

Coalition for Christ
Evangelism - A Paradigm Shift

Seminar Compendium

First Edition January 2011

Published by

NARSANROR INSTITUTE OF LEADERSHIP TRAINING
Formerly National Institute of Leadership Training
508, 22nd Street, TNHB Colony,
Korattur, Chennai - 600 080.
Ph : +91-44-26871563
Mobile : 0-9444205511
E-mail : thomavedanta@niltindia.org
Website : www.niltindia.org

Contents

MORNING SESSION

1. *Chair Person Address* 5
Eva. Sadhu Chellappa
Agni Ministries Inc Trust
2. *Key Note Address* 9
G. J. Pandithurai
Seminar Co-ordinator, Founder President - NILT
3. *Evangelisation through Vaishnavism* 17
Prof. Dr. J.D. Baskara Doss
Vice President, Curriculum Director - NILT
4. *Evangelisation through Saivism* 35
Prof. Dr. M. Deivanayagam
Founder - Ulaga Thamizhar Aanmaviyal Iiyakkam
5. *Communicating Christ in the light of Indian Religion* 59
Dr. Prabhu Singh
Cultural Anthropologist, Founder Director
Word Focus Ministires

AFTERNOON SESSION

6. *Chair Person Address* 73
Mr. Sunder Yesuvadian
Founder President - Indian Anarya Samaj Ministries
7. *Key Note Address* 77
Dr. Daniel Muppidi
Co-Founder - Karma to Grace, Boston, USA
8. *Christian perspective on Racism & Casteism (Part I)* 89
Dr. D. Devakala
World Co-ordinator - Ulaga Thamizhar Aanmaviyal Iiyakkam
9. *Christian perspective on Racism & Casteism (Part II)* 107
Dr. Alexander Harris
Founder President - Last Days Harvest Ministries, California, USA
10. *Understanding Indian Culture in the Light of Christ* 117
Prof. Dr. James R. Daniel
Retd. Principal, Scott Christian College, Nagercoil

Member Organizations of "Coalition For Christ"

Narsanror Institute of Leadership Training (NILT)

Formerly National Institute of Leadership Training

E-mail ID : thomavedanta@niltindia.org
Website : www.niltindia.org
Mobile : 9444205511
Land Line : 91-44-26871563

Karma to Grace (Boston, US) (KTG)

E-mail ID : dmuppidi@aol.com
Website : www.karma2grace.org

Last Days Harvest Ministries (California, US) (LDHM)

E-mail ID : appius-forum@allum.mit.edu
Website : www.appiusforum.net

Agni Ministries Inc Trust (AMI)

E-mail ID : agnisadhu@yahoo.co.in
Website : agniministries.org
Mobile : 9381028140
Land Line : 91-44-24495225

Indian Anarya Samaj Ministries (IAS)

E-mail ID : sundar_yesuvadian@yahoo.com
Website : www.christianindiaministries.org
Mobile : 9442077604
Land Line : 04652235604

Unifled Progressive Spirituality (UPS)

E-mail ID : info@propelglobal.com
Website : www.propelglobal.com
Mobile : 9884411845
Land Line : 91-44-42322092

Christhava Brahmana Sevasamithi (CBSS)

E-mail ID : christianbrahmins@gmail.com
Website : christianbrahmins.org.in
Mobile : 9841296092, 9840122149
Land Line : 91-44-22314587

"Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it. Acts. 28:28"

CHAIR PERSON ADDRESS

EVA. SADHU CHELLAPPA

Agni Ministries Inc Trust

I have been preaching the Gospel since 1969, but in 1972, while being invited as the main speaker in the Madurai and Ramnad Diocese at Madurai the topic given to me was “Jesus – the only Savior of the world”. This forced me to give many quotations from various Vedas, Upanishads, and Agamas as well as from Tamil poems like Saiva Sidhanta, Tirukkural, Sithar songs and so on.

Bishop George Devadas encouraged me to bring such kind of messages focusing to the Non-Christian population, mostly Hindus. I found this was easier to evangelize the Hindu population, and I have experienced that indigenous Hope of Gospel messages could bring non-Christian souls to the kingdom of God.

Since I am not much of a scholar or learned man, I used to request Christian scholars and highly educated people to expound the hidden truth from non-Christian Vedas so that people may have a clear vision of the true Savior Jesus Christ.

As I happened to read one of the books written by Pulavar Prof. Dr. M. Deivanayagam about Tirukkural, I was much impressed and amazed by his writings. Therefore, in the early seventies, I invited him to preach the Gospel to highly educated Hindu people living in my colony at Coimbatore. He perfectly did so and today he has made his thesis on Thirukurul Saiva Sidhanta and Bible proving that Jesus Christ is the only savior of the universe.

I had the chance of having fellowship with Prof. Dr. J. D. Basukaradas, who was for some time with Prof. Dr. M. Deivanayagam and he had completed his thesis on Vedantham and Christianity. His authoritative writings penetrate and pierce the minds of Vaishnavite groups and many Vaishnavites have become secret Christians.

During 1974, I, along with Prof. Dr. M. Deivanayagam, Mr. Samuel Ganesh, Baghavathar Vedanayagam Shastriyar and Mr. Mytheen (Dr. Green Rose) formed an evangelical outreach to the non Christians in the name of Meiporul Vizha (Festival of Truth) and it shook the whole of Tamil Nadu for two years. There were oppositions, threatening of lives, pelting of

stones over the crowd and police complaints. In spite of all these things the meeting went on, and great numbers of non-Christians were added to the Kingdom of God. Many churches were formed.

I also remember a tiny cute little girl who used to play with my children and Respected Shastriar's children, forming Mini Meiporul Vizha. She is grown up now, and finished her PhD in finding Jesus Christ in various Tamil literatures. Her beautiful name is Dr D. Deva Kala D/O Prof. Dr. M. Deivanayagam. Her writings are informative, thought provoking and impressive.

I do not want to forget Prof. Dr. Moses Michael Faraday who used to follow my Gospel meetings when he was a student and he once asked me to suggest a topic for his PhD degree. I suggested "Tamil Sittar's songs" and he has done it nicely concluding that all Sittars might have been Christians.

Many other scholars who have come up in the past one decade have gone deep into the sacred books of Hindu religions, proving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, hidden in their scriptures.

India is a vast country, mostly filled up with illiterates non-believers, most of them being Hindus. Though foreign missionaries worked hard and have helped Indian Christians, India is yet to be fully evangelized. The reason being, Hindus think that their religion is much older than Christianity and Christians follow a foreign god mostly belonging to lower castes.

Sadhu Sunder Singh, a great man and saint of God, has rightly pleaded with the missionaries "to give the Gospel tea in the Indian cup".

Most of the Churches, Para church Organisations, Pentecostal Missions and other Christian mission works do not consider preaching the Gospel in an indigenous way by using Indian philosophies and scriptures. The reason being:

1. Why should we go away from the authentic book - The Bible?
2. We should not utter the names of other god's, except the name of Jesus.
3. We may have to compromise with their religion.
4. We may have to embrace their religious cultures into Christianity.
5. The holiness of Christianity may fade away or diluted.

St Paul when speaking to the Greeks, says that their poets have also said that we are all children of God (Acts 17:28). If St. Paul could use the poems of Greeks, why don't we use the Indian poems to preach the Gospel in India? If Paul could become a Jew to the Jews and Greek to the Greeks, why not we also become Indians to Indians?

In my own experience, when I preach the Gospel to the learned Hindus, I always begin with their Vedic poem and end with the word of God. I have seen that many people are convinced this way.

For example we say that God created every thing. Yes and it is true. A Hindu may say "what about my God"? Has he not created any thing? However, when you explain through a Sanskrit or Tamil poem he understands much better.

One of the Upanishads says that,
 "Yato va imani bhooathani jayanthe
 Yena jathani jeevanthi
 Yat prayanthya pisam visanthi"

Means, all things from which it comes and to which it goes-that is "Brahaman" (the creator).

There are many other poems like this and if you are interested please visit my web site www.agniministries.org.

In the year 2008 we have started "Christava Brahmana Seva Samithi (CBSS)" with a handful of Brahmin converts, which by this year has grown up to 256 families. We teach them about the Vedas and then they go to their own community and win them for the Kingdom of God.

My book "Is Christianity a necessity" has won thousands of Hindus to our Lord. For the past one decade, many scholars have emerged to preach and write about the hidden truth from the Vedas and large numbers of people from other faiths are drawn for our Lord Jesus Christ.

This effort of preaching the Gospel through contextualized indigenous method should not only be encouraged, supported and practiced but also to be taught and inculcated in the minds of all the evangelists, missionaries and all those who pursue their studies in the Bible Colleges and Seminaries, who are the soldiers fulfilling the command of the Supreme Commander, Jesus Christ.

Sadhu Chellappa.
 Agni Ministries Inc Trust, 5/54 Third Street,
 Maaraikayar Nagar, Neelankarai, Chennai 600 041.
 E mail: agnisadhu@yahoo.co.in
 Telephone : Office (0091 44) 2449 5225; Mobile: (0091) 93810 28140