



THE NETWORK



The Network's Executive Director, Justin Holford, with faculty and leadership from Northeast India partner schools.

Network staff recently traveled to Bangalore, India where we had the privilege of engaging with the vibrant community of theological educators and institutions. The trip was filled with meaningful encounters and valuable insights. Here are some of the noteworthy aspects that made this trip a memorable experience:

A Gathering of Minds

The conference saw an incredible turnout, with over 200 passionate individuals representing more than 150 Bible colleges and seminaries. This gathering of educators and leaders highlighted the rich tapestry of perspectives and experiences within Indian Christianity and theological education. These women and men have dedicated their lives to equip leaders so that the Indian church can be salt and light to its 1.3 billion+ Hindu and Muslim neighbors.

Inaugural Success: ATA-India's Debut Conference

We were honored to be a part of ATA-India's inaugural conference. Witnessing their first steps in fostering theological dialogue and collaboration was truly inspiring. The energy and enthusiasm among the participants were palpable, setting a promising tone for future endeavors to support Indian Bible colleges and seminaries.

Navigating Challenges: Addressing Opposition

We were humbled, and sometimes saddened, to hear about the ongoing challenges our partner schools and their communities have faced. Most notably, religious violence in the city of Manipur claimed the lives of hundreds of men, women, and children. Hundreds of churches have been burned down and tens of thousands internally displaced. Several conference attendees live or serve in this region, experiencing the tragedies firsthand. These discussions evoked lament and reinforced our belief in the need for and the importance of theological education to cultivate a generation of leaders who can become peacemakers in India.

Heartfelt Gratitude: Quality Books Make a Difference

One of the most heartening aspects of our trip was receiving sincere expressions of gratitude from partner school representatives. Recipients commented that the books are immensely beneficial to the coursework, study, and research of the students and faculty. These interactions provided invaluable insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by these educators on a daily basis, and reaffirmed the impact and importance of the Network's efforts.

The Path Forward: Continuing the Journey Together

Strident requests for continued assistance from the Network underscore the enduring need for quality theological resources. We are committed to working hand in hand with our partners and supporters to meet this demand and further empower theological education in India.

As we reflect on this enriching journey, we are reminded of the profound impact that collective efforts can have on shaping the future of theological education. Your support is invaluable, and together, we are making a lasting difference. ■

BOOK SHIPMENTS AND DONATIONS



RECENT SHIPMENTS

Book shipments recently arrived in India and Vietnam. This included two shipments to India - one to the northeast region and another to the northwest region. These shipments delivered over 20,000 books to serve over 60 schools. One pallet of books was sent to the Bible Society of Vietnam in Ho Chi Min City, for their study center. The recipient schools have been enthusiastic about the books, emphatically thanking the Network and its supporters like you. Please see the pictures and quotes below!

Alongside these shipments, our staff has prepared another 25,000+ books for shipment to Nigeria, another container shipment to India, and a small shipment to Kenya. Our goal is for all these books to depart by the end of the calendar year. ■

"We are truly grateful to all donors - individuals, families, churches and charities - who continue to support the ministry of the Network. Without your kind gifts and prayers, many of us in the Majority World would never be able to avail and utilize the kind of indispensable theological resources provided by the Network. Thank you and God bless you all!"

"We are writing to express our deepest thanks for your donation of books. There is no way to fully express our gratitude for your loyalty. We are continually inspired by the dedication and generosity of donors like you who answer our needs[.]"



ABOVE: Boxes of books being prepared for distribution at Oriental Theological Seminary, our "host" school for the latest shipment to NE India.



ABOVE: Students and library staff unboxing and processing the boxes of books received by Academy of Integrated Christian Studies in NE India.



EXTENDING A LEGACY

This summer, the Network received news that JKM Library, serving Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and McCormick Theological Seminary, would be closing. A rich theological library with an incredible history of service, the majority of the collection will be directed to the Joseph Regenstein Library at University of Chicago and Chicago Theological Seminary. Theological Book Network was given the opportunity to select from a list of titles that would not be transferred to the other libraries and were made available to the Network. We were able to select and acquire over 4,000 titles from the library's holdings for use in its mission to equip global theological libraries.

Many of these excellent titles will be immediately placed into service in support of specialized library development projects for postgraduate programs in South Asia. We are thankful for the assistance of Andy Keck at the Perkins School of Theology for helping to facilitate this project. We'd also like to express our gratitude especially to JKM's Library Director Barry Hopkins and Librarian Emilie Pulver for all their assistance over a very productive, and very hot, four days in Chicago. Lastly, a thank you to all those at the JKM Library and all those involved. These books will be given new life in supporting theological education throughout our global network. ■

Questions about donating books? Contact Scott Watson, Director of Acquisitions, at swatson@tbn.global.

A PROJECT CLOSE TO HEART

The Network is glad to share news of an upcoming book shipment to Nigeria. The country is home to the largest Christian population in Africa, which is the sixth largest in the world (over 87 million). This initiative will deliver support to over 40 theological schools that serve thousands of students each year. What makes this project unique is the personal connection of one of our own team members, Darshak Tomo, who hails from the northern Nigeria.

Darshak's enthusiasm for this undertaking is palpable, as the shipment includes resources for his local bible college. He expresses, "My denomination is aspiring to elevate the Bible school to a seminary. Supporting the development of the school's library is a chance to profoundly impact the education and spiritual growth of fellow believers in Nigeria and around the world."

This shipment represents more than just books and resources. It embodies the promise of brighter futures by educating and empowering Christian leaders. Books expand horizons and cultivate a deeper



Darshak Tomo

understanding of the Christian faith. The impact of this endeavor will resonate far beyond the classroom, enriching the spiritual lives of seminarians, pastors, and all those thirsting for a profound connection with God's Word. ■

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SUPPORTING THE NETWORK'S FUTURE:

PLANNED GIVING

Did you know that you can gift stocks, bonds, annuities, life insurance policies, and estate assets to support the Networks' mission? If you would like to learn more about donating assets like these, or making a bequest to the Network, please contact our team by phone (616-532-3890) or email (info@tbn.global).



THEOLOGICAL BOOK NETWORK

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REFLECTIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In 2023 the Network embarked upon an ambitious goal: to strategically equip over 200 Bible colleges and seminaries in South Asia. Our goal for this project is to “close the gap” in our partner schools’ library holdings, helping ensure they have adequate educational resources to train

Christian leaders. This initiative is strategic: it aims to systematically build capacity for training church leaders throughout the region.

Why does this project matter? Because we believe that every Christian community deserves biblically grounded and theologically insightful leadership. Educated leaders help the church thrive and God’s mission flourish. How do they do this? By helping make the full beauty, goodness, and truth of the Christian faith more accessible and intelligible to their communities.

As we approach the end of the calendar year, I ask you to prayerfully consider partnering with the Network in

our efforts to build indigenous capacities for training Christian leaders. Our work is:

- multiplicative: it equips leaders that go on to minister, teach, and disciple others;
- sustainable: it cultivates indigenous capacities for forming leaders;
- important: we provide resources inaccessible to global Bible colleges and seminaries.

Your contribution empowers us to provide vital resources, enabling the growth of resilient Christian communities worldwide. Together, we’ll turn pages of possibility into chapters of transformation, all for God’s glory.

Your generosity helps cultivate a legacy of faith-driven leaders for the global church. Please make your financial gift today! ■

Justin Holford
Executive Director