










# chalk AND chai

Apr - Jun 2019 | Vol: 42 | No: 2

**Teacher as Co-laborers with Christ**



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## FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK

Gifted with a good voice by the Creator, having the privilege of learning music right from my childhood and being a Chorister from my school days, singing and music have become a part of my life in any situation. I have always enjoyed explaining the Physics principles which play a vital role in music and sound. Music sounds a little empty if notes are only played one at a time. Playing more than one note at the same time is called **harmony** and this interaction between different notes played together that gives music its richness and colour. Tuning of a guitar is one of the best examples to understand the Harmony. When the guitar is tuned perfectly and the chords are played accordingly, the combination of notes will be pleasant and sometimes a sweet sound to the ear. Similar pleasant effect of music (**consonant** sound) is experienced in Vocal Harmonies where multiple singers sing simultaneously on varying notes and pitches synchronising with the melody of the song.

Friends, in this issue of Chalk and Chai we have brought out the theme

"Teachers as co-labourers with Christ". The Bible says, "For we are God's co-workers in God's service; You God's field, God's building. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care (1Cor.3:9,10).

I would like to share a few thoughts how the **Harmony** can explain the characteristics to be the co-labourers or co-workers with God.

**H** – We are called to work with Christ by being a co-labourer with Him. To merely be the Lord's servant is easier than being the Lord's co-worker like singing in unison is easier than vocal harmonies. We are called to work **Hard**. The multiple singers in vocal harmonies have strenuous practice working towards the varying notes and pitches synchronising with each other. We are called to be co-labourers with Christ not with stunted work ethic with the expectation that very little work is required in the kingdom. To work with Christ as His co-labourer is a training process.

**A** – Harmony happens with varying notes and pitches which are bound to the melody or tune of the song. When we are called to be the co-labourers with Christ to build His kingdom on this earth, we are called to work with others as co-labourers. The efficiency and fruitfulness of our work is measured not only by our **Availability** to God but also with our **availability to work with others** who have different personalities, talents and skills. We may work together with others and yet still not be a co-worker. It is like walking together on four legs. It may be easier to serve a brother than it is to be his co-worker. To be a co-worker initiates a binding. It is similar to binding our legs together to have three legs and to walk together in a three legged race. It's quite hard unless and until we are bound together in Christ.

### **R - Relationship with God and with others**

If the vocal harmonies are not in tune or the pitch assigned to them or if one string in a guitar is unturned, singing or music will not render a pleasing effect. The lesson on *harmony with God* is a simple way to be inside the government provided by the Lord to walk in tune with God by being in harmony with him and his Word. Two people cannot walk together unless they are in agreement. If they cannot walk together, they cannot work together. This is true not only with **our relationship with God but also with our relationship with others**. If we are not walking in harmony, we are not going in the same direction, our goals are different and the friction grows and communication deteriorates.

### **M – Melody of God's will**

In vocal harmonies the melody or the tune of the song is never erased or removed. In fact harmony provides richness to the melody. As co-labourers of Christ, we are called *at all times* to stay in life giving commission to fulfil the task in God's **will**, the **Melody**. We have to strive to accomplish it every single day.

### **O – Opportunities**

Harmony in music honours each other. There are times when a particular instrument is given importance to be sounded uniquely or preference is given to the singers with certain notes to be sung explicitly and to be heard but no music instrument or singer is allowed to sing harshly or dominate suppressing others' tone and music. To be co-labourers with Christ and others, means that not only are we committed to execute the responsibilities assigned to us but also are called to honour others and provide opportunities and responsibilities to the co-labourers to complete the task of our Master. He who plants and he who waters are one in purpose and each will be rewarded according to his own labour.

### **N – No work**

To bring richness in harmony, music allows entry points and exit points to have rest and intervals for certain instruments in an orchestra or certain voices in vocal harmonies. To be co-labourers with Christ reminds us not to be driven to be work-a-holics. Let us remember that Jesus with whom we are called to work as co-labourers called it the "good portion". (Luke 10:38-42). The

problem with Martha was not that she was working. The problem was that Martha was letting the work dominate her. She was distracted and anxious. She was mad at the world for not working as hard as she was. Her work didn't allow her a single moment to sit at the feet of Jesus. Let it not be so with us in our mission for God and in our family too. Let the work be filled with grace and health. Don't let the harsh, never-satisfied idol of achievement rob us of the good portion every day.

### **Y – Yoke of Christ**

A yoke is literally a wooden beam that connects two working animals. It keeps their pace in-step with one another. We are connected to Jesus in that way. We are connected to his rhythms. We are connected to his broad shoulders that carry the weight. His burden on us, is light. He said that His "**yoke**" is easy. Let Jesus take the weight. When God works, let us work. When God rests, let us have rest. When God withdraws, let us withdraw. When God goes on, let us go on because as co labourers we are connected and bounded by the yoke, Jesus Himself.

In this issue, Dr. John Zachariah brings out the essentials of images of Jesus in His Person as well in His Teachings to be adopted by teachers who wish to be the co-labourers with Christ. Mr. J. S. A. Julius highlights the significance of being the fellow workers with God. The testimony by Mr. Edison emphasises how obeying the voice of God and the word of God helped him to be a fellow worker with God in bringing souls into His kingdom and be a blessing. 'Reflections' by Mr. Ashish Daniel and "Are we led by Heart or Brain?" by Mr. Vijay brings out a few aspects to adopt when we work as co-labourers with Christ.

May God bless us to get tuned with the truth and flow in HARMONY with Him as we strive to work with Christ as His Co-labourers.



**Caroline Michael**  
General Secretary, ETF



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# THINK

*before you*

# SINK



## INCIDENT 1

When I happened to interact with a teenager, he shared about a bitter experience which took place in his life. In an odd effort to describe the scenario, he expressed his hatred to be a part of the institution where his father worked. He went on to explain the kind of insult his father was subjected to by the leader who was his father's superior. He recounted how his dad stood in tears in front of him after being severely berated. While narrating this incident, I noticed his eyes turning red! This incident happened over a year ago; yet, he could not get himself out of this catastrophe.

Having experienced a very similar situation even during my teenage years, I could very certainly relate to him and help out but the negative impact on him due to the incident made me think a lot.

## INCIDENT 2

This incident could be an eye opener!

The leader was retiring. All eyes welled up in tears on the day of his farewell. One of the employees said, "Sir, there is one thing we want to learn from you. You worked here for so many years. Leave aside scolding your subordinates but we have never seen you even shouting at them. We have scolded our subordinates at times when pressure builds around or for other reasons. We want to know about the seed of your patience.

The leader said, "All this materialized due to an incident that goes all the way back to my childhood. My father was working as a lower level employee in an office. He was a very nice person. He was respected very much in our family.

It happened one day that I had gone to my father's office for some

reason when I was in my 4th Standard. I saw that my father was not at his place. I waited outside. After some time, his boss' office door opened and my father came out through the door. I noticed that the fair face of my father had turned red. He went straight to a corner and stood there looking outside through a window. He had not seen me. I went to him and called him slowly. He was taken aback and surprised and turned back to look at me. I saw stream of tears flowing down his eyes. He was slightly disturbed seeing me. He did not find time to wipe away his tears.

Could my father cry anytime?

He was the strongest man in the world for me. It was beyond my wildest imagination that someone could hurt him. I ran straight to the room of the boss. My father kept calling me from behind. But, listening to nothing, I went inside and asked the boss, "Why did you make my father cry?" The boss was also surprised. Thereafter, my father tried to make me understand. But, that day I had decided to take revenge on the boss.

From that day on, I decided that I would study well and become a boss one day but I would not make my subordinates cry at anytime. This is because, they are not only just employees in my office but they are also respected and someone's dear father or brother or somebody in their families and they belong to someone important.

People say it is not possible to control others without scolding them. I say, what is love then for? As it goes beautifully in James 1:20 'Human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires'.

People who come to work are the ones who give their best and devote quality time of the day to work, leaving not much time for their families. They do deserve a better treatment from the people around them.

Ships don't sink because of the water around them; ships sink because of the water that gets into them. Don't let what's happening around you and your circumstances get into your mind and weigh you down.

***Make your life count where peace becomes your priority with no negativity existing around you.***

\*Just because you're angry that doesn't give you the right to be cruel.\*

\*Anger on the other hand doesn't solve anything, it builds nothing, rather it can destroy everything.\*

\*Neurologists claim that every time you resist acting on your anger, you're actually rewiring your brain to be calmer and more loving.\*

\*The less you respond to rude, critical, argumentative people, the more peaceful your life becomes.\*

\*Explain your anger instead of expressing it and you will come up with solutions instead of arguments.\*

Proverbs 29:11 puts it as 'Fools give full vent to their rage but the wise bring calm in the end'.

\*People don't quit organizations, they quit their Boss/Superior. As a leader, do I influence positively or boss around?\*

To my Teenage friends, I can boldly share my life as a testimony of how God can honour us in the same place if we don't sink. Although several incidents during my teenage phase are still afresh, it was not easy, yet I have never allowed them to sink me. Had I allowed myself to sink, I would never have been in God's bigger purpose for my life.

Let me close with one statement which I learnt from my leader.

Since the time I joined as a Project in-charge of a Polytechnic Construction unit and later as its Director, I have been directly reporting to Uncle Augustine Jebakumar. Whenever I shared issues about my subordinates and wanted to vent my anger by taking action, he would beautifully say "If there is a wound in your hand

or elsewhere in the body, would you cut off the hand or that part from the body and remove it or instead would try hard to treat it gently by applying ointment and medicine. Although it may seem that the cutting off is an easier option, on grounds of bringing in a solution, it fails to achieve the necessary. Treating the wound instead with patience and care is the wisest options to bring in a cure, even though it may take quite some time. This understanding has helped me a lot while handling people and reminds me of Proverbs 19:11: 'A person's wisdom yields patience; it is one's glory to overlook an offense'.

We are called to build lives, so let us not cut and throw them away for it is treatable.

**\*Let us Build and not Break.\***



# FELLOW WORKERS with GOD

## A. WHO EXACTLY ARE CHRISTIANS ACCORDING TO PAUL?

### CHRISTIANS ARE SERVANTS (1 Cor. 3: 5)

Paul asks two questions:

"What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul?" Paul and Apollos were only servants through whom the Corinthians had come to believe.

Jesus taught us to be servants, didn't he? Why would Paul want to emphasize that he and Apollos were only servants? How do we view ourselves—as people whom others should serve or as servants for the cause of Christ? Paul, of course, is discussing his and Apollos' service in helping the Corinthians to come to faith.

### CHRISTIANS ARE LABOURERS (1 Cor. 3: 6-7)

*Paul planted the seed, Apollos watered it; but God made it grow (v. 6)*

Planting the seed obviously refers to Paul's work in establishing the church in Corinth and watering refers to Apollos' work with the congregation after Paul's departure. God made it grow.

*Neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God. who makes things grow (v. 7)*

Paul is making the point that because he and Apollos are nothing, they do not deserve the following as those in Corinth were giving to them. It is only God who makes things grow; therefore, only God deserves allegiance, not Paul and not Apollos. Sadly though, today in many congregations allegiance is given to the preacher and not to God.

### CHRISTIANS ARE GOD'S FELLOW WORKERS (1 Cor.3: 8-9)

*The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose (v. 8a)*

Although Paul and Apollos had slightly different roles in Corinth, they



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had the same purpose: the advancement of the Gospel. They were not concerned with their own advancement; they were not concerned with getting a following; they were not concerned with splitting the church in Corinth.

***Each man will be rewarded according to his own labour (v. 8b)***

The idea of being rewarded or punished for our work on earth is a common theme in Scripture but scripture also clearly says, “according to his own labour.”

***We are God's fellow workers (1 Cor.3: 9)***

It is uncertain what Paul means by God's fellow workers, for he could mean two things which are equally true:

1. Paul could mean that he and Apollos worked together for the cause of Christ—this is a point that he made previously when he said that he planted and Apollos watered.

2. Paul could also mean that he and Apollos worked together with God—this is also a point he had made previously when he says that he planted. Apollos watered, and God gave the growth.

Paul says that the Corinthians were God's field, God's building. Paul had already used the agricultural metaphor as he talked about the planting and watering he and Apollos had accomplished. Paul also refers to the Corinthians as God's building.

- We need to ask ourselves what kind of people are we?
- Do we have a servant heart? Do we have a humble heart realizing that the world does not revolve around us?
- Are we working with fellow believers and with God to spread His Word throughout this community?

## **B. GOD'S CALL TO BECOME FELLOW-WORKERS WITH GOD**

### ***I What is God's call for us believers?***

He has called us:

#### **(I) To Live a Holy Life** (1 Thess. 4:7,8).

1 Peter 1:16 is God telling us to be holy just like He is. Without Holiness, no one can see God. This is a general call after the call to repentance. All believers are called to be saints(Rom.1:17). The ultimate purpose of such a call is that we might be conformed in to the image of Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:30).

#### **(ii) To be His Effective Witnesses**

All believers in Christ are called to be God's fellow workers(1 Cor.3:9-15) or co-labourers. We are called to build the Church of God on the foundation which is Jesus Christ. Each man's work will be tested and rewarded by our Lord. Christians cannot just while away time and rest. There is a general call to all believers to be witnesses for Christ and win souls for the Kingdom of God.

## **(III) To Specific Christian Service**

All Believers in Christ are called to be saints(Rom.1:7) and to be witnesses but not all are called to be Apostles(1 Cor. 12:29). Paul carefully points out that he was a genuine apostle(1Cor.9:1,2). He insisted that he was an apostle by the will of God(1 Cor.1:1) and by the call of God(Rom. 1:1). Paul did not choose this high calling(1Cor. 9:16-18). It was not conferred upon him by others(Gal. 1:1).

**Hence the call for specific Christian Service is a very definite call.** There has to be a definite and a clear-cut call from the Master to His service and no one can choose it as a profession. What work we are called is not important; but how we do the job is important. Mordecai was only a gate-keeper but he involved whole heartedly. Let us remember what Jesus told his disciples in John 15:16, “ You did not choose me, but I chose and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit.

***What job we do is not the criteria in life, but how we do it that is important (Esther 4:13,14).***

### **II How does one receive this call?**

A person can receive this call at any time in his/her life after obeying the call to repentance. Most often, the call is a growing conviction based on certain well-defined principles laid down in the Word of God. We need to have:

**(I) An Open Mind** to accept anything the Lord would tell us,

**(ii) An Attentive Ear** that accompanies an open mind,

**(iii) A Pure Heart,**

**(iv) Busy Hands** because any person contemplating even the possibility of a call should begin by getting involved in some kind of a Christian Ministry such as Sunday School, taking Bible Studies for small groups, etc. Jesus said, “We must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; night comes when no man can work”.

**(v) Ready Feet** to be ready to receive and obey the call of God at any time.

## **STEPS TO RESPONDING TO THIS CALL**

### **#1 RECEIVE THE CALL AND OBEY THE CALL BY SAYING “YES” TO THE LORD**

We need to take the first step and receive the call. The Lord will take the next while preparing you for the ministry, showing you what type of ministry you should be doing and where your ministry would be.

### **#2 ACTIVATION OF THIS CALL WHEN THE LORD STARTS WORKING IN US**

This is a developmental process that may take months, even years to reach fulfillment and involves many stages in itself. These are:

- a) **CURIOSITY** which is peaked through something we read in a book, or a causal remark by a friend, or a letter from a missionary, a hymn sung at church, etc.
- b) **INTEREST** to pursue the issue that caught his/her attention, thinking, probably for the first time about missions, attending mission camps, etc.
- c) **UNDERSTANDING** indepth the area of interest.
- d) **ASSURANCE** that is a product of understanding kindling one to share one's heart with others.
- e) **CONVICTION** inspired by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, propelling one forward towards the call.
- f) **COMMITMENT** to the particular call of God.
- g) **ACTION** that is the culmination of the commitment taken, leading to the individual taking preparatory steps to equip oneself for the God given call.

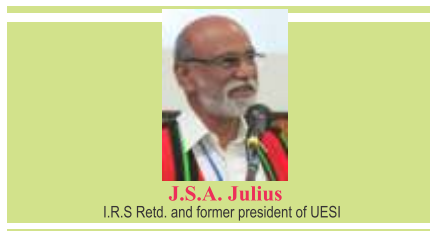
*These 7 Steps involve the whole man. The first three – Curiosity, Interest & Understanding involve the **MIND**. The Next three – Assurance, Conviction & Commitment involve the **HEART**. The last one- Action involves the **WILL**.*

[Article taken from the Bible Study outline by Bro. J.S.A. Julius, I.R.S. Retd. and Former President of UESI presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> Christian Teachers' Conference held at House of Peace in Yercaud Hills from 17th to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2012]

The missionary will be blessed indeed whose mind, heart and will are all involved in his high calling. He will not fail, nor will he become a dropout. He will be a missionary by the Will of God, by the Call of Christ and by the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Have we responded to the call of God in our lives? Are we idle? Satan is sure to find some work for the idle hands to do. If satan prefers idle hands, God certainly does not. God never goes to the lazy or idle people when He needs men for His service. He goes to those who are already at work. He has always called busy people to be His servants, whether full-time or secular.

Attend to the call of Christ Jesus and be blessed and strive to be a blessing unto others. For the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few( Matthew 9:37).



# Brain and Heart



God our creator has wonderfully created the human beings and based on a few research papers on the heart, I would like to share a few thoughts about the Human Brain and the Human Heart from the Biblical perspective.

Although the **HEART** is always considered to be a vital organ to life, recent research on the heart shows that about 40000 neurons could be found in the heart along with a whole network of neurotransmitters with very specific functions making the heart responsible for thinking as a perfect extension of the brain. Moreover, research highlights that there are three unique characteristics of the heart. Firstly, about 67% of the cells in the heart are nerve cells and the heart is the only organ that can send information autonomously to the brain based on the organic stimuli it receives. Secondly, our hearts are responsible for homeostasis which is

one of the vital functions of the heart which guarantees our emotional balance. Thirdly, our hearts are characterized by electromagnetic vibrations (Positive attracting positive and negative attracting negative) found to be 5,000 times more powerful than the brain which makes the heart to function as a powerful communication system better than the brain. These recent research discoveries about the heart is leading the human race into a new understanding that the human heart is more than a rational organ, it's a purely a sensing organ that can make decisions for itself based on certain stimuli and like the neurologists, cardiologists also explain, the heart can act independently from the brain.

The **BRAIN** contains neurons which are responsible for thinking. Brain is responsible for the functions of the five sense organs (eyes, ears, nose, tongue, skin) . Based on these

sense organs we live our daily lives. So our brain is responsible for our thinking (mind) and helps us to communicate with the world. Worldly wisdom, knowledge and understanding are the inputs to the brain from the world.

***While Devil communicates to the Brain through worldly wisdom knowledge and understanding, the Lord ALWAYS communicates to heart through the heavenly wisdom, knowledge and understanding.***

God's priority is always with respect to man's heart. I would like to quote a few examples from the Bible:

- ◆ In Matthew 4:1-11, we read, how satan was tempting Jesus for physical needs like food and social needs like materials and power. Here, while satan communicated to the brain, Jesus communicated to him from His heart and satan ran away.

***“Positive attracts positive and Negative attracts negative” in the heart!***

- ◆ “Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever man sows that shall he also reap” (Gal 6:7)
- ◆ “As the man thinketh in his heart, so is he”( Proverbs 23:7).
- ◆ We are made righteous with God by Faith. (Rom 3:22). Faith is positive; being made right with God is positive

***Communication to the heart:***

- Do not be shaped by the world.

Instead be changed within by a new way of thinking. (Rom 12:2)

- Only the Lord gives wisdom, Knowledge and understanding come from Him. (Pro.2:10)
- You will have wisdom in your heart. And knowledge will be pleasing to you (Pro.3:5).
- Trust the Lord with all your heart. Don't depend on your own understanding (Pro.3:6).
- Don't depend on your own wisdom. Respect the Lord and refuse to do wrong(Pro.3:7)

For those who want to live according to the worldly views,  
*Brain is the master and the heart is the slave.*  
But for those who want to live according to the Biblical view,  
*Heart is the Master (Jesus Christ) and the brain is the slave.*

When we are made right with God in our hearts, we begin to think right in our hearts, we begin to talk right and we begin to act right.

I would like to end with a story:

A king had a male servant who, under any circumstances said to him: My king, do not be discouraged because everything God does is perfect and He makes no mistakes. One day, they went hunting and a wild animal attacked the king. The servant managed to kill the animal but couldn't prevent his majesty from losing a finger. Furious and without showing any gratitude, the king said: "If God was good, I would not have been attacked and lose one finger". The servant replied: "Despite all things, I can only tell you that God is good and everything He does is

perfect; he is never wrong. Outraged by the response the king ordered that the servant be imprisoned.

Later, the king left for another hunt and was captured by savages who used human beings as sacrifice on the altar, the savages discovered that the king did not have one finger in place and released him because they considered him to be "incomplete" to be offered to their Gods. On returning to his palace, the king authorized the release of his servant and told his servant: "My friend, God was really good to me. Since I lacked a single finger, I was let go." "However, I have a question," the king added. "If God is so good, why did he allow me to put you in prison?" The servant wisely replied: "My king, if I had gone with you, I would have been sacrificed because I have no missing finger."

God is good, even when bad things happen to us.  
God is good all the time -all the time  
God is good.

***Temptation comes to us through the brain, not from heart .  
Victory comes from the Heart, not from the brain.***

**Someone said Brain is stupid.  
But heart is wise.**

*How are we living our daily life?  
Following our **Heart** or our **Brain**?*

**Reference Links:**

<https://www.mindbodygreen.com/0-11982/7-scientific-reasons-you-should-listen-to-your-heart-not-your-brain.html>  
<https://www.learning-mind.com/the-human-heart-mind/>



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# Obey the Lord and Be a co-worker with Him

*A Testimony by Prof. H.C. Edison*

I am the eldest of ten children. My father was a headmaster in the Tirunelveli Diocese. I completed my schooling at Caldwell High school, Tuticorin, and my intermediate at St. John's College, Palayamcottai. At Presidency College, I secured a degree in Physics B.Sc. (Hons.) just scrapping through in 1957. I went on to work in two colleges and later worked in a College in Viruthunagar in 1960. I studied my Masters privately at Madurai Kamaraj University followed by M.Phil. as a regular student passing in First Class. My wife whom I married in 1963 is a home maker and we are blessed with three children, all of whom are married and well settled in

life and are blessed with children. My daughter has become a grandmother! I have five grandchildren and one great grand-daughter.

I was a bad husband, father and a man not afraid of sin. Nevertheless, I was a regular church goer and was also a choir member: Being a very good teacher, I was respected and loved by my students.

But God touched me through my son's life. He had joined MCC at Tambaram to pursue his undergraduate studies in Physics. He was brilliant in higher secondary but was unable to pass any paper except English. I realised that this was not



normal and hence, consulted an evangelist. He advised me to call on the Lord. One midnight, I fell on my knees and prayed to the Lord. Jesus spoke to me and told me that my son's failure in life was not because of God but rather because of the sin in my life. The Lord asked me to read Job 21:19, "God layeth up his iniquity for His children. He rewardeth him, and he shall know it". Jesus said that He permitted many failures in my life but that I was insensitive and never came to the Lord. Then I cried and asked Jesus to forgive me for all my sins.

The Lord said, "You obey; I am responsible for the consequences and will take the responsibility of rebuilding of your family".

I obeyed the Lord and He has rebuilt my family as He promised He would. My son is now a national manager in a reputed company at Chennai. My second daughter was a gold medallist in M.Com., MKU. My third daughter completed her doctorate in Bio-Chemistry while working at CMC Vellore and has successfully guided Ph.D. students.

After my conversion, a great change was seen in my life. Sincere in my duty, I was always willing to take class for others. There was perfect discipline in my classes. I was interested in my students and would help them clear their doubts. I played football and basketball with my students. For 19 years I was an NCC officer holding the rank of a MAJOR and even commanded 28TN Battalion NCC for 8 months.

By God's grace, I led the prayer cell for our college and Polytechnic students. God saved many of them and many have joined full time ministry.

After retirement, I became the Principal of Bishop Caldwell College in Tuticorin and started prayer groups for students and Bible study for teachers. One day, while taking a moral instruction class for students, I told them that the Bible was the Word of God. It had the power to change lives and I spoke about the love of God for man. Fifteen years later I met a sister by name Kalaichelvi in a Christian meeting. She said that her sister believed what I said and wanted a Bible. She belonged to a Hindu family and hence no one had a Bible. She had a Christian aunt and therefore got the Bible from her and started reading it. God spoke to her. She firmly believed that Jesus is the one true God; became a Christian and wanted to marry a believer. Looking at her life, obedience and love for the Lord, her father and mother became Christians. Through her, her elder sister (who told me about the girl) became a Christian and married a Hindu convert and both are involved in ministry.

Because I obeyed, God transformed many persons. **Commit yourself to God totally** and He will give you peace and prosperity and use you mightly for His Glory

**Prof. H.C. Edison**

Retd. Professor of Physics  
VSHSN College Virudhunagar and  
Principal, Bishop Caldwell College, Tuticorin

## EVANGELICAL TEACHERS' FELLOWSHIP-A.P.



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# TEACHERS

## - Image Bearers of GOD

### Introduction:

Teachers are the most influential section of the society, for the better or for the worse. In either case they are appreciated and followed by the students under their care. Hence the image and character of the teacher decides the future of the society.

Teacher doesn't refer to only the one who teaches in classrooms of schools or universities. Parents, siblings, friends and heroes or leaders of the society may also be regarded as teachers. But teachers are the most important section of the society who contribute to building up of individuals and the society at large. In the heritage of the Indian Gurukul culture, students were staying in the homes of the teachers to learn **of** the teacher (including the lifestyle and principles practiced by the Guru)

more than from the mouth of the teachers.

When Jesus exhorted his disciples: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn **of** me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (AKJV), what He meant was more than learning **from** Him but learning **of** His practical life. He told them His image was 'meek and lowly' and that, in this learning process, they would find rest for their souls (not for the spirit but also for the soul which consists of the Mind or Intelligence, Emotions and Will).

GURU is from: Gu = darkness; Ru = Light. (One who leads from darkness into light)

SIR: derived from Sire = Father

'Sir' is used for teacher, to mean surrogate parent. No parent is fully

competent to 'train up the child'; hence, the educational system and teachers help in addition to the parents. For some children, their parents may not be serving well. In these cases, the children should find a loving, caring, sharing, disciplining parent in the teacher. The influence of teachers for the better is not only limited to their students but will be extended to their families, if the teacher is really committed. So their image and integrity are most important for the world/ society at large.

### Image lost and regained

God **created** man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them (Gen.1:27). Due to the Fall, man **lost** his image or glory of God and became naked (Rom.3:23). Jesus came to the world that we may **regain** the lost glory of God, in our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thess.2:14).

No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared **Him** (John 1:18); who being the brightness of **his** glory, and the express image of his person (Heb.1:3); who is the image of the invisible God (Col.1:15). So God's plan of salvation for us is that "we all, with open face, beholding as in a glass, the Glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Cor.3:18); He also did predestinate us *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren (Rom.8:29); it is for us to have the

image of the Lord Jesus Christ (Phil.2:5). This status is (to be) true about all believers.

We can never be perfect in attaining this goal; but we must aspire to be transformed by the daily renewing of our mind, that we may be confirmed to the image of God, Jesus Christ being our model (Rom.12:2).

### Teachers as image bearers of Jesus

Jesus was an effective preacher and a sought-after healer. But He was more so, a Master Teacher. In the gospels, we encounter a variety of teaching episodes and learning experiences from Jesus, not only for the twelve disciples but for groups of thousands or a single individual. In the Gospels He was called mostly as **Guru** (teacher) than anything else. So Jesus is our model Master Teacher. As Jesus said, "it is enough for the disciple that he be as his Master, and the servant as his Lord" (Mat.10:25). We, teachers, need to follow the Master Teacher steps, for the glory of God, for attaining the lost glory for ourselves and also to be channels of blessings to many reflecting the life of our Guru in us.

While we teach secular subjects, we are called to teach and train our students in the development of their personality and character to face and overcome the challenges and temptations in life and to empower them to serve the society at large over and above finding their (ours too) livelihood. These can be taught only by teachers who have acquired such a personality for themselves.

They will seek and find opportunities to mentor their students.

We will consider a few aspects of our bearing the image of Jesus:

## A. HIS TEACHING MINISTRY

### B. HIS PERSON

## A. HIS TEACHING MINISTRY

### 1. His Five-step teaching ministry we need to follow:

Jesus oriented His teaching to actively engage His students in the learning experience. To do this, He focused on the five steps:

**Thinking**  
**Knowing**  
**Understanding**  
**Being and**  
**Doing.**

We, as teachers, need to be trained in these five qualities that we help the students to follow these steps in their learning experience, whether in secular subjects or spiritual maturity.

**Thinking:** When teaching, Jesus would often ask His students, “What do you *think*?” In introducing the story of the good shepherd, for example, He extended an invitation to consider carefully the meaning of the story.

**Knowing:** For Christ, knowledge was important. When the Sadducees presented him with the “impossible riddle” of the woman who consecutively married seven brothers, Jesus replied, “You are in error because you do not *know* the

Scriptures or the power of God.” Throughout his teaching, Jesus emphasized the importance of knowing the truth and of developing an experiential knowledge of God.

**Understanding:** Knowledge cannot stand alone. Christ also viewed understanding as crucial. Telling the parable of a farmer planting his field, He stated, “The one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and *understands* it.” At the close of His ministry, after washing the disciples’ feet, Jesus asked them: “Do you *understand* what I have done for you?”

**Being:** On one occasion, an expert in the law asked Jesus: “Who is my neighbour?” Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan, and then redirected the lawyer’s question to a matter of *being*: “Which was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” Or simply, “Be ready.” Jesus also spoke of the importance of exemplifying specific virtues in one’s life. “Be merciful,” He urged, “just as your Father is merciful.” “Be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.”

**Doing:** Christ highlighted the concept that knowledge should be put into practice and should be evident in what he or she does. “Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you *do* them.” Furthermore, He taught that the actions of one’s life influence destiny. “Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who *does* the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

## 2. Follow His strategies

We need to learn the various strategies Jesus adopted in His teaching. His teachings were to transform the person and not just to impart some information. So the teacher must touch and influence the life of his students so as to realize and extract their maximum potential. The strategies Jesus adopted must be a subject of continuous study as well as application for the teacher in his teaching. A detailed study of His strategies is beyond the scope of this article. But let us highlight a few:

- ★ Jesus used **illustrations**: Many of these included vivid imagery like picking grapes from the thorn bushes, pouring new wine into old wineskins, a thief breaking unexpectedly into a house and the blind leading the blind.
- ★ Jesus also told **stories** of which some 40 are recorded; to make His lessons more easily remembered and to serve as the basis for future learning. These stories were generally brief—on average, just seven verses in length. Jesus’ stories were not complex, with multiple meanings. Generally, He would focus on a key point.
- ★ Jesus used **News items** and **Historical events**. Frequently Jesus made use of similes and metaphors often extending these into well-developed **analogies**. Christ pointed out the hypocrisy and skin-deep religiosity of the scribes and Pharisees, likening them to “whitewashed tombs.” In

similar ways, Christ used analogies of a fig tree in spring time and of a hen gathering her chicks.

- ★ Jesus used **Tangible objects** to bring His messages across convincingly to His disciples and the public. When He was asked, “Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” He used the portrait on the coin and told them to “Give then to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.”
- ★ Jesus **asked Questions** for a variety of reasons including,

*To remember the known*  
*To clarify concepts*  
*To guide thinking*  
*To correct erroneous ideas*  
*To motivate personal thought*  
*To affirm truth in the mind*  
*To invite a faith response*  
*For an answer from the listeners in problem solving.*

- ★ **Jesus used Analysis and Reasoning**: Jesus invited His listeners to engage in logical reasoning; **Comparison and Contrast**: On various occasions, Christ led His students through comparison and contrast. **Anomalies**: Christ wanted His students to grapple with conundrums and thereby engage in deep thinking. For example, the paradox that He used for this purpose: “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave”.

★

★ **His Enacted teaching:**

In prison, John the Baptist wondered if Jesus was truly the Messiah. He sent his disciples to ask. Jesus did not immediately reply but rather went about the activities of His ministry. At the end of the day, Jesus said to these disciples, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk...and the good news is preached to the poor."

★ **Active Learning:** Jesus believed that it was important for His students to be actively involved in learning. Consider the issue of His paying tax questioned by tax collectors. Peter admitted that sons are exempted from tax payment. But Jesus told him to pay the tax so that we may not offend them.

★ **Collaborative Learning:** Through His short period of ministry, Christ sent His students to individually apply what they had learned. In commissioning the 12 disciples, however, Jesus sent them out two by two. In like manner, He sent out some 70 others.

We will continue to know how to inherit the image of His person.

**B. HIS PERSON:**

More significant, however, was the person of the One who taught, over His strategies. It is true about us too; the teacher is more significant than what and how he teaches. The message is not independent of the

Messenger. So we, teachers are to imitate Christ, not only the way we communicate and teach but also the way we live, the way we are.

A few important characteristics we need to reflect from the life and ministry of Jesus, the Guru are:

**1. Context of Joy:**

Jesus intentionally created a learning climate of joy. The scribes noted, for example, that John the Baptist's disciples often fasted and prayed, while Christ's disciples didn't. Jesus responded that it is appropriate for the guests at a wedding to celebrate when the bridegroom is with them. In His teaching, Christ spoke of great rejoicing in heaven over a single sinner who repents, of experiencing fullness of joy, and of living life to the full.

**2. Invitation to Success:**

When Jesus called Peter and his brother Andrew to join His ministry, He did not initially invite them to become public speakers or church leaders. Rather, He said, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Instead of concentrating on what His students could not do, Jesus chose to focus on their success in what they were acquainted with.

**3. Tenderness and Sympathy:**

As a teacher, Christ was caring and compassionate.

A few examples:

When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He asked

the disciples to pray for mentors. Finally, He selected twelve of them to be the Caretakers of the helpless. Do we sense what others couldn't with the mind of Christ?

When the apostles reported to Him all they had done and taught, He asked them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

When they were terrified, seeing Him walking on the lake and thought He was a ghost, immediately He told them, "Take courage! It is I; don't be afraid."

Jesus straightened up and asked the woman presented before Him, caught in adultery, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

When Mary fell at His feet, grieved by the death of her brother and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her and her friends weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.....and Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!"

**4. His humility:**

Christ's action as a servant, washing His disciples' feet, is a powerful testimony to His humble spirit. This was not, however, an isolated incident. When Jesus became aware that the Pharisees realised that His disciples had baptized more followers than John

the Baptist, He did not cite the fulfilment of John's words, "He must increase, but I must decrease." Rather, Jesus quietly left the setting of His overwhelming popularity and departed again to Galilee. *"Humility is perfect quietness of heart.*

*It is to expect nothing, to wonder at nothing that is done to me, to feel nothing done against me.*

*It is to be at rest when nobody praises me, and when I am blamed or despised.*

*It is to have a blessed home in the Lord, where I can go in and shut the door, and kneel to my Father in secret, and am at peace as in a deep sea of calmness, when all around and above is trouble." Andrew Murray (1828-1917)*

**5. Conscious of Context:**

Jesus was perceptive about His surroundings and that awareness guided His teaching. Once, Jesus asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" The disciples kept quiet because they had been arguing about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus reminded them, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."

Jesus was also sensitive to the "absorption level" of his learners. Mark indicates that Christ taught only as much as His learners could understand while John records that near the end of His ministry, Christ told his disciples, "I still have many things to say to you but you cannot bear them now." Each of these

incidents is an indicator that Christ was observant of the contexts and attuned to the needs of his students.

### **6. Personal Association:**

Shortly after Christ's baptism, John the Baptist pointed to Christ and identified Him as the Lamb of God. Two of John's disciples heard the pronouncement and decided to follow Him. Jesus asked, "What do you want?" They replied, "Teacher, where are you staying?" "Come," Jesus said, "and you will see." So they went and spent that day with Him. Jesus was accessible and personable.

Early one morning, after His resurrection, Jesus stood on the shore of Galilee but the disciples in a fishing boat did not recognize Him. "Come," He called out, "let's have breakfast together." He was not there to rebuke them for their backsliding although after a while, He passionately and lovingly exhorted Peter to feed His sheep.

### **7. Differentiation:**

Jesus cared deeply for each of His students and saw unlimited potential in each life. However, this did not imply that He treated everyone the same. Rather, He differentiated His instructions in order to meet His students' backgrounds, needs, abilities and dreams.

At a meal in Simon, the Pharisee's house, a woman of ill repute arrived uninvited and broke open an alabaster jar of ointment to anoint Jesus' feet. When Simon wondered to himself how Jesus could be a prophet and permit such a travesty,

Jesus told Simon a story of two debtors, one who owed much and the other but little. Although it might seem the perfect opportunity to expose Simon's own hypocrisy, Jesus used a "silk glove" approach in which none but Simon understood the true meaning of the story.

In contrast, consider the case of Simon Peter. When Jesus began to explain to His disciples of His impending death, Peter began to rebuke Him. In the presence of all the disciples, Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan!" Here Jesus used "shock therapy." Two men, even with the same name, but a very different approach.

### **8. Held Children in High Regard:**

When the disciples tried to turn away those who brought the children to be blessed, Jesus intervened, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." On another occasion, Jesus instructed His disciples, "See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father." For those who abused children, Christ had stern words, "If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck."

### **9. Valued the Marginalised:**

Jesus also reached out to those who were rejected by society. These included the poor, ethnic minorities and cultural outcasts. With these He associated — conversing, visiting

their homes, and touching the "untouchables." He was not worried about the criticism of others in these His actions.

When Jesus went to stay with Zacchaeus, all the people began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

The Samaritans, the non-associable community to the Jews, came to Him and urged Him to stay with them, and He stayed with them for two days.

He appreciated the poor widow who put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. He said to His disciples, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others."

Jesus reached out His hand and touched the untouchable man with leprosy.

To the surprise of His disciples, Jesus associated not only with a Samaritan, member of non-associable community but also with a woman ostracized by her own community because of her ill reputation.

### **10. Centrality of Prayer:**

Frequently, Jesus would seek out a quiet place to pray— sometimes early in the morning, or at evening, or through the entire night. He didn't pray just for Himself and for the work He had been given but also for His students. Perhaps the greatest characteristic of the greatest Teacher who ever lived was the importance of

prayer in His life. Jesus' prayer life so impressed His disciples that one day, when He finished praying, one of His students requested, "Lord, teach us to pray."

### **11. The influence of Jesus:**

Jesus had a profound influence on His students. When He taught, His listeners were surprised by his teaching, because He spoke with confidence, in contrast to the teachers of the law. Turning to each other in amazement, they asked, "Where did this man get these things?" "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."

One day, alarmed about Jesus' growing popularity, the chief priests sent the temple guards to arrest Him. At the end of the day, the guards returned empty-handed. "Why didn't you bring him in?" the priests raged. "No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards declared.

After His resurrection, Christ appeared unrecognized to two of His disciples on the road to Emmaus and fell into conversation with them. Later that evening, when they finally realized who their Guest had been, they exclaimed, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

The Teacher sent from God can also be experienced in our lives that we might teach as He taught.

### **12. His availability and differencing strategies to individuals:**

For Nicodemus who came at night, outside of office hours!

- ❖ He challenged Him, “You, a teacher, do not know this?”
- ❖ Anomaly. “You must be born again.”
- ❖ Analogy. Compared the Holy Spirit to the wind.
- ❖ Historical Event. Moses lifting up the serpent in the wilderness.
- ❖ Contrast. Light vs. darkness, condemnation vs. salvation.
- ❖ Transition. Concrete to abstract, physical to spiritual.
- ❖ Affective dimension. “For God so loved the world.”
- ❖ Purpose. To experience salvation and enter into eternal life. The rest of the story. John 7:45-52; 19:38-40. For the Samaritan woman, He made himself available at noon time.
- ❖ Initiative. Jesus asked her, “Could you give me a drink?”
- ❖ Motivation. Begins with water, the student’s immediate interest.
- ❖ Anomaly. “You will not be thirsty again.”
- ❖ Transition. Known to unknown, physical to spiritual, immediate to eternal.
- ❖ Active learning. “Call your husband.”
- ❖ Concept clarification. Worship is not a place, but a spiritual experience.
- ❖ Purpose. To know God and experience His transforming power. The rest of the story. John 4: 27-45

Jesus has called us to be His disciples, especially as teachers, as He was. We are to represent Him to the people around that they may see, meet and get taught and comforted by Him, through us His image-bearers. The attributes and character of Jesus shared above are to be assimilated and applied in our context and the people we are to disciple.

[Indebted to an article by Debbie Alam, “Jesus the teacher...lessons from the Master Teacher” in the second part of this article]



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President & Co-founder, Grace Counselling India  
Director, Tripura Mission and Schools  
General Coordinator, Ministry of Revival & Empowerment  
of St. Thomas Evangelical Church of India (STECI)



Praise God for enabling ETF to function as local unit in many places.

**Andhra Pradesh**

ETF local unit is held every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in the residence of Mr.Saibaba in **Anakapalli** and every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in the residence of Mrs. Babu Prasad.

In **Nandial**, ETF local unit meets regularly for a time of prayer and fellowship at Good Shepherd School and during exam time they meet as classwise and even gather as administration heads. ETF local unit meets on first Monday of every month at B.L.Hospital Special School Campus in **Narasapur**. About 5 to 6

members meet regularly. In **Tuni**, the teachers regularly meet in the residence of Ms.Bharati on the 20<sup>th</sup> of every month.

**Bangalore**

The first local unit meeting was held at **Indira Nagar** in Bangalore on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019 when 6 teachers participated and the second meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019 when 4 teachers participated. Every week either on Mondays or Thursdays teachers at **St. John's School**, Bangalore meet in their campus at 11 am. About 3 to 9 teachers participate.

**Maharashtra**

The local unit at **Solapur** celebrated the first anniversary of ETF Solapur when they met on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and Ms.Vaishali Sable encouraged the group through the word of God. Mr. Nitin Prabhune encouraged the teachers through his Professional speech correlating it with the scriptures during the local unit meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2019. About 5 to 8 people attend.





**Tamil Nadu**

At **Coimbatore** on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019 Dr.Santha Prabhuraj addressed about 52 teachers in Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Science and on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019 about 700 professors in Karunya University. Teachers heard about ETF. On 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019, the ETF local unit meeting was held in the residence of Dr. Santha Prabhuraj at Ondiputhur when 10 members participated. Mr. Benjamin, Principal,

Stanes School shared the word of God.

ETF local unit of **Chennai** was held in the premises of Emmanuel Methodist Church on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019. About 27 teachers attended. Mrs. Rosie Williams shared the word of God on “Extended Territories”. Praise God for the **Tambaram** local unit which regularly meet at St. Mark's School on the last Thursday of the month when about 8 to 12 people attend.

**Telangana**

In January 2019 ETF Hyderabad met in ETF Office. On Feb 18 ETF **Hyderabad** local unit met for praising God and for prayer. About 14 people attended in the house of Mrs and Mr Thyagaraju.

**ETF launched in Karimnagar, Telangana**  
(Report by Mrs. Joseleena Praveen)

A special program was organized for the Christian teachers of Kharimnagar on 4th March 2019 in the premises of Shalom Church, Christian Colony to inaugurate ETF

under the leadership of Mrs. Swarnalatha, Mrs.Apolina Calvin, Mrs.Deepika and Dr. Joseleena Praveen. About 41 teachers from 39 institutions attended the programme.

Dr Caroline Michael, General Secretary of ETF led the morning session on 'Teaching is a Calling', challenging us to realise that God has called us for a specific purpose from different situations to pray, to minister and to fulfill His purpose. The session helped us to understand how we can be 'God centred teachers' and not self centred in our profession. Post lunch session had a time of sharing about mission by Bro.Caleb Royapati on 'Harvest Ministries'. The session was very valuable as it helped us in thinking and exploring God's amazing grace if we can take the initiative of doing something for the Lord. Following that Dr. Caroline Michael shared about ETF ministry and motivated all the teachers to form various local cells to meet and pray. Mr. John Sunil , Mrs. Usha, Mrs. Susan, Mr. Abraham, Bro. Swamy David, Mrs. Laveena and others

shared their testimonies. The teachers expressed their reflections that they were strengthened by the word they received, got refreshed and challenged to play their part for the glory of God through their teaching. It was resolved unanimously to have the first ETF local unit meeting of Karimnagar on 6th April 2019.

We appreciate the dedicated service of Mrs.Manju and Mrs. Vasantha John Wesley for all their help and support and Mr Manoj for his help throughout the day.

We are grateful to each and everyone who participated, supported through their contribution not only for the day's program but also for the ETF ministry. Praise God for all the teachers who have become the members of ETF. Glory be to God.





# PRaise and



## Head Quarters

### Day 1

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 fulfilling the vision and mission of ETF. Praise God for the EC meeting held on 12th January 2019 in Chennai and pray that resolutions and decisions made will be carried out successfully. Pray for the next EC meeting to be held at Coonoor on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

Praise and thank God for the EC office bearers 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 for their constant involvement, prayer and support and pray for their families, ministries and their health. Pray for Dr. Porkodi

for the complete restoration of her health.

### Day 2

Praise God for the sponsors of ETF who support the ministry financially and pray for God's blessings on them. Pray for the financial needs of ETF, state level programs, special programs of ETF and Joy of Teaching – Learning workshops organized by ETF in different places of India. Praise God for the new members who are introduced to ETF ministry. Pray that all the local units and state units will be able to submit the audited financial statement for the year 2018-19 without any delay and pray for God's grace to abide with the national Treasurer Prof.V.D.S. Chandrasekar to get the national financial account get audited without any delay.

## ETF Publication Trust

### Day 3

Praise God for new 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. Chandrasekar and Dr. Caroline Michael as ex officio. 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. Pray for the financial needs to be met.

### Day 4

Praise God for the ETF office and the resources available in the ETF study centre and books published by ETF Publication Trust.

## Conferences/seminars / integrated program /Educational institutions and students

### Day 5

Pray that many integrated programs of ETF and UESI. Pray for God's grace and wisdom to Dr. Adella Paul (EC member) who is helping in the curriculum and syllabus for the '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.

### Day 6 Andhra Pradesh

Praise God and pray for the A.P. State council members.

**AP State Conference** Pray for the

4<sup>th</sup> ETF AP State Conference to be held at Dhyanaashram, Near Kotak Salesian School, China Waltair Road, Visakhapatnam. Pray for the Bible Study speaker, Professional Talk Speakers. Pray for the Holy Spirit to work. Pray for the delegates journey and stay. Pray for the finance and menu and pray for the feasible climate. Pray that many teachers from different districts to attend the State Conference.

**Nandyal** - Praise God for the support and leadership of teachers of Good Shepherd School under the leadership of Mrs. Jessie Paul (EC member). **Anakapalli**—Praise God for the local unit fellowship under the leadership of Mr. Saibaba. Pray for many teachers to attend the same and become members of ETF and support, and pray. **Tuni** - Praise God for the functioning of local unit under the leadership of Mr. Ramesh, Mr. Simon Garu, Mr.Nagabhushanam and Mr.Bendurthi Venkatarao. Pray for the ETF workshop to be conducted in Tuni in 2019.

### Day 7 Narasapur

Pray for the ETF local unit to get strengthened under the leadership of Mr. David. Pray for the planning of one day retreat and ETF workshop in Narasapur in 2019. **Vijayawada**-ETF programs and local unit meet in Vijayawada to be strengthened. Pray for **Vizakapatnam**, local may involve more. Pray for new contacts at **Nidadavole, Eluru and Rajahmundry**. Praise God for the leadership of Prof. Janakiram and Mr. Chalagala Vijaya Kumar in

**Ongole** and their prayerful efforts to plan an one day program for ETF. **Pray for Guntur, Ongole, Prakasam, Nellore, Chittoor, Kadapa, Anantapur Districts**

#### **Day 8 Bihar**

Pray for the follow up program with the GEMS mission schools in Bihar. Pray for the Joy of Teaching – learning workshop to be planned in the other schools of Emmanuel Mission. Pray for the safe delivery of Mrs. Princy Titus, the principal of the Emmanuel Mission School, **Patna**. Pray for integrated program by ETF for EGF teachers in Bihar under the leadership of Mr. John Jebaraj and Mr. Joseph Paul.

#### **Chhattisgarh**

Praise God for the planning of ETF workshop on **19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July 2019** in **Blaze academy** at **Balod** in Chhattisgarh under the leadership of Mr. Thomas Joseph. Pray for his family and ministry. Pray for God's special grace and protection for Mr. Samson Ninan and his school at Life Academy.

#### **Day 9 Delhi**

Praise God for the prayer, support and encouragement rendered by Mr. 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.

#### **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 God's special grace, strength and comfort to abide with Mr. Sridhar and Mrs. Bidhu who lost their baby during delivery.

#### **Day 10 Haryana**

Praise God for the contact of Rev. John Balasingh, Fatehabad, Haryana who is willing to help ETF ministry in Haryana.

#### **Himachal Pradesh**

Pray for the planning of ETF Joy of Teaching – Learning workshop in Day Star School, **Manali** in 2019 under the leadership of Mr. Vijayakumar, Principal of the school. Pray for Ms Esther, Principal of Ananth Spring School in Manali and the ministry among the school students by her sister Ms. Beulah. Praise God for the contact of Mrs. Suganthi Franklin, 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**.

**Jharkhand** Praise God for the leadership of Mr. Joseph Ponraj,

Shalom School, Madhupur, Jharkhand. Pray for God's special grace and guidance to be with him as he is pioneering programs for ETF to get introduced to other educational institutions in Jharkhand.

#### **Day 11 Karnataka**

Praise God for the ETF local units conducted in Indiras Nagar, **Bangalore**, under the leadership of Mrs. Vinnie Thomas (EC member), and her team Mrs. Margarat, Mrs. Rene Stanly, Mrs. Lidya, Cinthia, Ms Mary Deevana and Mrs. Premila Sironmani and others. Praise God for the local units in Indira Nagar, and St. John's school and pray that these local units will function regularly and many teachers will participate. Praise God for the new members who are interested in ETF and support ministry. Pray for Mrs. Mabel and Mrs. Jemima Swaminathan in **Hubli** and Ms. Linda in **Coorg** to initiate ETF programs.

#### **Kerala**

Praise God for the involvement and support rendered by Dr. John Zachariah 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.

#### **Day 12 Madhya Pradesh**

Praise God for the planning of Joy of  
ETF • chalk and chai APR-JUN 2019

Teaching-learning workshop to be conducted from **30<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019** in **Nayajeevan Mission Hr. Sec. School**, Bhandar, Datia District. Pray for the open doors for introducing ETF ministry in many places like Bhopal and **Indore**. Pray for Dr. Pothan and his family and their school in Indore.

#### **Maharashtra**

Praise God for the vibrant leadership of Mrs. Flora Bawadekar (EC member), and her team for organizing ETF programs in **Solapur** periodically in 2018. Pray for the ETF local unit to meet regularly on the first Saturday of every month to get enriched in word of God and fellowship. Pray for the Solapur local unit to reach out to all the schools in Solapur and also all over Maharashtra. Pray for the planning of 21<sup>st</sup> Biennial National Conference to be held. Also pray that teachers may volunteer to take the lead and help out in the forthcoming Biennial National Conference to be held God willingly, in **Pune**. Pray for the planning of the ETF workshop in Sholapur during February 2019. Praise God for the encouragement and support rendered by Dr. Girish, YCLT English Medium School at **Yuvatmal** and pray for ETF workshops to be organized in Amaravathy District under the leadership of Dr. Ganesh Pandey.

#### **Day 13 North East**

Praise God for the ETF prayer cell at Mt. Calvary School, **Diphu, Karbi Anglong Dt., Assam** under the

leadership of Mrs.Nirupama (EC member) and Mrs.Praisya 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 Dr.Ann and her family. Pray for the school teachers that they may be able to shine as committed teachers serving the Lord faithfully.

#### Day 14

Praise God for Dr. Hepuni Kenya, founder director Nazareth Residential school, Manipur for all his encouragement for ETF ministry. Praise God for the leadership of Mr. Loli for initiating the ETF ministry in **Manipur** and planning the ETF Joy of Teaching – Learning workshop on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019 to be organized by the Christian Education Department, Mao Baptist churches Association, Senapati District, Manipur. Pray for Ms.Annies, Manipur Mr.Kenneth Muinao, Principal of Blesso Montessori School at Phalee village,Ukhrul, Manipur and Mr.Wahengpam Lokendro Singh and Mrs. Daisy Lokendro, founders of St. John's English School at Nambal, Manipur and Mr. and Mrs. Hat Hon Buansingh founders of Bethany Christian College Manipur to involve more in ETF ministry.

Pray for the ETF programs to be organized 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.

#### Day 15

Pray that God will restore the health of Mrs. Angbhenla Phom the director of the Phom Lempong School (PLS) completely and for the open doors for ETF ministry in **Nagaland** Praise God for Dr.L.N.Tluanga, Aizawl, **Mizoram** for his prayer, and involvement in ETF ministry. Pray that many teachers from this region would serve the Lord faithfully and involve in ETF.

Praise God for the leadership of Mrs.Wellorich Sohkhet, Principal, Anderson Hr.Sec.School, West Khasi Hills, **Meghalaya** and other EGF leaders of the state. Praise God for the ETF local unit formed at **Nongstoin**. Pray for the Joy of Teaching – Learning workshop to be organized in Shillong in this year. Pray for ETF programs to be organized in **Arunachal Pradesh** under the leadership of UESI leader Mr.Andy Anando.

#### Day 16 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 Joy of Teaching – Learning 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. Mr. Michael Manoharan, in **Bhawani-patna**, Kalahandi district . Pray for Mr.Promodh and Mr.Paul Aravindan who are interested in introducing ETF in different regions.

Praise God for Anand Niketan School in **Lamptaput** and pray for the needs of the school. Pray for Joy of Teaching – Learning program to be planned for the teachers of village school under Asha Kiran in **Lamptaput** and also in IMS English School, **Malkangiri**.

#### Day 17 Punjab

Praise God for Mr.Seenivasan for his leadership in ETF ministry in **Moga**. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance for him to bring up the Good Shepherd English school at Badhni kalan in Moga District to the glory of God and all the needs for the school will be met. Pray for the Joy of Teaching – Learning 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, in 2019 coordinated by Mr.Seenivasan. Pray that all the schools under the CNI diocese of Amritsar be influenced by ETF ministry.

#### Day 18 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 Joy of Teaching-Learning 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. Phoebe Immanuel and Mrs. Shalini Andrews.

#### Day 19 Tamil Nadu

Praise God for reviving the ETF local unit meetings in **Chennai**. Praise God for all the new members of ETF and the support, encouragement and partnership rendered by all the local leaders and institutions for their constant involvement, leadership and prayer support in building up ETF ministry in **Chennai**. Praise God for reviving the **Tambaram** local unit to meet regularly once a month at St. Mark's High school. Praise God for the ETF unit at Bishop Heber College, **Trichy** and pray that the unit function regularly. Praise God for Mr. Nirmal Nathan of Santa Maria School, Trichy for his interest to involve in ETF ministry

Pray for the ETF members at **Madurai** to start local units to meet regularly.

### Day 20

Praise God for the Joy of Teaching-Learning workshop to be held in **Sivakasi** on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019 under the leadership of Mr. Angelo Gnanurai. Pray for the planning of Joy of Teaching – Learning workshop in in Shalom Matriculation School in **Pavoorchatram, Tirunelveli district** in 2019 under the leadership of Dr.C.K.Rajasingh and Dr.Malathy. Prayer is needed for Santhosh Vidhyalaya in **Donavur**, Tirunelveli District and Kings and Queens Residential school in **Arakkonam** which educate missionaries' children. Pray for Joy of Teaching – learning 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 21

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 and many to participate in the 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Teacher's Conference.

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. Chandra Sekar. Pray for the **Thiruthani** local unit to be formed under the leadership of Mr. Emmanuel Premkumar and Thiruvallur local unit to be formed under the leadership of Mr. Jeyakumar Jesudas.

### Day 22

#### State Conference – Tamil Nadu

Praise God and pray for the T.N. State council members.

Pray for the 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Teachers' Conference to be held at Brooklands, **Coonoor** from 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Pray for the safe travel for everyone and all the arrangements at the camp centre. Pray for all the resource persons for Bible Study, Professional talks and Mission challenges. Pray that many delegates from different districts of Tamil Nadu and specially Nilgris and other states to participate. Pray for those who have participated in the earlier ETF conferences to have burden to support, involve and pray for ETF ministry.

### Day 23 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 Telengana. Pray for degree students writing their examination in April/May 2019. Pray for ETF local units to be started and ETF programs to be organized under the leadership of Mr. Bharath in **Bongir**, Mr.Raju in **Siddipet** and Mrs. Swarnalatha and Manju in **Kharim Nagar** on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Pray for many educational institutions to be a part of ETF in Telangana.

### Day 24 Uttarkhand

Praise God for the ETF local unit at Grace Academy and pray for Mr. Andriyas Singh, (EC member) for his leadership in coordinating ETF programs in **Dehradun** and other districts of Uttarkhand. Pray for the Joy of Teaching – Learning 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 25 Uttar Pradesh

Praise God for the Joy of Teaching-Learning workshops to be held in St.Thomas School,**Varanasi** under the leadership of Mr.Sam Abraham and Mrs.Brinda Sam on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019 and in David Memorial School and True Light English School under the leadership of

Mr.Sudeep Mahapatra and Mrs. Pearly Esther on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Praise God for all the prayer, support and encouragement by Mr.Robert Lal, **Gorakhpur** and the upcoming Joy of Teaching – Learning workshop in August 2019 under the leadership of f Dr.Sharma Chemistry Faculty, St.Andrews College. Pray for Mr..Shivdan Singh and Mr.Vipul John who are having 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 tent makers at Sam Higgin bottom Institute of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences Allahabad. Pray that God will open doors for ETF in Jamuna Christian College and School, Allahabad and other regions of U.P.Pray for Mr.Yesu Rathnam (ETF member) at **Kachhawa Christian School, Mirzapur** to organize ETF programs.

### Day 26 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 Prophan, founder of Bidan School and Mr.Anand Raju Jangam, founder of St.John's Public School,a primary school at **Durgapurto**

involve more in ETF. 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 27

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 church 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 through teachers and teachers to be good role models so that the students will experience a holistic growth.

### Day 28

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 29

Pray for many teachers to get into the fellowship of local 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 has to develop access to reach even unreached schools in villages and remote parts of India and many teachers to get mobilized to make mission trips to these unreached places.

### Day 30

Pray that all Christian teachers teach their students with love of Christ as responsible citizens of India. Pray that the Christian educational institutions are well equipped with all resources to meet demands of present day needs. Pray that the government in centre and state favour 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.



## Teachers and parents may inadvertently play a role in a child developing the fear of numbers

Girls tend to be more affected by 'maths anxiety' than boys, according to a study which shows that teachers and parents may inadvertently play a role in a child developing the fear of numbers.

While mathematics is often considered a hard subject, not all difficulties with the subject result from cognitive difficulties. Many children and adults experience feelings of anxiety,



apprehension, tension or discomfort when confronted by a maths problem.

Scientists at the University of Cambridge explored the nature and resolution of 'mathematics anxiety'

In a sample of 1,000 Italian students, the researchers found that girls in both primary and secondary school had higher levels of both maths anxiety and general anxiety.

More detailed investigation in 1,700 U.K. schoolchildren found that a general feeling that maths was more difficult often contributed to maths anxiety, leading to a lack or loss of confidence.

Students pointed to poor results or negative comparisons to peers or siblings as reasons for feeling anxious.

"While every child's maths anxiety may be different, with unique origins and triggers, we found several common issues

among both the primary and secondary school students that we interviewed," said Denes Szucs from the university.

Students often discussed the role that their teachers and parents played in their development of maths anxiety. Primary-aged children referred to instances where they had been confused by different teaching methods, while secondary students commented on poor interpersonal relations.

Secondary students indicated that the transition from primary to secondary school had been a cause of maths anxiety, as the work seemed harder and they could not cope. There was also greater pressure from tests and an homework load.

Teachers and parents also need to be aware that their own maths anxiety might influence the child's anxiety and that gendered stereotypes about mathematics suitability and ability might contribute to the gender gap in maths performance.

## UPCOMING EVENT

The Next **ETF Biennial National Conference** is planned on  
**6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at PUNE.**

More details will be released soon.

Please Contact: **Dr. Caroline Michael**, Gen. Secretary ETF

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*Grace Academy*

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# WANTED

*Grace Academy invites applications from born again, evangelical teachers who are looking forward to a challenging, fulfilling and a promising vocation in teaching children with a Christian World view.*

## PGT (CHEMISTRY)

Minimum Qualification: M.Sc.-Chemistry with B.Ed. and minimum five years of experience of teaching preferably in a Senior Secondary CBSC/ICSE school.

**Pay Scale: 9300-34800 with Grade Pay of 4800**

Candidates who meet the qualification and who are fluent in Speaking English, may apply in their own handwriting or may send an email to the Principal of Grace Academy with a detailed resume. Only short listed candidates will be called for personal interview. Candidates who have applied earlier need not apply.

**PRINCIPAL**

## TEACHERS WANTED

Emmanuel Group of Schools based in Bihar is a reputed Christian Management school that seeks to provide mission oriented education and service to children since the year 1986.

We are in need of the following positions:-

1. **Vice-Principal** (vacancies - 3) Minimum Qualification:- Post-graduate degree & B.Ed with minimum five years of administrative experience to manage the school up to class X. Apart from the subject knowledge and administrative experience, the applicant should have the quality to motivate and creatively direct the staff & the students.
2. **Primary school teachers.**
3. **Teachers for Maths, English, Physics & Chemistry up to 10 +2 levels.**
4. **Physical Education teachers:- post vacant 2.**
5. **Office Secretary:- post vacant 2.**



Interested candidates may send your resumes with your passport size photograph and expected salary to [director@emmanuel.co.in](mailto:director@emmanuel.co.in). You can also post your resumes on [www.emmanuel.co.in](http://www.emmanuel.co.in) or walk-in to our administrative office.

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