
India



"The eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him."

—2 Chronicles 16:9

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The Bible Student Friends of India Committee Newsletter

Winter 2010

2009 Indian General Conventions

The Indian brethren hold two General Conventions each year, both in the month of May, usually in the state of Tamil Nadu. Indian General Conventions have been held for 88 years and usually last for three days (Friday-Sunday). The conventions are conducted in a meeting hall and, to reduce their expenses, many brethren sleep on the floor of the convention venue rather than stay at a hotel. Each year, the location of the convention is moved to a different city.

There are two organizations which sponsor the General Conventions: (1) *The Bible Students Association (BSA)* and (2) *The Bible Students Association (TBSA)*. The BSA has sponsored General Conventions since the 1970s when the BSA was formed. The TBSA began sponsoring its General Convention in 2008.

The **BSA India General Convention** for 2009 was conducted in Manapparai—a small town in Tamil Nadu—on May 15-17. According to Bro. Jeyaraj, General Secretary of the BSA, it was a successful and blessed convention. Nearly 800 brothers and sisters, from 26 different ecclesias in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, attended and participated in the convention.



Bro. Jeyaraj

Discourses were given by 21 brethren on various subjects, and 5 brethren were immersed on the second day of the convention.

The marriage ceremony for Bro. Godwin Emmanuel and Sr. Ophylia Vinodhini was conducted in front of all the brethren on the final day of the convention.

Due to a lack of funds, the Bible Student Friends of India Committee (BSFOIC) could not make its typical donation to the BSA to help defray the costs of the convention. However, the BSA and the Indian brethren were able to bear the expenditures of the convention because the owner of the convention hall

waived the rental cost for all of the 3 days. In appreciation, the BSA offered the owner a small gift.

The **TBSA India General Convention** for 2009 was held in Trichy—a small city in Tamil Nadu—on May 8-10. Approximately 240 brothers and sisters attended from ecclesias located in Mysore, Bangalore, Ooty, Coimbatore, Pollachi, Manapparai, Dindugal, Tanjore, Singanallur, Pondicherry, Tirupathy, Rajamandry, Dakshnaram, Kakinada, Chozhavaram, Dalmiyapuram, Sulur, Trichy, and Chennai.

Fifteen discourses were given during the convention, most of them in the Tamil language. One discourse each was given in the English, Kannada, and Telegu languages.

Some of the discourse topics were as follows: "Go Sell Your Possessions and Give Them to the Poor" (Matt. 19:16-22), "The Association of the Church" (Eph. 4:1-6), "Lo I Come, to do Thy Will O God" (Psa. 40:7,8), "Christ—The Alpha and Omega" (Rev. 1:18), "Am I to Win the Approval of Men or God?" (Gal. 1:10), "Armageddon" (Rev. 16:12-16), "Jehovah's Plan of the Temple" (Ezek. 41:1-10), "The Feast of Bel-te-shaz-zar" (Dan. 5:1-9), "The Afflictions of Christ" (Isa. 53:2-8), "The Tree That Does Not Wither" (Psa. 1:1-6) and "Submit Your Account" (Rom 14:7-12).

Jarius, the child of Bro. Albert and Sr. Diana, was 'named' during the convention. The books *The Daughters of Babylon* and *The Balm of Gilead* were released at the convention. *The Balm of Gilead* is a translation of the Dawn book *Questions and Answers*.

Two were immersed during the convention, and three days of children's classes were conducted. The three-day convention ended with a closing song, and then a prayer by Bro. Udhaya Kumar, President of the TBSA.



■ Bro. J. Udhaya Kumar

15 Indian Brethren Attend IC 2008

Psalms 118:24: This is the day Jehovah hath made, We rejoice and are glad in it.



Brothers in back row: Bros. Samuel Premraj, Micheal, Ranjan, Muthaiya, Raju, Pushparaj, Samuel Prasad, Francis Paul, David;
Sisters in front row: Srs. Sophia, Sarala Kumari, Mythili, Usha, Sarojini, Prabhavathi

The following is an abridged report of the Indian brethren attending IC 2008, by Bro. Samuel Premraj.

Dear beloved brethren in Christ,

Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ! On behalf of the Indian brethren, I would like to thank Our Almighty through our Lord Jesus Christ, and also our whole-hearted thanks to those who contributed funds and personal effort to help the Indian brethren attend and participate in IC 2008. Here we would like to share some of our feelings and experiences during the convention, and our trip after the convention.

By the grace of God, in 2008, after getting invitations from Poland, we applied for the visas in the Mumbai embassy. We submitted all of our documents and waited for a month. Finally, by God's grace, without any rejection, we got all of our passports with visa stamping. This was all your prayers and the effort of many brethren.

Brethren from Chennai, Coimbatore, Mettupalayam, Ooty, Mysore, and Bangalore all were gathered in Mumbai. There we had a meeting with Bro. Barsay's family. Then we all stayed in Sr. Flora's sister's home.

Early morning we left home by 4:00 AM and reached Mumbai International Airport for Immigration. The Airport authority asked a couple of questions individually. Brethren prayerfully answered their questions. Then our passports were stamped. Finally, we all were on to the beautiful aircraft Lufthansa.

For some of the brethren this was the first time

flying a long distance—a very thrilling experience. Because it was a day of travel, we crossed Pakistan, Turkey, the Mediterranean Sea, and Black Sea, etc. After our 9 hour travel we landed at the Munich airport. To enter Poland, Airport authorities again questioned us, we answered and got our passports stamped. Then we waited two hours to get our flight to Krakow, arriving on August 31 at 4:30 PM.

The lovely Bro. Marek with his wife Sr. Eva, daughter Sr. Kasia, and Sr. Gosia were waiting in the airport. They took us for the first meal at a beautiful restaurant. Then we started our trip by bus to Nowy Sacz. There Bro. Lasek and Sr. Dora, Bro. Stanislas and his wife, along with other brethren waited for us. There we spent a little time, then went to the Youth Camp where we all participated in a day-ending meeting. Our Bro. Raju shared his witnessing experience

with Poland youths. Bro. Francis sang a Tamil song, guitar accompanied by Bro. Prem. Then back to our hotel "KIRBUD." It was a beautiful place with all the facilities. It was a good experience, almost all the brethren from Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, Poland, India, and USA stayed in the same campus. That was a good arrangement by the convention committee.

The first day, after breakfast, we all entered the convention hall, meeting many different brethren with joy taking photos, videos, hugging and kissing each other. Even though we don't know the language but "the language of love," we talked to each other with the help of young people. Our brethren managed with a few words like "Gindobray, Pokoj, Shalom, Pace." The first day we all enjoyed the beautiful songs of the professional and international choir. We really felt Psalms 133—How pleasant to see our brethren.

The next day the convention was at the exact time. Till the end, the program was well organized. We were much impressed and learned lots of experience from this convention. The youths helped the brethren by translating different languages via the radio broadcasting. It was very clear. Some of the discourses with Powerpoint presentations were very professional. In the middle of the convention, we all enjoyed an international picnic at Krynica. During the convention, the programs like the Vesper service, Testimony, Interview, Group Singing, and children activities were extremely joyful. Four Indian brothers served at the convention: Bros. Prasad, Pushparaj, Ranjan and Muthaia.

Indian Brethren and the 2010 International Convention

The BSFOIC plans to sponsor a small group of Indian brethren to attend the 2010 International Convention at Baia Mare, Romania. The BSFOIC sponsored twelve Indian brethren to attend IC 2006, and in 2008 it cooperated with the Polish International Convention Committee to sponsor fifteen brethren.



Bro. Segar

For 2010, the BSFOIC will be sponsoring two speakers to attend the convention: Bro. Segar, an elder from the

Coonoor ecclesia and a Brother from one of the Karnataka ecclesias. Each speaker will give a 25 minute discourse—the same as at the 2006 and 2008 conventions. Bro. Segar and the other speaker will be accompanied by their wives.

The BSFOIC plans to sponsor a third couple to attend the convention. The BSFOIC has also launched a special fund to sponsor additional brethren to attend IC 2010. The amount of donations made to this fund will determine how many more brethren the BSFOIC can help attend IC 2010. For more information about this fund, please contact the BSFOIC.

With IC 2010, the BSFOIC will move to partial sponsorships, contributing \$2000 to each couple attending the convention. This will cover their convention expenses, and provide approximately \$1500 for their airfare to Romania. The Indian brethren will be responsible for the rest of their expenses. ■

15 Indian Brethren Attend IC 2008

(Continued from page 2)

The committee gave special permission for us to show our Indian activities through a Powerpoint presentation. We want to say special thanks to the Chairman for this. Finally, we came to know that the Bible Students have all the talents. Our Almighty has abundantly blessed with many talents each one of us. Each brother has got multiple talents, shown during every discourse break. The food was excellent. All the discourses were excellent.

At the end of the convention, it was very difficult to see the brethren's faces. The smiling faces were fading with sad looks when the concluding song was sung in their native languages. Many were crying. It was a heart touching song—Goodbye to the brethren, "Till we meet again."

The second part of our trip in Poland was another experience. We were so touched by the Poland brethren. The brethren organized a very beautiful AC bus for our whole trip with wonderful guides—Bro. Lukas, a young and responsible brother, and a young devoted Sr. Gosia. She is lovely sister. She did lots of things for the Indian brethren like translating subjects of the brothers and word-to-word translation. She has done her level best. Both were with us during our whole trip.

The Indian brethren cannot forget that this was co-ordinated by a lovely Bro. Marek. He also accompanied us with his car, along with his lovely wife Sr. Eva. We cannot forget this couple. We visited 8 ecclesias. This time we all stayed in brethren's homes. They treated us like kings and queens. We were unfit for that. We all felt like we were in our homes.

Every meeting was a great blessing. During the meetings, brethren asked about our Indian marriages, ecclesia meetings, public activities, funerals, and our culture, etc. It was interesting to share with the brethren. Apart from this the brethren organized wonderful sight-seeing trips to the Bible Students Retirement center, concentration camps, Jewish synagogues, castles, many cities, farms, and factories, etc. One thrilling experience was when we all traveled in a chariot ride. This was organized by Bro. Lasek and his family. The brethren really enjoyed this.

In many places, brethren organized food in beautiful hotels while traveling. We visited the following places: Krynisa, Lezaesk, Bilgoraj, Oleszyce, See-goes, Lublin, Mehoof, Gosee, Zesthovah, Krakow, etc. Fellowship with many ecclesias was a great blessing. We showed Powerpoint presentations about our activities in India. The brethren encouraged us in many ways.

The final day Bro. Kristof, Bro. Marek and his family, Br. Luke, and Sr. Gosia came to the airport. Our luggage weight was in excess. We were to pay 2000 zloty, but Sr. Eva gave her Card and paid for us. Everything was heart-touching. We left Poland full of blessings and tears. We are very thankful to the Poland committee and those who were personally involved. Our special thanks to Bro. Wade and the BSFOIC. And also special thanks to the Poland committee, Bro. Marek's family, and Bro. Kriztof. If God willing, the next group will be meeting in 2010. We extend our warm welcome to Poland brethren to India. May God bless you all!

Yours in his service,

Bro. Samuel Premraj on behalf of the Indian brethren ■

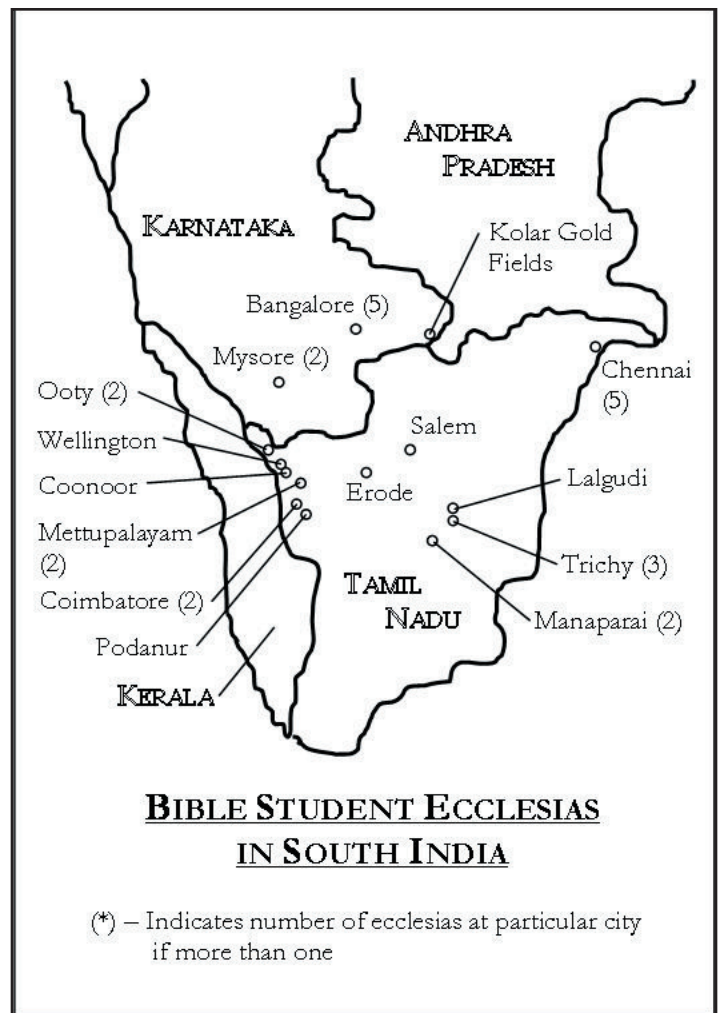
Background of the Indian Brethren

Our Lord Jesus stated in Matthew 24:14 that the “Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations.” This declaration was given as one of the many signs that would indicate the end of the Gospel Age. We have all been witnesses of this, as the harvest message has been proclaimed throughout the world and continues to spread into new areas and bear fruit in accordance with the Heavenly Father’s plan. As brethren in the ‘one hope’ of our calling, we feel a special kinship with one another that crosses the boundaries of geography, ethnicity, and culture. Due to distance and circumstances, however, we may never actually meet most of our brethren from around the world during our Christian walk. As a committee that visits and corresponds regularly with our brethren in India, the BSFOIC offers the following as an introduction to your brethren in India and their ecclesias.

While it is the seventh largest nation in geographical area, India is home to the second largest population in the world, with approximately 1.2 billion people. This democratic country is comprised of 28 states

and 7 union territories. As one of the most linguistically diverse nations, each Indian state and territory has a different language, and there are as many as 1,652 dialects throughout the country. The religious composition of India is predominantly Hindu (80.5%), followed by Muslim (13.4%), Christian (2.3%), Sikh (1.9%), and others (1.9%).

The majority of Bible Students in India are concentrated in the southern part of the peninsula, in the two states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. An overall view of India, the surrounding nations, and India’s division into states is displayed below. Next to it is a map of the southern tip of the peninsula showing the cities and villages which currently contain one or more Bible Student ecclesias. Even though the brethren in the two states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu live in relative close proximity to one another, many of them speak two significantly different languages. The official languages in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are Kannada and Tamil, respectively. Some of the brethren, particularly those of the younger generation, have learned English as a second language.



Brethren in Tamil Nadu

The largest numbers of brethren live in the state of Tamil Nadu. Nearly all meetings in these ecclesias are conducted in the Tamil language and English-speaking elders are always translated into Tamil when they serve during visits. The largest ecclesia in this state is located in Coimbatore and includes over 100 consecrated brethren. Other cities that contain ecclesias are shown in the regional map, and include: Chennai (5), Coimbatore (2), Coonoor, Erode (2), Lalgudi, Manapparai (2), Mettupalayam (2), Ooty (2), Podanur, Salem, Trichy (3) and Wellington.

While each Bible Student ecclesia in Tamil Nadu is separate, many are affiliated with, and cooperate with, associations or individuals. These associations, or affiliations, sponsor conventions and youth seminars, print monthly magazines and other Truth material and provide organization for various witnessing activities. These affiliations include: (1) *Indian Bible Student Association (IBSA)*; (2) *Bible Student Association (BSA)*; (3) *The Bible Student Association (TBSA)*; and (4) *Messengers of Christ (MOC)*. There are also non-affiliated ecclesias. Listed below is a brief background of each of these associations.

Indian Bible Students Association (IBSA)

This is the original association of Indian Bible Student ecclesias stretching back many years. The IBSA has typically not favored contact with, or accepted funds from, foreign brethren. However, BSFOIC members have been able to visit these ecclesias sporadically including one visit in the fall of 2007 to the Susa Raj ecclesia in Trichy.¹

Bible Students Association (BSA)

This association broke off from the IBSA in the 1960s-1970s and maintains a close relationship with brethren from the United States and other countries. The largest association of Indian ecclesias (numbering over 20), the BSA sponsors and organizes the annual General Convention which takes place each year in May. It also prints and distributes a monthly Tamil language magazine (which began publication in 1917) to its ecclesias and members. This association has a General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary, Secretary, and a Treasurer. The current General Secretary is Bro. Jeyaraj (Manapparai) and Assistant General Secretary is Bro. Irudaraj (Ondipudur). Ecclesias affiliated with this association are: Andupatti, Chennai (Thiruvottiyur and Tambaram ecclesias), Coimbatore (main), Coonoor, Lalgudi, Manapparai (Jeyaraj ecclesia), Mettupalayam, Podanur, Salem, Trichy (Nesaraj ecclesia) and Wellington. For many years, the BSFOIC has supported the BSA financially, typically contributing \$5,000-\$8,000

per year to support the following items: (1) General Convention, (2) Youth Seminar(s), (3) Indian Pilgrim Service Expenses, and (4) Humanitarian Aid.

The Bible Students Association (TBSA)

This association split from the BSA in late 2007. Shortly after its formation, TBSA launched a second annual General Convention which also takes place in May. The association has a President, Vice-president and other officers. Current President is Bro. Udhaya Kumar (Chennai) and Vice-President is Bro. Chinnappan (Manapparai). Ecclesias affiliated with this association include: Chennai (Aynawaram and Washermanpet ecclesias), Manapparai (Chinnappan ecclesia), Ooty (Premraj ecclesia), and Trichy (Felix Anthony ecclesia). TBSA prints their own monthly magazine, translates and prints Truth materials, and also sponsors a Youth seminar.

Messengers of Christ (MOC)

A number of ecclesias are associated with, or were started by, the witnessing efforts of Bro. Khurrsino Miranda from Bangalore and/or J. Joshua from Coimbatore. Their association is called Messengers of Christ. The Tamil Nadu ecclesias that belong to MOC include: Coimbatore (Joshua ecclesia), Erode (Baskar ecclesia), Dindigul, Nagercoil, Vellore, Villupuram, Trichy, Kotagiri and Ooty.

Brethren in Karnataka

The next largest group of brethren is concentrated in the state of Karnataka, which is located immediately north of Tamil Nadu. Ecclesia meetings are conducted in the regional language of Kannada and English-speaking elders are usually translated into Kannada when they serve during visits. The Bangalore Bible Students is the largest ecclesia in this state, including approximately 70 members. Other ecclesias in Karnataka include: Bangalore (5), Chittor, Kolar Gold Fields, Mysore (2), and Nagenahalli.

While many ecclesias in Karnataka are not affiliated with an association, several ecclesias are associated with MOC such as the Bangalore Bible Students, Kolar Gold Fields and Mysore Road.

Note: The "Background of the Indian Brethren" section will continue in future BSFOIC newsletters and provide profiles on specific ecclesias from both states.

¹When identifying ecclesias, the name of the ecclesia is given, if known. In cases where the ecclesia name is not known or there isn't one, the name of the town where the ecclesia is located is given. In some cases, multiple ecclesias are located around one city, in which case the city is listed first followed by the name of the ecclesia (if known) or the name of the ecclesia's elder in parenthesis. ■

Translation Activities

Several different groups of brethren in India work continuously to translate the Truth literature into their local languages. Since nearly all of the brethren live in the two southern states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, most of the effort is directed towards translation into their respective languages, Tamil and Kannada. The BSFOIC does not currently provide financial support for these efforts, but assists in their coordination, prioritization, and helps locate funds for printing the translated material. Several other Bible Student organizations and individuals are also involved in supporting the Indian brethren along these lines.

Tamil Translation Work

Table 1 below gives an update on the Tamil translation work, as reported by Bro. Jeyaraj of the BSA and Bro. Selvaraj of the Chennai Bible Students:

In addition to the literature listed in the table, the *Expanded Biblical Comments* of Bro. Russell are being

Truth Literature	Translators	Date of Publish	Copies Published
<i>The Herald of Christ's Kingdom</i> magazine	Trichy Sangiliyan-dapuram Ecclesia	Ongoing	600
Volume 2 <i>The Time is at Hand</i>	Chennai Bible Students	2005	1000
Volume 6 <i>The New Creation</i>	Chennai Bible Students	2007	1400
<i>I Will Come Again</i> booklet	Chennai Bible Students	2008	1500
<i>Tabernacle Shadows</i>	Coonoor & Chennai Bible Students	2009	1500
Volume 5 <i>The Atonement Between God and Man</i>	Coimbatore & Chennai Bible Students	2009	1500
Volume 4 <i>The Battle of Armageddon</i>	Bangalore & Chennai Bible Students	Ongoing	-
Volume 3 <i>Thy Kingdom Come</i>	Chennai Bible Students	Ongoing	-
Several Booklets from New Brunswick Ecclesia	Chennai Bible Students	Ongoing	-

translated into Tamil by brethren in the Mettupalayam, Trichy, and Bangalore ecclesias under the direction of Bro. Khurrsino. Current progress is as follows:

- Matthew (chapter 8 completed)
- Mark (chapter 4 completed)
- Luke (chapter 5 completed)
- John (chapter 15 completed)

Finally, translation of the *The Dawn* magazine into Tamil has been proposed by brethren in the Manapparai ecclesia and may start very soon.

Kannada Translation Work

Table 2 below gives an update on the Kannada translation work, as reported by Bro. Jeyaraj of the BSA and the Bangalore Bible Students. This work is being directed by Bro. Prasad, an elder in one of the Bangalore ecclesias.

Other Translation Work

A small group of brethren in the city of Mumbai (previously called Bombay) have recently completed translating Volume 1, *The Divine Plan of the Ages* into Marathi, and plan to print 1,000 copies. Marathi is the regional language spoken in Mumbai and its surrounding state, Maharashtra.

The Bangalore Bible Students are working on translating the *Daily Heavenly Manna* book into Telugu, which is the regional language spoken in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh is located northeast of the state of Tamil Nadu.

Note: The BSFOIC is currently evaluating if it should begin to help fund some of the translation efforts.

Truth Literature	Translators	Date of Publish	Copies Published
<i>The Herald of Christ's Kingdom</i> magazine	Bangalore Bible Students	Ongoing	125 bimonthly
Volume 6 <i>The New Creation</i>	Bangalore Bible Students	Ongoing	-
<i>Daily Heavenly Manna</i>	Bangalore Bible Students	Ongoing	-
Volume 2 <i>The Time is at Hand</i>	Bangalore Bible Students	Ongoing	-

Witnessing Activities

The Indian brethren are quite active in their witnessing, with the Messengers of Christ (MOC) being one of the most active. MOC periodically holds 2-3 day public meetings in different cities where they introduce the plan of God. They then conduct weekly follow-up meetings for the interested, where 53 lessons are presented which lead the attendees through the fundamental doctrines of the Truth. This gives the attendees a basic understanding of the Truth in one year, and an opportunity to make a consecration and be immersed. Once the 53 lessons are completed, those who have consecrated organize and begin functioning as a separate ecclesia. Their current witnessing is as follows:

- The original follow-up classes at Nagercoil have been concluded. This public meeting was held in April 2008 and led to the formation of a new Ecclesia in July 2009, when 14 were immersed at a one-day Convention. This new ecclesia has now progressed with nearly five months of Sunday worship.
- A second set of follow-up classes at Nagercoil have been held in parallel with the first. They have progressed to lesson #47 as of October 17, and were scheduled to conclude on December 5.
- Follow-up meetings to the recently held Tirunelveli public meeting continue every Saturday evening with 60-65 members attending. The public meeting was held in early August 2009.
- A public meeting was held in Kottayam, Kerala on November 14-15. This was the first ever public meeting in the state of Kerala. Fifteen attended the first day and ten the second. The follow-up classes began on November 20 with 9 attendees.

The TBSA conducted a Summer Bible Study Course for 10 days from May 20-29, 2009 with the focus on the Teachings of Jesus Christ. Some of the discourses given were: Searching the Bible (John 5:39), What Shall I Do to Inherit Everlasting Life (Luke 10:25-37), The Hidden Treasure (Matt. 13:44), Is Hell for the Rich Man? (Luke 16:19-31), The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:10-32), Jesus Opens the Eyes Spitting and Making the Clay (John 9:1-12), and Thy Kingdom Come (Matt. 24:1-14). The number of attendees for all classes were 83 brothers and 63 sisters, of which 46 attended regularly. The TBSA is considering a proposal to start a Bible Institute named the *Shalom Bible Institute* to give in-depth studies in the Scriptures, inviting youth from all parts of the country. As an initial trial, they conducted this Summer Bible Study Course for 10 days. ■

Youth Seminars

Conducted annually, the 2010 India Youth Seminar organized by the BSA was held on December 25-27 at the RV Mahal in Manapparai. Besides the study of basic doctrines, the main theme of the seminar was “End Times & the Church Class.” The BSA anticipated that approximately 150 youths would attend this year. The committee conducting the seminar consists of: Bros: Newlin (Coimbatore), Johnson Ghanaseker (Mettupalayam), Ruben (Erode), Alex (Coimbatore), Narkarunai (Mettupalayam), and Rajkumar (Pothanoor).

The TBSA also conducted a youth seminar in Chennai on December 25-27. Approximately 100 youths were expected to attend, as well as brethren from the state of Andhra Pradesh, northeast of the state of Tamil Nadu. ■

BSFOIC 2010 Budget

BSFOIC activities are funded by individual contributions, and support is on a “Lord willing” basis. The BSFOIC budget planned for 2010 is:

1. \$2,000 for BSA-sponsored General Convention.
2. \$500 for BSA-sponsored Youth Seminar.
3. \$6,000 for two Indian speakers, their wives, and a third couple to attend the IC 2010.

Budget Items Explained

- 1—The 3-day BSA General Convention is held each year with 600-800 brethren attending.
- 2—The 3-day Youth seminar is held each year with 100-250 young brethren attending.
- 3—\$6,000 covers part of the traveling expenses for the two Indian speakers, their wives and a third couple to attend the International Convention.

Translation And Publishing Support

These are not currently in the BSFOIC budget since other Bible Student groups have been supporting these efforts. The BSFOIC assists in coordinating these efforts, and is looking at how it might better support these activities.

International Convention Travel

The BSFOIC provided financial support for 12 Indian brethren to attend IC 2006 and 15 brethren to attend IC 2008. Donations specifically for this project were collected separately from our regular budget items. The BSFOIC plans to repeat this effort for at least 6 different Indian brethren for IC 2010.

Designated Donations

The BSFOIC accepts designated donations where the donor specifies which project they wish to support. ■

BSFOIC Update

In late 2008, the BSFOIC shrank to just two members with the resignations of Bros. Wade Austin and Michael Brann. The remaining members, Bros. Tim Krupa and Ernie Kuenzli decided that the committee should be significantly enlarged to bring new ideas, new perspectives, and new energy into the BSFOIC. This would help it better support the Indian brethren in dealing with their challenges in serving the Lord and promoting the Truth.

Invitations were sent to numerous brethren throughout the country, and 9 brethren accepted increasing the committee to 11, its largest size ever. The 9 new members are Brothers:

- Bob Brand (San Diego)
- David Christiansen (Seattle)
- Bill Dutka (Metro Detroit)
- O.B. Elbert (Delaware Valley)
- Kent Humphreys (Southwest)
- Peter Karavas (Chicago)
- Chris Kuenzli (Milwaukee)
- Tom Ruggirello (Chicago)
- Austin Williams (New York)

This influx of new members has already borne

fruit in the production of this newsletter, the planned launching of a website to support all of the Indian brethren, and new ideas and skills on how we can be of greater help and encouragement to our Indian brethren.

The current BSFOIC officers are as follows:

- Chairman: Bro. Tim Krupa
- Asst. Chairman: Bro. Bob Brand
- Secretary: Bro. Ernie Kuenzli
- Treasurer: Bro. Peter Karavas
- Cashier: Bro. Kent Humphreys

If you are interested in further information about the BSFOIC, you are welcome to inquire with any of the committee members, or write to:

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