available to them. Several groups also make use of the devotion hall. Apart from the different groups, Aman Shanti hostel also accommodate both local and

International students coming to study language, peace studies and conflict transformation. A fairly large amount was spent on maintenance and improving the facilities of the hostel. We are happy to say that ASN was able to accommodate a variety of groups catering to their needs. Kitchen Garden of the hostel continues to produce seasonal vegetables and fruits. We used a good quantity of vegetables, fruits like, bananas, guavas and mangoes. Our gardeners are doing a good job and are keeping the land well maintained, with trees, plants and flowers.

➤➤➤ Personnel

Several new staff members have joined the HMI community this year. In January 2011 Ms Sunita joined HMI Community as new hostel warden.

In May 2011 Rev. Dr. MM Abraham from Marthoma Church, Kerala joined as "Associate Director-Academics". and Sr. Jemma George as "Administrator."



We are sad to inform that our Office Manager,



Mr. Vinod Kumar, had to take voluntary retirement due to health problems and being 31st March 2011 was his last working day at HMI. He was a committed and responsible person. We continue to keep him in our prayers and ask the Good Lord to give him complete recovery. Apart from him there were other staff members who left during the year were Mr. Lemwang who went to Indonesia for higher studies, Mr. Jagan , Office Assistant, Mr. C. Laxman, cook , Mr. Francis, janitor, and Mrs. Salma, domestic helper.

➤➤➤ Staff Development

Mr Venkat, Assistant has attended 10th Class Supplementary Exams; Mr Motilal has attended computer hardware training to improve his skills.

➤➤➤ Community Events

HMI Staff Picnic

Every time HMI has tried to organize a staff picnic, it seemed like there were too many commitments to keep and no time to take a break. It was impossible

to find a common day when all the staff members could participate. Finally, we felt that unless it was listed as a 'must do' the picnic would never happen. So we chose, of all days, the 1st day of the new financial year – 1st April 2011

We set off in the morning by a hired bus, (not, of course as early as we thought we would!) to Shanti Resorts near Shamshabad Airport, a one hour drive from the office. . The first thing we did on getting there was to fix a sandwich breakfast, all of us sprawling around one of the cottages we hired for the day. Breakfast was followed by a good cricket match and volleyball match among the staff. The rest of the day was spent in group games, chatting, cracking jokes and just having fun. It was indeed an enjoyable day, with the staff getting to know one another better. We had all the makings of a good picnic: a good crowd, wonderful location and of course, good food - a marvelous lunch prepared by hired cooks under the expert supervision of Mr. C. O. Varghese and Ms Shoba.

Hopefully, the next picnic will not be too far away.

➤➤➤ Others Matters

Mr. Venkat one of the staff members was blessed with cute baby boy, and Mrs. Siddhama, and Mrs. Salma, domestic helpers had performed their daughters marriage.

One of our longstanding board member Dr. Daphne Rebello's mother expired in the month of January 2011 and we pray that her soul may rest in peace. Director participated in the funeral service.

HMI Annual Budget Presentation was done in the month of February 2011. All the departments had submitted their budgets for the year 2011-12. The Board which met in February 2011, approved the budget with a proposed deficit of Rs 13, 75,906/-.

M/s Sahoo & Company, Chartered Accountants, New Delhi visited us in January 2011 and helped in developing a Finance Manual for the organization incorporating the rules of FCRA Act, Companies Act and Income Tax Act, in order to

place systems in order and the same will be used as a key document for internal audit purposes.

➤➤➤ Board

HMI's Board Meeting, and Finance & Property Committee meeting took place on 23rd and 24th February 2011. The Board members who attended the meeting include Rt.Rev.Dr.Surya Prakash, Chairperson, Ms. Christine Lazares, Vice Chairperson, Dr.P.Judson, Treasurer, Dr.Varghese Manimala, Director and other board members- Mr. Sri Prakash Mayasandra, Mr. Richard Saldhana, Dr. Daphne Rebello, Mrs Prema Christine, and Rev.Dr. Packiam T. Samuel. The board has decided to meet on 18th July 2011.

➤➤➤ Visits of Partners

It was our privilege and happiness to welcome several visitors and partners. In June 2011 Mr. Hari Krishna and Ms. Bushra Khan came from FMSF-EED from Delhi, FMSF is forwarding EED grant to HMI and also check the financial record. They met the Director, Finance Officer and Conflict Transformation department for which EED, Germany, is offering funds. In March 2011 HMI partners Dr. Kerstin Pihl – Advisor for interfaith and theological education and Mr. Johan Hasselgren - Church Relations Officer - Church of Sweden visited HMI.

Journal of the Henry Martyn Institute

CALL FOR PAPERS

The *Journal of the Henry Martyn Institute* (JHMI) is currently seeking articles/book reviews. JHMI's aim is to promote interreligious understanding with a special focus on the study of Islam. JHMI also seeks to encourage reconciliation between people of different faiths within an overall framework of peace and justice. Although all articles related to Islam and other world religions are welcome, the Editorial Committee of JHMI is particularly interested in the following topics:

- Global ethics within the context of religion.
- Intra-religious dialogue.
- Rights of women.
- Family law in the countries of the Middle East.
- Legal issues relating to the Arab world and South Asia.
- Christian-Muslim Interaction in Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe.

JHMI welcomes submissions of articles and book reviews by students, scholars, and practitioners from various fields. To submit an article or a book review, either e-mail the manuscript as an attachment to hmipublications@gmail.com or mail a copy of the manuscript on a compact disk or USB drive and as a hardcopy to the following address:

The Chief Editor,
Journal of the Henry Martyn Institute
6-3-128/1 National Police Academy Road,
Shivarampally,
Hyderabad, A.P. 500 052
India

Manuscripts should be double-spaced, with wide margins, and include the author's name, address, telephone number, and professional background. Manuscripts should contain diacritical marks particularly 'ayn and hamza (Arabic). Citations should be in the following style: [W.B. Hallaq, *A History of Islamic Legal Theories* (Cambridge: Cambridge University, 1997), page numbers]. Please submit manuscripts at the earliest.



Summer Course

6 – 20 May 2012

The Summer Course in Islam and Interfaith Relations — a long-standing annual programme of HMI — is an intensive two week residential course. The course 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. A deeper analysis of Pluralism, Interfaith and Dialogue is envisaged. The Summer Course is a wonderful opportunity to get to know about various study programmes, activities and projects at HMI.

Who May Attend:

The course is open to approximately 30 participants.

- People of all faiths · Religious and secular college students · Religious and community leaders

Course Work:

The participants will follow an intensive two-week programme consisting of:

- Lectures, presentations · Group discussions, role plays and practical dialogue sessions
- Library work, videos, and visits to local religious places · Medium of instruction is English
- Upon successful completion of the course each participant will receive an HMI certificate

Highlights

- Spacious and eco-friendly campus · Interfaith Devotion · Teaching by an experienced faculty
- Sharing of experiences by the participants · Exposure visits and cultural evenings

Venue

The Friary, Kotagiri – 643217, Nilgiris Dt, Tamil Nadu, India

Phone: 04266-271781

Email: divaly1@yahoo.com

Kotagiri, a beautiful Hill Station located in the Nilgiris District, is about 30 kms from Ooty. It is believed to have the world's second best climate.

For more information contact:

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