



SERVICE THROUGH FELLOWSHIP

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GOOD OR BAD, WHO KNOWS?

There was this wise old man living in his native village with his wife and only son. A horse was his only source of income. One day, to his dismay he found his horse missing. He could not go for hunting to earn his livelihood because of this mishap. The villagers seeing his sorrowful plight came to show their sympathy. The wise man said, "Good or bad who knows"? After a few days of agony, the horse returned with a herd of horses. Seeing the good fortune of the man the villagers came to congratulate him. He again said, "Good or bad, who knows"? As they became wealthy the indulgent mother allowed her son to go horse riding. One day he fell down from the

horse and broke his leg. In front of the villagers the man had only the same line to repeat. At that time, a war broke out in their land and the old man's son was to be conscripted to the Army. When they found him incapacitated with a broken leg they spared him. This time every one came to congratulate him on his good luck. The old man shrugged his shoulders and uttered the same refrain. "Good or bad, who knows"? When we are blessed by good fortune or confronted by misfortune don't rejoice or lose heart. There could be opportunities in misfortune and threats in good fortune.

Romans 8:28 For those who love Him, all things work for their good.

KERALA CATHOLIC SOCIETY

Regd. Office:
23 (Old No. 11), Halls Road
CHENNAI - 600 010
Phone: 26454854

Patron
Rev. Dr. Kurian Thomas

MEMBERS OF
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
2004-2005

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Chairperson, KCS News
Mrs. Susan Thomas

Co-Chairperson
Mrs. Mariamma Xavier

Co-ordinator
Mrs. Leela Jose

Editor
Mrs. Elizabeth John

Designing & Printing
Mr. K.C. James

Typesetting: Tachy Graphic

KCS Internet Address:

<http://www.kcsmadras.com>

Email: secretary@kcsmadras.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear members,

KCS is ten years young and over the years, we have come a long way. Various activities have brought the members together and by now, we have become a coherent group which can look beyond social interaction.

The time is ripe for us to shift to the next orbit of activities and it is appropriate that we have formed the Permanent Project Trust. One of the 'big projects' being considered by the Trust is the KCS Club.

While a detailed plan for the Club is being made, we plan to start a 'mini club' at the

KCS House. Activities will start with breakfast on Sunday mornings, details of which will be sent to you later. Depending on the feedback from members, we could add Sunday lunch, card games and so on...

KCS, apart from fellowship, also has a tradition of helping the economically challenged through charity projects. This year, the Project Committee has made a composite plan for three types of projects.

1. An Orphanage which needs assistance has been identified. They have about 100 inmates and we plan to meet part of the cost of providing window panes to their building.
2. We are working along with an organization by name Alampana to

train youngsters from weaker sections of the society in Internet operations and the trainees will be employed by Cybercafe operators.

3. There has been a suggestion that we should focus some of our attention on helping the needy Malayalees in Chennai. Requests for assistance have been received through priests. After screening the applications, we will provide financial assistance.

We just had our Picnic meeting on the 24th of July, which I am sure you would have enjoyed. The day's activities showed signs of increased Youth Power in KCS Dynamics, a welcome sign for sure!

Best regards,

P. J. Xavier



SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Greetings to you all! We have just enjoyed the first big event of the year, Picnic 2005.

Governing Council, with four new dynamic members met thrice this year and formulated well thought out action plans for the year. Committees have begun acting on their assigned responsibilities in right earnest, the results of which will unfold in the months to come. The first wave of Help Line meetings was a grand success.

Ladies' Wing had a resounding start. Deserving charity projects have been identified and funds have been allocated. It is gratifying that a small beginning is being made to create an image of our decade old society among our Catholic brethren in and around Chennai city.

The Permanent Project Committee is

seized on their mission to select a suitable project as harbinger of our legacy to the future.

Let me conclude this message with a verse recited as vote of thanks at the AGM on 30th April, 2005.

Thank God for Kerala Catholic Society,
For the eventful year that has ceased to be.

Thanks are due to Pres. V.M Thomas,
For leading the way for all of us.

We welcome President Xavier,
Who for the next year is our saviour.

We bid good-bye to Sujit, Malcolm and Paul,
Who painted three years with colour and all.

So, we welcome John, Babu, Saju and Lawrence
To the Council, for their own vibrance.

Dr. Joseph Thomas worked hard for nominations,
For Governing Council and permanent trustees with determination.

So too C.D Jose as project committee Chairman,
And meticulous K. J. Joseph, bye law Chairman.

Vattakunnel was gracious in induction,
So were the new Council members with their attention.

Leela, Molly and Rachael were power with wings
Which was the reason for the success of Ladies' wing.

Lets not forget the helpline officials and other leaders
Who made the year great with help and offers.

Last but not least I also thank all members at large
Making the general body of KCS charged!

E.C.Thomas



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK... ✍

Dear friends,

Greetings to one and all!

This year is indeed special, being the tenth year of KCS since its inception. The new team has been installed, various committees have been formed and all are geared up to promote the cause of KCS, that it may scale greater heights.

The first meeting of the KCS family - the one-day picnic - proved to be a great success. I am at a loss for words to describe the feeling of togetherness and camaraderie experienced. We have included a detailed write-up and photographs for the benefit of those members who could not make it this time.

Eager to know more about our President and his plans for KCS? Mrs. Premi Mampilli, in her inimitable style, does just that!!

We have also included an article by our Secretary Mr. E. C. Thomas to make you ponder on the need to have a permanent project for KCS.

In our endeavour to include the youth and children in all the KCS activities, we have earmarked a section, "Planet Young" for them. So do keep your contributions pouring in!

It is my earnest request to all our dear members to send in your articles, poems and life-experiences to the KCSNews. Please do inform us about your news and views. Your comments and suggestions for improvement are also welcome.

Let me sign off wishing you a great year ahead. Happy reading...

Regards,

Elizabeth John

E-mail: kcsnews05@yahoo.com

Ph: 26261267

We are grieved to announce the sad demise of our Past President Mr. P.M. Antony on 22nd August after a brief illness. We, the members of KCS family extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

COMPARISONS

We read the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector that Jesus told the people in the gospel of St. Luke (Luke 18: 9- 14).

Often Jesus resorted to parables to drive home powerful truths to the ordinary simple listeners.

Jesus narrated the story of two men whose approaches to God were totally divergent. The Pharisee was a scholar in and an enforcer of the Jewish law. He was an authority in the Mosaic doctrines. The tax collector on the other hand, was an employee of the Roman government. He sometimes extracted more money from the people than was due, as taxes. He was a symbol of avarice and an object of hatred among the Jews. Jesus said, "Once there were two men who went up to the Temple to pray: one was a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood apart by himself and prayed, 'I thank you God, that I am not greedy, dishonest or an adulterer like everybody else. I fast two days a week, and I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even raise his face to heaven, but beat on his breast and said, 'God, have pity on me, a sinner!'" Jesus concluded that the tax collector and not the Pharisee was in the right with God when he went home. "For everyone who makes himself great will be humbled and everyone who humbles himself will be made great."

Jesus wanted to point out through this simple story that no kind of comparisons should be attempted among men. Comparisons are misleading and often unfair because we simply don't know fully the background of the other person. The Pharisee compared himself with the tax collector; the tax collector compared himself with God. All that he could do was to feel great contrition, beat his breast and cry, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

In our daily lives the censoriousness of the Pharisee may

manifest itself in different forms. Once a catechism teacher recited this parable to the children and said, "Now kids, let us thank God that we aren't like that Pharisee." When I heard it I laughed. I thought, 'Certainly, I am not like that catechism teacher!' Looking back I admit to my discomfort that my attitude was not any different from the Pharisee's. This flaw in me can be remedied only by a realization that before the Almighty, the only reasonable prayer I can pray is what the tax collector prayed, "God, be merciful to me a sinner."

Jesus, when he said, 'Judge not, that ye be not judged' must have been thinking of this pharisaism. It is said that George Fox, the man of God, seeing a criminal being led to the gallows said: "There goes George Fox but for the grace of God." A saintly bishop once remarked, "Seeing a condemned criminal, I might say to myself 'Surely, I am a much better man than that criminal.' But God may tell me: 'You think so? You don't know enough about that criminal. He had a childhood in the slums and he didn't know who his parents were. His teenage and youth were spent without love or care from anyone. You on the other hand had an excellent parentage, ideal schooling and exemplary training. Before God you may not have much to boast of in comparison with him.'"

The saying 'To know all is to forgive all' may have an element of exaggeration, but it does have a hard core of truth. Exaltation before God comes only by true humility and self-realization. And that is when our heart's cry is, 'Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.'

Susan Mathew, I.A.S. (KCF S05)

(Obliged to: 'Every Day with Christ' by Prof. C. I. Benjamin)



THE MAN – THE MACHINE – THE TYRE – MRF AND XAVIER – THE MAN TO LEAD KCS

"I foresee a great year ahead... by the end of the ten years of our formation, we will, GOD WILLING, be a power to be reckoned with..."

The Kerala Catholic Society was formed in the year 1996 and we are now in the tenth year of its formation. We are fortunate to have been steered and guided by prominent and able leaders who, as presidents of the KCS, have helped in bringing honour and recognition to our society. Yes, we have made our presence felt. We have achieved this through our charitable activities that extend beyond the limits of our social interactions. We have always been ready to help, the recent occasion being when the tsunami struck our coast.

Shri P. J. Xavier, our President for 2005-2006 has been vested with the task of piloting the KCS through the tenth year after its formation.

P. J. Xavier is the youngest son of late Shri P. D. Joseph (Puthur, Trichur), whose engineering factory 'ST. JOSEPH'S INDUSTRIES' at Trichur was well known in those days. It is only a decade since the factory has been wound up. Xavier's mother late Smt. Thresia was from the Chevukkaren family from Aranatunkara. Till 1966 he studied at Trichur. Thereafter, he joined the Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai. After completing his B. Tech. in Mechanical Engineering, in 1971 he joined BATA India Ltd. as a management trainee in Calcutta.

1975 was a very important year for our President. He had a job change. He joined MRF at their factory at Goa. He also got united with Mariamma in Holy Matrimony. So, 2005 sees Xavier completing thirty years at MRF and thirty years of married bliss. He is at present the Senior General Manager (R&D) at MRF's factory at Thiruvottiyur.

Mariamma is a B. Sc., B. Ed. degree holder. She teaches at St. Michael's Academy, Adyar. Her father late Shri C. M. George (Chettupuzha) was a professor of Agronomy at the Agricultural College, Trivandrum. We now know why Mariamma has been nicknamed Green Thumbs. I realize only now that she is the grandniece of the famous Dr. CL. I have heard my parents and grandparents talking about this famous doctor. Even my husband's parents Justice Mampilly and his wife were treated by him. Mariamma's mother late Smt. Thresiamma was from the Kaliath family.

The couple's only son Joe was born in 1977. He holds a Masters degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. He works for Microsoft and is now at Seattle.

Xavier is a very quiet gentleman, always polite, respectful to elders and even brash gentlemen. You rarely see him in a huff or a state of flux. I was quite taken aback when I was told that Xavier is joining the Governing Council. That was when I was still in the Governing Council.

Premi: How and what made you decide to join the Governing Council?

Xavier: When Dr. Joseph Thomas approached and asked me to join the Governing Council, I was a trifle hesitant. But, in his own amicable way he explained to me that all KCians should come forward and shoulder responsibilities at some time or other. "It's only when all of us put in our little bit that our organization can truly grow." When he put it like that, I thought I would be failing in my duty if I resisted. I had, of course, not anticipated that I



would straightaway be made the secretary. One thing led to the other and next year I was nominated Vice President and now here I am before you as the President for 2005-2006.

Premi: Well, we are all happy that you said 'YES' to Dr. Joseph Thomas. Having you at the helm of KCS in the tenth year after its formation makes us all feel safe. This is an important juncture and I would like to ask what you propose to do during this year?

Xavier: I would like to put across a few points:-

1. At the outset, I must make it clear that I do not propose to alter any of the structured activities KCS has been engaging in over the years. These meetings are needed to keep our members close together. My predecessors have quite correctly recognized the importance of these activities and its continuance.
2. We intend to continue with our programme of uplifting the underprivileged. We have envisaged a training programme for unemployed