

INFORMATION

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Give us this day our Daily Bread!



The prayer Jesus taught His disciples to pray – which has been found on the lips of all His followers since – is both beautifully simple and utterly profound. It is the kind of prayer a child can memorise and use, while meaning every word. At the same time, scholars who have studied the Lord's Prayer are convinced that we have not fully plumbed the depths of this unique prayer.

The Lord's Prayer divides neatly into two halves. The first concentrates on who God is in terms of His important attributes: His fatherhood, His holiness, and His sovereignty (Matthew 6:9-10). The second half touches on what the followers of Jesus are most dependent on God for: divine provision, divine pardon, and divine protection (Matthew 6:11-13). And, it appears that Jesus has marvellously matched the two halves. It is because God is our **Father** that we may expect Him to provide our daily needs, because He is **holy** that we must give account to Him for sin and plead for His forgiveness, and because He is **sovereign** that we can expect to be protected from impossible temptations and delivered from the evil one.

The petition "Give us this day our daily bread" suggests multiple implications for prayer: first, that as our Father, God is approachable, and we can make our requests directly to Him. In Matthew 7:7-11, Jesus illustrates, through the naturally loving response of earthly fathers, how much more willing and generous God will be to His children.

**From the Principal's Desk**

Ivor Poobalan, PhD
PRINCIPAL

Jesus uniquely called God "my Father", and through Him we have been uniquely privileged to experience God as "our Father". It is for this reason that the writer to the Hebrews could say: "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (4:16).

Second, the request is not narrowly individualistic; the prayer maintains a corporate dimension throughout: "Give **us** this day **our** daily bread". One of the characteristics of our globalised culture is its glorification of individual needs and preferences. Manufacturers and service providers constantly pander to this basic selfishness as a means to sell their products, and so it is not surprising that even God is sometimes expected to respond like a cosmic service provider who exists to meet my narrow, self-centred wants. However, humans are essentially communal beings, and Jesus teaches us to pray with sensitivity to our communal concerns.

Third, He encourages us to bring our present needs to God: "Give us today our daily bread". Sometimes Christians have been criticised for being "too heavenly minded to be of any earthly use".

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BECAUSE HE IS HOLY THAT WE MUST GIVE ACCOUNT TO HIM FOR SIN AND PLEAD FOR HIS FORGIVENESS,
AND BECAUSE HE IS SOVEREIGN THAT WE CAN EXPECT TO BE PROTECTED FROM IMPOSSIBLE TEMPTATIONS
AND DELIVERED FROM THE EVIL ONE.

HEALING THE WOUNDS OF TRAUMA

HOW THE CHURCH CAN HELP



4 days in February-March:

This modular course was led by Dileeni Abraham, Course Leader: Counselling, who is also a certified Master Facilitator of the Trauma Healing Institute of the American Bible Society. The course is a part of CTS' counselling track, and involved interactive sessions on suffering, abuse, grief, and many other issues in our church and society today.

LIBRARY MANAGEMENT

STAFF DEVELOPMENT



27 February:

The coordinators of the Provincial Study Centres participated in a special training on library management. It was held at the libraries at CTS Capital and the North Colombo Study Centre, and was conducted by Assistant Librarians, Viraj Stephen (L) and Vanaja Rajkumar (R).

RETREAT FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY STUDENTS



6-7 March:

The second cohort of students on the Children's Ministry programme (online) spent two days at the Subodhi Retreat Centre, bringing their programme to a conclusion with an onsite retreat.

NOURISHING A LEARNING COMMUNITY

FAITH AT WORK

SPECIAL SEMINAR



14 February:

A special seminar was held for students, faculty and staff, which addressed how workplace and business professionals can integrate faith with work - thus being effective witnesses for the Lord Jesus Christ. The speaker was Mr Paul Balasundaram, a marketplace veteran of over thirty years.

TRANSFORMING THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION (PART 2)

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT



10-11 March:

CTS lecturers engaged in a faculty training conducted by Dr Perry Shaw, author of *Transforming Theological Education*. The training explored diverse aspects of adult learning and was a follow-up on the seminar on "Transforming Theological Education" held last year.

FAREWELL AND APPRECIATION

Rev Dr Ted and Renate Rubesh

An evening of appreciation and farewell was held on 21st March for Rev Dr Ted and Renate Rubesh as they complete their service in Sri Lanka and return to the USA. Dr Ted has served as a faculty member since 1997, faithfully travelling to Colombo by train or bus from Kandy every week through rain and shine to teach in Kohuwela. Renate is a CTS alumna from the Counselling track. In addition to his role as a lecturer, Dr Ted has served as the Chairperson of the Academic Affairs Standing Committee, co-authored the CTS publication *Homosexuality: A Christian Perspective and Response*, mentored many CTS students and alumni; and, along with Renate, has counselled many couples - both in preparation for marriage, and through rough patches in their marriages. The legacy of Christian love that Dr Ted and Renate leave behind in Sri Lanka through their ministry of over forty years was patently clear through the outpouring of appreciation at the event. We wish them every blessing as they embark on a new chapter. They will be deeply missed!



CTS-IN-ACTION

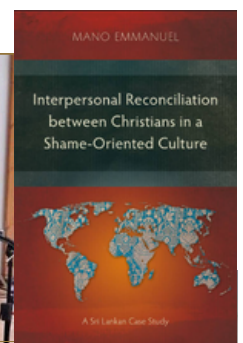
COLLOQUIUM:

THE COMPLEXITIES OF INTERPERSONAL CONFLICT IN A SHAME-ORIENTED CULTURE

11 March: Dr Mano Emmanuel (Head of Academic Advancement) was the speaker at this colloquium. The topic was based on her doctoral research on interpersonal reconciliation between Christians in a shame-oriented culture.

Dr Mano's PhD in Peace Studies was awarded by the Asia Graduate School of Theology (AGST, Philippines), and her thesis has subsequently been published by Langham Academic UK.

Rev Dr Chrisso Handy, also a holder of the AGST PhD in Peace Studies, and Chairman of the Assemblies of God of Ceylon, delivered the introductory remarks. The lively discussion following Dr Mano's presentation concluded with a formal response from Dr Perry Shaw.



NEW CHAPLAIN AT CTS

SPIRITUAL FORMATION



Rt Rev Dhiloraj Canagasabay, President of the CTS Council, now also serves as Chaplain at CTS. This is one of the initiatives in place at CTS as part of its spiritual formation programme.

FACULTY MEMBERS AT GLOBAL CONFERENCES



Dr Ivor Poobalan and Ravin Caldera (Academic Dean) attended the Theo Global South Asian Symposium 2025 held in Chiangmai, Thailand in January. The theme was "The Crown of Creation: Humanity, the Image of God, and the Fall".



Dr Ivor Poobalan, Julian Devadason (Assistant Academic Dean), and Einstead Fernando (Associate Coordinator: Provincial Studies Programme) participated in MESA Global's Institute for Excellence in Leadership Development held in Kandy, Sri Lanka, in March/April.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Vanaja Rajkumar (Full-time faculty member) was awarded the Master of Christian Studies from the University of Jaffna on 21st March.

Her dissertation was entitled "The Livelihood of Christian Families Residing in the Estate

Housing in Colombo 13: An Exploration regarding the Contribution of the Roman Catholic Church during the Period from 2021 to 2023". Vanaja also serves as Coordinator of the North Colombo Study Centre, and Assistant Librarian. Vanaja is a BTh alumna of CTS.

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189 Dutugemunu Street, Kohuwela, Sri Lanka

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FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT THE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER,
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workers for the Kingdom of God.*

