



News Letter 2016

BALDAEUS THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

ΘΕΟΛΟΓΙΚΗ ΣΧΟΛΗ

*Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ!*



Dear Friends and Partners of BTC,

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I would like to use this opportunity to thank you for your prayers, support for the ministry of the college for the glory of the Almighty. Without your prayers and support, I don't think, we could have come this far. Many of you, apart from upholding us in your prayers, gave us your input in many different ways. Especially by coming all the way to teach our students and to visit our former students and their work, preach in the local churches which are in contact with us and financially supporting us where and when necessary.

Without your prayers and support, I don't think, we could have come this far

Student body 2016

We have 18 fulltime students this year. These students have come from both Northern and Eastern provinces and also from the central part of Sri Lanka. We thank God for the number of mature students we

have this year. Out of the five married students three stay at the campus itself with their families and it is very meaningful fellowship to all of us. Our student's leader this year

is Pastor Vickneswaran who will complete his B.Th next year. He is an outstanding leader who is a leader of great potential and has been in pastoral ministry for last five years. He was unable to move his family because of his grown children's education. He spends all the week days at the college. He was a builder by profession and uses his skills for tent making. While at the college he helped a lot in the maintenance of the college building and in establishing the beach restaurant of the college. Also part of the parapet wall was done under his initiative. As a leader of the students, he helped a lot in maintaining a very good relationship between the staff and students and among the students themselves. Also one of the students, Kapilan, is an IT

man. He helped us to reestablish a website for the college, he takes care of all the technical issues of our IT site and he teaches IT to the fellow students. Out of the 18 students 9 students are leaving this year. Three after completing their B.Th, two after completing the two years diploma studies and four after the one year certificate. Please do pray for all of



them that they should use their learning for the ministry in the community and bring glory to the Lord. We expect to have another 10 students to enroll for next year. Teaching and living with the students to equip them to be the ministers of the Kingdom of God in the contemporary Sri Lankan society is really a challenge. Training them to handle conflicts within the student body was a challenge partly because not only do the students come from the area which was under 30 year's civil war but also they have come from different church traditions. I strongly believe that the residential training is very helpful in preparing them for the challenges they have in the world. As partners of the mission of God their understanding of building of the Kingdom of God (not their own) is essential in Sri Lankan context in which Christian institutions are more focused on success and not faithfulness; building their own kingdom not the kingdom

of God, and thus falling into competition and not willing for biblical cooperation (biblical ecumenism).

I know there are many Christians and Christian leaders who are not willing to accept Christians from other traditions. When I approach many pastors in my town during 1990 to form the Evangelical Fellowship in Mannar they refused to have any fellowship with our church because we are Reformed Baptist. One of our elders asked the pastors whether they are willing to accept us as brothers in Christ. They said it's not easy for them and they are not willing to have any Christian fellowship with us. It took almost 5 years to form the Evangelical Fellowship in Mannar through our continuous efforts. But in many parts in Sri Lanka so called Evangelical fellowship is the fellowship of churches which call themselves 'Full Gospel Churches'. Christ who longs for love among his people would be sad to see their mentality. In fact there are Bible colleges and Christian institutions in Sri Lanka which are promoting and encouraging this sad situation

for their success and to further their efforts in building their own kingdoms. It is the love, mutual understanding, cooperation and biblical ecumenism which will be the core for a powerful Christian witness. Jesus has prayed, 'that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me' (John 17:21). It's our prime responsibility to fulfill the longing of our Lord. First it should be an organic unity of love in Christ focused on the Glory of the Lord through building his kingdom and that should reflect in our ecumenical efforts through our partnering with other traditions. What we are trying to do as an interdenominational Bible institution is inviting those in ministry and preparing for ministry to live together for few years in a residential study programme to explore the life of Evangelical ecumenism that focuses on building the kingdom of God together. We are trying to break the present competing situation. Our task is not an easy one but we would like to take this challenge and work for the change. At least the next generation of Christian leadership will be a group that will accept each other without any hesitations, work in partnership with each other, and believe in the concept of unity in diversity and work together to build the kingdom of the Lord.

Visiting Lecturers

counseling and handling children with special needs. Also we wanted to have sessions with the church leaders to help handle chil-

We again had very good teachers coming from overseas to teach at BTC. Rev. Kuppusamy and Rev. Paulraj came from India to teach Greek language and Systematic theology respectively. They both are from Presbyterian background and very helpful to our students. Rev. Paulraj serves as a Moderator of the Presbyterian Churches in South India and he is very good at handling children in trauma. We are planning to have him for two weeks again in the next year to teach our students on Pastoral



Choi (Head of Missions from Korea serving in Sri Lanka) all of them gave their valuable time and strength to teach our students this year. We had the modular with Dr. Roland Klegger at the Faith Tabernacle Church in which around 50 members of different churches benefited. Rev. Tim (Southern Baptist Church-USA) came along with his family and team to share about presenting the gospel using culture among the Hindus and Muslims. It was very helpful to our students.



dren affected by the civil war. Rev. Bill Morris (Missionary from Southern Baptist Church- USA) and his wife Christine was a blessing to our staff, lecturers and students. They were teaching English and Christian Leadership. They spent adequate time individually with our lecturers and staff to develop their language skills. We praise God for their time with us. And I like to extend my thanks to Bro. Saji of Vavuniya for his translation of Rev. Bill Morris sessions. Dr. Roland Klegger (SAM- Switzerland) , Rev. Richard Jennings (PCA- USA) , Rev. Chester

"We are planning to have Rev. Paulraj for two weeks again in the next year to teach our students on Pastoral counseling and handling children with special needs. "



Our friends Ms. Regina and Ms. Cornelia (SAM – Switzerland) were here to take special seminars for women and seminar on first aid. We had our seminar for the women again at Faith Tabernacle Church – Trincomalee and the first aid programme for our students at BTC and for the Mulangavil (Vanni) village people in partnership with Gospel Grace Church, Mulangavil. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the lecturers and their families for this great ministry support and I would like to thank Pastor Gladson (Our board member and pastor of Faith Tabernacle Church) and Pastor Thamilselvan (Gospel Grace Church- Mulangavil) for their partnership. Both the Leadership seminar for the women and first aid programmes were well received by the participants.

Master of Divinity (M.Div) Programme

Not only we are working on upgrading the faculty but also we are exploring the possibility of offering a Master's programme from the year 2018/19. There are many of our alumni with Bachelor degrees who want to follow the M.Div while serving in the church. The biggest challenge here is language. Doing M.Div in English is not an easy task, at least for those Tamil trainees from the North and East whose education was heavily affected by the 30 years civil war. However, the language difficulty should not deny them the opportunity to do the Master's degree. Do pray for our efforts since we like to take up this challenge.

Trinco Town Study Center

We are planning to start a study center in Trinco where we plan to offer the Diploma courses. We will be targeting the students and ministers who would like to study while working. Apart from the theological training we want to start a language school as well there and we hope this will help our future M.Div programme. We will setup a good lending library also in this center to support the local pastors. Pastor Gladson has happily given a small building owned by them which is located in a walking distance from the Colombo-Trinco road at 4th Mile Post. Pray for all the pre arrangements which are taking place now.



"we hope this will help our future

M.Div programme. ."

Hatton Extension

We have 12 students at our Hatton Extension now and our lecturers are faithfully teaching these pastors who are serving among the Tea plantation workers families. Do pray for this extension. We expect more student/pastors to join next year.



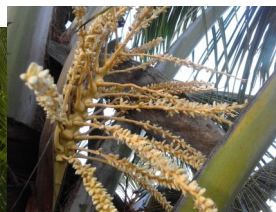
Student Alumni

This year the BOS (Baldaeus Old Students) Fellowship met and had their 2 days family get together at our premises during the April holidays. The aim of the gathering was mutual encouragement and sharing of their ministry experiences. It is a joy to hear about the labor in the field of the Lord.



Income Generation

The coconut trees have started giving yield and we hope to have the harvest from next year. The construction of the conference hall is in progress. We hope to have the upper part/upstairs completed by the end of the year and ground floor will be completed most probably by the middle of next year (2017).





Vehicle for the college

Finally we have purchased a Japan 'Toyota' Van (12 seater) for the college for 4.2 million rupees (US \$28000). Up to now we are able to raise around 3 Million rupees for this project, including the 0.9 million that came through the sale of our old vehicle. Through our cost cutting efforts we are able to save around 0.5 million rupees in the last 2 years which we used for this purpose, the

balance came through the general fund which has been saved through the years. Purchasing the vehicle has brought us to zero level situation in running the college. That means we don't have any additional funds to start the coming year. However as the result of our location a vehicle is an important need and we have to go for it before the budget since the government raises the price of vehicles by close to half a million rupees in every annual budget. From the last week the price of the vehicle is gone up by another 400,000 Sri Lankan Rupees. Your support to meet the additional money spent for the project is most welcome. Thanks for your support and prayers.



Web and Face book

We are working on our web page. Though it is under construction at present you can visit our web page and receive adequate information about our work now. Also you can have access to all our news reports in the past in this web page. In addition, our web page will direct you to our Face book which consist most of our photo gallery of the recent past.

Our web address is: www.baldaeuscollege.simplesite.com and our Face book address is: Btc Trinco.



Baldaeus Theological College

6th mile post, Adukkupar, Konesapuri
Nilaveli,
Trincomalee.
Sri Lanka

Phone: 026-2051201
e-mail btct2016@gmail.com

manohar2@yahoo.com



Once again I take this opportunity to thank you for all your prayers and support. Your partnership for this ministry is definitely working for the expansion of the kingdom of the Lord through the proper biblical training of ministers to become part and parcel of the existing ongoing ministry of the word of God in Sri Lanka. We are not teaching anything else other than what has been 'once for all entrusted to the saints'. There is no other Gospel for which we could train men and women to be witnesses to. May the Lord be glorified through our work and may His kingdom grow.

Wishes to you for a meaningful new year in the Lord.

Thanks and blessings.

Huthin Manohar

Principal.

BTC, Trinco, Sri Lanka.

Phone: 0094 776944141 / 0094 2051201

mail: manohar2@yahoo.com



**“Once again wishing you all a Christ
centered X Mas and Christ
glorifying New Year 2017!**

May God bless you all! “