

On the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)

Conference of Catholic Bishops of India Commission for Bible

WALKING WITH THE BIBLE ESPECIALLY THROUGH THE YEARS 2009 - 2017

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“ I would like very much like all Christians to be able to learn ‘the sublime science of Jesus Christ’ through frequent reading of the word of God, as the sacred text offers nourishment for the soul and is the pure and perennial source of the spiritual life of us all. We must make every effort so that each believer may read God’s word, because as Saint Jerome says, ‘ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.’” (Audience with United Bible Societies, September 29, 2014)



FOREWORD

CCB I Commission for Bible consumed all its energies possible from its humble beginning and launched the Post-Vatican Biblical Movement in India. Being aware of the importance of the word of God in its life and mission, the Commission has been promoting Biblical Pastoral Ministry at various levels. It is a fact that quite a lot has been done in the field of Biblical Pastoral Ministry in India but at the same time a lot more is to be done.

However, this was extended with new emphasis and attention after the XII General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops held from October 5–26, 2008 and the CCBI XXI Plenary Assembly held in Mysuru from February 12–18, 2009 which dwelt on “the Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church”. These historical assemblies called for proper guidance and direction to the “biblical explosion” that was set off by *Dei Verbum* and reinvigorated by the post-synodal document *Verbum Domini* of Benedict XVI.

To this effect, the CCBI Commission for Bible took up this enormous responsibility of animation, coordination and collaboration of Biblical Pastoral Ministry and prepared a master plan of action for eight years (2009–2017). It encouraged lay men and women to listen attentively to the voice of God in the Bible and trained them as readers and preachers of the word, leaders of family Bible prayer, animators of Bible study groups, and coordinators of ancient practice of *lectio divina*. Besides the above mentioned, a number of programmes were organised for the clergy and religious men and women.

I know that there is a marvellous growth in Biblical Pastoral Ministry in the last eight years. Just to mention a few, new translations especially ecumenical and missionary translations, biblical publications, mass media products, biblical courses, seminars and conventions at various levels. Above all these a biblical fervour has arisen in general and this is more evident among the laity. It enabled families to make the liberating word the source of life and realise a more authentic living of the gospel values.

At this juncture, the CCBI Commission for Bible would like to bring out a souvenir of the Biblical Pastoral Ministry in India of the last eight years i.e., 2009 -2017. It will contain a brief background history and biennial action plans and mostly with photographs recalling all the hallmarks of Biblical Renewal. It is good to have such a record to reminiscence the past and forge ahead with plan for the future.

I congratulate Rev. Dr. Rayanna Govindu for the beautiful introduction, collection of photographs and bringing out this souvenir with a title “Walking with the Bible”. I thank all the donors and those who have given advertisements. I wish that this souvenir may inspire the readers and viewers to join the Biblical Pastoral Ministry in India.

“Because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake” (1 Thess 1:5).

J. Susaimanickam
Bishop of Sivagangai &
Chairperson, CCBI Commission for Bible

May 3, 2017
Feast of Saints Philip and James



Rev. Dr. Rayanna Govindu
Executive Secretary
CCBI Commission for Bible

The Growth of the Biblical Pastoral Ministry in India (1972-2017)

INTRODUCTION

When the Second Vatican Council opened the windows of the Church to allow the fresh air of change to come in, the Church opened itself to a new Pentecost. With the promulgation of the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (*Dei verbum*), it provided the basis for a true and genuine biblical renewal in the Church. The Conciliar document became, the Magna Carta of the Biblical Pastoral Ministry in our present times.

The Church by her authority and with maternal concern to her children, seeks ways and means to provide easy access to the Bible to all the Christian faithful (DV 22), so that its saving message may animate their daily lives. This is the timely and timeless apostolate that brings the Sacred Scriptures closer to the people of God.

Biblical Renewal Movement in India

The Church in India, aware of the dynamic and transforming presence of God's word in its life and mission, has always been engaged in the dissemination of the word of God enshrined in the Bible. This area of her life which gained greater emphasis and momentum since the Second Vatican Council, has undergone a deepening growth.

It involved fulfilling the following directives of the Second Vatican Council (*Dei Verbum*):

- Seeking to ensure "easy access to Sacred Scripture... for all the Christian faithful." (DV 22)
- Being personally engaged in "diligent sacred reading and careful study" of the Scriptures. (DV 25)

- Making known the meaning and teaching of Scripture in order to “provide the nourishment of the Scriptures for the people of God, to enlighten their minds, strengthen their wills, and set men’s hearts on fire with the love of God.” (DV 23)

National Biblical Catechetical and Liturgical Centre

The present National Biblical Catechetical and Liturgical Centre, Bengaluru, started in February 1967 as a National Centre for Catechetics and Liturgy only. But the Bible apostolate had no All India set up though much work had been done in a humble way, it was somewhat mixed up with evangelization, catechetics and liturgy.

National Biblical Centre

In 1971 efforts were made to organize and coordinate the Biblical Apostolate by founding a National Biblical Centre and integrating it with the Catechetical and Liturgical Centre. The need for such an institution was felt ever since the inauguration of the National Catechetical and Liturgical Centre in 1967 and the Catholic Biblical Association of India (CBAI) in 1968. The establishment of such a centre was made all the more urgent in view of the fact that Rome had set up in April 1969 the World Catholic Federation for the Biblical Apostolate (WCFBA) to help the Episcopal Conferences carrying out the task of Biblical Pastoral Ministry.

By a letter dated 5th May 1971 His Eminence Valerian Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay and President of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of India (CBCI) gave his final approval to this project. Therefore from the 1st June 1971, the institution in Bengaluru was known as ‘National Biblical, Catechetical and Liturgical Centre’ (NBCLC).

Organization

The newly set up National Biblical Centre (NBC) functioned with and was integrated with the National Catechetical and Liturgical Centre which therefore came to be known as the National Biblical, Catechetical and Liturgical Centre (NBCLC). Rev. Fr. D. S. Amalorpavadass was also the director of the National Biblical Centre and the secretary of the newly set up CBCI Commission for Bible.

Rev. Fr. L. Legrand, mep, professor of Sacred Scripture at St. Peter’s Pontifical Seminary, Bengaluru, extended his generous services as Associate Director of the Bible department. The centre was helped by an advisory committee and a large panel of consultants, similar to that of the CBCI Commissions for Catechetics and Liturgy.



CBCI Commission for Bible

Rev. Fr. D. S. Amalorpavadass put forward the need of an Episcopal Commission for Bible at the General Body Meeting of the CBCI held in Madras from 6-14 April, 1972. Having seen the need the bishops decided to set up an Episcopal Commission for Bible with the following Office Bearers: Archbishop R. Arulappa of Madras Mylapore as chairperson and bishops A. Patroni, sj., of Calicut, Cornelius Elanjikal of Vijayapuram as members and Rev. Fr. D. S. Amalorpavadass as secretary. Since then the National Biblical Centre came under the auspices of the CBCI Commission for Bible, and formed part and parcel of the official set-up of the CBCI.

This situation called for setting up identical structures for Biblical Pastoral Ministry at the national, regional, diocesan and institutional levels. It was also the need of the day to bring together people interested and involved in Biblical Pastoral Ministry, planning a programme of activities, and launching a serious Bible movement.

The Ten Years of Organized Biblical Pastoral Ministry (1971-1980)

A decade of planned and coordinated Biblical Pastoral Ministry had been organised at all the levels. One decade is indeed an important period in the Biblical Pastoral Ministry of the Church in India. It is not that Biblical Pastoral Ministry was not done before. What is new is that it was planned and organized at all levels, and coordinated under the auspices of the Bishops’ Conference of India, at the national level by the commission and the National Biblical Centre. It was indeed a new stage.



This Biblical Movement of a decade had been marked and punctuated by milestones. The priorities had been implemented at four levels: national, regional, diocesan and institutional/parish. This fulfilled the expectation of *Dei Verbum* which encourages Biblical Pastoral Ministry in an organized manner.

The Decade of continued Biblical Pastoral Ministry from 1981 to 1990

Biblical Pastoral Ministry forged ahead with consolidation and continuity which began on the one hand and broke new ground and defined a new orientation on the other hand with a decennial plan of action. Like a pilgrim people among whom some move ahead, others walk in the middle and some others lag behind, somehow they remained in communion with one another.



The new orientation for the Biblical Pastoral Ministry in India for the decade (1980-1990) was spelt out in four statements. First of all, the Biblical Renewal Movement and Biblical Pastoral Ministry should become a mass movement. Secondly, the Bible is to play a prophetic role of critique: the Bible in its social and personal dimension and in its radicality and challenge. Thirdly, the Biblical Pastoral Ministry should be geared to initiate a process of all-round liberation and to herald the coming of the Kingdom. Lastly, in the Biblical Movement lay leadership should not only have its place and be recognized but also be given priority of attention and realization.

The whole Biblical Pastoral Ministry was given an entirely new orientation in the actual reality of India. There had been a regular discernment and evaluation of motives as well as of action.

A New Phase of the Church in India

With the emergence of the three Episcopal Bodies as a consequence of the Papal letter of May 28, 1987, the situation of the Church in India changed. The CBCI was restricted to “supra-ritual matters” and other ritual Episcopal Bodies take care of all matters pertaining to their respective Rites. Each Episcopal Body started its own Commissions for Bible, Catechetics and Liturgy.

The Executive Committee of the CCBI decided to bring under its purview the Commission for Christian Life. The Commission could include for the time being, under the CBCI, Bible, Catechetics and Liturgy. If there was a need, the CCBI could think of having three separate Commissions later on for each one of them.

The Commission for Christian Life

The General Body in Goa (1991) was unanimous that the CCBI must be the pastoral conference of the Bishops of the Latin Rite according to the Latin Code. To make this ardent desire a reality two important Commissions (Commission for Christian Life and Commission for Proclamation) were set up at the General Body meeting of January, 1992 in Pune. The Commission for Christian Life consisted of Bible, Catechetics and Liturgy.

These commissions started functioning with maximum vigour to give the CCBI an image of being a “Pastoral Conference”. The CCBI articulated the following principles with regard to the Commissions: namely, “Whatever pertains primarily to the inner life of the

Church could belong to the Episcopal Bodies; whatever pertains primarily to the external life could remain with the CBCI”.

The CCBI Commission for the Ministry of Word and Worship

In the Executive Committee meeting held on June 12, 1998 a proposal was made to change the name of the Commission for Christian Life. The Commission proposed the following name: “CCBI Commission for the Ministry of Word and Worship”. The proposal was accepted by the Executive Committee and thereafter it was known as “CCBI Commission for the Ministry of Word and Worship”.

Division of the Commission for the Ministry of Word and Worship

The division of the Commission for the Ministry of Word and Worship was discussed in the meeting of the Executive Committee held on September 16, 2000. After all the discussion the following decision was made regarding the division of the commission for the Ministry of Word and Worship namely: one for Liturgy (ICEL matters) and another for Bible and Catechetics.

Archbishop Dominic Jala, sdb, was nominated for ICEL matters and Bishop Soosa Pakiam continued to manage both Commissions till the next plenary assembly.

CCBI Commissions for Bible and Catechetics

Considering the pastoral significance of the Bible and Catechetical apostolate and in compliance with the wish of the bishops expressed in the 17th Plenary Assembly held in Ranchi, the Executive Committee unanimously agreed to divide the existing Commission for Bible and Catechetics into two Commissions: one for Bible and the other for Catechetics. This decision was taken at the 47th Executive Committee meeting of the CCBI held on February 9, 2006 at St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bengaluru. Bishop Prakash Mallavarapu was appointed as the ad hoc chairman of the separately established Commission for Catechetics. Bishop Devadass Ambrose was asked to continue as the Chairman of the Commission for Bible. He was also asked by the Executive Committee to find secretaries for Bible and for Catechetics respectively.

XXI Plenary Assembly of the CCBI in 2009



XXI Plenary Assembly of the CCBI in 2009

The XXI Plenary Assembly of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India was held on February 12 – 16, 2009 with the theme: The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church as a follow up of the XII Synod of Bishops held in Rome in 2008. The conference studied the theme in depth and brought out the final statement which unfurled the initiatives to foster Bible culture and Biblical Pastoral Ministry.

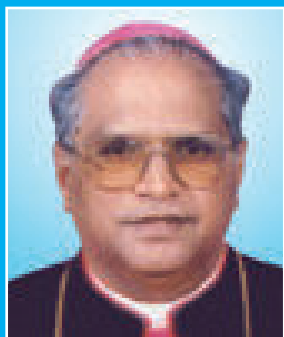


XXI Plenary Assembly of the CCBI in 2009



Follow up of XXI Plenary Assembly

CCBI Commission for Bible 2009-2011



Chairperson

Most Rev. Gali Bali, Bishop of Guntur



Member

Most Rev. Filipe Neri Ferrao, Archbishop of Goa & Daman



Member

Most Rev. J. Susaimanickam, Bishop of Sivagangai



Executive Secretary

Rev. Dr. Rayanna Govindu

As a follow up of the XXI Plenary Assembly the Commission for Bible began initiating various programs to promote Biblical Pastoral Ministry on National, Regional, Diocesan and Parish levels. All the programmes conducted on various levels after the Plenary Assembly were not only occasions for reflection and discussion but also opportunities for sharing and in that process discovering ways and means to be effective ministers of God's word, to prepare a planned programme of action to be initiated at all levels.



The Bible Society of India

THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF INDIA operates within the territory of India and is the largest and one of the oldest of the 147 National Bible Societies under the United Bible Societies. It was founded in the year 1811.

The Vision of the Bible Society of India is to ensure that the Bible is made available to all in a language that they can understand, in a format they have access to and at a price they can afford.

The Mission of the Bible Society of India is to engage in Translation, Production, Marketing and Scripture Engagement with the sole aim of transformation of the World through the Word.

The Bible Society of India works very closely with the Church in India and together are involved in the propagation of the Word in the World.

The work of the Bible Society of India is being carried out under the governance of the Central Council comprising of representatives from different churches in India. An Executive Committee constituted from this body governs the affairs of the Society. The General Secretary is the Chief Executive Officer of the Bible Society of India. For more information, please visit our website: www.bsind.org or write to:

Rev. Dr. M Mani Chacko Ph.D (Lond.)

General Secretary

The Bible Society of India

LOGOS, 206 Mahatma Gandhi Road,
Bangalore 560 001.

Phone: Office : 25494789 / 41511810



CONSTITUTION OF CONSULTATIVE BODY

The commission constituted a Consultative Body who could contribute to revitalize and realize “the Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church”. In the light of the compact and compendious statement of the XXI Plenary Assembly Bishop Gali Bali, Chairman, CCBI Commission for Bible, the member bishops: Archbishop Filip Neri Ferrao and Bishop J. Susaimanickam and Fr. Govindu Rayanna, the Executive Secretary with the members of the Consultative Body reflected and began reorganizing the commission with a renewed vision and mission.

The Office Bearers of the CCBI Commission for Bible met on July 11, along with a body of consultants and deliberated upon the role of the National Commission in promoting Biblical Pastoral Ministry in the country. Several important insights and suggestions were given by all those present at the meeting.



Follow up of XXI Plenary Assembly

As a follow up of the XXI Plenary Assembly the Commission for Bible began initiating various programs to promote Biblical Apostolate on National, Regional, Diocesan and Parish levels. All the programmes conducted on various levels after the Plenary Assembly were not only occasions for reflection and discussion but also opportunities for sharing and in that process discovering ways and means to be effective ministers of God's word, to prepare a planned program of action to be initiated at all levels.

PLAN OF ACTION ACCOMPLISHED FROM 2009 - 2017

As a follow up of the XXI Plenary Assembly the Commission for Bible in response to the clarion call given by the Synod of Bishops on the word of God and the XXI Plenary Assembly of the CCBI, the Commission for Bible worked out a long-term plan of action from 2009 to 2017 and a short term plan of action for every two years to promote Bible Apostolate and Biblical Pastoral Ministry. After a broad consultation and study of the situation a practical and workable action plan was prepared to initiate various programmes to promote Biblical Pastoral Ministry at the National, Regional, Diocesan and Parish levels.

CCBI Commission for Bible 2009 – 2011

All India Biblical Seminar for Regional Bible Teams

As a first step the Commission organised a two day seminar for the Regional Directors/Secretaries on September 21-22, 2009 at Nava Spoorthi Kendra, Bengaluru. Since the main purpose of this seminar was to enable the Regional Directors/Secretaries to draw a Regional Plan of Action for 2009 – 2011 in the light of the inputs that would be given to them, they were invited to come with a team of people that may include diocesan secretaries of Biblical Pastoral Ministry and other sisters/lay persons who are enthusiastic and would be helpful to them in some way or other in this field.



The National Seminar held for Regional Secretaries and their teams inspired them to immerse in region-wise group discussions to draw up a plan of action. Later on the Regional Secretaries discussed with the Diocesan Directors of Biblical Pastoral Ministry in the regional groups and finalized a master plan of action for their respective regions.

VISION

CCBI Commission for Bible strives to promote Bible culture and encourage Biblical Pastoral Ministry among the Laity, Clergy, Religious men and women to experience the power of the word of God and share it with all.

MISSION

CCBI Commission for Bible, as per its vision embarks on the mission of training and empowering the Laity, Clergy, Religious men and women for Biblical Pastoral Ministry so that they become Committed Leaders, Spirit-filled Preachers and Living Witnesses of the Word thereby serving the Church and the society at large.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To inspire, animate, strengthen and coordinate the Biblical activities of the 14 Regional and 132 Diocesan Commissions of the Church in India through an unstinted and concerted effort;
- 2) To organize ongoing formation for priests to update themselves in the sacred Scriptures and help them in breaking the word of God in the context of the daily life of the people;
- 3) To generate a genuine hunger and thirst for the word of God in the people and instil in them a desire to be authentic servants of God's word;
- 4) To inculcate a devotion to the word of God among the faithful encouraging the enthronement of the Bible in families and conduct ceremonial presentation of the Bible to children, youth and to the newly wedded couples through prayer services;
- 5) To train lay men and women as lectors, leaders of Bible prayer gatherings, animators of Bible study groups and effective proclaimers/preachers of the word of God; (SC 35:4)
- 6) To help lay faithful become familiar with and interpret the sacred Scriptures according to the Catholic tradition;
- 7) To help the Church by building up greater collaboration for Biblical Pastoral Ministry at the Family, Parish, Deanery, Diocesan, Regional and National levels;
- 8) To initiate activities like Bible Sundays, Bible Festivals, Vacation Bible Schools and so on;
- 9) To utilize the Mass media, E-media and IT in the service of the Word.

Biennial Plan of Action for Biblical Pastoral Ministry in India January 2009 – January 2011

Chairman: **Most Rev. Gali Bali**

Members: Most Rev. Filipe Neri Ferrao and Most Rev. J. Susaimanickam

Executive Secretary: Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu

Focussed on: XXI Plenary Assembly; National Consultative Body;
Formation of Bible Teams and All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar

Time	Biennial Venues	Biennial Goals	Biennial Themes	National/Regional Consultations
2009 - 2011	National Level	XXI Plenary Assembly The XXI Plenary Assembly of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India held on February 12 – 16, 2009 with theme “The word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church” brought out the final statement. In fact the statement envisions the ministry of the Proclamation of the word of God through various ways and means and instils the spirit of Bible reading and studying, listening and praying, proclaiming and putting into practice.		The XXI Plenary Assembly of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India Theme: The word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church Venue: Prabodhana, Mysuru Date: February 12-16, 2009
2009 - 2011	National Level	National Consultative Body To revitalize and realise “the Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church” in India. To reflect and reorganize the Commission with renewed vision and mission.	Reflecting, planning and executing the plan of action at National, Regional and Diocesan levels.	Consultative Body Meeting on July 11, 2009, CCBI Centre, Bengaluru. Consultative Body Meeting on September 19, 2009, CCBI Centre, Bengaluru.
2009 - 2011	National level	All India Biblical Seminar Regional Bible Team: The Regional Bible Teams that are trained at National level will organize the same programme on Regional level for Diocesan Bible Teams. Diocesan Bible Team: The Diocesan Bible Teams train up Parish Bible Teams. The Secretaries of Diocesan Bible Commissions will head the teams. Parish Bible Team: If the parish is larger it may have more than one team. The Diocesan Bible Team will guide the Parish Bible Team to train up village teams. They need the assistance of the Diocesan Bible Team especially the parishes that have many villages.	Training of Regional Bible Teams at National level.	All India Biblical Seminar September 21 – 22, 2009, Nava Spoorthi Kendra, Bengaluru Participants: Regional Bible Teams (Regional Secretaries and their Teams) Theme: Training of Bible Teams in the Biblical Pastoral Ministry
2009 - 2011	National Level	All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar 2010 CCBI Commission for Bible made all the efforts possible and launched the Post-Vatican Biblical Movement in India. It created a new awareness on the importance of Indian Biblical Renewal Movement by giving new inspiration and impetus. Taking stock of the existing situation it generated new enthusiasm and initiative by coordinating various isolated efforts and encouraged people engaged in the Biblical Pastoral Ministry. It offered helps and services of various kinds. Purpose of the National Consultation cum Seminar The thrust of the CCBI Commission for Bible is to encourage lay men and women hearken attentively to God’s voice in the word and train up laity as readers and preachers of the word, leaders of family Bible prayer, animators of bible study groups, and coordinators of ancient practice of <i>lectio divina</i> . Effects of the National consultation cum Seminar The whole seminar was worked out with presentations of papers, panel sharing, workshops, reporting and plan of action with discussions and interactions to elicit active participation and commitment to the Biblical Pastoral Ministry. The participants reviewed and came to an understanding that the Biblical Pastoral Ministry would become effective when the proclaimers fulfil the word of God they proclaim. Witness of life is a prerequisite for proclamation.	Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church	All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar 2010 Theme: Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church. Participants: Regional Secretaries, Diocesan Directors, Directors of Bible Institutes and Promoters of Biblical Pastoral Ministry Venue: Don Bosco Navajeevan, Ramanthapur, Hyderabad. Date: November, 23-26, 2010 No. of Participants: 84



All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar 2010

In response to the recommendation of the XXI Plenary Assembly of the CCBI, the Commission for Bible organized an All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar for the Regional Secretaries, Diocesan Directors, Directors of Biblical Institutes, Religious men and women and lay-representatives who are promoters of the Biblical Pastoral Ministry from November 23 – 26, 2010 on the theme: “The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church at Don Bosco Navajeevan, Hyderabad.

It created new awareness on the importance of the Indian Biblical Renewal Movement by giving new inspiration and impetus. Taking stock of the existing situation it generated new enthusiasm and initiative by

coordinating various isolated efforts and encouraged people engaged in the Biblical Pastoral Ministry.

This national Consultation provided an opportunity to assess the work done at various levels, identify the trends and needs, map out a programme and strategy for the coming years.

It offered help and services of various kinds especially to promote and co-ordinate Biblical Pastoral Ministry in all the dioceses implementing the vision that had emerged through the Synod on the word of God and the insight gained through the XXI Plenary Assembly with the co-operation and collaboration of the clergy, the laity and consecrated men and women.









ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

Brigade Road, Bengaluru

**THE FIRST CATHEDRAL
OF THEN UNDIVIDED MYSORE DIOCESE**

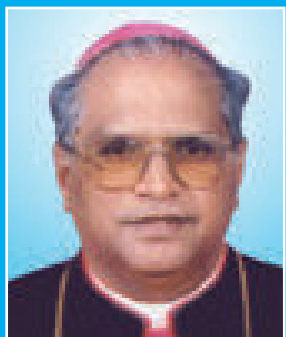
A Long Journey of Faith

With Best Compliments From:

**Msgr. C. Francis, Parish Priest,
Parish clergy and Parishioners
St. Patrick's Church, 15.K. Brigade Road
Bengaluru-560025**

*Marching Ahead...
From
European to Indian*

CCBI Commission for Bible 2011-2013



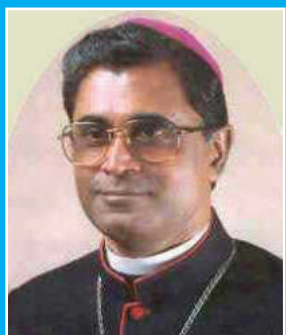
Chairperson

Most Rev. Gali Bali, Bishop of Guntur



Member

Most Rev. J. Susaimanickam, Bishop of Sivagangai



Member

Most Rev. Thomas Dabre, Bishop of Poona



Executive Secretary

Rev. Dr. Rayanna Govindu

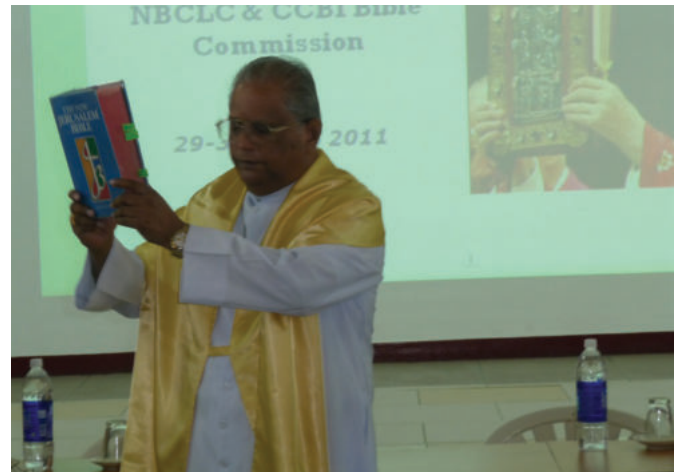
CCBI Commission for Bible 2011 – 2013

The Commission for Bible worked systematically to make the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, “*Verbum Domini*” known to all clergy, Religious men and women and the laity from 13 regions of the country.

Zonal Seminars on “*Verbum Domini*”

Verbum Domini is a key document that must guide and direct the Biblical Pastoral Ministry in the life and mission of the Church. Consequently, our Regional Secretaries, Directors of Biblical Institutes, Diocesan Directors with their teams and Promoters of Biblical Pastoral Ministry needed to be well versed in the content of this document and study the implications of the same for India.

To this effect, the Commission for Bible arranged seminars at the zonal level to elicit good participation from various regions. With this in mind, the Commission elaborated a three day programme and also identified good resource persons to animate the sessions in the following places: **South Zone** (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamilnadu); **North Central Zone** (West Bengal, Bhijhan, Chhattisgarh and Orissa); **North West Central Zone** (North, Agra, Madhya Pradesh and Western).



Biennial Plan of Action for Biblical Pastoral Ministry in India

January 2011 – January 2013

Chairman: Most Rev. Gali Bali

Members: Most Rev. J. Susaimanickam and Most Rev. Thomas Dabre

Executive Secretary: Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu

Focussed on: *Verbum Domini*; All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar and Plenary Assembly of Catholic Biblical Federation

Time	Biennial Venues	Biennial Goals	Biennial Themes	National/Zonal/Regional Consultations
2011 - 2013	Zonal Level	<p>Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, “<i>Verbum Domini</i>”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To make known the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, “<i>Verbum Domini</i>” to all the clergy, Religious and the laity of 13 regions of the country. ➤ <i>Verbum Domini</i> is a key document that must guide and direct the Biblical Apostolate in the life and mission of the Church. <p>Effects of the Seminar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Regional Workshops were arranged for all the regions during these seminars in which Plan of Action was drawn up ❖ The participants resolved to read, study, pray and proclaim the word of God and build themselves, their families and their communities on the word of God. 	<p>Apostolic Exhortation “<i>Verbum domini</i>”</p>	<p>Theme: <i>Verbum Domini</i> Region: Madhya Pradesh Venue: Divya Vani, Bhopal Date: February 5-7, 2011</p> <p>Theme: <i>Verbum Domini</i> Zone: South Zone (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamilnadu) Venue: NBCLC, Bengaluru Date: March 28- 31, 2011</p> <p>Theme: <i>Verbum Domini</i> Zone: North Central Zone (West Bengal, Bhijhan, Chhattisgarh and Orissa) Venue: Seva Kendra, Calcutta Date: February 17-19, 2012</p> <p>Theme: <i>Verbum Domini</i> Zone: North West Central Zone (North, Agra, Madhya Pradesh and Western) Venue: JDV, Pune Date: March 16 – 18, 2012</p>
2011 - 2013	National Level	<p>Apostolic Letter, <i>Porta Fidei</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pope Benedict XVI declared the year of Faith which began on October 11, 2012 and concluded on November 24, 2013 the solemnity of Christ the King with his Apostolic Letter, <i>Porta Fidei</i>. ▪ The main purpose of Year of Faith was to review and renew one's faith in this third millennium and communicate one's faith in a new way (New Evangelization). ▪ The Synod of Bishops held from 7th to 28th Oct., 2012 on the topic, “The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith” and the Apostolic Letter “<i>Porta Fidei</i>” announcing the ‘Year of Faith,’ where the Holy Father brought about an association between the word of God and faith, laid a canvas for this historical ‘All India Biblical Seminar’ in order to renew the faith in family, parish and diocesan. <p>Effects of the National Seminar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The resource persons highlighted the importance of the word of God and its relevance in present day situation especially in India where we are living in a multi-religious and secularized context, facing a lot of challenges regarding the Biblical Pastoral Ministry. 	<p>Word of God, Source of Constant Renewal of Faith</p>	<p>All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar 2012</p> <p>Theme: Word of God, Source of Constant Renewal of Faith</p> <p>Participants: Regional Secretaries, Diocesan Directors, Directors of Bible Institutes and Promoters of Biblical Pastoral Ministry</p> <p>Venue: Prabodhana, Mysuru. Date: November, 27-30, 2012 No. of Participants: 111</p> <p>The participants were: Bishops: 3; Priests: 62; sisters: 26; Brother: 1; Lay Men & Women 19 and in total: 111.</p>
2011 - 2013		<p>Plenary Assembly of Catholic Biblical Federation</p> <p>These five day programme, first of all, introduced the participants gathered from all over the world to know new ways and means to read, study, reflect and promote the word of God in this fast growing, changing and challenging world in the light of <i>Verbum domini</i>.</p> <p>There were 147 participants with Bishops, priests, religious brothers and sisters and lay men and women representing Conferences, Bible Centres, Schools and Training Institutes. Fr. Rayanna Govindu, Executive Secretary, CCBI Commission for Bible with 13 priests, lay men and women from India took part in this Extraordinary plenary Assembly of CBF.</p>		<p>The Extraordinary Plenary Assembly of the Catholic Biblical Federation was held at Casa Divin Maestro, Ariccia, Italy on June 15 – 19, 2011.</p>





All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar 2012

The Synod of Bishops held from 7th to 28th Oct., 2012 on the topic, “The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith” and the Apostolic Letter “*Porta Fidei*” announcing the ‘Year of Faith,’ where the Holy Father brought about the association between the word of God and faith.

As it was planned the All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar was held at Prabodhana, Mysuru, from

Nov 27-30, 2012 to reflect the theme “Word of God, Source of Constant Renewal of Faith” (cf. VD 1).

The participants were touched and convinced as the prophet envisaged, to ‘enlarge the place of their tent’ (Isa 54:2a). If the word of God enters into the hearts, it will find its enlarged place of renewal in the families, parishes and dioceses across the Church in India.







CCBI Commission for Bible 2013-2015



Chairperson

Most Rev. J. Susaimanickam, Bishop of Sivagangai



Member

Most Rev. Anthonysamy Peter Abir, Bishop of Sultanpet



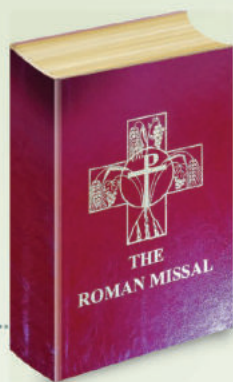
Member

Most Rev. Theodore Mascarenhas, SFX, Auxiliary Bishop of Ranchi



Executive Secretary

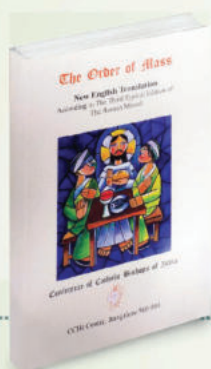
Rev. Dr. Rayanna Govindu



The Roman Missal

The revised Roman Missal third edition is to be used in India. No other English edition of the Roman Missal may be used in the dioceses.

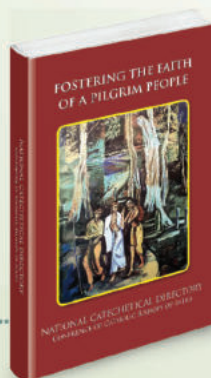
₹ 1000/-



The Order of Mass

Mass Booklet of the Roman Missal approved for use in India.

₹ 25/-



National Catechetical Directory

It is an essential and fundamental reference book for all our ecclesial institutions.

₹ 250/-

For Copies Contact CCBI Secretariat, Bangalore



Conference of Catholic Bishops of India

CCBI Secretariat, P.B. No.: 8490

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CHAIRPERSONS AND SECRETARIES OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR BIBLE

CHAIRPERSON



AGRA REGION

Chairperson: Most Rev. Ignatius D'Souza

Secretary: Rev. Fr. Babu Chirayath

CHAIRPERSON



BENGAL REGION

Chairperson: Most Rev. Thomas D'Souza

Secretary:

CHAIRPERSON



BIHAR REGION

Chairperson: Most Rev. Cajetan Francis Osta

Secretary: Rev. Fr. Rajendran Francis, sj

CHAIRPERSON



CHHATTISGARH REGION

Chairperson: Most Rev. Dr. Paul Toppo

Secretary: Rev. Fr. Tarcitius Toppo

CHAIRPERSON

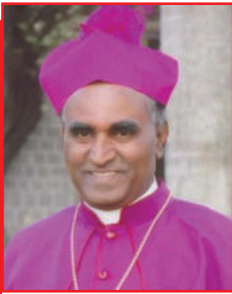


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Secretary:

CHAIRPERSON



KARNATAKA REGION

Chairperson: Most Rev. Anthony Swamy Thomasappa

Secretary: Rev. Fr. Xavier Sebastian

CHAIRPERSON



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Chairperson: Most Rev. Peter Abir Antonysamy

Secretary: Rev. Fr. Cyprian E. Fernandes

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MADHYA PRADESH REGION

Chairperson: Most Rev. A. S. Durairaj, svd

Secretary: Rev. Fr. Pius Lakra, svd

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Secretary: Rev. Fr. Jaya Pradeep

CHAIRPERSON



NORTH EAST REGION

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Secretary: Rev. Fr. Soreng Ignatius, svd



TAMILNADU REGION

Chairperson: Most Rev. Devadass Ambrose

Secretary: Rev. Fr. John Baptist



TELUGU REGION

Chairperson: Most Rev. Joseph Raja Rao, smm

Secretary: Rev. Fr. Pentareddy Raja



WESTERN REGION

Chairperson: Most Rev. Thomas Dabre

Secretary: Rev. Fr. Lui Heredia

CCBI Commission for Bible 2013 – 2015

Meeting with the Chairmen Bishops of Regional Commissions

The meeting of the Office Bearers of the CCBI Commission for Bible with Chairmen Bishops of the Regional Commissions was held at the Shrine Retreat House, Vailankanni, on February 8, 2013 from 8.30 pm to 10.30 pm during the XXV Plenary Assembly.

Bishop Gali Bali welcomed all the chairmen Bishops of the Regional Commissions for a brain-storming session to propose areas of Biblical Pastoral Ministry for the next two years i.e., January 2013 – January 2015 in the light of the Pastoral Plan for the Church in India. Reflecting on the activities which are in progress and keeping in mind the Vision-Mission of the Commission, the Bishops gathered proposed the following priority areas:

To introduce and promote practice of **Lectio Divina** (meditative reading and praying of Scripture) at Parish, Diocese and Regional levels.

To foster genuine love for the word of God in children, youth and adults through programs like Bible Study, Student Bible Fellowship, Bible Retreats and Good News Festivals.

To prepare a set of well known sayings of the Bible and encourage children, youth and adults for memorization. (VD 74)

To train the laity in Sacred Scripture and enable them to be effective proclaimers of the word of God in the liturgy, Leaders of Bible study and Animators of family Bible Prayer and Group **Lectio Divina**.

To deepen the love for the word of God in the laity through existing Church institutions, Small Christian Communities, Pious Associations, Ecclesial Movements and Youth Movements.

Biennial Plan of Action for Biblical Pastoral Ministry in India

January 2013 – January 2015

Chairman: Most Rev. J. Susaimanickam

Members: Most Rev. Anthonysamy Peter Abir and Most Rev. Theodore Mascarenhas, sfx.,

Executive Secretary: Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu

Focussed on: *Lectio Divina*; Experiencing the Power of the Word of God;

Student Bible Fellowship; New Living Translation Catholic Edition

Time	Biennial Venues	Biennial Goals	Biennial Themes	National//Regional/ Consultations																												
2013 - 2015	Regional Level	<p>Lectio Divina</p> <p>Background of the Seminars</p> <p>As for the decision taken in the meeting of the Office Bearers and Regional Chairpersons during the XXV Plenary Assembly, the Commission devised regional programs to promote <i>lectio divina</i> the invaluable treasure of our Catholic monastic tradition.</p> <p>Effects of the Seminar</p> <p>A firsthand experience of the <i>lectio divina</i> was given to the participants. They were instructed to conduct such an exercise on their own in their respective groups.</p> <p>It inspired the participants to think of ways and means of promoting the practice of <i>lectio divina</i> in families, SCCs, pious associations etc.</p> <p>Results of the Seminar</p> <p>The participants resolved to put into practice the method of <i>lectio divina</i> in their daily life and implement in families and small groups and introduce in parish pious associations.</p>	Lectio Divina	<p>Details of the Seminars:</p> <p>Theme: <i>Lectio Divina</i> Region: North East Venue: SVD Provincial House, Guwahati Date: Nov. 3 – 5, 2013</p> <p>Theme: <i>Lectio Divina</i> Region: Andhra Pradesh Venue: St. John's Seminary, Hyderabad Date: Nov. 30 – Dec. 1, 2013</p> <p>Theme: <i>Lectio Divina</i> Region: Bengal Venue: Proggaloy Pastoral Centre, Calcutta Date: January 10 -12, 2014</p> <p>Theme: <i>Lectio Divina</i> Region: Madhya Pradesh Venue: Divya Vani, Bhopal Date: January 24 -26, 2014</p> <p>Theme: <i>Lectio Divina</i> Region: Western Venue: Shradha Seva, Pune Date: January 24 -26, 2014</p>																												
2013 - 2015	National Level	<p>All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar</p> <p>Having seen a number of biblical activities which are being operated at various levels the Commission for Bible felt a need to hold a biennial All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar which can bring together all the people involved in the Biblical Pastoral Ministry.</p> <p>Purpose of the Biblical Consultation cum Seminar</p> <p>The purpose of this consultation cum Seminar is to inspire, encourage, promote and coordinate Biblical Pastoral Ministry All-over India at various levels.</p> <p>Results of the Biblical Consultation cum Seminar</p> <p>Above all, the modest, well-defined, action oriented and time-bound programs which were drawn up, resolved and recommended at the end of the meeting stood as a lasting witness to the historic character and decisive influence of the All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar.</p>	Experiencing the Power of the Word of God	<p>All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar 2014</p> <p>Theme: Experiencing the Power of the Word of God in Christian Life</p> <p>Participants: Regional Secretaries, Diocesan Directors, Directors of Bible Institutes and Promoters of Biblical Pastoral Ministry</p> <p>Venue: Shrine Retreat House, Vailankanni – 611 111, Tamilnadu. Date: November, 25-28, 2014 No. of Participants:185</p>																												
2013 - 2015	National Level	<p>New Living Translation – Catholic Edition</p> <p>The CCBI Commission for Bible initiated the project of NLT CE with a team of duly qualified Catholic Biblical scholars which is an ecumenical effort. It is a “missionary translation” intended to present the biblical message in a language accessible even to non-Christians.</p>																														
2013 - 2015	Regional Level	<p>Students Bible Fellowship Programs</p> <p>This program aimed at creating a deeper sense of appreciation for the word of God in the children so that the Bible becomes a source of inspiration to the life of each student. This program has been introduced in the following places:</p> <table><thead><tr><th>Region</th><th>Venue</th><th>Date</th><th>No. of Participants</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>A P</td><td>Gunturr</td><td>January 14-17, 2013</td><td>139</td></tr><tr><td>M P</td><td>Bhopal</td><td>February 15-17, 2013</td><td>97</td></tr><tr><td>Karnataka</td><td>Bengaluru</td><td>February 22, 2013</td><td>200</td></tr><tr><td>Agra</td><td>Suchetana</td><td>July 15-16, 2013</td><td>50</td></tr><tr><td>Tamilnadu</td><td>Tindivanam</td><td>October 10 -13, 2013</td><td>120</td></tr><tr><td>A P</td><td>Guntur</td><td>January 11-13, 2014</td><td>150</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>These programs instilled the spirit of bible reading and praying the word of God in the students and intense love for Jesus and a sense of belonging to the Church.</p>			Region	Venue	Date	No. of Participants	A P	Gunturr	January 14-17, 2013	139	M P	Bhopal	February 15-17, 2013	97	Karnataka	Bengaluru	February 22, 2013	200	Agra	Suchetana	July 15-16, 2013	50	Tamilnadu	Tindivanam	October 10 -13, 2013	120	A P	Guntur	January 11-13, 2014	150
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REGIONAL SEMINARS ON “LECTIO DIVINA” 2013 - 2014

As for the decision taken in the meeting of the Office Bearers and Regional Chairpersons during the XXV Plenary Assembly, the Commission devised regional programmes to promote *lectio divina* the invaluable treasure of our Catholic monastic tradition.

It envisaged and animated a three day program with appropriate resource persons providing a printed material at the following places:



Region	Venue	Date	No. of Participants
North East	SVD House, Guwahati	November 3-5, 2013	38
Andhra Pradesh	St. John's, Hyderabad	Nov. 29-Dec.1, 2013	78
Bengal	Pastoral Centre, Basat, Calcutta	January 10-12, 2014	52
Madhya Pradesh	Divya Vani, Bhopal	January 24-26, 2014	37
Western	Shradha Seva, Pune	January 24-26, 2014	50





Regional Training Programmes for Biblical Pastoral Ministry





Dr. Chinnabathini Bhagyaiah
Chairman
Bishop of Guntur



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COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

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Promoted by the Diocese of Guntur Society



Dr. GALI BALI
Founder
Bishop Emeritus



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MARK OF EXCELLENCE



Diploma - **B.Tech.** - **M.Tech.** - **MBA**

STUDENTS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMMES 2013-2014

Personal reading of the Bible is not very much encouraged among the Catholic Students though they are prepared for reception of sacraments through school catechism and Sunday bible classes. Hence they don't feel comfortable to open the Bible and read. This programme aimed at creating a deeper sense of appreciation for the word of God in children so that the Bible becomes a source of inspiration to the life of each student. This programme was introduced in the following places:

Region	Venue	Date	No. of Participants
Andhra Pradesh	Gunturr	January 14-17, 2013	139
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	February 15-17, 2013	97
Karnataka	Bengaluru	February 22, 2013	200
Agra	Suchetana	July 15-16, 2013	50
Tamilnadu	Tindivanam	October 10 -13, 2013	120
Andhra Pradesh	Guntur	January 11-13, 2014	150

We could see a change in the lives of children wherever these groups were formed. They were found with openness of mind and heart and a willingness to learn and receive from others an intense love for Jesus and a sense of belonging to the Church.





All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar 2014

Having seen a number of biblical activities which were being operated at various levels the Commission for Bible felt a need to hold a biennial All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar which could bring together all the people involved in the Biblical Pastoral Ministry.

The CCBI Commission for Bible organized an All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar on “Experiencing the Power of the Word of God in Christian Life” from 25th to 28th November 2014 at the Shrine Retreat House, Vailankanni – 611 111, Nagapattinam, Tamilnadu. It was intended for all the Regional Secretaries, Diocesan Directors, Directors of Bible Institutes and promoters of Biblical apostolate. The purpose of this consultation cum Seminar was to inspire, encourage, promote and coordinate Biblical Apostolate All-over India at various levels.

This was proved beyond doubt by the presence of a number of participants, their quality, competence, their representative character and by the number of dioceses which sent delegates. Above all, the modest, well-defined, action oriented and time-bound programs which were drawn up, resolved and recommended at the end of the meeting stood as a lasting witness to the historic character and decisive influence of the All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar. It renewed their enthusiasm, broadened their vision and strengthened them to forge ahead to promote the Biblical Apostolate in the life and mission of the Church in India.









With best compliments from



THE PARISH PRIESTS AND PARISHIONERS
HOLY GHOST CHURCH
REDEMPTORISTS, POST BOX 8451
RICHARD'S TOWN, BANGALORE - 560084

CCBI Commission for Bible 2015-2017



Chairperson

Most Rev. J. Susaimanickam, Bishop of Sivagangai



Member

Most Rev. Anthonymsamy Peter Abir, Bishop of Sultanpet



Member

Most Rev. Theodore Mascarenhas, SFX, Auxiliary Bishop of Ranchi



Executive Secretary

Rev. Dr. Rayanna Govindu

CCBI Commission for Bible 2015 – 2017

Meeting with the Chairmen Bishops of Regional Commissions

The meeting of the Office Bearers of the CCBI Commission for Bible with the Regional Chairmen was held on February 6, 2015 at St. John's Medical College, Bengaluru, during the CCBI XXVII Plenary Assembly. There was a very cordial and a meaningful discussion on the activities of the Commission and the Bishops present gave many practical and valuable suggestions. All the Bishops were very glad to learn about the following publications: The Lector; ***Lectio Divina***; Golden Sayings of the Bible for Memorization; Compilation of All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar Papers of 2014. They also articulated their appreciation for the work done by the Commission and encouraged it to continue the good work, plan and implement the proposed new initiatives.



Biennial Plan of Action for Biblical Pastoral Ministry in India

January 2015 – January 2017

Chairperson: Most Rev. J. Susaimanickam, Bishop of Sivagangai
Members: Most Rev. Antonysamy Peter Abir, Bishop of Sultanpet &
Most Rev. Theodore Mascarenhas, sfx,
Auxiliary Bishop of Ranchi

Executive Secretary: Rev. Fr. Govindu Rayanna

Focussed on: Dei Verbum – Biblical Pastoral Ministry; Training of Animators for Youth Biblical Pastoral Ministry; Mercy of God: Biblical Understanding and Pastoral Application and All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar

Time	Biennial Venues	Biennial Goals	Biennial Themes	National/Zonal/Regional Consultations
2015 - 2017	National Level	<p>Dei Verbum</p> <p>The CCBI Commission for Bible organized the All India Biblical Seminar, with its theme “Revisiting <i>Dei Verbum</i>- Biblical Pastoral Ministry” on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the “Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation” (“<i>Dei Verbum</i>”).</p> <p>Purpose of the Seminar</p> <p>The purpose of this National Biblical Seminar was to take stock of the achievements in the Indian Church over the past 50 years and to plan for the future.</p> <p>Effects of the Seminar: The overall feeling expressed in the reports was that empowerment of the religious women and the laity needs to be done especially in the area of new evangelization.</p>	<i>Dei Verbum</i>	<p>Theme: “Revisiting <i>Dei Verbum</i>- Biblical Pastoral Ministry”</p> <p>Venue: NBCLC, Bengaluru</p> <p>Date: October 27 – 28, 2015</p> <p>No. of Participants: 61</p> <p>Participants: Regional Secretaries, Diocesan Directors of Bible Commissions and Promoters of Biblical Pastoral Ministry.</p>
2015 - 2017	National Level	<p>Seminar on “Word of God – Biblical Pastoral Ministry for Sisters”</p> <p>One Day Seminar for sisters was jointly organized by the CCBI Commission for Bible and the NBCLC on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the <i>Dei Verbum</i>.</p>	Word of God – Biblical Pastoral Ministry for Sisters	<p>All India Biblical Seminar for sisters</p> <p>Theme: Word of God – Biblical Pastoral Ministry</p> <p>Venue: NBCLC, Bengaluru</p> <p>Date: Nov. 15, 2015</p> <p>No. of Participants: 92</p>
2015 - 2017	National Level	<p>All India Biblical Seminar</p> <p>Training of Animators for Youth Biblical Pastoral Ministry</p> <p>The CCBI Commission for Bible organized a three day national seminar for Animators who are closely associated with Youth Biblical Pastoral Ministry at the Diocesan and Regional levels.</p> <p>Purpose of the Biblical Consultation cum Seminar</p> <p>The youth today is hungry for the word of God. Our own country witnesses this yearning for the words of eternal life. The CCBI Commission for Bible read the signs of the time and prepared the seminar through lengthy circulars.</p> <p>Results of the Biblical Seminar</p> <p>All the speakers made clear that the youth that is inspired and enriched by God’s word will lead a life worthy of their Christian vocation and values of the Gospel.</p>	Training of Animators for Youth Biblical Pastoral Ministry	<p>This national seminar was held from September 27 – 29, 2016 at NBCLC, Bengaluru.</p> <p>Theme: Training of Animators for Youth Biblical Pastoral Ministry</p> <p>Venue: NBCLC, Bengaluru</p> <p>Date: September 27-29, 2016</p> <p>No. of Participants: 114</p> <p>Participants</p> <p>There were professors of Sacred Scripture, Parish priests, Teachers, Animators and promoters of Biblical Pastoral Ministry.</p>

All India Biblical Seminar 2015

The CCBI Commission for Bible organized an All India Biblical Seminar, with the theme “Revisiting *Dei Verbum*-Biblical Pastoral Ministry” at NBCLC, Bengaluru on October 27 – 28, 2015. The occasion was the 50th anniversary of the “Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation” (“*Dei Verbum*”). It is one of the four great constitutions produced by the Second Vatican Council (1962–65) which was promulgated by His Holiness Pope Paul VI on November 18, 1965. The 50th anniversary of “*Dei Verbum*” was held on Nov. 18, 2015.

The purpose of this National Biblical Seminar was to take stock, on the one hand, of the achievements, the growth and the distance covered as it were, through the Biblical Pastoral Ministry in the Indian Church over the past 50 years and to plan ahead on the other hand for the future.

The responses to the inputs were formulated in two workshops. The workshop reports were collated and the overall feeling expressed in the reports was that while a lot of progress has been done in the area of Biblical Pastoral Ministry, empowerment of women religious and the laity needs to be done especially in the area of new evangelization.











Seminar on Word of God – Biblical Pastoral Ministry for Sisters 2015

One Day Seminar for sisters on the “Word of God – Biblical Pastoral Ministry” was held on November 15, 2015 at the NBCLC, Bengaluru. It was jointly organized by the CCBI Commission for Bible and the NBCLC on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of *Dei Verbum*.

During the course of the day there were four presentations namely, from *Dei Verbum* up to *Verbum Domini* and their significance for the Biblical Pastoral Ministry, the relationship of the Bible to life, New Evangelization, and the Family.

The 4 panellists shared with the participants their views of how to proclaim the word of God in their life situations. It was greatly edifying to listen to all of them especially the two lay people, their commitment and dedication to spread the word of God. The participants did express that the seminar was quite informative, inspiring and to think and plan for Biblical Pastoral Ministry at various levels.







Training of Animators for Youth Biblical Pastoral Ministry 2016

The CCBI Commission for Bible organized a three day national seminar for Animators who are closely associated with Youth Biblical Pastoral Ministry at the Diocesan and Regional levels. This national seminar was held from September 27 – 29, 2016 at NBCLC, Bengaluru. It was of a distinctive character of seminar. The participants were invitees with a definite vision and mission of Youth Biblical Pastoral Ministry, people engaged in promoting the knowledge and love of Sacred Scripture.

All the speakers were clear that youth who are inspired and enriched by God's word would lead a life worthy of Gospel values and their Christian vocation. Therefore, faith formation based on the word of God is very much called for and the need of the day.

The seminar was able to instil fresh enthusiasm and zeal into the participants and revive a sense of mission. It needs to be translated into action in the days to come. The Youth Biblical Pastoral Ministry is an on-going process and the Spirit of the Risen Lord is its life-giving source.











BIBLICAL SEMINARS IN THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY 2016

The Holy Father, Pope Francis proclaimed the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy as a special time for the Church. “Mercy is the very foundation of the Church’s life. The Church’s very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love” (MV10).

In this context, the CCBI Commission for Bible chalked out a plan of action with workshops and seminars on the Mercy of God for the Clergy, Religious men and women and the Laity to be implemented during the Jubilee Year. To this effect, Fr. Rayanna Govindu, the Executive Secretary, prepared various topics with regard to the Mercy of God based on Sacred Scripture.





Details of the Seminars

The CCBI Commission for Bible extended its support to organize during the Jubilee Year of Mercy a number of seminars for Sisters with the cooperation and collaboration of Provincial Superiors of different Congregations. The theme of the seminars was “Mercy of God: Biblical Understanding and Pastoral Application”.

The Commission, therefore, launched several training programs for various groups especially for Religious Sisters at province level. It envisaged and animated a three day program with appropriate topics providing printed material at the following places:

Region	Venue	Date	No. of Participants
Tamilnadu	JMJ House, Sirumalai	April 29- May 1, 2016	26
Karnatak	Mercy Convent , Mysuru	May 11 - 12, 2016	29
Hyderabad	Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate (Nirmala Sisters)	May 23 – 25, 2016	28
Hyderabad	Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate (Nirmala Sisters)	May 29 – 31, 2016	26
Andhra Pradesh	JMJ Provincialate, Mangalagiri	September 3-5, 2016	52
Andhra Pradesh	JMJ Provincialate, Mangalagiri	September 9-11, 2016	38
Andhra Pradesh	JMJ Convent, R C Puram	October 7-9, 2016	20
Andhra Pradesh	JMJ Convent, Hanuman Junction	October 11- 13, 2016	49

There were also group discussions, personal sharing with meaningful celebration of the Eucharist and the sacrament of Reconciliation. The participants were invited through the brain-storming session to propose spiritual and pastoral activities that could be taken up in the Jubilee Year of Mercy at personal and community levels.

All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar 2016

The CCBI Commission for Bible conducted the All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar on “Word of God, Source of Life in the Family” from 22nd to 24th of November 2016 at St. Joseph Vaz Spiritual Renewal Centre, Old Goa. The purpose of this consultation cum Seminar was to inspire, encourage, promote and coordinate Biblical Pastoral Ministry All-over India at various levels.

In his presidential address Bishop J. Susaimanickam, the Chairperson of the CCBI Commission for Bible emphasized on the importance of the word of God in the family. Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrao and eminent scholars from various fields presented their papers with lots of information and enlightenment on how the word of God is important for the family so as to carry out parental responsibilities, renewal in family life, community building, evangelization and family catechesis. In short the word of God is at the core of every family.

The seminar would have been incomplete if we did not have the laity as part of it because the seminars key focus was on the word of God in the family. Hence couples were invited to share their experiences. We also had many individuals who shared with us their experiences and how the word of God had helped them become active witnesses within their families and in the world at large.

The All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar of 2016 has given to the Biblical Pastoral Ministry a very decisive orientation. It was made very clear that the word of God is a powerful force and means of renewal both in personal life as well as in family life.











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MEETING WITH THE CHAIRMEN BISHOPS OF REGIONAL COMMISSIONS 2017



Catholic Biblical Federation

Vatican II recommended that “Easy access to Sacred Scripture should be provided for all the Christian faithful” (DV 22). In order to put this mandate from the Council into operation, Cardinal Bea, in 1967, made contact with the already existing Catholic biblical organizations. The Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity founded the Catholic Biblical Federation on April 16, 1969 upon their recommendation.

The Federation’s aim is to be of service to the Bishops to carry out their responsibility to proclaim the word of God to all the faithful. The members of the Catholic Biblical Federation are from all over the globe. For easy accessibility and administration the Federation is divided into six Regions i.e., Americas, Asia, Oceania, Europe, Africa and Middle East. Some Regions are divided into sub-regions. For example, Asia is divided into North East Asia, South Asia and South East Asia. The Catholic Biblical Federation is represented in about **130 countries** by more than **300 member organizations**.





THE EXTRAORDINARY PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE CATHOLIC BIBLICAL FEDERATION 2011

The Extraordinary Plenary Assembly of the Catholic Biblical Federation was held at Casa Divin Maestro, Ariccia, Italy on June 15 – 19, 2011. There were 147 participants with Bishops, priests, religious brothers and sisters and lay men and women representing Conferences, Bible Centres, Schools and Training Institutes. Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu, Executive Secretary, CCBI Commission for Bible with 13 other priests, lay men and women from India took part in this Extraordinary plenary Assembly of the CBF.

These five day programme, first of all, introduced the participants gathered from all over the world to know new ways and means to read, study, reflect and promote the word of God in this fast growing, changing and challenging world in the light of *Verbum domini*.



CONVOCATION OF CATHOLIC BIBLICAL FEDERATION – SOUTH ASIA 2014

The Catholic Biblical Federation – South Asia consists of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. The Joy of the Gospel Convocation was held from December 1 -4, 2014 at Vinayalaya Retreat House, Mumbai. There were 15 participants with priests, lay men and women. Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu, Executive Secretary of the CCBI Commission for Bible took part in the four day international meeting.

The General Secretary of the CBF, Rev. Fr. Jan Stefanow and Rev. Fr. Alvin Peter Fernando, Coordinator of the sub-region of South Asia together organized this four day convocation. A few important and useful presentations were given like the Bible and the New



Evangelization, Pastoral Implications of **Evangelii Gaudium** and the Disciple –Making Mission of Mt 28: 18-20.

IX PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE CATHOLIC BIBLICAL FEDERATION 2015

The Plenary Assembly is the supreme governing body of the Catholic Biblical Federation. It is a meeting of delegates representing its Full and Associate Members and is normally convoked every six years.

CBF IX Plenary Assembly was held at the Centro “Ad gentes” (Divine Word Missionaries) in Nemi (Rome) Italy from June 18 to 23, 2015. The theme of the plenary Assembly was: “Sacred Scripture – Source of Evangelization” drawing inspiration from the scripture “We are declaring to you what we have seen and heard” (1 John 1:3).

Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu, Executive Secretary, CCBI Commission for Bible represented the Bible Commission in this Plenary Assembly together with 10 other members from India. There were about 130 delegates from Latin and North America, Asia and Oceania, Europe, Africa and the Middle East representing Commissions,

Dioceses and institutions. They belonged to all the categories of God’s people: Bishops, Priests, Brothers, Sisters, lay men and women.

The Plenary Assembly aimed to enlighten the members how to bring about a renewed Christian community in and through the word of God, and how God speaks in and through the community.

The delegates of the Plenary Assembly were welcomed by His Holiness Pope Francis at the Consistory Hall of the Vatican. In his address to the participants, His Holiness reminded everyone that “the word of God is not something that makes life easy.

The presence and action of the Spirit was evident from the enthusiasm and eagerness of the participants to work for the renewal of the Church. Thus it became a real celebration of ‘the Community’ of the whole Church ‘called’ and ‘formed’ by the word of God.



CONVOCATION OF CATHOLIC BIBLICAL FEDERATION – SOUTH ASIA 2016

The Catholic Biblical Federation, South-Asia Convocation was held from 1st to 3rd April 2016 at the National Biblical Catechetical and Liturgical Centre (NBCLC), Bengaluru. There was a good representation from the members of CBF namely, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan and also the Regional Secretaries of CCBI Commission for Bible. The theme of the convocation was: “The Word of God, Source of Life in the Family.”

As an outcome of this convocation, the participants came out with the Statement putting into a capsule all the input sessions and deliberations. After the brain-storming session on the relevant issues concerning the Biblical Pastoral Ministry under the Catholic Biblical Federation South Asia, Rev. Fr. Rayanna, Coordinator of the CBF South Asia briefed the participants about the plan of action for the coming six years i.e., 2016- 2022.





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THE CATHOLIC BIBLICAL FEDERATION – ASIA-OCEANIA 2010

The FABC Office of Evangelization (FABC OE), entrusted with the service of animation of Biblical Pastoral Ministry at Asian level, organized the Third Bishops' Institute for Biblical Apostolate (BIBA III) and – in collaboration with the Catholic Biblical Federation of Asia Oceania– the Fifth Asia-Oceania Biblical Congress.

The Asia-Oceania Biblical Congress was held on November 4-8, 2010 at Pattaya, Thailand. Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu, the Executive Secretary of the CCBI Commission for Bible participated in the conference along with other biblical scholars and promoters of Biblical Pastoral Ministry/Biblical Apostolate in India.

The event was centred on the “Word of God” and featured the following topics: Sharing the Word of Life in Asia and Oceania, with the Word of Life on the roads of Asia-Oceania and preaching the Word of God in Liturgy. The conference had a total of 106 participants coming from 18 countries.





New Living Translation – Catholic Edition

The New Living Translation Catholic Edition was released on March 6, 2016 by His Excellency, Most Rev. Salvatore Pennacchio, Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal during the one day Plenary Assembly held at the Paul VI auditorium, Bengaluru. The members of the CCBI Commission for Bible, Tyndale House Publishers, USA, ATC Publishers, Bengaluru and the twelve scholars were also present for this historical event in the history of the CCBI.

The release of NLTCE is historic because it is the first English Bible to be given an imprimatur by the CCBI in India. The effort is the result of collaboration between Catholic scholarship in India and the world's leading Christian Publishers, Tyndale Publishing House, USA. It has been an ecumenical effort that spanned nearly three years. NLT is a “missionary translation” intended to present the biblical message in a language accessible even to non-Christians. The translation is both lucid yet solid in its presentation.





English Standard Version Catholic Edition - Lectionary for India

During the 76th Executive Committee Meeting held on 26th April, 2016 in Delhi, Archbishop Dominic Jala, SDB, the Chairperson of the Commission for Liturgy proposed the use of the ESV in the Lectionary for the Church in India.

Due to this proposal the study of the ESVCE came into focus and subsequently the EC members requested the Bible Commission through its Chairperson, Most Rev. J Susaimanickam to form a team of Bible Scholars for the proposed ESVCE.

To this effect, the Executive Secretary, Rev. Dr. Rayanna Govindu, CCBI Bible Commission was entrusted with the responsibility to form a team of Bible Scholars to study the proposed ESV for the Catholic Edition in view of utilising it in the Lectionary for the Church in India.

At the 29th CCBI Plenary Assembly in Bhopal, the Member Bishops present unanimously voted in favour of both the Imprimatur for ESVCE and the Lectionary and entrusted the CCBI Office Bearers to do the needful.

The team of Bible Scholars of the CCBI adopted the methodology of comparing all the changes made by Crossway, the original publishers of the English Standard Version, to the Revised Standard Version and study the ESV from the Catholic Theological point of view for the Catholic Edition of ESV, and from a Liturgical point of view for the Lectionary.

The team of Bible Scholars after all the deliberations is satisfied and convinced of the changes recommended and strongly endorsed that the ESVCE be granted the Imprimatur. It is almost ready for the publication.







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- ♦ Urology
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A FOUR YEAR PLAN OF ACTION FOR BIBLICAL PASTORAL MINISTRY IN INDIA 2017 - 2019

Chairman: Most Rev. J. Susaimanickam

Members: Most Rev. Anthonysamy Peter Abir & Most Rev. Theodore Mascarenhas, sfx

Executive Secretary: Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu

Biennial Plan of Action 2017 – 2019

Time	Biennial Venues	Biennial Goals	Biennial Themes	Biennial Consultations
2017 - 2018	(Regional Level) Regional Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regional Bible Commission with full time Secretary ✓ Coordinate the activities of Diocesan Bible Commissions ✓ Energize Diocesan Bible Commissions ✓ Undertake the Bible translation, production and dissemination ✓ Ongoing formation courses for priests in sacred Scriptures and the importance of the homily ✓ Arrange Bible programs for laity and women religious such as Weekend, one week, one month classes, diploma courses etc., ✓ Encourage Bible Day, Bible Week, Bible festivals etc., ✓ Use of mass media in the service of the word of God and arrange a Vacation Bible School ✓ Training programs for women religious to be Promoters of Biblical Pastoral Ministry, Coordinators of <i>Lectio Divina</i>, Lectors and Animators of Bible Study Groups and Evangelizers ✓ Biblically inspired Ministry to the Youth 	Biblical Pastoral Ministry – Formation of Laity and women Religious	<p style="text-align: center;">All India Biblical Seminar 2017</p> <p>Participants: Regional Secretaries and Bible Teams</p> <p>Theme: Biblical Pastoral Ministry – formation of Laity and Women Religious</p>
2018 - 2019	(National Level) CCBI Commission for Bible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Make the Bible the basis for all missionary proclamation, catechesis, preaching and styles of spirituality (EA 22) o Coordinate Bible related activities of the Regional Bible Commissions and Centres o Arrange training programs in collaboration with the NBCLC, Bengaluru o Commission for Bible to jointly plan and execute training programs with other Commissions o Commission for Bible and NBCLC to have liaison with Bible Society of India to promote translations and other material in vernacular languages o Organize National Consultation on Biblical Pastoral Ministry 	Word of God and New Evangelization	<p style="text-align: center;">All India Biblical Consultation cum Seminar 2018</p> <p>Participants: Regional Secretaries, Diocesan Directors, Directors of Bible Institutes and Promoters of Biblical Apostolate</p> <p>Theme: The Word of God and the New Evangelization</p>

CONCLUSION

1. The Biblical Renewal Movement has made a remarkable progress in India during the past forty five years (1972-2017). The review made on the work done by the Commission for the Bible disclosed the wonderful works of God done through men and women in different dioceses, regions, formation houses, seminaries and through the National Commission.
2. From the reports it is clear that there had been a general awakening in the field of Biblical Pastoral Ministry all over India and an on-going process of Biblical Renewal among the people of God at all levels.
3. It enabled new translations especially ecumenical cooperation in Biblical translations; reading guides were produced in print and through audio and video media, biblical courses were organized at various levels; biblical associations came into existence, regional secretaries, diocesan directors, directors of bible institutes and promoters of Biblical Pastoral Ministry became identifiable and recognisable persons with achievements.
4. A new ecumenical spirit made Catholics share in the Protestant devotion to the Scriptures. Bible conventions, biblical seminars, Bible Sunday Schools and holiday programs have been proposed and biblical institutes launched for the laity.
5. Regional commissions and regional translation committees have been better organized and are functioning more efficiently and with greater cooperation. Seminary professors have become more conscious of and involved in the all-round Biblical Pastoral Ministry of the dioceses and regions.
6. This interest for the Bible reveals a new Post-Vatican unexpected development. The Bible has now become the centre of a mass movement, coming from the people themselves, at grass root level.
7. The Biblical Renewal Movement became a clarion call to the whole Church in India to rally round, to appreciate the word of God in the Bible and to give concrete practical expression to the priorities of the Movement by an immediate implementation.
8. Having seen the importance of mass media, lots of initiatives have been taken to utilize the mass media in disseminating the word of God at various levels through variety of methods including: Tweeting a daily message or Bible verse; broadcasting regularly scheduled podcasts; Uploading videos of sermons or other spiritual teachings and sharing blogs written by ministers. It is still a long way to go in this modern media.
9. It is a great achievement on the part of the Commission which initiated the whole project of the New Living Translation Catholic Edition (NLT CE) the first English Bible to be given an Imprimatur by the CCBI in India. It is the result of collaboration between Catholic scholarship in India and the world's leading Christian Publishers, Tyndale Publishing House, USA. It has been an ecumenical effort and a "missionary translation" intended to present the biblical message in a language accessible even to non-Christians.
10. The other hallmark of the CCBI Commission for Bible is the project of the English Standard Version Catholic Edition which formed a team of Bible Scholars to study the proposed ESV for the Catholic Edition in view of utilising it in the lectionary for the Church in India. It is almost ready for publication with the imprimatur by the CCBI.
11. One more highlight of the Commission is the publications brought out in collaboration with ATC, Bengaluru, such as *Lectio Divina*, *The Lector*, *Mercy of God* and the books edited namely, *The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church*; *Word of God, Source of Constant Renewal of Faith*; *Experiencing the Power of the Word of God in Christian Life*; *Word of God, Source of Life for the Youth Today*; *Word of God, Source of Life in the Family and Walking with the Bible*.
12. All the programmes conducted on various levels after the Plenary Assembly especially from January 2009 were not only occasions for reflection and discussion but also opportunities for sharing and in that process discovering ways and means to be effective ministers of God's word, to prepare a planned programme of action to be initiated at all levels.

We should be thankful and grateful to all the pioneers of the Biblical Renewal Movement in India and we should galvanize our time, talent and treasure in promoting Bible culture and Biblical Pastoral Ministry effectively and efficiently at all times, in every way possible and at various levels.

***"Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you;
consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith." (Heb 13:7)***



Words of Appreciation...

I thank Almighty God for all the blessings He showered on the CCBI Commission for Bible and His inspiration to shoulder the responsibility as the Executive Secretary, for the last eight years i.e., 2009-2017. It is truly a privilege to be at the service of God through His word. *"Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!" (2 Cor 9:15)*

I sincerely thank the Office Bearers of the CCBI who appointed me as the Executive Secretary and for their constant encouragement and support. I would also like to express my profound gratitude to His Eminence, Oswald Cardinal Gracias, the President of the CCBI who had the confidence to entrust me with the added responsibility of the Acting Deputy Secretary General of the CCBI during the interim period from May 21, 2013 till June 10, 2014. *"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God." (Phil 1:3)*

I am in a special way indebted to Bishop Gali Bali and Bishop J Susaimanickam, Chairpersons of the Commission and Member Bishops: Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrao, Bishop Thomas Dabre, Bishop Antonysamy Peter Abir and Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas, sfx, for their cordial and scholarly guidance. *"I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." (Eph 1:16)*

I am grateful to the Chairpersons and Secretaries of the Regional Commissions for Bible, Diocesan Directors, Directors of Bible Institutes and promoters of Biblical Pastoral Ministry for their cooperation and collaboration to foster Bible culture and promote Biblical Pastoral Ministry at various levels for the Church in India. *"May he grant you your heart's desire and fulfil all your plans!" (Ps 20:4)*

I fondly remember and express my gratitude to all the Executive Secretaries of the CCBI especially the resident secretaries of the CCBI Secretariat for their friendship and fellowship. Special thanks to Rev. Dr. Ayres Fernandes who has been a great source of inspiration and encouragement. I am thankful to the staff for their availability and timely assistance. *"I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus." (1Cor 1:4)*

My heartfelt gratitude goes to the members of the Consultative Body of the Commission for Bible for their invaluable suggestions, illuminative comments and loving services. I thank wholeheartedly the Bible Scholars who earnestly worked for the New Living Translation Catholic Edition, the English Standard Version Catholic Edition and the Lectionary for India. *"As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ." (2 Cor 9:13)*

I appreciate and thank Mr. Nigel Fernandes, CEO of the Asian Trading Corporation, Mr. Peter Anil Rego, MD of the Brilliant Printers Pvt Ltd., and Mr. Austine J Crasta, Manager of A C Photography, Bengaluru for their generous contribution and kind cooperation. *"May the Lord bless you and protect you." (Num 6: 24)*

*"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." (Ps 91:1)*

Rev. Dr. Rayanna Govindu
Executive Secretary
CCBI Commission for Bible

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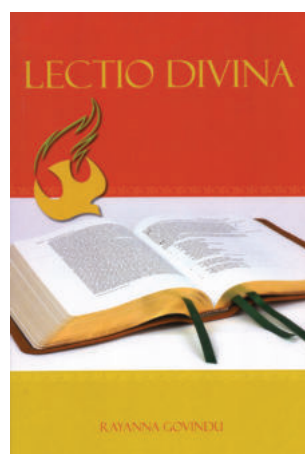
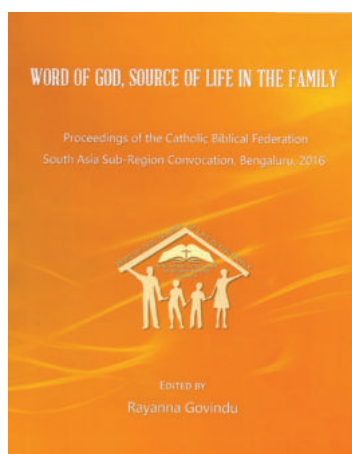
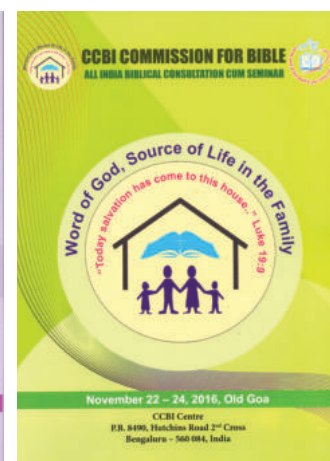
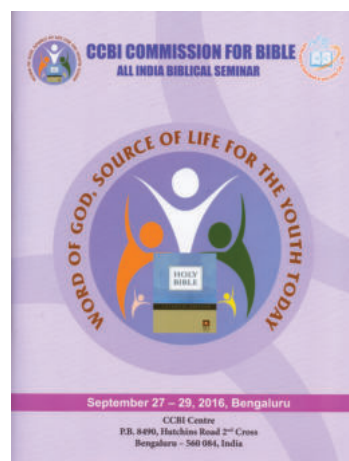
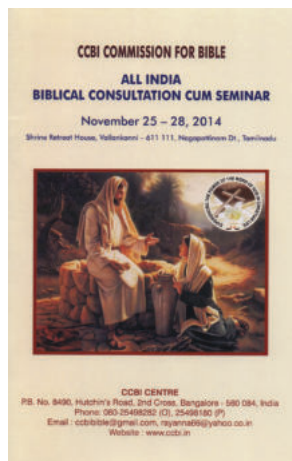
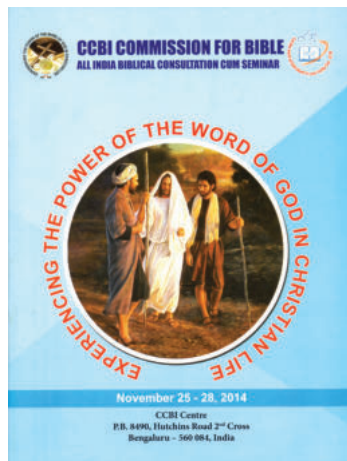
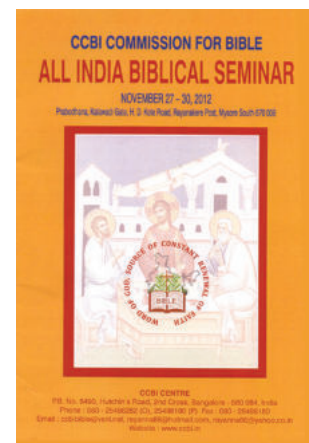
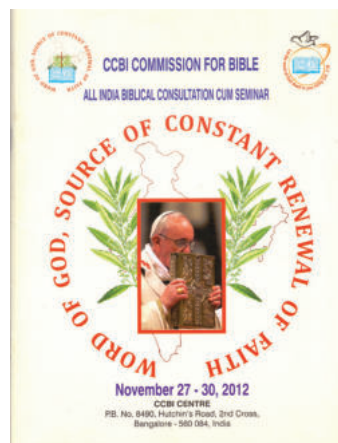
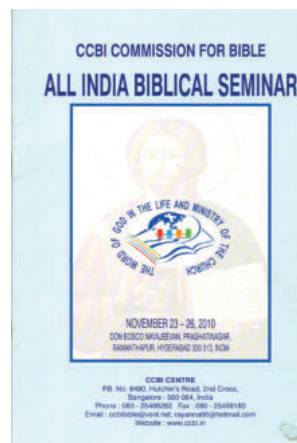
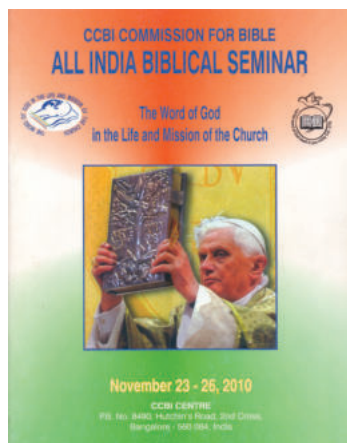
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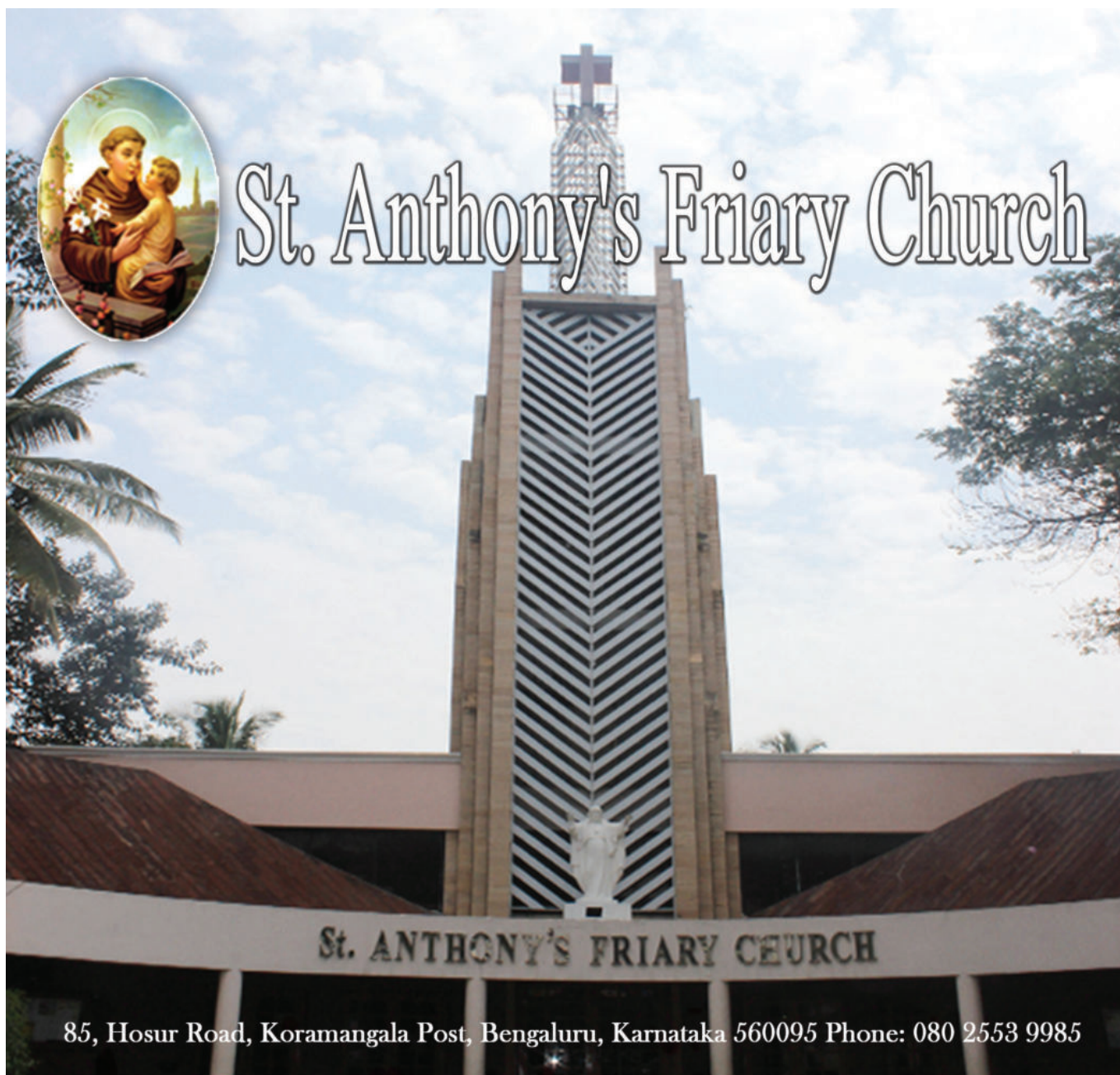
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