

TNLBC Commission for Bible **Annual Report 2024**

Main Events:

1. **Annual Meeting of the Commission** was held on 21. 06. 2023 at TNBCLC, Tindivanam. It was attended by 39 persons- the Diocesan Commission Secretaries and those involved in Biblical Apostolate. Archbishop Francis Kalist of Pondicherry-Cuddalore addressed the gathering. The Diocesan Secretaries and others involved in the Biblical Apostolate submitted their Annual reports for the year 2022-2023 and it was followed by deliberations on the suggestions received for the activities during the present year (2023-2024). In the meeting two important suggestions were put forth: 1. Creation of the Executive Committee; and 2. Launching On-Line Bible Class by the Regional Commission for Bible. Both these proposals were approved by the General Body.

2. Bible Month (September)

Based on the theme “Enlarge the Space of your Tent” (Is 54:2), we had the following themes for the Eucharistic Celebration on Sundays.

- I Sunday : 03.09.2023 - “இறை – மானுட உறவில் இறைவார்த்தை”
II Sunday : 10.09.2023 - “குடும்ப உறவுகளில் இறைவார்த்தை”
III Sunday : 17.09.2023 - “சமூக உறவில் இறைவார்த்தை”
IV Sunday : 24.09.2023 - “உலகோடு உள்ள உறவில் இறைவார்த்தை”

A theme was presented for daily Eucharistic celebration in the final week.

3000 Booklets and 4850 posters were distributed to all the Dioceses in Tamil Nadu for the celebrations.

3. **On-line Bible Course:** Started on 24 September, the Bible Month; 170 persons registered. It was inaugurated by the Most Rev Francis Kalist, the Archbishop of Pondicherry-Cuddalore. Classes are conducted by 12 Professors from all over Tamil Nadu. Class is held every Sunday 4-6 pm.

4. Correspondence Course

This year 25 persons are following the course.

5. Golden Jubilee of TNBCLC

As part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations we had the following:

i. **A One-Day Seminar on Democracy** from a Biblical perspective conducted in 5 zones for priests, religious and laity.

- | | | |
|------------|--|--------------------|
| 23.09.2023 | Vadipatti, Madurai | - 84 participants |
| | Inaugurated by the Most Rev A. Stephen, Bishop of Tuticorin and Chairman, TNLBC Commission for Bible | |
| 02.10.2023 | Trichy | - 120 participants |
| | Inaugurated by Very Rev Msgr Anthuvan, VG of Trichy | |
| 23.10.2023 | Salem | - 140 participants |
| | Inaugurated by the Most Rev A. Rayappan, Bishop of Salem | |
| 24.10.2023 | TNBCLC, Tindivanam | - 64 participants |
| 28.10.2023 | Palayamkottai | - 230 participants |

Inaugurated by Very Rev. Msgr G. Kulandairaj, VG of Palayamkottai Rev. Fr. Michaelraj, Rev. Fr. T. Sagayaraj (St Paul's Trichy), Rev. Fr. Sundarimaindan (Christava Vazhvurimai Iyakkam) and Fr. S. Stanislas (the Secretary) were the resource persons.

ii. Essay Competition

For Youth: “இளைஞர் இயேசுவின் இலட்சியக் கனவு – அன்றும் இன்றும்” – 70 participants

For Adults: “திருவிவிலியம் கூறும் தலைமைத்துவப் பண்புகள்” - 240 participants

The prize winners were awarded cash prizes and all the participants were given a book of commentary on the Gospel of Mark/ John as consolation prize. A sum of Rs 35,000.00 was spent on prizes.

6. Re-Editing of the Interconfessional Tamil Bible

The TNLBC Commission for Bible organized three meetings for the stake holders of the Re-Edition of the Interconfessional Tamil Bible to discuss on significant issues concerning translation:

1. Meeting chaired by the Most Rev A. Stephen, the Bishop of Tuticorin and Chairman, Regional Commission for Bible on 12.10.2023 at the Bishop's House, Tuticorin. Most Rev Susaimanickam, Bishop emeritus of Sivagangai, Fr Raphael, Fr Ubald, Mr Santiago and Fr Stanislas, the Secretary were the other participants.
2. Meeting with the BSI representative Rev Subramaniam on 9-10 Nov 2023 at TNBCLC, Tindivanam. Fr Raphael and Fr Stanislas met the BSI representative. Consensus was reached on all the matters except for the use of திருஅவை instead of திருச்சபை.
3. Meeting chaired by the Most Rev Dr A. Stephen, the Bishop of Tuticorin and Chairman of TNLBC Commission for Bible on 21 February 2024 at St Paul's Seminary, Trichy to discuss and deliberate on the proposals received from the CCBI Commission for Bible. It was attended by Bishop Susaimanickam, Fr John Britto Packiaraj (Director, TNBCLC), Fr Raphael, Fr Xavier Terrence (St Paul's Trichy) and Fr Stanislas. After lengthy and fruitful deliberations on all the points raised by the CCBI Commission for Bible, consensus was reached on the final draft of the Interconfessional Tamil Bible. It was decided to integrate the proposed changes within a month so that it could be sent for printing at the earliest.

7. The TOT programme for VBS was organized by the Regional Bible Commission at the following three centres:

17-18 Feb 2024 at TNBCLC, Tindivanam with 45 participants

24-25 Feb 2024 at Madurai with 65 participants

02-03 March at Coimbatore with 60 participants

Teachers' Guide books and the Children's Work books were prepared for the four Groups on the following themes:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. வகுப்புகள் UKG -2: | விவிலிய விழாக்கள் |
| 2. வகுப்புகள் 3-5: | நீதிமொழிகள் |
| 3. வகுப்புகள் 6-8: | இறைவாக்கினர்கள் |
| 4. வகுப்புகள் 9-11: | மாற்றம் கொணர்ந்த விவிலியப்பெண்கள் |

The Secretaries of Palayamkottai, Trichy and Chennai and Mr. Santiago lent their generous cooperation in the preparation of the lessons for all the four groups.

The TOT programme for VBS is being organized by the diocesan secretaries in their respective dioceses and the VBS will be held in the Month of May.

8. **Summer Bible Course** on the Historical and Wisdom Books of the OT (13-17 May 2024) at TNBCLC, Tindivanam. This being a **three-year cycle Course**, at the end of three years, the participants will be awarded the Course Certificates. This summer we are resuming this course after the Covid-19. Till now about 40 persons have registered for this course.

Challenges:

1. The financial crisis in the TNBCLC affects the morale of the house and the very functioning of all the Commissions supported by it.
2. Secretaries of some dioceses do not even respond to the correspondences regarding the activities of the Commission and their lack of cooperation is discouraging.

Proposals:

1. As our appeal to foreign agencies for financial assistance most often meets with a negative reply, we find it very difficult to carry on the activities proper to the Bible Commission. Hence we appeal to the TNBC to support TNBCLC with 50% of the Bible Sunday Collection so that we can go ahead with the usual activities and launch new programmes in keeping with the change of times. Next year onwards gradually we have to start implementing the Strategic Plan proposed by the CCBI Commission for Bible.
2. We request the Bishops to direct their respective Secretary/ Director to work in better collaboration with the Regional Commission.

Thanks to:

Most Rev A. Stephen, the Chairman for his untiring support, guidance and accompaniment; The President and the Board members of the TNBCLC Society for their direction and guidance in the functioning of TNBCLC; all the Bishops of TNBC for their continued support to the activities of the Commission; the Diocesan Secretaries / Directors for their active collaboration; the Director, other Secretaries, Rev Sisters and the Support Staff of TNBCLC for their cooperation and encouragement.



Most Rev. A. Stephen,
Bishop of Tuticorin &
Chairman, TNLBC Commission for Bible



Fr. S. Stanislas
Secretary, TNLBC, Commission for Bible.

03.05.2024
Tindivanam.