**Bethel Bible College Annual Report-2019**

I, on behalf of the BBC family warmly welcome every one of you to the 9th Bachelor of Divinity graduation ceremony of Bethel Bible College, this day. Your graceful presence and blessing are enormous inspiration and strength to us.

Rev. Scott Alan Norling the founder-president of the Gospel Mission of India, in fact the chief host of today’s celebration, is a great motivational force in all our endeavors and at all times irrespective of the situations. We profoundly thank him and his beloved wife Mrs. Melody Norling for their loving care and advice to BBC students at all occasions and very specially today.

Rev. Dr. P.N.S. Chandra Bose, the General Secretary of the Gospel Mission of India and the President of Bethel Bible College; and his dear wife Dr. Leela Bose are the guiding vanguards of BBC. Their generous contributions and selfless involvement in the day-toddy life of BBC, and their commitment to empower the underprivileged for God’s ministry are beyond all forms of appreciations and gratitude. Let’s thank and praise God for their lives as we witness the commissioning and dedication of 27 of our BD students, today, for God’s ministry. It is also appropriate, at this time, to thank God for the lives and witness of the previous eight batches of our graduates who serve God in various capacities in different parts of India and beyond.

We are really grateful to Rev. Dr , the Senior Executive Secretary of Mora Evangelical Church, Missoram for accepting to deliver the graduation address today. We have significant number of students from his church and the church is always appreciative of our service here in BBC and confirmed it through a contribution of rupees ten thousand per year. We look forward to greater partnership and cooperation as we move forward.

Mr. Jeevan Sylvanus, Chief Operational Officer-GMI and Chairman- Olive Tree Creative Works and his wife Dr. Raga Deepika are behind the success of BBC events. We sincerely thank them for their financial support to needy students and making their material resources freely available to all our programs and particularly today. They are sponsoring all the arrangements, including dinner, today. We pray God’s blessing upon them as they actively support God’s ministry.

We are grateful to the Bible Society of India for their gift (Study Bible) to the graduating students and making theological books available to BBC library for a subsidized price of 50%. We thank ISPCK, Delhi, for the gift of books to the graduating students.

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, USA sponsors two BD students. We thank Rev. James H. Rockey, pastor and Mrs. Lois Schaefer, USA for their commitment for theological education and assuring us their continuous partnership.

We thank Dr. Joseph Paturi, (Trans-world Ministries) for accepting to be a Promotional Director of BBC and for supporting 25 students to cover their subsidized scholarship granted by the college.

Re. Pau Za Khup and Mrs. Dorathy Khup are exploring new avenues to promote BBC and we thank them for all their efforts. We also specially recognize the friends from Finland, Norway and Russia.

There are great many well-wishers and companions in our journey of theological education and Ministerial formation for the future ministry. We, while, profusely thank them, pray to God for many more deeply committed men and women to join our ministry in partnership.

We remain grateful to all the churches, organizations and individuals who sponsor and recommend students to BBC. Special thanks to Indian Missionary Society (IMS) for continuously sponsoring students from Odisha. We thank all those who in one or another way contributed to the ministry of BBC. Hearty thanks to all the other dignitaries, graduating students, guests, parents, friends, professors and BBC family.

Congratulations to all graduating students who have successfully completed all the requirements pertaining to BD degree studies and are eligible to the award of Bethel Bible College Diploma, this day. I also congratulate the recipients of special awards.

**Students, Faculty and Staff**

54 new students, including five women were given admission for BD studies during the academic year 2017-18. The session started with an opening service on the 11th June 2017. The total number of students in the BD degree studies during the academic year is one hundred thirty one.

The dedicated service, endurance, unconditional cooperation and exemplary life of the faculty members of BBC are behind today’s celebration. They held different additional responsibilities in addition to their regular teaching schedule to ensure the smooth functioning of the college. Dr. Viju Wilson (Theology) received his D.Th. degree from the Serampore College in December 2017. We praise God for the life and witness of all the faculty Members.

We sincerely acknowledge the dedicated services of all the non-teaching staff of BBC and the student leaders who together made our life refreshing.

**Activities and Events**

BBC students organized a freshers day program on the 26th June 2016 to welcome the new students. The students felicitated the faculty members on the 5th September 2016 as a part of teacher’s day celebration.

Three of our students represented BBC in a National Consultation on “Environmental Justice: Issues and Challenges” held between 5th and 7th July, 2016 at Ecumenical Christian Centre, Bangalore.

Two students participated in a three day Workshop on *Religion and Sexuality for Seminary Students*, jointly organized by Ecumenical Christian Centre, Aneka Trust & NCCI, in Bangalore between July 26 and 28, 2016.

One student attended a three day seminar on “Challenges to Christian Ministry and faith” organized by the Board of Theological Education of the Senate of Serampore College (BTESSC), in HMI, Hyderabad, between 19th and 21st of November 2016.

Two students represented BBC in a conference on “*Hermeneutics from a Palestinian perspective”,* held between22nd and 24th of November, 2016 at SCMI, Bangalore.

Two students represented BBC in a writers workshop with the theme *Prophetic writings* organized by SCMI and BTESSC at Bangalore between 16th and 18th of February 2017.

We celebrated college foundation day cum sports day on the 6th November 2016 to thank God for His abundant grace and marvelous guidance upon the institution and to refresh BBC family with some games and sports. The College celebrated Christmas on 10th December 2016 before the students left for Christmas vacation.

As we are drawing closer to this academic year the student body organized a farewell program to the graduating students on the 5th March 2017. The graduating students, in return, hosted a thanks giving service on the 12th March 2017.

**New Venture (External Programs of the Senate)**

BBC has started to facilitate external theological education of the Senate of Serampore College to the members of all the churches. As a result, BBC has enrolled 142 students for Bachelor of Christian Studies and 141 students for Diploma in Christian studies during the current academic year. As on today we have 163 BCS and 152 DCS students. This became possible only with the sincere help and hard work of our dedicated external study coordinators and their study centers at …different places in Andhra Pradesh.

We are grateful to all the coordinators for accepting our invitation and making it possible to be with us today to bless the occasion. We look forward to their continuous partnership in theological education so that these programs can be extended to all parts of Andhra Pradesh.

**Graduates**

This is our thirteenth year with the BD degree program and the eighth BD graduation. BBC, till date, has prepared 296 dedicated BD graduates to serve the society and church. These graduates represented 16 different states, 20 different churches/denominations and different language groups. 66% of BBC graduates are doing pastoral ministry, 13% of them are in teaching/ higher studies (M.Th. and D.Th[4]) and 8% serve as missionaries. Others are engaged in different forms of ministry including pioneering works.

We thank God for the life and commitment of the 22 graduating students (details in the order of service booklet). They are fully equipped to serve God in all situations. It is true that we shall miss their fellowship but it is our joy that they are molded to create larger fellowship for the glory of God. We wish them God’s blessing as they step out into the wider arena of ministry with multiple challenges and possibilities.

**A Unique Opportunity**

Today’s gathering is a powerful fusion of representative/s from the government, churches and organizations in Andhra Pradesh. BBC has been offering BD degree program from the year 2005. We should have moved forward to Master and Research programs long back except for an enhanced library. If all the representatives on the stage extend your kind cooperation and share your resources towards this end BBC will soon become a Theological Research Institute in Andhra Pradesh. I am sure you will not allow this opportunity to slip away. The ways in which you can partner with us is placed in our college website bethelbiblecollege.edu.in.

Thanking You

Guntur, 23rd March 2018