

# Dream Dubai Becomes a Reality



When the suggestion to have a Core Group of SACYN in Dubai was floated at the Jaffna meeting of the Youth leaders there were several who were very sceptical about the dream. However an enthusiastic and committed team set to work to get the ball rolling. Adrian Watkins on his return from Jaffna had a meeting with Solomon David, the Gulf Coordinator of YMCA, who agreed to be the focal point in Dubai to live the dream. Rev. Vinod Victor then had a meeting with the Senior Chaplain of the Gulf and the Northern Emirates the Rev. Ruwan Palapatwala and the Bishop of Cyprus Bishop Michael who readily agreed to host the SACYN 2014 in Dubai. Dr. Kang San Tan then paid a visit to Dubai, met with Solomon David and discussed the details of the logistics.

Meanwhile Adrian Watkins, Olivia Rathborne and Vinod Victor met with the heads of member churches and the partners of SACYN at the annual partners meeting in Edinburg Scotland in May and pushed the case for Dubai which was well taken. The CMS by then had a new Asia Manager in the person of Mr. Rajendra Patel and he along with Kang San toiled hard to raise the resources required for the meeting was to

happen in Dubai. The CMS UK and Asia CMS agreed to chip in extra and so did Methodist Church UK and the Church of Scotland. Apart from several small partnership grants the Council of World Mission also came on board in a substantial way.

The South Asia team led by Stephen Edison along with the coordinator John Chethri, country coordinators Bijoy, Nethu, Ravi and Miranga then set on motion the Dubai dream and the heads of most churches in South Asia agreed to partly fund the delegate costs. The hand of the Lord was surely upon the dream. Though the restrictions on the VISA of Bangladeshi nationals meant that one country might not be represented the others were able to get their VISA and people started chipping in from the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup>. The Youth Hostel Dubai was by then agreed upon to be the boarding place and the meetings were to be held at the Holy Trinity Church. On the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> all the delegates met together at the Conference facility of the Youth Hostel for a time of fellowship and review of the journey thus far. The Dubai dream had come true.



# ADRIAN WATKINS RELIVES THE PAST



A people who forget their history cannot build a future. Several people were reminded of this maxim when the SACYN Youth Leaders decided to begin the Conference 2014 with a pre-conference updating on the road thus far. The Rev. Adrian Watkins who as the Asia Manager of CMS along with Leslie Nathaniel and Phil Simpson was primarily instrumental in the birthing of SACYN in 2002 at the Called to Peace Conference and who along with Rev. Vinod Victor was present for almost

all the SACYN events ever since, presented a brief overview of the twelve years of history of SACYN. He spoke primarily of the three major conferences, Colombo 2002, Bangalore 2005 and Pokhra 2010. He also emphasised that God was so good that ever since its inception SACYN has had a meeting every year albeit in different venues.

Highlight of the evening was the presence of all the three persons who held the coveted position of the SACYN coordinator in the past: Insar Gohar from Pakistan, Kasta Dip from India and the present coordinator John Chethri from Nepal. The Asia Manager of CMS Raj Patel also shared his vision for the future of SACYN. Mr. Solomon David and Mr. Stephen Edison shared with the group the logistics.

Earlier Bijoy Idicheriah led the group in a time of ice breaking by the pool side. Young people from ten different countries used the opportunity to know each other closely.



## THE SICK AND THE WOUNDED ARE WAITING FOR THE HEALING TOUCH: Bishop Alexandrios

Bishop Thomas Mar Alexandrios of the Syrian Orthodox Church, called upon the delegates of SACYN 2014 to be sensitive to the cry of the sick and the wounded around them as they pursue their spiritual quest. Inaugurating the Conference at the Holy Trinity Church in Dubai Bishop Alexandrios reminded that the essence of understanding the pain of the migrant and the people in diaspora is the openness to understand the wounds within. They need not be physical but could be very painful. Reminding them of the parable of the Good Samaritan he said that most people in the busy world today are taking the path of the Levite and the Priest, seeing yet not seeing. We are called to discipleship not just to witness Christ by words and rituals but also to witness the pain of the people in the potholes. crore to his wife is juxtaposed against in this world and the choice before the he asserted.

Bringing greetings Raj Patel pointed Dubai has about 70% of it comprising SACYN in Dubai is as relevant if not people from these regions who live Dubai. The Rev. Ruwan who gave family for the benevolence with which the worship space was given and the freedom of religion allowed in these Emirates and also reminded that we should not lose focus on the real need of the people when we look around the development the nation was able to achieve. Dubai is a dream world where several people live with shattered dreams, the SACYN team was reminded at the opening session.



An industrialist who gifts a car of thirty millions who do not have a square meal young people should be carefully made,

that architecture of the demography of South Asians and therefore having more to understand the wounds of the here often masked in the glitter of greetings was all praise for the royal

# EVENTFUL FIRST DAY AT SACYN

The inaugural session of SACYN 2014 was a meaningful mixture of serious inputs and insightful discussions. The day was set to motion with a time of praise and worship by Jeev and team from the Inner Strength Ecumenical Choral Group. The well-knit litany for the inaugural worship bringing in several elements of South Asian theology had several South Indian songs also integrated into it. The Rt. Rev. Thomas Mar Alexandrios inaugurated the event. Greetings were offered by Fr. Eldho, Fr. Roby, Raj Patel and Rev. Ruwan.

The Rev. Adrian Watkins in his opening Bible Study brought an overview of the understanding of migration and diaspora in the Old Testament.

The Rev. Paul Burt with his immense experience with the sea farers and the migrants shared with the group the trajectories of the migrant work placing it within the framework of the Holy Trinity. The Rev. Tim Heany then shared with the group his experiences with the diaspora. After a typical Indian meal the group went on to four workshops, Anilal M Jose led a workshop on new media tools, Bijoy on Films and Diaspora, Stephen Edison on Novels and Disapora and Mr. Solomon David on migration and youth.

The evening time was specially set apart for a Dubai tour wherein the group were taken for a whirlwind yet comprehensive tour of Dubai. The poolside dinner at the Youth Hostel marked the end of an otherwise eventful day.





## ALLEN AND ALIENA ENDEARS THEMSELVES

Allen and Aliena, the children of Mr. Solomon David endeared themselves to the entire group with the meticulous hard work they put in behind the logistics of SACYN 2014. Each of the fifty delegates and Resource persons who came from different countries were met at the airport and brought to the venue by them. They also did all that was possible to make the group comfortable with the stationery and other dietary requirements. The experience of Aliena in the travel and hospitality industry and that of Allen in the event management sector came in handy for SACYN for the preparations and arrangement.

Person of the Day

achievement  
Kept Bijoy in Control !!!!



## Excitement in store

SACYN 2014 has quite a lot of exquisite excitements in store for the participants. The CSI church in Dubai has offered a cruise dinner for the entire group. The Syrian Orthodox church has invited the group for an interaction in the church on Thursday. But the participants are all most excited about the visits to the camps to understand the facilities and challenges their people live in.

Send in your entries for SACYN Times before 10pm to: [anilalmjose@gmail.com](mailto:anilalmjose@gmail.com)

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MEMORY IN THE FUTURE**



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