











TEACHER and SPORTS



Contents

Page No.

	From the General Secretary's Desk Dr. Mrs. Caroline Michael GS, ETF	1
	God so loved the world, He gave sports to us Mr. Francis Selveraj	4
	It is not what you eat, its what's eating you Dr. S.J. Prabu	7
	Sports and Students Mr. Cecil Peter Sesuraj	10
	ETF NEWS	14
	Mission Trip to Bihar	15
	Encouraging Children to pursue their passion Dr. Ebenezer Joseph	16
	22nd Biennial National Conference Report by Dr. Mrs. Caroline Michael	20
	Praise and Prayer Diary	23



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FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK

Dear friends,

Greetings to you all in the matchless name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It gives me a great pleasure to reach out to all of you in the beginning of the New Year through the first issue of Chalk and Chai for 2022. On the outset, I am grateful to God for enabling ETF to conduct the 22nd Biennial National Conference in Tamil Nadu in the month of October 2021. I am thankful to every one of you who rendered support in many ways including your prayers for the conduct of the conference and those who participated.

The themes of earlier issues of Chalk and Chai were emphasizing on establishing the Kingdom of God in the lives of people by setting Jesus the **Master Teacher** as our role model. So, for Christian teachers, teaching is not only a job, profession or service but a **Calling** from God to establish His Kingdom. Through the themes of the upcoming issues of Chalk and Chai in the year 2022, we are challenged to look beyond with respect to our calling. It's a **Call to creativity** placed on our lives. We are called to remember **God the Creator and our Creativity matters to God**. In the

world of work, this wide career field include expressions of pure art in its various forms like drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, as well as music, dance, theatre, movies, television, sports and literature. Hence the themes of the upcoming issues of Chalk and Chai are in a sequence: *Teacher and Sports, Teacher and Visual Arts, Teacher and Literary Arts and Teacher and Performing Arts*.

From the very first verse of the Bible, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1), God reveals Himself as the creator, an artist. Everything within the universe is a magnificent element of the Great Artist's Masterpiece. God is creative, and because we're formed in God's image and likeness (Genesis 1:27), we bear the creative characteristics of God. Poetry, music and art - all celebrate both the beauty of God's created universe and the divine spark that seems to inspire such creativity. We are endowed with the ability to create as well. While God created the world out of nothing, we are called to create something out of that which exists. So, God is the creator, and we are co - creators or sub-creators and called by God to be creative to bring about the restoration of all things. We are

made to use our God-given creativity to cultivate the potential of the creation around us. We are called to join the Master Artist by being artists ourselves. We are called to use our natural creativity in any type of business or hobby.

The theme of this issue is 'Teacher and Sports'. Sport is a part of God's good gift of creation. Indeed, human beings are the ones who invent sports, but our playfulness, creativity, the desire for human relationship, and the instinctive desire to play is inherent in people of all ages across all cultures and this is what it means to be made in the image of God. He makes us creative with the talent to strike a ball, see a pass, or swim quickly. Equally God is a relational God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and so our desire to play with others encouraging them forward in competition comes from Him. Sport is not some area outside of God's good creation; it is an integral part of it, a gift to be enjoyed and used for His glory.

Some of us may raise a question, "If sport is a gift from God, then why is it that there is so much of bad spirit creeping in, besides the drug use to enhance performance, professional fouls, violence, betting and cheating?" Let us remember like any aspect of God's creation, sport has been distorted from its original purpose because of our sin. When some one uses his/her talents to seek self glory rather than to play for the glory of God or when someone destroys relationships through cheating instead of playing fair, sin makes it entry and infects sport just as it does in every area of human life. To have a gospel-transformed perspective on sports, one must have the right understanding of the gospel itself. The Good News is not merely sin and redemption through Jesus Christ. Rather

it is the renewal and restoration of His entire creation as its king through His life, death and resurrection. It leads us to consider this thought: "Are you a Christian who plays sport or are you a Christian in sport?" All this depends on the way one chooses to play the game.

Some dismiss Sports as merely a game while others worship sports as nearly a God. But recalling scripture we understand that we are to '*Offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship*' (Rom.12:1-2)' and therefore, Sport has to be an **Act of worship**. God is the one who gave us the gift of sport and it is an area of life that has to be offered to God. God is not distant from the thrill one gets while playing any kind of sport. He is not remote from the highs and lows of the competition. Our beating heart is His beating heart, our joy is His pleasure. There are quite a lot of inspiring sporting Bible verses in the categories of preparation, winning, losing, sportsmanship, and competition. In his article, '*For God so loved the world, He gave sport to us!*', Mr. Francis Selvaraj, in the light of the Biblical views of sports, explains how Sports and Faith can be integrated into our lives. With an attitude of true worship to God the giver of the gift of sports, let us play hard, play fair, and play for His glory - after all, it is one avenue of worship that embraces the sporting gifting within us.

God, the Creator of universe and entire cosmos is mindful of orderliness. The creation story (Genesis 1, Psalm 19:1-5, Psalm 104) displays a very high order of discipline with respect to space, matter and time for the entire creation. God the creator saw that His creation was good. In our faith journey, when sport becomes the act of worship to God the creator, it

gives us an **Access to a disciplined life** - A life pleasing to God. Dr. S.J. Prabu in his article, 'It's Not What You Eat, It's What's Eating You!' emphasizes the importance of self-control and self-discipline in our day to day life by highlighting Biblical principles. Mr. Cecil Peter Sesuraj in 'Sports and Students' shares his testimony about how he was encouraged by his parents especially his mother as he had taken up sports as something he wanted to develop explaining its impact in his family life and society to lead a disciplined life, to accept failures, develop team building and maintain good relationships in the workplace.

A common struggle the present generation experiences is that most parents and teachers discourage their kids from pursuing a career in entertainment or sports. Through our act of worship, once we recognize that the God who made us and gave us understanding is the only source of any skill and knowledge. This gives us a new perspective on our life, family and work. "The farmer knows just what to do, for God has given him understanding" (Is.28:24-29). One could extend this to say that an artisan or a sports man or a craftsman or the entrepreneur knows just what to do for only God has given that person understanding. As a teacher or as a parent while we lead the children to pursue their passion, they should be taught to fear God the creator "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Prov.1:7) "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Prov.9:10) and to lead a disciplined life striking a balance between their personal, family and social life. They can be encouraged to depend on God completely for His guidance as they pursue their passion. "I am the Lord your God who teaches you for your own

good, who leads you in the way you should go" (Is. 48:17). In mysterious ways, we become co-creators with God in our work as instruments in God's hand for purposes deeper than we even know.

Sports is a way to display God's Wisdom.

Dr. Ebenezer Joseph in his article, 'The Role of a Teacher is to Encourage Children to Pursue their Passions' shares his experiences about how the God given passion of playing Chess was encouraged at home and displayed the gift of wisdom and intelligence in his career throughout. When we experience God at work in us, our work becomes fruitful.

Interestingly, the theme of the first issue of Chalk and Chai in the year 2022 is 'Teacher and Sports' relates to theme of the Conference recently held in October 2021, "Press on towards the Goal". Sports, when transformed through the gospel can be received as a gift - a gift to be enjoyed for its intrinsic worth and stewarded for the glory of God and the good of others. Let us be transformed in our personal and public life and press on with patience and persuade to be fruitful in our lives. Wish you all a Blessed New Year.

**While creativity brings people nearer to God,
Destruction, the opposite of creation will bring them closer to evil.**



Caroline Michael
General Secretary, ETF



Only he who can see the invisible can do the impossible

- Frank. L. Gaines

The term sport is no new word to all of us. But do we see the invisible powers of sport and game is a question we need to ask ourselves, don't we? If not, it is high time we start recognizing them so that we become people who do the impossible things.

But before identifying the invisible things, it is super important to clear out the fears and doubts we all hold as Christians when it comes to sport and games. We were never preached to declaring that sport is a good deed; no pastor in his/her sermon said "God wants you to do sport today"; no one said that "a playground is holy land" And with all the match-fixing, corruption, drugs, politics, celebrity worship, and a lot more in the sports world, we all may have come to a conclusion that sport is a sin. But here's the truth, sport was never a sin. We brought sin into it, and as people who did that, it is our responsibility to clean up the mess as well. And that is why we all need to take

sport with us in the journey of teaching.

If you still are not convinced about this idea, and if you still think that a Christian and a sports person are at two opposite poles, here's something that we all Christians buy into - the **BIBLICAL proof**.

What does the bible say about sports and games?

The Bible happens to be our go-to guide for literally every question on earth. And there's no doubt that the Bible can answer all our questions around sport and game as well. Here are the top 3 questions, that may have been nagging us at the back of our minds, answered by the Bible.

Question #1

Is sport and game 'God made' or 'human made'?

Come on, we humans can never create something naturally amazing. Genesis 1: 26 and 27 says, "we mankind

are made in God's own image and likeness" and when we are in His image, anything our body and mind are capable of is all from God. And the possibility to move, act, and think for sports and games is no exception. This whole act of sport and game is from God, God wanted you and I to enjoy it, to practice it. Sports and games are God-Inspired.

Question #2

Does doing sport glorify God?

And that's a big YES! Romans 12:1 says "I urge you to offer your body as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God- this is your true and proper worship". The bible has a ton of verses on using our talent for the glory of God. When we get outdoors and play, we glorify God's work in us, when we get to the ground and show what talent God has gifted us with, we become a testimony of God's mighty works. If singing, giving out a sermon, playing a musical instrument, dancing, jumping, acting out is worship, doing a sports activity is definitely worship and we do to testify what God has given to us. If we believe that sport should be kept buried, we are no different from the servant who buried the talent his master gave him.

Question #3

What did Jesus do that we use in sport very often?

God came into the game field, **the world** as a substitute for us, to save us from the sin we were battling. He has won the game for us. Jesus hates the lazy, He loves people who are active for His kingdom, and sport is a place that has space for activeness.

There is no doubt that God is happy if you could reflect Him to others through sports and games cause in Colossians

3:17 says "and whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" be it sport, game, fitness, music, church, whatever, God honors it.

Now that we are clear that sport and games are no less than anything that happens in a church. Here comes the exciting part..... We making use of it!

How magical it is to include sports and games in the journey of teaching

Here again, we take Christ as our example, for we all know that parables have taken us a long way in understanding serious deep things. Jesus used parables to bring the message of the kingdom of God to us. We on our part can make use of sports and games to take God's message to almost everyone on earth. Using sport and games to teach people is the invisible thing we failed to see all these years, but now that we have started to see the opportunities, there is no stopping us doing the impossible things.

Making possible the impossible

Why include sports and games to teach when writing down on a board is easy?

"Action speaks louder than words"! Everyone loves a fun activity and if we could include them along with the learning, it is a win-win for both. Studies prove that people learn better when they experience it, and hence sports and games are ways people get to experience and learn new things.

When all our senses come together to learn something, that's when the learning becomes legit. And when we include sports and games to teach

something, we bring all senses into one place hitting at the highest level of concentration and experience, making it the most efficient and best way to inculcate values, learning, self-discipline and ideas in a person's mind. Then why not do it?

What Can sports teach??

Organized sports are often overlooked as a medium for teaching and learning. Sports are viewed primarily as physical activities, games of stamina and skill. But to fully tap the rich learning medium sports represent, we must recognize that sports are also SOCIAL, COGNATIVE, and MORAL activities.

I can hear you all say “but does it work for all age groups and all types of audiences?”

OH yeah! There is a huge misconception that sport, game, and fitness are done by only the young and small kids. But the truth is almost everyone on earth is involved in some kind of sport and game in one or the other way. And we, not making use of such a golden opportunity will be cruel.

Sports helps fulfill God's purpose for our lives

Math 24:19,20 says “Therefore go and make disciples of all nation, baptizing them in the name of the father, son and the holy spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” we as Christians are bound to fulfill the great commission Christ has commanded us to

do and sports is going to make things easier for us.

With sports,

You disciple
You evangelize
You touch lives
You break barriers
You save souls
You worship the Lord
You stay a testimony
You bring people together
You help people find salvation
You take the gospel to every corner
You fulfill the great commission

But do you know what's the beauty in all this? It's the joy we get to experience God's love firsthand and offer the same to others. Sport is a blessing given by God, and it is now our time to make use of it for His glory. Let's spread this Shalom “Peace beyond all human understanding” through sport and play and get creative in using fun, games and challenges into learning everyday as we teach.

Happy playing y'all!



Mr. Francis Selvaraj

Founder and owner of Camp Revive-an outdoor learning facility located near Bangalore, South India. Co Convenor-Sports Coalition of India

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1 Corinthians 6:19-20 states,

“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.”

Christians are called to honor God with their bodies. Honoring our bodies as sacred temples certainly includes eating healthy foods that keep them functioning well.

In fact, the Bible encompasses a host of examples of God's blessing people who eat healthy food. When Daniel and his three friends resolved not to eat the rich food of Babylon, instead making their diet vegetables and water, “they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the

royal food” (Daniel 1:15 NIV). Of course, health was not the reason for Daniel's food choice. It had to do with ritual purity and being set apart from the pagan culture of Babylon, and God honored his obedience. This assures us that God cares about our calorific intake.

Thankfully though, that's not all the Bible has to say about eating. Paul says that God “richly provides us with everything to enjoy” (1 Timothy 6:17). The book of Ecclesiastes tells us that we should enjoy food as a gift from God

**It's Not
What You
Eat,
It's What's
Eating You!**



(3:13). God not only cares about healthy eating, there's also a place for feasting in His economy.

So, what does all this mean? While the Bible doesn't prescribe any specific diet plan, it does highlight the principle of balance—between healthy restraint and enjoyment of rich foods. In other words, make a habit of disciplined, healthy eating, but on occasion let yourself enjoy a feast of God's good gifts. It is the same conclusion that dieticians have reached after thousands of years of scientific research. In Scripture, God truly does provide “all things that pertain to life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3).

Living for the satisfaction of only one part of my body (our mouth) [is] unholy. Many people eat too much or find it difficult to control their appetite, especially with today's ever increasing portion sizes and fast paced lifestyle. Many people eat for reasons other than hunger, such as being stressed, tired, or sad. Overeating may also lead to lack of concentration, no focus and loss of memory, mild cognitive impairment (MCI) at a later stage in life. However, there are some simple techniques to help regulate appetite and reduce the risk of overeating.

On the other hand, people starve or try to be in their size-zero hour glass figure. A person will not maintain a normal weight fearful of weight gain, having a distorted image of his or her body. People maintain their low body weights either through restricting food or, at times, through developing binge ing/purging behavior. This self-hatred, demand for personal perfection, or sense that one can and must control his own environment can be destructive to

the health and well-being of one's body and spirit. It also can have profound effects on the sufferer's family. The Bible teaches that true beauty and worth are found in one's identity in Christ, not in one's weight, outward appearance, or personal accomplishments.

Some people focus entirely on spirituality, to the neglect of their physical bodies. Others focus so much attention on the form and shape of their physical bodies that they neglect spiritual growth and maturity. Neither of these indicates a biblical balance. Timothy 4:8 informs us, “For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. God made our bodies to be healthier and happier when they move. Being active and exercising increases our heartrate and circulate blood, hormones and nutrients through the body to where they need to be — especially the brain — for optimal physical, mental, and emotional health. “Therefore, lift your drooping hands and strengthen your

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Dear Friends,

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THANKS

weak knees”, Hebrews 12:12. The goal of exercising should be to improve our physical health so we will possess more physical energy that we can devote to spiritual goals.

The journey to health and wholeness may be long, but Jesus has set Christians free (Galatians 5:1). The Holy Spirit has the power to break the bondage of eating disorders. If we are in Christ, that power is available to us (Romans 8:9-11). God is at work in us: “I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

The battle against eating disorders is not just physical; it is mental and spiritual as well. Teachers, doctors, counselors, pastors and family members should all be made part of the healing process.

The Bible assures us of God's great love for us. We are His creation, His handiwork, made in His image. He loves us and accepts us in Christ regardless of our weight or how we look. We are to please God, not the world. We are free to release our obsessions to the God who loves us. God is in control, and we can rest in His capable hands.

Letting the Word of God transform our thinking is key.

God Bless!



Dr. S.J. Prabu
Asst. Prof. Department of Physical Education, Madras Christian College



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Sports and Students



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I thank Dr. Caroline for the opportunity to connect with you through this article. I readily accepted to write on the topic “Sports and Students” when requested by our General Secretary as this is close to my heart.

I come from a family of teachers who were very devoted to the cause of education and served their duty to God educating thousands of underprivileged students. My mom being an athlete herself encouraged my sister and me to be involved in sports right from a young age. It was a routine during our young days to wake up at 5:00 AM and head off to the nearby ground for our early morning jog followed by one sport or the other. Believe me, we were no fans of waking up early and I still remember the tricks we played to avoid waking up early or to stay a little longer in bed. Our mother was a strict disciplinarian and would make sure that we didn't start our day without our daily dose of physical exercise. It is to that discipline that my

sister and I owe everything to what we are today. I am Cecil Peter Sesuraj, I started my career as a teacher and then ventured into the field of IT and today, I am Director of Delivery and Operations at HTC Global Services.

I would like to share my thoughts on the impact that sports has on one's life through my experience as a student, a teacher and as a father. In this article, I would like to list down a few of the many benefits that sports bring into one's life and then go into detail about each of them.

Healthy Body and Mind
Discipline and Perseverance
Team and Leadership Skills
Faith in God

Healthy Body and Mind:

I am sure that all of you would agree on this. It's a very sad state of affairs to see children of this generation glued to phones, tabs or other gadgets which negatively impacts their growth. I would not blame the children rather the adults,

because like my mom did, it's the responsibility of every parent to introduce sports and physical fitness early into the life of children. It is necessary to inculcate sports at a very young age because once a child starts enjoying sports it will have a plethora of benefits. A child that plays well, eats, studies and sleeps well. Even today when I am bogged down with loads of work I head out for a jog or a game of badminton which recharges me to get my work done, there is no better stress reliever.

A word of advice that I learned as a parent is to never force your children into an organized fitness program as it would be more of a punishment rather than fun. Start with fun play and let them enjoy all kinds of games as they grow. They will show fondness for a particular sport and that is when as parents, we have to groom that skill by putting them through appropriate coaching.

Discipline and Perseverance:

For any outsider a sports person may appear unruly and rugged, but trust me it's just the opposite, one will be able to recognize and appreciate it once they start connecting with an athlete. A kid who refuses to listen to parents or teachers would oblige with all respect to their coach, the reason being the love they have for the sport and the happiness that it gives. This discipline and obedience eventually extend to other aspects of the child and transforms them into a better person and the simple tool is sports.

In this fast-paced life, everyone wants results immediately focusing on the results and not on the process. When it comes to sports, it's the process that is

more important and the results are just a byproduct. As my coach would always say when he begins a new program, “Rome was not built in a day and neither is a skill”, and it takes hours and hours of practice to master a skill. This learning prepares the children for the harsh reality of life to face failure with positivity and stay focused to achieve their goals. With the increase in number of suicides among the children who couldn't handle failure, sports become an important tool to help them face failure and focus more to bounce back stronger and achieve. As parents, let us not pressure the children to achieve stardom rather encourage them to participate and be active. As teachers let us practice appreciating the achiever and at the same time help those who have failed become overcomers and perform better.

Team and Leadership Skills:

We live in a very competitive world where one wants to be successful even if it is at the cost of others. A success of that kind can only be short-lived and tends to not be a happy one. In recent times I have come across news articles where one has even gone to the extent of taking someone else's life for the sake of being successful. Is this the environment that we want to create for our future generation? If the answer is no, then sports is the tool to achieve a healthy and friendly environment. Every child who is part of a team sport learns how to collaborate and work towards a common goal and understand synergy. It promotes camaraderie and a healthy competitive environment where one will be able to enjoy the success of another person.

I am successful at work because of my leadership skills most of which I have acquired while being part of the cricket and basketball teams at school and college. I can identify the skills of each individual in my team, assign work according to their skill, step in to help when a team member needs support and sometimes stay on the sidelines to encourage and motivate the team. At the end of it, I create a win-win situation for me, for the team and the company.

Faith in God:

This might sound totally out of place in the context of sports where every success is attributed to the person or the team but trust me every sportsperson lays his foundation in God. As the bible says, "The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the LORD" (Proverbs 21:31). Have you not seen the Legendary West Indian batsman Vivian Richards or Ace runner Usain bolt draw the sign of the cross

before the match or race; the reason they want to thank God for keeping them fit for game day and seek His blessings for success. Children in sports will understand that they need divine intervention for them to be successful.

I would like to conclude, as parents and teachers it is our responsibility to involve youngsters in sports and continue to encourage and motivate them to actively pursue the sport. This will help create a future generation that will be healthy, disciplined, socially responsible and God fearing.



Mr. Cecil Peter Sesuraj

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Themes

for the 4 issues of



for the year

2022

Teacher and SPORTS

Jan-Mar



Teacher and LITERARY ARTS

Jul-Sep



Teacher and VISUAL ARTS

Apr-Jun



Teacher and PERFORMING ARTS

Oct-Dec



The first Christmas program for the year 2021 in Chennai was organised by ETF on 26th November 2021 in the Centenary Hall, Emmanuel Methodist Church, Vepery, Chennai. About 50 teachers



attended the program. A few non Christian teachers attended the program to know about the purpose of Christ's birth. People enjoyed the carol singing led by MCC MHSS, the choreography performed by teachers of MCC campus MHSS and the skit performed by MCC HSS teachers. Rev. Paul Francis, Presbyterian, CSI Madras Diocese brought the Christmas message. ETF encouraged that the Christmas celebration be extended to the unreached communities in the society. Gifts were given and dinner was served.

MISSION TRIP to BIHAR



(Report by **Dr. Caroline Michael** – Gen Secretary)

Praise God for enabling me to undertake a two-day mission trip to Bihar to visit the educational institutions run by Gospel Echoing Missionary Society (GEMS) in Sikaria village. It was an wonderful opportunity to get introduced to Dr. Mahiban Rose, Principal GEMS English School, Sikaria, share the Word of God and introduce the ETF ministry to the teachers in the school. It was a pleasant experience to share the Word of God with the little children studying in GEMS English School in Ramdihra village and have a time of fellowship with Sis. Puspha Mariadas, the Principal of the school and Bro. Mariadas, the Secretary of the school. During the visit to the GEMS mission campus in Aurangabad, Bihar there was a great time of fellowship with the Principal Prof. Timothy, Principal GEMS Polytechnic College, Mr. Charles Hoolson, Secretary, GEMS English School Aurangabad and Mrs. Deborah, Principal, GEMS English School Aurangabad. During the short program for the teachers of the school, ETF was introduced along with a message from the word of God.

The campus tour in Sikaria and the visit to meet Bro. Augustine Jebakumar, founder of GEMS and spending time with a few friends on campus were experiences of great encouragement.

The care, concern, timely help and hospitality rendered by Mr. Victor Albert PRO, Mr. Anand CEO, Mrs. Vinolia in the guest house, Mr. Charles Hoolson and Prof. Timothy in Aurangabad are greatly appreciated.

I thank the Lord for the wonderful ministry and mission minded children of God in GEMS.



The Role of a Teacher -

Encouraging Children to Pursue their Passions

It is imperative for every teacher to identify the unique skills and talents of each and every child. Each child is special in their own way having individualistic traits and abilities. Some might excel in studies, some in art, while others in sports. Unfortunately, our educational system uses the “one size fits all” scale, which often tends to underestimate children with learning difficulties. Many young children may be passionate in a particular sport, and unless the teachers in the educational institutions recognize and encourage them, many a talents will never come to fruition, and many a talented champions might be just considered as a failure.

I was one such child with very little interest in school or studies. At the age of five, as a little boy, I started playing chess and soon I nurtured a dream to play in the world chess championship. I kept pursuing this dream for 19 long years. At the age of 24, I received a call one day stating that the National Under-25 chess championship was beginning the next day at Anakappalli, Andhra Pradesh (AP). By the grace of God, I won five games in seemingly lost positions and was selected to be a member of the Indian youth team.

Even after being qualified to play in the Indian team, I had to face many a struggles. The world youth team chess championship was scheduled to be held in Brazil and the government cleared the Indian Chess team at no cost to the government, which meant that there was no sponsorship. Mr. Madhava Rao Scindia, the then aviation minister, graciously offered free tickets in Air India. However, there were no Air India flights flying to Brazil. Disappointed, I returned home by train from Delhi, but my faith did not waver. When I reached Chennai, my mother bought me a flight ticket on loan which enabled me to travel to the world youth chess championship, Brazil '91. By then, six tournament rounds had already been completed. I won two out of the three games I played.

The dream of playing in the world chess championship kept me going against all odds. And by virtue of playing the world chess championship, the Indian government selected me under sports quota to be an auditor in Indian Audit and Accounts Department (IA & AD). Echoing the words of T.S Eliot, “Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go”. When faced with

difficulties, we should press on, never give up, and never say die.

Impacting the Lives of Children as Relentless Cheerleaders

Looking back, I fondly remember a few incidents that made a lasting impact on my life. My dad's input in my chess career is noteworthy. Way back in the 70s, when Bobby Fischer played Boris Spassky, the legendary match of the century, my dad initiated me into my chess career taking me to the Russian Cultural Centre in Chennai. In the year 1972, at just 5 years and 6 months old, I was the first child under 18 to join the chess club. My father was always a great encourager. He celebrated each and every win! And if I happened to lose a game without castling (chess move to safeguard the king), I was promptly corrected and would escape only because of my mom's intervention.

I clearly remember the days, when he took the time to teach me the classic games from “My Sixty Memorable Games” of Bobby Fischer and from the legendary match. While he taught from the books, whenever I came out with a new variation or a novelty (a new move that was never played before), he would always appreciate me whether it be right or wrong. He showed confidence in me that I would always be right. This boosted my confidence three times in my early chess career, I was able to beat the upcoming five times world champion in the making. Subsequently, the victories of playing for India in the World Youth Championship and becoming India's First Certified FIDE trainer and being awarded as the Candidate Master followed.

Made Strong Out of Weakness

As mentioned earlier, as a young boy,

my academics interest was low and hardly went to school, concentrating most part of my time in playing chess. My parents had great confidence in my passion—the ability to play chess—and they believed that I was brilliant and would clear my school exams with little effort.

At school, I struggled in math during my 10th grade. My math teacher in Doveton Corrie Higher Secondary School had told me that at this rate I would not be able to clear my math board exam. I cried out to the Lord, he heard my cry, and helped me to clear the exam with high marks in math. So, I did my bachelors and masters in Statistics.

I also had struggles during my masters in Statistics from MCC Chennai. I had a tight schedule, being the captain of the Madras University chess team 3 times during my tenure in college. I had the privilege of winning thrice the All-India Inter-University Chess Championship. I found it difficult to manage studies balancing my time between tournaments, studies, and my pursuit to play the world championship.

By then, by virtue of my chess achievements, the government granted me a position as an auditor, and then subsequently a supervisor of audit in the finance and communication audit office, IA & AD, Government of India, checking the accounts of nearly 110 head post-offices in TN and more than 500 accountants of the postal department of TN. After getting a job, I struggled much and with the help of friends' coaching and encouragement I cleared my masters with much hard work. I can boldly confess that where I was weak, there He made me strong.

Encouraging Children to Engrave their Vision on Tablets

As written in Habakkuk 2:2 “Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets,” we should encourage children to engrave their vision on tablets!

In the year 2005, I was called by the Fide Trainer Academy, Berlin, Germany, to present a paper and be certified as India's first certified Chess trainer. While I was praying, the Lord clearly spoke to me and said that he would open “double doors” (Isaiah 45:1). I realized that I had to go to two countries and recorded it in my prayer journal at once. I planned to play some chess tournaments in France, en route to Germany.

I landed in Corsica, an island, and went on to play the Corsica Masters along with the reigning world champion Viswanathan Anand. As I had limited resources and the hotel room rents were high, I had opted to stay as a paying guest in a French home. The next morning during my quiet time, I was delighted to know that my hosts were Christians as well, but they could not speak English. While we communicated with each other, we realized that exactly on the same day when I got the leading of double doors, they were praying for India from Corsica. They brought their prayer journal and the dates in both our journals matched perfectly. They were extremely delighted, and they wrote to all their friends in other parts of France to receive and host me as a man sent from God. I had a royal time in that circuit, and I realized how important it was to record heavenly visions.

Enhancing the Cognitive Functions of Children through Chess Training

I also cherished a dream to train poor children freely. While teaching chess for a

group of children at the Russian Cultural Centre in Chennai, I observed significant changes in their cognitive abilities. I started wondering if chess can be used as an intervention to increase the cognitive functions in children, whether age, gender of the child and type of school differentially influence the impact of the chess training. So, I applied for a DST project in 2010. Here also there was a struggle for 2 years before the Department of Science and Technology of India, approved it. Thereafter, in 2014, I got a reply that a fire in the office had destroyed all the files. Yet miraculously, God in His sovereign mercy gave the project in September of the same year.

As the Principal Investigator for the cognitive science research initiative, DST project, Government of India, I studied the impact of chess training and cognitive functions of children.

Every child is distinctive in his or her cognitive abilities. These abilities influence the kinds of accomplishment or struggles he or she is experiencing in school or life. The cognitive skills are critical because they are the vital skills the brain uses to think, learn, read, remember, pay attention, and solve problems. Improvements in cognitive functions using a variety of intervention programs are attracting attention at all age levels. So far, cognitive intervention has centered on the enrichment of various cognitive abilities such as memory and speed of processing, with the purpose of maximizing current functioning and reducing the risk of cognitive decline.

Chess is a classic game of strategy that develops various cognitive processes. It is widely believed to increase “mental muscle” (Kitsis, 2006); raise intelligence

quotient (IQ); help prevent Alzheimer's; exercise both sides of the brain; increase creativity; and improve memory (Friedl and et al., 2001; Margulies, 1991). Chess is also known to be a drosophila of artificial intelligence (Ensmenger, 2012). Early research on chess instruction has tended to provide empirical support for the beneficial effects of chess training on performance on cognitive tasks (Christiaen, Verholfstadt, 1978; Frank, D'Hondt, 1979; Horgan, 1987; Smith & Cage, 2000). Many schools all over the world encourage their students to play chess to enhance their academic performance. Studying chess systematically raises students' IQ and exam scores (Dullea, 1982; Ferguson, 2000; Palm, 1990), strengthens math ability besides reading and language skills (Ferguson, 2000; Liptrap, 1998; Margulies, 1991), and improves academic performance (Joseph, Esvaradoss, Solomon, 2016).

The cognitive functions that were assessed are: intelligence, working memory, processing speed, perceptual reasoning, verbal comprehension, numerical reasoning, verbal reasoning, non verbal reasoning, social intelligence, language, conceptual thinking, memory, visual motor ability and creativity before and after the training period. A significant positive correlation was found between intelligence and creativity in children who underwent chess intervention. With a team of Psychologists, as a group of chess trainers, we were able to train children freely and find an enhancement in the cognitive abilities of children after chess training.

Doctoral Studies in Cognitive Psychology

My story is a testimony of God's grace which empowered me, though seemingly weak in studies in the early part of my life

yet with God given talent of playing chess, enabled me to become India's First Fide Trainer and candidate Master of the world chess Federation to participate in several international chess championships abroad and beat the former world chess champion Viswanathan Anand three times in the National Championship and to represent India in the world Youth championship Maringa Brazil, 1991.

Along with these achievements and accolades, His grace enabled me to not neglect studies as I successfully completed my inter-disciplinary Ph.D. in Statistics-Psychology in July 2021, “An Empirical Study on the Effect of Chess Intervention on Cognitive Functions of Children”. I have a desire and have currently applied for full Bright scholarship to do my post-doctoral studies in Dallas, USA.

I would like to close with a humble request to the teachers to encourage their students to pursue their passions along with their studies.



Dr. Ebenezer Joseph

India's First FIDE Trainer and
Candidate Master of the World Chess Federation

Founder of Emmanuel Chess Centre
Supervisor of Audit,
Finance and Communications Audit Office,
Government of India.

22nd Biennial National Conference

Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu

(Report by Dr. Caroline Michael)



Praise be to God for the 22nd Biennial National Conference held at Scripture Union Campsite, Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu from 14th to 16th October 2021.

About 50 delegates from 11 states of India participated in the conference. Among them 12 were Principals of educational institutions. Amidst the pandemic situation, indeed it was a great encouragement to have representation from about 25 educational institutions, a couple of Bible Colleges and the participation of retired faculty from colleges and schools. A few leaders from various organisations like UESI, Scripture Union and Elshaddai Children's ministry were invited to participate in the conference on 15th October.

The theme of the conference was "Press on toward the Goal" (Phil.3:14). The conference began with the singing time led by the delegates from Bangalore.

Dr. Caroline Michael, General Secretary of ETF welcomed the gathering. The thematic Bible study by Rev. Dr. J. N. Manokaran from Chennai focussed on 3 themes: Press On to Maturity and Perfection, Press On to hold on to Purpose and Press On to fulfil High Calling which encouraged and edified the participants. During the professional talk session, Mr. Francis Selvaraj highlighted the importance and use of sports in classroom teaching via his talk on "A Sportive Christian Teacher". One of his team workers, Mr. Tamizh Mani entertained the delegates with his performance as a juggler and shared his wonderful testimony. The participants enjoyed a variety of activities during the session which had deep insights which were interesting, innovative and thought provoking.

During the Conference, the E - Souvenir was released. It mainly contained the pre and post covid experiences as shared by a few schools and colleges.

The digital copy of the following ETF publications namely : Teacher's Challenge, Teacher Speaks, Jesus: Master Educator, Making of a Christian Teacher in English, Tamil, Telugu and Making of a Christian Teacher in Mizo language translated by Dr. Tluanga were released.

During the mission challenges, the delegates were greatly inspired by the testimonies of the Principals of mission schools: Mr. Martin from Odisha, Mr. Sibi Selvin Sam from Jharkhand, Mr. Gnana muthu from Maharashtra, Mr. Dani Paul from Assam and Mr. Samson from Odisha.

The action songs were led by Rev. Nallaraj and Mrs. Grace Nallaraj while the theme song, "Runners for Christ" was taught by Dr. Caroline Michael. Special renditions were made by Mrs. Guin and students, Ms. Joyce and Ms. Eliana. All the singing sessions were lively, enjoyable and meaningful. The wonderful music rendered by Dr. Ebiraj on his keyboard and the timely technical assistant rendered by Mr. Moses were

greatly encouraging. During the General Body Meeting, the election of EC and CC members was conducted and the ETF manual was released during the GBM.

All the delegates actively participated in the group performance. They also enjoyed the beach walk, fun and fellowship during the theme based games and visit to the historical place Mahabalipuram.

The house keeping for a comfortable stay, tasty food and hospitality at SU campsite under the leadership of Mrs. Viola Jeyasingh with all the timely help and encouragement rendered by Mr. Daniel, is highly appreciated.

After a prolonging lockdown, it was indeed a great time of blessing for the organisers and the participants to come together, taking a break to get enriched in fellowship of ETF strengthening the vision to serve the Lord effectively.

All Glory to God.

ETF Central Council members(2021 – 2023)

S.No.	Name	State
1	Mrs.Jessy Paul	A.P.
2	Mr.Paul Devakumar	A.P.
3	Dr.Kavitha Juliana	Bihar
4	Mr.T.Stalin	Delhi
5	Mrs.Cynthia Sam	Karnataka
6	Mr.Nitin Prabhune	Maharashtra
7	Mr.Gnanamuthu	Maharashtra
8	Mr.Dani Paul	Assam
9	Mrs.Wellorich	Meghalaya
10.	Dr. Lalzar Mawii	Mizoram
11.	Mr.Martin	Odisha
12.	Mr. C. Benjamin	T.N.
13.	Dr.Joseph Paramasivam	T.N.
14.	Mrs.Apoleena Wesley	Telangana
15.	Mr.Andriyas Singh	Uttarkhand

22nd Biennial National Conference Photos



ETF Executive Committee (2021 – 2023)

S.No.	Name	Office	State
1.	Dr. C.K. Rajasingh	President	T.N.
2.	Dr. Abhi Sethia	Vice-President	Delhi
3.	Mr. Ramesh Dharshan	Vice-President	U.P.
4.	Dr. Caroline Michael	General Secretary	T.N.
5.	Mrs. Lydia Devasagayam	Treasurer	T.N.
6.	Dr. Michael Faraday	Member	T.N.
7.	Mrs. Vinni Thomas	Member	Karnataka
8.	Dr. Israel Raju Vuram	Member	A.P.
9.	Dr. S.K. Swain	Member	Odisha



Day 1 ETF Executive Committee (EC) and Central Council (CC)

Praise & Thank God

1. The new team of EC members and CC members elected in the General Body Meeting held on 15th October 2021 and the first EC meeting held on 10th November 2021 with the new team of leaders with useful deliberations.

Pray for:

1. The new EC and CC members from different parts of the country to take leadership to carry out their responsibilities with a commitment in the extension of the ETF ministry in their region and state.
2. The families, ministries and health of EC and CC members.
3. The proposed EC /CC meeting during January/February 2022.

Day 2 Finance

Praise & Thank God

1. Sponsors and donors of ETF who support the ministry financially.
2. The new individual and institutional life members and new members joined.

Pray for:

1. God to continue to bless the sponsors and donors.
2. Many teachers to become the members of ETF to support and pray and institutions to be introduced to ETF ministry from different parts of the country.
3. Financial needs of ETF will be met.

Day 3 ETF Publication Trust

Praise & Thank God

1. The release of the digital copies of all the ETF Publications during the Biennial National Conference (BNC) held in October 2021

2. The authors of articles in every issue of CC and their life and ministry.

Pray for:

1. God 's grace and guidance for the recruitment of teachers/administrators in institutions which have advertised in CC.
2. The editing work, DTP work , work related with the mailing list of CC and other office concerned work, printing and dispatching of CC will be carried out smoothly and perfectly without any time delay.
3. Receipt of the magazine by all addressees on time and without any loss.
- 4.ETF Study Centre at Hyderabad will be revived to and many teachers to access the resources available.

Day 4 Regional/State/Local level ETF programs

Praise & Thank God

The ETF Website which helps many people to know about the ministry updates globally.

Pray for:

1. Many integrated programs of ETF and UESI in the country.
2. Auxiliary Staff Partner Training Conference/ Principals and Administrators' Conference / Prayer conference to be planned periodically in different parts of the country.
3. State level programs, special programs of ETF - seminars / workshops /one day retreat to be organized in different places to build ETF ministry.

Day 5 National Conference

Praise & Thank God

1. Conducive situation prevailed to conduct the 22nd BNC from 14th to 16th October 2021 in Scripture Union campus near Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
2. Safe and comfortable travel and good health for all who attended the conference including the resource persons, and the conference organising team.
3. The delegates from different parts of the country who got enriched encouraged and equipped spiritually and professionally.
4. Printing of souvenir, Conference proceedings and all the related financial needs met.

Day 6 Andhra Pradesh

Praise & Thank God

State council members and local unit members and partnership of Institutions with ETF.

Pray

1. The financial needs of Good Shepherd English medium School(LMI) at Nandyal will be met.
2. The Local units in **Nandyal , Anakapalli, Narasapur, Vishakapatnam, Tuni, Guntur, Anantapur, Ongole, Tadepalligudem, Gajapathinagaram and**

Srikakulam to get strengthened.

3. JTL workshop to be planned in SPG college of Education(LMI) and Member Institution (MI) Holy Cross Girls School, **Nandyal** Adarsh Degree College(LMI) , Catherine group of schools (LMI), New Life English medium School (LMI) and Timpany School (LMI) in **Vishakapatnam**, Emmanuel English Medium School(MI) **Anakapalle** and St. John's English Medium High School, (LMI) **Mydukur**
4. Open doors for ETF ministry in **Vijayawada** and **Rajamundri** and other places

Day 7 Bihar

Praise & Thank God

The open doors for ETF ministry in GEMS schools in Sikaria, and Aurangabad and their partnership with ETF.

Pray

1. Dr.Kavitha Juliana (CC) ,Principal who is in need for Christian PGT teachers for Science and English in Bethel Mission School (LMI), Kishanganj **Kishanganj**
- 2.Christian Principal and teachers for Emmanuel Mission Public School(LMI) **Patna**
3. JTL workshop to be organized at Nav Bharat Mission School (LMI) ,**Purnea** , Harvest Mission Schools (MI) in **Purnea and Araria** and Rodem International School (MI) in **Katihar**, GEMS English School in **Sikaria and Ramdihra** ,GEMS English School (LMI) and GEMS Polytechnic College (LMI) in **Aurangabad** .
- 4.ETF Ministry to get introduced in Assembly of God School, **Bettiah**

Day 8 Chhattisgarh

Pray

1. The health of Mr. Thomas Joseph , Director of Blaze academy (LMI) **Ganjpara** and God's provision for mission minded efficient Christian teachers and administrators to work in their school and for the financial needs of the school to be met..
- 2.The health of Mrs. Prainey ,Principal,Life Academy (LMI) , **Awaspura**
3. St. Thomas School, **Dhondi** to be render partnership with ETF and to organise JTL workshop.
- 4.Open doors for ETF ministry in IMST English Schools.

Day 9 Delhi and Haryana

Pray

- 1.ETF meetings to be organized periodically in different places in Delhi
- 2.The JTL workshop to be organised in Good Samaritan School (LMI), Faith academy and other schools in Delhi.
3. The ETF members at Mt.Carmel Schools (LMI) at **Anand Niketan** and **Dwarka**.
4. The opening for ETF ministry in Haryana

Gujarat

Pray:

1. The need of committed and efficient teachers to teach higher classes at FMPB St.Thomas English School (LMI) **Jawda**.
2. The needs of St.Stephen's English Medium School(LMI) **Selemba** and ETF local unit to function there.
3. JTL workshop to be organised in Angel School **Vyara**.
- 4.New contacts and open doors for ETF ministry in **Ahmadabad, Baroda and Surat**.

Day 10 Himachal Pradesh

Pray

1. Pray for the need of maths teacher in Day Star School, (LMI) Manali.
- 2.Rainbow School and the Children's Home in **Manali** under the care of Ms.Lalsangliani
- 3.Open doors for ETF ministry in C.N.I. St.Thomas School, **Shimla** and other educational institutions under the diocese of Amritsar.

Jammu and Kashmir

Praise & Thank God

ETF introduced to Mr.Vijayakumar, Principal, Moravian Institute in **Chiktan** in Kargil district.

Pray:

Open doors for ETF ministry in Moravian Mission School in **Leh**

Jharkhand

Praise & Thank God

The partnership of FMPB St.Thomas English School (LMI) **Pandanbhita**, Rural Christian Primary School, **Barharw** and Shalom School (LMI) **Madhupur**

Pray:

JTL workshops to be organised in these schools and open doors for ETF ministry in Bethel Mission School, **Dumka** and other educational institutions.

Day 11 Karnataka

Praise & Thank God

- 1.The support and involvement of many members in **Bangalore**.
- 2.Open doors for ETF ministry in **Mysore**

Pray:

- 1.The local units at Indira Nagar, St. John's School and other places to get strengthened.
- 2.Open doors for ETF ministry in **Hubli** and **Coorg**.
- 3.JTL workshops to be conducted in many institutions in Bangalore
- 4.The State Conference of Karnataka to be organized and state council to be formed.

Day 12 Kerala

Pray

Open doors for ETF ministry in many educational institutions.

Madhya Pradesh

Praise & Thank God

Open doors of ETF Ministry in many places in Madhya Pradesh.

Pray

- 1.JTL workshop to be organised in Ideal School, **Bhopal**, Pothan School **Indore**, Sideras School (LMI) **Borkhedi** and Teresa International school **Panpur** and Jolly Memorial Mission School **Ujjain**.
- 2.The needs of Nayajeevan School, **Datia**

Day 13 Maharashtra

Praise & Thank God

The partnership of MVM schools, Yardy English School and Mission India Theological college with ETF.

Pray

- 1.The local unit at **Solapur** to be strengthened and many new members to join.
- 2.JTL workshop to be organised in Shalom English School (LMI), **Kolambi**, **Yuvatmal**, Agape English School, **Chandrapur** and Navjeevan English School, **Kamptee** under Maharashtra Village Ministries(LMI), The Ambassador High School(MI) **Vasai East**, Bombay Teen Challenges Academy **Badhlapur West**
- 3.Open doors for ETF ministry in **Pune**.
3. Good leadership and mission minded efficient teachers to be appointed in Yardy English School **Umri** and YCLT English Medium School **Yavatmal**
- 4.Open doors for the ETF ministry in Gyanankur School in **Pune** and other educational institutions in Pune, **Mumbai and Amaravathi district**.
5. Special programs by ETF to be arranged for Mission India Theological Seminary (LMI) **Nagpur**
- 6.The state conference of Maharashtra to be planned and state council to be formed.

Day 14 North East – Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura

Praise & Thank God

The partnership of Mt. Calvary School (LMI), **Dipphu**, **Karbi Anglong Dt.** and Makunda Christian High School(LMI), **Bazaricherra**, **Karimganj Dt.**, Assam with ETF.

Pray

- 1.JTL workshop to be organised in Ruth Foundation English School, **West Kameng**, **Arunachal Pradesh** and Thomas English School(MI), **Purbahanpara**, **Tripura** and Antioch School (MI), in **West Tripura**.
- 2.Open doors for ETF ministry in many educational institutions in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura

Day 15 Manipur and Nagaland

Praise & Thank God

The ETF members in Manipur and Nagaland

Pray

- 1.Many institutions in **Mao in Manipur** to become members/ life members of ETF.
- 2.JTL workshop to be organized in Baptist Mission Schools, **Imphal**, St. John's English School, **Nambal** and Bethany Christian College, **Manipur**
- 3.Open doors for ETF ministry in **Nagaland**

Day 16 Mizoram

Praise & Thank God

Dr.L.N.Tluanga, **Aizawl**, for his prayers, encouragement and involvement in ETF ministry and translating the ETF publication, "Making of a Christian Teacher" in Mizo language.

Pray

- 1.ETF Local unit in Aizawl to get strengthened.
- 2.Open doors for ETF ministry in Mizoram Christian College
- 3.Many institutions under Presbyterian Church in Mizoram and other places to become part of ETF.

Day 17 Meghalaya

Praise & Thank God

The partnership of Anderson Hr. Sec. School(LMI), **Nongstoin** with ETF and ETF members in NEHU, **Shillong**.

Pray

- 1.The local unit at Anderson Hr. Sec. School(LMI), **Nongstoin** to get strengthened.
- 2.JTL workshop to be conducted in Anderson Hr. Sec. School **Nongstoin** and Seven Set School **Shillong**.
3. Many members to get involved in ETF in NEHU.

Day 18 Odisha

Praise & Thank God

The partnership of many educational institutions with ETF.

Pray

- JTL programs to be organised, the need of good committed Christian teachers / administrators in the following schools
- El Nissi Mission School(LMI) **Dharamgarh** and Adoni Public School (LMI), **Daspur** and Elmachsi Mission School, **Kalahandi Dt**, Navjyoti Vidyalaya(LMI), **Khariar Road**, Anand Niketan School (LMI) and Asha Kiran (LMI) in **Lamtaput**, AG Mission School (MI), **Chandpur**, Manna Wisdom School (MI), **Bhubaneswar**, Shepherd English School (MI), **Kuarmunda**, IMST English School, **Malkangiri and Balimela**.

Day 19 Punjab

Pray

- 1.All the schools under the CNI diocese of Amritsar be influenced by ETF ministry.
- 2.Open doors of ETF ministry in **Jalandhar** and other places
- 3.JTL workshop to be organised in Sacred Heart School(LMI), **Moga**.

Rajasthan

Pray

Open doors for ETF ministry in Fellowship Mission School **Jaipur** and other educational institutions in **Udaipur** and other places.

Day 20 Tamil Nadu

Praise and Thank God

- 1.The support, encouragement and involvement of many members and institutions in ETF ministry in various places of Tamil Nadu.

Pray:

- 1.JTL workshop to be conducted in the following schools and the needs of committed Christian teachers to work in Shalom Matriculation School (LMI), **Pavoorchatram**, Kings and Queens Residential School(LMI) **Arakkonam**, Santhosh Vidhyalaya (LMI), **Dohnavur**.
- 2.Local units in **Tambaram**, **Chennai**, **Coimbatore**, Lady Doak College (LMI), **Madurai** and Bishop Heber College to get strengthened.
- 3.Open doors for ETF Ministry in **Nilgiris** district.
- 4.Local units to be formed and to be active in Voorhees College, **Vellore**, **Thiruthani** and **Thiruvallur**

Day 22 Telangana

Praise and Thank God

The partnership of St.Peter Model School (LMI), Hyderabad, Vijayalakshmi Memorial School (LMI) **Siddipet Dt**, Word and Deed School (LMI) **Hayath Nagar** and for chain prayer network and weekly Bible study **Kharim Nagar**.

Pray

- 1.The local unit at **Hyderabad** to be strengthened and many new members to involve.
- 2.Pray for open doors for ETF ministry in **Khammam**, **Warangal**, **Adhilabad** and other places

Day 23 Uttarakhand

Praise and Thank God

The partnership of many institutions with ETF.

Pray

- 1.The local unit at Grace Academy to be strengthened and needs to be met.
- 2.JTL workshops to be organized in Khrist Jyoti, Academy (LMI) **Dehradun**, Khrist Jyoti, Academy (LMI) **Rudraprayag**, Mount Carmel Christian Academy (LMI) **Gulabrai** Khrist Jyoti, Academy **Haridwar** - all these schools under Bharat Susamachar Samiti (LMI), Shishya Public School and New Theological Seminary and Shifa School in **Dehradun**.

Day 24 Uttar Pradesh

Praise and Thank God

The partnership of many institutions with ETF.

Pray

- 1.The JTL workshops to be organised in Kachhawa Christian School(LMI)**Mirzapur**, Emmanuel Church School (LMI), **Utraula**, Thelma David Memorial School **Varanasi**, Mizpah Christian School **Orai**, Kulpahar Christian School (LMI),**Kulpahar**
- 2.The needs to be met and local units to form in St. Thomas School (LMI) **Bhadohi** and True Light English School(LMI), **Varanasi**,
- 3.Open doors for ETF ministry in W.H. Smith Memorial School **Varanasi**, Christ Church College, **Kanpur**, St.Thomas School **Ballia**, Jamuna Christian College and School, **Allahabad**, Lucknow Christian College and Isabella Thoburn College, **Lucknow**, St.John's College,**Agra**, St.Xavier's School, **Khaliabad** and GEMS English School **Duddi** and James Harvey Memorial School, **Nawabganj**.

Day 25 West Bengal

Praise and Thank God

The partnership of many institutions with ETF.

Pray

- 1.JTL workshops to be conducted in Assembly of God Mission School(LMI) **Jaigaon**, Corner Stone School(LMI) **Purba Satali**, and Bidhan School **Durgapur**, Wheaton School(LMI) **Siliguri**.
- 2.Open doors Grace Ashram **Alipurduar**, Dr.Graham's Homes and other schools **Kalimpong** and C.N.I Diocesan School, **Durgapur**
- 3.The needs of St. John's Public School **Burdwan** to be met.

Day 26 Christian Educational Institutions

Pray:

- 1.God's protection and provision for the following Christian Educational Institutions:
All the educational institutions under Mizoram Presbyterian Church, C.S.I. and C.N.I. diocesan institutions, Baptist mission schools, Methodist mission schools, ECI church Schools, Schools under missionary organizations like IMS, FMPB, Vishwavani etc. and mission schools under Christian NGO and individual Christian educators in different parts of the country.
2. God's provision of trained and committed Christian teachers and administrators and good strength of students in these schools.
3. Holistic growth of children through cultivation of moral, social and ethical values with spiritual insights.
- 4.God should enable all the board members /administrators/ teachers of all Christian educational institutions to serve the Lord as witnessing servants faithfully without any selfish attitude to bring up the institutions to greater heights for the glory of God.

- 5.Removal of all kind of evils like mal practices, crave for money, position, caste issues, bribe child abuse and any kind of unethical and immoral activities prevailing in Christian educational institutions.

Day 27 Career excellence and Job opportunities

Pray

- 1.Qualified and trained Christian teachers to get good job opportunities in schools and colleges.
- 2.Christian Teachers /Research guides involved in higher education and research work.
3. The health and family needs of the teaching community and also for their life model to the students.
- 4.The fear of God to prevail in the life of authorities who are involved in the appointments of staff and admissions of students that they will avoid all kinds of evil and illegal considerations
- 5.The conduct and valuation of examination scripts at all levels to be done with integrity and for God to be honoured and glorified in all aspects related to results of Christian educational institutions and grades and marks achieved by Christian students.
- 6.The illiteracy in India to be removed and adult education to be encouraged.
- 7.Many young teachers to become tent makers to serve the Lord in mission schools in remote areas.

Day 28 Pandemic Implications and natural calamities

Pray

1. God's grace and mercy to remove any kind of virus and protect the people from natural calamities.
2. The financial needs to be met in teachers'/students' families.
3. The Christian educational institutions are well equipped with resources to meet the demands of present day especially for the required facilities to both faculties and students in mission schools in remote areas for learning through on line classes.
4. Safety of teachers and students and support staff in the educational institutions when they reopen and for the smooth functioning of examinations.

Day 29 Personal Needs

Pray

- 1.The comfort and peace in the families who have lost their loved ones /their possessions and pray for their timely needs to be met. The healing touch of God on those who are hospitalised and quarantined ..
- 2.The health issues of teachers and students because of on line classes - head ache, stress in the eyes ,stress in mind and other needs and anxieties.
- 3.The emotional needs of teachers, students and parents who are getting adopted to the new system of teaching and learning through on line classes

- Students at all levels of education to be blessed with good health, good mindset to study, freedom from anxiety, fear, complex, depression and suicidal attempts.
- The Christian parents to accept God's will and purpose in their family with respect to the future and career of their children.

Day 30 Protection of Christian educational institutions

Pray

- For the deceitful implications of the new education policy not to affect the teaching-learning community
- The government at the centre and state levels to favour Christian schools and colleges as granted in the constitution of India.
- The Christian teachers, educators and Principals of Christian institutions to stand firm in their faith to face the challenges.
- God's protection and wisdom to integrate the Truth from Biblical perspectives even in theory subject teaching.
- God's grace to abound in the education system protecting the younger generation from learning facts that are not true and correct.
- God to take complete control of present situation to protect the educating and learning community from all harms and threats they may face from different directions expected and unexpected.

Day 31 Revival among Teachers through ETF ministry

Pray:

- Many teachers to be added into the fellowship of local ETF so that unity among the Christian teachers gets strengthened.
- Many local units to be started in many Christian educational institutions in different places in India.
- More training programs to be conducted in different states of India and many teachers to get trained to be effective and efficient in their profession as teachers.
- ETF has to develop access to reach even unreached schools in villages and remote parts of India
- Many teachers to get mobilized to make mission trips to unreached places.
- Teachers from other faiths working in the mission schools to know the Truth and excel in their work.
- Christian teachers working in government sectors and secular institutions to get strengthened by Chalk and Chai magazine and ETF programs to be witnessing servants in their working place.
- With prayer and soul burden ,the teachers to reach out to the younger generation who are addicted to drugs, smoking, alcohol and perverted in thought, word and action and lead them to Jesus Christ for deliverance from sin and bondage.



MAKUNDA CHRISTIAN HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

BAZARICHERRA | KARIMGANJ DISTRICT | ASSAM - 788 727 | INDIA

Teachers Required

Our School is situated in a remote village in the district of Karimganj, Assam neighbouring Tripura and Mizoram. The school has a strength of 1268 students and most of them are coming from tribal and economically backward families. We are in urgent need of committed Christian Teachers. The details are given below.

S.No	Post	Subjects
1.	Post Graduate Teacher	1. Chemistry 2. Mathematics
2.	Graduate Teacher	1. Any Science branch 2. Mathematics 3. Physical Education

- ❖ Candidates with B.Ed will be given priority.
- ❖ SALARY: As per EHA norms.
- ❖ Accommodation will be provided.

Interested candidates may mail us their resume to
danipaul003@gmail.com

Contact: +919952312974

Website: www.makunda.in



EVANGELICAL TEACHERS' FELLOWSHIP

Invites you to the

18th Christian Teachers' Conference

12th (10 am) - 15th (2 pm), May 2022

At

STATUS Resorts, Kodaikanal Hills, Tamilnadu

Theme

Teachers - Fragrance for Christ (II Cor 2:15)

Special Features

Bilingual Sessions in Tamil and English

Singing & worship, Bible studies, practical and mission challenges

Games, group discussions, talent-time and sight seeing

Any Christian teacher in service/training/retired can attend with family and friends

Registration

Food and accommodation - Rs. 4000

Children between the age 3 - 12 - Rs. 3500



DD/NEFT Transfer - Evangelical Teachers' Fellowship

SB A/C No. 019101000032345 | IFSC code IOBA0000191

Indian Overseas Bank, MCC Campus Branch, Chennai - 600059

Staying in the venue before/after the conference (Rs. 1300 per day) should be confirmed with the conference coordinator by email or phone.

Further information

Dr Caroline Michael

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Dr Santha Prabhuraj

9894990692

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