**Bethel Bible College Annual Report-2023**

It is my joy and privilege to welcome all of you, on behalf of BBC family, to the 13th Bachelor of Divinity graduation ceremony of Bethel Bible College and the second of extension studies, this day. Your valuable presence and encouragement are inspiration and strength to our ministry.

First and foremost, as BBC family we thank and praise the gracious, merciful and compassionate God for enabling us to have this ceremony today.

We fondly remember, today, the founding fathers of BBC – Late Rev. Dr. P. N. S. Chandra Bose and Rev. Dr. Scott Alan Norling.

It was the vision and commitment of Late Rev. Dr. P. N. S. Chandra Bose who has gone to be with the Lord that has blossomed as a source of theological education and ministerial formation for people of all churches and countries. We thank God for his life and witness and pay our richest tributes to him.

Rev. Dr. Scott Alan Norling who accompanied the founder-president of the BBC from its inception, is a great motivational force in all our endeavors and at all times. Besides his continuous involvement in BBC, he helped acquire the adjacent land for BBC. We profoundly thank him and his beloved wife Mrs. Melody Norling and their children for their loving care and support to BBC.

 Rev. Dr. P. Leela Chandra Bose, the president of the Gospel Mission of India deserves our highest appreciations. She has taken up the leadership of GMI when it was going through a huge leadership transition. Her guidance and support to BBC is so crucial for the sustained growth of the institution.

Mr. P. Jeevan Sylvanus Bose, the General Secretary of GMI and the President of Bethel Bible College has taken up the leadership of the institution from his father, after his heavenly call. He and his wife Dr. Raga Deepika are tirelessly striving to take the institution to further heights. We sincerely thank them for their support. Even today they are sponsoring all the arrangements for the graduation service, including dinner. We pray God’s blessing upon them as they actively lead God’s ministry.

We thank Rev. Pau Za Khup and Mrs. Dorathy Khup along with Zomi Baptist Church, USA for their prayers and efforts to strengthen BBC.

We profusely thank Ms. Lois Schaefer- Amazing Grace Lutheran Church USA, Dr. Joseph Paturi, (Trans-world Ministries) and Mr. Oyiesteen- Eagle Mission Norway for their prayers, partnership and encouragement to BBC.

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

There are great many well-wishers and companions in our journey of theological education and Ministerial formation for the future ministry. We while, profusely thank them, pray to God for many more deeply committed men and women to join our ministry in partnership.

We remain grateful to all the churches, organizations and individuals who sponsor and recommend students to BBC. We thank all those who in one or another way contributed to the ministry of BBC. Hearty thanks to all the other dignitaries, graduating students, guests, parents, friends, professors and BBC family.

Congratulations to all graduating students who have successfully completed all the requirements pertaining to BD, BCS and DCS degree/diploma studies and are eligible to the award of Bethel Bible College Diploma, this day. I also congratulate the recipients of special awards.

**GRADUATION SPEAKER AND SPECIAL GUESTS**

We are grateful to the most Rt. Rev. Dr. Frederick Paradesi Babu, the Moderator-Bishop of Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church for accepting to deliver the graduation message today. We look forward to discern God’s voice through him.

 It is our privilege to have with us today the Most Rt. Rev. Rajiv Satish Toppo, Arch Bishop, North West Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ranchi. He will grace the occasion with his greetings to the graduates.

Dr. Bijaya Kumar Pattnaik, the vice –president of BSI is also with us. He will greet the graduates.

**STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF**

53 new BD students, including five women were given admission for BD studies during the academic year 2022-23. The session started with an opening service on the 12th June 2022. The total number of students in the BD degree studies during the academic year is one hundred sixty seven.

Besides, we also enrolled 7 MCS, 24 BCS and 30 DCS students (external) in 2022-23. Currently there are 153 external students (MCS 11, BCS 93 and DCS 49).

 The dedicated service, endurance, unconditional cooperation and exemplary life of the faculty members of BBC are behind today’s celebration. They held different responsibilities in addition to their regular teaching schedule to ensure the smooth functioning of the college.

Four new faculty members joined the college in 2022 June in place of faculty members who left the college in compliance with academic requirements and personal reasons.

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

**ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

Rev. Dr. Reji George, a faculty member, attended the Biennial Conference of Society for Biblical Studies in India, from 8-10 November 2022 at United Theological College, Bangalore. Another faculty member, Ms. K. Keziah Glory attended a teachers’ training program from 13-18 February 2023 organized by the BTESSC at Serampore.

BBC students organized a freshers day program on the 6th July 2022 to welcome the new students.

BBC family organized a day of Literary Fest, on 27th August 2022 to explore the multifaceted talents of the family.

The students felicitated the faculty members on the 5th September 2022 as a part of teacher’s day celebration.

We celebrated college foundation day cum sports on the 4th November 2022 to thank God for His overflowing grace and marvelous guidance upon the institution and to refresh BBC family with some games and sports.

We also conducted Scripture Knowledge Exam for our students on the 18th November 2022.

**NEW VENTURE**

Besides our regular BD program BBC was offering BCS and DCS, external programs of the Senate. The Senate granted permission to offer MCS studies from 2021. We are grateful to all the external studies coordinators who helped the college.

We look forward to their continuous partnership in theological education so that these programs can be extended to all parts of Andhra Pradesh. We welcome all the Christians of Andhra Pradesh, particularly who are in and around Guntur to make use of all the resources available at BBC.

We have been waiting for a long time to start a College annual magazine. This has come true this year. The name of the magazine is Aleph and the theme for this year is Shekinah. We are in the process of releasing it soon. Before it is released, all of you can participate in this new venture by advertising your Church, Institution, organization and personal compliments.

**GRADUATES**

BBC, till date, has prepared 460 dedicated BD graduates to serve the society and church. These graduates represented 17 different states, 32 different churches/denominations and different language groups. 66% of BBC graduates are doing pastoral ministry, 17% of them are in teaching/ higher studies (M.Th. and D.Th) and 6% serve as missionaries. Others are engaged in different forms of ministry including pioneering works.

 Within a short period of time BBC also trained 158 BCS graduates and 198 DCS.

We thank God for the life and commitment of the graduating students. They are fully equipped to serve God in all situations. It is true that we shall miss their fellowship but it is our joy that they are molded to create larger fellowship for the glory of God. We wish them God’s blessing as they step out into the wider arena of ministry with multiple challenges and possibilities.

**A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD**

BBC was founded in the year 2000 by the late Rev. Dr. P.N.S. Chandra Bose and has been affiliated to the Senate of Serampore College since 2005. We are slowly moving forward. Yet there are many more milestones to be reached. We are looking forward to start M.Th. and research programs. These are not unachievable goals. They are possible with all your cooperation, partnership and involvement. We pray that God will guide us through and help us establish partnership with right people, churches and organizations. Please continue to pray for us.

Thanking You

Guntur, 18th March 2023