 - FULLNESS...COMPLETENEṠS...WHOLENESS * $\operatorname{con}_{2}^{*}$


India Bible College and Seminary : Molding, Equipping, Sending church planters and pastors for the past 90 years.

(2) INDIA BIBLE COLLEGE AND SEMINARY 2019-2020


## THIRUVALLA I MUTHOOR I ETTUMANOOR



INDIA BIBLE COLLEGE AND SEMINARY
Hebron Campus, Kumbanad \& IGO Campus, Kozhimala, Tiruvalla, Kerala


NDIA BIBLE COLLEGE AND SEMINARY
develops men and women called by God to help bring India to Jesus Christ.

INDIA BIBLE COLLEGE
AND SEMINARY
teaches students to think clearly about the whole counsel of God and to effectively plant, pastor and lead churches in all parts of India.

INDIA BIBLE COLLEGE AND SEMINARY


Mrs. Mary Abraham and Pastor T, S. Abraham
Former President, IBC and Seminary


Mrs. Laly Abraham and Pastor Dr. T. Valson Abraham
President, IBC and Seminary


Pastor Dr. T. Valson Abraham, Laly Abraham,
Sneha, Ann, Asha, Santhosh



PLEROMA 2020 D
First
BD Batch


$\underbrace{2}_{\text {Daniyal Waiba }}$
Pramod George

Feba Anna Abraham

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## Congratulations

 graduating class of 2020 and Seminary from the board members of P. T. Chacko abundant blessings on each one of you and may you be 'hope givers' as you ministerP. T. Chacko Trust was formed in 2015 to honor the memory and continue the legacy of Pastor and Mrs. P. T. Chacko, The India Pentecostal Church's first missionary couple who established IPC's first Faith Home in Eluru. It was in Eluru that IPC was registered in 1935, with Pastor Chacko as its first Secretary. In 1940, Pastor Chacko and family established Telangana area's first IPC Faith Home in Secunderabad, where he pastored the local church until his home call in 1988. During his 53 years of ministry in Telugu area, Pastor Chacko was known as a tireless and enthusiastic evangelist, a winsome Bible teacher, a writer and editor, and a mentor to many evangelists and pastors.

OUR Promote and encourage evangelism
Support training of evangelists for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States VISION $\begin{aligned} & \text { Support training of evangeluctional initiatives to fulfil the Great Commission }\end{aligned}$

## OFFICE BEARERS

President : Mrs. Shirley Chacko Secretary : Mr. P. C. Thomas Treasurer : Pastor C. T. Cherian
Board members: Dr. Valson Abraham and Mr. Jacob Cherian
Recollections of Pastor Chacko's life and ministry have been compiled into a book titled
"India's Good News Gossiper" - available for purchase from the IPC Philadelphia Church, Secunderabad.
and blessings to the India Bible College Trust. We pray God's for the expansion of His Kingdom.


Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good His love endures forever (Psalm 136:1).


Cherian Koshy \& Family, USA


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मेरा विश्दास
सरिता तमा巨्
विधासयोग्य दास और अविश्यासयोग्य दास
जारोण के. जोण


## From the President's Desk

When my grandfather started this training institution in 1930 he prayed for 1,000 co-workers. The Lord - 15,000 workers later - has answered that prayer many times over. Now, 90 years later, we need to pray for more. Let's pray God multiplies 15,000 workers a hundredfold.
The strength of the work is in the worker. The church is only as strong as the leadership of the church. So, if the churches do not have equipped and trained leaders, churches suffer. That is what's happening worldwide. According to my friend, Dr. Ramesh Richard, only 5 percent of the world's church leaders are trained. Ninety-five percent are not. Our mission as an institution is clear.
In the New Testament, the word 'equip' occurs fifteen times. Jesus and Paul clearly model the ministry of equipping in their ministry. I am grateful that the Lord has given us the privilege of equipping men and women called of God to do His work. We as servant-leaders are responsible to equip people for works of service.
This is a time of thanksgiving for God's gracious, strong hand upon India Bible College and Seminary/ Hebron Bible College for the last 90 years. The Lord helped us to train and equip those God called, and mould, shape and send them as evangelists, church planters, pastors and Christian leaders to every state in India and to several other countries in the world. Nearly 15,000 workers in total.
God used both of my grandfathers, Pastor K.E. Abraham and the second teacher that he enlisted for the Bible school, my maternal grandfather Pastor P.T. Chacko. Then for 65 years, my father Pastor T.S. Abraham was involved in teaching, mentoring and in administration and in giving leadership. I had the privilege of working along with my father for 35 years, teaching, serving and leading. And while we thank God for the past, we look forward to the future. Our prayer is that we continue to fulfil the Great Commission by developing those called and anointed of God to evangelize, plant and creatively lead his church.
Would you join with us in believing for greater things? Ask God to do something extravagant and extraordinary in us and through India Bible College and Seminary. Pray that we are always anchored to the Bible and yet set the pace for the future. We continue to build on the godly foundation - but we go forward, upward and onward.
We believe the Lord will give us his wisdom and guidance to know how to navigate in the coming years. As we've entered 2020-a new decade, pray this will be a significant decade, a decade of difference for the cause of Christ and the expansion of his kingdom through India Bible College and Seminary. We are thankful for all he has done thus far and eagerly anticipate all that lies ahead. -


##  NலாேலOO



The mission of nddia Bible college end seminany isto obey Christ's Great Commandments and fulfill His Great Commission. Hope gives inspiration and motivation for one's life. If our future is not secured and satisfied by God then we are going to be excessively

One
who has hope can love others; only those who love others and can engage in mission. Jesus' mission on the
earth was out of His deep love for the perishing humanity.
















 சூோக 15000 டேவீ!


















greedy control where we think only about ourselves, our future, our problems and our potential, and that keeps us from loving others. One who has hope can love others and only one who loves others can engage in mission. Jesus' mission on the earth was out of His deep love for the perishing humanity. Along with the last commission Lord Jesus Christ also gave a great promise to His dear disciples. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Our hope is anchored on the never failing promises of our Lord Hope is the birthplace of Christian self-sacrificing love. That's because we just let God take care of us and aren't preoccupied with having to work to take care of ourselves. If we don't have the hope that Christ is for us then we will be engaged in self-preservation and self-enhancement. But if we let ourselves and our future be taken care of by God we can be free to love others. Then God's glory will shine clearly and He becomes more visible for us and others. When God satisfies us so deeply that we're free to love other peopl hen He becomes more manifest - and this alone is what we want above all else.

Unless we have strong assurance and hope in our eternal salvation, we cannot obey His commandments or fulfill the Great Commission. If our hope is in Christ and if we believe that all people Christ and if we believe that all people
having no hope in Christ are eternally having no hope in Christ are eternally
damned, it will motivate us for stronger damned, it will motivate us for stronger
commitment towards mission and comangelism.
evangelism
What's the difference between a Christian definition of hope and the secular thinking?
The word "hope" in ordinary English vocabulary is generally distinguished from "certainty." We would say, "I don't from "certainty. We would say, " don't know what's going to happen, but I or wishful thinking that something 'good' or wishful thinkin
will take place.
But the "hope" in the Bible is not mere wishful thinking. There is a 'certainity' of things.
Christian hope is when God has promised that something is going to happen and you put your trust in that promise. Christian hope is a confidence that Christian hope is a confidence that
something will come to pass because something will come to pass because How do we build our hope in God? Hope is a portion or part of faith. Faith and hope are strongly interconnected. Hope is said to be faith in the future tense. So our faith is Hope.
The Bible says, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God". This implies that hope, like faith, is also implies that hope, like faith, is also
strengthened by the Word of God. Hope strengthened by the Word of God. Hope comes from reading His precious and very great promises and looking to Christ who
purchased them. purchased them.
The Word of God, faith, hope, love and mission are serially connected. So the essence of what we look to in the Bible to build our hope is, what has Christ done for me in my sinful condition that enables me to know that I will not come in to judgment and condemnation and that all things are working together for
my good? And the answer is that Christ died for me, rose again for me, He lives for me, He is returning for me - I will live with him forever and therefore all the promises of God are yes in Him.
So let's look away from the circumstances that confront us, look to Christ, look to the promises, and hold fast to them Hope comes from the promises of God rooted in the work of Christ
All the programs at India Bible College and Seminary are structured with the intent of building hope in the students and leading them to mission. Much emphasis is given to the reading and study of Scripture. Every student has to memorize at least 100 Bible verses each academic year Every chapel service begins with sequential listening to the audio Bible reading All the courses taught ab Bib bas We believe that all the 66 books in the Bible are the inspired Word of God We impart our vision mission to We rudents in vision and Through practical ministry our classes. Through practical ministry training, mission chapels, evangelism seminars we motivate mission
Only the Word of God can instill faith in the students which in turn will produce love and hope, which would lead them to the mission fields. We are grateful to our God who called and entrusted the founding leaders of our Seminary with the great vision to proclaim Christ and plant churches in India and beyond. This vision has led the Seminary to train and equip thousands for the last 90 years! All glory be to the Lord for the hope that He has given us and the mission He is doing through our Seminary! $\bullet$

## How

do we build our
hope in God? Hope is a portion or part of faith. Faith and hope are strongly interconnected.
Hope is said to be faith in the future tense. So our faith is Hope



.in From the Office of the Principal


Dr. John Alex
Principal

Abound in Hope is the theme of India Bible College and Seminary for the academic year 2019-2020. The theme has particular significance for our seminary, mainly because hope is not the epilogue of Christianity but the striving force for us to move forward. India Bible College and Seminary is completing 90 years of training and molding Christian ministers. It is also a milestone as the first batch of the B.D students is graduating this year. How marvelous are your ways, O Lord. There is a hope for us to move forward because of the faithfulness of God in the past. In our past struggles God was with us and helped us to move forward. He who has begun a good work in us is faithful to complete it. With this note on hope in relation to our seminary let me pen down a few paragraphs on Christian view of hope.

First and foremost, Christian hope is not based on human effort but is a gift of God. No human effort can bring hope in the society. Marxian philosophy seeks to define hope within the history.

## First

and foremost, Christian hope is not based on human effort but is a gift of God.

No human effort can bring hope in the society. Human beings are a historical animal committed to a historical destiny. Human beings have to work up for the betterment of human history which contain within itself. The element of transcendent is nullified in the Marxian framework. In the words of Marxian philosopher Ernst Bloch, "The process is made by those who are made by the process." History proves it wrong. Neither scientific development nor any human efforts were able to bring an egalitarian society envisioned in the Marxian thought. The prayer of Jesus was "your kingdom come and your will be done in earth as it is in heaven." The prayer points to the aspect of gift character in the transformation of the world. The reign of God can only establish the peace and justice in the world. Putting it in biblical terms, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews. 11:1)

Second, the term hope in itself has the basic meaning of 'a look into the future'. There is always something more, beyond There is always something more, beyond
that of today. What are we waiting for? that of today. What are we waiting for? The answers can be many. However in
Christianity, waiting is not any kind of Christianity, waiting is not any kind of a fantasy hope but a reality which is motivating us to move forward. It is not like the Waiting for Godot, a synonym for despair. "Waiting for Godot" is a two plot tragic comedy of two tramps waiting for a character Godot with much anticipation and hope of change to happen. But to their despair Godot never appears. Contrary to Godot, in Christian understanding, God is the one who incarnated and the one who intervenes in history
Third, hope points to the reality that we have not reached the final destiny. Hope points to the reality of a pilgrim in progress as against a tourist. A tourist has no particular goal other than going has no particular goal other than going around seeing things and finally returning to his lodge. On the other hand, the pilgrim has a destiny and always moves forward to the destiny. Kosuke Koyama differentiates between a tourist and a pilgrim. A tourist is on his shoes while a pilgrim in on barefoot in the presence of the holy. Koyama writes, "The holy must be approached slowly and carefully with respect and humility. The holy must not be approached by motorcycle or helicopter. It must be approached by walking." The Christian hope is always a pilgrim progressing for the glory of God. Third, the Christian understanding of hope is in the midst of persecution or struggles and also is able to rejoice in God. Christian hope is the surety of God's intervention in the midst of our struggles. Paul writes, "We boast of our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into 24 our hearts through the Holy Spirit that 24 has been given to us" (Rom 5:3-5). The

Christian call is not to give up because the work of God is not yet finished. Christian hope is not a fostering hope but a dynamic one because future belongs to God. Christians rejoice in the midst of suffering because future belongs to God. Psalmist sings, "Not to us, 0 Lord not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness" (Ps 115:1)

Fourth, the Christian hope lies in the crucified Christ and resurrection. In the post World War II context Moltmann wrote the book, Theology of Hope. He presents the ground of Christian hope, The Crucified God. For Moltmann, Good Friday and Easter are two inseparable events. There is no Easter without a Good Friday and vice versa. Moltmann writes, "For me, however, this is not step back from the trumps of Easter to the lamentations of Good Friday. As intend to show, the theology of the cross is none other than the reverse side of th Christian theology of hope, if the startin point of the latter lies in the resurrectio of the crucified Christ." The resurrectio of Jesus is the birth of a new promis of the reign of God and it comes with a call for all of us to work towards that reign of God.
During the Inaugural and Thanksgiving Service of the Senate of Seramapore program held in 2016, my speech was entitled "Humble Beginning of Transition." Looking back at the academic and other progress of the seminary thes past four years, I realize it was not an human effort but it was God who helped us to move forward. We started with fiv BD and seven BD - Orientation students. Currently, 51 students are enrolled for the BD residential program under the Senate of Serampore. We have not yet reached our final destiny. We are pilgrims progressing, day by day. We believe that the God who helped us in the past will strengthen us with his Spirit to move forward.


## Ever since

 my father Pastor K.T. Mathew and T.S. Abraham were ordained on the same day, they became close friendsand associates, which provided me easy access
to the bungalow.
nthe year 1987, I was elected as the Treasurer for the Kerala State $^{\text {a }}$ PYPA, which paved the way for me to have a close interaction with the IPC leadership, and especially with Pastor T.S. Abraham, who was the jewel in the leadership.
Ever since my father Pastor K.T. Mathew and T.S. Abraham were ordained on the same day, they became close friends and associates, which provided me easy access to the bungalow. My relationship to the bungalow was corroborated by the close friendship and closeness of my brother, Dr. Thomson K. Mathew and Dr. Valson Abraham. In the same year I was also appointed as a teacher at Hebron Bible College. That was the humble beginning of a strong and steady relationship with 'father' Abraham and his beloved son!

Only senior Pastors of the IPC used to be teachers at Hebron in those days namely, Pastors M.V. Varghese, T.C. Easaw, K.K. Cherian, K.M. John and C.I. Cherian; and naturally I was the 'baby' in the team.
It was a time of turmoil in IPC. Those were days where we saw the dual faces of some of our leaders, their expertise in disguising,
the frightening faces of vengeance, envy and deceitfulness. Yes, we witnessed a lot of dramas, yet, I stood with T.S. (Pr. T.S. Abraham) just as Barzillai stood with David at his dire hour of need.
In retrospect I remember so many friendly faces: First and foremost, I see Achan (Mathew) the office manager, who is known for his compassion and jovial nature;
Pastor K.J. James - for his frequent fasting Pastor M.V. Varghese - for his ceaseless humor and sarcasm
Pastor C.V. Varghese - for his loud voice in class and murmuring thereafter
Pastor K.M. John - for his political interest Pastor K.K. Cherian - for his ruthless discipline
Pastor Oommen Abraham for his charity, laughter and cough
Pastor T.C. Easaw for his piercing stare and laughter and
Dr. T.V. Thomas for his shrewd behavior. The most shining memory about Hebron is my dearest T.S. Almost every day he used to wait at the half-open front door of his bungalow for me. Before going to class, I used to visit him at the bungalow and chat for a short while. I was learning and growing. Mummy always would have something to share in the bungalow meeting - letters received from missionaries or former students of Hebron, teachers who lag behind in teaching or news from her favorite places, Hyderabad and Secunderabad.
'Trumpet,' the forerunner of 'revive' magazine was started in the year 1993. At this time, I remember Shajichayen (Jacob Thomas) because he and I went together to Kottayam to collect details about its publication. T.S. wanted me to be its editor. It was a real challenge and excitement work in of Trumpet. It grew in circulation and became the favorite magazine for many in IPC and other denominations as well. 26 Another fond memory I have is
remembering Pastor T.S. Abraham calling me at 10 p.m. He used to chat for a little bit, with his natural sense of humor, say good night and ask me to reach Kumbanad early the next day. I kept that routine. The relationship grew stronger and stronger. Who was T.S. Abraham? In my relationship with him, I have seen him: treating everybody with gentleness, including his critics, diligently doing his duties, even critics, ditigently into the night, being sincere to the church and its doctrine, and punctually church and its doctrine, and punctually Sunday School anniversary. He was also a person who was far away from destructive politics, a person of few words but many deeds, and a person who was greatly revered, even by critics. How excited he was in helping the needy writing a letter of recommen dation or being an arm in need. How quick he was in doing secretarial job including being humble in going all by himself to post a letter in the mailbox near the pross when there were many people around him who were ready to elphim with it Also, have seen intim how humility silently wins!
My days in Kumbanad and IBC/HBC taught me many lessons. Those were noteworthy days. There are seasons in life. Once again, I found my way back to the U.S.A. Drastic changes took place in IBC and IPC, but the rela tionship remained. Time does not wait for anyone or anything. Time came for my beloved T.S. also to receive his eternal call, and it took place on February 5th, 2018. Fortunately, I was here in India at the time of his home call. The gentle voice in Kumbanad came to a standstill. The reminiscence about those gentle days itself is so comfortable. We live in a world of change. Everything undergoes changes. We don't know what history has in store for us in the future. Still, we will hope for the best and the God of Hope will fill our hearts with hope in abundance.


The author of the epistle of Hebrews describes hope as the anchor of the soul, that is sure and steadfast and one that enters within the heavenly world, where our Lord has gone as our forerunner (Hebrews 6:19). This image of hope is very vivid and concrete, giving a beautiful description about the meaning and function of hope in the life of a believer. A ship's anchor is a heavy hook shaped metal that sinks deep into the sand bed of the ocean and holds the huge ship anchored and keeps it from being tossed to and fro with the waves and winds that come against the ship. Hope is what keeps us steady and focused towards our goal. Hope is waiting expectantly for something better than what the present holds.
We need to understand that though hope is the bedrock of Christian faith it is also a universal factor of life. Hope is that significant life factor that keeps a person strong and steady in his or her effort to see a better tomorrow. Hope is the factor that drives people of all walks in life with a purpose. So, is there anything distinctive in the Biblical understanding of hope? What is the Old Testament understanding of hope? How can hope give meaning to our present
life and struggles? Does hope mean that we wait passively for a better future? In the Old Testament, hope is the expectation of highest good in the life of a believer or in the future generation of the believer. The word "hope" is not found as such in the Old Testament, though its near equivalent is found all through. The Hebrew word "qawa" means to stretch out the mind in a straight direction towards an object of hope or expectation, for instance "Our hope is in you" (Jer $14: 22$ ) and "Lord is the hope of Israel" (Jer 14:8; 17:13; 50:7). "Tiqwa" is another derivative of "qawa" referring to hope but it has also been translated as trust in various Old Testament passages. The word "Batach" is also used to mean trust or be sure and have firm hope (Psalm 25:3). In the Old Testament especially believers are encouraged to wait upon God expectantly (Psalms 40:1; 130:5-6). Thus waiting patiently for the Lord could also be seen equivalent to the idea of hope.
Though the exact word for hope is rare the idea of hope permeates through the Old Testament. The ancestors like Abraham believed God and hoped for a Abraham believed God and hoped for a son and the inheritance of the promised
land of Canaan. In Romans 4:18 Paul land of Canaan. In Romans 4:18 Paul
writes about the hope of Abraham as a writes about the hope of Abraham as a
"Hope against all hope." It was the vi"Hope against all hope." It was the vibrant hope of Abraham that made him pursue the promises of God and ultimately receive them. The people of Israel walked through the wilderness in the hope of reaching Canaan. They all lived in the hope of inheriting the blessings and promises of God in the near future and in their earthly life. The book of Job as a wisdom book depicts the hope of Job in the righteousness of God. "Though he slays me, I will hope in him" (Job 13:15). The poetical book of Psalms also celebrates the idea of hope as a vibrant trust in the justice and goodness of God.
Hope in the sense of a future rule of God or eschatological hope is developed more
fully in the prophetical books. Though the prophets announced the imminen restoration of the nation of Israel, they constantly pointed towards an eschatological restoration of the nation. The prophets announced the future rule of the Messiah and life in the future Kingdom of God which would be estab lished by the Messiah. The frequently repeated word of the prophets "In the latter days." (Is 2.2: Am 9.11; Mic 4:1, latter 3:11; Zech 14:6-11) is a vivid 4. Zeph 3.1 , Zech 12.6 in 1 is a vivid exnew future that God was going to new future that God was going to humanity. This eschatological future humanity. This eschatological future hope of a better world is seen throug all the prophetic books.
The Old Testament prophets were able to imagine a different world created and ordered by God. "Everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree" is a prophetic vision of a new world, which prophets like Micah and I saiah were able to envision. According to Walter Brueg gemann these words are the prophetic magination of a "just society." Micah was able to see the vision of a new would justice d peace that Codwill word justice and peace (Micablish upon this vision the end day (Micah 4.1-4). This vision of a just and peacefut world was a common dream of the prophets which God had given them about his Kingdom
This hope reaches a climactical after-life idea in the book of Daniel as the autho of the book points to a resurrection, whereby the wise will shine as stars (Daniel 12:3) Hope inthe Messiah and his Kingdom grew into a fervent expectation in the interim period before the coming of Jesus Christ as is reflected in the Gos pel accounts. With the coming of Christ the Kingdom has been inaugurated however the fulfilment of the King however the fulfilment of the King dom promises is something still in future. The believer today look forward confidently to the second coming of Christ, the resurrection of God's people and the arrival of God's

Kingdom because Jesus has inaugurated the Kingdom. We live in the hope of the second coming of Christ and the future rule of God on the earth.
So what is so unique about Biblical hope? This question is really worthwhile because hope is a universal factor that drives the human race to keep on doing their task and maintain their desire to live. Biblical hope is based on an eschatological perspective that expects new things to happen by the intervention of God and the constant effort of the people of God. Two distinctive aspects emerge in this statement about Biblical hope. The Biblical idea is unique firstly because it does not envisage a cyclical view of history but a linear history which is moving in a definite direction, the direction purposed in the heart of God. It is the will of God to bring the New Heaven and New Earth, and it is towards that irection history is moving decisively. Secondly the Biblical hope is dhus not just cassive wait for a better future rather is call for an active participation in what God is doing in history. For if the what of justice in mistory. For if the values of justice, peace and love is the character of God's Kingdom, then it m
his book Theology of Hope, Jurgen Moltmann writes about hope as a pow erful force that makes the Church dissatisfied with the present and impels them to look for a future in which there will be more life than the present. The message of Moltmann rang across Europe at a turbulent time in the 1960s, marked by tudent protests in Europe, the civil rights monent he Vietnam War in the United States, and demands from Africa, Asia and Latin merica for emic as well as political America His message is ever more beration. His message is ever more pors a crisis in socio elitical we the hefascist moves of theGovernent of na in systematic targeting of minoriies and dalits is really alarming, as has been clearly evident with the formulation

we live in a world where there is such an extent of inequali-
ty, poverty,
unemployment, political conflicts and other miseries. Our world is sharply divided
between the haves and
the have
not! Hunger
homeless-
ness and
malnutrition
is ruling our
world like a plague.
of the Citizenship Amendment Act, by passing the basic tenet of our Constitu tion. The much awaited National Registry for Citizens is even more dangerous as it could be a tool in the hands of the local Governments to deny the basic rights of the minorities and ultimately their citzenship. Christians and Muslims ar already going through a great time of persecution in many states. This registry could become a dangerous weapon in the hands of the state authorities to further their plans to curb the freedom of the minorities. These moves in keeping with the agenda of the Sangh Parivar have created a state of total unrest and fear in the minds of the people of India. We are also faced with a host of issues, like climate change, increasing cases of rape and injustice against women and dalits, looming poverty in developing countries, water crisis and so on. The world is looking for hope and the question of hope is so important for people today. Hope is a dynamic idea that runs through both the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. Hope in the words of Moltmann is something that makes the Church and the believer restless with the present realities and keeps them hooked on to God waiting for God's intervention for a better world.
Today we live in a world where there is such an extent of inequality, poverty, unemployment, political conflicts and other miseries. Our world is sharply divided between the haves and the have nots! Hunger, homelessness and malnu trition is ruling our world like a plague The Biblical promises especially the Old Testament prophecies are a vivid encouragement and sustaining hope for us that God's rule and justice will bring to pass a just and prosperous new world, a world that will be different from what we see today, a world that will be ruled by God in justice, peace and love. It is towards this hope that the Church must move on! •
ses of God. An unquenchable thirst and hope for a new beginning emerged in the context of captivity (cf.Hos.2; Jer.29:1ff; 31:31-34; Ezek.36:27).
The Greek words used in the NT for hope is 'elpis' and its verbal form 'elpizo,' which is often employed to mean confidence in God and His promises. In the Synoptic Gospels, this word had the sense of expectation' based on the arrival of the Kingdom of God. Similarly, in the Pauline corpus, the theology of hope is centred on the universal rule of God, resurrection of the body ( 1 Cor.15:52f), the eternal life 1Tim.6:17; Tit.1:2; 3:7), hope in God's promises, the person of Christ (Col.1:27 cf. Heb.10:23) and a future share in the glory of God (Rom.5:2; 2Cor.4:16-18). Hope is one of the central features of Pauline theology and it is well explained through his letters, especially in the letter the Romans. This hope is directed owards a future glorious expectation of wems ainicregnthat the believerstart . exper 15:5; Co115; Tit 2:13). Paul bris ; Gal.5:5; Col.1:5; Tit.2.13). Paut bring , triad of faith-Lovinope when (Cotis:13). 1Cor.13:13)
Paul jubilantly concludes the letter to the Romans, referring to God as the God of hope' and praying that his readers may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit' (Rom.15:13).

## I. Pauline Understanding

 f Hope in the light of
## ROMANS 8

Paul is writing about hope not when he was in a comfortable zone but while he was preparing for a difficult mission to Rome (Rom.15:23-29). He is also outlining the eschatological hope o acknowledging Jesus Christ as Lord of al (Rom.14:11; 15:12) in the context of the false propaganda of the Pax Romana This hope of the messiah ruling the nations in the first century Roman imperial context has explosive political implica-

foundation of Christian life ie if God is on our side there is no force on earth that can stand against us (v.31)
Paul develops the theology of hope by setting an example from the life of Abraham, and thus proves that the foundation of hope is based on the promises of God. When he was tested with human impossibilities it got strengthened by his 'hope' in God (Rom.4:18-25).
A. The Content of Christian Hope and Its Future Orientation (8:1-27)
The first twenty seven verses of Romans 8 describes the ministry of the Holy Spirit which is indwelling in us, liberating us, giving us life and interceding for us (vv1-27). The new life which is given the believers (Rom.7). Moreover, the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of the things to come as well as the proof of the dawned new age. The role of the Spirit is highlighted by Paul in providing victory to the Christian believers over allodds in life. The believers have been transplanted to a new domain of the Spirit with the life giving power, peace and hope. The same Spirit enables the believer to experience the abounding hope (Rom.15:13)
In this chapter, Paul emphasises the Christian hope by anticipating the renewal of the whole Cosmos, which 'groans together and travails in pain' (vv.18-25) This groaning is further connected with prayer, and thus an encouragement for prayer, especially during the time of suffering, as we find an extreme scarcity of proper words to pray, the Spirit comes to our aid as an intercess 26-27). It is through praye the Spir us to cry "Abba! Fater!" wich our utter dain describes the help of the Holy Spirit through groans that words cannot express in our prayer
Paul is giving the content of Christian hope in the light of the Future Glory
(vv.18-25). The creation itself will be liberated from its decay, and it will share in "the freedom of the glory of the children of God." Paul describes the inheritance of believers as the entire cosmos liberated from decay, renewed, and transformed from decay, renewed, and transformed
('a new heaven and a new earth') by the ('a new heaven and a new earth') by the
creator God (cf.Ac.3:20-21; 2Pet.3:13; creator God (cf.Ac.3:20-21; 2Pet.3:13;
Rev.21-22). Paul reminds the Roman be-Rev.21-22). Paul reminds the Roman believers that it was the human fall that oc-
casioned the destruction of the cosmos casioned the destruction of the cosmos
and the environmental abuse. He affirms that the creation itself will be affirms that the creation itself will be liberated from its slavery to decay to share in the freedom of the glory of the children of God' (v.21). Paul's understanding of the future hope has a description about the redemption of our bodies' (v. 23; cf.Phil.3:21) and 'their adoption as God's children.' He is explaining the cosmic hope of the renewal of all things, which is now groaning for its redemption (vv. 22-23). According to Paul, God's plan of redemption has already been started in principle in the resurrection of Jesus. However, the final accomplishment will be in the future, for which the believers are asked to wait with eager longing.

## B. The Abounding Nature of

Christian Hope (8:28-39)
In the second part of Romans 8, Paul is taking the reader to sublime heights of Christian confidence and the final culmination of the hope that 'all things work together for good of those who love him' (vv.28-30). In this section Paul is using many rhetorical questions and answers to prove the abounding hope in God based on the love of God that is the foundation of Christian life (vv.31-39). 'If God is for us, who is against us?' The following verses (vv.38-39) say that there are many opposing forces against us but are many opposing forces againstus but pel) "No one" can be against us. Paul also pel) No one canbe against us. Paul also makes the emphatic note of confidence that 'he who indeed did not spare his him give us all things' (v32). him give us all things' (v.32)


If God justifies, 'who will bring charges against the elect of God?' (v.33). The answer is God is the justifier and nobody can bring any charge against 'those whom God has chosen' (v.33). 'If Christ who died and was raised' now intercedes at the right hand of God then 'who is there to condemn?' (v.34). It points to the future judgement. Nobody is there to condemn the believer because Christ Jesus died, raised and now inter cedes at the right hand of God (v.34). 'Who will separate us from the love of Christ?' (v.35). Paul is bringing many issues like persecution both from the religious as well as political side (hunger, famine, nakedness, danger or (hunger, famine, nakedness, danger a challenge to the believers' life but God's community are more than conquerors. Nobody can separate us from the love bober copar the special relatio betwo God and his ppeple his people.
For the first time in the letter to the Romans, Paul mentions various kinds of suffering the first century ecclesia faced (v. 38,39 ). The threat is from both the earthly and supernatural powers (cf.Gal.4:3,9; Col.2:8,20). But in spite of all these things we are more than conquerors' (v.37). Paul is taking the readers to the pinnacle of the revelation which culminates in an experience of profound worship and adoration because when God is for us who can be against us.

## III. Theological Implication

 for the Present Day Ecclesia In Rom.8, Paul is reiterating the confi Paul is bringing this final climax of hope not with a comfortable position but with danger and difficulties that may cost his life for the cause of the gospel. But he has this hope that is 'if God is on our side, then no force on earth or heaven can be against us.' Christian experience is enlightened

Thus, the ministry of equipping and training young men and women for full-time ministry began on $1^{\text {st }}$ June 1930

The Bible Class was started in the main room of the rented Kiliamplackkal house in Kumbanad where K.E. Abraham lived with his family. Abraham was the only teacher during that year when students from Kumbanad, Eraviperoor, Tharasserry, Poovathoor, Pullad, Nellimala, Othera, Koipuram, Enikkad (the actual location of IGO campus today), Puramattom, etc., came to study during the evenings.


An interactive class with Pr. T. S. Abraham



The classes were taught amidst a very special presence of the Holy Spirit. Sensing this was the birth of a huge mission, Pastor Abraham was led to spend days of preparation in fasting and prayer. Although food was scarce, there was something to eat during the daytime. However, there was usually no food by evening Pastor K.E. Abraham was the first teacher and this school was later named Hebron Bible School.
In the second year (1931), classes began in the month of June and were held in a shed in the front yard of the Kumbanad Faith Home
(Kiliamplackkal House). P.T. Chacko (a resident of Kumbanad) was a B.D. student at Serampore College. While on vacation, he became the second teacher at the Bible School along with Pastor K.E. Abraham.
During the second year, 40 students studied here, of which 35 men and women students stayed with the K.E. Abraham family. Among them were Brothers T.G. Oommen, M.K. Chacko (Delhi), C. Chacko, K.K. Varkey (Valakom) and K.G. Mathew (Kochukunju). A few others stayed in nearby houses and attended classes.

Each day the needs of the school were met solely through prayer. There was no regular income or financial support. The miraculous provision of the Lord was experienced by those who were part of the Bible School.
One instance was when 50 of them, including little children and family members of Brother Kumbanad Anjilimoottil and K.E. Abraham, were going through starvation. Everyone was tired and weak. Classes were halted. K.E. Abraham, too weak to even sit up and pray, was lying on his bed and questioned God whether he was trying to run the school as per his own desires. He submitted to the Lord and made a declaration that he was willing to close the school if it was contrary to the will of God.
Immediately, K.E. Abraham sensed a voice in his heart reassuring him that the Lord was allowing this to happen for a purpose and that was to train the students to trust God for their needs, as they will need to exercise this same


faith in their mission fields. Abraham called the students together and they started praying on their knees for food. T.G. Oommen prayed first followed by another student. This is when Abraham heard the voice of the Lord again, encouraging him to "pray believing that you have received what you prayed for. Praise God believing that the food has been provided."
K.E. Abraham immediately told the praying students to start praising God for sending the food and by faith told his wife to go the kitchen with some sisters and set a pot of water to boil, as rice and supplies were on their way! His wife Annamma obeyed and set the water to boil, by faith. This is when Satan whispered in Abraham's ear, sowing seeds of doubt and the ridicule


TEACHERS : Pastors T. C. Easow, T. S. Abraham, T.G. Oommen, Pastors T.C. Easow, T. S. Abraham, T.C
M. V. Varghese and Mathew Samuel


Support staff at
Support staff at
Hebron Bible college in the 1980's


Teachers ( L to R) Seated : Pr. Mathew Samuel, M. V. Varghese, George Varghese, T. S. Abraham,
C. K. Daniel, T. G. Oommen, V.T. Joseph, George Oommen, C. I. Cherian, T. C. Easow
he would face for the foolishness of such a step of faith. Abraham rebuked this evil voice and spoke words of faith and trusted in the One who promised

Five minutes later, a brother who lived two miles away, came trudging uphill carrying a basket on his head.


Dining facility in the early days


Pastor K. E. Abraham with grandson Valson at Secunderabad

## HEBRON BIBLE COLLEGE + 




The extended dining hall of Hebron Bible College in the background


Students received all round training both inside and outside the classroom

Unaware that the students were starving, he unloaded the basket. To the immense surprise of all, the basket contained rice with all the condiments and supplies needed to cook a meal for all those who were hungry. The students praised God for His miraculous provision, were refreshed in the Spirit and increased in their faith - abounding in hope!
Such incidents happened numerous times as young evangelists were trained at the Bible School. These experiences prepared them to face challenges in their mission fields, depending only on the Lord for their needs. Churches that were established by these men of faith continue to stand strong even today. In 1932, K.E. Abraham moved to live with beloved K.C. Oommachen and family, sharing his house that he later donated to the church and became part of the Hebron campus. The Bible School also shifted here and was run in a shed covered with coconut leaves


The early English Medium batch taught by Dr. Mathew Chacko, Pastors M. Abraham, B. I. Samuel, K.J. Philip, Mrs. Mary Abraham Pastors T. S. Abraham, P. K. Chacko, M. V. Varghese, , M. John with Office Manager Evang. P. N. Mathew
and set up on eight large wooden pillars in front of Bro. Oommachen's house. From this year onwards, the school was named Hebron Bible School, and the property was called Hebronpuram In 1932, the classes were divided into senior and junior classes. K.M. Zachariachen, a former student, received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and also had a gift to teach. He was appointed teacher of the junior class. Among the students were K.V. Kurian and P.M. Philip.
T.G. Oommen was appointed to teach in the year 1935 by the Principal Pastor K.E. Abraham. K.C. Oommachen was the manager of the School. In Hebronpuram, a main hall with a few side rooms was built with the intention to be developed into the Hebron Bungalow. The Hebron Bible School was run in the main hall of this building Worship services were also conducted here. The honorable teachers were Messers K.C. Cherian, K.M. Zacharia, P.T. Chacko, K.J. Samuel and K.E. Abraham. This was the first year that K.J. Samuel started teaching at the Bible School. That year 120 students enrolled from Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Kuttoor Kuttyachen was placed in charge of the boarding responsibilities for the Bible School.
Pastors K.E. Abraham and K.C. Cherian visited Sweden in 1936. Every year the Stockholm Philadelphia Church conducted a Bible School session for the young Pentecostal workers from all over Sweden, and that year it was held from 5th October to 9th November. Six hundred young people attended from Sweden, Bulgaria


Mrs. Laly Abraham gives away prizes


Pastors C. T. Cherian, Wilson Joseph, Sam George, George Oommen at a Graduation Service


Mrs. Mary Abraham with students


Library in the 1980's

Finland, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Ireland and England. Teachers were from England and America. Pastor Abraham was one of the teachers in Stockholm and Pastor K.C. Cherian was teaching a group of 200 students at another location. The personal remuneration received for this teaching ministry by Pastor Abraham was used to purchase the 60-cent cemetery land in the name of the Kumbanad Church. In the year 1939, at least 100 students stayed and studied at Hebron, prominent among them were C.K. Daniel and M.D. George. In a few years, others like H.L. Turner, V.T. Thomas, and P.J. Daniel also joined as teachers.

In 1954, Pastors K.E. Abraham, V.T. Thomas, K.V. Kurian, C.K. Daniel and T.N. Abraham were the teachers. K.E. Mathew taught English and Bro. P.J. Philipose taught music in the classical style.
In 1955, Sis. Annamma Mammen was one of the teachers and Pastor M.C. George Sasthry taught Hindi.
During a tour of the United States of America, Pastor K.E. Abraham published the English version of his book, Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The authorities of


Pastors John K. Mathew, M. O. Samuel, Mrs. Annie Jacob, Mrs. Mary Abraham, Pastors T. S. Abraham, K. M. John, M. V. Varghese, C. V. John, K. J. James, M. K. Georgekutty, C. V. Varghese, T. T. Simon, Evang. P. N. Mathew


Debate held in the 1990's led by Bro. Jacob Thomas, Kuwait


Evang. P. N. Mathew - Office Manager with
and


Support staff with a guest



Chapel Service
to stay there. Likewise, he prepared two English charts on canvas titled, God's Plan for the Ages and Three Heavens and Three Hells. Rev. Wells of Chattanooga printed these charts and published them in the USA. It was very humbling to see how the notes from Hebron School blessed so many Americans as well. It was another reason to praise God.
The School was raised to Hebron Bible College (HBC) in 1969 and Pastor Oommen Abraham served as its registrar. Pastor K.J. Samuel was promoted to Glory on June 30th, 1970. Pastor

T.S. Abraham was appointed principal of HBC on July 1st, 1970.
Pastor K.E. Abraham finished his race on earth and entered Glory on 9th December 1974. Mrs. Annamma Abraham started the Ladies Bible School during the summer months in 1975. In 1980, the Golden Jubilee of HBC was celebrated from 29th February through 1st March to commemorate 50 years of God's provision. Pastors T.G. Oommen, C.K. Daniel, P.M. Philip, T.M. Varghese, P.T. Chacko, V.T. Joseph, C. Chacko, M.V. Chacko, M.V. Varghese, E.C. George, Dr. John Thannickal, Dr. Habel G. Varghese,


A class on Systematic Theology by Pr. M. V. Chacko


A few teachers with Pr. \& Mrs. T.S. Abraham



Prayer has been the sole reason for the growth and sustenance of the ministry


Mrs. K.E. Abraham, Pastor T.S. Abraham and others spoke on the occasion. A special alumni conference was held during these days.

The HBC English medium classes and threeyear courses began in 1984. English medium classes were shifted to the new K.E. Abraham Foundation building in 1988 and supported by India Gospel Outreach

The period between 1989 to 1993 were challenging years for the College, yet the gracious and faithful hand of the Lord allowed the ministry of equipping to continue unhindered. HBC produced some very strong ministers, leaders and church planters during this period. For unavoidable reasons, the college under the name of HBC closed down in December 1993. However, the Lord enabled us to carry forward the vision and continue the ministry on a wider scale through India Bible College (IBC) from May 1994. Thus, the ministry of training started in June 1930 by Pastor K.E. Abraham continued without a break.

The Hebron PG Course was started in 1995. Pastor T.S. Abraham, President of India Bible College (IBC) and President of India Pentecostal Church of God was an able administrator, pastor and teacher. He led, taught and mentored thousands for church planting for more than 65 years. He was the eldest son of Pastor K.E. Abraham.


Pastor Dr. T. Valson Abraham, son of PastorT.S. Abraham, today, serves as President of IBC as well as President of India Pentecostal Church today. He has been shouldering the responsibility of this institution for the past 35 years. He did his undergraduate studies at Osmania University; graduate studies at West Texas A\&M University; and missiology and theology studies at Fuller Theological Seminary, California, USA. He is the founder/president of India Gospel Outreach, a mission organization that has established


NDA BIBGE COLLE GRADUATION SIEA-BETVIOE


Pr. K. C. Mathews brings greetings



Open air meeting by students


Bible colleges and training centers in Punjab, Odisha, Gujarat, Darjeeling, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Jammu \& Kashmir and partnered with institutions in Himachal Pradesh and Mizoram.
Since 1995, IBC offered the TAFTEE BTS degree to eligible students along with the college B.Th program. In the year 2000, the Asia B.Th program. In the year 2000, the Asia
Theological Association (ATA) accredited our B.Th and Dip.Th programs.

In the year 2000, IBC was raised to the level of India Bible College and Seminary, with a new vision laid on an old foundation. Thousands new vision laid on an old foundation. Thousands of graduates have planted churches in India
and beyond. Pastors, teachers, mission and and beyond. Pastors, teachers, mission and
church leaders, Bible translators, women leaders, youth ministers and social workers are among the roles graduates fill in the communities.
India Bible College and Seminary (IBCS) started the M.Div program in 2002, which was accredited by ATA in 2004.
God answered prayers for a more spacious facility and provided nearly 38 acres of land at Kozhimala, near Kumbanad, in 2004. Construction of the facilities on IGO Campus began in 2007 and the first phase of the master plan reached completion in 2009. The IGO Campus began to function in 2010. Today the Seminary has a spacious academic block with classrooms, a library, administrative wing and a chapel, as well as dorms to accommodate 128 men and 48 ladies, faculty quarters, 128 men and 48 ladies, faculty quarters, spacious dining/kitchen areas and a store for
students. The Malayalam programs are held students. The Malayalam programs are held
at Hebron Campus and the English programs are at the IGO Campus.
Apart from the residential programs, IBCS offers a distance education program offering B.Th in English and Dip. Th in Malayalam. The seminary also conducts evening classes in seminary also conducts evening classes in In 2016, India Bible College and Seminary received its affiliation with the Senate of Serampore College (University) and in May


2016 we started the BD-Orientation and BD residential programs. This is a significant milestone in the history of IBCS. Our first BD batch graduates this year. IBC and $S$ also offers M.Th. (Counseling) and the D.Min. program.
The Malayalam programs are held at Hebron Campus and the English programs are at the IGO Campus. IBCS is blessed with over 60 well-
experienced and qualified faculty members and another 50 non-teaching as well as support staff. The K.E. Abraham Foundation Board members, whose chairperson is Pastor Dr. T. Valson Abraham, provides sound and stable governance to IBCS. The president of the Seminary has been very generous and intentional in the area of capacitybuilding by strengthening library resources and


2000-2001 Batch


Graduation Service 2019
faculty development. Numerous faculty members have been sent to pursue their masters and Doctoral programs over the last 20 years.

The president of IBCS is assisted by the vice-president (dev.); vice-president (admin.); director; principal; various deans; coordinators; department heads and in-charges who serve as a link between the student community and the office of the president and oversee the day-to-day running of the ministry.
The aim of every undertaking at India Bible College and Seminary is to prepare dynamic evangelists,
church planters and leaders whose sole foundation is the Bible; whose one mission will be to fulfil the Great Commission; whose service will be selfless commitment.
For 90 years we have experienced His grace and guidance. And the same grace will continue to lead us on.
My prayer for the 2020 graduates of IBCS is an echo of Apostle Paul's prayer for the Christians in Rome - that the power of the Holy Spirit will cause your hope to abound and overflow to others.


Our pravers and best wishes to the Class of 2020!


Philip Chacko \& Family, Cambridge, UK

Greetinqs and blessinas to the Graduating Class of 2020!


Abraham Simon \& Family, Canada H20

Blessings and prayers to the Graduating Class of 2020!


Dr. Sabu Varghese \& Family, USA

Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart (Psalm 37:4).


Jose K. Varghese \& Family, Kuwait

Oh, how great is Your goodness, Which You have laid up for those who fear You, Which You have prepared for those who trust in You In the presence of the sons of men! (Psalm 31:19).


Pramod George, Susan Pramod Joel, Joan \& Jeff


President Pastor Dr. T. Valson Abraham with some Faculty Members








Continued from Page 32
and illuminated by the reality of the hope of glory founded on the promises of God This hope of the covenant community will grow in the midst of suffering, trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger or sword
The study of Pauline exhortation to 'abound in hope' has tremendous po tential to shape the ecclesial community and to face the socio-economic and lobal challenges. Christian ecclesia need o speak nog creation's destruction ut of its transformation and renewa founded on Christian hope for the uture. However, the covenant community are called out to be the stewards of nature as per the creation plan of God is
concerned (Gen.1:26-28).
The present-day ecclesial community is living in an eschatological period waiting for the ultimate realization of the kingdom of God. The reality around them may not always support the promises of God and it is seemingly contradictory to the actual situation we face. However, God's gift of the Holy Spirit to the ecclesial community ouldes the experiential bas for provid abounding hope towards the future. In a world, where suffering is considered as a curse and a sign of God's displeasure, Paul exhorts the Christian community who face internal and external battles of life, to live in faith, peace, patience, character and hope. -


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In Christian theology, hope does not begin in human effort but grounded in the God who established a relationship with all of creation, especially through God's promises communicated to humanity. In the Old Testament, God's loving-kindness, revealed

## When

a person becomes a Christian, hope that is beyond this world is implanted in him and it grows into maturity
to have a glimpse
of eternity in
this life itself.

## Christian Hope: A Trinitarian Gift that <br> Begins at our Salvation

Christian hope is to be understood in light of the Trinitarian activity. The scripture firmly affirms that God is unchangeable and therefore, God's character, will and promises do not change (Ps. 102: 25-27; Mal. 3:6; Jam. 1:17). God's unchanging being and character establish God's promises as utterly reliable (Col. 1:5) Heb.10:23; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18; 7:20) ikewise, God's past faithfulness to his people gives reason to hope (Pss. 42:4, 6; 05; 106; Rom. 15:4). Besides, the Father sent the Son to take human flesh (John 1:14) and live with humanity. God's supreme act of raising Jesus, as the firstfruits ( 1 Cor. 15: 20), assures believers that he will raise them also (2 Cor. 4:13) Moreover, God sent the eschatological Spirit who brings the great hope of eternity through actualising the work of Christ a believer

Similarly, Christ Jesus, "our great God and Saviour, is the hope of all believers (Titus 2:13). In fact, Christ himself is described as the Christian hope (I Tim. 1:1). Hope begins in the resurrected Christ and by his resurrection, Christian virtue of hope is estowed on the regenerate, who abound in hope through the Spirit (Rom. 15:13), Christians wait for his return from heaven (1Thess. 1:10), to receive a glorious body o enter into the eternal kingdom of God ( Cor. 15:19). The presence of Christ even now dwelling with us and in us by the Spirit constitutes "the hope of glory" Col. 1:27).
Besides, through the eschatological Spirit, the power of the age to come is being experienced by believers Ezze. 36:26-28 37:5-6, 9-10, 14; Joel 2:28-29), and we eagerly wait for the hope of righteous ess" (Gal. 5:5) and abound in hope (Rom. 15:13). We have been sealed with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:12-13) as the foretaste of the coming glory. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the church, the eschatological community, in mission, brings hope into every corner of the world.

significant aspect of Christian hope is, it flourishes in the midst of persecution and
suffering.
This can
apparently
be seen in
the ministry and writings of Apostle Paul and he amply expounds the idea in his epistles.

## Christian Hope: A Hope that Flourishes in the Midst of Afflictions and Suffering

Another significant aspect of Christian hope is that, it flourishes in the midst of persecution and suffering. This can apparently be seen in the ministry of Apostle Paul and he amply expounds the idea in his epistles. His own challenging experiences in the ministry of the churches he has established and new mission endeavours in dangerous situations added more clarity to the theology of hope. Although he describes the future in various epistles in doctrinal assent (Rom 8.1 Cor 15) it is in the assen (Recond Corinthians Paul elucidates the close connection between suffering and deepening of heavenly hope In 2 Cor 4:16-5.10, he expounds this element to the Corinthian believers by explaining his painful ministry experiences, persecutions and death-threats.
He exhorts the Corinthian believers that they should not be unaware of isters had experis in Cl 8-10) The afflictions they face were way beyond their ability. They literally encountered death and Paul terms it as the "sentence of death" Here Pauldoes not mention the natur of afflictions and the cause of "death sentence" We may safely conjecture that the recipient of the letter would know the nature and details of the incidents As we know from the book of Acts and Paul's own letters, he had greatly suffered persecutions at various times and places: "imprison ments, countless floggings, five times forty lashes minus one, three times beaten with rods, received a stoning, three times ship-wrecked, a night and a day adrift at sea...". (2 Cor. 11: 23-29). Such perilous incidents would have taken a toll on his health and a deteriorated health condition would have almost led himto death. Another possible reason could be that, any epidemic that had spread in Asia region at that time might have acted as a threat to life, and as we know, no
advance medical facilities were existent at that time.
However, the most probable reason could be a violent persecution Paul and his fellow workers faced in Asia. Paul here repeatedly uses the plural pronoun "we" while explaining the incident (2 Cor. 1: $8-10$ ); if we take it literally, as a team they encountered a threat that could have terminated their life. It could be a violent mob, who opposed gospel preaching and the introduction of a new religion into their society. This is a reasonable proposition, as the book of Acts sonable proposition, as the book of Acts describes many instances that Paul and his companions faced death-threats. In
Lystra, he was stoned by a crowd and Lystra, he was stoned by a crowd and dragged out of the city (probably in a garbage dumping area), supposing that
he was dead (Acts 14: 19-20). In Philippi, he was dead (Acts 14: 19-20). In Philippi,
Paul and Silas were seized by a mob and Paul and Silas were seized by a mob and
dragged into market place, flogged and dragged into market place, flogged and imprisoned (Acts 16: 16-24). Similarly, in Ephesus, a violent mob was about to
kill Paul but he was not allowed to come out in the open by his companions (Acts 19: 21-41; cf. 17: 1-8). Moreover, he faced tremendous mental pressure in relation to his apostolic mission and apostolic authority as many were opposing him. Therefore, he says that "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies," because the extraordinary power works in us (2 Cor. 4:7-10). Thus, in this context of extreme afflictions and suffering Paul speaks about the hope that cannot be seen, which is eternal. Paul affirms, "For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure." For him what is visible is temporary. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is renewed through the Spirit, bestowed on us by God and we are waiting for the heavenly hope. It is also significant to note that Paul emphasises faith as an important aspect of the
flourishing of our hope. As we are in this flourishing of our hope. As we are in this
human body, we are away from the Lord, but by faith we walk with him (2 Cor. 4: 16-18; 5: 1-10).

## Christian Hope: A Hope that

 Goes Beyond this WorldA Theological reflection on hope is inextricably connected to the eschatological character of the kingdom of God and the eschatological dimension of salvation Paul compares our present body to an earthly tent that is slowly wasting away and will eventually perish. Our future body, on the other hand, is heavenly and eternal, for it is from God himself. Because of the weakness of our earthly bodies we groan and sigh, longing for the day when we will be clothed with our new bodies (2 Cor. 5: 1-5). The gift of the Spirit is the guarantee and assurance that we shall receive such a body The tension ween the "already but not yet" that character izes Paul's theology is nicely captured in these words: "We walk by faith not by sight" (2Cor.5.7) in the interlude, not by sigh (2Cor. 5:7) wher unticipate the future daywhenthey shall anticipate thefuture day when they shall be clothed with their resurrection bodies, At the second coming of Christ, all who have died in the Lord will be raised; and then, together with the surviving believ ers, will be transformed. When our bodie are raised from the dead we will expe rience complete victory over the death that came as a result of the fall of Adam and Eve. Then we can declare as Pau says, "Death is swallowed up in victory.' O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (1 Cor. 15:54-55).
As we conclude, Christian hope begins at our salvation and grows in the midst of afflictions, pain and suffering. It is a hope that goes beyond the present world and enters into eternity. It is the power of th Holy Spirit that roots us firmly in hope and enable us to grow in it. Faith in the triun God plays a significant role in the deep ening of hope. The transformation of our corrupted body into a glorious resurrected body will be the climax of our hope. $\bullet$


Paul's
idea of hope is alien to the hope of this generation. His concept of hope in God is one of complete resignation to His will. Untike the self-centeredness of this generation, Paul's hope is

Christ-centered.

Paul spoke more about hope than anyone else in the New Testament. Hope for him, was a strong conviction and an affirmation of faith. He used the word hope, not less than 25 times in his writings. It is one of the three main elements of Christian character ( 1 Corinthians 13:13 ). It is joined to faith and love. Hope is an essential and fundamental element of Christian life, so essential indeed, that, like faith and love, it can itself designate the essence of Christianity (Hebrews 10:23). In it the whole glory of the Christian vocation is centered (Ephesians 1:18:4:4). Unbelievers are without this hope (Ephesians 2.12) Christ is the actual object of the believer's ope ( because it is in his second coming that the hope of glory will hope, because it is in his second coming that the hope of glory will not frail and perishable, but having a perennial life.

Paul's idea of hope is alien to the hope of this generation. His concept of hope in God is one of complete resignation to His will. Unlike the self-centeredness of this generation, Paul's hope is Christ-centered. Just read what he says, "For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have
been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better" (Philippians 1:20-21).
Paul's kind of hope poses a big challenge to us in this generation. It is sacrificial, Christ-centered and heaven-bound hope. This kind of hope is different from what we have today. The hope of this present generation is self-centered, materialistic, worldly and earthbound. Its goal is how ocome materially rich It is focused become materially rich. It is focused the here and now, and unmindful of ife hereafter.

In the OT, Hope is closely related to the character of God. Those who hope in God trust God and his promises. Because God is the hope of righteousness they expect good things from God and wait patiently or his help and deliverance.
There was an eschatological hope. It was expressed in the conviction that all of history was in God's hand and that God would fulfill his promise to establish David's throne forever. This aspect of Israel's hope gave rise to the messianic expectation of the Old Testament and the idea of the resurrection of the dead
The situation of the Christian who hopes is decisively different from that of the Old Testament. Christian hopes rests on God's future act of salvation in Christ. Christian hope waits for the complete manifestation of the kingdom of God at the coming of Christ.
Paul's thought of hope begins with the salvation experience. In Romans 8:24 he says we are saved by hope. Salvation is term which has reference to the past, resent and the future. We have been saved from the guilt which sin entails; we are being saved from the power which in exerts and we shall be saved from the taint which sin involves. We were 70 in grave danger of sin and death, we
have been rescued by an act of mercy and grace. But the full blessing of that glorious salvation belongs to the future. So it is a matter of hope for which we must wait with patient expectation.

In Pauline writings Hope has the reference to the unseen and the future. Hope that is seen is not hope (Rom.8; 25). Hop cannot be identified with sight, becaus something which has come to the point of sight is no longer anything to be hoped for. The thing for which we hope is the full and glorious salvation which the gospel reveals. This means that hope is an essential element in the earnest expecta tion which makes believers strain forwar to the glorious liberty of the children of God. (Rom.8:19, 21)

One of the marks of authentic faith is perseverance, and faith persever becaus it is sustained by hope. Faith involves hope, it is apparent from IThessalonian $1 ; 9$. The Thessalonians turned to God and away from their idols in order to serve the living and true God. Faith involves radical turning to the one and only God When Paul epitomizes the life of faith he says 'we walk by faith not by sight' 2Cor.5;7. It emphasis the future of the believers.
Hope is vital for Christian existence since both faith in Christ and love fo other believers are grounded in hop (Col.1:4,5). Believers will not be able to take risks displaying love for others, no will they continue to exercise faith in the present unless they have confidence in the future. The indissoluble link between perseverance and hope is articulated in I Thessalonians 1:3, 'the endurance of hope' Hope is the root and endurance is the fruit here. Since hope is essential for persistence in the faith, Paul pray that believers will grasp the hope of their calling. Eph.1:18
If anything can dampen hope, it is th affliction and suffering that beset
believers. Paul reminds believers that afflictions are God's destined pathway for every believer. Relief from affliction will come only at the revelation of Jesus Christ from heaven. In a paradoxica way suffering actually produces more hope, because when believers suffer and manifest godliness, they are assured that God is truly working within them. Their hope increases because they become convinced that God is actually working out his plan of salvation in them.
The resurrection of Christ is the beginning of a new age of hope. In Paul's letters the church is addressed as an eschato logical community of hope, grounded in Cod's act of salvation in Christ, living in the power of the Holy Spirit and moving oward the full realization of the purpose of God.
Christians live in the time between the resurrection of Christ and the ultimate realization of the kingdom of God. They re the members of an eschatological community determined by the reality of a future that has already begun, but is still awaiting its final consummation They live in hope because God's promises in Christ so often stand in contradiction to the reality around them. But they have promises about the future to give them hope. God's gift of the Holy spirit provides an experiential basis for hope in the present. In Rom.5; 1-5 and in Romans 8, Paul writes about what it means fo Christians to live in hope. In Rom.5: 1-5 Paul reminds the Roman Church that in Christ they have already been justified faith have obtained access to the race of God and can rejoice in their hope of sharing the glory of God. Even hough it is difficult to embrace hope in the midst of the reality of suffering ince Christian experience is illuminated by the reality of the hope of glory. The reality of Christian hope is based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Hope is the source of
present strength for believers because it is grounded in what God has done in Christ, is experienced in the power of the Spirit and moves towards the glory that is to be revealed.

The relation between the Spirit and Christian hope is developed in Romans 8. Here it becomes clear that hope is inseparable from the gift of the Holy Spirit and the new life Christians have as heirs of God. The Holy Spirit guarantees Christians that their hope in Christ will be fulfilled. The suffering that Christians undergo is also part of this guarantee. Those who are joint heirs with Christ must suffer with him before they are glorified with him. The glory is as sure as the suffering and the Holy Spirit is a pledge that the suffering is not in vain. The suffering which is the characteristic of this age is the result of being faithful to Christ in a world that is hostile to him.
Believers in this age live in hope because they know that they will eventually enter into an inheritance of glory (Col.1:5) This future glory exerts influence on the present through the hope it awakens. Hope is not defined by present realitie but by God's purposes for the future When Paul writes about this future, it never becomes detached from the present experiences of life in Chris (Col.1:27). The future Christians anticipate is a consummation of activity that began in Christ's death and resurrection and continues in the present experience of the Spirit. The object of Christian hope is the coming manifestation of Christ. What is now the ground of Christian hope will then be fully manifested

Christian hope only finds meaning as a foretaste of something greater and more glorious. Hope is an encouragement to believers in the midst of suffering, but it also prevent believers from being content with present circumstances.


The Second
Coming of our Lord is the sustaining hope of a Christian. Anybody can survive without food for forty days, without water seven days, and without oxygen a few minutes. But nobody can survive without hope a single moment.

The Caption is quoted from Proverbs 31:25. It is a counsel of mother to a King (Lemuel). She elucidates the virtues of a noble wife and the hope of a faithful spouse (31:1-31). The Church is symbolized as a betrothed spouse to Jesus Christ. All those virtues depicted in this chapter are vividly matched to the church. Among these qualities, the outstanding virtue is her hope of the future The intense hope of the church is the imminent manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
The Second Coming of our Lord is the sustaining hope of a Christian Anybody can survive without food for forty days, without water seven days, and without oxygen a few minutes. But nobody can survive without hope for a single moment. So hope is an inevitable factor for the survival of a Christian in this desperate and hopeless world. Hope is commonly used to mean a wish: Its strength is the strength of the person's desire. But the Christian hope is the confident expectation of what God has promised and its strength is His faithfulness. What our Lord has promised to us is His return Our Lord is a faithful Lord to fulfill His promises.

The second coming of Christ is the hope of the church. It is not death, It is not immortality, but the resurrection from the dead and the glorification with Christ, hat shall take place in the history of the that shall take place in the history of the ime without sin unto salvation'. This me has been set before us again and ope has been set oths again and gain in men Man the estament. More than three hundred imes it is mentioned in the New Testament than any other cardinal doctrine of Scripture
His coming is not a spiritual appearance as some critics argue, but it will be a literal, personal and visible reappearing on earth. It is not just a hope, but a blessed hope. Jesus will never fail His promises. Many Christians' hope is dimmed and diminished because of His rocrastination Christians are accused by the gossipers about the delay of His eming and they babble that he will not come. But the author of the Book f Hebrews reiterates "don't lose your confidens since it holds a in ace little whis coming will return-He will not delay."
hen, why does our Lord tarry to keep His promise. Apostle Peter plainly states two vital reasons for the delay of His oming. One is stated in 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some people understand slowness, but is being patient with you. He does not want anyone to perish, but wants everyone to repent " God is a merciful God who does not desire all to be perished and He is patiently waiting fo erish eir repe to be repented, in the cours fime, every moment hildreure orne, every mome chidren are orn and may cone generation g lord is imos
 fixed a number in His mind, It is stated as full number of gentiles (Romans 11: 25). God shall wait only until that number is eached. The second reason is found in $3: 14$. "Since you are looking forward to


this, make every effort to have the Lord find you at peace and without spot or fault." Here the believers are the cause of his delay. It is our sluggish and lethargic nature that hinders the coming of the nature Our Lord is patiently waiting for His bride to be found without spot and fault so, dear readers let us spot and faut. So, dear rearse for the appare of the The Book of appearance of our Lord. his Bok Revela made herself ready (19:7) in the modern age a bride is beautified by a beautician. She does it according to her views and ideas. But the bride of Christ should get ready by herself according the pattern of the Scripture. She should be presented before Christ in all her glory, without spot or wrinkle, holy and without any fault. is it not correct that each believer is the hindrance of His imminent coming? Yes! We are responsible to it
It is a doubt to everyone that in which manner Christ comes and what are the signs of His coming. No more signs remain to be fulfilled for the coming of the Lord in the mid-air The manner of His coming is stated in Acts 1.11. Here we see two heavenly men proclaiming that Jesus would come again in the same manner as He had been taken up. When we study the scripture keenly we will come to know that He has gone to the father twice, one in secret and the other in public. John 20: 17 reveals that he went to the father secretly with the captives of the Old Testament saints, who were in the hades known as Abraham's bosom, to the heavenly paradise. (Ephesians 4. 8). Jesus beseeched Mary Magdalene not ). .esus be him or hold him, because he to touch hime her has not Bul god coll my but go to the father andyou tell my bothers, that I am ascending to my father andyour, fo my God and your God. Then after seven days Jesus himself asked Thomas to stretch forthis hand and put my sides." It is clear from these two incidents, Jesus has ascended to His father secretly. Then He ascended

PREROMA 2@2@
to the father visibly after 40 days of His resurrection a second time, when all were looking to Him (Acts 1: 9-11). So his looking to Him (Acts 1: $9-11$ ). So his
second coming also will be in the same second coming also will be in the same
manner. Mathew 24: 43,44 says that manner. Mathew 24: 43, 44 says that
Christ shall come like a thief, who comes Christ shall come like a thief, who comes in secret. Revelation 1:7 reveals that He
shall come visibly, that every eye shall shall come visibly, that every eye shall see him. The first appearance will be in secret and the second will be in public. The first one is known as the rapture. The second one is the revelation. The first appearance is for receiving His own with him, and the second appearance is to return with his own (Zechariah 14:5; I Thessalonians 3:15)
We see there are two occasions the door in heaven is opened in the book of Revelation. One is in chapter four and the second one is in chapter nineteen. In an apocalyptic perspective these two occasions are very important. The first door opened in chapter four signifies the RAPTURE of the church (Revelation 4:1). The second time door opened in heaven is for the REVELATION of Jesus Christ with the bride (Revelation 19: 11-14). These two events comprise his second advent. In between these two events the advent. In between these two events the place under the tyranny of Anti-Christ.

## THE RAPTURE OF THE

 CHURCH (Revelation 4:1)There is a common belief that the church will go through the tribulation period. If the church is to pass through the tribulation, then instead of waiting and watching for the Lord, we should be waiting and watching for the tribulation, which is contrary to the teaching of Christ (Matt 24:42-44). The tribulation is not for the perfecting of the saints. It has nothing to do with the church. It is the time of Jacob's trouble (Jer. 30:7). It is the judgment of Israel. God has promised that He would keep the church out of the tribulation period (Rev 3:10).
Numerous passages in the Scripture speak 74 of Christ coming with His saints. (Zech

14:5; Col 3:4; 1 Thess. 3:13; Jude v 14). It is evident that they cannot come 'with Him 'if they had not been previously caught out to Him. So Christ will come for His saints, that is the rapture, then He will come with His saints, i.e. the Revelation. come with His saints, i.e. the Revelation. In between these two appearances of Christ occurs the tribulation period which is for the people of Israel. The duration of this period will be seven years.
The rapture will be in an unexpected time. He will come as a thief. A thief does not announce his coming. He comes for a certain purpose. He does not take everything there in the house. He takes only the precious things; the jewels, the gold, the silver and the fine wearing apparel. He does not come to stay. As soon as he secures what he is after he departs. So the rapture is to take away His saints. The thief leaves much more than saints. The thief leaves much more than he takes - the furniture, the household will lils etc. So the Lord at the rapture behind The rapture will be tive The behind. The 'apture' 's 'to tective. The meaning of 'rapture' is 'to take away by force. Chist will come and take away His saints by force. Luke 17.34-36 shows that the rapture will happen all over the world at the same time. Two in bed shows the night time, two in the field shows day time, two grinding shows either in the morning or in the evening. This also proves that the earth is round. As will occur.

## THE REVELATION OF

 CHRIST(Revelation 19: 11-14)
The second stage of His coming is known The second stage of His coming is known
as the 'revelation.' We shall see Him with as the 'revelation.' We shall see Him with
all heavenly glory. When He comes first all heavenly glory. When He comes first
He was disguised in the flesh. A slight He was disguised in the flesh. A slight
gleam of His glory was revealed to the gleam of His glory was revealed to the
Apostles in the mount of transfiguration; Apostles in the mount of transfiguration; but when He comes in the second time we shall see Him clothed with glory as

He had before with the Father. The revelation also will be sudden and unexpected as was the rapture. He will step on Mount Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst there of toward the east and cleave in the midst there of toward the east and toward the west and there shall be a great valley.
He will be accompanied with His saints and the He will be accompanied with His saints and the armies of the heaven. "Then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the son of man coming in clouds of heaven with power and great glory (Mt.24:30). The first time He came as king $f$ kings The first He came to suffer for the sin of g . of judge the sin of mankin. When He calcomirst He rode on an ass, the second time He shall come on whine horse. The fime He cha slain, the second time He shall cone as the lion Jf Judah. At the first time He had been given a crown of thorns, but when He appears the second time He will be crowned with many royal crowns. At the first He was a rejected king; at the second time He shall be an adorned king.
The Second Coming of Christ is the only solution for the problems of the world. That is the only hope of the world. That is the only hope of Israel and the Nations. That is the only blessed hope of the church. •

## FIRST TIME IN ENGLISH !

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF

## PASTOR K. E. ABRAHAM

## the apostle describes it "in a moment or the twinkling of an eye" the rapture <br> for the tribulation, which is

 contrary to the teaching of Christ.


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## THE MAKING OF  THE GHALLENGE OF PROPHETIC VOGATION

## Door of Hope and Reversal

 of FortunesProphet Hosea announces the reversal of fortunes to the community of Israel. He says, '...and make valley of Achor a door of Hope (Hos.2:14,15). Achor was a place where Achan was judged for his sin (cf. Josh.7). Hence the prophetic message experience transformation of the bitter experience of Achor into an opportunity hovitable Yahweh restores his people with kindness and love The people ofs rael provoked Yahweh with their idolatry and wicked ways. As a result they were sent to captivity under nations. Even then the Lord assures them with hope for the future, 'For surely, I know the plans I have future, 'For surely, I know the plans I have for you....to give you a future with hope (jere. 29:11). The prophets taught them of divine judgement. Prophet Joel announces the reversal of fortunes even in the midst of natural catastrophe, 'I shall repay you for the years ...'( Joel.2:25). This involves the restoration of grain, wine and oil and also the healing of the land When the people responded to the mes sage with repentance, Yahweh assures them with hope of restoration.

## Hope of the Renewal of

 CreationProphetic hope also envisions the renewal of creation. As sin entered into this world, the creation lost its beauty and integrity. Prophet Isaiah makes it clear that the renewal of creation is implied in the Immanuel's kingdom. He says, 'the wolf shall live with the lamb... they will not hurt or destroy on my entire holy mountain' (Isa. 11:6ff). The perfec significant element in prophetic hope This gives hope to the humanity even beyond the predicted destruction of the earth (isa.24:19, 20). The creation is marred with its exploitative and abusive use by the inhabitants of the planet. The Life here on the planet is threatened by the onslaught of human greed and tres passing of natural boundary. However, prophets have a word of hope of renewa
of the creation by restoring its harmony and beauty. Hence prophetic mission involves a call for the integrity and restoration of the entire creation.

## Hope of a Righteous Ruler

It was in the midst of a political crisis that Isaiah brings forth the Immanuel prophecy (7:14). Judah as a nation was under the threat from imperial political alliance. At this point the prophet announces the birth of the righteous ruler, who will establish the kingdom of peace, 'for a child has been born for (Isa.9:6). His kingdom will be eternal, in line with the Davidic dynasty (the Messiah), and a king who upholds righteous ness and justice. Zechariah announces his coming on a donkey as saviour and predicts his death. Also he announces that he will be the king of his people who will go forth and fight against enemies of His people, he will become king over all the earth (Zech.14:9). When social injustice prevails, political instabilities increases and nations rise against themselves; prophetic hope ensures the coming of a righteous ruler. Immanuel is the protector of His people and this messiah brings a new era of unparalleled peace, prosperity and righteousness.

## Hope of Social

## Reconstruction

Prophet Micah addresses another significant situation. He describes the total dismantling and hopelessness of the society (Mic.7:1-6). The foundations of all social relations have broken down. The real virtues of faithfulness, upright ness and sincerity have disappeared from among the people. The God given offices were corrupted and the unholy altiance of the rich and the powerful makes life miserable. The leaders abused their power and exploit the people of the land. Family relationships were broken down and the society is at the verge of destruction. Though the situation seems bleak and hopeless, the prophet utters his hope in the future as he waits upon God (v.7). He puts his trust in God even in the midst
of social chaos and looks forward with hope of social reconstruction. Yahweh shows His incomparability by forgiving his people and the Lord Himself takes initiative for the restoration of the community. This significant aspect is also emphasized by the vision of dry bones in Ezekiel's prophecy. The lifeless and dislocated bones, the hopeless community of Israel (Ezek.37:11) was revived by the power of the prophetic word.

## Hope of the New Covenant

 Jeremiah spoke of a need for radical transformation of priesthood people and kingdom. He spoke of the full inauguration of the kingdom of God and the renewal of God's people. This is effected by the renewal of the covenant. The people of Israel were a covenant community. Yahweh made a covenant with them on Mt. Sinai. They were bound to obey the covenant stipulations and Moses was the mediator of this covenant (Ex.19:5, 6). This covenant which was written in the stone tablets was known as the old covenant. The people failed to meet the demands of this covenant, the covenant was broken and the Lord rejected them from being His people. At this point prophet Jeremiah announces the hope of a New Covenant. Untike the old covenant, this covenant will be written on Cod (Jer 31:31). The Old community is characterised by wrong doings and sin characterised by wrong doings and sin pletely forgiven This will be perfectly pletely forgiven. This will be perfectly the covenant. He speaks of a complete the covenant. He speaks of a completechange from physical to the spiritual change from physical to the spiritual
reality of the covenant. This covenant reality of the covenant. This covenant
renewal gave the hope of being restored with the broken relationship with God.

## Hope of the Homecoming

## of Nations

One of the significant aspects of prophetic theology is its emphasis on universalism. The prophetic literature emphasises Xahweh's call to the nations. Under the inherit the promise and blessing of God.

The prophets take a radical move to in clude the nations under God's blessings. The Servant Songs in the book of Isaiah are typical examples to this and it brings untold hope for the nations. Yahweh is the creator God who has given breath to all human beings and life to all the creatures. So God is interested not only in the salvation of few Jews, but has the welfare of all human beings in his plan of salvation. The mission of the Servant is extended to the nations of the earth as he is the light of the nations. He is also a missionary presence among nations. It is also interesting to note that some of prophets solely addressed their message only to the other nations. Jonah, for in stance addresses the city of Nineveh with the divine oracle. Yahweh is interested in the salvation of the nations, and also he uses nations as His instruments of judgement or salvation. This is clearly seen in choosing of Babylon to discipline His people and to raise up the Persians to release the people out of captivity. The nations will also enjoy the blessing of the Messianic Kingdom (Mic.4:1-2). The prophetic hope includes other nations under the plan of salvation or we see th inclusive nature of hope

## Hope for the Poor and Needy

Biblical prophets are often seen as the champion of the poor and needy. In fact the Mosaic Law also gives ample space to the poor and needy in matters relat ed to social functions. There were time when the poor of the land were exploited by the rich and the powerful (Am.2:6 4:1). The people afforded luxuries at the cost of the poor and downtrodden. Ther were economic exploitations and social corruptions in the land. The prophet addressed these issues and advocated the cause of the poor. They called the people for the practice of justice in the society by extending help to the poor and needy. At times they even set prac tice of justice and righteousness above the rituals (Mic.6:6). The mission of the messiah gave greater hope to the poor oppressed, and broken hearted and cap
tives (Isa.61:1). The prophetic messages were the voice of the voiceless and a strong defence for the defenceless. When the weaker sections of the community is under threat of the powerful and were vulnerable to the abusive and exploitative structures, only hope for them is the prophetic interventions sanctioned by the God of justice and righteousness.

## The Church as the Hope of

 the worldThe Church, as the community under the new covenant represents the prophetic mandate on earth today. They are called to preach the good news of forgivenes and salvation to a humanity destined for judgement. The making of the 'Door of Hope to humanity is the mission of he church today. The message of the church is the hope to the communities destined for doom and destruction. The New Covenant is established by the shed lood of the Son of God and it envisions the complete renewal of the entire crea

tion. The Church today holds a message of reconciliation and peace, peace with God and reconciliation in all human relationships. The Gospel is the declaration of the establishment of the kingdom of God that includes people from all tribe and tongues. When this kingdom will be fully established, the Lord himself will be the ruler and his kingdom will never be the ruler and his kingdom will never be ifesto Jesus himself quoted from Isaiah and declared that He inaugurates the kingdom in hearing of His words, a hope for the poor and downtrodden. When social coruption politicalmalfuntion soconic human rights threatens the basic fabric fthe society, the church need to rise to of the society, the church need to rise to making the ', takighe ' mak its prop be berch to its prophetic vocation. Let the Church be an agent of peace, reconciliation, jus the poor and needy.


"Hitherto the Lord hath helped us"


Jeo Thomas and Christina Ann John UK

My grace is sufficient for thee for my strength is made perfect in weakness (II Cori. 12:9).


Gracy Philip \& N.C. Georgekutty (Late)


Finny Cherian \& Family, Kuwait

To the Class of 2020 Graduates,
may you experience God's faithfulness and favor as you
step out to serve the Lord and His people!


Steven Philip \& Family, USA

Walk with grace, courage and hope amidst every challenge!


Abraham George \& Family, USA
A approcker


Blessings and prayers to the Graduating Class of 2020!


Saji Varghese \& Family, Kuwait


As a former faculty, we would like to extend our prayers and blessings to India Bible College and Seminary, a center of quality theological education in India.
Our sincere love and regards to the IBC and S family.
Dr. Joji Mathew, Lizza Joji, Jonathan E Joachim
Minister-in-Charge,
Bethel India Christian Assembly
Tulsa, Oklahoma



CONGRATULATIONS IBC\&S ON COMPLETING 90 YEARS!
Blexsmegs to all the gruduates!

JACOB THOMAS \& ANNIE JACOB JOEL, JUNE, ZACHARY \& GIA JESSE, JENSY, MICAIAH \& CHLOE JANET, GIBSON, CALEB \& JOSIAH




The whole community listens carefully to the Word of God


Message by Pr. Ajith Daniel, Bilaspur
Translation Rev. Biju Eapen


Message: Pr. Aby Ayroor Translation: Rev. Phinni Joseph


Introducing the Guests
by Mrs. Starla Luke


Part of audience - Faculty and Staff
 leads a session

PRACTICAL MINISTRY


Worship lead by students


Evang. Ajeesh George, Faculty,
giving the message


Ministry among the Tamil speaking people enables our students to develop ministerial skills to do ministry among their own language group.


## Hindi and Telugu weekend ministry

 at Pathanamthitta
## HINDI MINISTRY

We have a very fruitful ministry with the Hindi speaking migrant labor community, of Pathanamthitta. IBC student team regularly visit the camps in Pathanamthitta and share the gospel and gather together in a rented room for fellowship during the weekends. There is immense possibility for evangelism work among the laborers in Pathanamthitta, as a great number of Hindi speaking people who reside in the camps are receptive the gospel.
TELUGU MINISTRY
This year a new avenue for evangelism could be initiated among the Telugu speaking migrant laborers in Pathanamthitta. The work started with the commitment of IBC Telugu speaking students, who showed an earnest desire to work among their own language group. Regular evangelism work was conducted among the people, and fellowship meetings were conducted in their houses. In the month November, a film show was organized at the rented facility that we have in Pathanamthitta where 17 people came and were blessed. Our students visit around 45 Telugu speaking people and interact with them every weekend.


## PRACICAL <br> MINISTRY ANNUAL <br> PROGRAM

A special program was held on $7^{\text {th }}$ December 2019 . Over 150 Hindi, Tamil and Telugu speaking migrant laboreres participated in this program from the mission stations where our students were engaged in weekend ministry. Apart from Tami speaking community, Telugu speaking and 38 Telugu speaking people participated in the annual program, which was a gre blessing for them. The work among the Telugu in Pathanthitta promising the IBC former students, Pr Karthik S was the chief guest on the occasion.


Lt. Col. V. I. Luke


Anchors- Hindi, Tamil and Telugu



Introduction to the Seminar-
Dr. John Alex \& Mrs. Ida Mary Varghese (Translation)


Mr. Vivyn Mathew introduces
the resource person Dr. Aby P. Mathew,
India Mission, Bihar Rev.P. R. D. Prabhu shares.
Translation-Evang. fjeesh George


Students submitt their life for ministry in North India


5


Faculty and Staff march to the Graduation


Presidential Address


Release of PLEROMA
FELICITATIONS


Pastor Philip P．Thomas

Pastor Sunny Kurian


Dr．Annie George
案要



Aneesh Kumar S．S．－Student speaker


Dr．John K Mathew－Felicitations


D．Kumar－Academic Proficiency Prize


Isaiah－Best Student Award



Joel Thomas
Board Member, KEAF and Senior Program Board Member, KEAF and Senior Program
Manager- Quality at GE Healthcare, Bangalore


Faculty and Staff Meeting with President Pr. Dr. T. Valson Abraham


Lord's Table Service led by Pr. Saju Joseph






India Bible College and Seminary has been engaged in children's ministry every weekend. In the academic year 2019-2020 we conducted ten chilwhere 46 IBC students, both men and women are involved in the mission among the children.
Our students teach songs, memory verses, Bible lessons and games for In the remote villages or colony areas In the remote vilages or colony areas faiths. faiths.
Children's ministry aims at the holistic development of each student. Through the children's ministry, Seminary students are equipped to nurture children of different age groups. The Seminary provides systematic training sessions for students every week in order to be an effective leaders in their respective clubs and we reach around 140 children every week with the gospel of Christ.


Books authored by Dr. Shaibu Abraham and Pr. Thomas Mathew, members of our faculty

##  



The world of the early church was filled with the hope for an imminent parousia (Second Coming) of Jesus Christ. In the course of history, Christian hope underwent different shifts as Christianity settled down and was
institutionalized.
"If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied" (I Cor. 15: 19). "If with merely human hopes I fought with wild animals at Ephesus, what would I have gained by it?" ( C Cor. 15: 32). The world of the early church was filled with the hope for an imminent parousia (Second Coming) of Jesus Christ. In the course of history, Christian hope underwent different shifts as Christianity settled down and was institutionalized. The writings on Christian hope are extensive. However this article is a briefing of select teachers on the development and shifts in the understanding of hope.

## Sheep Transferred to the Pen

Early catacombs depicted the picture of a shepherd carrying and leading back the sheep to the pen, meaning a transfer from earthly life to eternity This dep rooted hope was prevalent even when the church went through the most threatening challenges in the the enturies under the Roman Government. No turn of history have placated the loud voice of the church leader of Smyrna, Polycarp in this regard. When he was persuaded to recant, not only that he
said, "eighty six years have I have served him, and he has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my king and my savior?" but also when he was threatened to be burned instead of being thrown to wild beasts for not denying Christ, Polycarp stated: "It is unthinkable for me to repent from what is good to turn to what is evil. I will be glad though to be changed from evil to righteousness". The steadfast position of Polycarp demands us to note how his contemporaries looked at the future.

## Days of Peace and

## Prosperity

The perspectives of early teachers, from the first to the fourth century, on the doctrine of hope developed in relation to the events that took place around them. They faced issues when the immediate return of Christ did not take place. Henceforth a variety of interpretations on the things to occur sprang up. The Revelation of John (20:111) gives the basis for the development of eschatological thoughts in the writings of the church fathers. Chiliasm, Greek equivalent for millennium was firm in the theology of the church fathers. The second coming of Christ will take place, then the resurrection of the dead, the thousand year rule and then the final judgment. The best of signs for a millennial age is expressed by Papias of Hierapolis, the disciple of John. He writes that during the thousand year, "The days will come when vineyards shall grow each with ten thousand vines, and on one vine ten thousand branches, and on one branch ten thousand shoots, and on every shoot ten thousand clusters, and in every cluster ten thousand grapes, and every grape when pressed will give twenty five measures of wine..." According to Papias the cosmos and animals will have transformation at that age where there will be peace and prosperity
IIG There were many who said that the end
thought of the time is present in the Epistle of Barnabas. He compares the end events with the days of creation. Six days are counted as six thousand years, for "with the Lord one day is as a thousand with the Lord one day is as a thousand 3:8). After six thousand years Christ will return and renew the world. In the sevreturn and renew the world. In the sev after creation the righteous will judge the wicked On the eighth day another the wicked. On world begins

## Hope of a New Jerusalem

Justin Martyr represents another stream of thought though not agreed by all. H believed that Christ will return to Jerusalem and begin a thousand year reign where Christians and Old Testament saints will live in happiness with Chris in the New Jerusalem. Irenaeus also builds his eschatology on this and use it to refute the scheme of salvation and the future presented by the Gnostics The Gnostics argued that since matter/ flesh is evil the resurrection must only be spiritual. Irenaeus counters this by citing the resurrection of Christ and the indwelling of the spirit in our bod ies as well as in the Eucharist, in which the body and blood of Christ nourishe our physical flesh. He affirms chiliasm against the Gnostics and says that th end will come when satan in the form of "Antichrist" has "recapitulated" all sins since the fall and "tyrannically attempts to prove himself God". Christ will then appear. The first resurrection will tak place after the six thousand years and the "seventh day, which is sanctified, in which God rested from all His works which He made". Irenaues says that this is "the true Sabbath of the just, in which they will have no earthly work to do, but will have a table prepared before them by God, who will feed them with dainties of all kinds."
As against the views of Irenaeus Hip polytus in his "Commentary on Danie and Antichrist," between 202-211 CE
says that since the prophecies in Danie have not yet been fulfilled, the thousand years is not a literal one but a symbolic ne and indicates that Revelation 20 is kingdom's greatness and splendor and not the length of it

## On a Pilgrimage to True

 HomelandOne of the most notable versions of es chatological hope is from the writings of Tertullian. He based his ecschatology upon an interpretation of God's rule ove time, for "His is the end of time as its beginning". The dispensations of God in the history of Israel and the history of the church were the purpose of history's development. Tertullian prayed for the nd to occur soon. He believed that the evil and angels were very active in the ord Accordingly the devil hasilled the old with lie of his divity Terullian ompared his times with the times after plod is hum morals he flood where human morals had de lined. Evil is the sign of last times. Devits ule had so corrupted the world that it was time for God's rule to assert itself eschatological catastrophe. Christians thus are in a pilgrimage in this world They are just passing through this world for the true homeland
One of the key terms that Tertullian repeatedly uses is spes i.e. hope. He says for Christian, "there is no God but the Creator...and no hope but that of the resurrection". The millenarian hope thousand year rule judgment and eternity is present in his thoughts as he expects an eternal judgment after the end f the world. He is found to be speaking against Marcion and his followers for not identifying the god of salvation and judgment. He vehemently spoke agains the paganismof his day for keeping many under its custody to be lead to hell-fire Thus the priests in the Roman temple "take care of the picture of that inextinsuishable fire, the portent of their own punishment...Hell contains priests too".

Tertulian also prays for the postponement of the parousia, so that he intends the salvation of more people. It is thus asserted that the tension existing between I Thessalonians and II Thessalonians or between the Synoptics and the fourth gospel is also found in the eschatology of Tertullian. An eschatology of "already and "not yet" ie both "consistent eschatology" and the "realized eschatology" is found side by side in his writings. God was going to judge, He was judging now. Christ was going to come, in Paraclete he had already come. Tertullian also focuses the kingdom in a direct, Christological way: "In the gospel Christ Himself is the kingdom of God."

## Amillennialism

Origen, the scholar and theologian of the early church opposed chiliasm and described the promised kingdom as a purely spiritual one. It is the apprehending of the divine truth and spiritual reality, as the indwelling of the logos, or as "the spiritual doctrine of the ensouled logos imparted through Jesus Christ. He says that the kingdom of God is autobasileia, a self-kingdom that is, Jesus Christ Himself. Origen is controversially known for being a universalist who rejected the physical resurrection and believed in the ultimate salvation "apokatastasis" of everyone including satan. Origen is also said to be a preterist who holds the view that ancient Israel finds its continuation or fulfillment in the Christian church at the destruction of Jerusalem. He believed in a future AntiChrist. For Origen the only remaining things to take place were the final judgement and the temporal punishment.
The sufferings of the time put a great desire to escape from the present world. This is well expressed in the writings of Cyprian. He refers to the end which can take place suddenly, resurrection and a reward awaiting for the good works performed in the church. The end can be

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at any time and the six thousand years are complete since creation. Cyprian contrasts between the suffering of the present age under Antichrist(Nero) and present age under Antichrist(Nero)
the joys of the millennial kingdom.

## The shift from Millennial to

 AmillennialAugustine combined the existing views, Augustine combined the existing views, of his development of eschatology he took a stance against the literal view. He gives the opinion that the thousand years is not a future millennium but the present age. He gives a different interpretation for history which is presented in his twenty two books written over a period of thirteen years. There are two cities, the city of God and the city of the world. Those are two loyalties throughout history inextricably mixed in the world. These cities will be separated at the final judgment. In one city God is given loyaty and in the other the devil is obeyed. Augustine founds the whole concept into the aspect of love and pictures about two affections and two desires. In the wo cites here are self The earthly city desires and glories in itself and seeks it from human It lusts for itself and seeks it from human. It lusts for domination and lords it over its princes as over other nations it subjugates. This
city loves its own strength shown in its city loves its own strength shown in its
own leaders. The heavenly city glories own leaders. The heavenly city glories in the Lord (2 Corinthians 10:17) and says to God, 'I will love you, my Lord my strength'( Psalms 18:1). Therefore
in one city love of God has been given in one city love of God has been given
first place, in the other, the love for self. first place, in the other, the love for self.
He does not really identify the city of He does not really identify the city of
God with the universal Christian church God with the universal Christian church
but as God's church. They are ultimately but as God's church. They are ultimately inward and spiritual which cannot really be identified.

## Hope to Pope, the Vicar of

 ChristMany were influenced in the following centuries from the teachings of Augustine and took many aspects of his City of God to interpret the future kingdom of


God. The Constantinian era with his conversion, the end of persecution and the following times, were interpreted as the victory of the church and as the beginning of the millennium. The Augustinian theology of the City of God became so strong that papacy in the later centuries declared itself to be the church, victorious above any secular powers and called itself as the representative of the City of God on earth. This is well expressed in the words of Hildebrand even in the eleventh century that the city of God had absolute dominion over the city of the world. Pope was very soon considered as the 'vicar of Chirst' in the city of God on earth. At this point, especially after the imperial era of the church began with Constantine the millennial hope seems to decline The kingdom that was eschatological and otherworldly was beginning to be this-worldly and highly political.

## Conclusion

The Church went through confusions when the imminent parousia did not take place. The church faced severe persecution in the early centuries. The church needed answers and hope amidst the chaotic events. Early teachers of the church tried to give different interpretations on the future events. The hope of life with Christ was present in the writings of almost all teachers. Premillennial and millennial views were present in the writings of different teachers. But the church that allowed the world to catch it especially after the conversion of Constantine made a shift from its stance on the future hope. With the emphasis on the Augustinian theology on the city of God on earth to be established, which is represented through the church and with the eventual victory, it conveniently shifted itself from millennial hopes to amillennialism. Hope was a greate reality amidst sufferings. $\bullet$


The city of Corinth was located about forty miles to the southwest of Athens. In Paul's time, Corinth was a commercial and religious hub. Corinth's location mandated religious diversity. Sailors and travellers brought their religions along and planted them so successfully in Corinth. Politically, Corinth enjoyed colony status. This assured a special relationship with the Roman Empire in which Roman laws were operative. Latin was the legal language even though Greek was commonly spoken.

## Establishment of the corinthian church

Paul probably arrived in Corinth for the first time in AD 50, shortly after he had established churches in Philippi and Thessalonica, the major cities in the Roman province of Macedonia. It was Paul who established the church at Corinth, one which did not lack any spiritual gift and was enriched in the scriptures. However, after Paul had left Corinth, while he was in Ephesus, a delegation of leaders of the Corinthian church was sent to Ephesus to consult Paul about some very serious problems and disorders that had arisen in the church. There were divisions, immorality, false apostles, abuses of the Lord's

Supper, problems about marriage, and even doubts about the resurrection. It is believed that Paul wrote his first letter to rectify those issues.
In Chapter 15, Paul addresses the general issue of the resurrection of the dead. The resurrection of Christ was not seriously disputed in Corinth; but the resurrection of the dead was. He also describes the amazing consequences of the resurrection of Jesus Christ for all who have united to him by grace through faith. In verses 20 through 28 he describes the sequence of all the saints who have died throughout redemptive history and he also describes the nemesis of our ancient enemy, death. Let us examine few aspects of Paul's argument here in these eight verses.
First of all, the promise of the resurrection. We rejoice that Christ conquered death and that his resurrection guarantees ours.

## 1. The promise of the

## resurrection

The resurrection of Jesus was a well-attested historical fact. There were men and women who had seen Him both die and live again - their witness was consistent and carried conviction.
The Corinthians accepted the resurrection of Jesus. It was, indeed, the substance of their teaching and their faith. But some of the Christians admitted the physical resurrection of Jesus, but would not admit the resurrection of man.

The greatest of promises was the resurrection of Jesus. The angel announced in Matt. 28:5 'He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said, Come and see the place where He was laying'. The empty tomb of Jesus is an assurance given to us that physical death is not the end of things; Jesus is risen as he promised. Praise the Lord!

### 1.1 The resurrection of Jesus

## Christ: a proof of our

## resurrection

Paul was not interested in making the point that Adam's sin brought death Adan's sin had a universal effect on all who came after The same applies to Christ's resurrection. As physical death came inevitably from Adam's sin, phys came inevitably from Adam's sin, physChrist's resurrection.
At the very heart of Christ's resurrection was the idea that he was the firstfruit of those who have fallen asleep, Pau urrection and the Old Testament ritual of firstfruits. The firstfruits were the first portions of the harvest, and they wer given as offerings to God (Lev. 23:15-17). The firstfruits indicated that the entire harvest was soon to follow.
The concept of firstfruit expects that "the rest must follow". By choosing this term, "Paul presents Jesus' resurrection as the beginning of the eschatological resurrection." As the firstfruit, Christ's resurrection is a pledge of the full harvest of resurrection to come. The imagery expresses the idea that the resurrectio of Jesus and the resurrection of believers are integrally related
In Paul's outlook, Christ's resurrection was not an isolated event. It represented the beginning of something much larg er. His resurrection promised the rest of the harvest. The full harvest, of which Christ is the first sign, is the harvest of those who have fallen asleep. Death is not the end of human kind, we rejoice that Christ conquered death and his res urrection guarantees ours. The time is coming wen all the saints will resurrect and Jesus Christ.

## 2. The certainty of the end

 ( 1 cor. 15:24-26)Apostle Paul says, "Then comes th end". The end in Greek is, telos(tel'-os) It is a term that refers to that which is ultimately and finally completed, that which is fulfilled, what which has bee
consummated.
Paul's main argument is this: The resurrection of the dead follows a certain sequence: first, Christ is raised as the firstfruit; then, at his parousia, all those who belong to Christ will be raised (cf. Rom :11); and then comes the end. The end s always coming. Nothing that pertains nything tal life is unending. As soovas hurries towards its end We start upon new business, we build a new house we begin some new study - whatever we do, we all reach the point at last where "Then cometh the end" is written.

At this point, Paul the theologian, the dialectician, the protagonist, climbed to a poetic height which no other Old Testament or New Testament seer eve eached. Here Paul saw far out beyond the things which had been revealed to the Hebrew prophets. Paul's vision goes aw an end in which the Son will hand over the kingdom to God.
Apostle Paul distinctly affirms here tha Christ's reign will end, and He will no always reign, in the sense in which He is end with the abolition of all destructive forces. It will end with the surrender of the redeemed Kingdom to God and with the subjection of the Son Himself to the Kingship of God. The consummation of the reign of the King will be the abolition of all forces of evil; the subjugation of the enemies of humanity which are the nemies of the reigning Christ, beneath His feet; and finally, the abolition of the last enemy, death. Death is the enemy of ll human beings. Death is the enemy of he infant as well as the elderly. Whethe on land or sea death takes whoever it well. die and then the judgment. We can all rejoice knowing that our last enemy the death will one day finally be abolished. Hallelujah!

## 3. The reign of Christ our

hope ( 1 cor. 15:27-28)
Sin is the revolt of the will against the government of God. Death, resulting in
human experience from human sin, is the ultimate disaster, as Paul says, 'the last enemy'. Christ reigns in order to put an end to sin and death. 'He was crowned with glory and honour that he might taste death for every man. We have to understand the real significance of that declaration. He was crowned, He was made king, in order to grapple with sin and with death, and master them. The Kingdom. He must reign as Christ till He has put all enemies under His feet

When we think of the reigning Christ, we must never forget that His reign is based upon the two great facts of the cross and the resurrection. The cross consummated by the resurrection is the cause of His re unchained from the bonda we sin and delivered from its power The risen Redeemer now guarantees that He has conquered $\sin$, death and hell. The resurrection also assures us that Jesus can transform our lives every day.
The resurrection means we are forgiven and transformed by the power of the Living Lord. Sin and death have no power over us. We can overcome every temp the resurrection. The risen Christ lives in us day by day, enabling us to walk in victorious faith and obedience.
In the resurrection we find ourselves caught up with a living hope, a sense of excitement and anticipation, a confident cipation. Those of you who are to Christ in faith and have lost loved ones who likewise have been redeemed by the you would see them soon. Jesus said in John 11:25, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies." And in Chapter 14 verse 19 says, "And because I live, you also shall live."
O, what incredible news this is! We rejoice not only in the anticipation of being reunited with our loved ones, but also we rejoice in the glories of our future inheritance. But the greatest joy of our inheritance will be the incredible joy of heaven - seeing the Lord Jesus Christ and enjoying His presence forever

I pray that each of you will be part of the resurrection of the righteous some day and not the resurrection of the unrighteousness. May we all together, glory in the cross, glory in the undeserved mercy and grace that is offered to us in the gospel of Jesus Christ! May we celebrate the unimaginable joys of heaven that have been guaranteed to us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ!
The resurrection of Christ assures us that God has accepted Christ's sacrifice for our sins.
The resurrection of Christ assures us that there is life after death.
The resurrection of Christ assures us that Christ is with us in the present.
The resurrection of Christ assures us that we have an advocate in heaven.
The resurrection of Christ assures us of the necessary power to live as God requires.
The resurrection of Christ assures us of the new bodies we can have some day
The resurrection of Christ assures us of a returning Redeemer-King.


## JOBIN G.K.

A B.Th. Orientation student who succumbed to sudden illness and went to be with the Lord

Best wishes and God's blessings on India Bible College and Seminary and the graduates!

## Mony Kodumthara \& Family <br> 12318 NW 26 Ct

Coral Springs, FL 33065


"Great spirits have often encountered the violent opposition from weak minds", said Albert Einstein referring to the innumerable crowd of witnesses (martyrs) who preferred suffering and death over life that could be gained by denying the truth and testimony of Jesus Christ. All of them considered discipleship - denying the self, carrying the cross and following jesus - as greater than anything in this world. They were enticed by the earthly authorities to bow down to the beast and enjoy the temporary privileges of so-called powers. Words are not enough to express their unquenchable love and faithfulness towards their Lord and Teacher Jesus the Messiah, even while facing whips and chains, stones and swords.
Ever since human civilization began, the innocent and weak People of God were and are vulnerable to the tyrannical and cruel beastly nature of the inhumane people (cf. Gen. 4). The violence, injustice, and mercilessness have become the custom of the human civilization. The cries of the innocents, the poor and the weak have been and are being suppressed by the powers of the world. Justice and peace have no place in the civilizations, kingdoms, empire and even in the present governments. Through the centuries, myriads of innocents were killed
(Gen. 4:8), their blood filled the cities rom end to end and even became the part of worship rituals (cf. 2 Kings 21:16 and Lk. 13:1). The innocents include all those who suffered injustice. Their cries those who suffered injustice. Their cries the powers and authorities of the world. "How long, O Sovereign Lord, will it be," cried the souls under the altar, "before cried the souls under the altar, "before
you judge and avenge our blood on the inhabitants of the earth?"(Rev. 6:10). inhabitants of the earth?"(Rev. 6:10).
They were the ones who experienced They were the ones who experienced the severe sufferings because of the
consequence of the wickedness and consequence of the wickedness and battles and famines.
Apocalyptic literature took its form and shape during the period of four centuries i.e., 200 BC to 200 AD - a period of great persecution and oppression for the People of God, both Jews and Christians, by the Greco-Roman world. The Greek word apocalypsis means unveiling or revealing something which is hidden. This literature includes Daniel and Revelation in the Bible and some non-canonical books like Sibylline Oracles, Books of Enoch, Baruch, Esdras, etc. Some parts of Ezekiel, Isaiah and Zechariah also contribute to apocalyptic thought. The apocalyptic books were written in highly symbolic language which uncovered the reality of the nature of the oppressive empires. They used many significant themes of the Old Testament to show the hidden hand of God in history even when the People of God were under a great crisis and unable to understand their own destiny. They presented the end of the empires and oppressions by the intervention of God in the human history.
How can a God of justice and righteousness tolerate injustice and oppression in the world that He created and formed? How can He stand still when His creatures are being plundered by the beast-like emperors and inhumane oppressors? He cannot! He is the One who speaks in the voices of the victims of injustice. He is the God of the oppressed |14 and suffering people. He stands on the
side of the poor and just. His eyes and ears are not closed to the cries of th innocent blood. He judges and brings justice. He is the God who hears the cries of these people.
God takes on the side of the society's most vulnerable ones. For apocalyptic writers, heaven is not a world that is transcendent and separated from th human realm. Heaven is so closely connected with the human worl Everything that takes place on earth affects heaven. The four creatures around the throne of God represent the entire creation of God (Rev. 4:6). The presence of the martyred souls and their cries show the close relationship between heaven and the earth. The Lord's Prayer too emphasizes this: "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt 6:10). Jesus is depicted in the Book of Revelation as the King of Glory rathe as the Lamb that was slain, which show His identification with those who suffe injustice and violence. God is not a passive being who stands outside the world, inattentive to the cries of souls from the margins. The apocalyptic writers too often reminded the theme of Exodus, a significant time when God intervened in the history of Israel to liberate the slaves from the hands of the tyrant Pharaoh and to judge the oppressors. He stand for His people. The prophets raised their voice against the religious and politica officials who trampled the justice (Je. 7:4-10; Mic. 3; Amos 5, etc). Many Old Testament passages too prove that He is the one who hears the cries of the poor and distressed who suffer injustice and oppression (Ex. 3.7-9; 1 Sam. 2.1-10; Kings 21:17-19; Ps. 28; Ps. 146, etc.)
History itself speaks to us that the People of God may suffer great violence but no one could annihilate them from this world. Babylon, which exiled Jews and destroyed their land and their Temple, came to an end unexpectedly. Alexander's Greek Empire disintegrated no sooner than it began to flourish. Th Roman Empire, in which period the

Jews and the Christians experienced persecution in an extreme level, was destroyed irrecoverably by the barbarian nvaders. Similarly, Hitler's Nazism which threatened the lives of many soon after the World War I, culminated in its total defeat in the World War II. The USSR's Marxism which tortured the People of God also collapsed. The same was true for any other authority that encouraged injustice and oppressed the People of God. The apocalyptic writers conveyed od. The apocalyptic writers conveyed a message of comfort and hope. They used the term Beast to unmask the reality in crushing the People of God.
The expectation of the arrival of the Son of Man is one of the main theme of the post-exilic period and of the New Testament. In the Book of Danie chapter 7 we see the one like Son of Man appears in the crucial time when the People of God are being crushed by a Beast, and destroys the Beast so that the God's Kingdom may be established in power (Dan. 7:13ff.). At least 80 times Jesus claimed to be the Son of Man This title needs to be understood in the light of the teachings on the Kingdom of God. Jesus did establish the divine kingdom (cf. Lk. 11:20; 17:21). According to Jesus, the Kingdom of God should not be understood in the terms of the contemporary political situations. Fo Him, the Kingdom of God means freedom and service, liberation and obedience and peace and righteousness. (Matt 5-7; Lk. 11:20).However, His apocalyptic eaching in Matthew 24 and Mark 13 will help us to know that the Son of Man will come in glory which marks the end of all the sufferings that His people face This is the recurring message of hope to the People of God in the tribulation and suffering.
The coming of the Son of Man in glory reminds us of the intervention of God in the history of humankind at the time of great tribulations and the suffering of the People of God. The same is the message of hope for today as well. And

IN HOPE even when the things seem to be going on wrong way. ABOUND IN HOPE even when the Beast threatens our lives. ABOUND IN HOPE even when discipleship seems to be too costing.
this is the time of expectation for the arrival of the Son of Man. The suffering that the People of God face today will end at His coming.
"The Lord will not forsake His people," says the Psalmist, "He will not abandon His heritage" (Ps. 94:14). Even though the Beast dances at the weakness of the People of God, the arrival of the Son of Man (Dan. 7:13ff.) puts an end to all the acts of the Beast. He destroy the destroyers (Rev. 11:18). No matter how powerful the beast presents itself before the followers of the Slain Lamb the victory belongs to the People of God. Our hope is in the Kingdom of God which is the presence of justice and peace. Justice and Righteousness are th foundations of His throne (Ps. 97:2). Th oppressed shall be released and they sha not lack anything; the innocent will hav no more reason to fear a human being who fades like grass (Isa. 51:12-14). God will swallow up death forever and He will wipe away the tears from all faces (isa 25:7; Rev. 21:3-4). This is the ultimate hope for the poor souls who becam the victims of violence yet stood firm for the testimony of Jesus Christ at the cost of their very lives. Therefore, let us strengthen ourselves with this Hope in the Lamb that was slain to redeem His people. ABOUND IN HOPE even when the things seem to be going on wron way ABOUNDIN HOPE even whenth Beast threatens our lives ABOUND IN HOPE even when discipleship seems to be too costing.
Though we suffer as People of God, let us remember that victory always belongs to the Lamb and His followers not to the Beast and its worshippers. May we have hope in the coming of the Son of Man and prepare ourselves to welcome ou Redeemer with hope and to partake in His Unending Kingdom of Peace wher there is no cry nor pain; no hunger no thirst; no suffering nor death; for the Lor will dwell with us forever and ever. -


The sudden departure of our beloved Geevarughese Mathews Achen left us all shocked and deeply saddened．Highly regarded and fondly loved－India Bible College and Seminary（IBC），IGO Campus，Othera，shall never have anyone like him again；our loss is irreparable！
Having Achen as part of the teaching faculty at IBC has been an honor for us and the institution．His quiet yet dignified presence enriched any setting． Both Achen and Kochamma were part of almost Both Achen and Kochamma were parts and programs held at IBC．
Rev．Dr．Geevarughese Mathew also served as the faculty of Federated Faculty for Research in Religion and Culture（FFRRC），Kottayam and as the chairman of FFRRC from 2011－2014．
Although a renowned teacher of the Word and an Old Testament scholar，dear Achen，did not teach to impress or inform but because God had called him to the classroom．
His gentleness，genuine humility and real faith
inspired respect in the students and staff alike which have had tremendous impact and influence James 4：6，＂God opposes the proud，but gives grace James 4：6，＂God opposes the proud，but gives grace
to the humble＂．No doubt，dear Achen was given to the humble＂．No
grace upon grace．
Someone rightly said，＂A Christian＇s life should be marked with peace＂－this testimony was consistently demonstrated in Achen＇s life．
His very prompt responses to write for the REVIVE have blessed the ministry of the magazine．
Achen often told me that his mother hailed from the Kodumthara family．And that he was actually born in his maternal home which was then（about 7 decades ago）located in the very site where the IPC HEBRON CHAPEL stands today，in the Hebron Campus at Kumbanad．This was before the land was purchased for the church by Pastor K．E．Abraham． India Bible College and Seminary will always be grateful for the opportunity to have been blessed by dear Achen＇s life and learning ．$\bullet$

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## Reading Time











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## ๔ேणுనிவก கேゥ๐




























































## Blessings and prayers for the Graduatina Class of 2020!

## Pr. George Alexander

Fremont Grace Church 4130 Technology Place Rm 229, Fremont, CA 94538

Congratulations on your graduation!!
May God continue to lead, guide and uphold your future. (Jer. 29:11)


Philip \& Susan George,
Lisa \& Jijoe Mathews Abraham, Allison

For You have been a strength to the poor,
A strength to the needy in his distress, A refuge from the storm, A shade from the heat;
For the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall (Isaiah 25:4).

## James Edakkalloor and Family Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA


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Dear Graduates man God commission you to the ambassadors of hope!


George K. Varghese \& Family, Kuwait

Dravers and wishes to リBC Graduates of 2020!

E. M. Jacob \& Family, Kuwait



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St. Mary's Residential School (ICSE), Nedumparambu, Pathanapuram. St. Mary's Residential School (ICSE), Nedumparambu, Pathanapuram.


Grectings to all the Graduates of India Bible College and Seminary!


Ligesh Joy \& Family

Congratualations and best wishes to the Graduates as you enter the Lord's Vineyard

M. C. Philip \& Family, Kuwait

Dravina divine strenath and courage upon all Graduates!


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Blessings and prayers for the Graduating Class of 2020！


Babu Varghese \＆Family，Kuwait

Wishing overflowing hope to the Graduates of 2020！


K．M．Abraham \＆Family，Kuwait

Drauinn that $G$ od strenathens the
Graduates to be harfingers of hope!


Merly Joseph and Melvin Joseph, Australia

Dear Graduates, May God enable you to be agents of transformation!


Jacob Mammen \& Family, Kuwait

Congratulations to all the qraduates of 2020 for a bright and fruitful time of ministry！


Rency Philip \＆Family，UAE

Dear Graduates，May you be like a tree planted by the waters！


Sunil S．Daniel \＆Family，Kuwait


















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GOD IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN MAKE
THE VALLEY OF TROUBLE A DOOR OF HOPE

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When the light in the darkness seemed bright
It's the knight in might I see in the light
Thence my soul said to Thine
to swirl around this hope of mine!
When the colors of spring faded away It's the dew of new I see along the way Thence my soul said to Thine to swirl around this hope of mine!

When the grills of iron shuttered down around me It's the golden roll that rolls as crown on me Thence my soul said to Thine to swirl around this hope of mine!

When the waves of storm dispel my boat It's the ray of joy that frills my coat Thence my soul said to Thine To swirl around this hope of mine!

Hence, when thou seem all lost and broken When thy means all cracken
Thence my soul revealed this invisible route to swirl around my rope of hope which is the truth!




































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For I am with thee to save thee and to deliver thee，says the Lord （Jer．15：20）

Saji John \＆Family Qatar

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me（Phi．4：13）

Johnson George \＆Family UAE

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सूखा सा ये दिल भीग जाता है, बन्जंर ये दिल फूल खिलता है, अन्धेरा ये दिल धूप पढता है, आशा की बूंदे जब दिलको छुता है

## ां ये वही आशा है

जो टूटे दिलको प्यार करना सिखाता है,
जो रूखे धड़कनोको फिर से जिलाता है, मेरे यीशु ने मरके मुझे जिलाया है

काँटो का वो मकुट है,
जो जीवन की मुकुट का आशा देता है
कलवरी में बहा वो लहु है
जो मरे हुये दिलको जीने की आशा देता है
हम अमर होगें ये आशा है
मृत्यू से वो जो जी उठा है
स्वर्ग के अधिकारी बनने की आशा है,
उसके उस वादों पे विश्वास है

यहि कारण हे कि मालिक ने यहूदा को विश्वासयोग्य पहिचाना और उसे अपने आनंद में शामिल किया।
परमेश्वर हमसे विश्वासयोग्यता चाहता है। हमारा प्रभु यीशु मसीह का आगमन किसी भी समय हो परमेश्वर हमसे विश्वासयोग्यता चाहता है। हमारा प्रभु यीशु मसीह का आगमन किसी भी समय
सकता है, हमें उसके कार्य को विश्वासयोग्यता के साथ पूरा करते हुए उसका इंतेज़ार करना है।


एक गाँव में दो किसान रहते थे। एक का नाम यहूदा और दूसरे का नाम पतरस था। यहूदा और परतस दोनों को उनके मालिक ने अपना खेत सौंपा था कि वे उसमें काम करें और फल काट कर मालिक को सौंप दें। यहूदा अपने काम के प्रति बहुत वफादार था परंतु पतरस काफि आलसी था। एक दिन पतरस काफि देर से खेत कों आया और अपना काम पूरा किए बिना जाफ्टी घर जा एक दिन पतरस काफि देर से खेत में आया और अपना काम पूरा किए बिना जल्दी घर ज़ लिए तैयार हो गया। यहूदा को गुस्सा आ गया और उसने पतरस से कहा कि हमारे मालिक ने हमें यह काम सोंपा है और हमें उनका काम समय पर पूरा करना है। यह सुन कर पतरस को घुर्सा यों कि मो उपने परिवार के साथ क्योंकि मुझे अपने परिवार के साथ छुठि मनाने जाना है। हमारे मालिक के आने में अभी बहुत समय लगोगा। तब तक हम उनका काम पूरा कर ही लेंगे।" यह कहके पतरस वहाँ से चल गया लिकिन यहूदा काम पर लगा रहा। अगले दिन फिर पतरस रोज़ की तरह देर से आया और देखा कि खेत का फसल पूरी तरह से काट लिया गया है और कवल भूंसी ही बाकि रह गया है घहाँ तक कि यहूदा कही दिख नही रहा है। उसने तुरंत आसपस के लोणों से पूठा कि अखिय यह सब कसे उौर किसने किया और यहूदा कहाँ है ? किसी व्यक्ति ने उसे बताया कि पिछल रात को खेत का मालिक अचानक से वहाँ आ पहुँचा ओर यह्तदा का काम देखकर खुश हो गया। मालिक ने उसे बुलाकर उसे यह कहकर शाबाशी दी, "धन्य है तू हे विश्वासयोगय दास, मेरी खुशी मे शमिल होजा"। यह सुनते हे पतरस को बेचेनी होने लगी और वह तुरंत दोड़कर मालिक के भवन ढडुँचा। लेकिन वहाँ द्वार पर खड़े पहरेदारों ने उसे अंदर नही भेजा। किसी तरह विनती कर उसने मालिक के पास संदेश पहुँचाया और मालिक ने उसे अंदर आने की अनुमति दी। जब पतरस मालिक के भवन में आया तो उसने क्या देखा कि यहूदा अपने मालिक के दाहिने और बैठा है और वह अपने मालिक के साथ आनंद मना रहा है। यह देख पतरस को बहुत दुःख हुआ और वह अपने आप को कोसने लगा कि काश में भी अपने मालिक के काम को विश्वासयाग्यता से कर पाता तो यह दिन देखना नहीं पड़ता। पतरस ने जिंदगी भर अपने आराम और अपने कामों को करने पर ज्यादा महत्व दिया और मालिक के काम को हमेशा आलस के साथ किया। दूसरी ओर यहूदा ने अपने मालिक के प्रति विश्वासयोग्ता निभाया और पूरे लगन से अपने मालिक का काम पूरा किया

Draying that the Lord will send the Graduates out as heralds of hope!


## ALEX, ANNIE, GABRIEL \& HOPE MATHEW



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Punjab Bible College in Ludhiana has been training church planters and evangelists since 1992.
Over 1500 graduates have gone out to mission fields in northern India and Canada. Pastor K. Koshy serves as Director of the college and President of IPC Punjab state.


Orissa Bible Training Center started in Bhubaneswar in 1990 and ran for three years.


Mizoram Bible College in Aizawl has sent out 150 graduates to Arunachal, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur and neighboring regions. Dr. L. M. Andrew serves as the Principal.


Darjeeling Bible Training Centre (DBTC) was started in 2010 and the medium of instruction is Nepali. 169 graduates serve in various parts of Darjeeling district as pastors and church planters. India Bible College alumni Pastors Pradeep Kumar and Mhontsen Lotha serve as Director and Registrar of DBTC.


Himachal Bible College and Seminary (HBC) started in 2008.370 graduates as serving the Lord full time in various parts of North and North East India. The College offers Dip. Th., B.Th., and M.Div. programs that are ATA accredited. 11 full time faculty serve at HBC along with Dr. Sam Abraham, the Founder- Principal.

## GUJARAT BIBLE TRAINING CENTER

The GUJARAT BIBLE TRAINING CENTER（GBTC）was dedicated at Mandvi，Gujarat on Saturday，the 15th February 2020.
GBTC is affiliated to India Bible College and Seminary， Kumbanad．Pastor P A George，President，IPC Gujarat State and former Director，GBTC prayed and dedicated the new facility for the glory of God．Pastor Johnson Mark serves as Director of this Training Center at Gu－ jarat that has restarted after a break of 5 years．


Finding a place to house the GBTC was a challenge． The Lord answered this prayer through a local mis sionary Evang．Babar Bhai who was stirred to gener－ ously donate his personal land for the GBTC building Within a remarkably brief time，through the efforts and prayers of Pastor Johnson Mark，a basic building was constructed which now serves as the Training Center． Bro．Jacob Thomas and Lt．Col．V．I．Luke，board mem－

bers of the K．E．Abraham Foundation witnessed this special event
Bro．Samuel Thomas，a well wisher，partner and special guest from Kerala was overjoyed to be part of the team． Fellow ministers and directors from IBC affiliated in－ stitutions Pastor V．D．Babu，Odisha Bible Training Center and Pastor Pradeep Kumar，Darjeeling Bible Training Center；Pastor Sabu Thomas of IPC Surat，well wishers and former graduates of India Bible College and Seminary from Gujarat were all very excited to be part of this new chapter in the history of the GBTC． Candidates from the districts of Valsad，Navasari and Dang have enrolled as students．GBTC is the only such training center in the Southern part of Gujarat．
May the Lord use this facility to raise up Biblically sound and anointed servant leaders to boldly declare the salvation message of Christ to their generation．


IPC KUWAIT REGION BIBLE SCHOOL


IPC Kuwait Region Bible school started in the year 2014 under the leadership of IPC Kuwait Region Council and in affiliation with India Bible College and Seminary，Kumbanad to train and equip brothers and sisters who wish to pursue systematic biblical studies along with their secular jobs
IPC Kuwait Region Bible School offers a Two Year Diploma Course in theological studies based on the curriculum of India Bible College and Seminary．
Four batches have successfully completed their courses and received graduation．
The newly elected office bearers of IPC KUWAIT REGION BIBLE SCHOOL for 2019－2020 are Principal：Pastor Abraham Thomas


Other teachers are Pastor P．G．Abraham，Pastor P．K．Johnson，Pastor JamesThengumpalli， Pastor Moncey P．Mathew and Pastor Santhosh Thomas
Classes are held in Abbassia and Mangaf areas．Admissions to the new academic year are open． God willing，the graduation for this year is prayerfully planned to be held on 25th March 2020.

May the Graduating Class 2020 be ambassadors of hope!


Philip S. Daniel \& Family, Kuwait


May the Graduates of 2020 be abounding in hope!


Varghese Samuel \& Family, Kuwait

Blessings and prayers for the Graduating Class of 2020!


Adv.Siju Mathai \& Family, Kuwait

Wishing God's choicest blessinas on all the Graduates for a fruitful ministry!


May the toly Spirit lead and quide all our Graduates as they enter the mission field!


Thomas M. Thomas and Family, USA


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Blessings and prayers for the Graduating Class of 2020!


Rev. Monis George, Jolly Monis George, Abraham Monis George \& Jeena George, Fredy Monis George


He has made everthing beautiful in its time (Eccl. 3:11)

Byju N. V. \& Family Kuwait


Manoj David \& Family, USA



Saji \& Beena Varghese,Justin \& Liya and Juslin
IPC Ebenezer Church, Dubai (IPC Salem Church, Manakala-Adoor)



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