



SERVICE THROUGH FELLOWSHIP

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The Important Things!

With a timid voice and idolizing eyes, the little boy greeted his father as he returned from work, "Daddy, how much do you make an hour?"

Greatly surprised, but giving his boy a glaring look, the father said: "Look, son, not even your mother knows that. Don't bother me now, I'm tired."

"But Daddy, just tell me please! How much do you make an hour?" the boy insisted.

The father finally giving up replied, "Twenty dollars per hour." "Okay, Daddy? Could you loan me ten dollars?" the boy asked.

Showing restlessness and positively disturbed, the father yelled, "So that was the reason you asked how much I earn, right? Go to sleep and don't bother me anymore!?"

It was already dark and the father was meditating on what he had said and was feeling guilty. Maybe his son wanted to buy something.

Finally, trying to ease his mind, the father went to his son's room. "Are you asleep son?" asked the father.

"No, Daddy. Why?" replied the boy partially asleep. "Here's the money you asked for earlier," the father said.

"Thanks, Daddy!" rejoiced the son, while putting his hand under his pillow and removing some money.

"Now I have enough! Now I have twenty dollars!" the boy said to his father, who was gazing at his son, confused at what his son just said.

"Daddy could you sell me one hour of your time?"

The family that prays together stays together.

KERALA CATHOLIC SOCIETY

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Another year of KCS activities is coming to an end. As the President I enjoyed the experiences and the most rewarding was my association with so many like minded people, which otherwise would not have happened. At each of our functions, the dedications, commitment and hard work of those who were assigned with the jobs was revealed. None of them shirked their responsibilities and it also helped in promoting fellowship among the members through companionship and fun.

Christmas celebration as usual was enjoyable and for those who came in late it was a disappointment for they missed the melodious Christmas carols sung by Faith, Prayer & Tract League. The

Christmas message was delivered by Rev. Dr. Mano Daniel, a very thought provoking message – for he said when it comes to Jesus – "It is not your past but your present that is important. He concluded his message by saying that Jesus specializes in making the most worthless into the most worthy people.

Nature showed its awesome and brutal force by overpowering all the latest science and technology through the Tsunami. Once again KCS proved that we care for the down trodden and the affected. The ladies wing was able to collect various articles and commodities like Rice, Dhal, Oil, Sugar, Tea etc., which they handed over to the Red Cross. My appeal for the financial help was well received and we were able to collect a sum of over Rs. 2.00 lakhs, which was handed over to the Madras Social Service Society through the Mylapore Diocese.

Over the years our society has grown in stature through quality projects. This year we could provide jobs for 60 girls from the economically weaker sections with the help of Sri Bhrahma Jyothi Mission and M/s. Intimate Fashions. During the year we also provided a few scholarships for deserving students. Now the time has come to build KCS into an organization that others want to emulate. I see this through a permanent project and the decision taken during the EGM on the 27th February will have far reaching results. The permanent trustees with their dedications and vision could build KCS into an organization which others would envy.

Looking forward to meet you all for our AGM, to be held in April,

With warm regards,

– V.M. Thomas



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Dear Members,
Greetings to all !!

It is my pleasure to report to you our activities after the second issue of KCS News in December 2004.

X'mas programme on the 23rd December was a grand success. There was X'mas carol singing by a professional group namely Faith, Prayer and Tract League. Chief Guest Bishop Daniel of United Fellowship of India gave a thoughtful Christmas message.

The Tsunami mishap galvanized our members to act spontaneously and vigorously to come to the help of the

victims in the true Christian spirit. Good quantities of provisions and other needed materials were collected in a very short time and donated to Red Cross. An appeal by our President loosened the purse strings of many members and more than Rs. 2 lacs were collected.

Help Line meetings were conducted regularly by all the zones and also Ladies' Wing. The last meeting of ladies was a prayer meeting presided over by Fr. Jose Vettiyangal which saw a record number of 55 participants. Fr. Vettiyangal led the retreat for KCS families on the 6th March which brought to the members the spirit of the passion of our Lord in the season of lent.

Extra Ordinary General Body meeting on the 27th of February was conducted in a cordial and business like atmosphere. Although only less than 50 members were present, the participants gave excellent suggestions to make appropriate changes in the by-laws to move with the times. The General Body also gave approval to initiate a long term project as the culmination of a long felt need of KCS members and to amend the trust deed suitably towards making that need a reality.

Three new families were inducted on the occasion of EGM.

As we are nearing the end of this year I am happy to place on record the wonderful co-operation and contribution of all members of KCS to make this year a truly memorable one.

– E.C. Thomas



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...

Dear Members,

We are yet to recover from the great grief and shock of the killer Tsunami which devoured countless lives and caused unestimative damage and destruction. The timely relief and rescue operations and the crisis management did bring some soothing. But prevention or prediction of such calamities still lies in the far end of our thoughts. Positive thinking considers these to a sign from above – a wake up call to the entire mankind. The little we can do is to live our un-guaranteed and unpredictable lives to the full in a more meaningful way. Apart from our usual acts of charity and brotherhood let us also bring out the abilities embedded within us which will benefit our society immensely. Instead of burying the "Talents" given to us, let us multiply them – five to ten and ten to twenty. KCS News awaits eagerly to receive from you and you and you.

Happy Easter to all !

– Regy Thomas

KCS Christmas Celebration 2K4

Date: 23rd December, 2004 Venue: Beverly Hotel

The gates opened to excited guests, their faces lit up with expectations, making their way to the banquet hall where all the fun was to take place... **the KCS X'mas celebration for the year 2004.** After days and weeks of preparation, the D-day had arrival and the beaming faces said it all. As the guests swarmed in and pleasantries were exchanged, specially made cake and wine were served, setting the mood for merrymaking and enjoyment.

Soon, the Faith Prayer and Tract League (FPTL) was on stage bringing alive the spirit of X'mas by their mellifluous rendering of a few Christmas carols. The excitement was near palpable as the inter-zonal competitions commenced and speculations arose after each item, as to which was the best. Dr. Thomas Kuruvilla, Mr. K. T. Kuruvilla, Mr. Solomon Howie, Mrs. Martha Howie and Mrs. Naidu were the esteemed judges for the evening. The first on stage was the North zone with their pageant titled, 'Advent-A New Perspective', which questioned one's preparedness to receive Christ, drawing parallels from the parable of the ten virgins. The South zone recreated that first Christmas, with their choir rendering melodious carols to perfection. The West zone presentation with a desi tinge stressed on the need to root out those evils that have gripped our society today. The competition was wound up with the Central zone presenting a tableau of the first Noel and a recount of the X'mases of yesteryears. The latter definitely did raise many a laugh.

With the competition ; coming to a close, the meeting commenced with the beautiful prayer song, 'The Power of Your Love', by Ms. Maryann Thomas and the lighting of

the three candles signifying love, hope and faith by our honourable Chief Guest, His Excellency Rev. Dr. Mano Daniel.

This was followed by the customary welcome address by the Vice President, Mr. P.J. Xavier, the presentation of the report by the Secretary, Mr. E.C. Thomas and the accounts by the Finance Committee Chairman, Mr. Josy M. Joseph as the Treasurer, Mr. P. C. Joseph was indisposed.

Mr. Mathew V. Thomas introduced our Chief Guest, His Excellency Rev. Dr. Mano Daniel who delivered an inspiring X'mas, message... the need to know, hear and declare the Power of Jesus. The Presidential address by Mr. V.M. Thomas was followed by the presentation of the two KCS awards. This year's recipient of the Justice Vadakkal award is Ms. Mariam Swetha George, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Thomas. The KCS Sunceela Thomas Salgar award was presented to two highly deserving students, Ms. Reena Maria and Ms. Grace Mary both of whom are final year students pursuing BSc. Zoology at Stella Maris College.

It was indeed a moment pregnant with expectations when Mr. K. T. Kuruvilla came on stage to announce the results of the competition. The North zone was adjudged the best followed by the South, West and Central zones. The meeting was drawn to a close with the proposal of the vote of thanks by the Co-ordinator of the Cultural Committee, Mr. R.P. Paul.

Finally, the curtains were drawn on the evening's events as all the little children stood on stage with candles in hand singing, 'Silent night', along with the FPTL, in heavenly harmony. A truly sumptuous Christmas dinner marked the end of a joyous and memorable evening.

– Lisa Maria John



What's up at the KCS Ladies Wing meets from Dec. 2004 to March 2005

Month of December saw a frenzy of activities. Two buzz events quite out of the ordinary threw the lady members into a flurry of action. On the 14th of Dec a Sale was organized to display their skills and show case their caliber. The day started off with a prayer and Carol singing led by none other than our exuberant Mrs. Premi George to ring in the Joyous Season. Our enterprising and charming Mrs. Molly Antony gave a Pep Talk on Talent Enhancement.

The Ladies Wing Office Bearers and Molly Antony declared the Sale Open by cutting a mega Chocolate Cake! The Sale exhibits were cakes, wine, avalose unndal, decorated candles, designer sarees, potted plants, chicken masala, meat/ prawn/ vegetable pickles, savories, suhiyan etc.

The participants were Mrs. Susan Tharappen, Mrs. Alphonso John, Mrs. Rosamma John, Mrs. Rachael Michael, Mrs. Omana James, Mrs. Sally Devassy, Mrs. Daisy Eapen, Mrs. Mary Mathai, Mrs. Alphonsa David, Mrs. Elsy Scaria and Mrs. Rosamma George.

Mrs. Mariamma Xavier and Mrs. Stella Verghese preferred distributing the Carrot Cake and Milk Burfi they had brought to the members. The selling was brisk!! It was a time of much excitement and practically all the Sale Exhibits just vanished in no time!! There was a popular demand that we should have such a sale next year too. Members were treated to appam, stew and chocolate cake catered by Mrs. Reena Paul.

Ladies again did not sit back but ventured to take up the supply of cake and wine for the KCS Christmas meet held on Dec the 23rd at Beverly Hotel. The order was

executed at a very short notice. Appreciation for baking and providing plum cake goes to Mrs. Sophie Kuriyan and Mrs. Rosamma John. The wine was a gift by Mr. T. Eapen through Ladies Wing and this loving gesture was well appreciated during the meeting.

Month of Jan.: Our members Susan Thomas and Elizabeth Babu volunteered to run the days show on Tues. the 11th of Jan. 2005. Susan gave an explanation on Mango Delight Pudding. Elizabeth Babu explained the recipe of Scotch Egg. She also demonstrated a couple of Table Napkin Folding. Both Susan and Elizabeth had brought in the finished products enough for distribution to all those who attended.

Month of Feb.: Mrs. Sheela Rajan was our Guest Demonstrator for the day i.e. 8th Feb 2005. Thanks to Mrs. Meena Thomas for introducing her to us. Sheela demonstrated the making of Fancy Bags in silk, brocade etc. ensembled with mirror and bead works.

Our Co-chairperson Marykutty Mathew gave an explanation for the recipe of Snow Orange Pudding. She had also brought enough of the delicacy to be distributed for all. Before the coffee break we had a lively thambola session too.

Month of Mar: March 8th 2005 was our Annual Prayer meeting day, International Women's Day and also the Last Meeting Day for the year 2004 -05. Rev. Fr. Jose Vettiyanal was invited to preside over the meeting. Mrs. Molly Babu and Mrs. Lucy Joy led the opening prayer in a well-coordinated manner. There was a large attendance with 55 members partaking. Fr. Jose gave an impressive talk on The

Beatitudes, Divine Mercy Devotion etc.

Participant's Love Offering amounting to Rs. 7000/- was gifted to Fr. Jose for poor feeding at Arulalayam, Ambattur. We had a sumptuous vegetarian lunch catered by Reena Paul. Molly Babu's traditional Kerala payasam added more flavour and sweetness to the lunch.

— Leela Jose

Do not re-use mineral water bottles!

Many are unaware of poisoning caused by re-using plastic bottles. Some of you may be in the habit of using and re-using your disposable mineral water bottles (e.g. Nestle, Bisleri, Aquafina, Kinley, Evian, etc.), keeping them in your car or at work. Not a good idea. It happened in Dubai, when a 12 year old girl died after a long usage (16 months) of SAFA mineral water bottle, as she used to carry the same fancy (painted by herself) bottle to her school daily.

In a nutshell, the plastic (called polyethylene terephthalate or PET) used in these bottles contains a potentially carcinogenic element (something called diethylhydroxylamine or DEHA). The bottles are safe for one-time use only; if you must keep them longer, it should be or not more than a few days, week max, and keep them away from heat as well. Repeated washing and rinsing can cause the plastic to break down and the carcinogens (cancer-causing chemical agents) can leak into the water that YOU are drinking.