



SERVICE THROUGH FELLOWSHIP

In this issue....

	Page No.
Believe, Doubt no more	1
President's Message	2
Secretary's Report	2
From the Editor's Desk	3
Helpline	3
KCS Picnic	5
The Intimate Connection	5
Three Things in Life	6
Creating Waves	7
Change of Telephone	8
Cheers	8
Activities of the Ladies Wing for the year 2004-05	10
Kitchen Delicacies	10
Exercise and Physical Fitness	11
Obituary	12

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Believe, Doubt no more

A cliffhanger, determined to reach the summit of a high mountain, after years of preparation, began his adventure. He journeyed alone, because he wanted all the glory.

He began his ascent, and as daylight faded he decided to continue climbing. Night fell.

The Night fell heavy as he was overcome by total darkness. The Moonlight and starlight were hidden within the clouds. There was zero visibility.

He was only a few meters away from the summit when he slipped climbing a ridge and fell off, falling at frightening speed. While falling he could only see shadow like figures in the darkness and felt the tug of gravity sucking him down. In those anguishing moments he saw his life pass before his eyes.

He thought death was near when suddenly he felt the tightening of the rope around his waist that tied him to a nail embedded in the rock wall of the mountain.

In desperation, suspended in mid-air he screams

God, please help me.

Then unexpectedly a deep voice from heaven responds:

What would you have me do?

Save me!

- Do you really think I can save you?

- Of course my Lord!

- Well then, cut the rope.

There was a moment of silence, then the man tightened the rope around his waist

The mountain rescue team tells a story of a man they found frozen to death, his

Hands wrapped firmly around a rope tied to his waist...

HANGING TWO FEET FROM THE GROUND

So... How tight are your ropes? Would you let go?

I am the Lord your God, who holds your right hand, and I tell you 'don't be Afraid. I will help you.' Is. 41:13

The family that prays together stays together.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings,

I am happy that the first volume of KCS News is being released shortly. Immediately after the installation of Office Bearers and the Governing Council, the action plan for the year was finalised. Involvement from all the committee Chairmen and Co-ordinators have ensured that we are almost on target. Enthusiasm and the participation in the Governing council meetings are noteworthy.

Over the years KCS has graduated in conducting regular, helpline and ladies wing meetings. I am of the opinion, that KCS will be a better known organization if we conduct quality projects that touch the hearts of the underprivileged brethren in our community. Keeping this in view we

have decided upon two short term projects. Providing scholarships for the poor children is one and the other being the empowerment of the economically weaker women. We intend to project the movie 'Magic Magic' in various schools, funds collected from the show, after defraying the expenses, will be shared between the school and KCS. We have approached many schools and most of them requested time till November.

Second project, Training of Sewing Machine Operators was tied up between M/s. Intimate Fashions an MNC and Sri Jyothi Brahma Mission, an NGO at Maraimalai Nagar. We are committed to train 60 economically, weak girls in and around Maraimalai Nagar. Our ladies wing did an excellent job in selecting the first batch. Once trained these girls will be absorbed in M/s. Intimate Fashions. KCS can be happy and proud for having changed the life styles of these sixty

families. The function to mark the inauguration of the project was well attended by KCS members and widely reported in the press.

By now I believe all of you would have received the copy of the new KCS Directory. Barring few mistakes, the Directory is well compiled and printed. My sincere thanks and congratulations to all the members of the Directory Committee particularly Mr. Thomas Thaliath. This year we have decided not to ask for donations respecting the views expressed by certain quarters. Any organization growth largely depends on quality members and a healthy financial status. I think our mind set on sharing wealth certainly needs a bit of soul searching. Looking forward to meeting you all during the Onam Celebrations.

Warm regards,

— V.M. Thomas

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Dear Member,

New Office-bearers were selected during the Annual General Body Meeting on the 30th April 2004.

Mr. V.M. Thomas	President
Mr. P.J. Xavier	Vice President
Mr. E.C. Thomas	Secretary
Mr. P.C. Joseph	Treasurer
Mrs. Leela Jose	Member
Mr. Malcolm Joseph	Member
Mr. S.J. Michael	Member
Mrs. Molly Antony	Member
Mr. R.P. Paul	Member
Mr. Regi Mathew	Member
Mr. Sujith Cherian	Member
Mr. Zachariah George	Member

Action plans for the year was discussed and finalised during informal and formal meetings of the members of General Council.

General Council Meeting in May, June, July and August were well attended. The Council deliberated in detail the ways and means of implementation of plans of the year. Committees were formed, co-ordinators and Chairmen were nominated to vigorously pursue and implement the decisions of General Council.

Inaugural Helpline meetings of all zones took place in June itself with good attendance. Lady's wing got inaugurated on the 15th June by our own member Mrs. Susan Mathew, I.A.S. Further monthly meetings were conducted in July and August.

Fund raising is to be met by screening the movie "Magic Magic" in the city schools and colleges. Part of the proceedings is to be given as scholarship to the deserving students in the schools and the balance after expenses are available for KCS

projects. It was decided to train 60 young girls in sewing machine operations and absorb them into the garment factory of our own member Mr. John Chiramel.

Cultural events of the year got a flying start with the picnic to Buena Vista on 18th July, which was a grand success. Youth wing was active during the picnic with full involvement in games. Youth Wing had their inaugural function on 11th July followed by lunch. It is a matter of gratification that the Youth Committee is planning various activities to bring the youth into the forefront of KCS.

Updated directories were distributed to members. Earnest efforts are being made to induct new members as some members have left the society due to ill health and other reasons.

Other committees are also meeting regularly to initiate actions as envisaged by the decisions of General Council.

Greetings to all.

— E.C. Thomas



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...

The growth of KCS in geometric proportion is undisputed and envied by all. To sustain this trend without accumulating dirty fat, it is utmost necessary that its misdoings/less doings/over doings be pointed out then and there – apart from highlighting and appreciating its achievements. Our 'KCS News' is an ideal forum to discuss such issues. My sincere appeal to one and all especially to the hidden talents to come out and contribute by your various reports, essays, poems, stories, jokes, advice, letter to editor etc. Healthy, gossips and constructive criticism are also most welcome.

Expecting more contributions from one and all.

– Regy Thomas



A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation".

HELPLINE

North Zone

North Zone started off with their inaugural meeting on June 27 2004 at the KCS Hall. All Zonal members who were in station participated in the inaugural programme which was graced by Chairman Helpline and all the office bearers and most of the Governing Council Members. The Jt Chairman in his welcome speech explained the proposed activities of the Zone for the year 2004-2005. KCS President Mr V M Thomas also addressed the gathering. The Co-chairman proposed vote of thanks which was followed by entertainment, fellowship and dinner.

The second meeting was held on August 22 2004 at the KCS Hall, which was attended by almost all the zonal members. This time the youngsters were encouraged to conduct the meeting, while Miss Sumi took the centre stage as Master Conductor, Master Mathew Kurian welcomed the gathering and Mr Vinod Kadavan proposed the vote of thanks. Office bearers of KCS and members of the Governing Council graced the occasion. Dr Kurian V Mathew of Madras Medical Mission and North Zone Member gave a talk on how to prevent heart related ailments by taking regular exercises and dietary control, which was very interesting and informative. Our President Mr V M Thomas also addressed the gathering. Entertainment by members and fellowship and dinner followed.

South Zone

The 1st meeting of South Zone was held at Gandhi Nagar Club on July 4 2004. The meeting started with prayer and welcome address which was followed by Bible reading and songs. Mr Zacharia George representing President Mr V M Thomas,

Mr E C Thomas, Mr P C Thomas, Dr John Sebastian, Mr S J Michael and Mr R P Paul were in attendance.

The meeting went on well with a total of seventy and over with greetings, entertainments, fellowship, dinner and closed with a vote of thanks to the Hosts.

The 2nd meeting of South Zone was held at Gandhi Nagar Club on August 29 2004. The meeting opened with prayer and welcome address followed by Bible reading and songs. President Mr V M Thomas and Family, Vice President Mr P J Xavier attended the meeting. The President briefed the members on the project of providing training and employment to ladies. The youth were in active participation and took up the entertainment. The attendance was well over sixty five and all enjoyed the evening entertainment, fellowship and dinner. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Hosts.

Central Zone

The 1st meeting of Central Zone was held at KCS Hall on July 11 2004. The meeting was attended by members with their families. The meeting started with a reading from the Bible and Prayer song. The Chairman Helpline Central Zone Mr Jose Thomas welcomed the gathering. The President of KCS Mr V M Thomas briefed about the future plan of KCS for the coming year. The Helpline Chairman Dr John Sebastian suggested to collect used clothes for distribution to the poor. Mr R P Paul Chairman Cultural Committee gave the details of picnic to 'BUENA VISTA'. Mr Eapen spoke about our Lady and sang a song. After the Bingo game sumptuous dinner was served. Mr R P Paul proposed the Vote of Thanks and the meeting concluded at 9.30pm.



West Zone

The 1st meeting of West Zone was held at Planetyumm, Koyambedu on July 10 2004.

Mr V M Thomas President KCS addressed the gathering. The President made KCS announcements including the Picnic programme. Mr E C Thomas, Secretary KCS, Dr John Sebastian Chairman Helpline, and several other members addressed the meeting. There were fruitful discussions about various KCS activities and programs. The discussions were carried out in a most cordial atmosphere. After the meeting Fellowship and Dinner followed.

New Governing Members

E C Thomas (KCF-148) - Secretary

Mr. Emmanuel C. Thomas (E.C.) was born in Alapuzha in Kerala. After his school education in Alapuzha, he graduated in engineering from the College of Engineering, Trivandrum. After briefly working in Kerala State Electricity Board and also in companies in Calcutta and Madras, Mr. Thomas proceeded to the USA where he completed his post graduate studies in Business Systems Analysis.

Although possessing the coveted green card, Mr. Thomas returned to India to take up an assignment in the private sector where he rose to top management positions. After resigning from the company, he successfully promoted a manufacturing company along with others, which is now a part of a major group in Hyderabad. He was the General Manger of the group in Chennai until recently.

Mr. Thomas is a Consultant now specializing in ISO certification, HRD function and facilitation of joint venture and technology transfer from small and medium firms in the USA.

Mr. Thomas is an active Rotarian and was the Secretary of Rotary Club of Madras

West. He has travelled widely in India and abroad. He is married to Susan and have three children.

Mr. Zacharia George, (KCF-155)

KCS member since 1999 hails from Tiruvalla, Kerala and belongs to the Manayil family. His wife Leelamma is from Pulimoottil family of Kattanam.

He had a brilliant career as an Engineer-Scientist for 25 years with CSIR of India. Many of his inventions and creations seen in Indian Civil Engineering field are testimony. TISCON bars for concrete, Indian Concrete Institute and several products in concrete technology are identified with him. He had his engineering education at Kerala, Roorkee and later at Paris. He has also a PGDM from AIMA, New Delhi. He is a Fellow of many professional bodies; has many patents and technical papers published in India and abroad. He has received several National and International awards for his services to the profession. He was also with the UNDP as a fellow and as consultant, around the world. He also teaches at Technical Institutions as visiting faculty.

In Christian circles he is known for the several churches, schools and college buildings designed by him for all denominations of churches, all over India. These include the Cathedrals of Lucknow, Varanasi and Tiruvalla. In 1967 itself he was honoured with the title "Pro-Ecclesia et Pontifice" by the Holy Father.

He is currently the Sr. Partner of M/S. Pithavadian and Partners, Architects and Engineers, Chennai.

He has two sons. Elder, like the father, is a structural engineer and holds a Ph.d. and is now working in USA. Younger Mr. Varghese George, MBA is a management consultant and is a KCS member.

Mr Regi Mathew (KCF-66)

Born on May 5 1963 to the Plathottam Family of Aruvithara, Kottayam District, Mr Regi Mathew did his BA from University of Kerala and MA from Hyderabad University, came to Chennai and joined ABAN as Administration Officer at their work site in Bombay. He then joined US Consulate and worked for two years in Administration. In 1990 started his own establishment for Housekeeping and Facility Management. His clients include major Corporates, Hospitals and Offices for which his Company received the Best House Keeping Award in the year 2001.

Apart from his above business activities, he is also the recipient of Award for Mountaineering from World Himachal Mountaineering Institute for Best Mountaineer and also successfully did his training in Para trooping from PTS Agra. An active Lion from Lions Club of Shreyas, Mr Regi is married to Suby and they are blessed with one daughter Linita and a son Noyal.

Sujith Cherian (KCF - 101)

Born to Mr T C Cherian and Valsa Cherian, he lost his father when he was 11 years old. His mother took over the reign after his father's demise. Sujith after his schooling joined his mother in business of that Jewellery. Meanwhile he completed his B.Com & BBA from Loyola College while helping his mother. After completing his graduation he took over the entire business responsibility from his mother and his business Kerala Fashion Jewellery better known as KFJ is one among the best in the city with two showrooms one at Mylapore and the other at Purasawlkam. Married to Dhanya are blessed with two boys Johnson and Joel. A keen tennis player Mr Sujith is also an active Lion, he has got many ideas for future business plans.



*B*uena Vista got up early on 18th July and was ready to receive the picnic party of 200 and odd members arrived from various locations in three buses and a few by their own conveyances. After the tasty breakfast, members attended the Holy Mass in the A/c hall of Buena Vista, by Father Tom Maliekal and Father George. With the spiritual mass, melodious choir and the apt homily, the hearts and minds of the crowd were taken away from this world.

Thereafter the first Regular Meeting commenced which lasted for about 30 minutes. No time to lose, all the members and guests with the beautiful caps on their heads (thanks to the KCS President) rushed out and rummaged each corner of Buena Vista, many hesitant to come out of the swimming pool. But maximum rush was in the inner room around Fellowship counter with the kids pulling away the soft drinks and the women peeping in and out at their wining veterans. Sumptuous lunch was served and it was time for games.



The games session commenced at 2.30 pm having the Youth in the forefront for organizing and conducting the games and sports. The Games session was divided as In-Door and Out-Door events and the Youth conducted Tumbola & Musical Debate to begin with. The Youth roped in experts like Mr. K.S. Joseph for TUMBOLA and Mr. John Sebastian for Musical Debate. This was followed by the Chocolate Picking Competition for the children below 12 years and Musical Chair for ladies and children of all ages. The in-door games ended with the Ring Throwing events with ladies and children taking away various bumper prizes such as Ketchup Bottle, Chocolate Packs, Nestle Products, Stickers, Choco Bars etc. There was a small break for tea and snacks and then the Out Door games commenced with the Tug-of-War for the Gents followed

by Fast Walking, Running Race for ladies and Gents. The Volley Ball match being played for fun followed this and simultaneously the Water Polo was being played by the Youth. We had an avid audience for all the in-door and out-door games. The entire games and events lasted till 6.30 pm which was followed by Prize Distribution for the games and sports.

The Youth Committee would like to make a special mention for efforts taken by Teby Thomas, Amly Mattel, Bijo Paul, Alfred Michael, Abhinav Mathew, Belinda in conducting these games success.

After the games, the entire team returned to the pavilion to relax enjoying the sun set. After 7.00 pm, the members disbursed one by one with the cap on their heads, prizes in the left hands, biriyani packet in the right hands, baggage on the shoulders and heart full of memories.

Congratulations to the Governing council and all the organisers.

– Varghese George & Rinita Ann Regy

The Intimate Connection

KCS Project 2004

There is an old Chinese saying "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him to fish and you feed him for a lifetime". We at KCS have gone a step further, we not only train but also provide jobs after the training. As our President V.M. Thomas said during the inaugural program "there are many organizations which impart training but very few provide assured jobs to the trainees" and KCS belongs to this very few.

Our 2004 project began at a place called Guduvancherri, a town synonymous in the

minds of the Chennaites as "back of beyond". It truly is the back of the beyond until you come to the amazing factory of Intimate Fashions, whose CEO is our KCS member Mr. John Chiramel, who also happens to be our Chairman of Projects. It was his graciousness that allowed this project of empowering 60 girls happen, for he very kindly agreed to employ 60 girls if KCS would give them tailoring skills.

It all began with the President Mr. V.M. Thomas, Project Coordinator Mr. Zachariah George visiting Intimate Fashions at the

request of Mr. John Chiramel. The visit was an eye opener; the facilities available are upto global standards. Intimate Fashions works on two shifts – 6 to 2 and 2 to 10, which means that the working population come from a radius of 10 miles. They have strength of 2000 of which 80% are women. Girls who are in the first shift, sometimes have to leave home by 4.30 A.M. They arrive at the factory around 5.30 by company transportation, which picks them 100mts from their homes. They are given a health drink and later by



11.00 they are given a heavy brunch which is highly subsidized. The factory also has a very well cared for creche where children upto 3 years are looked after. They also have a very competent medical center, which takes care of all their medical needs. The whole factory is air-conditioned and the work environment is pleasant and encouraging.

KCS located the Sri Jyothi Brahma Samaj situated in Maralmalai Nagar. This NGO is run by Mrs. Indira Bhatt. It was started by her husband Dr Bhatt, who used his wealth to help the destitute and the needy in and around Maralmalai Nagar. This NGO gives a lot of help to the girl child and they have a scheme wherein they help girls from "birth to tomb". This NGO does great yeoman service to all the needy in and around this place. They have a tailoring unit with motorized sewing machines. They charge a small amount of Rs. 1150 for training these girls. But even that small amount is not affordable by the eligible girls from this area. KCS collaborating with this NGO decided to fund the training.

On August 23rd a group of ladies from the KCS (Leela Jose, Marykutty Mathew, Lilly Joseph, Alphi John, Annie David Alappat and Elizabeth Thomas) went to Intimate Fashions and were duly impressed with the facilities, so much so, that some of them asked Mr. John Chiramel if they could also apply for a job. From there they went to Jyothi Brahma Samaj and met Mrs. Bhatt. Mrs. Bhatt had contacted various women self-help groups, nearby convents and churches to send in candidates for selection. Intimate Fashions had certain criteria like the candidates had to be 8th pass, an age limit of 18 to 27 and should be within 10 miles radius of Gudvancherri as their buses ply along these routes. The KCS women

stipulated another criteria that they would take girls from below poverty level and drew a line at graduates, since the ladies felt that those who could afford to go to college could afford to pay Rs.1150, unless otherwise they were in real need. They selected about 21 girls.

August 30th was the inauguration of the project and the chief guest for the evening was our very own Padma Bhushan awardee Mr. T.V. Antony. In spite of the distance a fairly big group of KCS members came for the inaugural program to the surprise of our chief guest Mr. T.V. Antony. After a look around the factory the chief guest, all the KCS members, the press left for Maralmalai Nagar. There was a very warm welcome awaiting all at the Jyothi Brahma Samaj. Mrs. Bhatt, all the selected girls and the training staff were all eagerly waiting for the program to start. It started with a prayer by 2 small boys who are orphans staying at the Samaj. After the prayer there was the welcome address by Mrs. Bhatt. Subsequent to which the President of the KCS spoke of the ideals of the KCS and the difference KCS was making in the lives of under privileged women and said though we are known as the Kerala Catholic Society, we are very secular in providing help to the needy without looking into the caste or creed of the candidate. Our chief guest

Mr. T.V. Antony spoke in Tamil so that the selected girls would also understand. He told the girls to work with sincerity and not to throwaway their chances of earning a good salary. He also told them that it was not difficult to get training but getting a job was the difficulty, hence he reminded them to do their best. After the chief guest's speech one of the selected girls came forward and spoke on how the training and the subsequent job would change their lives. She thanked KCS and the Jyothi Brahma Samaj for giving them that opportunity. Mr. John Chiramel gave the vote of thanks. The project was formally inaugurated by cutting of the ribbon by our chief guest Mr. T.V. Antony. Mr. Zachariah George Co-ordinator Projects Committee presented the cheque to Mrs. Bhatt.

Since Intimate Fashions is in Gudvancheri and they enlist girls from nearby localities, KCS has the double privilege of not only empowering women but also empowering the most marginalised in Tamil Nadu the rural girl child, who is considered a burden to their families. By training these girls and providing jobs, we are creating a wonderful opportunity to make the underprivileged girl child so much more valuable to their families and in a small way make a change in society.

- Elizabeth Thomas

THREE THINGS IN LIFE

- Three things in life that, once gone, never come back – *Time, Words & Opportunity*
- Three things in life that should never be lost – *Peace, Hope & Honesty*
- Three things in life that are most valuable – *Love, Self-confidence & Friends*
- Three things in life that are never certain – *Dreams, Success & Fortune*
- Three things that make a man – *Hard work, Sincerity & Commitment*
- Three things in life that can destroy a man – *Wine, Pride & Anger*