**BETHEL BIBLE COLLEGE ANNUAL REPORT-2024**

*A Ministry of Gospel Mission of India*

*Affiliated to the Senate of Serampore College*

*Member of Andhra Pradesh Council of Churches*

Indeed I am honoured to welcome all of you, on behalf of BBC family, to the 14th Bachelor of Divinity graduation ceremony and the third of extension studies, this day. Your gleaming presence illuminates and inspires all of us.

First and foremost, all Glory and honour to God for enabling us to have this ceremony today.

This day, we sincerely remember with gratitude, the founding fathers of BBC – Late Rev. Dr. P. N. S. Chandra Bose and Rev. Dr. Scott Alan Norling.

BBC is the fulfilment of the vision of Late Rev. Dr. P. N. S. Chandra Bose to equip the least in the church and society with a valid theological degree to serve God in various capacities. We thank God for his life, witness and commitment.

We profusely thank Rev. Dr. Scott Alan Norlingfor standing with us shoulder to shoulder from the inception till today and forleaving no stone unturned to ensure the growth and stability of BBC. His beloved wife Mrs. Melody Norling and their lovely children deserve our profound appreciation for their love and passion for the ministry of BBC.

BBC sincerely thanks Rev. Dr. P. Leela Chandra Bose, the president of the Gospel Mission of India for her guidance, care and support.

Our appreciation and prayers to Mr. P. JeevanSylvanus Bose, the General Secretary of GMI and the President of Bethel Bible College and his wife Dr. Raga Deepikafor their concerns and contributions to BBC.

We thank Rev. Pau ZaKhup and Mrs.DorathyKhup along with Zomi Baptist Church, USA for their prayers and support.

Ms. Lois Schaefer- Amazing Grace Lutheran Church USA, Dr. Joseph Paturi, (Trans-world Ministries) and Mr.Oyiesteen- Eagle Mission Norway have been associated with BBC. We wholeheartedly thank them.

Our sincere thanks to ISPCK, Delhi for the continuous partnership in promoting theological education through it’s gifts(books) to the graduating students.

We are also grateful to the Bible Society of India for their gifts (Bible and Books) to the graduating students.

We remain grateful to all the churches, organizations and individuals who sponsor and recommend students to 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, BCS and DCS degree/diploma studies and are eligible to the award of Bethel Bible College Diploma, this day. I also congratulate the recipients of special awards.

**GRADUATION SPEAKER AND SPECIAL DIGNITARIES**

We are grateful to the Rt. Rev. Dr. P. Isaac Vara Prasad, Bishop in CSI Rayalaseema Diocese, Kadapa for consenting to deliver the graduation address and we look forward to hear from him. BBC is thankful to the most Rt. Rev. Dr. Frederick ParadesiBabu, the Moderator-Bishop of Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Rt. Rev. Dr. George Cornelious, Bishop in Krishna –Godavari Diocesefor accepting to be guests of honour and to grace the occasion with their greetings.

**STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF**

51 new BD students (11 female and 40 male) were given admission for BD studies during the academic year 2023-24. The academic session started with an opening service on the 11th June 2023. The total number of students in the BD degree studies during the academic year is one hundred seventy one.

Our external-studies program is gaining ground. We enrolled 10 MCS, 32 BCS and 36 DCS students in 2023-24.

BBC faculty members are dedicated, enduring, cooperative and exemplary. Their efforts are behind our celebration today. They hold different responsibilities in addition to their regular teaching schedule to ensure the smooth functioning of the college.

We are grateful to all the external studies coordinators who helped the college. We look forward to their continuous partnership to extend these programs to all parts of Andhra Pradesh. We welcome all the Churches inAndhra Pradesh, particularly which are in and around Guntur to make use of all the resources available at BBC.

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

**SEMINORS AND PROGRAMS**

Rev. Dr. M. T. Cherian, the Executive Director of Christian Institute of Management, Chennai, conducted a seminar to BBC family on the 23rd June 2023 on Principles of Management.

Rev. Santosh Kumar Singh, our faculty member, attended a seminar on ‘Theological Educators on Gender and Human Sexuality’ a joint program of the Senate of Serampore College and National Ecumenical Forum for Gender and Sexual Diversities, NCCI from 18 to 21 August 2023 at Serampore.

Another faculty member, Ms.Daisy Solomon KumariPallikondaattended a Seminar on "Refresher Course for Science and Religion Subject" organized by the Senate of Serampore College (University) from December 4-7, 2023 at United Theological College, Bangalore.

For the first time our third year BD students went for a practical work trip to Silliguri (West Bengal) from 20th November to 2nd December 2023. I am grateful to Mr.NeutoKiho, our faculty member for proposing such a new and challenging initiative and executing it with precision with the support of Mr.RajuDunna our practical work in-charge faculty member. We are grateful to all the BD III students for taking care of the entire expenses. The practical ministry involved, leading and preaching in the churches, house visiting, open-air preaching, prayer meetings, youth gatherings and children ministry. BBC remains grateful to Missionary Pikato, who is in-charge for Living Hope English School (DimapurSumi Baptist Church) for making all the arrangements for our students to have a real practical work experience.

Bethel Bible College in collaboration with Society for Biblical studies in India and partial support from the BTESSC organised a one day seminar on the 8th March 2024 on the theme “Ecological Sensitivity During Religious Festivals: Call for Ecumenical Partnership and Praxes”.It was attended by BBC family and a few guests.

**COLLEGE MAGAZINE**

The theme for the 2nd issue of the college magazine **Aleph 2024** is “A Commitment to Serve”. We are in the process of releasing it soon. All of you can participate in this endeavour by advertising your Church, Institution, organization and personal compliments.

**GRADUATES**

BBC, till date, has prepared 501 dedicated BD graduates to serve the society and church. These graduates represented 18 different states, 32 different churches/denominations and different language groups. 67% of BBC graduates are doing pastoral ministry, 17% of them are in teaching/ higher studies (M.Th. and D.Th) and 6% serve as missionaries. Others are engaged in different forms of ministry including pioneering works.

Within a short period of time BBC also trained 181 BCS graduates and 209 DCS.

We thank God for the life and commitment of the graduating students. They are fully equipped to serve God in all situations. It is our joy that they are moulded to usher in a new creation 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 opportunities.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

For the growth and stability of BBCwe look forward to establish partnership with right people, churches and organizations. Please join us and continue to pray for us.

Thanking You

Guntur, 22nd March 2024