

AICUF – KARNATAKA

Annual Report (2014-15)



AICUF – KARNATAKA STATE REPORT (2014-2015)

AICUF movement started in Karnataka in the year 1948. Since then, the AICUFers of Karnataka have worked hard to keep the spirit of this movement alive through various activities and programs. The following report gives a glimpse of some of the major activities organized by AICUF Team in Karnataka during the academic year 2014-15.

26th AICUF NATIONAL COUNCIL

The State Advisor, Fr. Brian Pereira SJ along with Karthik H, Chimrila Q, Florit A Shimray, Sopemla R Shimray, Rahul Pais and Larissa Vas attended the 26th AICUF National Council in Chennai from 13 to 16 August, 2014.



LEADERSHIP CAMP AND ELECTIONS OF THE NWC & NDC

Five AICUFers of Karnataka, Tenzin Dhazai, Sarah Shirley, Varshini Devotta, Judeson and Rajesh attended the “*National Dalit and Women Commission Leadership Training Programme*” in the National Secretariat, Chennai from 28 to 30 November, 2014. Rajesh from Aicuf-Karnataka was elected the National Dalit Commission Convener during this training programme.

THE STATE ADVISOR'S VISIT TO VARIOUS AICUF UNITS

Fr. Brian Pereira SJ, the State advisor of AICUF-Karnataka along with the state team visited several AICUF units during the last academic year and motivated the members to organize various activities in their local units. Some of the units visited by the State Team during the last academic year are: St. Aloysius College, Jyothi Nivas College, St. Joseph's Commerce College, St. Joseph's Evening College, Sacred Hearts College, Loyolla College and St. Anne's College and other smaller units. The visit of the State Team to local units, helped a great deal in mobilizing more students to join AICUF. At present, AICUF- Karnataka has a membership of over 3,000 students.



MAGIS-2014

MAGIS (a gathering of Ignatian Family of Youth and Youth Animators) was held at St. Joseph's College, Bangalore from November 1 to 4, 2014. Around 750 youth from different parts of the country attended this event. The theme of MAGIS - 2014 was **"A fire that kindles other fires."** AICUFers of Karnataka were the main organizers of this event. Archbishop of Bangalore, Most Rev. Bernard Moras inaugurated the event with a Solemn Mass. This was followed by a series of talks by eminent speakers on **"Christian Leadership: Opportunities and Challenges."** In the evening the participants presented cultural programs on various Gospel themes of social relevance.

On the second day of MAGIS, Fr. George Kannadanam of **Project Vision** addressed the gathering and encouraged the participants to donate their eyes so that those who live in darkness may see the light of the day. Nearly 350 participants pledged to donate their eyes after his inspiring talk. In order to understand the pathetic plight of the blind, the participants took part in a blind walk from Richmond Circle to St. Joseph's Indian High School, Bangalore. After the blind walk, there was a talk by Ms. Akkai Padmashali – a renowned transgender, who was honored by the President of India for her active involvement in promoting Human Rights causes. Ms. Akkai explained about the harsh conditions in which the members of LGBT community live and requested the participants to join hands in fighting for the Human Rights of LGBT community. Then the participants went to different parts of the city and campaigned against child labor, sexual harassment and other human rights violations. In the evening, Mr. John Devraj (veteran AICUFer) screened a documentary called "Angels of Hell" on manual scavenging.

On the third day of MAGIS, the participants were sent to Old Age Homes, Orphanages, Rehabilitation Centers, Cancer hospices, Social Service Centers, etc., for community service. Some groups were even asked to interview senior citizens, migrant youth and the beggars on the streets of Bangalore. On the last day of MAGIS, the participants were asked to reflect on their experiences and workout some concrete action plans to reach out to the disadvantaged sections of human society.







AICUF STATE MEET-2014-15

The Karnataka AICUF Secretariat organized the AICUF State Meet on the theme, **“Student Activism and Youth Power - Towards an Inclusive Society”** from 24 to 26 January, 2015 at St. Joseph’s College, Bangalore. The AICUF State Meet provided a platform for the AICUFers of different units of Karnataka to interact and exchange their views with one another.



On the First day of the State Meet, Mr. Karma Sitar spoke on the issues faced by Tibetans under the oppressive Chinese regime. He invited the participants to discover the potential and power within each one of them to fight against those who violate human rights of others. He also cautioned the participants, not to use violent means to fight against the oppressor. Quoting the examples of Mahatma Gandhi and other great persons, he drew home the message that we can assert our rights and achieve freedom through peaceful protests and international network.

Mr. John Devaraj, a renowned Human Rights Activist spoke on “Youth and Human Rights.” He explained about the discrimination suffered by Dalit community in India. He also enlightened the participants on the illegal practice of hiring people for “manual scavenging” which is still prevalent in some parts of our country. He said that, manual scavengers who are usually considered as belonging to the lowest strata of Hindu caste system often have no other employment options and inherit the job either through birth or by marriage. He urged the AICUFers to take up the causes of manual scavengers and fight for their rights.



The Second day's activities included frame painting, rangoli, basket making and flag making according to the themes given to each group. Some of the themes were: Child Labor, Women empowerment, Dalits, Tribals, Refugees, Human Trafficking, Human Organ Trafficking, corruption, Environment, Youth Power and Media. In the evening, the members of IGNITORS youth group (consisting of former AICUFers) presented a dance drama titled – **“Manushana Kaigalu”** on the plight of women, Dalits, refugees, children and others. The dance drama captivated the attention of everyone and motivated the participants to work for the promotion and protection of Human Rights of every citizen of this country.



The third day of the State Meet was also the “Republic Day.” The day began with a march past by different groups. During the march past, the groups creatively brought out various challenges faced by our country. Then the national flag was hoisted by Dr. C.B. Issac and the Republic Day messages were given by student leaders, Ms. Aquila and Mr. Sharukh. This was followed by a Quiz Competition on AICUF. Prof. Prashanth Kumar, the former AICUF State Animator of Karnataka conducted the quiz. The Quiz was followed by another emotionally charged session by Ms. Akkai Padmashali – a transgender and a social activist. During her session, she shared about various issues faced by transgender community, namely gender discrimination, lack of educational facilities, unemployment, lack of shelter, lack of medical facilities, deprivation of electoral rights, etc. She also urged the AICUFers to appeal to the Ministry of Law and Ministry of Social Justice to recognize the rights of transgender people and bring about a much needed reform in the existing norms. During the last session of the State Meet, the participants were helped to draw some concrete action plans which would help them to work for the promotion and protection of Human Rights issues in their respective regions.



OBSERVANCES OF SPECIAL DAYS AND SEASONS:

a. INDEPENDENCE DAY – August 15, 2014

Hundreds of AICUFers from different colleges of Bangalore celebrated the Independence Day- 2014 in K.S Garden slum, Bangalore. They addressed people on several issues of national concern and sang patriotic songs. They also visited the houses in the slums, interacted with the slum dwellers and distributed clothes, stationary items and sweets for children.



b. WORLD AIDS DAY – December 1, 2014

Every year AICUFers of Karnataka celebrate World AIDS Day in a creative and a meaningful way. During the last academic year, AICUFers in some units screened videos and documentaries in their respective colleges on 1st of December, 2014 and spread awareness on the ill-effects of AIDS and the need to join hands to fight against the spread of this dreaded disease.

c. WORLD DISABILITY DAY – December 3, 2014

To empathize with the less fortunate brothers and sisters of ours who suffer different forms of disabilities, AICUFers of Bangalore Zone celebrated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3, 2014 in Bangalore by interacting with kids with intellectual disability.



d. HUMAN RIGHTS DAY – December 10, 2014

The AICUF members of both Bangalore and Mangalore Zones observed the Human Rights Day by screening videos and documentaries on various human rights issues. After the presentation of videos and documentaries, the AICUFers invited their fellow students to join hands with them to fight against human rights violations.

e. CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION – December 20 to 25, 2014

To promote the true spirit of Christmas AICUFers of Karnataka visited different places like , orphanages, hospitals , rehabilitation centres, old age homes. In these places they spread the joy of Christmas with orphans, differently-abled children, mentally and physically challenged and people with Hansen's disease by singing carols and enacting cultural programmes. In some units students raised funds, bought gifts and distributed them to the inmates of these centres.



f. WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION – March 8, 2015

International Women's Day was celebrated in some units of our state on the 8th of March, 2015. To mark the occasion, the AICUFers put up cultural shows and exhibitions. The purpose of these celebrations was to sensitize students on the rights of women and to promote gender equality.





g. INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR STREET CHILDREN – April 12, 2015

AICUFers of Mangalore zone celebrated the International Day for Street Children on April 12, 2015 at St. Aloysius College, Mangalore. The members enacted skits and performed flash-mob to spread awareness on the plight of street children and the responsibilities we have to work for their wellbeing.

h. WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY – June 5, 2015

AICUFers celebrated the World Environment Day in different units and spread the awareness on ecological issues through various competitions and activities. Dr. Vandana Siva addressed the AICUFers of Bangalore Zone and challenged them to be the stewards of creation. Her inspirational talk inspired the AICUFers to proactively get involved in promoting ecological awareness among people.





i. IGNATIAN WEEK CELEBRATION – July 24 to 31, 2015

To celebrate the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the AICUFers in some Jesuit Colleges organized “**Ignatian Week**” celebrations. The celebrations were marked by various competitions such as dance, singing, rangoli, quiz, collage, painting, poetry writing, etc. Some competitions were based on social themes planned with the intention of creating a sense of social concern among the participants. The celebration of the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola in most of the units concluded with the Holy Mass.





FESTS AND COMPETITIONS

During the last Academic year, the AICUFers were instrumental in organizing several Gospel Fests across the state. Some of the major fests are:

- i. St. Joseph's Evening College - ADONAI
- ii. St. Joseph's College – 'EXODUS'
- iii. Jyothi Nivas College - El-Shadai
- iv. St. Joseph's Commerce College - REVELATIONS
- v. Mount Carmel College - MISTLETOE

The AICUFers of Bangalore zone in collaboration with Karnataka State Council for Child Welfare organized a huge drawing and painting competition on Child Rights. Around 400 participants took part in the competition.





OUTREACH PROGRAMES

Last year, the AICUFers of our state visited Old Age Homes, Orphanages, Leprosy centers, Government schools, Rehabilitation Centers, hospitals and central jail. During these visits AICUFers interacted with the inmates of these Centers and conducted various programs. The purpose of these visits was to sensitize the members to become sensitive towards the disadvantaged section of the human society.



AICUF RURAL CAMP 2014

a. RURAL EXPOSURE CAMP- BANGALORE ZONE

In order to get a firsthand experience of the ground reality of the poor, the AICUFers of Bangalore, went to Amalagondi village in Tumkur District for 5 days (November, 10-14, 2014) for a rural exposure camp. Mr. Elango Stanislaus and Mr. John Shanth Kumar- former AICUFers, coordinated the camp. They led the group through various activities. Some of the activities included: manual work (mainly peeling beetle nuts and planting saplings), tuition classes for school children, village mapping and social analysis sessions. The campers stayed in an old dilapidated convent and took turns to cook their own food. Though the camp was hectic and challenging, everyone felt satisfied at the end of the day. Many went for the camp with a lot of apprehensions but left the place with rich experiences of fellowship and a sense of satisfaction after living among the simple village folk.



b. RURAL EXPOSURE CAMP- MANGALORE ZONE

The rural exposure camp was held from 7 to 12 November 2014 at The Holy Cross Church, Moodabidri under guidance of Mr. Anoop, Mr.Sharon, Mr.Steven Goveas and the local Parish Priest. Fifty students of Mangalore Zone participated in the camp. During the camp they cleaned the church premises and attended sessions on social issues such as child labour, harassment of women, caste discrimination and corruption. Fr. Francis D' Almeida- former State Advisor took a session on History of AICUF. Regular prayer services and outdoor games were organized throughout the camp to keep the spirits of AICUFers high.



c. NATIONAL SUMMER CAMP IN KERALA

Three AICUFers of Karnataka- Mr. Rajesh, Mr. Shailesh and Ms. Bency Varghese attended the National Summer Camp in AICUF Center, Trivandrum from May 16 to 20, 2015.



RALLIES FOR A CAUSE

a. BLIND WALK

AICUFers of Karnataka in collaboration with Project Vision an NGO organized Blind walk in Bangalore on 24th of August 2014. The purpose of Blind walk was to bring about a social change among the students and create awareness to support the cause of eye donation. More than 130 AICUFers joined the Bangalore Blind Walk from Namma Metro station on MG Road to the Bal Bhavan in Cubbon Park. They were led by six visually challenged AICUFers. Fr. Brian Pereira AICUF Karnataka State Advisor, showed solidarity with the cause by joining the Blind walk along with other AICUFers. The AICUFers who participated in the event expressed that this event helped them to open their eyes to know the daily struggles faced by our sisters and brothers who are visually challenged



b. RALLY AT TOWN HALL

To protest against the killings that took place in Ukhrul Town in Manipur, the Naga Students Union of Bangalore organized a rally at Town Hall on September 6, 2014. More than 65 AICUFers attended the rally, shouted slogans and demanded the Government to revoke Cr PC 144 from Ukhrul town.





c. RALLY IN SUPPORT OF PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS AND OTHER MINORITIES

In order to express our solidarity with Christians suffering persecution in Iraq, Syria and other parts of the world, more than 300 AICUFers from different units of Bangalore actively participated in a massive rally on September 14, 2014 in Bangalore. The Rally was organized by AICUFers in collaboration with the All Karnataka United Christians Forum for Human Rights (AKUCFHR) and the Federation of Karnataka Catholics and Christians Associations (FKCCA).





d. CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE

To pay our tribute to 132 children massacred in a school in Peshwar, Pakistan, the AICUFers joined hands with other Bangaloreans from different walks of life and organized a candle light service for the victims at Town Hall, Bangalore, on 18th December 2014. More than 100 AICUFers took part in this event.





e. RALLY AGAINST RAPE

More than 150 AICUFers participated in the rally organized to protest against the alleged rape of six-year-old girl in Vibgyor High School, Bangalore. The AICUFers who took part in the rally walked for about 6 to 7kms and spoke against the injustice done to the female citizens and children of this nation. They also questioned the government about the lack of safety provided to women and children in the state.

f. REGIONAL YOUTH CONVENTION

AICUFers of different units of Karnataka took part in the “**Regional Youth Convention**” in Mysore from 24 to 26 October, 2014 along with 1400 other Catholic youth of the state. The theme of the convention was: “*Joy of the Gospel to enlighten and Enliven*’.



g. RALLY IN SUPPORT OF TEESTA SETALVAD

More than 80 AICUFers of Bangalore zone participated in a rally on August 8, 2015 at Town Hall to protest against the harassment meted out to the Social Activist Teesta Setalvad by the Government. The rally was organized by AICUFers in collaboration with Bangalore Citizen Forum. AICUFers joined eminent personalities like Mr. Girish Karnard and raised slogans in support of Teesta Setavad.



TALKS AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS

a. "CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GODLINESS"

AICUFers organized several cleanliness drives in the state during the last academic year to create awareness on the importance of keeping our cities clean. Holding placards on the main traffic signals, the AICUFers of Bangalore zone spread awareness among the public about the importance of keeping the city clean. AICUFers of Mangalore zone organized campus and beach cleaning events and spread awareness on cleanliness.





b. TALK ON HEROIC LEADERSHIP

On 6th of September, 2014, Mr. T. J Abraham, a social Activist addressed the AICUFers of Bangalore zone in St. Joseph's College Auditorium on “***Heroic Leadership***”. He challenged the students to be bold and prophetic in addressing issues faced by Minority Communities. He also gave testimony on his early life before he became a faithful Christian.





c. CANCER AWARENESS PROGRAM

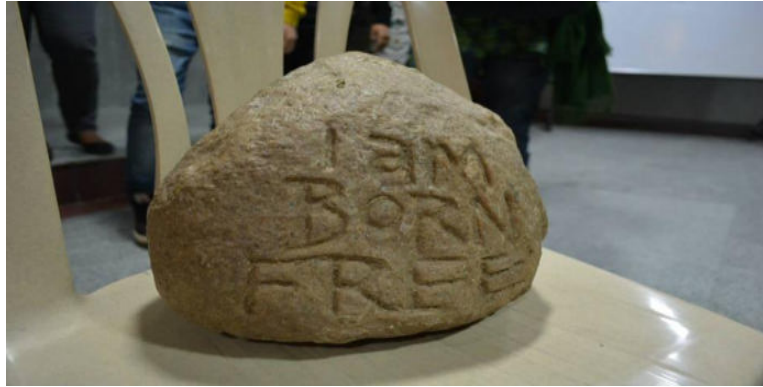
On 26th of September, 2014 more than 100 AICUFers of Bangalore zone attended the Cancer Awareness Programme held by a team of medical experts from Cancer Care Foundation in St. Joseph's College, Bangalore. The program imparted information on the causes and effects of cancer and the precautionary measures we could take to prevent it. The AICUFers were truly enlightened by this program.



d. TALK ON THE PLIGHT OF DALITS AND MANUAL SCAVENGER

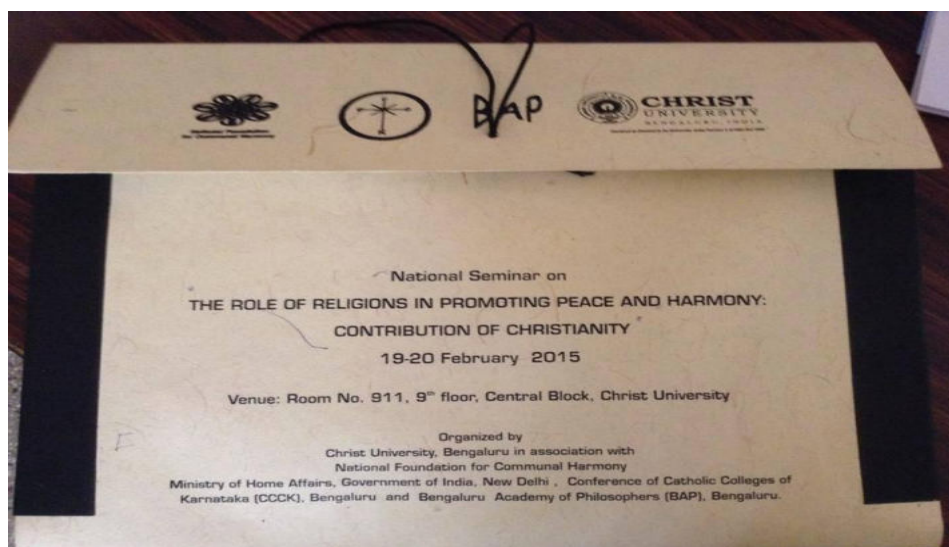
On 2nd of December, 2014 AICUFers of Bangalore zone in collaboration with the Social Work Department of St. Joseph's College organized a talk on the plight of Dalits & Manual Scavengers. Mr. John Devaraj – Founder of Born Free School was the main speaker. His talk and the interaction that followed after the talk with the rag pickers helped the AICUFers to understand the pain Dalits suffer in our society.





e. SEMINAR ON PEACE AND HARMONY:

Several AICUFers of Bangalore zone attended a National Seminar on "The Role of Religion in Promoting Peace & Harmony" on 19th and 20th of February, 2015 at Christ University, Bangalore. This seminar helped the participants to broaden their perspectives on different religions and promote inter-religious harmony.





VISIT TO THE HIGH COURT:

In order to have a firsthand experience of how the justice system functions in India, the AICUFers of Bangalore zone visited the Karnataka High Court on March 7, 2015. Fr. Praveen Hridayaraj – a Jesuit Advocate organized the visit and addressed the AICUFers on issues related to “Youth and Legal Aid.”





IGNITORS INTEGRAL FORMATION PROGRAM- 2014 - 15

The AICUFers of Karnataka helped the **IGNITORS** team in organizing Integral Formation Program for nearly 12,000 college students at the beginning of this academic year. The following topics were covered during the IGNITORS program: Awakening the Giant Within (Personal SWOT Analysis); Creative, Constructive and Critical thinking; Team work and Collaboration Skills; Youth and Media; Heroic Leadership; Student Activism and Youth Power; India Today-Picturing Socio-Economic -Political Realities of our Country; Youth for Human Rights (Rights of women, children, differently-abled, etc); Caste and Gender discrimination; Good Governance (Accountability, Transparency, RTI); Growing in Eco Consciousness and Pioneering Go Green Practices; Crisis/Conflict Management; Decision Making ; Youth and Law; Power and Violence; Human Trafficking; Domestic Violence and Harassment at Work Places .

During these IGNITORS programs in various colleges, the AICUFers looked after the logistics of the entire program. They also coordinated the field work of students which included cleanliness drive, signature campaign against privatization of water and citizen journalism. We are happy to place on record that some of the AICUFers have now become the Resource Persons of IGNITORS program.



STATE LEVEL AWARDS:

In order to encourage and recognize the services of AICUFers who pro-actively get involved in the activities of the movement, every year AICUF Secretariat awards State Level trophies. Following persons and units bagged the trophies for the year 2014-15:

Best AICUFer: P, V. Joseph

Best Animator: Prof. Prashanth Kumar

Best Unit: St. Joseph's College, Bangalore



STATE COUNCIL 2015-16:

The AICUF State Council for the academic year 2015-16 was held on 11th and 12th of July, 2015 at St. Aloysius College, Mangalore on the theme **“LEAD, GUIDE FIGHTfor I have the potential to change the society.”** More than 100 AICUFers from different units attended the State Council.

The State Council commenced with the Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Manoj D’Souza. Fr..Denzil Lobo, Rector of St. Aloysius Institutions and former AICUFer presided over the inaugural session and invited the AICUFers to lead by example and bring a positive change in the society. This was followed by a group activity where the participants were asked to make presentations on various social issues. In the afternoon, Prof. Alwin D’Sa took an inspiring

session on Creative Leadership. In the evening the representatives of various AICUF units presented their Annual Report in a creative way.

On the second day of the State Council, we had presentation of AICUF History by Dr. Issac C.B, Prof. Rini Annie Joseph and Mr. Judeson. This was followed by AICUF quiz. During the last session of the state council we elected the new state level office bearers for the year 2015-16. The following members were elected



KARNATAKA AICUF TEAM (2014–2016)

DESIGNATION	2015 – 2016
State Advisor	Fr. Brian Pereira SJ
State Animator	Ms. Rini Annie Joseph
President	Mr. Sam Santhosh
Vice-President	Ms. Bency
Secretary	Mr. Ranjith
Joint Secretary	Mr. Ivan Joel
National Council	Ms. Eden
National Team leader	Mr. Albin Decruz
Executive Member	Mr. Sachin
Executive Member	Ms. Lavina
Executive Member	Mr. Deekshith
Executive Member	Ms. Caroline D'souza
Executive Member	Ms. Sharline D'souza
Executive Member	Ms. Vanitha
SWC	Ms. Baeta
SDC	Mr. Shielash
State Full-timer	Mr. Ebenezer Sam



Soon after the State Council the State team visited colleges to revitalize the spirit of AICUFers and plan various creative and concrete programs for the year ahead.