

chalk AND chai





Apr - Jun 2018 | Vol: 41 | No: 2



**Challenges of Christian Teacher
in a Changing Society**



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FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK

Dear readers of Chalk and Chai,

Warm greetings to you in the most Holy and Precious name of our Lord and Master Teacher Jesus Christ. I am happy to write to you through the second issue of Chalk and Chai in this Year. It is an old saying: January - Jumping, February - Flying and March - Marching and here we are through the second quarter of the year 2018. I praise God for His faithfulness and guidance which is enabling the new leaders to move on with their responsibilities.

In the Indian scenario, for most of the educational institutions including schools and colleges, the second quarter of the year is full of challenges to face the board exams and university exams at different levels and aspire admissions in the desired course and job opportunities.

This is because the present education system is Expanding: increase of Knowledge, levels of education, and qualifications, Infra structures and lab facilities, demand for admission of students in a particular course, pay hike, increase in number of schools and colleges and professional and para educational institutions, increase in number of disciplines, increase in number of teachers demand for pay hike, widening job opportunities and so on and so forth. Not only that the present education system is inclined to be more Technical: Learning process of

most of the student community has become quite technical just to appear for board exam to get a high score. The current trends in culture, the cross cultural education system and post modern thinking has changed the attitude of acquiring knowledge to be more technical rather than developing a passion to know and understand the concepts in a subject. The present education system is not only expanding and technical it is also Fast Growing: Information Technology and Internet, Mobile and media, though inevitable for gaining knowledge and information and exchanging views on concepts, at a very fast rate may be instantly, the access to WhatsApp, Face Book, Twitter, etc. has led the students to lose interest in reading books, writing records, notes and assignments and sometimes the students find it hard to write exams for three hours. Most of the students and the parents seek admission in the desired course by quicker methods rather than by quality learning and merit. The general attitude of present generation is more inclined to have an attitude to grow to greater heights through shorter period without proper training to expertise in their field of education.

The outcome of the present education system is therefore placing a lot of challenges to the students and parents and eventually the teachers are expected to play a vital role in helping the students to face the challenges of exams.

The focus of this issue of Chalk and Chai is "The challenge of a Christian teacher in a changing society". While much importance is given only to the merits and ranks for achievements in secular education, the Bible study outline by Bro.P.C. Verghese helps to identify the evils prevailing in the present day society and emphasizes more on the challenge of a Christian teacher not only to lead a Godly life without compromising with world views but also to lead the younger generation towards a God fearing life.

The 50-50 learning model shared by Mr. Hepuni Kayina throws the challenge of a teacher in practising a better teaching - learning model.

The Power of word of God shared by Dr. Anil Kumar from a scientific approach and Biblical truth is highly challenging to understand the impact of words in one's life and the power of word of God in one's life.

Mr. Benjamin shares his testimony how ETF is helpful to the teachers in their school to lead a challenging life.

As we read through the magazine may the Lord help us to grow deeper in the word of God to stand firm with Biblical truths and standards to guide the younger generation to walk uprightly in the fear of God.

God's Blessings.

Caroline Michael
General Secretary, ETF



Challenges of a CHRISTIAN TEACHER in a Changing Society

Many are the challenges faced by teachers today and especially Christian teachers who have to constantly set a high and divine standard for their students without compromising on their moral ethics and commandments of the Holy Word of God. While the students are on one side of the gamut, the fellow teaching community secures a place on the other side of the gamut. Constant scrutiny, during these times when people are blamed for converting others to Christianity, is on the rise. It is indeed a huge challenge to stand firm and profess God's love not only in words but also in deed.

The Word of God places on record that we are preview to a Changing Society as recorded in the book of 1 Timothy 3: 1-17.

I. Prophetic words regarding the changing society (2 Timothy 3:1-9)

Paul warns of the collapse of values in 1 Timothy 4:1-3. This term included the entire period between the first century and the return of Christ.

What could be the reasons for this social degeneration?

Paul lists them down in Romans 1:28-32.

19 General Characteristics

1. Lovers of themselves: self-centered not God-centric, Narcissistic
2. Lovers of money (1 Timothy 6:9, 10).
3. Boastful, self exalting And glorifying (Jeremiah 9:23,24/ Galatians 6:14)
4. Proud, arrogant (Proverbs 6:16-19/ 1 Peter 5:5,6).
5. Disobedient, Disrespectful to parents
6. Ungrateful, Thanklessness – attitude of "I deserve it"



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7. Abusive, Blasphemers – absence of designated virtue
8. Unholy, Not wanting to be different from the crowd around
9. Without Love, heartless, Inability to give themselves for the highest best of others.
10. Unforgiving, Diabolical in character – devilish
11. Slandorous – destroying other's reputation
12. Without self-control- no restraint – permissive
13. Brutal untamed – opposite of being civilized
14. Not Lovers of the good- Perverted –evil bent –wrong inclination
15. Treacherously Disposed towards betrayal
16. Rash, Reckless – in words and deed
17. Conceited and Puffed up, thinking too highly of oneself
18. Lovers of pleasure- sensuous-hedonic-no love for God or man
19. Having a form of Godliness but denying its power-Fanatically religious – only an outward veneer.

Though these characteristics are listed under the auspices of last days, they were present in Ephesus in seed form to be intensified with time.

Timothy was a different teacher and his teaching was different from the false teachers of that time and their false teaching. The carnal immature (vulnerable and gullible) become easy targets for false teachers (2 Timothy 3:Vs. 6, 7) for they are ever learning and never experiencing reality.

The problem was in the so called openness to learn. In doing so, teachers started embracing heresies that came along. They lacked discernment to recognize these false heresies and hence were powerless to acknowledge the truth.

Verses 8 & 9 reference James and Jambres and their opposition to Moses which is drawn out not only in the Old Testament but in the widespread Jewish legend about two of Pharaoh's magicians who competed against Moses and lost (Exodus 7:11/9:11).

Folly will not get very far..... Eventually the folly will be clear to everyone!

II. CHALLENGES TO FAITHFULNESS (2 Timothy 3:10-17)

Verses 10 & 14 exhorts and challenges us to uphold the teachings taught us. (¹⁰ You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it).

Paul as a role model educates us by informing us about his Teaching, Lifestyle, Purpose, Faith, Patience, Love, Endurance, Persecutions and Sufferings at Antioch, Iconium and Lystra (Acts 13:14,51/14:6,21/16:1). It is important that we are,

1. Standing firm in the face of opposition (Vs. 10-13)

Persecution awaits everyone who wants to live a Godly life in Christ. Things will go from bad to worse. Deceivers will be deceived.

2. Adhering to God's Word (Vs. 14-17)

It is important to continue in the Word and respond to the call to discipleship (John 8:31, 32,36).

This gives us,

1. An assurance of salvation (Vs. 14,15)
2. Imparts a righteous character for God's Word shows what is right, what is not right, how to get things right and how to stay right (Vs. 16) and
3. Equips us for service (Vs. 17).

III. APPLICATION

How can we apply these characteristics to ourselves?

1. Our Belief System determines our behavioral pattern.
2. Change in society is based on its belief system.
3. Belief and Behavior are inter-related (1 Timothy 4:16).

We need to establish a strong and grounded Belief system and believe that the changes in our society can be countered only if and when we are equipped with the Word of God.

GIVE A THOUGHT WITH THESE QUESTIONS

If we are to move forward and establish a strong foundation, let us ask ourselves the following questions:

1. In what way does 2 Timothy 3 help us to understand the challenge of a Christian teacher in the changing society? How are we to face it and bring about change for the better?
2. If a belief system determines behavioral pattern, how should we go about in changing the belief system of the society that is changing for the worst?

REMEMBER THE FOUR R'S

If we, as teachers are to fight the good fight and make a difference, we need:

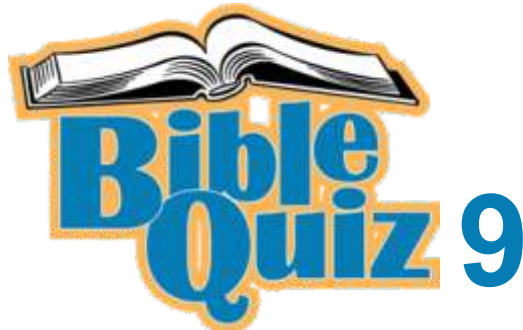
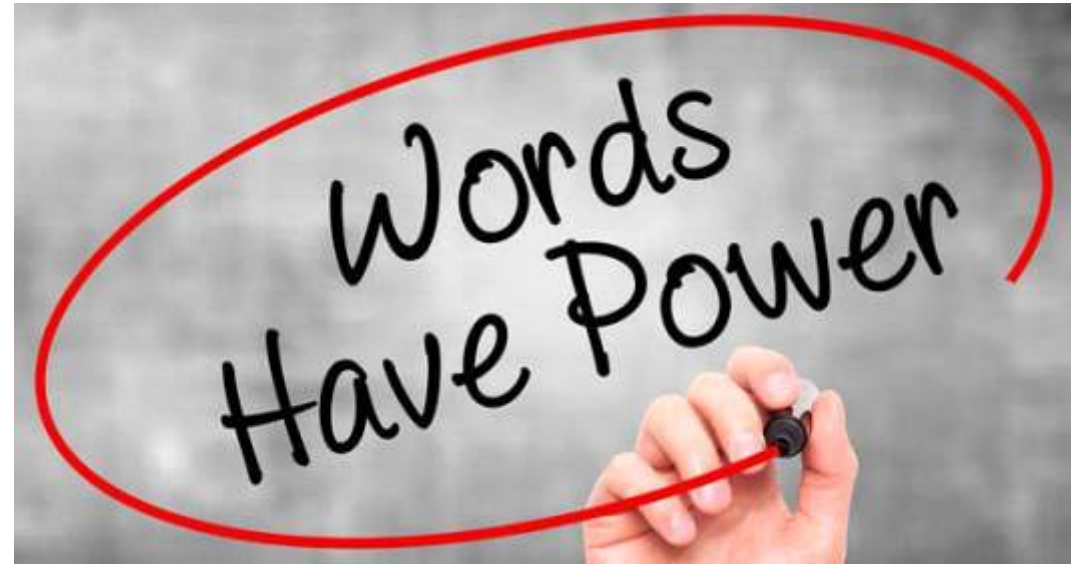
1. Revelation from God
2. Reconciliation with God

3. Regeneration of God
4. Repentance and a change of Self-will

Teachers, we need to take the first step forward and reject the wrong belief system and abandon it for the right way adhering to the Holy Word of God every step of the way. The society may change and as teachers we may face many challenges. But let us stand firm according to the standard prescribed by the word of God which remains unchanged for ever.

Bro.P.C.Verghe is the former staff worker and Associate General Secretary of UESI.

[Article taken from the Bible Study outline by Bro.P.C.Verghe presented at the 2nd Christian Teachers' Conference held at Gurukul Theological College, Chennai, and 7-9 May-2004 and edited by Dr.Jayalatha, Tambaram]



Jesus said:

“Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

Luke 11: 28

Search the Scriptures

Please read **Romans 1: 1 to 17** and answer the following questions.

1. What do we learn about God and Jesus Christ?
2. Why does Paul long to see people in Rome?
3. What does Paul write about the gospel?

Please send the answers to

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or by email to dsathiaraj@gmail.com on or before June 25, 2018

BIBLICAL TRUTH WITH SCIENTIFIC PROOF

Greetings to you in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is a privilege and a pleasure to share with you the amazing Biblical Truth with Scientific Proofs.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

We could all learn something from this well-known Bible verse. Looking beyond the religious overtones, there is a message to be found in this for everyone. Everything begins with a word. Words consist of vibrations and sound. These vibrations create the very reality that surrounds us. Words are the creator; the creator of our universe, our lives, our reality. Without words, a thought can never become a reality. When God said 'Let

there be light', the light came. If our words and thoughts are the very tools with which we create our reality, then surely are they not our most powerful tool yet? Shouldn't we only pick up on the very best words in order to create our very best reality?

Our thoughts also impact what is manifested in our lives and it is our words that provide a bold affirmation of our inner most thoughts. They are a confirmation to the world of how we see others, our lives and ourselves. It is this [powerful affirmation](#) that our words provide which enables our thoughts to manifest into a reality. So why do we choose to misuse our most powerful asset? So by that admission, when we moan or complain about our lives to others, we are putting those negative words out

there to become a reality. When you say something out loud enough times, your words become the truth not only in your own mind but in the minds of everyone you are saying them to. If this is really so, then ask yourself : do you really want to tell yourself and everybody else that you know that you are unlucky in love/unsuccessful/miserable/bored or whatever you have been complaining about? Especially now that you know that it is these exact words that are creating the life that you live. Begin to choose the words that you speak consciously. Practice improved self-awareness over the words that you use to describe yourself and your life. Negative powerless words, such as can't, shouldn't, won't, foolish, stupid, I hate you and you are crazy, should all be avoided. They strip you of your ability to manifest a life that you want to live. Bible says in Proverb 18:27 "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof." Your tongue is powerful – what you say creates life (or good outcomes) or death (bad or undesirable outcomes). In other words, you can manifest God's blessings by speaking life into your situation or you can call in those things that you really don't want to happen by speaking negatively or saying things that are opposite to God's promises. Speaking life simply means that you are confessing God's promises – you are speaking out loud the outcome that you already have by the grace of God – those things you would like to see manifested in your life.

As the creator of your universe, what you say goes. Therefore, next time you catch yourself about to use negative words, regain control and frame your word choices so that they have a more positive impact on your world. For example, if you would usually say something such as 'I am unhealthy and overweight' then why not turn this into a more positive, constructive statement such as 'I am in the process of becoming healthier and every day I get closer and closer to my ideal weight'. Your words are the paint with which you paint your reality. Choose them wisely and positively to create a reality that is good for you. Andrea Gardner said Change your words, change your world. We use words every day to communicate, to express our feelings and thoughts, but we often forget how powerful they can be and how important it is to choose them with care if we wish to attract love, happiness and success.

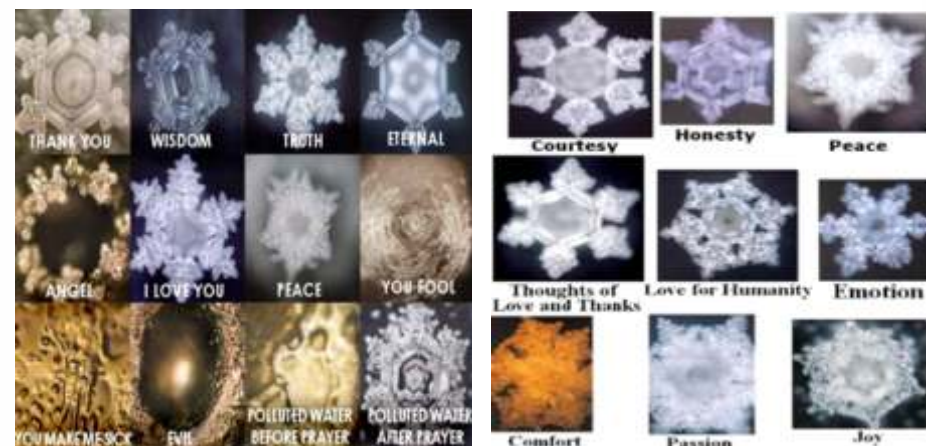
What you See/Read/Hear will lead to thoughts; what you think about gets into your heart; what is in your heart is expressed through your words; words become your action; repeated action becomes your habit and finally it become your life style.

Proverbs 23:7 says, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he".

Scientist Dr. Masaru Emoto was a Japanese author, researcher, photographer and entrepreneur, who claimed that human consciousness has an effect on the molecular structure of water. Emoto's assumption evolved over the years and his early work explored his belief that water could react to positive

thoughts and words and that polluted water could be cleaned through prayer and positive visualization.

Emoto believed that water was a "blueprint for our reality and that emotional "energies" and "vibrations" could change the physical structure of water. Emoto's water crystal experiments consisted of exposing water in glasses to different words, pictures or music and then freezing and examining the properties of the resulting crystals with microscopic photography. Emoto claimed that water exposed to positive speech and thoughts would result in visually "pleasing" crystals being formed when that water was frozen and that negative words or intentions would yield "ugly" frozen crystal formations as follows:



Dr. Masaru Emoto's Rice & Water Experiment



Dr. Emoto conducted simple rice experiments by placing one cup of cooked rice into two separate containers. He then placed a lid on each container and marked one container with a positive phrase, e.g., "Thank You", marked the other container with a negative phrase, e.g., "You're An Idiot" and another container "Ignored". Following this, he placed them at least 12 inches apart and every day for 30 days, once or more times, he said aloud to each rice container the phrase written on it with genuine feelings- saying "thank you" from a place of gratitude and "stupid" from a place of anger and frustration. And after thirty days, what do you think happened? Well, the "Thank You!" rice "began to ferment, giving off a strong, pleasant aroma." The "You're An Idiot" rice turned mostly black and the "Ignored" rice "began to rot," turning into a disgusting green-blue color. According to Emoto, the "ignored" rice fared the worst because of negligence and indifference which are the absolute worst things we can do to water, rice...and ourselves. He goes on to explain that "we should converse with children" - a piece of monumental parenting advice, that is sure to forever be attributed to this rice experiment. "Indifference, our

narrator tells us, "does the greatest harm."

So, the average human body contains 75% water and it will react to the actual good or bad words we speak and thoughts we think and it reaches to all our trillion cells. Negative thoughts can also damage our DNA. Positive words with good intentions behind them, nurture and encourage growth. Negative words with negative emotions literally rot and destroy.

Bible says in **Proverb 4:23**, "**Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life**".

Deuteronomy 30:19 reads, "**This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live**".

In **Matthew 12:38** we read, "**For by your words you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned**".

Listening to music with bad lyrics (separation, heart break, loneliness and sadness) will also destroy the water structure in our body. The Bible says in **Mark 4:24**, "**And He said to**

them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you-and more [beside] will be given to you who hear".

Water can also be treated through prayer. They took the polluted sample which showed no structure before prayer and the same polluted water after prayer showed good water crystal.

Finally, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I would like to beseech you to use your words carefully. They can either construct your life or destroy it. According to book of **Proverb 18:21** "Words carry power"; **James 3:6** tells us that , "Words are like fire" and according to the book of **Jeremiah 23:29**, "Words are like fire & hammer".

Job 22:28 reads, "**Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways**".

Psalms 34:11-14 tells us, "**Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it**".

Romans 12:2 cautions us saying, "**Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is his good, pleasing and perfect will**".

Ephesians 4:24 tells us, "**And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness**".

In **Romans 5:17**, we read, "**For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ**".

What are the 2 most powerful words in the world?

The 2 most powerful words are "I AM". It is the name of God revealed to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. and what you speak after "I AM", what you BELIEVE after "I AM" will control your decisions and shape your life.

Let us renew our mind, put on the new man and keep confessing who we are in Christ as much as possible. As we are destined to reign in life, so let us sow the good seed (Word of God) in our life and reap 60, 70 and 100 fold blessings. God Bless You All.



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Ratio Learning Model

There are a lot of articles and discussions on the different ways of effective learning that are employed and advocated by respective proponents, such that there is an array of teaching technologies at our disposal as never before! There is also such a wealth of resources available and this will keep on growing as different situations continue to spawn innovative ideas- ideas to encourage and promote learning in a particular setting. I believe the perpetual concern of a good teacher is taking on the question of what could motivate learning in one's pupils, and therefore the desire to see this happening is the mother of invention.

I am a teacher who cannot teach if my students pay no attention in class. The sight of even one student not caught up with the lesson is equal to losing one learner, and it gives me a sense of having failed that student. Unrealistic expectations? Maybe, but this is what also makes me reassess myself and my lesson to understand what I may be doing wrong or not doing that their interest is not pricked at all. It is because of this unease and the idea of getting every pupil engaged that led me to experiment

and to learn from others as well, till I came up with a customized version of what I call the 50-50 ratio learning model.

To be honest, the 50-50 ratio is not originally my idea. When I joined the English Language Institute China (ELIC), an organization of professional teachers, we were introduced to this idea at orientation. What it simply means is that a good teacher talks at maximum only about 50% of class time and uses the other half for comprehension, application and reinforcement activities that are carried out by learners. This is opposed to the traditional concept of viewing a pupil as an empty vessel to be filled by the teacher who takes up the entire class hour lecturing or working out solutions and making pupils copy-cat them as they work on exercises. In the former mode of learning, the learner is required to be responsible for his/her own learning through active participation; whereas, the latter mode of learning requires the learner to passively sponge up what is being poured into him/her. It is no mystery which of the two becomes a creative learner.

We know the proverb that goes, "Give a man a fish and he eats for a day. Teach him to fish and he will eat his lifetime". This is another way of looking at the two opposing approaches of teaching. The difference between the two is the wisdom of knowing how much to teach so that learning can take place. A revealing truth is that spoon feeding only lasts as long as infancy.

So the 50-50 ratio idea is about learning being co-owned by the instructor and the instructed which is not just about splitting up the time between them. The instructor tells where potato is likeliest to be found, and the instructed uses the information to zero in on the location and digs out the potato himself/herself. The instructor is satisfied his instructions were accurate, and the instructed enjoys the excitement of locating and digging out food! This excitement whets his appetite for more searches. Stretch this analogy to learning and you have pupils who discover knowledge (of course with leads received from the teacher) on their own effort experiencing increased excitement for more discoveries. This results in knowing knowledge as opposed to being told knowledge. And wide is the gap between the two.

In the gospel of Matthew chapter 16 verses 13 to 19, we see this 50-50 rationale being used by the Rabbi Himself. In this instance, the lesson is the question of the identity of their Teacher. He does not supply them the answer just for the having. He makes them find the answer. Of course the pertinent lead-question is raised by the teacher. This is the kind of leading every focused teacher has ready in order to direct meaningful discussion on an identified topic. Look at how He

prepared them to arrive at the answer. He asked, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" In essence the question is, "What is the heard-knowledge or the common knowledge you have about me?" The disciples reported what the knowledge regarding His identity was at that time. The Master-Teacher did not allow them to rest with that knowledge. He wanted more. Next He asked, "But who do you say that I am?" which translates, "But who do you know Me to be?" They had been with Him, observed Him and heard Him closer than anyone else and therefore ought to have had a formed opinion of their own and not parroted a social answer. It was only when they gave their own conclusion that the Teacher commended the right answer. This is the model of a good teacher-led learning, that is, making the pupil bring up a personalized answer.

This then is the principle we derive from this Caesarea episode: Learning is best when it is self-figured out.

Give the leading question, sit back and let them come after the answer themselves. Ask pupils to start with what is known information; get them to use self-obtained new data and personal observations; and finally make a studied conclusion. Affirm the right answer while allowing every other conceived answer to be expressed and giving encouraging comments if possible. This way the answer they have excavated themselves is owned by them, while a told answer belongs to someone else.

In my classroom I have tried several ways to implement this 50-50 ratio model, but the overriding principle is to speak as less as possible and allow the process of self-learning maximum time. It plays out in different ways depending

on what type of class it is, how much time is available, and how hard the topic is. Since giving leads is a key to the success of a maximum student activity class, it requires the teacher to spend significant time ahead of class to prepare engaging activities that will promote learning of the topic. One of my regular ways of starting discussion on a topic is to pair off students and ask them to ask each other what they know about the topic, encouraging them to ask for clarifications and reasons for their answer. This gets everyone to realize their own state of knowledge of the topic at that point. Besides, this exercise gets everyone engaged in thinking about the matter. Then I ask one or two pairs to give the class brief comments that will enlighten the class. Then after necessary definitions and meanings of the subject have been explained to the class, I assign every pair different questions/statements/tasks related to the topic to discuss and understand or solve. Or the same problem can be given to all the pairs. They are told that after a certain time of pair discussion, they will give their conclusions or answers to another team who will critically examine their solution or explanation. So the next step is to bring two pairs together to take turns showing or explaining their answers/solutions to one another. Each pair shares their explanation or solution to the other pair who have to be convinced and satisfied with the answer. They are told that the

purpose of two pairs coming together is to help each other improve or rectify each other's answers. At last, the teacher asks the groups of four to all give their unified answers in turns. In this way, the collective findings provide the points and also new ideas for the best answer or solution which the teacher writes out on the board. To wrap up the lesson, the teacher makes final comments and confirms the correct answer or answers. Interactive learning serves the 50-50 model well, and can involve a big class and even a small class well. It works with college and university students too.

The significance of the fifty-fifty rule is to make learning a 50-50 responsibility between the teacher and the students, and not put the onus entirely on the teacher. This not only takes the pressure off teachersto just fill up time, but, more importantly, encourages pupils to ignite up to enjoyable learning. The facts of the world are not explained by just one idea but with different ideas, so instead of asking learners to spout photocopy ideas, they should be encouraged to explore different ideas to add to the multi-faceted facts of life!

All of what I have been saying is summed up by William Arthur Ward:

“The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates.

The great teacher inspires”.



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Equips the **TEACHERS** to face the **CHALLENGES**

Experience shared by

A. BENJAMIN,
PRINCIPAL ,STANES SCOOOL(CBSE), COIMBATORE

Teaching is a profession for people who have patience, endurance and tolerance. This profession is not an easy one as we ought to prepare students as good citizens for our nation. As a teacher, I love to take responsibility and accountability to do justice to the students who are entrusted to my care. As education is a lifelong process, it becomes mandatory from our part that we need to update our knowledge and skills in order to meet the expectation of the students and the parents.

We strive to help our children to grow in character and wisdom and experience the greatest joy when we see the work of Christ directly in their hearts. Only teacher can change lives with just the right mix of Chalk and Challenges.

1. Listen to the Students

There are a lot of challenges in handling the students and channelizing them for a better future. Today's generation are being diverted by various inputs like Internet, Social Media etc. Students are reluctant to listen to what we say.

Therefore teachers need to find out different strategies to handle them. The best part of handling the students is “Listening to them and to their problems” and to help them out.

2. Image of God

I strongly acknowledge that the teachers are the role model for the younger generation. In order to bring out the hidden talents of teachers, various workshops and interactive sessions are being conducted in association with Evangelical Teachers Fellowship (ETF). All staff of our school actively take part in these sessions irrespective of their religion, caste and creed. This enables our teachers to be the role models and to reflect the image of God.

3. Christ Centred School

“Teach my people the difference between the holy and the common, and show them how to distinguish between the unclean and the clean” (Ezekiel 44:23).

As a principal I always try to discover the talents of every teacher and give them opportunity to showcase their talents. I motivate my staff to share

the word of God in the morning before we start the day's work. Everyone come out with beautiful messages thus making our school environment as **Christ Centred School**. Parents acknowledge their ward's spiritual growth, behaviour at home, respect to others and above all the basic Christian values.

4. Teaching as a divine calling.

Apostle Paul states that when Christ rises to heaven, He gave us special gifts, including the gift of serving as pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:8, 11)

Teaching then is not merely a job, a career, nor a profession. It is a divine calling. As we respond to that call, we become God's certified representatives, with authority and responsibility.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your

hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4: 6, 7)

We resolute our transformation by this word of God, to accomplish our destiny. These are the traits that are essential to a Christian life, **when you bear lot of fruit it brings glory to my Father, It shows that you are my disciples (John 15:8)**

All these characters can't be cultivated on our own, they are the fruit of the Spirit and He is the one who will produce them in our lives, when we are close to him. Surrender our lives to him and ask him to work in us.

I sincerely thank Dr. Caroline Michael and Dr. Santha Prabhuraj who always encourage us to realize **"Teaching is God's Calling"**.



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ETF Local unit, Sholapur, Maharashtra

It was decided during the inauguration of ETF in Sholapur on 26th January 2018 to meet as a local unit on 4th Saturday of every month. God in His abundant grace enabled us to gather for the first local unit meeting on 24th February 2018 and the second meeting on 24th March 2018 at Ebenezer Church, Sholapur. Praise God for about 27 teachers could be present in the first local unit meeting. The local unit Fellowship time involved Praise and worship, activity time for teachers, Bible Study and Intercessory prayer time. Praise God for the leadership of Mrs. Flora Bawadekar, Mrs. Sunita Paul, Ms. Deena Asade and Deena Mhetre and for the help and encouragement of the Presbyter, Ebenezer Church. A half a day seminar was arranged on 28th February 2018 on the Topic, "Power of word: Biblical Truth with scientific proof" and Dr. Anil Kumar Katti delivered the talk. In April, a few members gathered to form the ETF Solapur local unit committee to organize further ETF programs in and around Solapur in the next academic year.

Coimbatore Local unit, Tamil Nadu

God gave an opportunity to Introduce ETF Ministry in St Jude's Pub School, Kotagiri on 16th January 2018, to the pastor Manoharan, St. Michaels CSI Church, Tuticorin on 24th March 2018 and in CSI Matric School for Girls, Race, Coimbatore on 11th April 2018. Praise God for the opening of ETF ministry in Stanes School in CBSE & in Equity sections on 26th April '18. Awaiting positive response in future.

-Santhaprabhuraj

PRaise and



Head Quarters

Day 1 Praise God for His goodness and kindness for enabling the new office bearers and the members of the Executive Committee to start executing their responsibilities. Pray for the Executive committee to be held on 15th and 16th June 2018 at Hyderabad. Pray for all the EC members to attend and for the plans to be discussed. Pray for all the resolutions and decisions to be made during the EC.

Day 2 Praise and thank God for the Dr.Caroline Michael (General Secretary) and her husband Dr. Michael Faraday for their leadership, prayer and support for the ETF ministry and pray for their family. Praise God for the leadership, prayer and support rendered by Mr. Theophilus Anandam (President) and pray for His family and ministry responsibilities. Praise God for the leadership, prayer and support rendered by Prof. V.D.S. Chandrasekar (Treasurer) and his wife Mrs. Beulah Chandrasekar and pray for their family and ministry.

Day 3 Pray for Dr.Porkodi Prabakaran (Vice President) and for her family for God's comfort and peace as her husband was called Home a couple of months back. Dr.Prabakaran retired as the professor of English in Chennai. Praise God for Dr.Prabakaran's life and for his faith. Praise God for Dr.Santha Prabhuraj (Joint Secretary -South Region) and his wife Prof. Annie Crystal for their constant involvement prayer and support in the ministry and pray for their family. Praise God for the continued support and encouragement of Dr.Rajeev Tyagi (Joint Secretary –North Region) and pray for his family.

Day 4 Praise God for the sponsors and donors of ETF who support the ministry financially and pray for God's blessings on them .Pray for the financial needs of ETF H.Q. Pray for the appointment of committed and efficient office assistant to help at H.Q.

ETF Publication Trust

Day 5 Praise God for enabling the team Prof. V.D.S. Chandrasekar, Dr.Caroline Michael , Dr. Michael Faraday and Dr. Daniel Sathiaraj to bring out the first issue of *Chalk and Chai* in the year 2018 . Praise God for enabling Mr.Theophilus Anandam to despatch the same successfully from Hyderabad. Praise God for the encouraging words and comments received through mobiles and emails from the readers of *Chalk and Chai*. Pray that the *Chalk and Chai* should always reach the subscribers safely without any delay. Praise God for the people who contribute articles and sponsor through advertisements for *Chalk and Chai*. Pray for the formation of new members for the Editorial Board of *Chalk and Chai* issue so that publication of *Chalk and Chai* will be a source of encouragement and edification to the readers.

Day 6 Praise God for the resources available in the ETF study centre and books published by ETF Publication Trust. Praise God for the good location at Hyderabad to function the ETF study centre. Pray that God will enable the ETFPT to publish more books in English and Vernacular languages that will benefit the teaching community and educators to get equipped in their profession. Pray for the related financial needs.

Conferences/seminars / integrated program /Educational institutions and students

Day 7 Pray for the planning of conducting the Intensive Teachers' Training Course (**ITTC**) for the Christian teachers who are working in

Christian Schools in remote areas of the country. Pray for Dr.Abhi Sethia (EC member, Delhi) for planning the first ITTC program to be conducted in Delhi from 15th May to 15th June 2018. Praise God for Dr.Adella Paul (EC member, Chennai),Dr. Lily Stuart and Dr. Rachel Jebaraj who are helping out in the planning of curriculum and syllabus for ITTC course.

Pray for the planning of national seminars, conferences during this year 2018 that it will bring enrichment of fellowship and motivation to mobilize teachers and educators to build His kingdom far and wide in the country.

Pray for the auxiliary Staff Partner Training Conference, Principals and Administrators' Conference and Prayer conference to be planned periodically in different parts of the country.

Day 8 Pray for all the teachers who are involved in valuation work and Principals and teachers involved in admission and preparation for the new academic year. Pray for the students who are awaiting the results of board exams so that they will accept what they have secured according to the will of God and get admission. Pray for the parents as well that they may yield to the will of God regarding the future of their children when they seek admissions in the desired course. Pray for the results of Board exams that the Christian institutions will be ranked higher in the academic standards with integrity and for the glory of God.

Andhra Pradesh

Day 9 Praise God for the A.P state council and pray for Mr.Sai Baba (EC member), Mr.Vara Prasada Rao, Dr.Darshan and Mr.Simon Satyanarayana , Mrs. Jessie Paul (EC member) and all who take the leadership in building up the ETF ministry in their region. Praise God for the support and encouragement of teachers of Good Shepherd School, **Nandhiyal**. Pray for the local committee anchoring by Sis. Jessy Paul as they are hosting the 3rd. State level Conf. from 8-11 May. Pray that the teachers at **Anakapalli** understand the vision of ETFI and involve more in the ministry. Pray for a new committee to be formed in **Tuni** and work for Him prayerfully. Pray that God should provide good contacts in **Rajahamundry and Eluru**. Praise God for Bro. Sanjeev at **Kaikaluru** who is willing to involve in the ministry. Pray for Bro. Srikanth at **Machilipatnam** who is planning to involve in his area. Praise God for Bro. Samuel., DEO of the **Nellore** district and pray that God will help him to involve in the ministry. Pray for Bro.anilraj and Mr.Vikram in **Gooty** who are interested in ETF ministry. Praise God for Dr. Prabhudas who is involving in the ETF ministry at **Kurnool**

State Conference – Andhra Pradesh

Praise God for the 3rd A.P. Christian Teachers' Conference held at Nandyal Kurnool District, A.P. Praise God for the organizers: Mr.Saibaba, Mrs.Jessie Paul, Mr. Paul Devakumar and Mrs. Jecintha and the leadership of teaching and

non teaching faculty of Good Shepherd School . Praise God for all provision, protection peace and presence throughout the conference. Praise God for the 70 participants Praise God for many rededicated their lives to serve Him faithfully and pray that they may able to stand firm in faith and in their commitment to involve in ETF ministry.

Telengana

Day 10 Praise God for the local unit members of Hyderabad - Mr.Theophilus Anandam, Mrs. Manitha Esther, Mrs.Kasthuri Samuel, Dr.Daniel Sathiaraj, Mrs.Pansy Sathiaraj, Rev.Nallaraj Edward and Mrs.Grace Nallaraj, Dr. Shrvanthi Udaykumar and Dr.Uma Joseph, Dr.Joseph, Dr. Spurgeon Anadaraj and Dr.Hannah and Dr.Saroj Cherian. Pray for their families and pray for all ETF members who take the leadership in building up the ETF ministry in their region. Pray for many new members to involve in the local unit. Pray for the Telengana State Council to be formed. Pray for the ETF ministry to expand in different districts of A.P.

Praise God for the prayer, support, encouragement and involvement rendered by Dr. Caleb P. Rayapati, Director & Correspondent of Vijayalakshmi Memorial Stone Bridge School, Hyderabad. Pray for the two days ETF workshop “Joy of Teaching-Learning” to be conducted in their school on 30th and 31st May 2018 and for the facilitators Dr.Caroline Michael, Dr.Michael Faraday and Mr.Saibaba .

Tamil Nadu

Day 11 Praise God for the Tamil Nadu State Council . Pray for Dr.C.K.Rajasingh , Dr.Adella Paul, Dr.Santha Prabhuraj, Mrs.Lydia Devasagayam , Dr.Michael Faraday, Dr.Caroline Michael, Rev. S.D.Premkumar, Dr.Emerald Solomon, Dr.Suresh George, Mrs.Minoo Suresh, Mrs. Constance, Mr.Devanbu for their constant involvement , leadership and prayer support in building up ETF ministry at different levels in Chennai and in different parts of Tamil Nadu. Pray for the local units at Tambaram and Chennai to meet regularly every month.

Day 12 Praise God for the constant support rendered by St.Mark's Matriculation School, Tambaram, Shalom Matriculation High School at Pavoorchatram, Mullai Academy in Dharmapuri ,Lady Doak College at Madurai, Bishop Heber College at Trichy, Keren school at Checkanurani, Trinity Academy at Krishnagiri, MCC Higher Sec School, MCC Matriculation School, MCC Campus School ,Madras Christian College and Women's Christian College and Gnanodaya group of schools at Chennai.

Pray for Vellore ETF unit to get strengthened up under the leadership of Prof.V.D.S. Chandrasekhar and Prof. Noah Eastman. Pray for the Kings and Queens Residential school , Arakkonam who educate the missionary children and for their financial needs to be met. Praise God for their involvement in ETF ministry.

State Conference – Tamil Nadu

Day 13 Praise God for the 16th Christian Teachers' Conference (T.N) held from 17th to 20th May 2018 at Vagamon, Kerala. Praise God for the organizers : Dr.Caroline Michael, Dr.Adella Paul and Dr.Santha Prabhuraj . Praise God for the 53 participants. Praise God for bringing participants from 7 states of India. Praise God for the mission the thematic expositions which helped the participants to rededicate their lives and for the challenge sessions which served as an eye opener to serve the Lord in reaching the unreached places.

North East

Day 14 Pray for the follow up work planned in June 2018 in **Makunda Christian High School**, in Bazzaricherra in Karimganj District in **Assam**. Praise God for the leadership of Dr. Ann Miriam Correspondent of the school. Pray for Dr.Ann and her family who are serving in the Makunda campus for more than two decades. 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 ETF prayer cell to be started there under the leadership of Mr.Daniel, Mr.Muthu and Mr.Murali.

Day 15 Praise God for the leadership of Mrs.Nirupama, Principal ,Mt.Calvary School and her daughter Mrs.Praisya Rongharpi, Diphu, Karbi Anglong Dt., **Assam**. Pray that God will enable the teachers of Mt.Calvary school to start a ETF prayer cell. Pray for a

regional program to be organized in Assam coordinated by Mrs.Nirupama (EC member) and the Assam EGF president Mr.L.K.Muchahary and other EGF leaders Mr.Moses Hanse, Principal of Christian English High School and Mr.Jam Dou Thang, Professor in Diphu Government College.

Day 16 Praise God for the open doors in **Tripura**. Pray for the equipping program for teachers to be organized for the school teachers in Tripura under the leadership of Dr.John Zachariah and coordinated by Rev.Bijily Tripura Misson leader and Mr.Ajendra, Principal, Thomas English School, Purbahanpara in Tripura.

Praise God for the open doors for ETF in **Nagaland** through Mrs.P.Angbhenla Phom from Longleng, Nagaland, the director of the Phom Lempong School (PLS) and the Woman Secretary of Phom Baptist Christian Association (PBCA). Pray that God will restore her health completely. Pray for the planning of ETF program in Nagaland.

Day 17 Praise God for Mrs.Wellorich Sohkhlet, Principal, Anderson Hr.Sec.School, West Khasi Hills, **Meghalaya** for her leadership in ETF ministries. Pray for ETF local unit to be established in Meghalaya

Praise God for and Pray for Blesso Montessori School at Phalee village, Ukhrul, **Manipur**. Pray for Mr.Kenneth Muinao, Principal of the school to be blessed and encouraged.

Praise God for Mr.Wahengpam Lokendro Singh, and Mrs.Daisy Lokendro, Director St.John's English School at Nambal, **Manipur**. Pray for God's provision and protection for that school. Pray for the opportunities for ETF ministry in these places.

Praise God for Dr.L.N.Tluanga, Aizawl, **Mizoram** for his prayer, support and involvement in ETF ministry. Pray that many teachers from this region would serve the Lord faithfully.

Maharashtra

Day 18 Praise God for the vibrant leadership of Mrs. Flora Bawadekar (EC member) and Mrs. Sunita Paul at **Sholapur**. Praise God for the ETF local unit which meets on the fourth Saturday of every month. Praise God for enabling the ETF local unit to organize a seminar. Praise God for the open doors for ETF in **Pune Dt.** Pray for the ETF program that has to be planned at Mary Memorial school, **Daund**, Pune Dt. and at Schools in Pandita Ramabai Mukti Mission (PRMM) campus, **Kedagaon**, Pune Dt. Maharashtra. Pray for good committed leaders to voluntarily work for Maharashtra ETF's development and flourishment. Pray for a revival among all Christian institutions thru' ETF. Pray for all the ETF members of Solapur to work with commitment.

Day 19 Praise God for Dr.Yardy English High school, **Umri**, Maharashtra for all their support and prayer for ETF ministry. Pray for the need of good teachers for this school to be met. Pray for the YCLT English Medium School at **Yuvatmal**,

Maharashtra that the teachers will serve the Lord faithfully. Pray for the planning of ETF program in Amaravathy District and Mumbai. Praise God for the organizers Dr.Kulothungan, MVM and Dr.Ganesh Pandey

Odisha

Day 20 Praise God for the open doors for ETF in Odisha. Praise God Adoni Public School, in Daspur, a remote village 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 in their academics.

Pray for Mr. and Mrs. John Manohar founders of Elmachsi Mission school at a place about 20kms from Daspur. and Mr. and Mrs. Joy Kutty founder of El Nissi Mission School, Dharamgarh, Odisha who are planning to organize ETF programs in their places.

Praise God for Mr.Rathnakar, Principal and Mr.Thavamani, Vice Principal Anand Niketan, Lamtaput, Odisha for their involvement in ETF.

Pray for Mrs.Ivy, IMS English School, Malkangiri, Odisha for **Gujarat**

Day 21 Praise God for the opportunities for ETF to launch in Gujarat. Praise God for the Joy of Teaching – Learning workshop conducted in Thomas English School, Jhawda, Dang Dt. Praise God for this residential school and the new buildings for the hostels. Praise God

for the leadership of the principal Jyothi Nirmalabai and Mr.Pushparaj and pray for their ministry and family. Pray for the teachers of the school to be committed to be effective and efficient teachers. Pray for the planning of ETF programs in other schools in Dang District and other parts of Gujarat. Praise God for the leadership of FMPB leader Mr.Christopher for all his encouragement and help in coordinating programs for ETF.

Bihar and Jharkand

Day 22 Praise God for the open door for ETF to minister at Bihar in partnership with Bihar Christian Church under the leadership of Dr.S.D. Ponraj. Pray for the quality improvement of the 40 tuition centres and the teachers.

Praise God for the opportunities for ETF to minister at Jharkhand under the leadership of Mrs. Sheela Ponraj, Correspondent, Shalom School, Madhupur, Jharkand and Mr.Joseph Ponraj (EC member). Pray for their ministry through education in reaching the unreached places in Jharkand.

Praise God for Mr.Paul Samuel, Principal, Duncan academy, Raxaul, Bihar for their constant encouragement and support in ETF ministry and pray for all the needs of the school especially for the improvement of the infra structure of the school building and special grace and guidance for the teachers and administrators.

Uttar Pradesh

Day 23 Praise God for Mr.Daniel and Mrs. Selvi Daniel , founders of Mizpah Christian school at Orai, Bihar for their support and involvement in ETF ministry. Pray for the protection of their school. Pray that God will open doors for ETF in different parts of U.P.

Uttarkhand

Day 24 Praise God for Mr. Andriyas Singh ,Grace Academy(EC member) for his involvement and leadership in coordinating ETF programs in **Dehradun** and other districts of Uttarkhand.

Praise God for Mr.Newton Benjamin , Principal ,Grace Academy, Dehradun and for all their support, encouragement and involvement in ETF ministry . Pray for the missionary children studying in that school and all the teachers to excel in their profession.

Praise God for the schools Bharat Susamachar Samiti under the leadership of Mr.Lephen Kumar , Dehradun for their support ,involvement and encouragement in the ETF ministry. Pray that God will provide teachers for their school.

Praise God for Mr.Emmanuel Rathnaraj ,Principal Shishya Public School, Dehradun for his involvement and encouragement in ETF ministries . Pray for God's guidance and wisdom as he leads the school.

Punjab

Day 25 Praise God for the visit of Dr.Caroline Michael to Amritsar and Jalandhar in Punjab. Praise God for

Mr.Sreenivasan for all his help in ETF ministry. Praise God for Bisop Samantaroy for his prayer, support and encouragement for ETF ministry. Praise God for the open doors for ETF ministry in the educational institutions under the diocese of Amritsar.Pray for Mrs.Vidhupriya Chakravarty Principal and Secretary Board of Education, St.Thomas School ,Simla for planning and coordinating ETF programs in the educational institutions under the diocese of Amritsar.

Praise God for the Good Shepherd English school at Badhni kalan in Moga District, Pray for Mr. Seenivasan for God's wisdom and guidance to bring up the school to the glory of God. Pray that all the needs for the school will be met.

Praise God for Sacred Heart School, Moga, Punjab . Praise God for the support and encouragement rendered by Mr.Jebakumar, the Correspondent and Mrs.Vijaya Jebakumar, the Principal. Pray for the needs of that school and who helps in connecting with teachers in Punjab.

Karnataka

Day 26 Praise God for the leadership of Mrs.Vinni Thomas (EC member), Mrs.Rene Stanly, Mrs. Cinthia and for Mrs.Nina and Reena who are regularly meeting for ETF prayer fellowship Praise God for Mrs.Augusta Paul for her constant support and involvement. Pray for the organizing of a promotional meeting for ETF at Bangalore under the leadership of Mrs.Vinni Thomas and Mr.Arul Prakash (EGF).

Kerala

Day 27 Praise God for the involvement and support rendered by Dr. John Zachariah, Kerala and Mr. Stanly, Pilgrim Retreat Centre, **Vagamon**, Kerala who are helping in connecting with teachers and educational institutions. Praise God for Dr.C.S.C. Devadass Principal, Malabar Institute of Technology, **Kannur** for his prayer support and encouragement for ETF ministry. Pray that God will use him more as a prayer warrior for the salvation of many souls. Praise God for the new contacts Dr.Viji Thomas and Dr.P.C.Thomas and Mrs.Neena Thomas for their involvement in ETF ministry. Praise God for the Pilgrim retreat home,Vagamon and pray for Mr.Stanly Johns and Mrs.Fanny who are source of support and encouragement for ETF ministry.Pray for their family and their ministry among families.

Delhi

Day 28 Praise God for the newly formed Delhi State Council. Pray that Dr.Rajeev Tyagi (Joint Secretary North Region) and Dr.Abhi Sethia (EC member) may be able to organize innovative program in the North especially in Delhi. Pray that many teachers in the capital may be able to join ETF to conduct workshops in the unreached places in North. Praise God for the contact of Mrs.Nalini who is interested in involving in ETF ministry.

Pray for the planning of Intensive Teachers' Training Course to be held at Delhi from 15th May 2018 to 15th June 2018 under the leadership of Dr.Abhi Sethia and coordinated by

Dr. Caroline Michael and Dr. Adella Paul

West Bengal

Day 29 Praise God for Deki O. Panlook at **Kalimpong** for her leadership in organizing program for ETF. Pray for open doors for ETF in the schools Dr.Graham's Homes, Scottish Universities' Mission Institution (SUMI) and Mt.Carmel School at Kalimpong.

Pray for Ms.Sreelekha Rai, Principal ,Immanuel International Academy (IIA) at **Silikuri** . Praise God for Mr.Mark Taylor for the ministry of educating the unprivileged children of at Silikuri. Pray for God's protection and provision for their needs in that place.

Pray for Ms.Roma Prodhan, 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 minister in the CNI schools where about 200 teachers are working.

Pray for the Assemblies of God Schools in **Kolkata**. Pray for the follow up by ETF to be carried out in the different districts of West Bengal.

Day 30 Pray specially for ETF to get established in all the states of India and many teachers to get trained to be effective and efficient in their profession as teachers. Pray that in the coming days ETF has to develop access to reach even unreached schools and areas in Villages and many teachers to get mobilized to make mission trips to the unreached places of India to educate and encourage. Pray for moral values to

be cultivated in children through teachers and teachers to be good role models. Pray for the unity among the Christian teachers regardless of denominations for God's kingdom

Day 31 Pray for the education policy of India .Pray that the truth of God would permeate. Pray that government will give freedom to teach Bible in Christian schools. Pray for the protection Christian Schools from the Government and wicked people especially when they stand for the Biblical principles like not practising YOGA ,Puja etc. Pray that many Christian teachers may be able

to integrate faith in their subject. Pray for authorities of Christian educational institutions to function with integrity and fear of God and not to compromise with world views. Pray for the Christian teachers to get equipped in their subject knowledge and teaching authority and work with commitment so that they serve as witnesses for Christ in this generation. Pray for the millions of students across the country. Pray for the students that they may be able to know the Truth through a Christian teacher who can impact their lives.

REPORT ON ETFI- AP. 3rd STATE CHRISTIAN TEACHERS' CONFERENCE – NANDYAL 8th May to 11th May 2018

The 3rd AP state Christian Teachers' Conference was started with prayer and praise and worship sessions led by Good Shepherd School teachers, Nandyal. The Presidential address delivered by Mr. Saibaba highlighted the Lord's concerns on teaching. The Bible expositions by Bro. P. A. Swamy on all three days from Isaiah 6:1-8 emphasized on the need for a good teacher to have an encounter with God and from Deu.34:5-12 emphasized on Mighty Moses – His commitment, character, commission, communication and from 2 Cor. 5:1-9 emphasised on 'Successful Christian Teacher'. Dr.Caroline Michael, General Secretary of ETFI shared her journey in ETF ministry which was quite motivating and encouraging. In the talk session, Dr. Santha Prabhuraj, Associate General Secretary of Southern Regions of India shared about "Christian Teacher as a Steward". Dr. Prabhudas delivered a talk on "Christian Teacher's Evangelistic approach". The third & fourth professional talks were by Dr. Karunakar on "Christian Teacher as a builder of nation" and by Dr. Caleb Rayapati, Hyderabad on "Christian teacher as a parent". The evening devotions were given by Bro. Swamy on all the three days.

On the final day the challenging message given by Bro. Swamy was on "Christian teacher-war field". Most of the participants were moved, took decision to stand for the Living Lord under any circumstances. During the sharing time, every delegate expressed their willingness to involve individually as a teacher, as family, to receive blessings of the Savior by participating, promoting and expanding the Lord's will through the ETFI ministry.

Special thanks to the arrangements and hospitality and leadership of Mrs. Jessy Paul, Correspondent, Good Shepherd School and thanks to the Carmel Prayer House. Special word of thanks and appreciation goes to Mr. Balachandra Reddy - Director of the conference who led every session in a poetic, rhythmic, and preparative way. Nearly 70 delegates participated.

SAIBABA .K
President-ETF-AP.



The ABC of the RTE

Open-minded adoption of the RTE Act's enabling provisions can radically transform school education

Free and compulsory education of children in the 6 to 14 age group in India became a fundamental right when, in 2002, Article 21-A was inserted in the 86th Amendment to the Constitution. This right was to be governed by law, as the state may determine, and the enforcing legislation for this came eight years later, as the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2010, or the RTE Act.

With examples from over a hundred countries having various and similar pieces of legislation or regulations already in place, there were practices drawn from similar experiences. Since its enactment, the RTE Act has been lauded and disparaged. But there has been concern not only over its provisions but also about the lacunae in the school education system. However, there are clauses in the Act which have enormous catalytic potential but

that have gone largely untouched and unnoticed. A focus on three of these provisions can result in an immediate and discernible impact.

The RTE Act is a game-changer in that it establishes that the onus to ensure free and compulsory education lies on the state. However, the 'compulsory' and 'state liability' part needs to be imbibed by the educational bureaucracy, which is now lacking.

Focus on retention

Though the Act envisaged that the state, i.e. State governments and panchayats, would aggressively ensure that each child is brought into the schooling system and also "retained" for eight years, it has been business as usual. Unfortunately, tracking dropouts and preparing and mainstreaming them into age-appropriate classes has been subsumed into existing scheme activities. Even seven years after its enactment, there are still children on the streets, in fields and in homes. Therefore, the problem now is more about dropouts than children who were never enrolled. Strategies to ensure retention need to change from the earlier approach of enrolling the un-enrolled. As children out of the fold of schooling are the most hard to reach, such as girls, the disabled, orphans and those from single parent families, the solutions have to be localised and contextualised.

Though criticised as an elitist or input-driven approach, the RTE Act prescribes basic minimum standards for a school such as provision for toilets, drinking water and classrooms.

Pupil-Teacher ratio

The most critical requirement, which has also got the least public attention, is the pupil-teacher ratio (PTR). It is impractical to expect quality education without this. According to the Education Department's data, under the Unified District Information System for Education (U-DISE) database 2015-16, 33% of the schools in the country did not have the requisite number of teachers, as prescribed in the RTE norms, for PTR at the school level. The percentage of schools that were PTR-compliant varied from 100% in Lakshadweep to 16.67% in Bihar. This did not factor in subject-wise teachers at the upper primary level as this is treated differently in each State. All other forward-looking provisions of the Act such as continuous assessment, a child learning at her own pace, and 'no detention' policy are contingent on a school with an adequate number of teachers. No meaningful teaching-learning is possible unless trained teachers are physically present at school. Teachers also need to avail of leave or undergo training, so that 'two teachers per school' is a basic requirement.

States shy away from recruiting or posting more teachers keeping in mind higher salaries and finances, but PTR at the school level is the most critical of all inputs. Teacher provisioning should be the first option to fund as no educationally developed country has built up a sound schooling foundation without a professionally-motivated teaching cadre in place. In States with an adequate overall number of teachers, their positioning or posting requires rationalisation according to the number of students. However, this

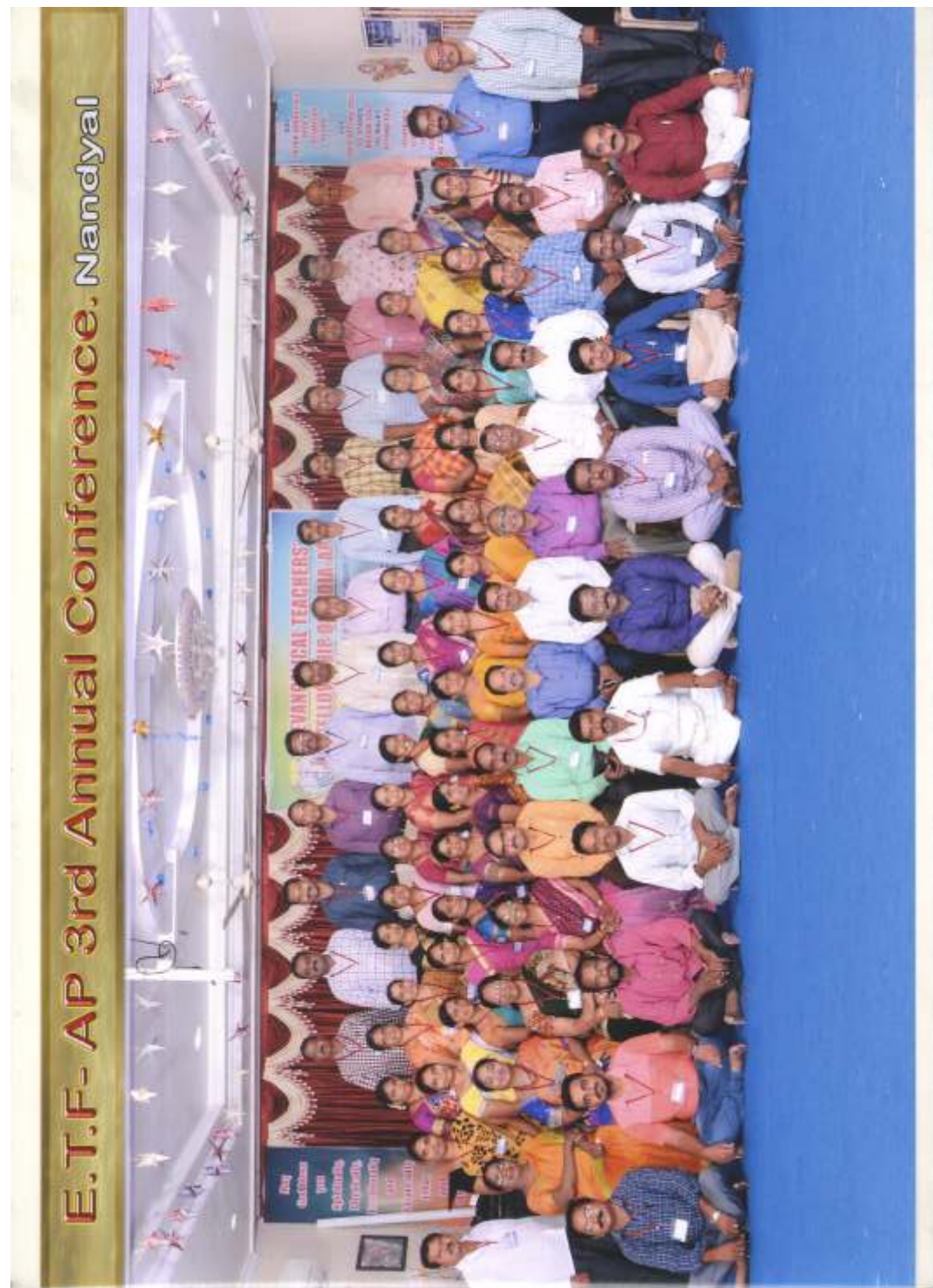
gets more lip service than attention as teacher transfers remain a grey area in most States.

The third provision is that the academic calendar will be decided by the local authority, which, for most States and Union Territories, is the panchayat. This provision recognises the vast cultural and regional diversities within the country such as local festivals, sowing and harvesting seasons, and even natural calamities as a result of which schools do not function academically. It is socially acceptable that priority will be given to such a local event and not schooling. Not all festivals and State holidays declared by the

State headquarters may be locally relevant. So if panchayats, perhaps at the district level, decide the working days and holidays, this would not only exponentially increase attendance and teaching-learning but also strengthen local panchayats, being closest to the field, to take ownership of their schools. They would be responsible in ensuring the functioning of the prescribed instruction days. For inexplicable reasons, the educational bureaucracy has not allowed the decentralisation of academic schedules even in districts.

A law is as good or as bad as its implementation. It is unfair to blame legislation alone for the sad state of affairs without implementing it in full measure, especially its enabling provisions. Open-minded adoption of these provisions, keeping the child in mind, can go a long way in radically transforming our school education sector.

The Hindu, January 12, 2018





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ADMISSION OPEN FOR THE SESSION 2018-19

**Classes : Pre Nursery, Nursery, L.K.G.,
(SOUTH INDIAN STAFF) U.K.G. And Std.1 (SOUTH INDIAN STAFF)**

Registration For Admission Begins

**Address : Near Bhindran Wala Gurduara, Rauke Road,
Badhni Kalan (MOGA)**

Cont.: 98763-54782, 9592006258