

# INTERACTION

A NEWSLETTER OF THE HENRY MARTYN INSTITUTE:  
International Centre for Research, Interfaith Relations and Reconciliation



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## Index

Page 3..... Editorial

Pages 4-7.....Academic Programmes



Pages 8 - 12.....Community Development



Pages 13 - 18.....Conflict Transformation



Pages 19 - 20..... Management



**HMI Newsletter**  
**Volume 32, no. 2**  
**July - December 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

History is shaped by events that take place in time and these events willy nilly affect our lives for the better or worse. Also history is a great teacher, and we learn from the past because as it is said: “we stand on the giant shoulders of our ancestors.” What is required from us is the authentic openness to the events and people and thus learn from all the happenings around us.

We at HMI are always in this process of learning through all that we do as well as the different happenings in our own fields of activity. We have been blessed in various ways through the interaction with different people who visited and stayed with us contributing their measure to the well-being of HMI. When you glance through these pages of Interaction you will get a fair idea of what we were trying to achieve in the past months. Events big and small, persons of various statures have contributed their measure to our growth. We are grateful to all our partners who have lent their

support unflinchingly and thus maintained the activities of HMI without any interruption.

We are getting ready for a great event – an International, Interreligious Conference on Mysticism. This dream of ours is getting concrete shape and a good many world famous scholars are coming to contribute their share through their papers and presence. This being an interreligious conference, we are sure, its aftermath will create ripples and spread the message of peace and harmony. We want that such creative events should take place all over the world so that true religious spirit - a spirit of harmony, availability and authenticity - can resonate and bring about peaceful pro-existence of people belonging to various religious affiliations and ideologies.

We wish each one of you a wonderful and creative New Year. May all your dreams come true in the year ahead.

Dr. Varghese Manimala, Director

## 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

### For more information contact:

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**christyfemila@gmail.com**

# Academic Programmes

## Short-term Programmes

### **Pastoral Seminar (21 July 2011)**

As part of the HMI academic project, an Interfaith Awareness Seminar for Pastors from the Diocese of Medak, Church of South India was organized on 21 July 2011. Altogether there were 27 pastors attending the seminar. Along with HMI's staff facilitators, resource persons were also invited to direct the seminar. The seminar deliberated on the long term damage and destruction that can be caused by religious ideological propaganda and misuse of a belief system to achieve one's political agenda, especially in a multi- religious social context. It also discussed on the efforts made by WCC and the Catholic Church in recent decades on the issue of religious harmony and dialogue. On the whole the seminar aimed to create awareness among the church leaders helping them to respond and engage in the current matter of religious conflict and discourse.

### **Religion and Culture Faculty Meeting from Seminaries (20 Aug 2011)**

Under HMI's initiatives The Religion and Cultural faculty meet was organized on 20<sup>th</sup> Aug 2011 at HMI, where 18 faculty and research scholars from different theological seminaries, institution and organization came together. The Association of Faculty for Religion, Philosophy and Culture - AFRPC for full time faculty member teaching religion, philosophy and culture was officially launched during the meeting. The objective and purpose towards forming this association was- To have a common platform and fellowship for teachers in Religion, Philosophy and Culture, facilitating inter-faith and inter-ideological relations, offering pedagogical training and

refresher courses, addressing contemporary issues and problems in society and to promote research in Religion, Philosophy and Culture, publication of works and collaboration/partnering with like-minded bodies/groups. . The meeting was a historic initiative that will further help the promotion of study and research in religion, interfaith relations and dialogue.

The second phase of the meeting was held on 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 2011 at Andhra Theological College, Hyderabad where 11 members attended the meeting. The first copy of the AFRPC journal *Areopagus* was released. Important points of agenda with regards to the association were discussed. HMI with its missional objective provides such a platform for seminaries, institutions and organization to collaborate and work together in research studies, interfaith relations and reconciliation

### **Seminar on Islamic studies and interfaith relations (29 Aug- 1 Sept 201)**

HMI in partnership with the Clark Centre for Peace Study (CCPSR) conducted an intensive 4 days seminar on Islamic studies and interfaith relations from 29<sup>th</sup> August- 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011 at Clark Theological College, Nagaland. Three resource persons from HMI: Dr. M.M. Abraham, Mr. Abdul Kareem and Mrs. Christy Femila facilitated the seminar. There were 92 student participants from 5 different Theological colleges / seminaries from North-East India: Clark Theological College, Baptist Theological College, Eastern Theological College, Assam; Manipur Theological College and Trinity Theological College. The seminar was aimed to inculcate a wider perspective on Islam and the importance of interfaith relations especially in a pluralistic social context like India. The seminar also helped the students to have a broader perception on the shift and progress that is taking place in religious discourse today.



HMI faculty with CLARK students

### **Swed-India Project (19-24 Sept 2011)**

A group of 16 students from two Swedish Universities visited HMI as part of their Sweden-India Project. This programme is focused towards understanding the strategies and methodologies in the social work arena in India with Indian culture and religion as the framework of study. The programme at HMI included lectures on Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism and Buddhism. The students also got the opportunity to visit HMI's community development centers and interact with people working in different capacities in the field of community development and various women and children development projects. It helped the students to understand the different methodologies employed in social development projects which will help for their comparative field study in social work. The students also visited various religious and historical places in Hyderabad.

### **Interns (1 Oct- 5 Nov 2011)**

As part of the internship under the Training In Mission (TIM) programme which is hosted by Tamilnadu Theological Seminary (TTS) and

supported by Council for World Mission (CWM), Julia Choo from Malaysia, Beta from Solomon Islands and Petagaye from Jamaica spent one month at HMI. This CWM's initiative is a ten-month training programme on "Christian mission in different context" during which the students are exposed to different institutions having wide perspective on the concept of mission. HMI provides opportunity for such students to learn about interfaith relations and reconciliation and make room for practical exposure to understand HMI's work and philosophy.

### **Interfaith Gender Studies Course Working Committee Meeting (22 Oct 2011)**

Taking note of the need and urgency to offer a course in gender studies with an interfaith perspective, HMI together with the Interfaith Coalition for Peace (ICP), Delhi, organized a working committee to plan on the syllabus, teaching faculty, facilities, course details and study material on the course. Apart from the members of HMI academic department, the committee is comprised of Dr. Deepali Bhanot, Professor of Sanskrit, Delhi University, Dr. Reeta Bagchi, Assistant Professor, Hamdard University, Dr. Aisha Mahmood Farooqui,



HOD & Associate Professor, Osmania University, Dr. Asma Rasheed, Assistant Professor, English and Foreign Languages University, Ms. Mumtaz Fatima, Lecturer, Maulana Azad National Urdu University. The meeting brought out a detailed structure of the curriculum that will be implemented in the new interfaith gender studies program.

## Staff Development

**Ms. Christy Femila** attended a 3 days seminar cum conference from 13-15 October 2011 at Interfidei, Indonesia. Interfidei is an organization that works to encourage healthy socialization within the context of pluralism given the multi-religious and multi-ethnic setting of the country. To celebrate the 20 years of its existence Interfidei organized a seminar on *Religious Teachers and their Issues* and a conference on the theme- *Religions for Justice and Peace in the Republic of Indonesia*. There was also a visit to Percik: The Institute for social Research, Democracy and Social Justice in Salatiga, Central Java. The visit brought about various ways through which Inetrfidei with other partners of HMI can collaborate together for interns' exchange and research studies in the near future.

**Ms. Christy Femila** from HMI presented a paper on *Inter- Religious Conflicts* at the National Consultation on Conflict Resolution held on 12-14 Dec 2011 at the Institute of Dialogue with Cultures and Religions (IDCR) and the Department of Social

Work, Loyola College, Chennai. The consultation deliberated on various case study presentations, its analysis and discussion on evolving model from a Philosophical, Law and Order, Social Science, Political, Religious and Media perspective.

### **Intensive course** (28 Nov- 3 Dec 2011)

An interactive course in Islam was conducted at St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor, Kottayam, from 28<sup>th</sup> November to 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2011. **Dr. M.M. Abraham** from HMI was a facilitator in this programme which was organized by Fr. Dr. Vincent Alappat, President, Paurasthya Vidya Peetam, Vadavathoor. The course was offered to first year theological students at the Seminary. 38 students participated in the course. The course also included visit to the city mosque and interaction with the Maulavi . The course not only enabled the students in understanding Islam in a wider perspective but it also helped to strengthen the collaboration of the Apostolic Seminary with Henry Martyn Institute.

### **Visiting Lectures**

#### **Teape Lecture** (27 Oct 2011)

The Teape Foundation in Cambridge University has sponsored lectures on Hindu-Christian dialogue, for the last 50 years. This autumn, Canon Dr. Andrew Wingate (former Director of St Philips Centre, Leicester, England), was the speaker for the



Rev Andrew  
Wingate with  
HMI Students

programme at HMI. The theme of the Teape lecture was on “*Encounter between Hindus and Christians in Britain, with special reference to Bhakti movements, and conversion issues*”. The lecture also discussed the theme- as experienced in Britain, within the Indian *diaspora*: ISKCON/ Hare Krishna movement- a Hindu missionary movement. South Indian Bhakti, and Reflections on South Indian Hindu conversions to Christianity in Britain.

## Publications

**Newsletter:** The issue vol. 32, Jan – Jun 2011 printed in July 2011.

**HMI Journal:** The semi-annual publication - Journal of Henry Martyn Institute, a combined issue of vol. 29, no. 1 (2010) came July 2011. The first issue of vol. 29, no. 2 Jul – Dec 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 relised in the board meating in July 2011.

## Library

HMI has a computerized and well-stocked library and acquisition of reading material is based on the needs of readers’ requirements which include faculty, students, workshop participants and the staff, and this procurement consists of Research material, Books, Journals and Non-Book material (DVDs and CDs).

During this academic year the library added 209 titles, which cover the important subjects like religion, philosophy, conflict transformation, gender studies, psychology and sociology. HMI’s library receives periodicals: 82 journals in exchange with HMI’s journal, 24 journals by subscription and 24 journals and newsletters gratis.

the software of the library is regularly pruned every year. The present collection of the library is 23800 books.

## Journal of Henry Martyn Institute

### Subscription Details

The Journal is a semi-annual publication of the **Henry Martyn Institute: International Centre for Research, Interfaith Relations and Reconciliation**. It’s aim is to promote inter-religious understanding with a special focus on the study of Islam. It also seeks to encourage reconciliation between people of different faiths within an overall framework of peace and justice.

Opinions expressed in the **Journal of the Henry Martyn Institute (JHMI)** are those of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by either the Editors or the Henry Martyn Institute.

### Subscriptions Rates:

#### Indian Subcontinent

	Individual	Institutional
1 Year	Rs. 175	Rs. 200
2 Years	Rs. 300	Rs. 350
3 Years	Rs. 500	Rs. 550

#### Outside the Indian Subcontinent

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# Community Development

The present report highlights the Community Development program which includes Aman Shanti Community Centres, Young Mens Initiative, HIV/AIDS Project and Partnering for Peace Project. Through these programmes we observe that dialogue and interfaith relations building processes are strengthened among the Hindu and Muslim communities.

## Aman Shanti Community Centres

### Education

- ◆ Interfaith Primary-level school offers education to 97 students from both Hindu and Muslim communities which comprises of 53 boys and 64 girls.
- ◆ 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. Young women gain confidence once they start to read and write. They are able to also encourage other members in their family to gain education.
- ◆ Coaching classes in Chandrayangutta centre have been offered as a bridge class for thirty girls and boys to complete their regular education.

### Vocational Training

- ◆ One hundred and twenty two young women attended the Tailoring, Hand Embroidery, Literacy and Typing course during this period from the three projects.
- ◆ Thirty eight students completed the tailoring and Mehndi course from three centres.
- ◆ Mehndi / henna designing, Fabric painting, and Karchop, a local handicraft, classes were started in all the three centres on self-sustaining basis.



Play for Peace

More than thirty young women are attending the classes regularly from the three centres.

- ◆ Monthly Students meetings and peace building dialogue are organized to develop friendship with one another across Hindu and Muslim faiths. These meetings also give a platform for students to share new ideas and also to strengthen their capacities.

### Health

- ◆ More than 500 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 in all the three centres. Awareness was also generated about the different ArogyaShri (Health benefits offered by the government) schemes offered by the Government.



Tailoring students receiving certificates

- ◆ D.P.T and Tetanus injections/ vaccinations were given to the school students and also to the young women in the community.
- ◆ Community members visited Public Health Museum as a part of exposure to understand the different health and hygiene concepts.

### Economic Development

- ◆ Local women are undertaking tailoring job work from the different local marketing outlets and making an earning from it. Women continue to make Surf powder for domestic supplies in Shanker nagar centre.
- ◆ The students who have completed the tailoring course stitch their own clothes and and make a saving by this and they also take orders for stitching the clothes in their neighborhood and make an earning which would help to meet their basic needs.
- ◆ Thrift & credit programmes for community women are undertaken in all the three projects. In Shanker Nagar the group received a loan of Rs.50, 000/- from the bank and they have distributed the amount within the group members to meet their needs. The repayment is as per the government schemes.

### Interfaith Building Initiatives

The different programs celebrated in the three centres as a part of building interfaith relations and encouraging dialogue among the members is as follows:

- ◆ Iftaar party and Rakhi were jointly celebrated in Shanker Nagar and Chandrayangutta centre in the month of August 2011. Hindu and Muslim students jointly cook, and prpare the fruits for the occasion.
- ◆ Id –Ul – Zuha, Diwali and Dusshera were jointly celebrated in Shanker Nagar in December 2011.
- ◆ Teachers Day and Childrens Day were celebrated in Sultan Shahi in November 2011.
- ◆ These occasions serve a better platform for developing and strengthening a harmonious relationship among the different religious members in the community. Students also use this occasion to share their culture and tradition with different religious group members.

### Mentoring

#### PG Diploma in Peace Studies program (PGDPS)

Community Development team offered field placement for once a week in the projects for the practical learning of interfaith dialogue for the PGDPS students. Theory classes on Social Work, its Values, Principles and Community Development Skills and Techniques were organized for the students once a week from July to December 2011.

#### Social Work Students

Three month field placement on twice a week basis was given to three students from Roda Mistry College of Social Work, Hyderabad. During this

Iftar party with HMI Students





period the students will learn to practice different Social work Skills and techniques in the community.

### Visitors

Some of the groups/ individuals who visited the CD projects in this period are:

- ◆ BSW Social Work students from Roda Mistry College of Social Work, Hyderabad.
- ◆ Swed India Social work students
- ◆ NMZ partners
- ◆ South Asian Peace Workshop Participants
- ◆ Rev. Canon Andrew Wingate and Ms. Kathy Morrison from St. Philip Centre, United Kingdom.
- ◆ Teape College students.

### Staff

Ms. Saritha, tailoring teacher from Sultan Shahi centre got married on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011. Ms. Naziya, a former school teacher from Sultan Shahi centre got married on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2011. CD Team congratulates both of them on this special occasion.

## Young Mens Initiative Project

### Vocational/technical training

- ◆ 'Computer Hardware/Networking and 'Air-condition & Refrigeration courses are continued to be offered for the young men. Ten young

Hindu and Muslim men are undergoing computer hardware training and fifteen 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 August 2011. Sixty young men from both the Hindu and Muslim backgrounds participated in the programme.
- ◆ Peace meeting in view of '6<sup>th</sup> December (Babri Masjid demolition anniversary) was conducted in December 2011. Fifty young men from Hindu and Muslim backgrounds took part in the above meeting.

### Interfaith Festivals

- ◆ 'Iftaar party was celebrated in August 2011 with sixty 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 October 2011. The celebration was marked by the bursting of fire crackers.
- ◆ Independence Day was celebrated with forty Hindu and Muslim young men. The national flag was hoisted and sweets distributed among the community Hindu and Muslim youngsters.



Peace Meeting  
on 6th December

## Other Activities

- ◆ Reading room continues with newspapers, employment related magazines and sports magazines. Newspapers in English and local languages (Urdu and Telugu) were provided at the reading room. Twenty five young men availed this facility.
- ◆ We observed 'World AIDS Day on 1st December 2011. 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

- ◆ Fifteen HIV/AIDS awareness programmes were organized for 100 Hindu and Muslim women at Sultan Shahi, Shanker Nagar and Chandrayangutta project areas.
- ◆ On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011, 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.
- ◆ A three day training programme on HIV/AIDS and its related concepts was organized for twenty one peer educators from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2011.
- ◆ The peer educators continue to create awareness among the community women on HIV/AIDS by going door to door in the project areas.
- ◆ Regular monthly review meetings were organized for peer educators. This helped them in learning from each other's experiences and challenges.

## Partnering for Peace Project

### Mahila Sahyog Society:

MSS is working in six neighborhoods of Old City of Hyderabad namely Guddi Bowli, Shanti Nagar,



Peer educators training

Kurmaguda, Bharat Nagar, Chandra Nagar and Murtuza Nagar. It conducts literacy program in local Urdu and Telugu languages for Hindu and Muslim needy women and school drop outs. MSS meets the health needs of the community through health camps and monthly health checkups in coordination with the local Government hospitals. It also organizes HIV/AIDS and TB awareness programmes on a monthly basis. MSS continued to offer trainings in various arts and crafts like tailoring, candle making, ladi making, seashell items, etc, for Hindu and Muslim community women. Interfaith festival celebrations like Raksha Bandhan and Iftaar were conducted by involving Hindu and Muslim men, women and children.

### Spandana:

Spandana is working in five highly communally sensitive areas in the Old City of Hyderabad namely Moosaram Bagh, Asmangadh, Edibazar, Riyasathnagar, and Yakutpura. It organized monthly community level meetings with women at these areas and held discussions on topics related to savings, health and hygiene, Income generation, sustainable livelihood programmes and skill



development activities. Skill development training programmes like Basic Computer Training, MS Office, BPO Training, Life Skills and Spoken English were organized for 50 under privileged Hindu and Muslim young men. Spandana also organized different festival celebrations like Iftaar and Dusserah involving the Hindu and Muslim community people.

### **Padmapani:**

Padmapani is working in the vulnerable areas of a Kama Reddy town in Nizamabad District. As part of creating self-employment to women, a third batch of 'Paper bag training course was organized at Sriramnagar colony at Kama Reddy. The participants were 48 Hindu and Muslim women who work as vegetable and fruit vendors. This training not only helped them to get away from penalties for using plastic bags but also created awareness on environment protection. An Iftar party was organized in August 2011 at Vidya Nagar by involving youth, religious leaders and political leaders from various faith backgrounds. Padmapani organized a peace meeting in view of Ganesh festival by involving peace committee members, Ganesh pandal organizers, political leaders and local Police officials. All the participants were appealed to cooperate during the immersion programme and make the event a peaceful one. The Peace committee members were requested to take responsibility to prevent conflicts and media was also appealed to play an impartial and responsible role.

World AIDS Day-Slogan writing competition



## Case Study

Ms. Noorie, a young girl from one of the nearby villages came along with her aunt and stayed near our centre. As she was born and brought up in village she did not have any education due to lack of formal schools in the village. She did not maintain cleanliness as she was not aware about it and also did not have any skill to make an earning.

Since her aunt knew about our centre she motivated Noorie to join the sewing centre. After Noorie started to learn tailoring there was no looking back. She started to learn the different styles of dressing, maintain cleanliness, gained more awareness about the health issues through the different health awareness programmes organized at the centre and learnt to read and write.

Now if we look behind we see a transformed Noorie and will be amazed to see the changes in her. She also motivates her family and neighbors to be a part of transformation for development of the community. Her parents and her aunt are very happy to see the changes in her and are thankful to the centre staff members for grooming her and enabling her to develop the personality.

Ms. Noorie is one of the members whose information is shared with all, there have been many Noories who have transformed and yet there are many who need the services.

# Conflict Transformation

During the period July to December 2011 altogether 408 individuals (130 female and 278 male) participated in the various programmes and initiatives undertaken by the CT team in the regions. 11 peace building and conflict transformation workshops were organized in collaboration with Peace Core Team, Manipur and Civil society organizations in the region. Apart from it three Research projects were taken up. Details of the programmes and initiatives are highlighted below.

## **Advance level workshop on Peace building and Conflict transformation**

4-6<sup>th</sup> July 2011, Kakching, Manipur.

A three-day Advanced Level Workshop on Peace Building and Conflict Transformation was held at Kakching, organized by the Students' Library Association (SLA), Kakching. A total of 24 participants (19 female and 5 male) attended the workshop. Through this workshop, the participants were able to gain more clarity and enhance their knowledge on Conflict Analysis tools, communication skills, group decision making, the importance of team work, the role of the youth in the society and the issues around gender and peace building. Suresh Naorem from HMI, Kh. Kanta from the Bosco Mangal, Imphal and H. Jubita Devi from the Ereima Gender Empowerment and Resource Centre (EGERC), Imphal, facilitated the workshop.

## **Workshop on Peace building and Interfaith dialogue**

11-12 July 2011, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

A two day workshop on "Peace building and Interfaith Dialogue" was organized from 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> July 2011 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The workshop was organized in collaboration with SMET, Ahmedabad. Altogether 40 (M-33 & F-7) participants participated. The workshop was

facilitated by Poonam and Robinson from HMI and Safiq and Alpesh from SMET 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 few basic skills that would help the participants work in different group settings.

At the end of the workshop, the participants expressed the need to have workshop on Interfaith Dialogue with longer duration, deeper understanding on Peace and Justice. The participants also expressed that the workshop helped them to gain basic as well as better understanding about Peace building, Conflict Transformation and Interfaith Dialogue. Apart from it most of the participants expressed that their expectations from the workshop was fulfilled.

## **Workshop on "Understanding Diverse Political Perspectives: Evolving Strategies for Peaceful Coexistence in Manipur and with its Neighbours"**

19-20<sup>th</sup> July, 2011, ISCKON, Imphal, Manipur.

This program, organized by the Peace Core Team Manipur (PCTM) in collaboration with Peoples Dialogue Initiative (PDI) brought 80 participants representing political parties, civil societies, religious institutions, universities and colleges, women, youth, media, senior citizens and human rights defenders belonging to Kuki, Meitei and Naga communities to dialogue on different political perspectives with a view to bring about mutual understanding on why and how communities hold different perspectives, and where and how they could work together to address issues that cause tensions and violence in Manipur. Dan Buttry, Global Consultant, Peace and Justice Mission, American Baptist Church facilitated the workshop on "Evolving Strategies for Peaceful Coexistence in Manipur and with its Neighbors."

This program was held at ISCKON Temple complex as part of PDI's efforts to strengthen an interfaith



solidarity for a sustained dialogue following series of dialogue meetings held in Church complexes.

### **Workshop on Peace building and Conflict transformation**

28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2011, Mission Home, Manja, Assam.

A three-day workshop on Peace building and Conflict Transformation was organized in collaboration with Mission Home, Manja and Karbi Human Rights Watch (KHRW). Altogether 41 people participated (36 male & 5 Female) belonging to Karbi, Dimasa, Zeme Nagas, Hmar, Kuki, Adivasi, Assamese & Bengali communities living around Manja and Diphu. The workshop was of vital importance because it brought different communities together to discuss about peace building and conflict transformation and also to listen to different perspectives, concerns, fears and issues. The workshop was facilitated by Varghese and Robinson from HMI.

The workshop helped the participants to look into the damages caused due to violent conflict and gain better understanding on how non-violence could be used as a strategy to address various issues within and across communities. At the end of the workshop the participant signed a “Joint Appeal for

Peace in Karbi Anglong and Dimasa Hasao District of Assam”. It was published in the local daily newspapers of Assam.

### **Women and Peace building Workshop**

3-5<sup>th</sup> August, 2011, CBCNEI, Guwahati.

A three day workshop was organized in collaboration with Indigenous Women’s Forum of North East India (IWFNEI) at. Altogether 10 female participants from different units of IWFNEI participated in the workshop. The workshop was facilitated by Varghese from HMI. During the workshop the participants gained better understanding about PB & CT.

### **South Asia Peace Workshop (SAPW)**

5<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011, HMI, Hyderabad.

With increasing injustices, conflict, violence and crisis all around, the responsibility of peace practitioners become much more. To combat this situation one major responsibility is to build capacities of more and more individuals/ organizations has in terms of knowledge, skills and attitude to bring about transformation and healing in the society. This workshop was aimed to facilitate learning skills and strategies that are



helpful in handling interpersonal/inter-group conflicts, facilitating negotiations and engaging in peace building processes and had 26 (10 female and 16 male) participants from different states of India like Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Uttarkhand as well as from Congo, Philippines, Germany, and United states.

Some of the topics covered were as follows:

- ◆ Introductions and Understanding Conflict: Theories and models of Conflict Transformation and Peace Building.
- ◆ Experience sharing by the participants: Conflict and Peace in South Asia.
- ◆ Perspectives: Gender and Peace Building, Non-violence and Growing Gun-Culture, Human Rights, People's Movement, Diversity, Youth Leadership.
- ◆ Critical Analysis of History: Conflicts related to Identity, Power and Culture
- ◆ Field Visit: HMI's and Shaheen's Community Development Project Centers
- ◆ Conflict Transformation skills and processes: Mediation, Negotiation, Consensus Decision-Making, and Cross- Cultural Experience.
- ◆ Sustained Dialogue: A model for Community Building.
- ◆ Planning and Designing Peace Building Workshops.
- ◆ Facilitating Group Learning and Capacity Building.
- ◆ Youth Leadership and Social Change.

### **Workshop on Human Rights, Peace and Capacity building**

14-15 November 2011, Donkamukam, West Karbi Anglong

A 2 day workshop on Human Rights, Peace and Capacity building was organized in collaboration with KHRW and Serlipo Ahamphang. Altogether, 40 participants (4 female and 36 male) belonging to college students, youth leaders and student leaders participated. The workshop focused on understanding basic human rights and peace building skills. The facilitating team included Robinson and Poonam from HMI and Pankaj, John, Paisong and Romen from KHRW. The local media provided full coverage of the workshop and interviewed some of the facilitators about the workshop.

### **Workshop on Human Rights, Peace and Capacity building**

16-17<sup>th</sup> November 2011, Hamren, West Karbi Anglong.

A 2 day workshop on Human Rights, Peace and Capacity building was organized in collaboration with KHRW and Hamren Riso-Ejang Asong (HREA). Altogether, 47 participants (20 female and 27 male) belonging to college students, youth leaders and student leaders participated the workshop. The workshop focused on understanding basic human rights and peace building skills. The facilitating



team included Robinson and Poonam from HMI and Pankaj, John, Paisong and Romen from KHRW.

### **Workshop on Peace Education**

18-20 November, Lifeway Christian Academy, Chandel, Manipur.

A three-Day Workshop on Peace Education for school students was organized by the Lifeway, Chandel. 30 students from different schools participated in the workshop. The main objective of the workshop was to inculcate the spirit of unity and oneness among the school children and to equip the children with skills related to peace building. The contents of the workshop focused on understanding peace based on religious perspectives, the roles and responsibilities of the children for promoting peace in the family/society, inter-community relationship building and other curriculum activities like painting, music, games and sports etc. The workshop was facilitated by Robin Tongsin and J.D. Kennedy of Lifeway, Chandel.

### **Peace building and Human Rights Workshop**

8-10 December 2011, Karbi Anglong, Assam.

KHRW organized a 3 day workshop on Peace building and Human Rights from 8-10<sup>th</sup> December 2011. The workshop was attended by 30 participants belonging to Karbi, Dimasa and Kuki communities from different parts of Karbi Anglong and Dimasa Hasao (erstwhile NC Hills).

The workshop focused on basic human rights, United Nations Declaration on Human Rights, United Nation's Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People, National and International Instruments and Mechanisms on Human Rights and the situation of Human Rights violations in the context of Northeast India. The workshop was facilitated by Pankaj Teron, Convener, KHRW and Atoho, Convener, Naga People's Movement for Human Rights (NPMHR). This workshop also contributed towards strengthening the network and relationship between KHRW & NPMHR.

### **Internship**

1. Rinyaphi from Ukhrul District, Manipur, recommended by PCTM for internship at HMI for a period of 10 months starting from July 2011.
2. Winkimson from Chandel District, Manipur, recommended by Lifeway and PCTM for internship at HMI for a period of 10 months starting from July 2011.
3. Tsonga Semp from Nagaland, recommended by Rengma Students Union and Council of Rengma Baptist Churches for internship at HMI for a period of 10 months starting from July 2011.
4. Emily Clawson pursuing her Masters in Divinity at Harvard Divinity School completed her internship in the month of July 2011.
5. Abdul, from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, recommended by Social Movement for Educational Thinking (SMET) completed his three months (Oct-Nov. 2011) internship at HMI.

6. Robert Danzi a graduate at the School of International Training in Brattleboro, VT, US pursuing his MA in Intercultural Conflict Transformation completed his internship in the month of Dec. 2011. Robert expressed about his internship “During my time with the CT team and living in Hyderabad, I learned and grew a great deal as a person. Moving to India in many ways was a great challenge for me, but one with the right guidance and support I was able to turn in to an incredible learning experience. The CT team of the Henry Marty Institute gave me the time, space, flexibility and support to find my own way through my time in India. I felt welcomed into the work group immediately and knew that my opinions were truly heard. I came to India to learn how to be a better facilitator, to try and understand the vast art of facilitation and training to bring about transformation and change. Whether or not I was successful I do now know, but I try to always stick to the core principle of peace building, which is to ‘do no harm’. Through my time at HMI I had the privilege of coordinating the beginning and first semester of the Post Graduate Diploma program in Peace Studies, coordinate our three week South Asia Peace workshop, co-write a curriculum on peace building to be taught to seminary students as well as fully participate in the daily running of the CT team. I am grateful to the CT team and the Henry Martyn Institute for their time and support; I hope to repay them through spreading what I have learned to others.

### **Initiate and Support Peace Initiatives**

1. KHRW organized a workshop to celebrate the World Indigenous Peoples Day on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011.
2. The Peace Resource Centre in Manipur was inaugurated and became functional in the month of June 2011. This centre functions 6 days a week. It currently has 56 copies of 10 different books, and it also has journals, periodicals and articles both hard copy and soft copy. It also has 20 audio-visual documentaries. Subscriptions to three local newspapers (two in English and one

in Manipuri) have also been made. So far 20 members have visited and made use of the resources at the centre. Information about this resource centre is given to others through PCTM members when members are involved in organizing other workshops and events. The centre is currently run on a voluntary basis by PCTM members as they currently do not have a full-time staff to run the centre.

3. Establishment of Peace Resource Center in Gujarat in July 2011: A peace resource centre was established in Ahmedabad by SMET in the end of July 2011. Current activities of the resource centre include space for youth to come in the evening for 2-3 hours and make use of the library materials, related to peace building, conflict transformation and interfaith dialogue. People who visit also have access to education and documentary movies. Discussions on local issues are also held. Youth also come to seek guidance related to work related problems, family problems, and career guidance. Most of the youth who come to the centre are Muslims and there are also Hindu and Dalit youth who come to the centre. Usually during week days about 8-13 youth visit the centre; and during weekends 25-30 youth come to the centre.
4. The Second Annual Chetan Peace Award was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 2011, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Death Anniversary of late Chetan Sharma. During the anniversary 9 students from three different schools around HMI were awarded for their artwork. The students were selected from the drawing competitions held in their schools during the month of July, 2011. Apart from the award, Th. Rock and Th. Hope were also honored for their contribution in making the South Asia Peace Workshop, 2011 banners and for conducting comic workshop for the students of the SVP NPA Kendriya Vidyalaya, Shivrampally, Hyderabad.

### **Research**

1. Suresh Naorem, a CT team facilitator at HMI from Manipur began his research on “Lai Haraoba: A cultural perspective on the relationship between the Meiteis and the Nagas of Manipur.” It is



expected to complete in the month of February, 2011.

2. Safik Ansari, a member of SMET, Ahmedabad completed his research on Assessment of Arbitration Act in Gujarat in the month of December 2011.
3. Ramesh Prakashvelu, Acting Associate Director, Praxis began his research work on “Avvaiyar’s Aathichoodi: A cultural resource for peace education.” He is expected to complete it by February 2012.

## Publication and Dissemination

1. HMI staff printed and photocopied resource materials related to conflict transformation, peace building and strategies for non-violent social change and carried it with them when they travelled for workshops and distributed them to organizers of the workshops in the regions.
2. Some of the materials were also carried through pen-drives to be shared with individuals and organizations during workshop related visits. Some materials, handouts from workshops were copied onto CDs/DVD and distributed to some participants.

## Mentoring

Paisong, John and Romen of Karbi Human Rights Watch (KHRW), Karbi Anglong, Assam were mentored during the workshop in Donkamukam and Hamren of West Karbi Anglong.

## Networking

Upon NPMHR’s (Delhi Unit) invitation, Ramesh Prakashvelu, Acting Associate Director, Praxis co-facilitated the Two-day workshop from 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> August 2011 on the theme Naga People in the Era of Globalization: Issues and Challenges. The participants were Naga students from Delhi, and it was felt that since there is much talk about Globalization and Indigenous people, but less

understanding, it would be ideal to organize a workshop that explores these topics. Altogether 27 participants; 16 male and 11 female participated. Ramesh also took part in a National Consultation on “Violence in Tribal Areas: Problems and Remedies” jointly organized by South Asia Peace Alliance (SAPA), Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), Church Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA), OXFAM-India, Voluntary Action Network India (VANI) from 7-9 August 2011, at Social Development Centre, Ranchi. About 150 social organizations took part in this consultation. In the process of the consultation by listening to individuals and groups working in Tribal areas it was observed that the increasing and widespread violence-counter violence that we are witnessing in Tribal areas is gradually reducing the possibilities of working for a social order based on just, equitable and humane value systems. The root of the growing violence, on the one hand, is the form of economic development that we have adopted—which not only denies communities their rights over natural resources, but also directly affects their livelihood, culture and identity. On the other hand there is a group which believes in capturing power through violence that is inspired by their own violent ideology. As a result, the Adivasi is entrapped in the cycle of violence and counter violence. Participants also took a resolution to join hands with like minded organizations and movements and work within democratic spaces to draw up a strategy for struggle, constructive work and dialogue to face the challenges to non-violence.

## Post Graduate Diploma in Peace Studies (PGDPS):

PGDPS Started on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011 with 9 students from Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Democratic Republic of Congo, Germany and USA. They have completed two semesters and are leaving for their two months field placements in various parts of the regions such as Gujarat, Tamilnadu, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Manipur during the month of January 2012.

# Management



## ADMINISTRATION

In spite of all ups and downs in life administration department has been working very smoothly. There is dedication and commitment among the staff. This helps us to carry out the day today affairs well. There were minor repairs and renovations done at the city office. The city office has been white washed and is now having a good appearance. The office space has been used by various groups and generating revenue to meet the maintenance of the building. Few office equipments as well as garden tools were purchased to provide better infrastructural facilities. May the good God bless all our endeavors as we begin this new year.

## HOSTEL

During the last six months the hostel premises have been fully utilised by various in-house and outside NGOs, Government organisations. Over 25 workshops by different NGOs were conducted at the ASN hostel, with an average of around 75 participants per workshop. The user groups include local & outside NGOs like Andhra Pradesh Mahila Abhivruddi Sangam, Chindu, Action Aid, Bangalore, Prajwala Society, and quasi agencies such as Government Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), Andhra Pradesh Academy of Rural Development (APARD). The overseas groups like SWEDE INDIA Project, Pune, Groups from Germany, England, Netherlands and so forth. Apart from these, several overseas independent scholars have come and utilized the facilities of our campus. An overall occupancy of more than 3000 people helped to generate income for the maintenance of the hostel. All of them appreciated the welcoming atmosphere of the hostel. Thanks to all those who contributed towards the welfare of the hostel.

The in-house workshops included the "South Asia Peace Workshop" of the department of Conflict Transformation held in September 2011, a Culture



of peace meeting held in the month of November and a few others, one and two day events for the Community Development and HIV/AIDS awareness projects. An overall occupancy of 800 residents over the last 6 months has helped generate a fair income.

All the group members are in great appreciation of the marvellous variety of food that is prepared by the kitchen staff.

Our garden was beautified by bringing in more flower plants and varieties of vegetable plants. More than anything else everyone enjoyed 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. Kitchen Garden of the hostel continues to produce seasonal vegetables and fruits. During the months of October to December hostel has produced more than 150 Kgs. Tomatoes, 25 Kgs. of Green Chilies, 125 Kgs. of brinjal and fair amount of leafy vegetables like Spinach, curry leaves, coriander leaves and pudina. We used a good quantity of vegetables, and fruits like, bananas, guavas and mangoes. Such a produce has marginally cut down the purchase of vegetables from outside. A fair volume of vegetables were sold to our staff at a very minimal price and staff felt very happy to carry the same home. We greatly



appreciate the hard work put in by each person in the garden, as we enjoy the fruits and vegetables.

## Personnel

Ms Sunita, Hostel Warden left the job at the beginning of July 2011 for better prospects. Mr. Hemendar, Project Officer, who was working in the Praxis Department resigned in the month of September 2011 for a better career. Mr. Varghese C. O. Coordinator of Conflict Transformation, resigned in the month of October 2011 as he started his own NGO. Ms. Shobha Rani Gosa, Programme Coordinator has submitted her resignation and 4<sup>th</sup> January will be her last working day. We are very grateful to each one of them for their commitment and service to the institute. We wish them success in their future career.

## Community Events

HMI Community celebrated 65th Independence day at the campus and the flag was hoisted by the Director, and students and staff gathered for the event.

As part of celebration of interfaith festival, HMI was able to bring all staff together to enjoy Iftar on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2011. The Muslim brothers and sisters broke the *Roza* (fasting) followed by *maghrib* prayer. Everybody enjoyed the food like variety of fruits and Hyderabad Dish "Haleem".

We had celebrated festival of lights, "Diwali" on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2011, the campus was decorated with flowers and *diyas* and was looking very attractive. Most of the people enjoyed the day with lighting of lamps and burning of crackers. Tea and special Diwali sweets were served to make the occasion joyful.

Christmas was climax of the all the celebrations for the year which took place on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011, for which all our families and friends were invited. The message of Peace was given by the Chairperson Rev. Dr. P. Surya Prakash. Rev. Dr. Packiam Samuel, Secretary of Interfaith Coalition for Peace, New Delhi, took initiative to bring out

the calendar 2012 with the various poetical quoting of Dr. Sir Mohammad Iqbal (1877-1938). We were happy to have Dr. Packiam Samuel for the function and release the calendar during the Christmas event. The event was very colourful with carol singing, acting out the message of Christmas by children of staff and others. A dance programme was performed by the domestic staff of HMI which was appreciated by all. The Programme concluded with a moon light dinner under chill weather with a campfire.

## Other Matters:

### Board

HMI's Board of Management and Finance & Property Committee meetings took place on 18<sup>th</sup> July, and the Annual Governing Council meeting was held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2011, and all the board and council members were present.

On 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011 the Working Committee met and discussed the various concerns of the Institute. The Finance and Property committee met on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011 to decide the certain important matters concerning the institute's finance. Board met again on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011 and discussed the various proposals of different committees and took important decisions. The next meeting of the Board will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

### Visits of Partners

We were happy to welcome our partners Rev. Eberhard von der Heyde and group from NMZ, Germany, and Mr. Chellappa, an external evaluator from our funding partner, The Church of Scotland to evaluate the HIV Aids programme.

Releasing the Calendar during the  
Christmas Celebration

