



The Search

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YCS/YSM NATIONAL NEWS LETTER

Rights! Rights!! Human Rights!!! This is the cry of the day.

Why? It is shameful to cry for it being humans because we possess them, we have them, we promulgated them and we are the ones who violate them.

Due to this violation of basic human rights we have become so vulnerable to live our life to the full. Those who work for this like so many RTI activists and social workers are finished. Whistle blowers bill which would save them is pending in the Rajya Sabha coz those who pass it are afraid of themselves being caught. Many states have no Lokayukta. Others are afraid of strong Lokpal etc. This sad story goes on and on. This issue deals with some of the topics on human rights and resources for call meeting so that our members may become aware of it and help promote it.

YCS/YSM India

Organizes

FORMATION SESSION AND XVI NATIONAL COUNCIL 2013

At **BETHEL**, Shillong, Northeast
From 19-28 May 2013

Theme: Students' Education in the Modern Era

Thrusts: Interculturality,
Religious Diversity
Universal culture of Love and Life.

The objectives of the National council:

To review the action plan and evaluate the movement for the previous three years.

To respond with concrete plans to the issues affecting the students and society today

To enlighten and empower the students

To challenge and to move towards realization of our dreams

To focus more on the History and to deepen the spirituality of the Movement.

To make decisions on the basic policies and the orientation of the movement.

To elect the new National Executive Committee

To amend and approve the new constitution of YCS/YSM, India

Let us change, serve and celebrate



YCS/YSM ANIMATION HOME

66 (old 151) Luz Church Road, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004, India

Editorial...

LET'S KEEP THE FLAME BURNING!!

Hi YCS/YSMers,

Greetings. We have come to the beginning of yet another academic session. The last academic session was huge with many national, regional and diocesan level events and meetings including the biggest of them all, the IYCS world council. As we have moved forward, we have had both joyful and bitter experiences but it has all been a part of the learning curve. However as we enter into a new academic year we hope to have more events and programmes so that we might not put an end to our process of growth.



We recently had National Students Leadership Training programme followed by the National Animators Training programme and our NTA/EXCO meeting in Gujarat. All the participants had a wonderful time be it the students or the animators. They were all filled with the youthful spirit. The animators play a very important role as they form leaders and help the students grow and this training programme gave them the right insights on bringing the students up in the spirit of YCS. In the NT/EXCO meet in which we were privileged to be joined by the chairman of the youth commission Most Rev. Archbishop Leo Cornelio SVD. Our main agenda of the meeting was the upcoming National Council which was discussed in detail. After this meeting, we the NEXCOs had a meeting of our own to evaluate ourselves. This evaluation was needed and proved to be very helpful as we pointed out our strengths and weaknesses and devised the required course of action for the coming six months. The whole experience in Gujarat was amazing. However it does not stop there the work has just begun. In this whole year we would be preparing for our biggest event i.e. the National Council. We request you for your help and support in our aspirations in whatever way you can, as we prepare for the Council. It is an important event for our movement also because the new batch of National EXCOs will be presented in the council. Thus we ask your prayerful support too as we look for our new leaders.

We have a wonderful magazine 'The Search' which is a great platform for our YCSers to display their talent and writing skills, but there is not much which is coming to us. I am sure that we have loads of talent hidden amongst us and this is our chance to let it out. Please keep writing and sending in articles, drawings, poems, reports etc. This is a huge opportunity for all budding writers to let their skills be displayed at the national level. So make full use of it and feel free to send in your articles to ycsysmindia@gmail.com As we move towards having many more events and activities let us remember to keep up the spirit of YCS and our methodology-AWARENESS REFLECTION and ACTION. And bringing in this spirit will definitely make a difference in our lives.

LET'S KEEP THE FLAME BURNING!!

- FRANK RUSSEL FELIX

Training programme on National Theme - Human Rights

Report: The training programme on the National Theme - Human Rights was held at Peace Centre, Ambari, Guwahati on 16th July 2012. It began with the prayer song at 10.30 am. Fr. Mark Lakra RYD of Northeast inaugurated the programme by lighting the lamp and giving an apt reflection on the day's theme basing on the



scripture reading. Sr. Agnes and Sr. Regina were present at the occasion. Then Fr. Charles Menezes gave an introduction to the programme and explained to the participants what is expected of them. It was to be on the National Theme and on the thrust Human Rights in the YCS/YSM methodology, SEE, JUGE and ACT which would be sent to all the units in the country for their cell meeting.

Then Emelan from Shillong took the sessions on Human Rights dividing the topic accordingly. First he made them understand what the Basic Human rights are and then on Violation of Human rights. Dealing with the topic he took up in detail the various aspects of the problem and solution.

After lunch the participants were divided into three groups and each group prepared the resource material for cell meeting on these three aspects. 1. Human rights and Students, 2. Human rights and Girl Child 3. Human rights and Social media.

At the concluding session Fr. Mark distributed the certificates and wished them well. Sr. Agnes informed them about the forthcoming National council to be held at Bethel, Shillong and asked for their cooperation. Fr. Charles thanked all the participants and the programme came to a close at 4pm.

HUMAN *Rights*

What is Rights:

A right is a claim of an individual recognized by the society and enforced by the state. Laski: 'Rights are those conditions of social life without which no man can seek to be himself at his best'.

Human Rights:

The concept of Human Rights is comparatively recent in origin but the human rights is as old as the history of human civilization. Human Rights is a 20th century name for what has been traditionally known as natural rights or in a more exhilarating phrase 'the rights of man'. Human Rights are the fundamental freedom which allows individuals to develop fully and use their human qualities, intelligence, talents, conscience and satisfy human needs. Human Rights are based on mankind's increasing demands for a life in which the inherent dignity and worth of each human being will receive respect and protection. All societies possess notions of justice, fairness, dignity and respect. Human rights, however, are but one path to implement a particular conception of social justice. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) said: 'All human being are born free and equal in dignity and rights'.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY: 10 DECEMBER

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

On December 10, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

It constitutes the international charter of Human Rights.

It describes the equal human rights of all the people living in all parts of the world.

It recognizes all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the people. Eg. Rights to freedom, equality, justice, equal protection, equal opportunities for all, religious freedom for all, equal protection of rights, right to marriage and family life, rights of children, women and disabled, right to education, right to cultural freedom and equality, political rights, right to work and several others.

National Human Rights Commission of India

Established under the Protection of Human Rights Act of 1993, the National Human Rights Commission functions from New Delhi with jurisdiction all over India.

It established with a view to strengthen the process of protection of human rights in India.

Powers and Functions:

To investigate complaints regarding the violations of human rights.

To investigate the failure on the part of any public official in respect of his duties for preventing a violation of human rights.

To intervene in any proceeding involving any allegation of violation of human rights pending before a court with the approval of such court. To visit jails and to examine the living conditions of the persons undergoing imprisonment or detention and make recommendations thereon.

To review the steps taken under the Constitution or laws for the protection of human rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation.

To study treaties and other international instruments on human rights and make recommendations for their effective implementation.

To encourage research in the area of human rights To spread human rights literacy among various sections of society. To encourage the efforts of non-governmental organizations and institutions working in the field of human rights.

Such other functions as it may consider necessary for the protection of Human Rights. State Human Rights Commissions Since India is a vast country and it will not be possible for the affected to move NHRC at Delhi without considerable amount of time and money, protection of Human Rights Act envisages setting up of State Human Rights Commission all over India to supplement the efforts of NHRC.

Violations of Human Rights Human Rights, which are undoubtedly the inherent rights of a person are threatened all over the world.

Violation of Human Rights is rampant in National as well as International levels. Despite specific laws and remedies violation takes place. There is violation by terrorists, powerful nations and countries and even there is state sponsored violation and violation by those who are supposed to protect those rights. The Burning Contemporary Issues in Human Rights Human Trafficking, Child Labour, Violation of women's rights, Religious Violence, Female Infanticide, Bonded Labour, Inhuman Practices to Prisoners etc

Role of the State and NGO's

Now almost all the countries in the world have incorporated Human Rights in their Constitution.

The world now recognizes human rights as 'Fundamental rights'.

The role of NGO's in protecting human rights is noteworthy.

At the international level, the Amnesty International (1961) is a worldwide voluntarily organization created for defending human rights.

What is our role as YCS/YSM'? (Go to cell meetings)

'To claim one's rights and ignore one's duty, or only half fulfill them, is like building a house with one hand and tearing it down with the other.'

- Pope John XXIII

'Thus the person who possesses certain rights has likewise the duty to claim those rights as marks of human dignity, while all others have the obligation to acknowledge those rights and respect them.'

- John Paul II

Bringing the student movement back to life

Manoj Mathew

Current member of Advisory Board and former Secretary General of International YCS

I had been always reflecting on the role of student movements in the Catholic schools in India. We stand to have an immense potential in shaping our student leadership through promoting association and student movements. I must admit that this is a demanding task in the current educational system and with lack of clear unified apostolic mission among students.

During my 7 years of executive leadership in the International YCS, the world opened my understanding of society, which mainly challenged my thoughts build growing in a Communist state of West Bengal. We live in a country governed by Socialistic ideology and which has gradually transformed after implementing liberalization reforms in the year 1991.

I was constantly amazed by very many student leaders and animators with whom I had the privilege of working. I am also impressed by the challenges faced by chaplains who are working with limited resources. In that spirit of optimism, I thought I'd share some of my thoughts and possible ways in bringing the student movement back to life in the context of school.



The Catholic School and Student Movements

On October 28, 1965, the Second Vatican Council promulgated the Declaration on Christian Education *Gravissimum educationis*. The document describes the distinguishing characteristic of a Catholic school in this way; "The Catholic School pursues cultural goals and the natural development of youth to the same degree as any other school. What makes the Catholic school distinctive is its attempt to generate a community climate in the school that is permeated by the Gospel spirit of freedom and love. It tries to guide the adolescents in such a way that personality development goes hand in hand with the development of the "new creature" that each one has become through baptism. It tries to relate all of human culture to the good news of salvation so that the light of faith will illumine everything that the students will gradually comes to learn about the world, about life, and about the human person".

The Second Vatican Council, therefore, declared that what makes the Catholic school distinctive is its religious dimension, and that this is to be found in a) the educational climate, b) the personal development of each student, c) the relationship established between culture and the Gospel, d) the illumination of all knowledge with the light of faith.

These above distinguishing characteristics continue to be great challenge among many Catholic schools (over 11,000 primary and secondary Catholic schools in India). I vision that student movement as a partner with a vision of fulfilling the characteristics and I would like to unfold a greater opportunity of the relevance of the movements in the schools in India today.

I hope we are able to reaffirm the importance of its role in evangelizing the student milieu and may it take deeper roots in the schools. It is also a sign of times for renewal and revitalization the movements operation and impacts.

Movement is very grateful to many bishops and congregations for their generosity by providing chaplains, training, resources like office and financial support. The Movement is also grateful to the various school principals and parish communities who have taken great role in understanding the importance of the movement in their school.

There has been a wave of leadership with its low and high tides in all levels of the movement. There had been evaluations conducted in diocesan and national level understating youth apostolate, though much of the evaluation was very contextual of particular happenings during his mandate and same time it reflected from the deep implications on how the movement operated in the past. In order to do this, the process of formation must constantly raise questions about the “how” and the “why” and the “what” and then point out and deepen the positive results as an evaluation.

Spirituality: Faith based Movements and Charismatic Movements

It is also important to know the growing trend in the Catholic Church that the movement like YCS lack inspiration and direction today to take care of what many of the present Church leaders wants: a Charismatic spirituality were expression of faith is everything and ultimate. The Church today needs visible sign of spirituality which is often not understood in the present practical reality of a young student in Information

ON BUTTERFLY BUSH

*On butterfly Bush
Your scent is presence
To waste one small drop
Should class as a crime
Your Presence does not carry
So sweet I'm sour
That Heaven itself could
Improve it no more*

ACHIEVEMENT

*There is no limit to
How great you can
Become or how high
You can expect
The Limits you impose
On your self*

- M. PRADEEPRAJ, Diocese President - YCSYSM Chennai

Communication Technology era. This would bring majority of the young people to be branded that young people are a problem. It is wrong if we build on this conception and the church is in great risk of alienating the needs of them. It is predominately visible in secular and developed countries like Netherlands and France. We are not very far from this reality and in order to avoid that it is very important that Church leaders recognize the role of movement's energy in molding good Christian leadership connected to reality.

The emergence of charismatic movements and musical prayer groups often try to focus on the vibrant spirituality. The Church calls them the 'new movement' which needs to be greatly reflected and studied. It is not the absolute spirituality that builds young people and their faith formation. It does not mean that YCS lacks charismatic vision or prayer life.

The Christian faith is often acquired through experiences and traditionally by ones family. The spirituality of this faith is often a personal experience which cannot be pushed or spoon feed in reality. The movements born of a certain mission towards the end of the Second World War are considered traditional movements as the church might put them soon as old movements are YCS, AICUF, Legion of Mary, St. Vincent de Paul society etc.

Spirituality with prayer is essential and integrated to the movement's formative role. YCS Movement has a spirituality of action, which is dynamic in itself were words are put to action. So I hope the movement's historical evolution and identity of been specialized Catholic Action movements who follow the methodology of Cardijn: See-Judge-Act be reminded as uniqueness of the YCS movement.

What needs to be enriched among YCSers in the local cells-units (School)?

In the reality with advancement in information and communication technologies, the traditional forms of communion and socialization of the Young Christian students are in greater risk. The continuous pressure of overloaded education system with examination phobia has been a still great stress for the students. They need freedom and space to develop in other ways that could help them to be integrated in society and church.

The basic understanding of 'student serving students' and their role in evangelizing their milieu to be critical thinkers and the importance of taking responsible Christian leadership must be cultivated among the members of the movement. The deepening in the understanding of its social enquiry methodology: See-Judge-Act, The Review of Life to bring the Spirituality of Action. It should be made part of their life. The time on reflection of the YCSers personal experience, spirit and life during its weekly meetings must be the key focus. (Inter personal relationship between I, You and God)

It must not be just a bible study group or activity group or a club or a classroom for lecture, an integrated concept in the meetings should be promoted. Encouraging the importance of continuity of their weekly meetings through some follow up task or action. The cycle must be continued where methodology is important tool and way.

Office bearers should exercise their executive role by planning and conducting weekly meetings, arranging trainings, inputs, attending diocesan level meetings and any other creativity ways of enabling dynamism among the fellow students.

Reports of all activities and action should be documented and when ever required must be presented to the diocesan office. Every YCSer should be made aware of the importance of financial contribution for its activities and actions; this could be done constructively according to each individual's capacity or in a group.

YCS dairy or a note book could be a very handy source for scribbling and reflections. Having important addresses of other YCSers or related people, etc. Importance of belonging to a family must be made constantly reminded, it's a diocesan, national, regional (Asian) and an international movement. Cell-units must have some sort of action out of the reflection, which is different from an activity or a planned program. (Two levels of action: Personal Action & Group Action).

To get subscription to the national magazine 'The Search' would be a great value of solidarity of sharing and knowing experiences in other parts of the country. YCSers could also write their own experiences and actions to such magazines. Getting hold of some basic historical and practical knowledge of the movement would be very handy which is available in various forms of resources like books, internet or documents. The unit office bearers can take responsibility is sharing information. Dynamism of the movement will be alive if the students want and will survive even without an animator in the weekly meetings.

CLOSE TO MY HEART

I walk ahead with an air of pride
I walk ahead and do not hide
I willingly work to reach my destiny
I willingly work to save humanity
I work to strengthen my YCS/YSM Community
I work to maintain peace and unity
I set up for better achievement
I set up for further betterment
I grasp new ideas when they come my way
I grasp them to progress each day
I open my mind to my religion
I open my heart to be worthy among the Legion
I belong to my country proud and true
I live up to my virtue that's what I do
Nothing can tear me from my happy world apart
Cause it's spirit is close to my heart



- JOSEPH KAMAL FRANCIS, YCSYSM- CHENNAI

What could be the role of school authorities and animators in the schools?

The school authorities and animators have a lot of workload and commitments in the daily dynamics of the school administration and family/community life. These limitations do not allow them naturally to engage directly with the YCSers. Acknowledging these limitations, all what are required of them is some direction and assistance for the functioning of the unit.

- 1) YCS movement should not be made compulsory for Christian students; the freedom to decide whether to join or not must be left to the students.
- 2) The animators must not conduct meetings but just accompany the YCSers; they can give a short input or reflection in the beginning of the meeting to enable further reflection among the students themselves.
- 3) The animators as far as possible must be voluntarily available, not mandated or compelled by the school authorities.
- 4) The office bearers and the animator are encouraged and supported to attend the diocesan level meetings and trainings.
- 5) YCSers are encouraged to prepare and participate in the Diocesan events and to foster exchange and solidarity.
- 6) Formation in all areas is the key role of the animators.
- 7) Any sort of sensitive matters must be dealt by the students in the meeting and let them collectively respond to the situation.
- 8) To help the office bearers for special inputs and even arrange for resource person or experts in issues that need deeper awareness.
- 9) A yearly retreat, pilgrimage, picnic may be arranged for the members.
- 10) Animators must not present the role as teachers, which would block the idea and spirit of the movement. They should be open to learning than to teach during YCS meetings.
- 11) Help the students subscribe to resource materials and transmit information from resources.

YCS is a movement of the students, by the students. In all process of their mission and activities they are accompanied by chaplains and animators. (Adopted from the YCS Asian Creed)

Importance of Ex-YCSers/Former members:

Ex-YCSers who are committed to render service in any form of constructive contribution should be encouraged as the vision of participation of the laity in the Church. The vision of involving the immediate school leaving YCSers as resources in various forms like: animation team or office coordination team should be explored on short term basis (a year) or on long term basis. The idea of volunteers to the movement starts at this level as volunteering is always been a heart of the movement.

Other ways the Ex-YCSers could be connected:

Enabling the YCS Alumni gatherings in diocesan level.

YCS Alumni could be animators and think tank for the movement.

Some financial support towards the movement is very much possible too.

Who takes care of the Diocesan Coordination?

YCS is the movement in the Catholic Church, lead by the students and mandated lay people accompanied by the animators and chaplains. This mandate is entrusted to the movement for its evangelical and educative role among the students by the Holy See. So the Bishop is the person in charge (Patron) to look into the affairs and give all sort of ecclesiastical assistance.

In consultation with student leaders and animators, the Bishop in turn appoints a Diocesan Chaplain who engages directly with the movement day to day affairs. Diocesan Team of Students and Diocesan Team of Animators (DTS-DTA) are the apex decision making body of the movement in the diocese and the Diocesan ExcOs are the executive officers of the movement. The Diocesan chaplain and coordinator play the role of accompaniment and guidance in spiritual, emotional and intellectual advices.

Some suggestions that require urgent attention:

A meeting should be arranged to understand the present reality of the movement (Chaplain, Diocesan ExcOs, and DTA-DTS along with the Archbishop). Dioceses and other stake holders need to have some clear understanding on how the resources are to be shared and utilized in the movement. Before the diocesan chaplain is officially appointed by the Archbishop, the probable names should be recommended by the DTA-DTS.

The need of Lay full time coordinator is vital for the day to day functioning.

YCS movement must be seen as a work of the Campus Ministry in the schools of the Archdiocese and work with likeminded organization and associations need to be explored. The importance of integrated work and collaboration must not be compromised by the YCS way of functioning and its very identity.

The Diocesan Youth Commission which no more exists in practice after the birth of Indian Catholic Youth Movement (ICYM) for parish ministry in 2000 has disconnected the YCS leadership and its contribution in building the youth ministry in the diocese in the past. A space must be created in recognizing and understanding movements and associations like YCS/YSM, All India catholic University Federation (AICUF), and Legion of Mary. More consultation to reach out to the neighboring dioceses in the ministry. Find the archives of the movement and explore possible place of documentation.

What could be some programs that can focus to revitalize its mission of evangelizing the student milieu in the diocesan level?

Organize Monthly Diocesan Meetings for Animators and Students (DTA/DTS) along with the Chaplain and the ExcOs to reflect and plan actions/activities.

Conduct Formation for (DTA/DTS): Once in every 4 months for 3-4 days.

Monthly Weekend formation programs for YCSers (20 students every months).

An Annual YCS Diocesan Council (3 day event) for executive leaders from all units along with Diocesan EXCOs and DTS should be explored to draft the annual plan of action.

Two camps: a) Summer Camp for new YCSers b) Winter Camp for school leaving YCSers. Excos can look into ways to publish and explore internet which has open opportunities for reach out, tools of formation and networking.

Other programs that has been a dayís event for the YCS Diocesan gathering and participation: YCS Day, Bible Quiz, Gospel Expression, YCS Christmas Fete, Action for the needy children. Or any creative programs decided by the DTA-DTS.

A day of retreat and pilgrimage may be planned by individual units (schools), where the DTA/DTS may not be involved. The Diocesan Chaplain along with an Exco should visit all units at least once in a year during the weekly YCS unit meeting. This could be an opportunity to discuss matter and way of dialogue with the school authorities.

A vision of Campus Ministry among the Catholic schools:

To incorporate time for group activities & actions in the weekly calendar, the campus activity time is to be created for all students. This space is not only for Christian students but for all students to have their meetings and activities, probably the last two periods of Friday or Saturday.

A period may be dedicated in a week for all academic and co-circular orientated meetings (Science Clubs, Music Club, Drama Club, Sports Club or Hobby Clubs). Another period for the movements and other associations (Scouts, Guides, YCS and Rotary)

It enables students and parents to understand the importance of formation outside normal academic periods. This would be integrated into the school curriculum to achieve Integral Education of the student.

Many of these ideas and thoughts require ongoing discussion and advocacy in the diocese among the Catholic Schools. I hope you are motivated to join the mission to ensure that the future generations of young people enjoy the formation of the YCS Movement.

Introducing NEXCO members:



Ashish Antony
Augustine - Jhansi, U.P.



Jasica - Jhansi, U.P.



Ciela Lobo, Goa

ACTIVITIES UNDERWENT IN YCS/ YSM CHENNAI

S. No	Date	Programs	THEME	Students Attended
1	23.06.2012	YCS / YSM LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME	Leadership & Role of Leadership in YCS/YSM	100
2.	01.07.2012	New YCS Unit	Orientation on YCS/YSM	25
3.	29.06.2012	Introduction to YCS at the College level	Basics on YCS/YSM	50
4.	30.06.2012	DEXCO MEETING Role of DEXCO	TEAM & Annual Planner discussions	10
5.	06.07.2012-07.07.2012	GENERAL BODY MEETING (TRICHY)	Evaluation and plan of action of the region	5

The Art of Masquerading

Flashes of the good gone times
Come and go as they like
Memories still fresh as
The dew of early mornings

I know something aches inside me
And I may not know its location
But then a paradox also follows
Sometimes I feel a deep hollow inside me
As if all my internal organs went missing

Am I am to say that I so lost in love
That I don't reckon on myself anymore?
Or am I too lost to know the
Meaning of love?

Tears, tears and more tears
Flocked by the corners of my eyes
Afraid that some might sneak out
And reveal my secrets

I know my smile hides them all
Masquerading my fears is not difficult
Knowing that I have to walk alone
Now today tomorrow and
Maybe forever



-Marina Monalisa Das, YCS Kolkata.

Report of National Student Leadership Training Programme (Hindi)

Nadiad, Gujarat, 13- 17 May 2012

The NSLTP in Hindi was held at Pastoral Centre, Nadiad, Ahmadabad Diocese, Gujarat from 13 to 17 May 2012 for the regions of Bijhan, Orissa, UP, MP, Delhi and MG. All together 68 students were present. The participants arrived at the venue by morning. After registration Fr. Charles briefed them about the program dynamics and geography of the venue.

Soon after the inaugural mass and function followed by the lunch, the students were divided into 5 groups for an exposure visit. In the evening the students were sent for the exposure in 5 groups in the surrounding area of the Pastoral Centre which included slums, poor houses, vegetable market, dumping yard and railway station. We came back at 6.30 pm and prepared the report through various means like chart, reporting and acting out. After evening prayer and supper we went to rest.

On the second day the session was led by Father George about YCS/YSM history and spirituality. In which the students got to know more deeply about the movement and mainly about the methodology 'SEE, JUDGE and ACT'. And they got to know about the aim as Building a New Society, and the objective as Change Self- Change Others. The third session included the skits based on the exposure visits by all the groups. In the evening they had the recreational games. Around 7.30 in the evening we had the rosary which was conducted by the second group. Later we had the Cultural Program. A small talk was given by father Charles for the improvement needed to be done by the students. Then there was a group discussion on it and we ended our day with small prayer.

On the third day a session was given by Fr. Charles on Cell Meeting. Fr. Charles welcomed Mr. Francis, the resource person of the day. He explained what is leadership? He helped the students to know themselves and about personality formation to be a leader. In the third session Fr. George conducted some games in which the students learnt not to imitate others but to have their own identity. Then there was a workshop by Mr. Francis on leadership traits and then we had the rosary. At the end there was a small video presentation on 'Introducing YCS/YSM' by Mr. Leo Joseph and we ended the day with evaluation done by Miss Cecilia. On the fourth day the first session was continued by Mr. Francis based on previous day topic on leadership, where he elaborated on the types of leadership which will make what we are. This followed a short tea break and on returning we began



with action songs to make the participants enthusiastic and energetic. Then again Mr. Francis continued with the basic leadership skills through video clips which made us understand the importance of it. In the afternoon Fr. George dealt with the leadership roles for the transformation of the society. In the evening some outdoor games got rid of the fatigue of sitting in the hall for the whole day. Then we conducted the quiz on the topics dealt with. After supper each one was given a chance to prove their talents during recreation. With evaluation we went to rest.



On the final day we had the evaluation of the programme. The topics we understood, the topics which were difficult to understand and the suggestions were given so that the next programmes would be a better one. We prepared the action plan for our unit and diocese which will be followed on the way back and put things into action. Everyone felt that it was a good programme where we understood the various facets of leadership which is so important for us in dealing in the society at large.

The Concluding programme was conducted by the Exco members where Fr. Lawrence distributed the certificates and mementoes to all the participants and pleaded them to perform some actions in their life which will make each one of us do something worthy of life. Some participants expressed their feelings on the said programmes which were real and touching. All felt sad to leave the venue due to the bonding of the past 5 days. Fr. Charles thanked all the participants, animators, resource persons and the director of Pastoral Centre for making these programs a success.

MY EXPERIENCE IN NSLTP- Gujarat



My experience was very good. I learnt a lot. Especially I got rid of my Stage fear and now I can express my views louder and clearer. Got inspiration through the sessions and learnt to do an ordinary thing in an extraordinary way. Report making, Preparing for the liturgy, creative activities as a team made me to realize who I am? The place where we went for our exposure made me to thank God for giving all that I have and of course the urge to do more for the society. I got to know how to work in a cell (Group). And last but not the least I love my ExcOs specially Alice, Jovita and many more. Alice helped me a lot to know more about YCS/YSM. She encouraged me at every step whenever there was difficulty. Thank you all for giving me an unforgettable experience.

- **OSHIN P. PATRICK, Nagpur**

Report of the National Animators Training Programme

Nadiad, Gujarat, 18-24 May 2012

The animators from all over India landed at Nadiad on the 18th May morning and were ready to take up the learning mantle of YCS/YSM. Altogether 31 animators and 8 Exco members took part in it. Having registered their names and refreshments, they were given the knowhow of the programme and geography of the place at 10 am.



18th May 2012: At 11 am inaugural mass was offered by Fr. Titus Dí Costa, the former youth director of Ahmadabad. He declared the programme open and requested the animators to give their heart and soul to these programmes since this is very important to work for the student community and teenagers. 'Your selfless service will not go waste instead it will bear much fruit in the teenagers and for yourselves', he said.

The 1st session was brought out by Loucille Alcalá; the former IYCS Program coordinator introduced the programme to the animators and gave the dynamics of the programme. Having heard about their expectations and aspirations she led them to several games and value based activities to make them feel at home and know each other well. She kept them busy all through the day by making them play several games which would be a help for the animators to use them in their own units. The day ended with the evening prayers and supper.

19th May 2012: The day began with Mass at 7 am presided by Archbishop Leo Cornelio, Chairman of the Office for Youth. He gave a very good message in serving the youth of the country at the very early age in the schools and colleges thus to have a true Christian youth force for the service of the society.

At 9 am Fr. Charles introduced the Archbishop to the group of animators and welcomed him. Archbishop in his message asked the animators to sacrifice themselves for the service of the teenagers and students which is sacred job to do. He asked them to bring a change in themselves, willingness to take risks in life in order to do our best, to alter the difficulties to our level so that they can be overcome and to be rational in our thoughts and deeds. He expressed his happiness for having made to this programme though it is a far off place for many of them. He met all of them personally and wished them all the very best in their mission through YCS/YSM.

This was followed by the session focused on student reality and student psychology by Loucille where concerns, challenges, interests and enthusiasms of the students were discussed. The second session emphasized on the existing contradictions or gaps between the student reality and spiritual necessities that can be bridged to a great

extent by the YCS/YSM. Discussions were held regarding what is YCS/YSM, how it is a student movement, global movement, spiritual movement and an action oriented movement aided by the power point presentation. Apart from this we had



innumerable ice breakers and action songs throughout the day. After supper, Mr. Leo Joseph showed a video: 'Introducing YCS YSM India' and later a panel discussion held between the animators and the EXCO members where the latter shared their own experience in the movement and how it had changed their life. After about an hour of discussion the day ended with a prayer.

20th May 2012: In the second day Mr. Manoj Mathew, the former IYCS Secretary General gave us the History of the movement. He made us read through the pages and guided us through flash cards. He explained the concepts of how YCS came into existence and its importance in the life of a student. Cardijn's life was explained clearly which made us understand the sufferings of the people at that time and apply that into today's situation. When people suffer they come together as it happens even today in the world. Workers came together and today the students need to come together and to do so they need our help. After tea a clipping was shown about Cardijn and Manoj said that workers work for workers, students work for students and peer circle work for peer circle. He said as YCS/YSM animators we need to go out of the way, need to be more open minded and clarified us how a group or cell works together and how an animator need to accompany them in the Review of Life. We had a discussion as regards how we conduct the cell meetings in our schools; there were 2 questions, what and why. We shared our experiences on the said topics and discussing it at length we set forth for lunch. Post lunch each animator had to speak for 1 minute as regards, who you are and what can you do as YCS/YSM animator. Then 'Anita the bee keeper' was shown to us and Fr. Charles made us play Value housie and guided us to understand as to how we need to have some important values as animators. Then we were guided as regards exposure visit and sent to view the reality in 5 groups. We were to see the reality, find out its causes and consequences, share among ourselves and report it to the group. We went to slums and houses of Indiranagar and did a through observation, questioned the people and having come back presented the reality on the chart paper and explained to the group. Each group tried their level best to make it more meaningful putting all the ideas together. A documentary 'Banking on the Change' was shown and we had the evaluation on it. The day ended with lots of lifelong experiences, hectic but worth learning experiences.

21st May 2012: In the third day Fr. Cedric Prakash S.J was the resource person of the day who asked us to share about the social reality with the review of exposure visit and structures existing in the society. Session 2 focused



on the 4 points, namely: the social reality, social analysis, structural analysis and why it is so important for every YCS/YSMer to see things, to analyze and to take action on social issues. The systems and structures remain hidden which we need to understand and constantly ask the question WHY? Afternoon we went to AMUL factory to see the marvelous work done by the farmers themselves. We understood the unity among the milk sellers who stood together against the landlords who were using their products for their own benefit. The guide explained us the working procedure very well.

Session 3 was conducted by Manoj Mathew that focused on the theological reflection of YCS/YSM. The spirituality of YCS which contains three parts, the truth of life, truth of faith and truth of action was explained to us well. It was tough but worth trying to understand. Session 4 was about the sharing of experiences of the animators in which Loucille, Manoj Mathew and Leo Joseph shared their experiences in YCS/YSM which was inspiring and made us all fill our eyes with tears. We believe that one day we too will have those great experiences to share with others

22nd May 2012: In the 4th day the first session was a lesson on deepening the YCS methodology by Fr. Charles and Manoj Mathew followed by the YCS spirituality by Fr. Franklin who also focused on the prophetic role of an animator. The next session was on Education - Academic Vs Mission by Mr. Rathilal Jadav and C. R. Christy which enlightened us to take up teaching as a mission than academics. After dinner we had a vibrant Quiz competition on YCS/YSM. Two outstanding quotes of the day were 'Joy is the gift of the Holy Spirit' and 'Pain is the greatest gain'.

Fr. Charles explained us the topic what is Animation in detail and why we should be working for the students and children as regards their identity, recognition, process of decision making and understanding their childhood, family background and reality of life. YCS/YSM is a growth oriented movement and as YCS animators we need to accompany the teenagers in their growth and life process which leads them not in 'Doing something' rather 'Becoming somebody'. During the tea break we were blindfolded and one led the other to the tea which made us understand the accompanying part of the animation process. The journey of an animator was discussed

in relation the Way to Emmaus in detail followed by the tips and qualities an animator should possess. Then Loucille explained us the three truths of YCS, truth of life, truth of faith and truth of action which is the basic idea of YCS spirituality. Fr. Alwyn D' Souza conducted the session on SWOT analysis. He helped us to know our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats which helped



us to prepare a plan of action for our unit as well as our diocese. A slide on the power of the dream was shown to boost us do our ministry effectively. After dinner we had discussion on SWOT analysis and Fr. Charles gave us information about reorganizing the movement effectively in our diocese, about Search magazine and day to day dealings of YCS/YSM. The day ended with evaluation.

23rd May 2012: The day started with Fr. Alwyn's session on Goal setting and Team building. He gave a clear picture of how it has to be done. It helped us to understand the strategies of starting a movement. Fr. Charles continued about how to organize the movement in schools, parish and institutions and how to conduct cell meetings. He insisted that the movement should be cell based without which it is not YCS/YSM. We were asked to make the action plan and to submit which will be followed up in the forthcoming meetings. Then we had an individual evaluation on the whole programme. Each one had to write their experiences and submit for the good of the forthcoming programmes. At 11 am Bishop Thomas Macwan of Ahmadabad offered mass for us and encouraged us to take active part in the movement and promised his support to revive the movement in Ahmadabad diocese. He gave a call to love one another as Jesus has loved us which would be realized in YCS/YSM in the real sense of the call of Jesus.

The concluding programme was held before lunch in which a few participants shared their experiences and showed their appreciation about how it will help them rebuild the movement to a greater height. Bishop gave away certificates and mementoes to all the participants. Fr. Lawrence appreciated the enthusiasm of the participants and Fr. Charles thanked all the participants, resource persons, Exco members, Fr. Lawrence and pastoral centre staff for making this programme a grand success. We hope all will go back rejuvenated to work for the student and teenage community in the manner of mission in their life which would fetch good results in making our young ones true Christian and social leaders of the society.

NTA/ EXCO MEET, Nadiad, Gujarat

The 4th NTA/EXCO meeting was held at pastoral centre, Nadiad, Ahmadabad Diocese, Gujarat on 18th and 19th may 2012. It was held in the same place where we had organized NSLTP and NATP. The meeting started at 11am with the inaugural Mass. Fr. Titus Dí Costa, the former youth director of



Ahmadabad diocese was the main celebrant. After the mass by lighting of the lamp Fr. Titus declared it open and formally inaugurated our meeting and NATP. 4 RYDs and 14 NTA/EXCO members and 1 Animator were present. Those were present the National Chairman Archbishop Leo Cornelio, the National Chaplain Fr. Charles Menezes, Fr. Ranjith, Sugandha Barla, Neelmani from Orissa, Fr. Philip and Alice from M&G, Jovita from Karnataka, Mohith Michael, Roseline and Anju from Bijhan, Laranzia from T.N., Jasica Robert and Jude Antony Augustine from Jhansi, U.P., Fr. Robin, Joyce John, Frank Russel from Kolkata, W.B. Sr. Agnes and Jenifer from N.E. Ciela from Goa and Leo Joseph from the National Office. RYDs from Karnataka, Goa, T.N., Northern, Bijhan, U.P., A.P, M.P, Chhattisgarh region were absent for the meeting.

Officially we started our meeting at 2.30pm with a prayer. Joyce john the National Convener welcomed those who were present and warm welcome was given to New NTA/EXCOs of U.P., Bijhan and Goa. Jovita presented the report of last NTA/EXCO meeting. In the follow up of the report we were happy to know that we have successfully completed our following plans: IRSLTP for the region of Bihar/Jharkhand and Orissa was held at Seva Kendra, Sneha Dhara, Patna from 26-30 Jan 2012, IRSLTP for the region T.N. and A.P. was conducted from 15th to 19th Feb 2012 at Trichy, Tamilnadu, Rewriting or putting the new tune to our National anthem by Fr. Robin, Preparation of the revised and amended constitution of YCS/YSM India, Selection of the number of Delegates from each Region for NC, Appointment of new DYD for the diocese of Kolkata, National student leadership training programme at Nadiad, Gujarat, National animators Training programme at Nadiad, Gujarat.

We could not hold the national team meeting along with the national chairman as planned in the previous meeting. As decided in the last meeting to get a few subscriptions from every region, only Kolkata could get 10 subscription and Tamilnadu 7 subscriptions. Those who did not elect the REXCO's and DEXCO have so far promised

to elect them by the next NTA/EXCO Meeting In the introduction Fr. Charles said that Vilas from Karnataka, Valan from T.N. and Cuthbert from N.E. informed him of their absence. Since Angela from Jhansi has moved out from her place and Francis could not take up the responsibility, they have nominated



new EXCOs Jasica and Jude in their place. He welcomed the new NTA/EXCO's. He stressed that the main agenda of the meeting is 16th National council, preparation of the council must be taken seriously, we all must know that it is our council and we are the ones who organize it. It was sad to note that only 4 RYDís were present out of 12 which would make us difficult to take any decision regarding NC.

Then we moved on to regional reports. We were happy to note that all the regions present do their job excellently. Since Bijhan and Jhansi ExcOs were new, they were unable to present the report. Soon after the tea break we had an inspiring talk on action oriented student leadership by Fr. Cedric Prakash S.J. the director of PRASHANT, the Ahmadabad based Jesuit centre for Human rights, Justice and peace. He taught us the lesson on the story of eagle and tortoise. He explained the concept in a simple 7 Aís: Awareness, Articulation, Attitude, Analysis, Availability, Authenticity and Action. The person who has faith on himself, faith on others and faith on God can make the difference, he said. Believe that you can be the change you want to see. Hold the hands of others and allow others to hold your hands. Finally don't wait for tomorrow but begin today. The day ended with the rosary lead by the animators

Sr. Agnes said that, she would suggest Bethel, Shillong as the most suitable place to host our council which requires 3 hour journey from Guwahati. Bishop in his opinion said that it would be better if National chaplain along with few of ExcOs go to N.E. and finalize the venue. We decided that Fr. Charles, Joyce and Jovita would go to Guwahati and Bethel by the end of June and finalize the venue. The theme which we decided in the previous meeting was, 'Students' education in the hour of Interculturality and religious pluralism'. Laranzia suggested that it would be easy to understand if the theme is drawn into simple words. After a long discussion, we came to the conclusion that the theme would be 'Students' Education in the Modern Era' and the thrusts are Interculturality, religious diversity and universal culture of love and life. Fr. Charles said that this is not the final theme rather anybody can suggest the theme within 6 months prior to the National Council and the council will finalize it. Then we had discussion of the students' participation from each region for the National council.

Leo Joseph said that it would be better if we have 5 students from those regions where YCS/YSM is existing in less than 5 dioceses. Joyce stressed that delegates must prepare themselves well before they attend the National council and NEXCO are responsible for it.



We had a glance on the schedule of the 16th national council. Joyce suggested having the evolution of the new theme and deepening of the study theme after the study and amendments to constitution. Each day of the council is allocated to a region for the liturgy and cultural activity. Some suggested few changes in the day's theme. We then discussed the work sheet for preparation on NTA/EXCO. Fr. Charles formed 4 committees and distributed students in each of them. Finance for the 16th National council was the important aspect of the meeting. A big question was how to raise the funds. Fr. Charles said that Rs.10 collection from each student member and Rs.10 donation coupons for others may be the good source of funds. This work must be done very seriously or else it is difficult to have a successful council. N.E. must try its level best since we are having it in their region, there is greater scope for it, he said. All were happy to know that Bishop promised Rs.50, 000 for NC. Bishop also suggested that expenses on preparatory meeting could be put under formation funds. Meeting continued in the noon with the clarification of YCS/YSM status in the CBCI Office for Youth. Fr. Charles said we are sad that office for youth neither asks for our report nor invites us for the meetings and we notice that projects of ICYM include our programs in their proposals.

Jovita raised the question on how often youth commission meeting takes place? Why we are not invited to it. Bishop in his reply said that ICYM and YCS Directors must have mutual understanding and there is no particular time for youth commission meetings. He accepted our proposal of inviting us for the Youth commission meeting i.e. having a meeting of YCS and ICYM Councils at least once in a year, so that we have a good understanding. Joyce inquired about the status of YCS/YSM in office for youth, where ICYM and YCS both are equal part of it. Bishop in his reply said that YCS/YSM is the one which went away from them and stayed independently. Joyce said we want to be with youth commission, let's forget the past and work for the future. Bishop asked us to write all our concerns and send it to him. After a long discussion on all

these issues we moved on to new draft of YCS Constitution. Bishop suggested a few corrections regarding diocesan and regional team of animators. Fr. Charles said that the draft of the constitution will be sent to the regions soon and after going through the draft any amendments and suggestions should reach to the National Office 6 month prior to the council. He asked us to suggest the amendments before we come for the next NTA/ EXCO meeting.

Joyce thanked all the NTA/EXCOS and RYDS for taking so much trouble and having come for this meeting. A special thanks to Archbishop who came for our meeting and stayed with us one whole day, spent his precious time for us in his busy schedule. A special thanks to our dear Chaplain Fr. Charles Menezes and Leo Joseph who takes so much trouble to arrange for our meetings on time. Archbishop expressed his happiness over this meeting and promised to spend more time in the next NTA/Exco meeting.

- Jovita D Souza, National Secretary

Revival of YCS/YSM in Delhi Diocese

Delhi Diocesan Youth Commission organized a day's programme of revival of YCS/YSM at Loretto Convent School on 17th April 2012. Though YCS unit exists there it was not functioning well. Fr. Chetan introduced the resource person and welcomed the gathering. Fr Charles explained to the students the history, aim and objectives, characteristics and methodology of YCS/YSM.



He then taught them how to conduct the cell meeting which is the most important thing. The animators were asked to form cells which were not functioning so far. Students participated well in the programme and the leader proposed the vote of thanks. St. Anita the headmistress thanked the resource person and promised to support this movement for the student folk of her school. Of course it was her initiative that led us to this programme.



On 18th a programme was organized at Yousuf Sadan for the student leaders and animators regarding the movement. Fr. Charles conducted the session on YCS and Cell meeting. He gave the information in detail which was followed by a model cell meeting. The participants were divided into groups and a topic of their choice was chosen and led the discussion in the YCS methodology. Fr. Charles explained to them the way to conduct meeting and asked them to work seriously for this movement in the methodology for the self transformation.

- Fr. Chetan Machado, DYD Delhi

YCS/YSM in Belgaum Diocese

The revival and the new beginning of the YCS/YSM in Belgaum Diocese began with the training programmes organized by the newly appointed YCS Director Fr. Roshan Santhumayor from 12 to 16 June 2012.

12.06.2012: On 12th June the training was organized for the 26 teachers of various schools at Fatima School Hall, Keshwapur, Hubli who are going to be animators of the movement. It began with inaugural programme. Fr. William Borges and Fr. Thomas Champakara lighted the lamp and gave the inaugural address. Fr. Roshan welcomed the participants. Fr. Charles Menezes, the resource person and National Chaplain of the movement made them to understand why this ministry is required. Teaching is a profession today yet it is possible and needed to be made as mission which is the need of the hour. In the second session information regarding what is YCS/YSM was given. The aim and objectives, its history, structure, methodology was taught to them. In the afternoon a detailed session on methodology was explained to them. The cell meeting and its dynamics was clarified. How to take up student related issues and how to deal with it in the given methodology was taught and paper cuttings were given to conduct a cell meeting themselves. Then they prepared an action plan of starting the movement in their respective schools by the end of July and continue with the DTS election by the Diocesan chaplain in August. The programme came to a close at 4.30pm with the evaluation and sharing of their experiences about the day's programme.



13.06.2012: The programme was organized at St. Xavier's School Hall, Camp, Belgaum. Altogether 19 teachers/ animators attended the programme. Fr. Alwyn Sudhir inaugurated the programme and asked the participants to take up interest in learning the concept of organizing YCS/YSM in the schools. The participants were very much interested in the movement as it would help them to tackle issues with regard to students in their respective schools. Same procedure was followed as with Hubli and the programme came to an end at 4.30pm.



14.06.2012: The day was special as it was with the priests of Belgaum Diocese. In the morning session Fr. Charles spoke on Priests' ministry with Youth in the Diocese. Citing various church documents and traditions along with biblical quotes urged all the priests to take up this mission seriously as it is with regard to the future of the church and society. During the meeting of the Priests Fr. Charles gave a power point presentation of YCS/YSM and explained the way YCS/YSM works in the schools and

parishes. It made all the priests aware of the need to take up this mission as it was envisaged by CBCI way back in 1969 and recognized YCS as the official apostolic student movement for faith formation and personality development along with value based evangelization of the students of other faith.



15.06.2012: The programme was held at St. Xavier's School Hall, Camp, Belgaum for the student leaders of various schools who want to start this movement. 42 students along with their school teachers/ animators took part in it. Students were enthusiastic to know the dynamics of the movement. Why we need this movement in our institutions and what is YCS/YSM was explained to them

in the morning and in the afternoon they were introduced to the Cell meeting which made them aware of how it helps for their personality development along with attitude formation. A touch of Leadership formation was also given through some video clips. At the end all the schools made the action plan and preparing themselves to become change agents of the society.

16.06.2012: The programme was held at Fatima School Hall, Keshwapur, Hubli. 52 students along with their teachers/animators took part in it. Fr. Charles explained the dynamics of the movement. Participants took keen interest in knowing about the movement and dealt with all the topics clearly. Animators also participated in all the activities and showed interest in reviving the movement for the sake of student community. The students prepared the action plan to start this movement as early as possible and partake in the social change it brings along with its activities. In the evening Fr. Roshan thanked all the participants for their keen interest and offered his help in organizing it in all the schools. The programme ended at 4.30pm.



NATP- I miss you!

One of my sweet and unforgettable moments in my life was attending a great program like NATP (National Animator's Training Program). This was my first time attending a National level program in YCS and also my first visit to the Northern India. NATP is a cluster of experiences that gave me more confident in guiding the students. As a student of Physics, I would tell that the NATP has made a huge impact in my life and the resultant is the change in me. One of my unforgettable persons I met was Sr. Grace. She was the eldest among the animators but I won't believe after seeing her participating with full of life. Yes! YCS is Life indeed! It was experiences of love, joy, friendship and of course the tears. I am proud to say that I am an YCSer.



- Vijay Raj, Chennai

The Necessity of Sanitation and Hygiene

Good health is a great blessing. None of us enjoy feeling sick. We have all had times of feeling sick but we get over the sickness and return back to normal life. But there are human beings who aren't as lucky as us. They die when they are affected by the same sickness that we have experienced and have overcome.

Sanitation generally refers to the provision of facilities and services for the safe disposal of human excreta. Inadequate sanitation is a major cause of disease worldwide and improving sanitation is known to have a significant beneficial impact on health both in households and across communities. The word 'sanitation' also refers to the maintenance of hygienic conditions, through services such as garbage collection and wastewater disposal.

At least 2.6 billion people do not have access to latrines or any basic sanitation facilities. As a result millions suffer from a wide range of preventable illnesses such as diarrhoea which claims thousands of lives each day, primarily young children. Improving quality sanitation is a world-wide desire as it will:

- Improve human health conditions.
- Generate economic benefits.
- Contribute to human dignity and social development.
- Sustain the environment.
- Minimize and reduce poverty, to mention but a few

Internationally, the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSC), Water Sanitation and Health (WASH), and hundreds of other organizations worldwide are seeking holistic sustainable and ecological sanitation solutions with health and hygiene benefits for the poor within the year 2015. Considering the current rate of progress in sub-Saharan Africa, the global target will not be met until 2076. This will result in the deaths of an additional 133 million African children.

Sanitation in India:

As India moves into the next millennium it has many things to be proud of. With a landmass of 3.29 million square kilometers and a population of just over a billion India has enormous natural resources, it also has the second largest pool of technical and scientific personnel in the world and is one of the fastest growing economies in the developing world in terms of its GDP growth.

In the five decades since independence, India has witnessed a significant achievement in many of the millennium development goals like



**Welcome to
YCS/YSM family**
Fr. Gregory Monteiro
YCS/YSM Chaplain,
Kolkata Diocese

reduction of extreme hunger and poverty by increasing self-sufficiency in food grains, increased life expectancy, sustainable management of its natural resources, rapid expansion in the urban, energy and industrial sectors, improved child and maternal health, increased universal primary and higher education, advancement in the field of science and technology, increased access to water and sanitation facilities, increased participation of women in social and political arena and above all a multicultural and religious vibrant social democracy. However India is still far behind other developing nations in terms of achievement in some of the very basic social and economic development indicators especially in the rural areas where majority of our population lives. 65% of its rural areas are without sanitation facilities and large parts of rural India face acute water shortage. Some areas are completely deprived of education facilities particularly secondary and higher education and the drop out of children from schools, particularly girls, is very high.

Infant and Maternal Mortality rates are very high, and around 0.6 -0.7 million children people majority from the backward castes are involved in manual scavenging. Due to lack of awareness and traditional beliefs open defecation is very common. Participation of poor and marginalized communities in the local governance and informed decision making is also lacking specially in tribal and remote areas.

What can we do?

Mahatma Gandhi once said, 'Be the change you want to see' This is the exact motto of YCS/YSM. So, we should set an example for others, an example that cannot go unnoticed by people. Let's live a life of health and hygiene!

Quick Facts:

- ◆ Every fifteen to twenty seconds a child between 0 and 5 years dies from diarrhea caused by poor sanitation.
- ◆ 433 Million School days are lost annually worldwide due to diarrhea disease.
- ◆ The total health budget that is spent on treating diarrhea diseases in sub-Saharan Africa amounts to 12%. These budgets can be reduced by up to 88% with proper sanitation with health and hygiene benefits.
- ◆ For every 1% of the money spent on sanitation a benefit of 9% is achieved.
- ◆ Failure to invest in water and sanitation, according to the WHO, will cost developing countries \$84 Billion per year in lost lives, low productivity of sick workers, increased health system costs and children being absent from school.
- ◆ One sick person at home results in two people out of work with no income. The end result is poverty. Preventing sanitation related diseases eliminates and/or minimizes poverty and positively impacts on the health budgets of countries that spend 12% of their health budget on diarrhea diseases alone.

“Believe nothing, no matter where you read it, or who said it - even if I have said it - unless it agrees with your own reason and your own common sense.” **-The Buddha**
- Shawn, St. Bedes A.I HSS, Chennai

Adolescent Girls

“A generation without education is doomed. We need assurance, we need to be heard and to participate and we need a future. We have a right to education and we want to go to school.”

- *Protecting and Empowering Displaced Adolescent Girls*

In a humanitarian crisis, whether it's war, famine or natural disaster, lives are turned upside down. Families are uprooted, separated or destroyed. Access to education deteriorates. Safety and security dissolve. In the midst of this chaos, displaced adolescent girls are often the most overlooked, neglected and vulnerable. When girls ages 10-16 lose their homes, families or schools, they are more exposed to:

exploitation and abuse
sexual and gender-based violence
early pregnancy
forced marriage, often by age 16
forced labor



For girls to be safe and to have a chance at the future they deserve, they need security and education, health care, social supports and adult mentors. And they need opportunities to develop the confidence, critical thinking and support networks needed to make good decisions for their lives.

The Women's Refugee Commission illuminates and addresses the critical needs of adolescent girls in crisis settings to ensure that they stay safe and make positive changes in their lives. We are working in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia with girls, and the groups that support them, to identify and promote ways that girls can protect themselves, access healthcare, complete school, build leadership skills and be seen as a valued part of their families and communities.



We learn from the girls themselves what works and what doesn't and then we partner with local organizations to design unique projects to meet these needs. As a result of our work, girls will learn how to live safer lives and, with support of adults, build brighter futures.

- *Nina P. Patrick, Nagpur*

YCS/YSM training at Arunachal Pradesh Region

17th July - A new unit was started at St. Francis Xavier School, Karsingsa recently and Fr. Charles Menezes took up the detailed session on YCS/YSM to the participants. There were 70 student members. The students welcomed the guests with a welcome song. The principal Bro. Biju welcomed the guests and wished them well in the programme. He along with a few teachers participated in the programme fully. First session was on Why



YCS/YSM for the teenagers and high school students. They were made aware of their changing life situation especially psychological, emotional and physiological change they need to be trained in the right attitude to form their life and live up to their faith formation. Second session was on what is YCS/YSM and in that session Fr. Charles explained them the various aspects of YCS/YSM and made them understand the movement in detail. Third session was on methodology and cell meeting which made them participate in the cell meeting actively and understand how they can make it more effective. Then Fr Clement the DYD of Itanagar and Sr. Agnes and Sr. Regina gave them information about the activities of the movement in the region and asked them to participate well in it. The programme ended at 1pm.



18th July - The training programme began with the inauguration at St. Don Bosco High School, Yachuli. The students welcomed us with a welcome song and two dances by boys and girls. There were 110 students participated in this programme. The principal Fr. Thomas and three teachers were the full time participants. The principal welcomed the guests and Fr. Clement introduced the resource persons.

The first session began with why YCS/YSM for high school students. It was followed by what is YCS/YSM and How to do it. The students participated in it actively and there were a few queries regarding continuation and follow up of this programme. Fr. Charles asked them to take up the responsibility and keep it alive through their activities and cell meetings. A number of action songs and activities were taught to make it more interesting. Fr. Clement thanked the resource persons and Sr. Agnes

informed them about the forthcoming National Council and regarding the membership fees and other details. Mr. Rajan helped us for the group dynamics. The programme came to a close at 3.30pm.



19th July - The training on YCS/YSM was held at St. Don Bosco School, Hapoli, Ziro. The programme began with the prayer song, Gospel reading and welcome dance by the student members. The president of the school unit welcomed the guests, the secretary placed the report of the movement and treasurer presented the accounts report. Fr. Xavier the manager of the school, Headmistress and Animator Mr. Petrus were present at the

inauguration. Fr. Clement introduced the resource person.

Fr. Charles asked the groups to enlist the problems students, society and village face in their vicinity. Students made a list of it and clarification was sought as to how to solve them. Students had their own suggestions. YCS/YSM movement was explained to them in detail as how it helps them to find out solutions for all the problems and how ROL helps each one personally to deal with their problems. During the session What, Why and How about YCS/YSM was explained to them. In the afternoon session students took active part in the group discussion which made them realize how important it is to use this methodology in their life as Review of Life. Fr. Clement thanked the resource persons and the programme came to a close at 3pm.



21st July - Training on ICYM and Leadership was held at Naharlagun parish for the youth group. 18 participated in it. Sr. Regina enlightened them on ICYM and Fr. Clement informed them about the forthcoming programmes. Fr. Charles dealt with the session on leadership with various video clippings and some activities. Participants were happy to learn more about it and expressed their opinion that they need more such programmes rather having only praise and

worship every time they met. Mr. Tabio expressed his views on the training and thanked the organizers for the programme.

Tips for Efficient & Interesting YCS/YSM Cell Meetings

The Enquiry Method:	See- Judge- Act
SEE:	What is going on around us? - Awareness
JUDGE:	What should it be? - Reflection
ACT:	What can we do? - Action
Agenda for an YSM Meeting:	
Opening Prayer:	Some of the YSM prayers may be used or each leader takes a turn to prepare the opening and closing prayers.
Review of the week:	Minutes of the last meeting. Review of action: What have you done about the decisions taken at the last meeting? Reporting of facts observed during the week.

The enquiry or Discussion: ROL - Take an incident which is student related, which occurs often and which needs immediate attention ñ use the methodology see, judge, act & evaluate.

Action: Individual and collective work for the coming week. The group tries to include as many students, outside YSM as possible.

Preparation for the next meeting: The topic for the discussion is chosen and a leader is appointed to prepare the agenda. The group reads the suggestions given in the leaflet for the next meeting and distributes the work.

Animator's Remark: The animator or guide may add a few remarks to what he has already said during the meeting.

Closing Prayer.

WHY DO WE MEET?

Because we can help one another to know more about our school, our city, our country and the world around us.

Because we can reflect together and acquire a new vision of the world.

Because we can share our feelings, experiences and opinions with our fellow- students.

Because we can work together and built a better and happier world.

Before the meeting:

Follow the instructions given in 'before the meeting'

Read the documentation and agenda of the next meeting. Write down your reflections.

Note down facts and events you come across.

At the meeting:

President: Know the subject at hand. Listen to what others say. Question. Communicate with the members of the group.

Secretary: Be attentive. Note down the main points. Sum up.

Participants: Be active. Answer and share your views with others. Use your notebook.

After the meeting:

Sum up the main thoughts of the last meeting.

Carry out your individual and collective resolutions. Involve other students.

Prepare for the next meeting.

Important Reminders:

The Cell Leader encourages the team members and he is their friend. He meets the animator and reviews the work of the team. He sees to it that the team members implement the decisions taken during the meeting.

The student in charge of the next meeting prepares the enquiry with the animator.

The Secretary writes the minutes of each meeting and invites the team members to write articles for the YCS YSM Magazine.

True friendship should exist in the group. Recreational activities and visits of each other's home may help to develop friendship among the team members.

Example for Cell meeting: MY COUNTRY

Before the meeting:

In view of finding out what is happening in India today, read and collect articles and pictures connected with Independence Day. Why not invite some friends to attend this meeting?

At the meeting:

What do these articles say about the size of our population? Our standard of living? Agriculture? Industry? The number of illiterates, jobless persons, slum-dwellers, sick people, beggars? Is India getting better or worse?

Do these articles seem confident about the future of India? What is your opinion? Is India shining?

In January 1948, Pandit Nehru said: 'There is no such thing as freedom for a man who is starving or for a country which is poor.' Is this true? Why?

At the end: Prayer for India

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high, into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.

Where knowledge is free.

Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls.

Where worlds come out from the depth of truth.

Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection.

Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sands of dead habit.

Where the mind is led forward by Thee into ever widening thought and action. (R. Tagore)

Cell meeting: This resource material for cell meeting was prepared by the students of YCS/YSM Guwahati during the training on National theme at Peace Centre, Ambari, Guwahati on 16th July 2012. They were from Don Bosco School, Sonaiguli, St. Mary's Higher Secondary School, Maligaon, Holy Child H.S. School, G.S. Road, Guwahati, Montfort Inclusive School, G. S. Road and Little Flower School, Hatigaon, Dispur. We thank all the students, animators, RYD and DYD of NE and the resource person Mr. Emelan from Shillong.

Cell Meeting 1: Human Rights and Students:

Reality: Once there was a girl named Clara, studying in a reputed school. She had been going to mathematics tuition with a particular teacher who was teaching in her school. As a result she started getting good marks and gradually achieved good grades in the subject because of the help provided by the teacher during the exams. But after some time because of their family's financial problems she had to leave her tuition class. This made the teacher angry. When the next exam was held she did not get enough marks due to the teacher who started deducting marks and stopped helping her during exams.

See:

What was the reality of tuition class and during examination time? Is it right?

What are the student rights? What do you mean by partiality and what is your opinion about partiality?

What are the causes of showing partiality in the school?

Have you come across such incidents in the school?

Judge:

How does partiality affect the rights of the students?

Are you aware of any law against showing partiality in the school?

What is the attitude of the teacher in being partial with the students?

To be a good teacher what are the values required?

What does your scripture say about this incident?

What would you do if you were a part of this incident?

Act:

Suggest concrete actions to provide basic human rights to students.

What can YSM do to solve such problem in your school?

Suggested activity: Read such a story in the assembly with a moral thought to make the student understand the problem of showing partiality.

Cell meeting 2: Human rights and Girl Child:

Reality: Shiny was a poor girl. She lost her parents at the tender age of 5 years. She was looked after by her uncle and aunt. They had their own children and so they were least bothered about Shiny. Her aunt made her do all the household work and ill treated her regularly. Finally when she grew up situation forced her to run away from the house. She began searching for a job. Someone enticed her to get a job and took her away. But at last she ended up at a Brothel and lived a miserable life.

See:

What situation forced her to lead a life in prostitution?

What way Shiny was deprived of her rights?

Have you come across similar situations or stories? Share with your cell members.

Judge:

What was the attitude of uncle and aunt to force her to this situation?

What are the causes and consequences of this type of miserable life?

What is your opinion about forced labour?

What role can we play so that women are not deprived of their basic human rights?

What does your scripture say about such situations?

If you were involved in such situation what would you do?

Act:

Propose a concrete action to fight against and prevent this social evil existing in our society.

As YSM members what would you do to spread the awareness of such incidents?

Suggested activity: 1. Conduct a debate in the school parliament in order to make all the students aware of their rights. 2. Hold a photo exhibition to show the students difficulties faced by the girl child.

Cell meeting 3: Human rights and Social media:

Reality: Once there lived a poor family in a village. Ram was the head of the family and he had seven children. He was too lazy to do any work. So he engaged his children in the industries to work and get their daily wages. Every day the children used to give their daily wages to the father. Though the children worked very hard, the money was used by their father to booze and misused. The eldest son Sam got frustrated with it and started earning money by unfair means for his needs. While doing so once he snatched a gold chain from a woman and was caught by the policemen. Sam told the whole story of his family to the policeman and explained him why he adopted to this unfair means of earning. The police inspector was an upright man. The father was called

and interrogated and the news of this incident was put in the channels and was made known to others so that others may not put their children to child labour and wrongdoings. This incident made a good impact on the public of that village.

See:

What do you understand by child labour?
What are the responsibilities of the parents towards their children?
What is the attitude of the father?
Are you aware of such incidents in your life?

Judge:

What are the values you evolve from this incident?
What is the importance and good effect of Social media?
What does the scripture say about such incidents?

Act:

Suggest concrete action to prevent and eradicate child labour?
As an YSM member what can you do stop child labour?

Suggested activity: 1. Perform a street play on child labour and the eradication of this through the help of Mass media at a public place in your village. 2. Hold a seminar on how to use and good effects of Social media in your school.

Cell meeting 4: CHILDREN TRAFFICKING - Trafficking of children is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of children for the purpose of exploitation.

Reality : Once upon a time, there was one lady named Rita. No one knows about her life and occupation. The only thing people know is about her goodness and generosity. She always helps people especially young girls who faced problems and difficulties in their life by supporting and helping them. She even allow them to stay with her for a short time and then help them to get job somewhere in the big cities like Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi. These girls helped by her never come back to their native place because after reaching big cities they were not allowing even to move out from the place they were put. But one day, one girl send by her to Mumbai was rescue by the police from brothel and send back to her native place. Thus, from her people came to know about Rita's real life that she was a trafficker who act like an angle just to tempt young girls to her net.

SEE

What do you mean by Children Trafficking?
What is the mind-set of the persons behaving in this way?

Have you come across of such people?
What was the reason or cause for young girls' trafficking?

JUDGE

What are the causes and consequences of the children trafficking?
Is there or are you aware of any law against Trafficking?
What would you do if you come across this problem?

ACT

Propose a concrete action to fight against and prevent this social evil exist in our society today.
Don't simple trust people without knowing just because they are good and generous.

Cell meeting 5: CHILD LABOUR - Children are vulnerable, they need to be cared for and protected from the harshness of the world outside and around. But many they were under different sort of exploitation, oppression, cruelty and abuse.

Reality : There was one company that used to recruit children for employment. Many children from the poor family were employed in this company. But this company never thinks for their good and welfare, instead exploiting them to the full by making them to work for long hours and gave them a very low wages or salary. They have to work in a very unhealthy condition but anything happen to their health; the company did not give them any medical allowances for their treatment.

SEE

What do you understand by Child Labour?
What is the main cause of Child Labour?
What is the attitude of the company towards them?
What is the condition of their work?
How you come across any similar situation?
How did you respond to this situation?

JUDGE

What is the aim of the company by employing children?
How is it going to affect their life on the long run?
Is there or are you aware of any law against Child Labour?
What is your decision on Child Labour?

ACT

Suggest concrete action to prevent and eradicate Child Labour.
Create awareness about the harm of early marriage and importance of family planning.

Report of the activities of the National Chaplain

1. Participated in the Village Exposure Camp on 9th April at Shirva organized by YCS Udupi, Mangalore and took a session on Leadership.
2. Took session on YCS/YSM on 16th Apr for the YCS members at Loretto Convent School at Delhi.
3. Took session on YCS/YSM on 17th Apr at Youth Centre Delhi for student leaders and Animators for the revival of the movement in Delhi. Fr. Chetan, DYD of Delhi organized this programme.
4. Met YCS Mizoram office bearers (DTS) at Aizawl to clarify the issues regarding organizing YCS in Mizoram and led the session about YCS and Leadership role on 27-28 Apr and formed DEXCO of Mizoram.
5. Visited YCS Kolasib unit at Mizoram on YCS annual day on 28th Apr and participated in the programme.
6. Organized NSLTP in Hindi at Nadiad, Gujarat from 13-17 May 2012. 65 student leaders participated in it.
7. Organized NATP at Nadiad, Gujarat from 18-25 May 2012 and 40 animators took part in it.
8. 4th NTA/EXCO meeting held at Nadiad, Gujarat on 18-19 May to evaluate the past 6 months and plan for the future especially for National Council to be held at Northeast next year. Archbishop Leo Cornelio CBCI Bishop-in-charge office for youth was present for the meeting.
9. Held half day session on YCS/YSM at CAT program Bangalore on 6th June. Leo Joseph accompanied me.
10. Met YCS and youth group of Balkunje, Mangalore on 8th June and took a session on Leadership.
11. Helped organizing and revival of YCS/YSM Belgaum Diocese by taking sessions on YCS/YSM for teachers/animators at Hubli and Belgaum on 12th and 13th, gave a talk to all Priests of the diocese on 14th and to student leaders at Belgaum and Hubli on 15th and 16th June. We hope to revive the movement in all the high schools and some of the parishes. Fr. Roshan organized it.
12. Took a session to animators on 23rd June at Pastoral Centre, Chennai during Madras-Mylapore YCS/YSM DTS election.
13. Attended the wedding of Reshma Castelino at Mulky on 25th June who was the former NEXCO of Karnataka.
14. Annual retreat from 1-6 July at Mangalore.

15. Visited St Annis School at Bolarum, Secunderabad on 8th July. Had discussion with the Animator Sr. Lilly Braggs about YCS/YSM in her school.
16. Participated in CCI meeting at Secunderabad from 9-11 July 2012. Cardijn Community India would be a platform to revive and spread the Cardijn spirituality to all the schools and church activities. There is a good scope for all the Ex YCS/YSM members to be a part of it and do something worthwhile in the society.
17. Met Fr. Fathima Reddy, DYD of Hyderabad on 12th July regarding revival of the movement in Andra Pradesh. He will be of good help in this regard in the region. Thanks to Fr. Fathima Reddy. Stayed at YCS/YSM National President Joyce's home on 14th and held discussions on forthcoming National Council.
18. Visited BETHEL, Shillong on 15th July along with Joyce, Fr. Mark Lakra and Sr. Agnes where we will be holding our National council and finalized the venue and the necessary things. It would be really a good atmosphere for us to have our Council peacefully and successfully.
19. Held a day's training programme with the members of Guwahati YCS/YSM regarding National theme and the thrust Human Rights on 16th at Peace Centre, Guwahati.
20. Conducted training on YCS/YSM to the newly started school units of Arunachal Pradesh at St. Francis Xavier School, Karsingsa. Bunderdeva, on 17th July.
21. Held training on YCS/YSM to the members at St. Don Bosco School, Yachuli, on 18th July.
22. Held training at St. Don Bosco School, Hapoli, Ziro, on 19th July.
23. Held youth training programme at Naharlagun Parish youth, Arunachal Pradesh on 21st July. 18 youth participated in it. Sr. Regina and Sr. Agnes also took sessions on ICYM and YCS. Fr. Clement organized this it. Vicar General of Itanagar Diocese was present at the programme.
24. Took part in solidarity day programme with CCI members at Chennai on 24th July on the occasion of Joseph Cardijn's 45th death anniversary.

Future Programmes:

1. Asian Session and Council at Seoul, South Korea from 6-15 August 2012.
2. Youth seminar for seminarians of St. Joseph's Seminary, Mangalore on 27-28 Aug
3. NTA/EXCO meeting at Nagpur in Dec.

Reminder: May I kindly request the RYDs, DYDs, Animators and students who have got the YCS/YSM Evaluation Questionnaire to return it to the National Office duly filled as soon as possible.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF YCS KOLKATA

The General Assembly of YCS Kolkata along with the election of the new DEXCO was held at Our Lady Queen of the Missions School, Salt Lake on 14th July. The day started with a brief inauguration and prayer. The presidents of each cells, representing their schools presented their annual YCS YSM report for the academic year 2011-2012. Suzan



Topno, Amit Runda and Jyoti Baa, the Ex YCSers gave few tips for the coming year.

A session on Human Rights was conducted by Miss Sucheta Mukherjee, during which she highlighted the evils faced by modern society and gave us some guidelines to overcome them. Through a panel discussion with the students, Ms Bipasha Biswas, Amit Runda, Suzan Topno, and Jyoti Baa answered the students with their own life experiences in the movement. The present DEXCO shared their experiences specially, the treasurer, Sushmita Maria Mondol shared how YCS has changed her and what being a Dexco really means.

Then eight nominees were elected through an elimination round answering to a committee. The answers given by the nominees were quite impressive and showed how capable they were. Through secret ballot four were elected for the new team of DEXCO. They are Rosemary Gomes from Auxilium Dum Dum, Renie Jasmine Lakra from Our Lady Queen of the Mission School Salt Lake, Valerian Raj Felix from Don Bosco Liluah and Kingshuk Philip Midde from Don Bosco Park Circus; they will take office during Commitment day in 2013. The event concluded on a good note with Fr Gregory, the diocesan Chaplin giving vote of thanks. Special thanks go to Fr KK Anthony and Fr Peppin for gracing the event with their presence, Sr. Shirly Sebastia, the Principal of Our Lady Queen of the Missions School, all the students and animators without whom the event would not have been successful.

- Flora Lee, Secretary YCS Kolkata

God rewards in *double measures*

(Short Story)

6:30 am; Reah was still in bed with the blanket pulled over her face.

‘Good morning Reah..Wake up dear’.

She popped out her head of the blanket; her mother drew the curtains apart and opened the windows letting in the soft warm rays of the sun. Reah sat up on the bed and wished her mother good morning in a low cold voice, handing out the coffee to her Mrs. Stalin closely observed her daughter’s face. It seemed that she had been awake all night, her face was swollen and she looked feverish; vexed she asked her to freshen up and come downstairs.

As she prepared tea for her husband she told him, ‘Reah is not her usual self anymore, if this continues I fear we might lose her’



- Mercy Hembrom, Kolkata

Reah had always been very cheerful and an extrovert, she excelled in her academic life and was industrious to the core. Despite all this she was an active member of the youth fellowship in her church and was equally interested in extracurricular activities. Reah had done M.Tech from a reputed college in the city and also completed M.Ed. A whirl of happiness swayed across the house when she was offered the post of a professor overseas. She was supposed to report at the university last month .However, she could not do so. Reah felt as if her world had crashed, she was at her wits end. Since then Reah has slipped into a state of dejection, this incident has left completely shattered. Mr. Stalin asked her to take courage and press forward but all their attempts were in vain.

At the breakfast table her father said to her, ‘Reah tomorrow is Saturday. Will you please accompany me to the Youth Fellowship Meet scheduled to be held in our parish at 4pm?’ Reah sat quietly having her breakfast but her mother insisted on her

saying 'Go along with your father, it might make you feel better dear'. Though unwilling she finally agreed to please her parents.

Next evening everyone was happy to see her in the church as they dearly missed her. Fr. Justin told her, 'It's good to see you, please do attend the meetings regularly'. After the mass ended Reah pondered over a particular verse which touched her heart; indifferent to what was going around her. 'Fear not for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, and I will help you with my righteous right hand' (Isaiah 41:10 Just then she heard someone sing - 'Here I am to worship ...')

Reah soon realized her folly and a simultaneous ray of hope surged her soul.

The following week Fr. Justin called on to them and gave them the news that Reah has been asked to join as a professor at a reputed missionary university in the city. He also told them that the Dean of the university was one of his close acquaintances; had come to him seeking for help as the professor teaching at the university had to be transferred to another city on account of some personal problem. It was then he suggested Reah to him, furnishing him with the necessary details. Fr. Justin told Reah that the Dean had requested her to come and meet him in his office tomorrow with the necessary documents at 11:00 am. Thus after giving her the contact details and other information, they thanked Fr. Justin profusely and he took their leave.

The next day Reah went to the university to meet the Dean who immediately appointed her as one of the professors at the university and asked her to join at the earliest. One fine evening, a fortnight after her joining, Reah returned home over brimming with joy.

She told her mother, 'Ma, Do you remember the overseas university where I was offered a job?' 'Yes' but 'Why do you ask me?' replied her mother. Reah told her mother, 'The Lord has given me an opportunity to visit the university' then she went on to tell her the details about it. She told her that a team of 10 students along with two teachers (she being one of them) were selected from her university to attend an educational conference overseas scheduled to be held in that university. Their joys knew no bounds; they immediately knelt down and thanked the Lord for His graces.

'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts' (Isaiah 55:9)