



GREEN WINDOW

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Healing the Past - Building the Future

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Jyothi was born in Madras, India - has five sisters and three brothers. She has her Masters-degree in Accountancy and Business Management.

Jyothi comes from a high caste and during the time India went through the stage South Africa is going through now; namely Affirmative Action. She could not get a job as lower castes were considered for jobs available. She became very bitter and denied her faith and the existence of God.

Someone in her family suggested that instead of sitting at home hating everybody, she should go to a Moral Re-Armament (M.R.A) Centre in Asia Plateau, Panchgani, near Bombay and give her talents voluntary for the service of M.R.A., a worldwide organisation.

She intended to give her service for one year, but stayed on for twenty years, still working without a salary for all faiths, cultures and creeds.

Jyothi is a Hindu, and during her first year at Panchgani, she fell seriously ill. She became a vegetable, not able to move.

Jyothi's sister, also a Hindu, wrote to her to tell her that she was going to light a candle for her in the church of Mary in Calcutta. People of different faiths lit a candle for Jyothi and said a prayer for her healing. One day, while in church, she felt someone touch her shoulder. Her doctor - an Australian member of the M.R.A. - knew immediately she was going to be healed... and she was.

Today, and for the last twenty years, Jyothi and her sister run the conference centre at Panchgani together with their international team of volunteers. Their program is designed for industries, businessmen, schools, colleges as well as arts and crafts, a major part of Indian culture.

CREATIVE LEADERSHIP

M.R.A. is based on the 4 standards of Christ - Absolute Honesty, Unselfishness, Purity and Love (Sermon on the Mount); but these standards bind all religions - a common ground.

People look at themselves, find out what they need to change in work situations; whether corruption, bribery, permissiveness, indulgence, etc. Two members of the M.R.A. founded Alcoholic Anonymous.

Jyothi feels she has a responsibility for Asia and Africa. Over years she has helped in conferences in other parts of Africa, but this is her first visit to South Africa. She will be assisting at the Bloemfontein International conference - **Healing the Past : Building the future** - during the Easter weekend.



Above: Jyothi is working with a standard 10 class showing them some skills from the Indian culture. This garment she's holding, has got glass embroidered in it. She also showed them how to weave friendship-bracelets from different colours of string.