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**Teachers as the Stewards
of the Kingdom**



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Theme for Next Issue:

Teachers as mentors for the millennials



FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK

Dear Friends,

Availing loan has become quite a common feature for any one across the world. Availing educational loan has come as a remedy for higher studies and cross cultural education at any level. In the light of the word of God, our life is also not our own and it is on loan from God. According to scripture, God created earth for mankind and we are the stewards of His creation to manage it for Him.

The beginning of all Biblical stewardship principles begins with the very first verse of the Bible. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." (Gen.1:1). *The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it (Ps.24:1)* The foundation of stewardship is built upon the reality that **God created everything** and created everything for Him. "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth all things were created through him and for him" (Col. 1:15-16). Not only did God create everything but **God owns everything** (Job 41:11; 1 Tim. 4:3-5). **God desires everything to bring Him glory** (Col. 1:20, 1 Cor. 10:31). All things to be redeemed include people,

nature, governments, businesses, education, arts and science. "For we are God's fellow workers and working together with him (1Cor. 3:9; 2Cor. 6:1). God is at work in our life and around the world, and we have the privilege of participating in His work.

While we concentrated on teachers being the fellow workers with God in the previous issue of *Chalk and Chai*, it is quite meaningful and useful to reflect on "Teachers as stewards of the Kingdom" in this issue. We are called to be stewards of everything for His glory and for the good of others.

I would like to highlight a few principles of stewardship with respect to **Space, Matter and Time**.

Stewardship and Resources

Many scientists speak of it as a Space-Matter-Time continuum including energy as a form of matter. In our day to day life, they still remain as continuum and we are called to steward these resources. We have a place to live and work (space). It involves money and materials (matter) and we work to earn our livelihood and use it. (energy). Working place is what God has set for each one of us on this

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earth. **We are called to work as stewards and steward all these resources for saving, giving and helping.**

In the Bible we read that God created everything for Adam and called him to “work” and to take care of the garden on His behalf. We are created to work. Jesus knew the value of work, spending the first 30 years of his life working with his hands as a carpenter. Paul reminds us “...aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one”(1 Thess.4:11-12). When we work to earn for our livelihood, we have to save money for future. It's not to love money but to be content with what we have (Heb. 13:5) and continue to trust in the Lord as we do not know what tomorrow will bring(James 4:14). As a steward of the resources which God has given us, we need to manage them in such a way that we can provide monetary gifts, food, and clothing, or just being hospitable with what we have for the needs of our family (1 Tim. 5:8), our church (Gal. 6:6; 1 Tim. 5:17-18), and those in society (Matt. 25:35-40; 1 John3:17). Jesus our Master teacher has set an example. He looked up to His Father in Heaven for His resources. He did not waste the resources of the earth. Even after he fed the multitude, he gathered the leftovers and filled twelve baskets once and seven baskets another time.

As stewards we believe that our times are in God's hands (Ps 31:15) and we will seek His wisdom to utilize the time as stewards. Teach us to

number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom (Psalm 90:12). As stewards, like Paul we have to learn to depend on the Lord for His strength both mentally and physically. “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”(Phil 4:13).

Stewardship and Responsibility

In the New Testament, the word “steward” is rooted in the Greek word “oikonomos”, which means “the manager of a household.”The responsible management of these God-given resources is called stewardship. It reminds us that God owns everything of Space Matter and Time and we are simply managers or administrators acting on His behalf to manage our life for the purpose for what He has created us. Joseph is the perfect example of what it means to be a steward.“So Joseph found favour in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had”(Gen. 39:4). Joseph didn't own anything but he was given stewardship over the house and everything his master owned.

Our stewardship of creation involves our responsibility in taking care of our own selves our families and communities, the environment and animals as well.

While we admire and appreciate God's gift of creation with all its resources, we should also accept our responsibility. *While the greedy human race is failing to be stewards of God's creation*, as Christian stewards we are called to be sensitive to the environment and resources of this earth. They are respectful of all human life and recognize that we are co-

labourers with almighty God in the on-going work of creation. As the owner of everything, God makes his desires for his creation known to His people through Moses. Moses was told to let the people farm the land for six years, but to make them take a break from farming the ground in the seventh year.(Leviticus 25:1-5). God in His creative work schedule set the seventh day free from work. He commanded the Israelites not to gather Manna on the seventh day. He taught them work ethics to work for six days and rest on the seventh day which was applicable to the animals also. *We are responsible to steward space time and energy in keeping a clean environment both in the working place as well in our living place, maintaining discipline and orderliness, finishing the task and assignments in the expected time, taking care of our physical health and setting time to rest and relax. While we complain about our rights here on earth, the Bible constantly reminds us about our responsibilities. Friends, remember that owners have rights but stewards have responsibilities.*

Stewardship and Reward

We are all stewards of the resources, abilities and opportunities that God has entrusted to our care, and one day each one of us will be called to give an account for how we have managed what the Master has given us. Like the servants in the Parable of the Talents, we will be called to give an account of how we have administered everything in the space, matter and time. *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an*

inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving (Col. 3:23-24). Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness” (Mt.25:21).

As Christian teachers in the 21st century, may the Lord help us to embrace the larger biblical view of stewardship to apply in our day to day life where the concepts of faith, work and economics intersect and help us to teach and promote them in the lives of the younger generation in building His kingdom on this earth.

In this issue of *Chalk and Chai*, Dr. Jayalatha in her article explains what the precious stones on Aaron's breast plate have to do with stewardship. Mrs.Vinni Thomas shares her testimony how it is possible to be a steward in completing tasks assigned in higher studies. Mr. Reji Koshy Daniel brings out beautifully the stewardship in the our working place and Mr. Prince shares about faith and stewardship.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms”(1 Peter 4:10).

“Use everything you have to point others to God and to advance His Kingdom.”Art Rainer



Caroline Michael
General Secretary, ETF



TEACHERS

Precious Stones

and

Stewards

of the

Kingdom

The Breastplate of the High Priests was adorned by 12 beautiful precious stones representative of the 12 Tribes of Israel. Each one with matchless self-worth, radiant and colorful, yet different from each other. The Master Creator designed mankind likewise. No two persons are identical. Each one is uniquely blessed and endowed with gifts from above.

The different stones on the High priests breastplate were indicative of the variations among the flocks of Israel. These stones are different because of the differing materials that make up their composition and the process of formation each stone has undergone. Likewise, each one of us are molded in different ways through the various trials we have gone through and the different crucibles we have to shoulder. Yet these formative steps result in the production of souls worthy of shining forth the light of Christ to the flock. When the like-minded children of God work in

unison bound by the Holy Spirit, then they coordinate perfectly wanting nothing. Such is the power vested in the community of Believing Teachers in Christ.

PRECIOUS STONES IN THE BREASTPLATE OF HIGH PRIESTS

(explanations for each stone are taken from "God's Precious Jewels" by Frederick Lardent, who is also the Author of "The Hidden Meaning of Bible Colours" & "An Instrument of Ten Strings").

Jewels not only represent the Elect of God but they also serve to remind us of the basic teachings of the Bible.

RUBY: Originally called as "Odem", it means "Blood Red" which signifies "taken out of red earth"(Gen. 3:19). It is red earth or clay in crystallized form. It's colour is due to the oxide of iron which also give blood its colour. Hence Ruby has been called as

"petrified blood". Adam was the bright jewel of all natural creation but on account of sin, he gradually lost his glory and luster. Then, Jesus came to take the sinner's place. His blood was precious because He knew no sin. He became the world's High Priest(Heb. 5:1). Hence, Jesus Christ is a jewel so exceedingly precious. In Rev. 4:3, we read, "And He that sat was to look unto like a jasper and a sardine stone(Ruby) and there was a rainbow about the throne in sight like unto an emerald". The name engraved on the first jewel of the breastplate was "Reuben", the eldest son of Jacob who was the representative of the family in the absence of his father. Like Jesus, the Anointed is the representative of the Heavenly Father and the beginning of the creation of God(Rev. 3:14). To Him will all mankind look for guidance and judgment when "the government will be upon His shoulders(Isaiah 9:6,7).

TOPAZ: It has been named the second in the Breastplate. As Ruskin puts it, this stone is reminiscent of the sun shining with a golden light, standing between light and darkness and representative of "All Good Work". In addition to this, Topaz is strongly electrical in nature and distinguished itself from other stones bearing a similar appearance. These qualities draw us to Psalm 84:11 which describes our God as a sun and shield. The magnetic power of Topaz suggest the attraction which God's jewels possess for Himself.

CARBUNCLE: This word means "burning coal" which is apt for its fiery appearance. It is electric by friction and affects the magnetic needle. This

describes well, the fiery judgment of the Lord which burns against all injustice and unrighteousness, God the consuming fire, His eyes are a flame of fire(Psalm 18:13,14/ Hebrews 12:29/ Rev. 19:11,12).

EMERALD: A beautiful grass green stone whose colour was initially thought to be due to a mineral oxide. But it is now believed to be produced by Chlorophyll. This thought has been validated by the fact that the stone loses its colour when it is subjected to heat whereas those tinted by mineral oxides remain unaffected. Chlorophyll is the life-giving green sap of plants and hence this stone is a striking emblem of Eternal Life (John 5:26; Rev. 4:3; 2 Peter 1:4).

SAPPHIRE: A beautiful sky blue coloured stone, its hardness is equal to that of the Ruby and almost approaches to that of diamond. Very Valuable and highly prized, the heavenly blue of the sapphire reminds us of God and the unchanging laws which govern the universe. It has come to be the emblem of "Faithfulness"(Psam 36:5; 89:2). This blue colour has a very prominent place amongst sacred colours. The high priest had a Blue



robe underneath his ephod and the breastplate was fixed by a Blue lace(Exodus 28:28,31). The furnishings of the tabernacle were covered with a cloth of blue to remind the Israelites of their need of faithfully fulfilling the Divine requirements (Num. 4:5-12).

The Sapphire of the Breastplate indicated the faithfulness of God's precious jewels in the performance of their vows of sacrifice.

We as precious jewels are called to faithfulness in our deeds and to be faithful stewards of the responsibility entrusted on us.

BERYL: This is one of the foundation stones of New Jerusalem. True Beryl was a pale greenish blue coloured stone composed of silica with the addition of colouring matter. This resembles sea water. In Rev. 15:2, the saints are depicted as "standing on the sea of glass having harps of God". This pictures a possession of lucid truths which make them happy and confident in the love of God. Our Lord Jesus is Truth personified as He says, "I am the Way, the Truth and the

Life". On the other end of the spectrum, when the Israelites wandered the wilderness of sin, we read in Deut. 8:15 of the One "who brought forth water out of the rock of flint". 1 Cor. 10:4 reads, "They drank of the spiritual Rock that went with them, which Rock was Christ. Thus this stone represents "TRUTH".

FIGURE: This is the jacinth of the New Testament(Rev. 21:20). It has various colours – red, blue, orange, purple, etc. hence the colour is not used to understand it's symbolic meaning. This stone distinguishes itself from the other gems because of its strong double refraction after the order of the tourmaline. They have exceptional optical properties. If this stone is placed on a single line, it appears as two distinct lines. Hence, mankind has a double portion in store – one on earth i.e. peace, life, happiness in addition to being like God and possessing immortality. The inheritance awaiting the Church is beautifully expressed in 1 Cor. 2: 9 which says, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man, the things that God hath prepared for them that love Him".

AGATE: It is composed of sand. Moses alludes to the tribe of Issachar as "treasure hid in the sand" which aptly represents the production of agate(Deut.33:19). This jewel speaks of "treasures hidden in earthen vessels (2Cor.4:7). It indicates the fiery experiences that changes sand into gems of value. In Gen. 22:17, mankind is likened to the "sand by the seashore".

When people of God go through their crucibles in preparation for eternal life, they lose their identity as human beings in order to dwell with God. They are spoken of as "Jewels" with a reward in heaven.

AMETHYST: It's violet colour is due to the presence of the oxide of manganese. Violet or Purple is a symbol of "Royalty". Violet is a mixture of Blue and Red which means "Faithful unto Death". Our Master was clad in a purple robe. Rev. 2:10 tells us to "Be faithful unto death and I will give thee a Crown of Life". The Greek meaning of Amethyst means "not to intoxicate". The stone, the colour of wine, also represents the cup of wine the Lord passed to His disciples during the Last Supper. This cup was representative of experience, sorrow, joy which each believer of the Lord must drink. This cup does not lead to intoxication but rather, it brings the spirit of sound mind(2 Tim. 1:7).

This stone in the Breastplate indicates the Honoured Title and the Office of Royalty from the Overcomer(1 Pet. 2:29).

CHRYSOLITE: This stone literally means "Gold-stone" similar to yellow diamond. Gold represents things Divine and the understanding of spiritual truths resulting in Heavenly Wisdom borne out in the several visions of Prophet of Ezekiel(Eze. 1:16; 10:9).

Chrysolite is remarkably similar to Topaz in appearance, the distinguishing feature being the electrical energy of Topaz. Divine Love and Divine Wisdom bear a striking relationship. One is impossible without the other (1Cor. 13;Gal.5:22,23;James 3:17).

Divine Love has this difference; it is warm, fervent and extremely pleasant in its drawing power. It is the sum total of God's Character – For God is Love which is illustrated as the inherent electrical energy of topaz. Divine Wisdom, on the other hand, is calm and reflective. (Prov.8:22). This tranquility of God is well portrayed by Chrysolite.

ONYX: This stone may be white, black and red, a pair of which adorns the shoulders of the High Priest (Exo. 28:9-14). Various layers are seen as separate stone although they are actually one layer alone. They represent the basic truths, which, while distinct from each other are inseparable. Onyx proclaims the taking away of the sin of the world(Black) through the Blood of Christ(Red). So that all the people of the earth will become pure, holy and righteous – the emblem of white(Rev. 20:11,12).



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DIAMOND: When symmetrically cut and polished, the rough diamond is transformed into a gem which is beautiful, valuable and long lasting. But remember, Diamond is nothing but a piece of crystallized charcoal. This originally soft black and grimy soot becomes the hardest known crystals in the Divine Laboratory. It is characterized by its Strength and Beauty. Psalm 96:6 says, “ Strength and Beauty are in Thy Sanctuary”. These characters are instilled in us with the receiving of the Holy Spirit of Truth.

It has been said that, “ It takes a diamond to cut a diamond”. Diamond dust is necessary to polish the gem, which implies the immense value of “Fellowship of Kindred Minds”.

Twelve in all, but each one distinct from the other!

In the community of Teachers, every single one is a precious gem fashioned by the Master Craftsman. Each one of us was created to serve a purpose according to the plan that the Master Planner has designed for us. Each one of us is blessed with multifarious talents. Each one is unique. Each one of us is called to be 'Faithful Stewards' for the kingdom of God on this earth. God's Kingdom operates on the principle of

“Stewardship”. We are accountable for the talents bestowed on us. Do we choose to hide these talents or do we choose to multiply them for His Glory??

We are stewards of everything we have been given- our time, money, abilities, information, wisdom, relationships, and authority.

We were not created to live our lives for ourselves. We were created and bestowed with talents to offer them as a sacrifice in service to the Lord God Our Maker and our fellowmen.

As Hugh Wheelchel puts it, Gen. 1:28 is known as the “**Cultural Mandate**” which was the first call to Stewardship. **“And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”**

It's where God first calls humanity to cultivate and care for His creation using the unique gifts and talents He has endowed every person with. Harness them and step forward!

Precious Gems of God, as Teachers, let us shine for His Glory and hold ourselves accountable as faithful Stewards of the Kingdom of The Lord Jesus Christ.



Dr. Jayalatha C
Former Professor of Chemistry &
Freelance Website Content Writer

Bridging my career



with Cambridge

I hail from a picturesque town called Sawyerpuram, near the pearl city of Tuticorin, in the southernmost part of the Indian sub-continent. Born in a Christian home, I was brought up in the fear of the Lord and in Christian virtues. I was passionate about teaching as both my parents were teachers. After my post-graduation in Physics from American College, Madurai, I completed my M.Sc (Engg) at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. With a few years of teaching experience in Bangalore colleges, I settled down to teach Physics at National Public School, Indiranagar (NPS-I), a school known for its academic excellence globally.

It is said, “What a teacher is, is more important than what she teaches”. It is the call of every teacher to be caring, nurturing and motivating. Teaching is a very challenging profession as it teaches all the other professions. As teachers, we need to be versatile, passionate, open to changes and adopt strategies to suit all kinds of learners. Traditional lecture based methods of teaching have become out of tune and a paradigm shift in teaching methods is

mandatory. Non-conventional and child-centric methods of teaching are compulsory to be an effective teacher.

Over a period of time, I realised that my learners' needs weren't met by the conventional techniques I was following. To bridge the gap, I began to look out for innovative teaching methods. Unexpectedly my school gave an invitation to register for Cambridge International Certification in Teaching and Learning (CICTL). I grabbed the opportunity delightfully with both my hands. The face-to-face sessions of CICTL were profoundly effective and relevant to reach out to today's learners, what exactly I was looking for. The highlights are active learning methods a teacher has to adopt with tailor made lesson plans



for each class where the learner is the point of focus, learning theories, multiple intelligence in children and assessment techniques. These techniques, when adopted, require a lot of teacher's preparation time prior to the class, however learning is maximised in each learner and concepts go into their long term memory.

The assessment of the course involved two parts: the first part was two demonstration classes evaluated by my mentors and the second part was submitting six essays to Cambridge University. My mentors gave very good feedback for the two classes; the real challenge was to write the essays. I used to pray that if Dr G U Pope, the Anglican missionary to Sawyerpuram a century and a half ago, could translate Tamil Books to English, it is nothing for God to give me the wisdom to put down my

thoughts in commendable English accepted by the Cambridge University. The Lord opened all possible avenues to access the necessary resources to write those essays. Currently the essays are being reviewed by my mentors and I am confident that the Lord will make me complete the course. All I can say with confidence is that, this path of learning has been tough and challenging but I am now a transformed teacher to reach out to each of my learners with a new zeal and enthusiasm. Glory to Him who fills everything in every way!!



ENGAGING THE UNIVERSITIES

- ➔ Engage in Witness
- ➔ Engage in Worship



Reji Koshi Daniel

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has lost his flavour, wherewith shall it be salted?” “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven” Mathew 5: 13-16

Jesus, in His sermon on the mount described His disciples as “**salt**” and “**light**” to the society. Salt is required to give taste and to prevent decays, while light is to remove darkness. The responsibility of being the salt and the light is much deeper than we can perceive. In a world that is increasingly becoming a chaotic rubble, it is His expectation that His disciples will emerge as the way forward to bring it to an order against the odds. It is clear that a disciple with the character, lifestyle and priorities as mentioned in the Sermon on the Mount is bound to emerge as SALT and LIGHT to the world. Therefore, I consider that the only pre-requisite for emerging as SALT and LIGHT to the world (which is otherwise tasteless and dark) is

emphatically, the practice of the Sermon on the Mount. With that as the keynote, let us discuss engaging the universities as Disciples of Christ.

The Legacy of Universities

The earliest universities (e.g. The University of Paris and the University of Oxford in the AD 1100s and several others that followed in Europe and elsewhere) was the work of God's people, when they felt the need for deeper studies and debates on the various disciplines. These universities used to function in a close association with the church. The relationship between the scholars in the church and the University was profound and intriguing. These universities not only became centres

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of theology, philosophy and science, but also became incubators of the Renaissance and the Reformation that followed in the world history. In a sense, it was the scholars from the universities and the church together that influenced the world further in its graduation from medieval to the modern era. There can be debates on how much of saltiness was there in the 'salt of the earth' at that time, yet history can't deny the influence of several God's people in the Renaissance and Reformation and the world's journey further to the advancements that we find today.

At a time when we have a large number of universities, let us consider our call to be the 'salt and light' influence in and through the universities afresh. Let us look at the possibilities in two dimensions;

Engage to WITNESS

ESI's third Aim is; "TO RAISE IN COLLEGES A TESTIMONY TO THE TRUTH OF THE HISTORIC CHRISTIAN FAITH, AND PRESENT ITS MESSAGE THERE OF, AS A SOLUTION FOR THE PROBLEMS OF MANKIND"



Campuses these days are flooded with issues and problems of mankind get discussed there. Amidst these, it is the responsibility of the disciples of Christ (see the overlapping segment in picture - disciples of Christ in university) to bring those to the throne of God for solutions. God in His mercies will equip the disciples with solutions that will align with the historic Christian faith.

Recently a well-known campus in Kerala decided to discuss about LGBT and section 377 of the Indian Penal Code. Based on the convictions of the leaders in the campuses, a number of people from different walks of life were called and they were giving lectures and their perspectives on the issue. The question is, can worldly wisdom offer a solution to this issue that is gripping the minds of several young people? Absolutely not. Hence, the disciples of Christ in the same campus should bring it to the throne of God's grace, seek Godly wisdom and express the same in formal and informal forums in the campus. As a movement, UESI has been known for this, all through our 65 years, starting from our founding fathers like Prof H Enoch who took a stand in Zoology against the pseudo sciences of his times and HS Ponnuraj for his work in Agriculture.

In the early 2000s, when Dan Brown's book, "The Da Vinci Code" was released, it raised a lot of questions in the minds of young people. At that time, a number of UESI groups considered it important to let the campuses know the truth about the matter, and present the

historically accurate version of it. A city EGF conducted a programme, "Da Vinci- The Truth Does Matter" and it was an opportunity for hundreds of people to know and understand the truth about the matter, reaffirming the historic Christian faith.

Let our students (the overlapping segment of the picture, - disciples of Christ in the University) be equipped to take a stand on issues like these in the campuses. Students, while being witnesses must apply the WWJD (What Would Jesus Do) principle in each of these situations; pray and explore God's word and take the Christian stand that will provide solutions to the problems in discussions.

Incidentally, several students in the campuses are puzzled and are seeking good and godly answers to several of their questions. Therefore, it is not just a responsibility but also an opportunity for leading several of our friends to God.

Beyond the few issues we always talk about, like - caste, dowry, corruption, pseudo sciences, LGBT, there are several more to discuss- these include political issues within



the country to international issues, from stewardship of technology advancements to the ethics in newer technologies and thoughts; AI, Block Chain and so on. Let these questions be brought to the Lord for His answers to our EU students and through them as answers to the problems of mankind. So, let us engage the students to witness in the university.

Engage to Worship

A second / deeper dimension of our 'engaging the university, should be that the overlapping segment (disciples of Christ in the university) to get back to the church with more offerings in worship. Offerings, in terms of new discoveries that will glorify God in their fields of research and studies in the university. While in the university, we often forget that the fields of university too are created by God and for His glory. And as His disciples in campuses we are studying His world and no other. The God of the Bible is the owner of the field of our studies. May it be Pure Sciences, Applied Sciences, Economics, Commerce, Art, Literature, Culture, History and Politics, and so on, He is the author and owner of these domains. He created these with His great plans and purposes as described in the Scripture right from Genesis. *For by Him all things were created – things in heaven and on earth – visible and invisible.... All things were created by Him and for Him ... In Him all things hold together.* (Col: 3: 16-17).

The creation mandate rule and subdue (Gen 1:28), work in and take



care (Gen 2:15) of the creation calls us to explore the world and bring forth offerings of worship to the Lord from our fields...

For instance, a physics student as a disciple of Christ should dig deeper in the subject to bring glory and honour to the God of Physics. By the way, only few, even those in the field of Physics know that **Sir Isaac Newton**, hailed as the father of modern physics, was a follower of Christ. He firmly believed in God and worshipped Him while deeply engaging in Physics, discovering and formulating the laws of motion, gravity and so on. In fact, he wrote many studies on the books of the Bible (studies on the prophetic books like Daniel and Revelation) in addition to his theses in Physics. It was not secular and sacred sides of Newton's life, but an **integrated life**. **He drew his inspiration to engage in Physics as a quest to know more about God's creation and the physical laws that He set in place.** And he worshipped God with his findings and discoveries in the world of science.

It is interesting to read the epitaph on Newton's tomb at the Westminster's abbey. *"Here is buried Isaac Newton, Knight, who by a strength of mind almost divine, and mathe-*

matical principles peculiarly his own, explored the course and figures of the planets, the paths of comets, the tides of the sea, the dissimilarities in rays of light, and, what no other scholar has previously imagined, the properties of the colors thus produced. Diligent, sagacious and faithful, in his expositions of nature, antiquity and the holy Scriptures, he vindicated by his philosophy the majesty of God mighty and good, and expressed the simplicity of the Gospel in his manners. Mortals rejoice that there has existed such and so great an ornament of the human race! He was born on 25 December 1642, and died on 20 March 1726

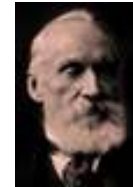
Is it exaggerating to say that Sir Isaac Newton, worshipped the Lord of Physics with His discoveries in Physics (and Mathematics)?

Lord Kelvin, who formulated the laws of thermodynamics and paved way for a flood of discoveries and inventions, was also a follower of Christ. In fact, he was an elder in his church along with his practice as a physicist. In response to the growing atheism of his times (after the Darwin's theory etc), he said, *"I believe that the more thoroughly science is studied, the farther does it take us from anything comparable to atheism. Do not be afraid to be free thinkers. If you think strongly enough, you will be forced by science to the belief in God"*

Louis Pasteur, hailed as the father of Microbiology, who developed "pasteurization" has said, **"The more**

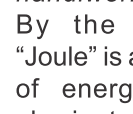
I study nature, the more I stand amazed at the work of the Creator."
"Science brings men nearer to God."

Joseph John Thompson, who discovered the "electrons" said, *"In the distance tower still higher [scientific] peaks which will yield to those who ascend them still wider prospects and deepen the feeling whose truth is emphasized by every advance in science, that great are the works of the Lord."* (Statement in Nature)



James Joule, the physicist who worked on the Kinetic Theory of Gases, also discovered the "Joule-Thomson" effect—paved a way for further inventions in refrigeration and air conditioning. He also said, *"It is evident that an acquaintance with natural laws means no less than an acquaintance with the mind of God therein expressed."* *"Order is manifestly maintained in the universe...governed by the sovereign will of God"* *"After the knowledge of, and obedience to, the will of God, the next aim must be to know something of His attributes of wisdom, power, and goodness as evidenced by His handiwork."*

By the way "Joule" is a unit of energy in physics today.



offerings in their respective fields. In fact there is a host of such men and women of God, who are known for their creative engagement in their fields and worshipped / glorified God with their findings, discoveries, new know-hows and contributions in their fields. While **C S Lewis** can be termed as a missionary in literature and philosophy (think of Chronicles of Narnia), **William Wilberforce** can be termed as missionary in Politics and governance. The list is endless. All of them have let His light shine through them and their work in their disciplines are still glorifying the Father.



Conclusion

It is true that Man with his sinful nature has corrupted many of these fields by his fallen priorities without any accountability to God. So many things in the fields of our studies may not be in accordance with God's purposes now and His plans for the future. However, God in His mercy accounted for its redemption in the mission of Christ *"For God was pleased to have His fullness dwell in Him (Christ) and through Him reconcile to Himself ALL things- whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross. (Col: 3: 19-20).* The need for redemption of many fields of our studies is more



than obvious than ever. **So, let us engage the campuses as His witnesses giving His answers.**

Let us also should remind ourselves, in the light of Genesis 1 & 2, that God created us for a creative engagement (and enjoyment too) in the fields that we study, and called to engage, bringing offerings of worship from our fields, so as people from the fields of our studies, drawing them to the author and owner of our fields.

Campuses are happening places....

The knowledge base in every field is getting upgraded at a fast pace there. Even before we get used to something new, something newer appears. As people of God in the campuses, we should study, pray and seek God's mind in these things. As we pray and engage in our fields as His agents /stewards, God will reveal His further plans in the things that we study- to witness unto Him and to worship Him. Surely better and Godly things will emerge as a result, for which we can claim His promises for His glory. For instance, while studying economic policies, praying to God, seeking wisdom to tackle the current world issues like poverty, unemployment, price rise, inflation etc, God will reveal better ideas- in line with His eternal purposes (See Amos 3:7)

Reji Koshy Daniel lives in Pune with his wife Betsy and their children Monica and Roshan. A Mechanical Engineer by engineer by training, Reji has held several leadership roles in the Automotive Component Manufacturing Sector for over 27 years. Currently, Reji works as Associate Vice President- Sustainable Banking, with ESAF SMALL FINANCE BANK. regi.betsy@gmail.com

The Scripture, through its inspired narratives and throughout its wide landscape of human history, reveals to us how God dealt with people on a variety of issues in their daily walks and challenges of their times. If studied in its context with prayers, we can get insights and answers to the problems in our contexts, our fields of studies and engagements too.

So, in effect, through the study of God's word and constant communion with God, we should engage our campuses and fields of studies with His insights (what He want to do further in those fields for His glory). Let us engage in the campuses with such Godly thoughts / ideas/ wisdom /technologies/policies – witnessing and worshipping Him in our fields. **Beyond innovations, inno-visions will emerge when followers of Christ serve as “Stewards of Theology” in Economics, Physics, Chemistry, Political Science, Law, Engineering and so on.** May the Lord help us to be His light, engaging in the campuses as His witnesses and worshippers, living out His concerns for the fields of our studies.



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6th to 8th October 2019

Theme : Call to Learnto Lead (Mt.4:18)

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Dr. Caroline Michael, General Secretary ,
ETF and Conference Coordinator



Uttar Pradesh,
Madya Pradesh
and
Manipur

by **Dr. Mrs. Caroline Michael**

I thank and praise God for opening the doors for ETF ministry in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Manipur and strengthening of local unit at Coimbatore.

Mrs.Pearly Esther of True Light English School in Varanasi was introduced to me by one of my friends Priscilla who is the Principal of a school under GEMS. Mr.Sam Abraham and Mrs.Brinda Abraham,

St.Thomas' School Bhadohi, Gopiganj, Uttar Pradesh got introduced by contacting through their school Website. By God's grace after a systematic periodical communication through E mail and Whatsapp with these dear children of God, the Joy of Teaching – learning workshop could be planned in both the schools. These contacts enabled ETF to have new ventures in Uttar Pradesh.

An Exercise

Three Questions to Ponder on your field of Study/Engagement/Concern: _____ (Select one)

1. Are all the researches, advancements and applications in your field of studies/ work engagement pleasing to God? Are there offerings of worship from these? List a few and assess.
2. What are the issues in discussion at your campuses? Do you find the need and opportunity to engage in discussions?
3. How can Students and Graduates work together in bringing God's wisdom in the fields of our studies / work engagements and thereby raising a testimony in our campuses / offices/society?

Dr. Adella Paul, Dr. Michael Faraday and myself had our mission trip to Uttar Pradesh on 21st March 2019. On 22nd March we could visit Mr. Yesu Rathnam, the Principal of Kachhwa Christian School, Mirzapur Road, Varanasi in UP, one of the group of institutions under ACTS, Bangalore. We also had a privilege to meet Mr. Sydney who was a colleague of Dr. Adella Paul in a school in West Bengal long time back. Mr. Sydney is at present helping in Kachhwa Christian School.

Kachhwa Christian School, Varanasi, UP



About 50 teachers had a new experience of attending the lively workshop at St. Thomas' School on 23rd and 24th March 2019 and about 15 teachers at True Light English School on 25th and 26th March 2019. The hospitality rendered by the management and the office assistance by Mr. Febin and staff at St. Thomas' School is greatly appreciated and the fellowship time we had during my stay with Mrs. Pearly Esther and Sam

True Light English School, Varanasi UP



St. Thomas' School, Gopiganj, UP



Christopher is a memorable one.

It was a blessing to meet Rev. K.V. Abraham and his family. He is the founder President of New Life League as well the Thomas group of schools under New Life Education Society. He has pioneered the missionary work in Varanasi and other parts of UP nearly 6 decades back. We also had the opportunity to spend quality time with Mr. Paulson and Mrs. Susie Paulson, St. Thomas

Rev. K.V. Abraham Family, Varanasi, UP



CBSC School nearby and introduced about the ETF ministry. They were very happy to know about ETF and expressed their desire to plan ETF programs in the future.

On 29th March we left for Madhya Pradesh to minister at Nayajeevan Mission Hr. Sec. School at Bhandar in Datia District, Madhya Pradesh. About 20 teachers participated in the Joy of Teaching – Learning workshop from 30th March to 1st April 2019 under the leadership of Mr. Christopher and Mrs. Hema the founders of the school. We could join in the Sunday worship service for the hostel children on 31st morning and attended the evening worship service at Datia in the New Era school campus.

Nayajeevan Mission Hr. Sec. School, Bhandar, Datia Dt. M.P



It was a joyful experience to get introduced to Mr. Gladwin and family through Mr. Christopher. On 1st April 2019 evening we were hosted by Mr. Gladwin at Jhansi Uttar Pradesh and it was a unique experience to go around the city as a prayer ride to view a few schools and colleges to introduce ETF ministry later. We could have a fellowship dinner at the residence of Col. John a retired teacher and his wife Mrs. Keren a school teacher with their extended family when we could introduce the ETF ministry. They were motivated to

Mr. Gladwin and Family, Jhansi, U.P



Chalk and Chai

Chief Editor	:	Dr. Abhi Sethia
Coordinating Editor	:	Dr. Daniel Sathiaraj
Members	:	Dr. Moses Michael Faraday
	:	Dr. Jayalatha Chandralal
Ex Officio	:	Dr. Caroline Michael
	:	Prof. V.D.S. Chandrasekar

start a ETF local unit meet in their residence and to plan ETF programs in future.

It is quite an interesting experience to get introduced to Dr.Hepuni, professor and a missionary in China through Face Book and he was happy to get introduced to ETF. By having frequent exchange of mails and

Whatsapp messages for more than a year, his article was published in one of the chalk and chai issue. I am grateful to God and thankful to Dr.Hepuni for introducing Mr.Loli to plan ETF program in Manipur. Praise be to God. Under the vibrant leadership of Mr. Kayio the Secretary of Education department of Mao Baptist Church Association (MBCA) and Mr.Loli, a two days Joy of



Schools under
Mao Baptist Church Association

Teaching-Learning workshop was organized for the teachers of schools under MBCA on 5th and 6th April 2019 at Senapati, Mao. About 130 teachers from six schools along with the principals of all the schools attended the two days workshop. It was amazing to experience the love and affection, help and hospitality rendered by each and every Principal in their homes and Ms.Messia the Mother of the MBCA campus.

On 8th April in the Manipur Baptist Convention, we could meet, the General Secretary of Manipur Baptist Church Association (MBCA) and could discuss about planning future ETF programs at Manipur with Rev. Boipo, Youth and Education Secretary, Manipur Baptist Association, Mrs.Hat Hon Buansingh, Bethany Christian College and Mr.Lokerando, Director ,St.John's English School, Nambal.



Coimbatore Local Unit



Teachers of Schools under
Mao Baptist Church Association

On 25th April 2019, God enabled me to address the Coimbatore local unit in the Stanes School (CBSC) premises under the leadership of Dr.Santha Prabhuraj and Mr. Benjamin, Principal, Stanes School (CBSC).About 40 teachers participated. All glory to God.



17th Christian Teachers' Conference

Tamil Nadu

Report by Dr. Caroline Michael

We praise God for the 17th Christian Teachers' Conference held at Brooklands Christian Guest Home, Coonoor, Nilgris, Tamil Nadu from 16th to 19th May 2019.

About 70 delegates including the facilitators attended the conference. The representation from different places namely Chennai, Thiruvallur, Arakkonam, Raya-kotta, Coimbatore, Trichy, Madurai, Oddanchadram, Pavorchatram, Donavur, Tuticorin and Nagercoil in Tamil Nadu and from the neighbouring states Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and states Maharashtra and Odisha was greatly encouraging.

The theme of the conference was "Teachers – Living Stones for Christ" (1 Peter 2:5). The conference began with singing time led by Mr. Charles Finny from Stanes School, Coimbatore. Dr. Caroline Michael led the introduction session and facilitated the ice breaking session "Let's find our Gems", by giving the participants colourful painted name tags indicating different coloured gems and made them find their groups. The thematic Bible study was conducted by Mr. S.C. Edison, Tuticorin.

The morning devotion time by Dr. Adalyn George and Mrs. Vinni Thomas was a time of personal introspection. Dr. Selwyn illustrated from the book of Deuteronomy, how to learn the Bible in a deeper sense by remembering chapters and its contents. It was quite interesting and innovative. The lively professional talk "Puppets to Pop out" by Mr. Ramesh Kumar highlighted the effectiveness of puppets and magic in explaining the Bible Truths. A thought provoking and interesting talk, "Building Bridges with the game of Chess" by Mr. Ebenezer Joseph motivated the teachers to identify and encourage such creativity and intelligence in their students and children.

During the session on mission challenges, the delegates were greatly inspired by the testimony of Mr. Nirmal Nathan from Trichy how the teachers and students of Santa Maria School are given opportunities to know the truth and grow in their faith. The mission challenges and the testimonies of Mr. Jafri, Anand Niketan in Odisha, and Mrs. Edith Shirley from Santhosha Vidhyalaya, Donavur were quite challenging and motivated the participants to praise God and pray for the institutions and support their needs.

On the closing day, the communion service was led under the leadership of Dr. Selwyn, Rev. Nallaraj Edward and Pastor Suhas. The theme song led by Dr. Caroline Michael, singing time led by Mr. Charles Finny, Bangalore Team with Ms. Persis on Key Board and Dr. Jayanth with Piano, action songs led by Rev. Nallaraj and Mrs. Grace Nallaraj made all the singing sessions lively enjoyable and meaningful.

The delegates enjoyed the fun during the theme based games, activities, quiz and puzzles conducted by Dr. Caroline Michael. All the groups actively participated to win prizes. The talent time helped the delegates to come out with their unique talents. The fun and fellow-

ship enjoyed during sight-seeing, playing the ice breaking game, talent time by the various groups, sharing and praying for one another strengthened the bond of ETF.

Thanks to Mr. Joe King, Princy travels for all their timely help to the delegates in pick up and drop facilities.

Refreshed by the pleasant climate and delicious food and hospitality rendered by the camp manager Ananth and Mrs. Vasantha with their helping team at Brooklands Christian Guest Home, revived in spirit, the delegates with their families and friends left Coonoor joyfully to build His kingdom as living stones in their places. Praise the Lord!

4th AP State Christian Teachers' Conference

Report by Mr. K. Saibaba

The conference started with a prayer, worship and singing. The Presidential address was given by Mr. Saibaba. Bro John of Vizag gave the Bible Exposition. Then there was a Group Discussion. Second day devotions were taken by Dr. Prof. Kishore Babu of Vizag on learning. The 3rd day and 4th day exposition and devotions were taken by Pastor Ephraim. Three professional talks were given by Bro. David Vijayakumar on Involvement, by Sis. Jessy Paul on Stewardship and by Mr. Saibaba on Christian Management. A 15-minute video was played on Disciples. All delegates participated in the quiz. Evening the delegates enjoyed the



beach. Nearly 60 delegates with 32 children participated. Children were taken care of in separate programmes. Each child was awarded with a memento of word of God. Delegates had sightseeing too. Every one left the campus with joy and commitment to learn.

PRaise and



Head Quarters

Day1

Praise God for the EC office bearers and the members of ETF. Praise God for their support through prayer, leadership and involvement. Pray for God's guidance and help to each of them to carry out their responsibilities with commitment. Praise God for the EC meeting held on 15th May 2019 in Coonoor. Praise God for the 18 members who were present including a few special invitees and pray that resolutions and decisions. Pray for the next EC meeting to be held at Pune on 6th October 2019 evening.

Praise and thank God for the EC members: Mr.Theophilus Anandam (President), Dr.Porkodi Prabahar (Vice President), Dr.Caroline Michael (General Secretary), Prof. V.D.S. Chandrasekar (Treasurer), Dr.Santha Prabhuraj (Joint Secretary - South Region), Dr. Rajeev Tyagi. Pray for their families, ministries and their health.Pray for Dr.Porkodi for the complete restoration of her health.

Day2

Praise God for the sponsors and donors of ETF who support the ministry financially. Pray for God's blessings on them. Praise God for the individual and institutional life members of ETF. Pray for state level programs, special programs of ETF and Joy of Teaching – Learning (JTL) workshops to be organized by ETF in different places of India. Praise God for the new members. Pray that all the local units and state units will be able to submit their financial statement regularly every month. Pray for God's grace to abide with the national Treasurer Prof. V.D.S. Chandrasekhar as he streamlines the matters related to ETF and ETFPT accounts.

ETF Publication Trust

Day3

Praise God for members for the Editorial Board of *Chalk and Chai*. Praise God for enabling the team Dr.Abhi Sethia, Dr.Daniel

Sathiaraj, Dr. Jayalatha Chandralal, Dr. Michael Faraday and Prof. V.D.S. Chandrasekhar and Dr. Caroline Michael. Pray for the magazine to be despatched from Hyderabad without any delay. Praise God for the people who are blessed by the magazine, people who contribute articles and through advertisements.

Day4

Praise God for the ETF office and the resources available in the ETF study centre and books published by ETF Publication Trust. Pray that God will enable the ETFPT to publish more E-books in English and Vernacular languages that will benefit the teaching community and educators to get equipped in their profession.

Conferences/seminars / integrated program / Educational institutions and students

Day5

Pray that many integrated programs of ETF and UESI in the country. Praise God for enabling Dr. Adella Paul for bringing out the course outline for a 12 day 'Teacher Preparatory Capsule' program to be offered to Christian teachers who are working in Christian Schools in remote areas. Pray for auxiliary Staff Partner Training Conference/ Principals and Administrators' Conference / Prayer conference to be planned periodically in different parts of the country.

Day6

21st Biennial National Conference at Pune

Praise God for the upcoming **21st Biennial National Conference (BNC) in the UBS campus at Pune from 6th to 8th October 2019**. Pray for the speakers, delegates and organizers for good health and safe travel. Pray for God's enriching blessings during every session. Pray for a good climate. Pray for all the financial needs to be met. Pray for many delegates to participate from different states in India. Pray for the planning. Pray that teachers at Solapur and Pune may be able to volunteer to take the responsibility to help in the arrangements and logistics of the BNC.

Day7

Andhra Pradesh

Praise God and pray for the A.P. State council members and the 4th AP Christian Teachers' Conference that was held at Dhyanaashram in Vizag. Pray for follow up meeting for the conference delegates. Praise God for the leadership of Mr. David at Narasapur and pray for the local unit to get strengthened. Pray for the local unit at Ongole to get strengthened up under the leadership of Prof. Janakiram and Prof. Vijay Chandragala. Praise God for the leadership of Mrs. Jessy Paul and her team at Nandyal. Pray for the JTL workshop to be held at Narasapur, Nadiyahal and Tuni.

Pray for Bro.Saibaba's visit to Narsapur in June, Vijayawada and Ongole in July, Kadapa in August, Anantapur.in September. Pray for many delegates from A.P. to attend the Biennial Conference. Pray for the work of the Holy Spirit in Anakapalli, Tuni, Payakraopet units. Pray for starting ETF local units at Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam. Pray for the preparation of the AP State committee for future.

Day 8 Bihar

Pray for the follow up program with the GEMS mission schools in Bihar. Praise God for the safe delivery of Mrs. Princy Titus, the principal of the Emmanuel Mission School, **Patna**. Pray for Emmanuel Mission School to get good Christian teachers. Pray for integrated program by ETF for EGF teachers in Bihar under the leadership of Mr.John Jebaraj and Mr.Joseph Paul. Pray for a few teachers from this state to participate in the BNC at Pune.

Chhattisgarh

Praise God and pray for the JTL workshop to be conducted on **19th and 20th July 2019** in **Blaze Academy at Balod** in Chhattisgarh under the leadership of Mr.Thomas Joseph. Pray that God may provide them mission minded, efficient Christian teachers to work in their school. Praise God and pray for the JTL workshop to be conducted from **21st to 23rd July in Life Academy at Pakhanjore** under the leadership of Mr.Samson Ninan and Mrs.Prainey.

Pray for his family and ministry. Pray for God's special grace and protection for the school. Pray for a few teachers from this state to participate in the BNC at Pune.

Day9 Delhi

Praise God for the prayer, support and encouragement rendered by Dr.V.K. Williams and Dr.Rajeev Tyagi, Mt.Carmel School. Praise God for the leadership rendered by Dr. Abhi Sethia who is planning to organize ETF programs and the Teachers Training program in Delhi this year. Pray for the opening for ETF ministry in Faith Academy and other schools in Delhi. Pray for many teachers to participate in the 21st BNC at Pune.

Gujarat

Praise God for the involvement and encouragement rendered by Mr.Christopher and Mr. Sridhar, Thomas English School, Jawda for ETF ministries. Pray for the opportunities for ETF ministry in different regions of Gujarat. Pray for the opening for ETF ministry in Shalom School. May a few teachers from this state to participate in the 21st BNC at Pune.

Day10 Haryana

Praise God for Rev. John Balasingh, Fatehabad who is willing to help ETF ministry in Haryana. Pray that he will be able to render his support and help in introducing ETF ministry. Pray for a few teachers from this state to participate in the 21st BNC at Pune.

Himachal Pradesh

Praise God for the planning of JTL workshop on **2nd and 3rd August 2019 at Day Star School, Manali** under the leadership of Mr. Vijaya kumar, Principal. Praise God for the contact of Mrs. Suganthi Franklin, Day Star School who has been involved with ETF ministry for many years and for her encouragement and support. Pray for open doors for ETF programs to be organized in many educational institutions in the diocese of Amritsar under the leadership of Mrs.Vidhupriya Chakravarty Secretary, Board of Education, St.Thomas School, **Shimla**. Pray for a few teachers from this state to participate in the 21st BNC at Pune.

Jharkand

Praise God for the leadership of Mr.Joseph Ponraj, Shalom School, Madhupur, Jharkand. Pray for God's special grace and guidance to be with him as he introduces ETF in other educational institutions. Pray for a few teachers from this state to participate in the 21st BNC.

Day11 Karnataka

Praise God for the ETF local units in Indira Nagar, **Bangalore**, under the leadership of Mrs.Vinnie Thomas and her team. Praise God for the local units in St.John's school under the leadership of Mrs.Mary Deevena and Mrs. Margart and pray that these local units will function regularly and many teachers will participate. Praise God for enabling many teachers from Bangalore who

attended the 17th CTC at Coonoor in May 2019. Praise God for the new members who are interested to get involved in ETF and support ETF ministry and start local units in their area. Pray for Mrs. Mabel and Mrs.Jemima Swaminathan in **Hubli** and Ms.Linda in **Coorg**. Pray for ETF Karnataka state conference to be planned. Pray for a few teachers from this state to participate in the 21st BNC at Pune.

Kerala

Praise God for the involvement and support rendered by Dr. John Zachariah, who is encouraging and helping in connecting with teachers and educational institutions. Pray for ETF programs to be organized under the leadership of Dr.Viji Thomas, Bro. Jojo, State Secretary UESI, Kerala, Dr. P.C.Thomas and Mrs. Neena Thomas in various places in Kerala. Pray for a few teachers from this state to participate in the 21st BNC at Pune.

Day 12 Madhya Pradesh

Praise God for the JTL workshop conducted from 30th March to 1st April 2019 in Nayajeevan Mission Hr.Sec.School, Bhandar, **Datia District** under the leadership of Mr.Christopher and Hema. Praise God for Dr.Ram Chand at **Indore** who is introduced to ETF ministry and for his encouraging words. Praise God for Dr.Bertha in Bhopal who is introducing ETF ministry to schools in M.P. Pray for the open doors in M.P. Praise God for Dr. Pothan and his family and their school in Indore. Praise God for

Mr. Binu Jacob Principal, Ideal School, Bhopal. Pray for ETF ministry to extend in his other schools in UP, Punjab and Odisha. Pray for a few teachers from this state to participate in the 21st BNC at Pune.

Day 13 Maharashtra

Praise God for the vibrant leadership of Mrs. Flora Bawadekar, and her team for organizing ETF programs in **Solapur** periodically. Praise God for regular and active participation of teachers Mr Nitin Prabhune, Ms. Vaishali Sable, Mrs. Deena Mhetre, Mrs. Darshana Shinde, Mrs. Krupalini Chandekar, Mrs. Sheela Kamble and Principal of Woronocco High School, Solapur, Mrs. Sunita Shendge and Mrs. Esther Vinay Kumar, Principal of Hindustan Covenant Church, School and Junior College, Solapur. Pray for the ETF local unit to meet regularly on the first Saturday of every month to get enriched in the word of God and fellowship. Pray for the planning of the ETF workshop in Solapur and state conference for Maharashtra. Pray that ETF may reach out and become active in the Aurangabad, Pune, Daund, Karmala, Gulabarga regions.

Pray that the exam dates of schools in Solapur and other regions of Maharashtra should not be during the BNC dates so that many teachers will be able to participate in the BNC. Pray for God's grace and guidance to the ETF members in Solapur local unit to reach out to many Christian educational institutions and individual teachers

in different parts of Maharashtra and motivate and encourage many to participate in BNC as well support through sponsoring for Souvenir.

Day 14

Praise God for the encouragement and support rendered by Dr. Girish, YCLT English Medium School at **Yuvatmal** and pray for mission minded, efficient teachers to be appointed in the school. Praise God for Dr. Sam, Mrs. Lalitha and Mr. Devaraj, at Yardly English School in **Umri** for their support, prayer and encouragement for ETF. Praise God for Dr. Ganeshpandy for his commitment to introduce ETF ministry in **Amaravathy District**. Praise God for the vibrant leadership of Dr. Kulothungan, MVM for his encouragement and involvement in integrating ETF programs not only in schools under MVM but to many educational institutions in Pune, Mumbai, etc. Pray for ETF workshops, to be organized in different districts of Maharashtra. Pray for the ETF one day programs tentatively planned in Mumbai and Pune during the 1st week of September 2019 under the leadership of Dr. Kulothungan. Pray for many teachers from this state to participate in the 21st BNC at Pune.

Day 15 North East

Praise God for the ETF prayer cell at Mt. Calvary School, **Diphu, Assam** under the leadership of Mrs. Nirupama and Mrs. Praisy Rongharpi. Pray for a regional program and workshop for teachers to be organized in that district.

Pray for ETF prayer cell to start in Makunda Christian High School, in Bazaricherra in **Karimganj District** in **Assam** under the leadership of Mrs. Veronica and Mr. Dany Paul. Praise God for the leadership of Dr. Ann Miriam, Correspondent of the school and pray for the school teachers that they may be able to shine as committed teachers serving the Lord faithfully in their working place. Pray for the ETF programs to be organized in **Tripura** under the leadership of Dr. John Zachariah and coordinated by Rev. Bijily Tripura Mission leader and Mr. Ajendra, Principal, Thomas English School, Purbahanpara in Tripura. Pray for a few teachers from these states to participate in the 21st BNC at Pune.

Day 16

Praise God for Dr. Hepuni Kenya, founder director, Nazareth Residential School, Manipur for his encouragement for ETF ministry. Praise God for the leadership of Mr. Loli and Mr. Kayio for conducting the JTL workshop for 130 teachers from 7 schools under Mao Baptist churches Association on 5th and 6th April 2019 at **Mao, Manipur**. Praise God for all the principals who participated in the program and their interest in involving with ETF programs in future. Praise God for enabling the ETF leaders to meet Rev. Boipu Serto at Manipur Baptist Convention along with Mr. Wahengpam Lokendro Singh, director, St. John's English School at Nambal, Manipur and Mrs. Hat Hon Buan Singh, Bethany Christian College, Manipur to discuss about more ETF

programs in **Imphal**. Praise God for the encouragement by Mr. Paul Dass introducing ETF to institutions in **Nagaland**. Pray for ETF programs to be organized in **Arunachal Pradesh** under the leadership of UESI leader Mr. Andy Anando. Pray for a few teachers from these states to participate in the 21st BNC at Pune.

Day 17

Praise God for Dr. L. N. Tluanga, Aizawl, **Mizoram**, veteran leader of ETF --for his prayer, encouragement, and involvement in ETF. Praise God for reviving the ETF activities in Mizoram and for the new ETF Secretary, Dr. Lalzarmawii, Associate Professor of Education in the Govt Aizawl North College and the new ETF President Dr. Hmingthanzuala. Ask God for many local units to emerge in Mizoram. Pray for a few teachers from this state to participate in the 21st BNC at Pune.

Praise God for the vibrant leadership of Mrs. Wellorich Sohkhet, Principal, Anderson Hr. Sec. School, **Nongstoin, Meghalaya** and other EGF leaders of the state. Praise God for the ETF local unit at Nongstoin and pray for the ETF Secretary Miss Cornelia Syiemlieh, Anderson Higher Secondary School and the ETF Treasurer Miss Elimersha A Syiemlieh. Praise God for the 25 members of ETF local unit at Nongstoin and pray for JTL workshop planned to be held on 18th and 19th September 2019 at Nongstoin and on 20th and 21st September 2019 in **Shillong**.

Day 18 Odisha

Praise God for the UESI leaders Dr.Udaya Ganta and Mr.Kuber Paricha who are planning to introduce ETF ministry in **many parts of Odisha** and conduct JTL workshop for teachers.Praise God for the Adoni Public School, in **Daspur, Kalahandi Dt.** Pray for God's wisdom and guidance to Mrs. Ladi Sandhya Rani, Principal of the school to lead on efficiently and the teachers to become efficient. Pray for Dr. Abhi Sethia the founder director of the school for God's providence for the plans to upgrade the school. Pray for Mr.Joy Kutty, founder El Nissi Mission School and Mr. and Mrs. John Manohar founders of Elmachsi Mission School. Kalahandi Dt. Pray for Mr.Promodh and Mr.Paul Aravindan to introduce ETF in different regions. Praise God for Anand Niketan School in **Lamtaput, Koraput Dt.** and pray for the needs of the school. Pray for JTL program to be planned for the teachers of village school under Asha Kiran in **Lamtaput** and also in IMS English School, **Malkangiri.**

Day 19 Punjab

Praise God for Mr.Seenivasan for his leadership in ETF ministry in **Moga District.** Pray for God's wisdom and guidance for him to bring up the Good Shepherd English School to the glory of God and all the needs for the school will be met. Pray for the JTL workshop to be conducted for the teachers of St. Mary's CBSC School under the leadership of the Principal, Mr.Pandian and Jesus Saviour's School under the

leadership of the Principal Mr.Merlin, both the schools in **Rupnagar district** to be coordinated by Mr. Seenivasan. Pray that all the schools under the CNI diocese of Amritsar be influenced by ETF ministry.

Day 20 Rajasthan

Praise God for the contact of Pastor Finny Philip, Principal at Filadelfia Bible College and Mrs.Glory Finny, Director, St.Matthew's Senior Secondary School, **Udaipur** who are happy to know about ETF. Pray for the JTL workshops to be organized in Udaipur. Praise God for the contact of Mrs.Vinita Chand at Udaipur. Pray for the guidance and grace of God to plan ETF programs in this year at **Jaipur** under the leadership of Mrs.Mercy Nelson, Mrs.Phoebie Immanuel and Mrs. Shalini Andrews.

Day 21 Tamil Nadu

Praise God for the 17th Christian Teachers' Conference held at Coonoor where 70 people attended. Most of them were teachers from different parts of Tamil Nadu and other states. Praise God for all the new members of ETF. Praise God for the ETF local unit meetings in **Chennai.** Praise God for all the support, encouragement and partnership rendered by all the local leaders and institutions and pray for their constant involvement, leadership and prayer support in building up ETF ministry in **Chennai.** Praise God for the **Tambaram** local unit which meets last Thursday of every month at St. Mark's High school.

Pray for good attendance in the local unit meetings. Pray for the ETF local unit at Bishop Heber College, **Trichy** to function regularly and be active in promoting ETF ministry to other places in Trichy. Praise God for Mr.Nirmal Nathan and Mrs.Rosalind Nathan of Santa Maria School, Trichy for their interest to involve in ETF ministry. Pray for the ETF members at **Madurai** to start local units.

Day 22

Pray for the JTL workshop to be held in **Sivakasi** on **15th and 16th June 2019** under the leadership of Mr.Angelo Gnanuraj. Pray for the planning of JTL workshop in in Shalom Matriculation School in **Pavoochatram, Tirunelveli district** under the leadership of Dr. C.K. Rajasingh and Dr.Malathy. Prayer is needed for Santhosh Vidhyalaya in **Donavur,** and Kings and Queens Residential school in **Arakkonam** which educate missionaries' children. Pray for JTL workshop to be organized for these schools to equip and encourage the teachers. Praise God for the constant support and leadership rendered by Rev. S.D.Premkumar and Mrs.Lilian at Mullai Academy, Mallikuttai Village. Pray for the needs of the School and more ETF programs to be organized in that district.

Day 23

Praise God for all the active local units in and around **Coimbatore** under the leadership of Dr.Santha Prabhuraj and the Principal and the faculty of Stanes School. Pray for

ETF programs to be organized in schools and colleges in **Nilgris** district. Pray for **Vellore** ETF unit to get strengthened up and pray for God's guidance to Prof.Noah Eastman. Praise God for the leadership of Prof. V.D.S. Chandrasekar. Pray for the **Thiruthani** local unit to be formed under the leadership of Mr. Emmanuel Premkumar. Praise God for the involvement of Mr. Jeya kumar Jesudas and Mrs. Rosaline in **Thiruvallur** and pray for a ETF local unit to be formed under their leadership.

Day 24 Telangana

Praise the Lord for the members who formed the local unit at Kharimnagar. Praise the Lord for Bro. Caleb for encouraging teachers at Vijayalaksmi School to meet. Pray for God's blessings to continue on Bible study and prayer during monthly meeting of **Hyderabad** ETF. Pray for young teachers to participate in Hyderabad ETF. Pray to spread ETF vision to other towns in Telangana. Pray for ETF programs to be organized under the leadership of Mr. Bharath in **Bongir,** Mr.Raju in **Siddipet** and pray for ETF local unit to function regularly under the leadership of Mrs. Swarnalatha and Mrs. Apolina in **Kharimnagar.**

Day 25 Uttarkhand

Praise God for the ETF local unit at Grace Academy and pray for Mr. Andriyas Singh, for his leadership in coordinating ETF programs in **Dehradun** and other districts of Uttarkhand. Pray for the JTL

workshop to be organized for the schools Bharat Susamachar Samiti functioning in different districts of Uttarkhand. Praise God for Mr. Emmanuel Rathnaraj, Principal, Shishya Public School, Dehradun for his involvement in ETF ministries. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom as he leads the school.

Day 26 Uttar Pradesh

Praise God for the JTL workshops held in St. Thomas School, **Varanasi** under the leadership of Mr. Sam Abraham and Mrs. Brinda Sam on 22nd and 23rd March 2019 and in True Light English School under the leadership of Mrs. Pearly Esther on 25th and 26th March 2019. Pray for the JTL workshop to be conducted in David Memorial School under the leadership of and Mr. Sudeep Mahapatra. Praise God for all the prayer, support and encouragement by Mr. Robert Lal, **Gorakhpur** and the upcoming JTL workshop in August 2019 under the leadership of Dr. Sharma, Chemistry Faculty, St. Andrews College.

Pray for Mr. Shivdan Singh and Mr. Vipul John who have a mission school in a remote area and for Mizpah Christian School in **Orai** by Rev. Daniel. Pray for the open doors for ETF ministry in **Allahabad** through Mr. Immanuel Premkumar and Genita who are UESI tentmakers. Pray that God will open doors for ETF in Jamuna Christian College and School, Allahabad and other regions of U.P. Praise God for enabling the ETF leaders to meet Mr. Yesu Rathnam (ETF member) at **Kachhawa Christian School**,

Mirzapur to organize ETF programs in future.

Day 27 West Bengal

Pray for the open doors for ETF in Dr. Graham's Homes, Scottish Universities' Mission Institution (SUMI) and Mt. Carmel School at Kalimpong under the leadership of Mr. Deki O. Panlook. Remember to pray for Mr. Mark Taylor, Principal, the Eternal Light Public School and Ms. Sreelekha Rai, Principal, Immanuel International Academy (IIA) in **Silikuri**. Pray for Ms. Roma Prodhon, founder of Bidan School and Mr. Anand Raju Jangam, founder of St. John's Public School, a primary school at **Durgapur**. Pray that God will open the doors for ETF to ministry in the CNI schools. Ask God for ETF programs to be organized in **Kolkata**.

Day 28

Pray for God's protection and provision for educational institutions under C.S.I. and C.N.I. dioceses, Baptist mission schools, Methodist mission schools, ECI Schools, Schools under missions such as IMS, FMPB, and Vishwavani. Pray that God will provide trained teachers and more students for these schools. Pray for moral values to be cultivated in children, and teachers may be good role models so that the students will experience a holistic growth.

Day 29

Pray for the qualified and trained Christian teachers to get good job

opportunities in schools and colleges. Pray for the teachers who are involved in higher education and research work. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance to be with them to do their research work with integrity. Pray for the health and family needs of teaching community and pray for God's help in their lives to serve Him faithfully.

Day 30

Pray for many teachers to join ETF so that unity among the Christian teachers gets strengthened regardless of denominations. Pray for many local units to get started in different places in India. Pray for 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. Pray that ETF may have access to reach unreached schools in villages and remote parts of India and many teachers to get mobilized to make mission trips to these unreached places.

.....Continued from Page-36 Faith and Stewardship

commanded that the people need not bring any offering to the sanctuary. And the material was sufficient for all the work.

Let us examine ourselves about the Christian principle of giving or receiving.

God is watching every action of ours. As stewards, are we faithful in small matters? If we are faithful, God will entrust us with big things. This we have already seen in Luke chapter 17.

Day 31

Pray that all Christian teachers teach their students with love of Christ and this will shape them into responsible citizens of India. Pray that the Christian educational institutions are well equipped with all resources to meet demands of present day needs. Pray for the present Education policy in India. Pray for God's grace to abound in the education system to protect the younger generation from learning facts that are not true and correct. Pray that the government in centre and state favour to the Christian schools and colleges as granted in the constitution of India. Pray that the conduction and valuation of examination scripts at all levels will be done with integrity and God should be honoured and glorified in the status of the results of Christian educational institutions and grades and marks achieved by Christian students.

What is our response?

Every one of us may take time to ponder over our role as stewards and unlearn some of the wrong concepts about ownership of assets. May God guide us in the last days about stewardship.

T. Prince Stachys Ravindran,

Retired, Former Treasurer Of BYM.

F & S FAITH AND STEWARDSHIP

Luke 17: 5 -10

We are unprofitable servants. We have done only our duty. It is not expected of us to receive accolades when we finish the duty well.

As teachers we are supposed to keep ourselves updated with all the current trends and practices in all our activities. It is essential we read the newspaper every day after our daily devotion time. It is important to know what is happening in the world. That will expand our vision and we may respond in the appropriate spiritual manner when required. Good stewards will be rewarded. (Luke 19:1-27)

Let us see the example of Zacchaeus.

Luke 19: 11-26. The resources given in our hand: people, budget, time, wisdom and talents. When leaders use these resources well, God rewards them and gives them even more to invest. But when they fail, they lose what little they have, writes John C Maxwell.

GIVING/COLLECTING

Exodus 36: 6 So Moses gave a commandment and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the land saying, "Let neither man nor woman do any more work for the offering of the sanctuary." And the people were restrained from bringing.

I Chronicles 29: 11-16

Heaven and earth are yours. Yours is the kingdom, Oh Lord. Both riches and honor come from you, In your hand are power and might. But who am I ?

It was a bank branch manager. My grand-daughter and I entered there to get some services. In that process, my grand-daughter saw some colored paper clips on the table of the branch manager and wanted to take it. Immediately, the branch manager offered the same to her. Then I told the branch manager that it is not proper to give the bank's property to my grand-daughter, even though it is paper clips. And I also chided the branch manager and told him that the banking assets are in her hand as a temporary basis and she is only a steward.

I do not know in what sense she has taken it, but as a Christian leader/ teacher in the daily walk, how do we look at our own assets, health, wealth and possessions. Bible teaches us that even we ourselves are not our own but His.

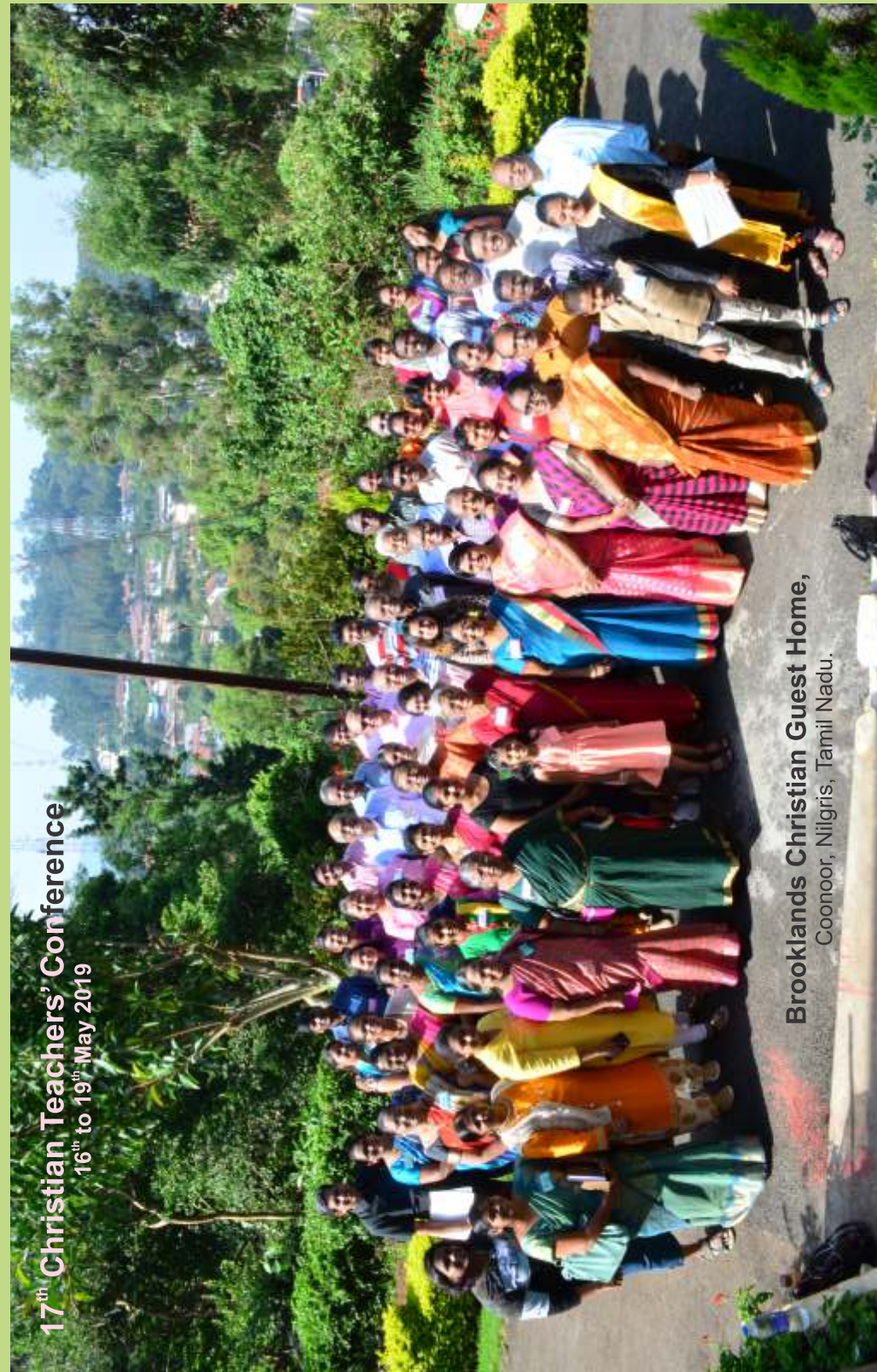
King David in I Chronicles 29: 11 says "Yours, Oh Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the Kingdom, O Lord.

So what are we supposed to do with our assets?

Our talents, knowledge, influence, etc. should be used for the glory of our Lord Jesus God in His mercy has given us. Are we sincere in our work? Do we do it without murmuring.

And in our giving too, do we do it voluntarily, happily and whole heartedly. We read in Exodus 36 : 6, about Moses

..... Continued in Page-35



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