



UMT Spotlight

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF UNITY MISSION TRUST
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Our Journey;

- Menik Farm (May-Sept '09)
- Jaffna & Kayts (April '10)
- Kayts (June '10)
- Vidutaltivu & Mannar (Sept '10)
- UC 1 - Colombo (Dec '10)
- UC 2 - Mullaithivu (Jun '11)
- Ray of Hope - Colombo (Oct '11)
- UC 3 - Mannar (Dec '11)
- UC 4 - Tharanikkulam (Jun '12)
- Zoom In 1 (Sept '12)
- UC 5 - Kandy (Oct '12)
- Zoom In 2 (Dec '12)

Today almost 4 years later, we have 2600+ students involved with UMT, 103 reference libraries established with help of Asia Foundation and the Wannu district scholarship programme for most outstanding students are now underway

Unity Mission Trust

The Ekamuthu Oray Makkal Unity Mission Trust originated in May 2009, as a voluntary family effort to reach out to children who had survived the final stages of the war and were then located at Menik Farm.

The informal effort grew with the addition of friends and family to support the collection of funds from the distribution of milk, food, books and teaching material to young students and teachers.

The organization evolved over a period of time. Initially small infrastructure projects were done to support education in the Northern Province, specifically Kayts islands.

Thereafter the Unity Mission Trust grew into a grouping of professionals and volunteers

who have banded together to conduct large scale medical camps and thereafter focused on the UMT specialization — Leadership Development, Personal Capacity Building and the growth of self-confidence through a



During the candle ceremony

4 day residential programme involving teenagers of 16-19 years, with the specific aim of achieving unity, integration, healing and reconciliation.

The UMT was formerly launched as a legally executed Trust with a Board of Trustees

comprising of the following individuals;

Board of Trustees in 2011

Dr. R. Ajanthan,
Brinsley Benjamin,
Anushya Coomaraswamy,
Kushan D'Alwis (PC),
Maj. Gen. (Rtd). Lohan Goonewardena
RSP, VSV, USP, ndc, IG
(Chairman of Trust),

Dian Gomes,
Sudarshani Hettige,
Neluka Jayatunga
(Secretary of Trust),
Dr. Wimal Karandagoda,
N. Vasantha Kumar,
Lakmali Nanayakkara,
Lasitha Perera,
Shyamala Pinto-Jayawardena
(Co-Founder Trustee),
Chandra Schaffter,
Ramola Sivasundaram,
Dushyanthi Thusheetharan,
Sanath Weeratunga,

Bertal Pinto-Jayawardena
Founder / Co-ordinating
Trustee

Vision of UMT

To foster and facilitate National Unity, Reconciliation, Integration and Healing amongst and between teenagers and young adults of the North, Wannu, South, Central and other regions of Lanka.

Mission Statement

- To provide leadership training, personal capacity enhancement and to foster growth of self-confidence as a means of achieving unity and integration.
- To foster the belief and acceptance that
 - our youth are our Nation's most precious resource
 - all children and youth are equal sons and daughter of a united and beautiful Mother Lanka.



Committed to fostering unity, reconciliation and healing amongst teenagers and young adults across Sri Lanka

UNITED SRI LANKA
Ekamuthu Oray Makkal Unity Mission Trust

Unity Camp 5



Students lining up during registration on arrival.

"Camp made us meet lots of new friends. Before we went to camp we had no friends from the North and now after camp they still call and text and check up on us. So it is kind of cool to have friends from all over the country and all this was possible only because of camp.



Chathuranga Hapuarachchi, St. Joseph's College, Colombo

The Ekamuthu Oray Makkal Unity Camp 5 organized by the Unity Mission Trust was held from 26th to 29th October 2012 at Trinity College Kandy under the theme "Power of One". After

months of tireless organizing and immense planning, the big day finally arrived for the enthusiastic team of volunteers who set off to Kandy, along with the campers of Colombo.

The team reached Trinity College before noon, and no time was spared as they rushed to make arrangements to welcome the campers who arrived shortly. Registrations began for the students who exceeded a number of 550 who had come from districts island-wide; Colombo, Kandy, Jaffna, Mannar, Killinochchi, Mulaitivu, Vanni, Ratnapura, Kegalle, Kandy & Monaragala. The proceedings of the camp began that evening with a very colorful opening ceremony. This event was graced by a number of respectful dignitaries, including leaders of ALL main religions, who addressed the campers who eagerly listened to their inspiring words of wisdom.

At the end of the opening ceremony graced by Hon Governor of Central Province, Tikiri Kobbekaduwa, the campers were divided to 25 groups with group leaders and deputy leaders being appointed. And so the first day of the camp concluded with the campers being transferred to their respective class rooms at Trinity College & Mowbray College, which were to be their dor-

mitories on all three nights of the camp. The campers started getting to know each other on the second day of camp, since this was the first time they got a chance to work together on various tasks and activities. The morning session was filled with motivational speeches and video displays under the theme of the camp. The outdoor session which happened after lunch was filled with action as the campers got a chance to show their colors and teamwork in all kinds of games and sports which were held in store for them.

The evening was devoted to music. The third day of camp was much different than the previous days as it was filled with singing, art, oratory and drama competitions. The campers got a chance to display their creative skills and they really enjoyed working together with team spirit. Mrs. Shyamala Pinto Jayawardene (Trustee) lead the art workshop which the campers thoroughly enjoyed taking part in. The oratory and drama competitions bubbled with surprises as the judges were amazed by the overwhelming talent displayed by the future leaders of our country. The final prize giving was held that evening



Team building sports sessions



Dian Gomes (Trustee) motivational speaker



Dancer at the opening ceremony

as the campers cheered with much enthusiasm for the achievements of their group members as well as collectively as a group. The most highlighted event of that evening was the candle ceremony, where all the lights were switched off and everyone was given a candle and just one candle was lit. They lighted each other's candles with the fire of one candle and eventually all the candles in the hall were lit up in no time. This concept proved how the power of one can make a remarkable difference in the world we live in.

Throughout the days of camp there were inspiring speeches given by Chief Organiser Bertal Pinto Jayawardene as well as pumping music sessions performed by the volunteers as well as by some of the talented campers. It was a very enjoyable experience for everyone. And finally that painful day arrived where everyone had to say farewell on the last day of camp. A very common sight at every unity camp is that those who unwillingly came to take part in the camp end up shedding tears along with every one else as they don't want to leave behind all the friendships they made and memories they had through out the camp. So the beautiful ride ended as everyone started their journey heading for their respective hometowns as they carried the light from the Unity Camp to the rest of Sri Lanka.



Guest speaker, Loretta Goonewardena

- Anfal & Firnaz

Zoom In 2 - Christmas Edition



After marking the end of 5 successful camps Unity Mission Trust organized a reunion for all campers from the Western Province and more importantly a leadership training programme to instill qualities and values that will help them be a better leader. Even though it was limited to the western province we had students insisting on joining the programme from Jaffna, Mannar, Kandy and Bandarawela as well! This opportunity was also taken to introduce the work done by the organization to new student leaders of our nation. Schools were sent official letters and much hype was created on Facebook and other media prior to the programme. Thus on the 15th of December 2012 at the Girls Friendly Society, Colombo 03. The registrations began for the programme at 9.30a.m and we marked an overwhelming attendance of over 100 participants.

At 10a.m with singing of the national anthem along with the UMT song and the traditional lighting of the oil lamp, the programme commenced. Then the students were addressed by our Special Guest Speaker Mrs. Nayana Karunaratne who is well known for her accomplishments in beauty culture and more importantly her successful line of programmes done for young audiences on personal development and further

conduct. The leaders in making greatly benefitted from it as she focused on many details about self discipline and conduct that are overlooked by many. At the end of her speech a small exercise was done as a breather which was followed by the session done by Mr. Bertal Pinto Jayawardena on indentifying our strengths and weaknesses, goal setting and achievements and positive mind sets and attitudes. The students were



Rukshan Perera



Bertal Pinto Jayawardene & Pirasanna Wignarajah

briefed on time management as well. This was done along with many activities and using examples of successful sportsmen that helped them to really identify their values and qualities, some of it were presented by a student from each of the seven groups. An entertainment session led by Mr. Rukshan Perera and Methunshankar Suduweli Kondage marked the end of the speeches and brought the time allocated for the much awaited lunch.

After lunch the students were entertained by the UMT choir and once more they went back to their groups as there were fun group activities lined up for them. The three games that were done were based on working together as a group and improving their communication skills. These games proved that 'unity is strength', which

enhanced the cause of the organization itself. There was much laughter and enjoyment and also a little bit of disappointment in the end as group one was identified as the victor! The games were followed by an even better entertainment session filled with much energy when Iyngaran Mangaleshwaran from S. Thomas' College on the saxophone and Vishwa Steinwall from Wesley College on drums took on the stage. And finally with Christmas right around the corner the UMT choir sang carols to keep the seasonal spirit in focus. At 4p.m 'Zoom In 2' was wrapped up by a final address done by Mr. Bertal Pinto Jayawardena. He encouraged the students to continue their good work and to join in and support the organization and wished them seasons greetings & a successful 2013. The programme officially ended with singing the UMT song once again which displayed the beauty of diversity.



Iyngaran Mangaleshwaran, S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia.



Choir in action



Group activities



UMT—One Team, One Family!



- Jithendri

Join us. Partner with UMT!

The Unity Mission Trust truly appreciates the collaboration and encouragement of caring and supportive individuals and 'far thinking' Corporate Houses. Interested in forming a strategic partnership with UMT to strengthen Sri Lanka's future? We invite you to consider the following and communicate to us your corporate preference.



- (✓)
- ⇒ [] Sponsor a one day Zoom In programme at Rs. 125,000/=
- ⇒ [] Sponsor ONE working group of 25 students (20 groups) who will attend Unity Camp 6 (Rs. 4750/= per student) at 118,750/=
- ⇒ [] Sponsor a fundraising event to be held in Colombo at 125,000/=
- ⇒ [] Provide financial assistance in any affordable manner
- ⇒ [] Provide materials or refreshments for use at programme
- ⇒ [] Sponsor Education of 1 student in Wannai at 3500/= per month

Contact details for UMT set out hereunder!

Upcoming Events

• Rukshan Perera Live in Concert

To kick start yet another exciting year, prepare yourselves for an evening of music and entertainment. "Rukshan Perera Live in Concert" led by the singing sensation himself will be accompanied by the De Lanerolle Brothers, Revelations, VoicePrint, Rajitha Rupasinghe, Noeline Honter, Choro Calibre, Sarith & Surith, Colombo Brass Ensemble and Harsha and Khrome This musical extravaganza will leave you tapping your feet with a song in your heart on Sunday the 20th of January 2013 at the Bishop's College Auditorium. All proceeds will be in aid of Unity Mission Trust. Tickets priced at Rs. 3,000, 2,000, 1,000 (reserved) and Rs. 750, 500 (unreserved) are now available at Park Street Mews, Commons and Torana. For further information, feel free to call 0773057220 or 0777911930.



Rukshan Perera

• Zoom In 3&4 (March '13), 5&6 (May '13)

Unity Camp 6 (Oct '13 in Wannai)

For more details, await next issue!

Contact Us

Interested in joining Team UMT?

UMT office; No: 3, Siripa Road
Thimbirigasyaya Road, Colombo 5.

Telephone; 0094 11 2582544

Drop us a mail at

bertal@unitymission.lk (or call 0773660103)
info@unitymission.lk



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Unity-Mission-Trust-UMT/213229668699619>

Website; www.unitymission.lk

We want YOUR feedback!

Send in your feedback to any of the following team members;

Editor - Ashni Perera - ashniperera@gmail.com
Team - Anfal Nilar - anfal38@hotmail.com
Firnaz Najimudeen - firnazblazes@gmail.com
Jithendri Gomes - jithi_9@yahoo.com

Coordinating Secretaries;

Bhagya Wickramage - b.m.wickramage@gmail.com
Mathuri Setukavala - mathu_is_crazy@yahoo.com



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