



# *Happy Independence Day*



Since 1962

**CEEFI aims to teach the whole Bible,  
to the whole church, for the whole world**



Touch children across the World.  
We hope to widen our reach, and touch more lives with the  
Powerful Word of God through systematic Classic Curriculum for 3 years



**Curriculum Available**      **CEEFI & Splash Sunday School**  
**HBS Holiday Bible School**

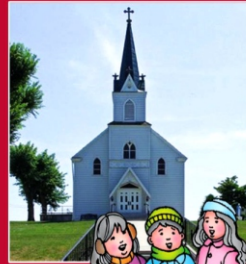


**CEEFI**

Victoria Chambers, 2nd floor, 4-1-826 J.N. Road, Hyderabad - 500 001.  
E-mail: [ceefi.hyd@gmail.com](mailto:ceefi.hyd@gmail.com) Tel.: 2474 3646, Cell: 09849316347



**Splash!**



CEEFI Curriculum is packed with exciting activities, thought-provoking discussions, games, visual aids and more. With the right combination of in-depth Bible study and fun, Splash! helps Children to discover for themselves the joy of walking with the Lord everyday through Bible study. This may be just what your church needs.



# A Journey of Faith contents

Vol. 53 / No. 08  
AIM Annual Subscription for  
India, Nepal & Bhutan Rs. 200/-  
(Other countries \$ 20)

A monthly publication of EFI Publication Trust

<b>Editorial</b>	<b>Truly Free!</b>
Rev. Vijayesh Lal .....04	Rev. Dr. David Mende .....24
<b>God of the Prophets</b>	<b>Prophet daniel's Message-loaded, Amazingly accurate Prophecies!</b>
Mr. Chacko Thomas .....07	Rev. Dr. Duke Jeyaraj .....30
<b>Kingdom God</b>	<b>Prayer</b>
Dr. Shantanu Dutta .....13	.....37
<b>Minister Saab?</b>	
Rev. Kuruvilla Chandy .....18	

## ADVERTISEMENT RATE

Centre Spread (Color) :	Rs. 7000/-
Back Cover (Color) :	Rs. 5000/-
Front Inside (Color) :	Rs. 4000/-
Back Inside Page (Color):	Rs. 4000/-
Ordinary Page (B&W) :	Rs. 2000/-
Half Page (B&W) :	Rs. 1200/-
One third Page (B&W) :	Rs. 900/-
Quarter Page (B&W) :	Rs. 500/-

## Editorial Committee

Rev. Vijayesh Lal	: Hon. Editor-in-Chief
Mrs. Sara Chonghoikim	: Associate Editor
Dr. John Dayal	: Editorial Consultant
Mr. Manish Walter	: Design Consultant
Mr. Hansraj Jain	: Nagpur
Mrs. Sonia Daniel	: New Delhi

Send your advertisement matter 6 weeks in advance, along with payment by DD or M.O. in favour of 'EFI Publication Trust'  
Add Rs. 20/- for outstation Cheques.

## Online payment details

Name : EFI Publication Trust | Bank : State Bank of India | Account No. **54015789597** | IFSC CODE: **SBIN0040415**  
Branch : Nehru Place, New Delhi 110019

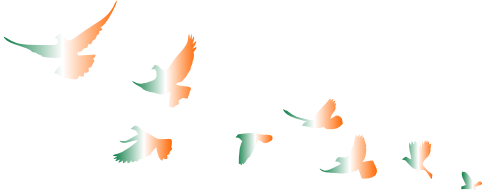
For subscription query call us: 011-26431133; Tele/Fax: 011-26285350, E-mail: [aimatefi@gmail.com](mailto:aimatefi@gmail.com), website: [www.efionline.org](http://www.efionline.org)

THE TREASURER, EFI PUBLICATION TRUST, 805/92, Deepali, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019.

Please Note: No article in AIM should be reproduced /translated without Editor's written permission.

**Editor's Note: Each Author is responsible for the point of view presented,  
which does not necessarily represent the view of Evangelical Fellowship of India.**

Editorial 



Rev. Vijayesh Lal

## A Renewed Call for Faith and Action on Independence Day

As we celebrate India's 78th Independence Day, we see our nation, rich in diversity and steeped in ancient wisdom, facing challenges that test the very fabric of our society. As followers of Christ in this vibrant and blessed land, we are called to reflect on our role in shaping India's future – a future of true independence, where every citizen can live with dignity, peace, and prosperity.

The Indian Church, though a minority, has always played a noteworthy role in nation-building. From establishing educational institutions to providing healthcare in remote areas, to defending its borders,

Christians have contributed immensely to India's progress. Today, as we face growing religious intolerance, economic disparities, and social divisions, our calling to be salt and light in our nation is more crucial than ever.

God's Word tells us that the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself." (Galatians 5:14) Our mission as Indian Christians should be to use our freedom to serve our nation and fellow citizens with love and humility. In the face of religious persecution fuelled by misguided nationalism, we must respond not with fear or retaliation, but with love and

understanding. Our Lord and Master taught us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (Matthew 5:44). Radical love such as that, has the power to transform hearts and break down walls of prejudice. By demonstrating the love of Christ in our interactions with those who oppose us, we can help create a more accepting and peaceful society.

The economic and social disparities in our nation present both a challenge and an opportunity for the Church. We are called to be advocates for the marginalized and voices for the voiceless. In Proverbs 31:8-9, we are instructed to "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." Let us use our resources, skills, and influence to create opportunities for the underprivileged, fight against injustice, and work towards a more equitable society.

However, to effectively serve our nation, we must first address the challenges within our own

community. A poor and disunited Church cannot be the beacon of hope that India needs. We must strive for unity, putting aside differences and petty conflicts. The prayer of Jesus in John 17:21, "that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you," should be our guiding light. A Church that stands together sharing what it has and working as one, can make a bigger difference in society.

Nominalism among many Christians in India is perhaps our greatest internal challenge. We must return to the roots of our faith, fostering a deep, personal relationship with Christ that transforms our lives and influences those around us. As James 2:17 reminds us, "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." Let our faith be vibrant and active, manifesting in good works that serve our communities and nation.

As we think about what lies ahead, let us envision an India where the Church plays a pivotal role in fostering peace, prosperity, and harmony. This

vision can become a reality through our active engagement with our fellow citizens of other faiths to promote understanding and respect among all religious communities. We are also called to champion social justice both inside and outside of the Church, standing up against all forms of discrimination and oppression. In doing so, we echo the prophetic tradition that runs through both our Christian heritage and India's long history of spiritual and social reformers. As stewards of God's creation, we are also called to promote environmental responsibility, recognizing that care for our common home is an integral part of our faith and our duty as citizens.

But perhaps most crucially, we must foster a culture of integrity and ethical leadership within the Church and in our day to day lives. By living out our values in the public sphere, we can be the salt and light that our nation needs, influencing society through example and service.

The road ahead may not be easy but let us draw strength from the words of Isaiah 40:31, "But those

who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint." Let us move forward with renewed energy, confident that our efforts, guided by God's wisdom and empowered by His love, can contribute significantly to India's journey towards true independence – a nation where every citizen is free from want, fear, and oppression.

As we celebrate this Independence Day, let us recommit ourselves to being active participants in India's growth story. Let us be bridges of reconciliation in a divided society, beacons of hope in times of despair, and channels of God's transformative love in every sphere of life. As we do so, we play our part in building an India that truly embodies the ideals of independence – a nation united in its diversity, strong in its compassion, and unwavering in its pursuit of justice and equality for all.

**Rev. Vijayesh Lal**





# God of the Prophets

Mr. Chacko Thomas

## Here are a few quotations to direct our minds:

“Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.

I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come.

I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.’ (Isaiah 46: 9-10)

“I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He.” (John 13: 19)

“See, I have told you ahead of time.” (Matthew 24: 25)

“Jesus is the only person who knew precisely when He would die, where He would die, how He would die, and why He would die.” [Paul Bramsen in *One God One Message*]

More than three hundred prophecies from the Old Testament which deal with the first advent of Christ have been listed. Every one of them was completely fulfilled by Jesus Christ. [from *Science Speaks* by Professor Peter W. Stoner (Moody Press)]

## On a Personal Note:

I have had a positive start in life with prophecy, both biblical prophecies and prophecies given to me. On biblical prophecy, I

grew up hearing about the second coming of Christ and related events, even more than His first coming, except for the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. I wish that I heard a little more about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

On a personal level, I met true “prophets” in the church I attended before meeting false prophets. It was still in the early days (at least for my parents’ generation) of the IPC (Indian Pentecostal Church). The people were genuine, before pretenders and would-be-prophets would discredit the gift of prophecy today.

I remember, at about the age of four years, a lay person in our church telling my father in my hearing that “This boy would go all over the world and preach the Gospel before the Lord comes back”. I heard every word of it as clear as a bell, although I had no clue what the words meant. And I never forgot it.

Well, I have been to more than one hundred countries so far with the Good News of Jesus Christ. The dear man who told the prophecy died only a few years ago. Apparently, that was the first

prophecy the Lord gave him.

In recent years, when praying for the persecuted believers in India and the region, my prayer has been that God would empower these believers with spiritual gifts, including the Spirit of prophecy.

Remember the words of Moses: “... I wish that all the LORD’s people were prophets and that the LORD would put His Spirit on them”. (Numbers 11:28, 1 Corinthians 14: 1) We need it today, whether they be “forth-tellers” or “fore-tellers”. Personally, I am a “forth-teller”, not a “fore-teller”. Bible teaching is a much needed gift today.

Those fulfilled Bible prophecies have always fascinated me. Especially, the prophecies about Christ. The God of the Bible gave us a complete picture of Christ’s life, hundreds of years before his birth in Bethlehem. The story is not over yet.

### **What sets the Bible Apart!**

In his book, *A Road Map to the Future*, P. Fredrick Fogle (PhD) writes that “The Bible contains 8,362 predictive verses



concerning many subjects.”

John Philips writes: “Bible Prophecies are far-reaching, intricate and detailed. They concern empires, nations, cities, individuals, events, Israel, the first coming of Christ and His second coming. Of these, most of the Bible prophesies are about the nation of Israel and the person, Jesus Christ and the end of the world. It is a wonderful study.” [*Exploring the Future*]

David Pawson in *When Jesus Returns*, published in 1995, writes: “Declarations about future events is a major feature of the Bible. It claims to contain the words of God, (‘Thus says the LORD’ occurs 3808 times!), the only person who is in a position to ‘make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come’.”

Pawson continues, “Over a quarter of all the verses in the Bible contain a prediction about the future. Altogether 737 separate forecasts are made, from some only mentioned once to others hundreds of times. Of these, 594 (over 80%) have already come true. Since those that have not are all concerned

with the end of the world, which obviously has not happened yet, the Bible has actually achieved a 100% accuracy.

“All that could have taken place already has done so, which should be ample grounds for confidence that the rest will also be fulfilled. (*These statistics, with detailed analysis of every prediction, may be found in the Encyclopaedia of Biblical Prophecy* by J. Barton Payne, Hodder and Stoughton, 1973.)”

### **Abraham’s prophecy:**

Abraham was a prophet, says God (Genesis 20:7). Recall the time when Abraham walked up one of the mountains of Moriah with Isaac (probably in his early 30s) to sacrifice him. Asked Isaac: “Father, where is the lamb for the sacrifice?” Abraham replied that “the Lord will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son” (Genesis 22:7-8). That was prophetic in two ways.

“God did intervene and provide a ram (not ‘the lamb’) to die instead of his son. So, Abraham called that place The Lord **Will** Provide (Gen.22:13-14.).

“By naming the mountain ‘The Lord **will** Provide’ instead of ‘the Lord **Has** Provided’, Abraham was foretelling the momentous day when the Messiah, ‘**the Lamb of God**’ would shed his blood on the same mountain range as the Final Sacrifice for sin, not to redeem just one man, but to provide a full and final ransom for the world, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 1:29, 3:16). [taken from the booklet *Your Story* by Paul Bramsen, the author of *One God One Message*]

### **Prophecies about Jesus the Christ:**

Although familiar to most Christians, given below are twelve prophecies about Jesus in *God’s Signature, a chapter in One God, One Message*.

“Scattered throughout the Old Testament are hundreds of prophecies about Messiah-Deliverer whom God promised to send into the world. The Dead Sea scrolls (dating from the 3rd to the 1st century BC) affirm that these Scriptures were written hundreds of years before Messiah’s birth. Here is a

sampling of those predictions:

- Prophecy to Abraham 1900 BC: **The Messiah would enter the world through the family line of Abraham and Isaac.** (Genesis 12:2-3, 22:1-18, Fulfilled Matthew 1)
- Prophecy by Isaiah, 700 BC: **He would be born of a virgin, having no earthly biological father.** (Isaiah 7:14, 9:6. Fulfilled: Matt. 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-35)
- Prophecy by Micah 700 BC: **He would be born in Bethlehem.** (Micah 5:2. Fulfilled: Luke 2:1-20, Matthew 2:1-12)
- Prophecy by Hosea, 700 BC: **He would be called out of Egypt.** (Hosea 11:1. Fulfilled: Matthew 2:13-15)
- Prophecy by Malachi, 400 BC: **The Messiah would be preceded by a forerunner.** (Malachi 3:1, Isaiah 40:3-11. Fulfilled: Luke 1:11-17, Matt. 3:1-12)
- Prophecy by Isaiah, 700 BC: **He would cause the blind to see, deaf to hear, lame to walk and preach the good**

**news to the poor.** (Isaiah 35:5-6, 61:1. Fulfilled: Luke 7:22; Matt.9, etc)

- Prophecy by Isaiah, 700 BC: **He would be rejected by His own people.** (Isaiah 53:2-3; also; Psalm 118:21-22, Fulfilled: John 1:11, Mark 6:3; Matt.21:42-46; etc)
- Prophecy by Zechariah, 500 BC: **He would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver, which would be used to buy a field.** (Zech. 11:12-13. Fulfilled: Matt.26:14-16;27:3-10)
- Prophecy by Isaiah, 700 BC: **The Messiah would be rejected, falsely accused, tried and executed by the Jews and Gentiles.** (Isaiah 50:6; 53:1-12; also, Psalm 2 & 22; Zechariah 12:10. Fulfilled: John 1:11, 11:45-47; Mark 10:32-34; Matt.26 &27)
- Prophecy by David, 1000 BC: **His hands and feet would be pierced, He would be mocked by onlookers and lot would be cast for His garments, etc.** (Psalm 22:16, 8, 18. Fulfilled: Luke 23:33-37; 24:39) (Keep in mind that this prediction was made long before crucifixion had been

invented as a form of capital punishment.)

- Prophecy by Isaiah, 700 BC: **Though killed like the worst criminal, He would be buried in the tomb of a rich man.** (Isaiah 53:8-9. Fulfilled: Matt.27:57-60)
- Prophecy by David, 1000 BC: **The Messiah's body would not decay in the tomb, He would overcome death.** (Psalm 16:9-11 [See also: Mt. 16:21-23; 17:22-23; 20:17-19 etc.] Fulfilled: Luke 24, Acts 1 &2)

“The Laws of probability reveal the impossibility of any one person fulfilling such specific, verifiable prophesies. Yet that is exactly what happened.” (*Dr Paul Bramsen in “God’s Signature*)

Prophecies like the ones quoted above are among the arguments that convinced me that the Bible is God’s Word, and that the God of the Bible is the living and true God. My only regret is that I could have been a better believer in God and in His Word.

### **Conclusion:**

David Pawson concluded his

opening remarks to his book with the following words: “Many things are predicted – personal, political, social and environmental, moral and meteorological. But one event stands out above them all: the return to this world of a person who lived here two thousand years ago, a carpenter from the village of Nazareth. Were he simply a human being, this would seem unbelievable. If he was what he claimed to be, divine as well as human, the one and only God-man, his return becomes credible and congruous. Rejected by an unbelieving world, it is only right that He should be publicly vindicated.

“This event is more frequently predicted than any other and dominates the Biblical preview. The question: ‘What the world is coming to?’ is changed into ‘Who the world is coming to?’ or, better still: ‘Who is coming to the world?’ “History will be brought to a conclusion. And by a human being. Not by pressing the button of a nuclear attack on earth but by breaking the seals of scroll in heaven on which is already written the countdown of world events (Rev. 5: 1, 6: 1). At the

climax of the crisis, Jesus Himself will reappear on the world stage to take personal control of the grand finale.

“Such is the heart of the Christian hope for the future. Jesus is the only hope, the only person with sufficient ability and authority, character and compassion, to right the wrongs of this sick, sad and sinful world. On His first visit to our planet He demonstrated that He could do it; on His second, He has promised that He will do it.” (*David Pawson in When Jesus Returns*)



### **Mr. Chacko Thomas**

*is Author of “Beyond the Natural”. (OM 1966-2022: served mostly in OM India, on three OM Ships and OM International and OM Special Projects. Privileged to serve the Lord Jesus in 107 countries.) He can be contacted on [chackothomas50@gmail.com](mailto:chackothomas50@gmail.com)*



# Kingdom God

Dr. Shantanu Dutta

Events around us constantly remind that human-run kingdoms are fragile and can fall with often no notice, leaving anarchy in its wake. Just look at Bangladesh. In late July, Bangladesh seemed a relatively peaceful and stable country, albeit authoritarian in style. Less than two weeks later, she was in a helicopter fleeing her country in apparently 45 minutes.

Of course, history is replete with numerous vanished kingdoms. The Babylonian, the Egyptian. Alexander's kingdom, Cyrus the Great and his, the Roman Empire, and the Ottoman Empire. Closer to India, the Mongol Empire, the Mughal and, of course, the British. Each has left

its legacy and stamp on civilization but each has gone.

From Rome's grandiosity to the Mughals' opulence, every empire has ended. Whether through internal decay, external aggression, or the inexorable march of time, these once-mighty powers have crumbled into dust. Their legacies, while significant, serve as stark reminders of the fleeting nature of human dominion. The very earth upon which these empires were built continues to turn, indifferent to the empires that rose and fell upon its surface. In the grand scheme of cosmic time, the lifespan of an empire is but a fleeting moment.

Empires, though transient, have indelibly marked human history. They've fostered cultural exchange, technological advancements, and legal systems. Their legacies live on in languages, religions, art, and architecture. While empires may fall, their echoes resonate through civilizations, shaping the world we inhabit.

The human fascination with empire-building is a complex tapestry woven from various psychology, sociology, and history threads. It's a deep-seated instinct, a part of our evolutionary DNA. The need for security, resources, and territory has been a constant in human societies. Early humans formed tribes and clans to protect themselves, expanding their influence to ensure survival.

Empire-building can be seen as an extension of this primordial instinct. It's a quest for power, control, and dominance. The allure of vast territories, abundant resources, and the prestige of ruling over millions can be intoxicating. Moreover, the desire to create a lasting legacy to be

remembered for centuries drives many leaders to seek imperial ambitions.

Throughout history, human governments have often needed to fulfill the aspirations of their citizens. A recurring theme is the gradual decay of initial ideals and promises. Initially forged on principles of justice, equality, and prosperity, these systems often succumb to the weight of their own bureaucracy and the corrupting influence of power.

The concentration of power in the hands of a few inevitably leads to disparities and inequality. The elite prioritise their interests over the collective good, whether by birth, wealth, or political acumen. Over time, this self-serving behaviour erodes public trust and diminishes the government's capacity to address pressing issues.

This yearning for a kingdom where things will not be broken and damaged is expressed in most major religions. Hindus have the ideal of "Ram Rajya - the rule of Ram. In Shia Islam, in the age to come, Imam Mehdi would



rule the world in Allah's way. In Christianity, we believe in the Kingdom of God, a theme that Jesus spoke about.

The Kingdom of God is a central concept in Christian teaching, representing the reign of God in the hearts of believers and the ultimate fulfilment of God's will on Earth. It is a spiritual realm of peace, love, and righteousness, which Jesus declared had arrived with His coming. While a present spiritual reality, its full realisation is anticipated when Jesus returns to establish His perfect reign. Living in the Kingdom involves embodying God's values of justice, mercy, and compassion, aligning one's life with God's will, and building a world characterised by love, justice, and peace.

The concept of the Kingdom of God has been interpreted in diverse ways throughout Christian history. Here are some prominent understandings:

Some see the Kingdom of God as primarily a spiritual reality, an internal transformation where God reigns supreme in the heart

of a believer. This understanding focuses on personal righteousness and spiritual growth. Others, and possibly the most widely held view among Evangelicals, is that the kingdom is a present and future reality: The Kingdom of God has already begun with Jesus' coming but will be fully realised. This perspective emphasises both immediate transformation and the hope of a future, perfect Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is experienced in the life of the Church as a community reflecting God's love and justice. This understanding focuses on the Church as a foretaste of the Kingdom.

A third view is that the Kingdom of God is about establishing God's justice and love in society. This understanding focuses on social issues, equality, and pursuing a more just world.

Still, others view the Kingdom of God as a future eschatological event, marking the end of the present age and the beginning of a new cosmic order

Augustine of Hippo was one of the theologians to write about the

Kingdom. While his focus was broader than just the Kingdom of God, Augustine's concept of the City of God offers a framework for understanding the Kingdom's earthly and heavenly dimensions. Augustine distinguishes between two cities:

**The City of God:** This represents the heavenly city, the Kingdom of God, characterized by love, peace, and ultimate union with God. It's a spiritual reality that transcends earthly limitations.

**The City of Man:** This represents earthly societies marked by sin, conflict, and temporal power. It's a place of pilgrimage for those seeking the heavenly city.

Augustine's concept of the Kingdom of God is intertwined with his understanding of history as a pilgrimage towards ultimate salvation. He sees the Church as a foretaste of the heavenly city, a community striving towards the Kingdom's fullness.

N.T. Wright, a prominent New Testament scholar and theologian, has

significantly influenced the contemporary understanding of the Kingdom of God. His work challenges many traditional interpretations of the concept. Wright emphasises that Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom was not primarily about a future, otherworldly realm but God's reign breaking into the present world. It was a revolutionary announcement of God's intention to restore creation and establish a new order. Key points from Wright's perspective include The Kingdom as a present reality: Wright emphasises that the Kingdom is not merely a future hope but a present reality that has already begun in Jesus Christ.

He sees the Kingdom as having significant implications for justice, peace, and the transformation of society. The Kingdom as cosmic restoration: Wright connects the Kingdom to God's original creation intent, suggesting that it involves the restoration of all things. Wright's work has been influential in shifting the focus from individual salvation to the broader implications of the Kingdom for the world. His

emphasis on the Kingdom as a present reality and a call to action has resonated with many contemporary Christians.

For ordinary Christians, the Kingdom of God has straightforward everyday implications beginning with personal transformation, where they align their lives with God's will. This involves growing in faith, practising forgiveness, and living a life that reflects the teachings of Jesus. It also is all for Christians to actively work towards making the world a better place. This involves addressing social issues, helping those in need, and promoting justice and peace. The kingdom of God is most experienced within the Christian community or Church. It's a place where believers unite to support each other, worship, and work

towards common goals that reflect God's values.

Amid an uncertain present, The Kingdom of God is a future hope where God's perfect rule will be established fully. This vision includes believing in a future without suffering or injustice and that God's will is perfectly fulfilled.



**Dr. Shantanu Dutta**

*is a part of Interserve (India) and the Theological Research and Communications Institute and can be contacted at [shantanud@gmail.com](mailto:shantanud@gmail.com)*

*For I know the plans I have for you,  
declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil,  
to give you a future and a hope.  
Jeremiah 29:11*



# MINISTER SAAB?

Rev. Kuruville Chandy

On the fourth of July, the news was that a former Raj Bhavan worker, who had earlier brought a molestation charge against West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose, had moved the Supreme Court the previous day questioning the constitutional immunity granted to the constitutional head of the state. Since the Governor enjoys legal immunity, the police looking into the complaint and the allegations will not be able to take any action against him. She told the apex court that the immunity granted to Bose would curb her fundamental Right to Life.

There is nothing new about this matter of constitutional immunity

being granted to certain officials. And then, they play a game of dodge in law court after law court. What this implies is that all are not equal before the law. If the law cannot take its normal course with them, it can only mean that they are to be treated as though they are above the law.

In the climate of democracy, it does not make sense that those who owe their very existence to the democratic system should be protected from the law as applicable to ordinary people. Their protection comes, it would seem, from the law itself. Some aspect of the law requires the law enforcement agencies to get special permission in order to

book and prosecute governors, ministers, members of parliament and members of legislative assemblies. These functionaries in a democracy are commoners or ordinary folks. They are not royalty enjoying hereditary rights. They are 'of the people'. They are elected '*by the people*'. If they hold office, it is '*for the people*', or, in other words, to serve the people. They hold office by the will of the people and for the pleasure of the people. They do have hierarchy, but only within the context of democracy.

### **Minor**

The word 'minister' offers a clue. The original meaning of that word has been forgotten. Otherwise, no one would say 'minister saab' (minister boss), as they do in the Hindi belt of the country. That is a contradiction in terms. (I am sure that in other parts of the country there must be terms that are similar/equivalent to minister saab).

The word 'minister' comes from the Latin. The root word is 'minor', which has the same meaning in Latin as it has in English.

Whatever is minor is smaller or lesser. The word 'minister' is the opposite of the Latin word 'magister' meaning master. Thus, a minister is a servant. That is why it is contradictory to talk of the 'minister saab'. No one goes around calling their servant 'saab'.

The word 'magistrate' comes from 'magister'. Today, magistrates (masters) work under ministers (servants). That is not merely ironical. It shows that governments make nonsense of communications, play with words, and fool people.

### **Servants**

Latin was the language of the Church after the Roman Empire turned Christian when the Emperor Constantine was converted. The Church even today uses the word 'minister' for its priests, because it wants them to understand that they are the servants of the people of the Church.

The Church got its notions of 'servanthood' (a word that is not found in dictionaries but is

popular in Christian circles) from its Founder and Master, the Lord Jesus.

The disciples of the Lord Jesus were in fact no different from others. When they were formed into a group, they began to vie for the position of leadership next to the Lord. Their disputes about who would be greatest in God's kingdom cropped up again and again. They quarrelled about it constantly.

The Bible tells us that once "the followers came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' Jesus called a little child to him and stood the child before his followers. Then he said, 'I tell you the truth, you must change and become like little children. Otherwise, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. The greatest person in the kingdom of heaven is the one who makes himself like this child.'" (Matthew 18:1-4).

A child is artless and trustful until he or she has been schooled by adults to be otherwise. That's

what Jesus wanted His followers to be like, not those who connive and plot against one another.

But two of the disciples did try to steal a march on the others in the race for the top position. Knowing that the Master was gentle toward women, they got their mother to ask the Lord if they could be allowed to sit on either side of Him when He set up His kingdom. Jesus told them that that was a decision God would be making.

When the other disciples heard that the brothers had tried to outmanoeuvre them, they were very angry with them. Jesus used that occasion to say to His disciples, "Among the ungodly, kings are tyrants and each minor official lords it over those beneath him. But among you it should be quite different. Anyone wanting to be a leader among you must be your servant. And if you want to be right at the top, you must serve like a slave. Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve others, and to give my life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:20-28).



Still the quarrelling did not end. On the night before His crucifixion, they were still busy trying to outmanoeuvre each other.

In those days in that part of the world, people reclined on couches and ate off low tables. This meant that feet were not tucked away out of sight under tables. They would be dusty and dirty from walking dirt roads because people did not have socks and shoes but wore open sandals. So, there was the custom of washing feet before meals. This was usually carried out by servants or the youngest member of a family.

### **Master-Servant**

Jesus and his disciples had no servants attending them. On that particular night they were to have the last supper together. No one wanted to be the one to wash the feet of the entire company, as they felt they would be disadvantaged and lose the chance to be number one. They felt that once they did the lowly thing, they would from then on be exploited by all the others. As the

master of the group, Jesus could have easily just picked on one for the task and no one could have refused. However instead of giving orders about who would have the duty of washing everyone else's dirty feet, the Lord Jesus did the job Himself.

Here is how the Bible describes that episode in the life of the Lord. "Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave the world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love...Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel round his waist. After that he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped round him...When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothing and returned to his place. 'Do you understand what I have done for you?' he asked them. 'You call me "Teacher" and "Lord", and rightly

so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth no servant is greater than his master, nor is the messenger greater than the one who sent him'." (John 13:1-17)

From that day those early disciples of Christ gave up their struggle to be Number One. They had joined the upside-down kingdom of the Lord Jesus. That was why the Church took the term 'minister' for its spiritual leaders.

### **VIP Servants?**

It is the same word that is used in government circles. What a far cry from the original understanding our ministers in government have turned out to be. They mouth clichés about serving the people, while on the election campaign trail or when making a speech for public consumption. They protest too much. These 'servants' vote to give themselves excessive benefits. They award themselves pay, privileges and perks far

beyond that of the people they 'serve'. They live like kings while grinding the vast majority into poverty.

The distance between them and the people is apparent in almost every aspect of their lives. They have all sorts of quotas to reap the comforts of a sheltered and pampered life. There is provision for them to get medical treatment abroad, even if it is available within the country. Though they claim to be the popular choice of the people they go around with gun-toting bodyguards apparently for their protection, but mostly as status symbols. Why must all traffic stop on the roads when their cavalcades pass by? In short, all they do is inconvenience people, and do not at all serve the people, by their existence.

VIPs are VIPs. They are not servants. They want others to be their servants.

This virus of the VIP culture is rampant at every level. Most recently, a probationer in the IAS cadre was spotted using a

flashing beacon and sporting a sign-plate of the state government on a rented luxury car she was using. She also laid claim to a cabin and staff to attend her personally. As a probationer, she was at entry level and was therefore not entitled to do any of the things she did. Coming under scrutiny more and more sordid stuff is tumbling out of hiding. As the daughter of a retired government official, she wasn't willing to wait for VIP status to come to her in due course but grabbed it.

### **Christendom**

But dare we point the finger at what goes on in our world? Our Lord Jesus said that His disciples should not go around finding out other people's faults. He said that those who did that were "like a person who has a big piece of wood in his eye. But then he says to his friend, 'Let me take that little piece of dirt out of your eye for you.' Do not be like that person. You think that you are better than your friend. But you are not. First, you must take the big piece of wood out of your own eye. After that, your eyes will see clearly.

Then you can take the small piece of dirt out of your friend's eye" (Matt. 7:4-5, EEB).

Though we gave the world the term "minister", we have not safeguarded its meaning. We have taken the upside-down kingdom of our Lord and turned it back to being a top-down enterprise. We have hierarchy among us (both in churches and in parachurch organisations), and those at the top are definitely not servants. Those at the bottom of the ladder are drones without privileges, even rights. The lines are clearly drawn.

Where have all the ministers gone?



**Rev. Kuruvilla Chandy**  
*is a freelance preacher and writer. He can be reached at: [reverendkuru@aol.com](mailto:reverendkuru@aol.com)*



# Truly Free!

Rev. Dr. David Mende

## Introduction

This month, we will celebrate the 77th Independence Day of our great nation. I'm blessed to be an Indian. One of the things that I love about our country is that we have diverse languages, cultures, and languages, but we are one nation. I was exposed to different languages and cultures when I first went to Southern Asia Bible College, Bangalore in 2004 to do my Master of Divinity program. India is truly a diverse nation. Though Christians are persecuted in our nation, we still praise God for giving us the freedom to practice and propagate our faith.

But it's possible to enjoy political freedom and still be in spiritual bondage. Unfortunately, many

people are under spiritual bondage today. Probably, some of you are in some bondage today. In this article, let's see how we can be set free. John 8:31-36 speaks of the true freedom we have in Christ. In this passage, Jesus says that those who practice sin become slaves to sin, but by abiding in Christ's word, we can experience freedom. John 8:31-36 teaches us a couple of valuable lessons about spiritual freedom. Let's open up the text and see what we can learn.

## 1. Those who practice sin are slaves to sin (John 8:33-35).

In this passage, Jesus is speaking to the Jews who believed in him (cf. v. 30). In verse 32, when Jesus spoke about the truth setting them free, the Jews

objected to his statement. The Jews answered Jesus, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’” (v. 33). In those days, the upper-class people looked down upon slaves and they could never think of themselves as slaves. Thus, the Jews retorted, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone.” The fact is that the Jews were slaves under the Egyptians, Babylonians, Persians, and Greeks, and during Jesus’ time, they were ruled by the Romans. Still, Jews considered themselves free because they believed that ultimately God himself was their King.

Also, since Moses’ Law explicitly says that Jews cannot be made slaves, the Jews considered that freedom is their birthright because they are Abraham’s children (cf. Lev. 25:39-42). The Jews had so much spiritual pride that they didn’t acknowledge their need. Even in Mark 2:17, we see that the Jews think that they are whole and don’t need a physician. Scholars say that in verse 33, the Jews were probably talking about spiritual and inward freedom. So,

the Jews think they are spiritually free because of their privileged inheritance. They were basically deceiving themselves by thinking that they were free.

When I speak to some so-called “born Christians” about salvation they retort that their grandfather was a bishop and great grandfather was a reverend and so on. Even non-Christians are offended when we say that all humans are sinners. They think that only rapists and murderers are sinners. But they don’t realize that since they don’t have Christ in their lives, they are slaves to sin. In John 8:34, we read that Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.” Jesus says “Truly, truly” which suggests that he is about to make an emphatic declaration. The word “practices” is in the present continuous tense. So, Jesus is not talking about an occasional lapse, but a continuous practice of sin. A person who practices sin becomes its slave (cf. Rom. 6:12-13, 16-17).

In Romans 6:16, apostle Paul writes, “Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are

slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?" Without Christ's liberating work, we repeatedly fall into sin and become slaves to sin. The more we sin, the more we are alienated from God. Inevitably, we can't escape the clutches of sin. Some people come to a stage where they don't necessarily want to sin, but they can't stand the temptations anymore and thus yield to sin. A person who rebels against God thinks, "I am doing what I want to do." But he doesn't realize that he is doing what sin and Satan want him to do. A person who practices sin is in bondage. He is not free. A person who is in bondage to sin loves to indulge in that sin, yet he hates it and is ashamed of his sin. Sin is addictive.

I came across this saying a few years ago, "Habits that begin as cobwebs sometimes end as cables." How true! The more we sin, the more difficult it is to break from the bondage of sin. As someone said, "Sin will take you farther than you intended to go; keep you longer than you planned to stay; and cost you more than you wanted to pay."

When we are in the bondage of sin, we must first admit that we need help from God. Only then can we get out of our bondages. Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 5:3). Only when we recognize our spiritual poverty can we receive grace and mercy from God.

Instead of desiring evil things, we need to desire God and the things of God (cf. 1 Peter 2:1-3). You can never overcome evil desires by constantly rebuking them. You need to replace those evil desires by desiring God. In Psalm 63:5-7, the psalmist expresses his longing for God. He writes, "My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy."

In verse 35, Jesus says, "The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever." Hired slaves don't remain in the house forever. At any time, they can be dismissed or sold by the owner. In a sense, that's the position of the Jews (cf.



Mt. 3:9; 8:11-12; Mk 12:9). Though the Jews thought they were sons (children of Abraham), many of them were slaves to sin. And the Jews were rejecting God's mercy by rejecting Christ. Here, the Greek word for "son" (*huios*) is consistently used by John to refer to Christ. So, the Son, that is, Christ remains (*meno*) forever. Those who practice sin are slaves to sin.

But the good news is that since Christ is free from sin, he can offer us freedom from sin.

## **2. By abiding in Christ's word, we can experience true freedom (John 8:31-32, 36).**

To the Jews who believed in Jesus, he said, "So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (vv. 31-32). Jesus is speaking these words in the context of the Feast of Tabernacles (Jn 7:2ff). This festival commemorated Israel's journey in the wilderness after they were freed from slavery in Egypt. So, it's appropriate that Jesus spoke of spiritual freedom in this context.

Now throughout John's Gospel, we read about people who have fickle faith in Christ (cf. 2:23-25; 6:60). Jesus is telling the people who believed in him that initial trust is not good enough. He tells them that they must abide in his word. Some people have a superficial faith in Christ. In the Parable of the Sower, our Lord says, "And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away" (Lk. 8:13). That's why the writer to the Hebrews warns the Jewish Christians not to commit the sin of apostasy (Heb. 6:4-8; 10:26-31). I've seen this happen with so many people. Some people get baptized. They even join the Ministry Team and serve the Lord in some capacity. But for several reasons, they forsake the Lord.

Here the Greek word for "abide" (*meno*) is the same word that is used in 15:4-7, 9-10. The phrase "abide in my word" is translated as "hold to my teaching" in NIV. To abide in Jesus' word means to continue believing in Christ's words and to obey his words. Christ's words come from the

Father and are thus God's words. In one sense, Christ's words include all of the Bible. It's not enough to know the teachings of Christ. We must persevere in it. A true believer perseveres in obeying Christ's teachings (cf. 2 Jn 9; cf. Heb. 3:14; Jas 2:14-26; Rev. 2:26). We must abide in Christ's word. In other words, we must make our home in Christ's teachings. God's Word must saturate our minds and hearts. Our thinking, our attitude, and our actions must be shaped by God's Word. Then, we will be free from sin. In Psalm 119:9, the psalmist writes, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word."

Persevering in Christ's teachings has two consequences: (1) It proves that we are true disciples, not fickle followers of Christ, and (2) We will know the truth which liberates us. Here, Jesus is talking about spiritual freedom. That's clear when you read verse 34. The Jews believed that studying the Torah gave them the power to defeat sin in their lives and gave them spiritual freedom (cf. Ps. 119:45). Here, Jesus says that the only way to know the truth is to believe his words and obey them. The Gospel of John reveals

that the Law points to Christ (5:39, 46), that Christ is full of grace and truth (1:14), and that he himself is the truth (14:6). So, liberating truth is found in Christ alone. The prayer of our ancestors, "*asato mā sadgamaya*" (from falsehood lead me to truth) is ultimately fulfilled in Christ alone.

In John 8:36, Jesus declares, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." Jesus alone can liberate us from sin (Rom. 6:17-18; 8:2; cf. Jn 3:18; 5:24). If the Son sets us free, we will be free. In order to continue experiencing that freedom, we must continue to abide in Christ's teachings. In Galatians 5:1, apostle Paul writes, "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." In Jesus' time, slaves could not set themselves free. Only a free person could set them free. If we don't go to the Son, there's no way we can be free from sin. Religion can't set us free from our sins. Only Christ can set us free!

This doesn't mean that we will be free of sin. But we will not have the constant inclination to sin. We will seek to please God rather

than our sinful desires. It's only the Son who gives us the privilege to be God's sons and daughters (cf. v. 35). True freedom is not about doing whatever we want, but it's about doing what we ought to do. All over the world, millions of people can testify that Christ has set them free. As we sing, "There is power in the name of Jesus to break every chain!" Submission to Christ brings true freedom! Jesus sets us free from sexual sin, anger, pride, selfishness, jealousy, and every sin! By abiding in Christ's word, we can experience true freedom.

### **Conclusion**

What is the principal idea of this article? **Continually abide in Christ's teachings to experience true freedom.**

It is not God's will that we remain slaves to sin. If we are in sin, let's admit that we are in bondage to sin and cry out to Jesus. He will set us free from every bondage! Even as we celebrate our nation's Independence Day this month, let's make a commitment to continually obey God's word and then we will continually experience the true freedom that Christ gives.



### **Rev. Dr. David Mende**

*serves as the Lead Pastor at El-Shaddai Assembly of God Church, Hyderabad (elshaddaiag.in). He also serves as an adjunct faculty member at Southern Asia Bible College (SABC) in Bangalore, Hyderabad Institute of Theology and Apologetics (HITHA) in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh Bible College (APBC) in Hyderabad, and SUM Bible College & Theological Seminary in California, USA. He has authored nine books, including *The Dangers of the Health and Wealth Gospel*.*

*He is married to Sis. Susan Mende, who is also actively serving the Lord. They are blessed with a daughter, Karis Ruth. Dr. Mende can be reached at +91 9848004094 and [davemende@gmail.com](mailto:davemende@gmail.com).*



# PROPHET DANIEL'S MESSAGE-LOADED, AMAZINGLY ACCURATE PROPHECIES!

Rev. Dr. Duke Jeyaraj

We live in a world where making predictions are popular. But these predictions are not accurate. Norman Geisler writes, 'Jean Dixon (1904-1997), one of one of the best-known American psychics and astrologers of the 20th century, for example, predicted that **Jacqueline Kennedy (wife of slain former US President, John F. Kennedy) would not remarry**, but she married Aristotle Onassis the next day!'

The Bible is the only book whose predictions are 100% accurate! Let me give you some examples of predictions made in the Bible that have been fulfilled. We can also draw lessons for our spiritual life from these predictions. The

book of Daniel, part of the Biblical canon, is a book of astounding predictions. In this short essay, let me talk about two colourful characters whose story this book scripts before they even entered the mother's womb!

## **Alexander!**

In Daniel 8:5, the Bible records the exploits of Alexander the Great, the famous King of Greece, without taking his name, long before his time! He is called the male goat from the west who literally conquered the whole world at flying speed ('without touching the ground'). To conquer new kingdoms for Jesus by sharing the Gospel, do we drag our feet, move super slow? Let's

repent! Let Alexander's fast world conquests inspire us to fast-paced Kingdom of God building endeavors!

Alexander's sudden death came when he was the number one conqueror King of the world then, some 300 years before Jesus came in the flesh! Daniel 8:8 predicts this using the analogy of broken large horn! When we have success, we must not boast. Rather we must acknowledge God who gave us the grace to be successful. We must remember that death can come to any of us, at any time, and we must be ready to meet God when it comes! Abiding in Jesus is the best preparation for any-time death-readiness!

The exact day Jesus was going to enter Jerusalem to be crucified was predicted 483 years (69 prophetic weeks, 69 x 7 years, where one week is not seven days but seven years – see Lev. 25:8) before it happened as explained from Daniel 9:24 onwards! We can't make predictions that comes good just after 483 seconds! But God makes predictions that come

good after 483 years! Hallelujah!

## **Antiochus!**

The Bible stunningly predicts the career of the ancient Greek (Seleucid) king Antiochus IV Epiphanes (who ruled from 175 BC to 164 BC) in Daniel chapter 11 some 350 years before he appeared on the scene! The most important prediction concerning this king comes from Daniel 11:31 which reads this way: 'The king will command his forces to take over the city and pollute the temple fortress. After they outlaw the daily sacrifices to the one True God, they will set up the disgusting idol that will desecrate the most holy place' (The Voice). Warren W. Wiersbe points out that on December 14, 168 BC, this exactly happened! Antiochus entered the Jewish temple and offered pig sacrifices on its altar. He set up an altar for a pagan God in the temple of the living God! The apocryphal books of 1 Maccabees and 2 Maccabees record this. This same event – an abomination that causes desolation - is also talked about in Daniel 9:27 and Daniel 12:11. Jesus also talks about this same

event occurring just before His Return (see Matt. 24:15; Mark 13:14). What is the meaning? The acts of the Antiochus is only a precursor to a similar graver act by the Anti-Christ! The Antichrist who will appear before the return of Jesus will also act like this evil ruler, Antiochus IV Epiphanes – Jesus and Daniel were predicting this. In other words, the end-time Antichrist will be very similar to this evil ruler, Antiochus! History tells us that Mattathias and his five sons neutralised the blasphemous actions of Antiochus IV Epiphanes by fighting back boldly. This is also predicted in Daniel 11:32 – “He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God will stand firm and take action” (ESV). The overall essence of Bible prophecy is this: suffering and persecution will surely come in ever-increasing measure before the return of Jesus, but we must “stand firm” without backing down! The prophecies of the Bible are not meant to trigger

senseless speculation! But they are rather given to inspire us to stand firm for the Lord showing forth a come-what-may determination amidst the growing persecution!



**Rev. Dr. Duke Jeyaraj**

*The author of this piece, Dr. Duke Jeyaraj, is the founder of Grabbing the Google Generation from Gehenna Mission. He is the author of four books including the latest one on modern false teachings such as Hyper Grace, Hyper Love, Hyper Supernatural titled, Hyper Biblical. You can buy this from Amazon – India, USA and UK; You may connect with the author, an itinerant preacher to 20 Indian States and 7 nations, via [emailduke@gmail.com](mailto:emailduke@gmail.com) or 918886040605*

*Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!  
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!  
Psalm 34:8*

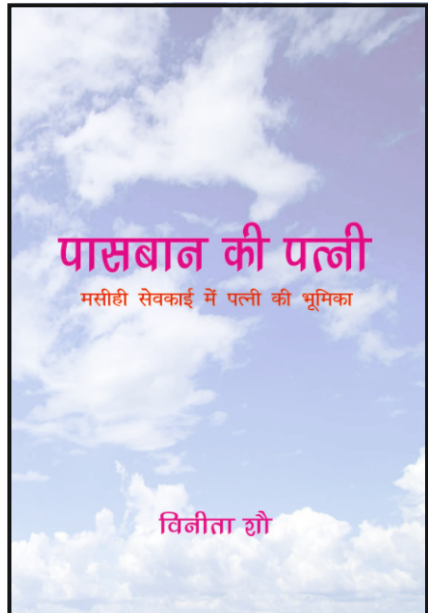
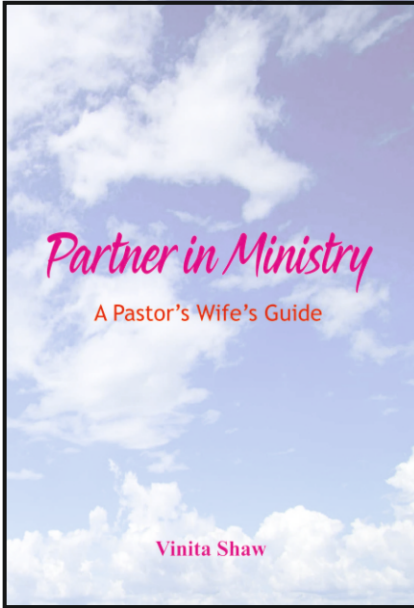


Order your copy today at  
[www.lifewordcreations.com](http://www.lifewordcreations.com)  
Tel. : 9899304168 Email : vshaw3@gmail.com

*Vinita Shaw*

A Guide for the Pastor's Wife's

*Partner in Ministry*



Rs. 500

**You feel called to go to the unreached nations?**



## **KINGDOM SCHOOL**

**TRAIN. EQUIP. SEND**

**To reach the unreached people groups and muslim nations**

Jesus said, The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few (Luke 10:2)  
Be My witnesses in all the world even to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8)

Training and Equipping mission minded young men  
To Fulfil God's purpose and calling in their lives and Finish their race well



**Join the 40 days' Intensive Practical Training on  
CROSS CULTURAL MINISTRY & MISSIONS  
in New Delhi**



Jesus separated Himself for 40 days and was filled with  
the power of the Spirit before He stepped into ministry

The 12 apostles who were with Jesus continued to teach and equip  
making more disciples and reached the whole world in their time

Training is in English, taught by experienced servants of God  
Practical teachings equipping you for a lifetime of ministry learning to:

**PRAY. PREACH. PARTNER**

To apply you should be born again with basic knowledge of the Bible

**Training starts from Nov 04-Dec 14, 2024 in New Delhi**

**Contact us for more details and Application Form:**

Dr John Thomas 9654987351 | Pr Roger Phocum 8595811036

Email: [ksd4nations@gmail.com](mailto:ksd4nations@gmail.com)





दिल्ली बाइबल इंस्टीट्यूट  
DELHI BIBLE INSTITUTE  
Till North India hears the Gospel

## COURSE IN EXPOSITORY PREACHING AND PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

*Invest a year in learning for a life time of service*

### About the course

The aim of the course is to equip men and women for expository Bible ministry in the local church so that they can preach and teach God's word faithfully, clearly and effectively.

### Who the course is for?

We serve men and women from different cultures, ethnic groups, ages and academic backgrounds. You need to have a firm commitment to the trustworthiness and sufficiency of Scripture for ministry in the local church. The 'heartbeat' of the course is the teaching of a wide range of books of Scripture, coming to grips with them in order to be able to preach and teach them.

### Who can apply for the course?

- Men or women who are committed to the ministry of teaching and preaching the Bible.
- Written recommendation by the pastor or organisation leader of the candidate.
- Candidates who have appeared or passed class XII with ability to communicate in English.
- Prospective students will have a personal interview with a member of admission committee.
- Candidates from economically underprivileged background can apply for work scholarship.
- Candidates living in Delhi and NCR can apply as day scholars.
- Once a student is granted admission he or she will not be given leave to go home except for emergencies.
- The church programmes and events are designed to be practicals for the students. Sermon notes, prayer meetings, care group meetings, outreach and mission trips are compulsory. Those who are willing to commit for the descriptions above may apply.

### Internship

Internship can be applied for and deserving candidates will be accepted.

### Schedule:- (July 2024 - April 2025)

English as Second Language (ESL) - One month  
Basic Course on Expository Preaching - Three months  
Advanced Course on Expository Preaching - Six months

#### Health Check-up:

Ensure you are healthy and prepared for a three to nine months of studying uninterrupted by health issues. Fitness certificate must be sent along with the application form.

**We adhere to COVID PROTOCOLS**



दिल्ली बाइबल इंस्टीट्यूट  
DELHI BIBLE INSTITUTE  
Till North India hears the Gospel

Contact us: BIBLE BHAVAN  
50, Amrita Shergill Marg, New Delhi - 110003 Mobile:  
+91 9999625833; 011-24611311; 24643587 Extn.: 208  
E-mail: dbi13.bb@gmail.com

# **We are Hiring**

## **Hindustan Bible Institute and College**

*An institution with 72 years of heritage  
In building God class transformational leaders  
To serve the church and mission*

---

We are looking for Mission Minded, dedicated and hardworking persons for our regional Training Centres at Bhopal, Nagpur, Jaipur, Dimapur, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

### **Job involves:**

- ✓ Developing strategy for church planting and disciple making through church and community.
- ✓ Traveling, Networking, teaching and Training.

### **Expectations:**

- ✓ Should have basic Theological, Missiological and community development background.
- ✓ Should have language proficiency to speak read and write in languages like English, Hindi, Oriya, Gujarati and Telugu etc.
- ✓ Should have the vision and interest to develop the centre, people and community
- ✓ Should have Teaching and admin skill
- ✓ Age between 30-35 (married or single)
- ✓ Should have 2-3 years of ministry experience

### **Interested people can apply to**

[hr@hbionline.org](mailto:hr@hbionline.org), [jkaiserh@gmail.com](mailto:jkaiserh@gmail.com)

Hindustan Bible Institute and College

86-89 Medavakkam Tank Road, Kilpauk, Chennai - 600010

Intercessory  
*Prayer*  
Points



August 2024

**1 THURSDAY** Thank God for His abundant blessings throughout the month of July. Thank Him for this new month.

**2 FRIDAY** Pray for the Holy Spirit's protection, comfort, and empowerment for those persecuted because of their faith in Christ. Pray that they may come out victorious and gain strength from God as they walk their faith journey.

**3 SATURDAY** Pray for the staff of EFI in different parts of India. Pray for God's anointing upon them so that they may effectively serve Him. Pray for the ministry of EFI and the financial needs so that the God would accomplish His plans and purposes through EFI.

**4 SUNDAY** Let us pray for the Senior Citizens in our country. Pray for accessible and affordable medical facilities. Pray for safety, protection and lots of love and healthy environment for them. Pray also for those who care for them.

**5 MONDAY** Pray for Dooars

Evangelical Bethel Church Fellowship, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal. Pray for spiritual growth and maturity for those who have received the Gospel in Madesh and Tarai belt of the Himalayan region.

**6 TUESDAY** Pray for the landslide victims in Wayanad, Kerala. Pray that God would comfort, healing, restoration, and provision for all their needs.

**7 WEDNESDAY** Pray for Union Biblical Seminary that the Lord would continue to use it to train and equip many young leaders for the extension of His kingdom.

**8 THURSDAY** Pray for flood victims in Jammu and Kashmir. Pray that the Lord would bring normalcy and restore lives. Continue to pray that hearts would turn to God through this traumatic experience.

**9 FRIDAY** Pray for our neighbouring country Bangladesh. Pray that God's protective hands would be upon His people. Pray for



peace and restoration for the country.

**10 SATURDAY** Pray for AIM magazine writers who are investing their time and energy every month. Pray for them that their services to the Lord would bring change and growth in the body of Christ.

**11 SUNDAY** Pray for the Churches that God would enable them to overcome any challenge and bear bountiful fruits. Pray for God's help as leaders strategically carry out their plans to extend God's kingdom.

**12 MONDAY** Pray for our neighbouring country Sri Lanka. Pray that God would restore the nation in all aspects. Pray that God would strengthen the Church and use it as His agent in this time of crisis.

**13 TUESDAY** Pray for the ministry of CASA-India at New Delhi. Church's Auxiliary for Social Action is a national development and humanitarian organization set up in 1947. Pray for Spirit-led decisions and actions to be made for the benefit of many people.

**14 WEDNESDAY** Continue to pray for the finances of EFI. Pray that the Lord would bless and continue to use it as His instrument for change and growth for the Church in India.

**15 THURSDAY** Indian Independence Day. Thank God for the freedom that we have. Continue to pray for the national leaders in our country to lead our country with good governance. Pray for the people to experience true freedom that God offers through Christ Jesus, our Lord.

**16 FRIDAY** Pray for Jesus Calls ministry in Chennai. Jesus Calls is a ministry dedicated to prayer for the broken-hearted people irrespective of caste, creed, and religion. Pray that many hearts may be touched and impacted by this prayer ministry.

**17 SATURDAY** Pray for the teaching and learning of God's Word in your church. Pray that the Holy Spirit may teach the audience and many lives may be impacted. Pray that God may remove Biblical illiteracy.

**18 SUNDAY** Pray that God would raise many prayer warriors who would intercede for the needs of the people.

**19 MONDAY** Continue to pray for the ministry of North-East Centre for Training and Research (NECTAR), Shillong, Meghalaya. Pray that they would train many leaders who would bring change into people's lives.

**20 TUESDAY** Pray for children

from broken homes that they would find security in Christ. Pray that Jesus would meet their emotional and physical needs, heal them, and bring them to complete restoration.

**21 WEDNESDAY** Continue to pray for our nation persistently. Pray that all in leadership position would be a faithful and caring guardian of the constitution as well the people.

**22 THURSDAY** Pray for Missionary Upholders Trust at Tamil Nadu. MUT was established to gain deeper understanding of the difficulties faced by the missionaries mentally, emotionally, and physically. Pray that they would lighten the burden of missionaries as they walk alongside them.

**23 FRIDAY** Continue to pray for the EFI Punjab Mobile Bible Trainings scheduled for this month. Pray for the Holy Spirit empowerment and guidance for the teachers and those who are learning.

**24 SATURDAY** Pray for the political leaders of our country. Pray that they may be able to pursue and accomplish goals that would bring growth to the country and peace with neighbouring countries.

**25 SUNDAY** Ask God for the boldness and courage to share the

Gospel with your friends and family members.

**26 MONDAY** Pray for all the members of EFI. Thank God for their support in the ministry of EFI. Pray that they may be blessed by God in all the things that they do.

**27 TUESDAY** Pray for the preparation of EFI Annual Convention in Chhattisgarh. Pray that everything will be smooth and seamless that would bring glory to His name.

**28 WEDNESDAY** Amidst our struggles and problems, let us pray for His peace to prevail in our lives. Pray that God will give us a persevering heart and strength as we face our problems.

**29 THURSDAY** Pray for inner strength for the women of India. Pray that they would know their rights and worth in Christ. Pray for equality in every field.

**30 FRIDAY** Pray for families that they would put God first as the Head of their families. May God establish His kingdom in every believing family.

**31 SATURDAY** Thank God for His ever presence in the lives of those who put their trust in Him. Thank Him for the good things He has done for us during this month.





# GRACE HOUSE

Managed by CEPL

A residential conference center with comfortable and basic amenities.

## SPECIAL FEATURES

- ✓ 4 AC Double Bedrooms
- ✓ 1 AC Dormitory - 50 bedded
- ✓ 1 AC Dormitory - 10 bedded
- ✓ 3 Conference Halls
- ✓ Open Kitchen



## TARIFF

ACCOMMODATION (AC)	Capacity / No. of people	CHARGES PER DAY		
Double Room	4 rooms / 8 beds	1500/- per room		
Dormitory - 3rd Flr (Left)	50 beds	500/- per bed		
Dormitory - Ground Flr	10 beds	500/- per bed		

CONFERENCE HALLS	Capacity / No. of people	8 Hours / 9am - 5pm	4 Hours	2 hours
1st Floor (AC)	100	10,000	6,000	3,000
3rd Floor (AC)	40	6,000	4,000	2,000
Ground Floor (Non AC)	40	7,000	5,000	2,000

## For bookings, contact

Caleb Joel

74281 91694

reachcepl@gmail.com

RZ-122, Street No.3, Vaishali, Palam Dabri, New Delhi,



Extra facilities will be charged additionally



Meals can be customised and will be charged additionally.

Published date on 25 July 2024  
Posting date 26/27 July 2024

RNI. Regd. No. 19728/70 / Postal  
Registration No. DL(S)-01/3241/2018-20  
Licensed to post without prepayment at  
NDPSO New Delhi -110 002 / U(SE)-9/2018-20

## **We are pleased to invite you to the 70<sup>th</sup> EFI Annual Convention in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh from 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

The theme for the Convention cum Conference is  
“**Hope in Hardship**” – ‘Not only so, but we also glory in our  
sufferings, because we know that suffering produces  
perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.’ -  
Romans 5:3-4

### **Some important dates during the Convention:**

1. EFI 70th Annual Convention commences on 17th September morning at 9am and concludes on the afternoon of 19th September 2024.
2. EFI Annual General Body Meeting will be held on the 17th September 2024 from 2.30pm – 4.30pm.
3. Please ensure that you arrive on 16th September evening and depart on 19th September after lunch.

### **Registration Fee**

The registration will be charged as follows :

- Rs. 2500/- AC Double room accommodation and all Conference meals/snacks  
» 14 slots
- Rs. 1000/- Non AC Dormitory accommodation and all Conference meals/snacks  
» 90 slots
- Rs. 500/- Day participants only. Covering all Conference meals/snacks
- ***LAST DATE FOR REGISTRATION IS 20th AUGUST 2024.  
Do participate and be blessed, equipped, and mobilized  
for effective service.***

**For any further information, please contact  
at [mail@efionline.org](mailto:mail@efionline.org) or reach out to:**

Sonia Daniel- 9810656379

Sara Chong- 8587959751

Printed & Published by Mr. Vijayesh Lal, on behalf of EFI Publication Trust,  
805/92 Deepali Building, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110 019.  
Printed at Royal Press, B-82, Okhla Phase -1, New Delhi - 110 020.  
Editor Mr. Vijayesh Lal