

VIJAYAPURAM SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY
MUNNAR REGION
(A Historical Retrospection)

The operational area of Vijayapuram Social Service Society extended over 999 sq.kms. consisting Kottayam and Idukki districts in full and Pathanamthitta, Alapuzha and Ernakulam in part.

Taking into account of the vastness of the area an Animation Centre was established in Kuttikanam in 1998 to facilitate the development initiatives of Pambanar Zone. The foundation Stone was laid on 25.11.1996 and blessing of the building done on 14.03.1998 by His Excellency Rt. Rev. Dr. Peter Thuruthikonam. Seminars, workshops and discussions were held in this centre. However, the monthly review of Animators continued to be held in Kottayam.

As a second stage there was serious discussion on the programmes of Munnar and Kanthalore Zones. General programmes were held in Carmel Hall Munnar, St. Pius X Monastery Pius Nagar, St. Mary's Parish Marayoor, Hostel building of Sisters at Devikulam etc. It was found to be very hard for the Animators, PDC members etc. to come over to Kottayam for their review, training, seminar etc. Therefore, it was resolved by the Governing Body to establish a Regional Office at Munnar to take care of the Development programmes of Munnar and Kanthalore Zones. A two-roomed office was opened at the cellar portion of the Parish Hall at Munnar, with Rev. Fr. Jose Manuel Kaithakuzhy as the first Regional Director, and Mr. Bosewell Ninan as the programme officer, from February 2002.

The main programmes were PARTAGE funded programmes and other general programmes were implemented directly from Kottayam Office. The programmes were planned centrally and the funds for the two zones were transferred to Munnar Office. Initially staff from Kottayam visited the Regional Office every month and verified the accounts and reviewed the activities. Later it was limited to quarterly visit. Since the programmes increased, the number of staff increased, the visit of the target people increased, the office space was very inadequate. Therefore a portion of the residential building of the Parish was taken, modified and operated as office of the Region.

In the meantime, the present AC MIST was constructed to accommodate the Regional Office and to provide facilities for residential programmes. The Foundation Stone of the building was laid on 02.02.2004 by His Excellency Rt. Rev. Dr. Peter Thuruthikonam and blessed on 22.01.2008 by His Excellency Rt. Rev. Dr. Sebastian Thekethecheril.

All the Parishes in Pambanar Zone, except Kuttikanam and Kavalangad, Kozhipilly and Velliamattom of Muvattupuzha Zone were included under Munnar Region from April 2011. Thereafter the Animators and Coordinators of those places are fully managed by Munnar Region.