



TRACI Reflections

Theological Research And
Communication Institute



TRACI UNIVERSITY NETWORK: “ENGAGING SCHOLARSHIP AND CHRISTIAN FAITH IN SOUTH ASIAN CONTEXT”

University of all spaces in the society is the most vibrant one. Education though seen as her fulcrum, one cannot miss out the ideologies, creativity, relationships, dreams and aspirations that universities churn out. A microcosm of the society, it's here we along with Abraham Kuyper declare, “there is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!” To declare Christ as Sovereign over the university while well accepted, doesn't seem to be in practice by many university movements. There is a sense of contentment when students are just drawn to the fringes of the university for a ‘spiritual ministry’- a ministry that never correlates to all that goes on in the world of university.

The reason for this blinkered approach is the failure to realise that the whole university is our prime sphere of engagement. Had it been so, we would have envisaged that all Christian students and faculty are indeed called to witness to the truth and the relevance of the gospel in all areas of university life and policy. TRACI is aware of this lacunae and so envisions to work with students, research scholars, lecturers, administrators to demonstrate the practical relevance of the Gospel to all that goes on in a university. University ministry can never be separated from the wider engagement in society.

In taking this initiative forward, we proclaim along with Paul that “for by Him all things were created and it pleased God to place all things under his feet” (Col 1:16 & Eph 1:22). It is therefore a declaration that ‘all’ things belong to Christ, and there is no secular-sacred divide to keep us from engaging God's world with God's Word. Such an understanding will help Christians in the university to contribute to the academic world of high culture, including: economics and political science, literary criticism and imaginary writing, historical inquiry and philosophical studies, linguistics and the history of science, social theory and the arts. Christian in university will also address issues of justice, especially when many universities have yielded to the powers of parochialism nationalism, succumbed to the influence of free market fundamentalism and been curtailed on freedom and dissent. It calls for a redeeming of the university.

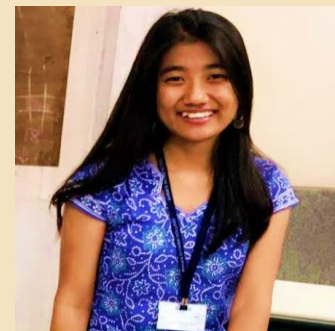
TRACI holds diverse engagement and activities; the ‘Christian Study Circle’ is where students engage on the relevance of different ideologies in university campus. The Pt. Ramabai Group is a confluence of research scholars to discuss their research work and receive inter-disciplinary input. Publishing books is underway, written by Christian faculty from renowned universities of South Asia. It will be the ‘Engaging of Scholarship and Christian Faith’ addressing challenges from the South Asian Context. Initiatives like ‘University Talk’ and ‘Artist and Writers Residency’ are planned for students. Conference for Research Scholars and Professionals address issues of the society (the second conference will be held later this year). Join us in these initiatives where we declare Jesus Christ as Lord of the whole University!

Sathish Joseph Simon, TRACI

WELCOME Ms. JULIANA KIMNEILAM

We warmly welcome Juliana Kimneilam to the TRACI team.

Hailing from Manipur, she has been actively involved in student fellowships and organizations and is interested in engaging socio-political and cultural issues with the Christian faith.



With a graduate degree from Mithibai College of Arts and a Master's in Sociology from JNU, she has been involved in various qualitative research projects focusing on gender and organizational sociology.

Her other areas of interest include structural and cultural sociology. An avid reader and enthusiastic writer, she has also worked as a content writer for a few organizations in the social sector.

As the TRACI research work expands, Julian will take up the role of Research Associate.

CONTACT US

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WELCOME Mr. ISSAAC THOMAS

It is our pleasure to welcome Mr. Issacc Thomas. Issacc has been involved in TRACI for some years now and also has been instrumental in developing TRACI Chapter in Kerala. An English graduate from MG University, Kerala he also completed his BD (Pune) and M.Th in Theology (Bangalore).

Prior to joining TRACI, he worked with UESI- Kerala as a staff worker from 1987 to 2001, before moving on to minister with National UESI based out of Kotagiri, Bangalore and Delhi till October 2019. He served in different roles as Administrator of Highfield & Director of Bible Study Centre, Training Secretary & Personnel Secretary.

Issacc is married to Shirley Thomas (M. Sc; M.Div; was staff of UESI for 30 years) Their Children, Arpith, MA, Edu; is working in an Educational Project at Chennai & Ashish, MA. Lit, preparing for higher studies.

Issacc envisions holistic Transformation of society & communities through the gospel of Jesus Christ. He is passionate: to engage in Biblical teaching and theological training with contextual relevance; to promote the integration of theology and praxis in the church & Christian communities; to serve the church in building God's people for a prophetic ministry. TRACI wishes him all the best as he takes up the responsibility as Director of Training. His initial responsibilities would be initiating TRACI Online Courses in Integral Mission & Society and Polity.



TRACI NEWS

- We are joined by two interns for a month to assist in the research on "Violence against Women in Indian Christian Families": Ms. Ciinsiazio Guite has completed her post-graduation from JNU and Ms. Jasmine Ankita Bage is pursuing her graduation from JNU. We solicit your prayers for their work.
- TRACI has formed the Church Engagement Initiative and it is an important step towards engaging the poorer urban churches. We aim to help these churches understand Integral Mission and guide them in achieving a sustainable livelihood.
- We do solicit your support for our growing financial needs. Our monthly needs is between ₹ 4-5 lakh. Bank accounts are given below.

DO LOOK FORWARD TO TRACI MONTHLY REFLECTION:

- July 24th, 2021: Faith & Justice (Asian Context), Rev. Philip Peacock

(Executive Secretary for Justice and Witness, World Communion of Reformed Churches)

- August 28th, 2021: Research Presentation: Violence against Women in Indian Christian Families, TRACI Research Team and Panel Response.

TRACI MONTHLY REFLECTIONS

TRACI reflection in the month of July and August was led by Rev. Philip Vinod Peacock and Dr. Denzil Fernandes.

Putting Justice at the Heart of Faith - Reflecting on Ecumenism from an Asian Perspective

On 22nd May, TRACI called for a time of prayer especially in the context of the pandemic. Led by Mr. Raaj Mondol, we had different leaders from the Church and Christian organisations who led us in a time of prayer for the Sick and Grieving, Frontline Healers, National leaders and the Church.

Rev. Dr. Idicheria Ninan shared the Word as preparation leading into the time of prayer. Ms. Florence Manohar and her friends led us in intercession for those suffering due to the pandemic and for those grieving due to the loss of loved ones. Dr. A. K Lama elaborated on the duties of the government and instances where we have failed in our responsibilities, while leading in prayer for the people in the frontline. Dr. Ram Surat emphasized on the need for repentance for the sins we have committed against women and the discrimination through caste in India. He opened our eyes to see where we have failed as a nation. Rev. Thomas Jacob led us in interceding for the

Did we Fail Fr. Stan Swamy: Carrying His Legacy Forward

TRACI hosted a conversation with Selina & CB Samuel and Mini & Sathish Joseph on 26th June, 2021 as part of its monthly reflection amidst the struggle and brunt of severe strain and trauma caused by the pandemic.

The conversation was moderated by Dr. Bonnie Miriam Jacob centered on the theme "Caring and Coping through the Pandemic: Facing Challenges as Families and Communities. The panelists, through their rich experiences, shed wisdom on ways to navigate and cope during troubled times particularly sharing from their experience of having walked alongside

INDIAN ACCOUNT

Account Name: TRACI
A/c No. 072501000006876
IFSC: IOBA0000725
Indian Overseas Bank, GK-II
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FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION ACCOUNT

Account Name: "Theological Research And Communication Institute"
Bank: State Bank of India,
Branch: 00691
A/c. No. : 40081602741 (FCRA Savings Account)
IFSC Code : SBIN0000691
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