

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

Fall 2010

Other Side of the Globe

"Out of sight, out of mind" is a rather sad statement when it comes to your friends and brethren. Physical distance can make that even more of a reality, and the reality regarding our brethren in India is that they are literally on the other side of the globe. We are not forgetting other far away places like Africa and Siberia but India is a long, long way away.

So when our committee and other pilgrims, both brothers and sisters, make their way to India, it is a major effort.

We are grateful for the generous support and expenditures that have come our way to help support our efforts to keep close to the brethren in India. Almost all of the "pilgrim" trips made to India by our American brethren and sisters have been self-funded. This totals an enormous expenditure over the years of loving support.

International Conventions

We appreciate recent donations that have helped us continue a program of bringing Indian brothers and sisters to the INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS. In an effort to reduce the distance between us, we embarked on a program of bringing a small group from India to each of the last three International conventions.

Not only did this give groups of Indian brethren a beautiful exposure to the conventions of the Bible Students, but it gave nearly 1000 participants at each of the conventions an opportunity



Indian Brethren at IC 2006

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IC 2010

Brother Rudi Hosu of the Baia Mare Bible Students Ecclesia was the chairman of the Romanian International Convention Committee. In addition to all of his responsibilities related to planning for the convention, he also took on the task of helping our brethren from India get to Romania. That task proved to be quite complicated!

In order to get a visa to come to Romania each of the Indian brethren had to get a personal letter of invitation from the Romanian brethren to start the process. Passport verifications, visa applications, legal stipulations and sometimes (seemingly) arbitrary hurdles all challenged Brother Rudi's efforts on behalf of our brethren from India. We, the BSFOIC, express deep gratitude to Brother Hosu for his selfless and faithful work to make the visit both possible and successful. He felt the Lord more than paid him back for his work as expressed in this message from him:

Brother Rudi Hosu

It was a great privilege for me to be involved in the process of inviting the Indian brethren [to Romania]. Even though it was a long and difficult process, the Lord helped us and "gave us the victory" in the end! Many times I thought that, with all the problems we were encountering, we would never be able to actually see them coming to Romania. But every time a question arose, the Lord would help us find an answer to it. This experience taught me to trust entirely in God's wisdom and power, not in my earthly and human way of thinking.

When I personally met these brethren I immediately felt that it was worth all the effort we had put into it. Even though we were of completely different cultures (from different peoples), we felt like we had known each other for a long, long time. We felt that brotherly connection that one can only feel in Jesus Christ; who holds us together.

During the fellowship we had with these brethren, we found out many things about their witness activi-



Bro. Rudi Hosu

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Indian Brethren at IC 2006

to fellowship with the Indians and to listen to the discourses of the Indian elders.

Blessed Response

The reaction to this program has been nothing short of amazing. The response of the Indian attendees has been unanimous. “It was the greatest experience of my consecrated life.”

We knew we had helped the bonds of Christian love grow deeper when we saw, at one of the International Conventions held in Poland, Polish sisters wearing the sari’s of some of the Indian sisters.



Polish Sister Wearing Sari

The BSFOIC provided partial sponsorship to six brethren to attend the 2010 convention held in Baia Mare, Romania. Seven other Indian brethren paid their own way, or were partially sponsored by others, to attend the convention. A report of their trip to IC 2010 begins on page 1 of this newsletter.

From a Pastoral perspective and the perspective of encouraging the Indian brethren, it’s hard for us to think of a better use of some of our funds than to foster

this kind of Christian fellowship.

For the 2012 International Convention, the BSFOIC plans again to provide partial sponsorship for six brethren. Due to the difficulties the Indian brethren had in obtaining their passports and Romanian visas, the BSFOIC’s IC 2012 project will begin in the next few weeks.

We hope we will continue to get brethren to volunteer to visit India. We have multiple trips planned for the coming year and if you would like to join any of them, please let us know. Thank you again for your support of these efforts.

—Tim Krupa, Chairman, BSFOIC ■

ties in India. I was strongly impressed with this and I felt encouraged to do more about this matter in my personal life. I thank the Lord for all the blessings we received from these brethren!

—Brother Rudi Hosu

Brother Segaran of Coonor

Greetings in the name of our Almighty and Redeemer Jesus Christ!

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him; rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”—Colossians 2:6,7.



Bro. Segaran

First of all, it was a great blessing from our Heavenly Father to attend this convention. My daughter [Sister Alishia Jasmine] and I would like to say that our hearts are filled with thanks to the brethren who sponsored our trip. We couldn’t even imagine traveling so far,

but we did it and it’s fully with your help. We are always thankful for the same.

I really don’t know what sort of words to put to express the wonders of the trip. Alishia and I were impressed in each and everything. The convention was amazing. We could see brethren from so many different countries who speak different languages. We felt a little bittersweet that we couldn’t communicate with other brethren who came for the convention but even in that, the most impressive thing was, we were there in the convention to praise the Almighty Jehovah and our Redeemer Jesus Christ. God’s Word has spread all over!

Hospitality and love of all the brethren made us more comfortable there. After coming back to India, I was explaining to my ecclesia members about the convention’s timing, and how brethren were quiet and devoutly respectful inside the meeting hall. Discipline, love, hospitality, etc were the most notable aspects.

After the convention, all the Indian brethren went to a place called Maramures from Baia Mare (Calinesti, which is almost the border of the country. From there, Ukraine was about 25 kilometers away). This was on 14th of August. That evening by 6:30 PM, we had a meeting with the Maramures ecclesia.



Sr. Alishia

On morning of the 15th we traveled back to Baia Mare to attend the Sunday service with the brethren of that Ecclesia. After the

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meeting, we traveled to Cluj Napoca. The distance between these two places would be 160 kilometers. We are thankful to Brother Hosu who drove the car for us to go such a long distance. Our next trip on 17th was to Simihai, which was about 60 kilometers from Baia Mare. We reached there by 10 AM and it was a good blessing being there.

Gadhalin is the place to which we went on the 18th. We had a morning meeting there. On 19th evening, the meeting was in Cluj Napoca. The 20th was our last meeting in Cucredea. This place was about 170 kilometers from Cluj Napoca.



Indian Brethren at Sanpetru ecclesia

Thanks to our dear Brother Vaselea who drove the car for us from 16th till the end of our trip and a special thanks to Brother Daniel Cap and Brother Ruben Cap and Sister Mariana who came with us to the meetings for translation. Thanks also to Sister Anutsa who graciously accommodated me and my daughter in her home for a week after the convention.

The one common thing which I saw in all these places was the love of the brethren and the love of our Heavenly Father. I didn't communicate much with the Romanian brethren by words but by love of God from the heart. The entire trip strengthened me more and more. It made me to work more for God and to spend more time with HIM. I do believe, all the Indian brethren who visited Romania would feel this. I am happy to say that I am blessed that I got this chance. If our Lord permits, I would like to attend the next IC in Baia Mare, Romania in 2012.

I would personally like to thank the Cap family and the Hosu family who helped us a lot during the entire stay.

Peace be unto all the brethren in Christ all over the world. Let us lead our life according to HIS will. Let us all be united in HIM and spread his Holy name. Let the worldly people get to know about the Creator of the world. We are blessed that we know His name and His plan, "Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel" (I Corinthians 9:16). Therefore, let's give this blessing to others. Thanks and Regards in HIM,

—Brother Segar

Brother M.A. Inbanathan

By the providence of our Lord, we have been privileged to serve the household of faith. The voluminous published articles on truth received over years from American brethren and continued encouragement received from brethren of other countries have immensely helped the Indian brethren to strengthen their faith to become partakers of a better reward.

I thank God Almighty Jehovah for his bountiful grace showered upon us in making the trip to Romania to attend the International Convention 2010.

I express my deep appreciation to Brother Aurel Cap's family and in particular to Sister Florica Cap who was instrumental in our timely visit to Romania despite many hurdles encountered by all of us in getting the Visa. Also I express my heartfelt gratitude to all other Romanian brethren for their wonderful support.

As scheduled, we as spiritual brothers and sisters, ten in number under the guidance of our elder Brother S. J. Prasad, left India on Thursday, August 6. After change of flights at Istanbul, and Bucharest, we reached Cluj Napoca Airport on Friday, August 7. Outside the airport we had the pleasant surprise of seeing a group of Romanian brethren waiting patiently to receive us. Though it was well past 11 PM, the brethren took us in their vehicles to Sister Aureli's house for dinner and for a brief introduction. Thereafter, we were provided a night of rest in the homes of some brethren.

In the morning, a bus was arranged and all the brethren traveled together to Central Baia Mare, the place of Convention. The brethren, including those from other countries, had been given good lodging in a well furnished university hostel. Close by, there was a canteen to cater to our needs. The convention was organized at a university campus hall which was within 2 kilometers from the place of our lodging. Shuttle buses had been provided to commute to and from the convention site in the morning. Similar arrangement had been made in the afternoon for lunch and in the evening for dinner. Three days later Brother Udhaya Kumar with his two daughters joined us.

The opening day of the convention was on Sunday August 8 at 9:15 AM. We started with hymns praising the Heavenly Father followed by prayer seeking His blessings in the name of Our Lord Jesus. That day was a wonderful day—to be ever remembered by all the brethren. This happened to be the first ever International Convention in Romania and it was so well organized that it brought pure joy to every one of us. There were three useful discourses on truth by brethren on the first day.

Likewise, a total of nineteen discourses were held on



Bro. Inbanathan



Sr. Sheela

the next five days, with two panel discussions. From India, two brethren had the opportunity to present a discourse, one by Brother D. Segaran from Conoor, Tamil Nadu on the subject 'The Faithful Sealed Ones' and the other discourse by Brother M.A. Inbanathan on the subject 'The Riches of God's Grace.'

The 2010 International Convention in Romania brought every one of us delight in the truth. In glorifying and offering thanks to our heavenly Father with all the brethren there, we have been rewarded so much more and encouraged to stay pure throughout our lives. The discourses by the brethren on all the six days of convention on different subjects of scripture enlightened our knowledge with manifold benefits. We had a wonderful time by God's grace.

After the convention, we had the opportunity of visiting many prayer meetings arranged by elders of various Ecclesias. On Sunday August 15, we attended services in the morning in Baia Mare. Brother Rudolf Hosu arranged a good meal in a nearby hotel after the service. Thereafter, we traveled together to Cluj.

We were invited by various Ecclesias in and around Cluj Napoca for fellowship meetings. Some of our brethren, including me, received the privilege of giving short discourses while others gave their testimony. Sister Mariana Davis helped us in translating the discourses from English to Romanian. She is really talented and deserves full appreciation for her fluency in both the languages. We were also helped by Brother Daniel Cap and Brother Ruben Cap who translated our discourses.

I noticed that the Romanian brethren are well versed with scripture and quick to respond whenever there is a discussion on truth. Their service meetings observe decorum, starting well on time and in an orderly manner. One important thing that I learned from them is that apart from regular weekly service



Indian Brethren at Gadalın Ecclesia

meetings, they have a mandatory requirement to conduct scripture studies in the middle of every week wherein even sisters have the opportunity of scripture reading and offering prayers.

We visited the brethren in Gadalın twice. The first time on Wednesday August 18 for lunch and second time on Sunday August 22 for dinner after a morning service at Cluj. On Thursday August 19, the brethren had special treat with spicy Indian food at Sister Mariana's House. On Monday August 23 we attended the Sanpetru meeting and visited Brother Nelu Galis. We spent hours with him listening to the trials and suffering he underwent in his youth for the cause of the truth. His example is a model in our Christian walk. [Many of our readers know of Brother Galis' imprisonment by the communists for the truth's sake. His story is recorded in the book assembled by Sister Ligia Bree "The Sky Through The Bars."]

I acknowledge that the Romanian brethren are known for their hospitality. They are gentle, soft spoken and known for kind words. Their sharing of joy with brethren



Indian Brethren at Baia Mare Hall

from other parts of the world is unique and magnifies the power of Christian love. We have learned from them to greet one another whenever we meet with the beautiful word "Pache" which means "Peace" in Romanian.

I pray God Almighty to bless the Romania brethren and I wish them "Pache" so that the next International Convention in 2012 and 2014 will lead to achieve greater success.

Participants from India were: Brother S. J. Prasad and his son, Brother Pradeep; Brother M. A. Inbanathan and his wife, Sister J. L. Sheela, Brother D. Segaran and his daughter, Sister Alishia; Brother Udhaya Kumar and his daughters, Sister Karen and Sharon; Brother Jeyaraj; Brother Khurrsino, Brother Eliezer and Brother Roman.

The schedule of the trip was as follows:

8th-13th August: IC 2010.

14th August: Visit to Cavnice in the morning and Calinesti in the evening.

15th August: Baia Mare—Morning Service, Evening travel to Cluj.

16th August: Rest/ Lunch at Sister Florica's house.

17th August: Sannihai meeting.

18th August: Gadalın-Chiorean Vasile.

19th August: Lunch at Sister Mariana's house

(Indian food)/ evening Cluj meeting.

20th August: Cucerdea meeting.

21st August: Rest.

22nd August: Cluj meeting in the morning and dinner at Gadalín.

23rd August: Sanpetru meeting and visit to Brother Nelu Galis.

24th August: Rest/ dinner at Aureli's house.

25th August: Rest.

—Brother M. A. Inbanathan

Brother Aurel Cap

The visit of the Indian brethren has stimulated our faithfulness and love for God and His cause. It has been a special blessing for each visited class and individual. As we read: "Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land."

After the close of the International Convention the Indian brethren were taken by the brethren to Northern Romania to spend Saturday morning in Cavnic and the afternoon in Calinesti. Sunday morning they were in Baia Mare, and in the afternoon they traveled to Cluj Napoca where they spent a free day on Monday.



Br. Aurel Cap

On Tuesday they visited the class of Sanmihai where among our brethren there are brethren of Indian descent. There Brother

Khurrsino spoke about the sacrifices of the Law and their significance. Brother Paul Eliezer spoke about prayer, how we can deceive ourselves with hypocrisy, while Brother Inbanathan spoke about the earthly experiences of the Church.

On Wednesday, we visited the class of Gadalín where Brother Udhaya Kumar spoke about the preparation and selection of Gideon's little band of soldiers. He mentioned the lessons for us showing different degrees of development even among the elect ones depending on their zeal and faithfulness in copying each gesture that the anti-typical Gideon has showed us as follows:

1. To blow the trumpet of the truth about the past, present and future.
2. To break the vessel that contained the torch, by means of sacrifice.
3. To cry out: "the sword of the Lord and of Gideon"—that is, the sword of the Lord is also our sword.

On Thursday the Indian brethren attended the (regular) Thursday night meeting in Cluj. Here, Brother Segaran spoke about the workers in the vineyard from Matthew 20:1-10, with applications for us. The second speaker was Brother Khurrsino Miranda who spoke about the the vision that tarries—in full harmony with the Studies in the Scriptures. The Cluj

ecclesia was very thrilled by these messages of "Present truth."

On Friday, we visited the class of Cucerdea with the Indian brethren. Brother Inbanathan gave the first discourse on the blessing of Isaac (Gen. 27:1-39), where we learned with great pleasure and interest about God's arrangement of the causes for which his first-born forfeited his privilege and how God overruled Rebecca's preparations so that the blessing of the first-born may be received by the one whose mind and heart was intensely preoccupied by it. Then we saw the lessons for us, (a method that was fol-



Br. Samuel Prasad (Jr.) Speaking at Cluj

lowed at almost every class that was visited). Brother Paul Eliezer had the second discourse from Luke 10:25—"What am I to do in order to inherit eternal life?" It was a very interesting and profitable lesson.

On Sunday August 22, the Indian brethren were again in Cluj and Brother Samuel (Jr.) spoke on the "Seven Voices of Jesus Christ." It was a presentation in a style different from ours—yet in a pleasant and effective manner—in conveying the lesson prepared with great care to help us hear and listen to every message of the voice of our Lord. Then Brother Prasad spoke from Genesis 25 about the Edomites—enemies of the people of Israel in their way to Canaan and about their subsequent attacks on Israel and especially in the times of the end—Jacob's Trouble.

On Monday, we visited with Indian brethren the class of Sanpetru, where 2 brethren spoke. The first, Brother Paul Eliezer, spoke about the reward "here" of the workers in the vine: one hundredfold more than what we leave in this life; a different pay or forfeited pay for some because of their pride, and "the first will be the last and the last will be first."

For the second discourse, Brother Inbanathan spoke about what sin is—how it starts in the heart and, interestingly, if Satan does not succeed to have us sin, he tempts with earthly things in order to decrease our interest for the Lord and His cause: and this is a sin too! This was a very pleasant meeting.

All the visited classes voted their love sent to all the brethren worldwide. From Sanpetru we went to visit Brother Nelu Galis who was imprisoned by the communists because of his stand for the Truth.

Tuesday was a free time, with preparations for the departure, and on Wednesday morning, with sad hearts (because of their leaving) we accompanied the brethren to the airport. After we prayed, we parted, with tears in our eyes.

—With Love, Brother Aurel Cap■

Indian Ecclesias

Manaparai Ecclesia

The Manaparai ecclesia is located at 24½, Bye pass road, Manaparai, Trichy district. Started in 1996, the brethren used to gather earlier at Brother Jeyaraj's residence. During the early days, Brothers Jeyaraj, U. Daniel (Late) and Solomon—three pioneer brethren—had demonstrated their true efforts in developing the ecclesia.



Br. Jeyaraj

Brother Savarirajan, one of our beloved brethren, had finished his Christian course during the early days of our ecclesia. During that time, we could not get permission in any of the Christian burial grounds. This made up our mind to purchase a new land for us. The new burial ground for the ecclesia was bought in the year 1998. During the course of

time, three of our beloved brethren, Brothers U. Daniel, Santhiyagu and Devaraj finished their Christian course, within the short span.

On the very same year, we had bought our new land for the Meeting hall at Manaparai. In the year 2000, the meeting hall building was built. It was dedicated by the then BSA General Secretary—Brother D. Daniel, Coimbatore. From that time, until now, the ecclesia conducts their regular weekly meetings, in this building.

The regular weekly meeting is scheduled for every Sunday from 10.00 hrs to 12.00 hrs. On the evening of the same day, the ecclesia brethren go to nearby villages and conduct Bible classes. Besides this, brethren house meetings are scheduled on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday of every week. Every Saturday, brethren go to nearby towns and conduct Bible classes.

The ecclesia conducts one-day conventions, public meetings and annual general conventions too. The ecclesia conducted a public meeting at Manaparai, and broadcasted the video "For This Cause" through the local TV channel to reach 10 villages around the town. The basic doctrine tracts were also distributed in the important places of the town area.

The ecclesia successfully convened two annual General Conventions for three days—in the years 2000 and 2009. The 3-day Youth convention was held in Manaparai on December 23-25, 2009. The ecclesia regularly conducts a one-day convention on the 25th of December every year. Around 250 Brethren from all the ecclesias participate in this gathering.

Besides these, the brethren conduct regular conventions at the last Sunday of every month within themselves. The brethren will share their food during this gathering. The ecclesia's monthly business

meeting is also scheduled during this time.

In addition to these spiritual gatherings, the ecclesia's young brethren also do translation work. The various lessons of "The Dawn" magazine are translated into Tamil, printed, and 700 copies are distributed to all the BSA ecclesias and other interested individuals.

The ecclesia has 50 members in total, out of which consecrated brethren are 33. There were 6 marriages conducted in the ecclesia, where both the bride and bridegroom are consecrated brethren of the ecclesia. Five babies have been named in the ecclesia meetings so far. Apart from this, the ecclesia maintains a family record for all the brethren.

Further, the ecclesia aims at visiting every village nearby, and make good efforts in changing their worldly lifestyle, by listening to our Truth.

—Brother Jeyaraj

Erode Bible Students

Our ecclesia name is Erode Bible Students, located in the city of Erode, Tamil Nadu. Our ecclesia is a reformed one. Our brethren individually work hard distributing bills, notices, displaying wallposters and erecting vinyl banners in front of the nominal churches. At that time we met many struggles, being threatened by nominal church peoples and Hindus.

Now we are doing the harvest work in many places: Namakkal, Krishnagiri, Tharamangalam and Pochampalli. We are conducting follow-up classes (using the 53 lessons) for one year. Many truth seekers are coming and hearing very interesting presentations.

There are 45 brothers and sisters consecrated in our ecclesia.

We will meet thrice in a week.

SUNDAY—Spiritual subject will be taken from Volumes, Reprints, and Brother Russell's writings.

TUESDAY—Spiritual subjects.

THURSDAY—Volume 1 (Divine Plan of the Ages) study.

We are translating "What Pastor Russell Said" into Tamil. If God permits, we will finish by the end of the year 2010. Please pray for our efforts.

Convey my best wishes to all saints.

—Brother S. Baskaran



Br. Baskaran

Chittoor Ecclesia

Our ecclesia name is "Reaper of Disciples Ecclesia." We are located 28-708 opposite the West Camford school, Ganganapalli township, Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh province, India.

Brother Varma brought to me into truth in 2000 in Vellore. After learning about Brother Varma's new views on the Lord not having returned, I was shocked

and dejected, but rejected his views. I told him I would live as Bible Student.

I started having public meetings in 4 different places in the Chittoor area. One was conducted in Thenabanda Urban on Jan. 26-27, 2005. 120 persons attended. The second took place in Pakala Urban on Feb. 17-18, 2005. 65 persons attended. The third, in Marava village on Feb. 24-25, 2005 was attended by 60 persons. The fourth took place in Ganganapalle Township on March 28-29, 2005. 35 attended.



Br. Devar John

I continued with follow-up meetings at the 4 locations where I was faced with many questions from various individuals. This in turn led us to more in-depth studies of the Truth. I appreciated very much the thorough basis reached by the Seventh messenger Brother C. T. Russell. All 6 volumes of Studies in the Scriptures and the 53 lessons have enlightened the Truth in our minds and lives ever since. Because of our studies, we are able to present the truth in a more valuable manner which has led to opening up more opportunities for our service.

After finishing the follow-up classes, we conducted a 2-day convention on March 12-13, 2006 where the four groups were united at Ganganapalle in Chittoor. On the 13th of March 2006, the ecclesia was formed. The number of new creatures in our ecclesia number 55 brethren and sisters.

After 3 years, we conducted 2 days of public meetings on March 28-29, 2010 at Miriyal Guda in Nalgonda in Andhra Pradesh. 500 persons participated. They were very interested, waiting and calling many times for the 53 lesson. We conducted on Feb. 4-5, 2010 little meetings at a family located nearby Brother Naveen Kumar in Hyderabad, but we do not have the financial means to continue supporting these meetings. I do not understand if we should continue these follow-up meetings.

The ecclesia meets every Sunday from 10 AM to 12 noon. On Wednesday at 6 PM we have Bible studies. We also study Brother C. T. Russell's 6 volumes of Studies in the Scriptures and his other books and studies.

We are continuing to hold youth meetings once monthly. We encourage them to study Brother C. T. Russell, history, and the 7 Angels to lead them into present truth. We have been continuing to hold public meetings and follow-up meetings in different locations within Andhra Pradesh province. We want to hold conventions, youth seminars, and special meetings at different locations within Andhra Pradesh. Please give our greeting of gladness to each one of you.

—Your Loving Brother in the Lord,
D. B. Devar John ■

2010 BSA General Convention

The 89th Annual General Convention sponsored by the Bible Students Association (BSA) was held May 7-9, 2010 in Mettupalayam, South India. The theme for this year's convention was on End Time Prophecies, using the book of Jude as the main reference. The attendance consisted of 550 brethren, which included 75 children.

Twenty discourses were given during the convention with various theme scriptures which included:

- o Prophecies in the Book of Jude (Public Talk)
- o Why did the Israelites become sinners?—Jer. 2:2
- o Elijah
- o The Last Days of the Antichrist—Rev. 13:15-18
- o Seven Things the Lord Hates—Prov. 6:16-19
- o The King's Rod—Exod. 17:14-20
- o Those Names Written by God—Psa. 87:6
- o Three Young Men of God—Daniel
- o Eyes: The Lamp of the Body—Matt. 6:22,23
- o Temple of Ezekiel—Ezek. 40:4
- o Garment of Salvation and Robe of Righteousness—Isa. 61:10
- o "This Thing is from Me," Says the Lord—I Kings 12:24 & Acts 5:38,39
- o Sojourners and Pilgrims—I Pet. 2:11
- o Sanctification—I Thess. 4:3
- o Age of Harvest—II Corinthians
- o "Until That Day When I Drink It New With You..."—Matt. 26:29

A baptismal service was conducted, at which 8 new brethren symbolized their consecration through water immersion in the River Bhavaani.

Many blessings were received by all. The brethren were happy to have the opportunity to meet with one another, with the 50th Psalm in mind: "Gather my saints together to Me, those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice"—Psalm 50:5 ■

Other BSA Conventions

One-day conventions have been recently held in the cities of Aathur and Lalgudi on September 12th and 26th, respectively. The convention in Aathur was organized by the Salem Udaiyapatty ecclesia while the Lalgudi convention was arranged by the Dalmiapuram ecclesia.

Upcoming conventions include the following:

- o One-day convention in Manaparai on December 25—Organized by the Manaparai ecclesia
- o Youth seminar to be held at the C. D. Foundation in Coimbatore, from December 31 – January 2.

The theme of the Youth Semiar includes the book of Genesis and the gospel of Matthew. It is estimated that 100 young people and 100 elder brethren will attend the seminar. ■

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BSFOIC Update

The BSFOIC held its annual meeting at the Bible Student's General Convention on the evening of Saturday, July 17, 2010.

At the meeting, the three sub-committees reported on their activities. The Newsletter sub-committee plans a fall (this) issue of the newsletter. The International Convention sub-committee was in the final steps of helping the Indian brethren obtain their visas for attending the convention. The Website sub-committee is planning to launch an Indian Bible Students web site similar to that launched for the African Bible Students.

The BSFOIC then discussed its budget for the upcoming year. Funds were set aside to help subsidize the 2011 Indian General Convention and Youth Conventions. Before sending the funds, the BSFOIC wants to approach the various groups of Indian brethren to encourage them to hold joint General and Youth conventions.

Funds were approved for sending requested literature to the Indian brethren. Currently, Bible Students Publications has donated 2,000 copies of God's Grand Plan Of The Ages for the Indian brethren. The BSFOIC is paying the costs of shipping the booklets to India. Funds were also approved to assist one ecclesia in translating the book "What Pastor Russell Said."
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The BSFOIC is developing plans to send additional Truth material to the Indian brethren on DVD and SD drives. Assisting the Indian brethren in translating and printing additional Truth literature in the native Indian languages is also being considered.

The BSFOIC set aside funds to partially sponsor 6 Indian brethren to attend the 2012 International Convention. The BSFOIC IC sub-committee plans to launch this work in the near future to avoid the delays and difficulties that occurred in obtaining visas for the 2010 International Convention.

Several BSFOIC members are contemplating trips to India in the near future. Brother Austin Williams plans to visit in December, 2010. Others are considering a trip in 2011. If you are interested in joining one of these trips, please contact the BSFOIC secretary, Brother Ernie Kuenzli at ekuenzli@cfl.rr.com ■

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