

Fr. C. C. Chinnai

dup

THE FEDERATED FACULTY FOR RESEARCH IN RELIGION AND CULTURE

Jointly Sponsored by

The Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam

The Mar Thoma Theological Seminary, Kottayam

The Kerala United Theological Seminary, Trivandrum

SOUVENIR

Published on the occasion of
the Inauguration of the FFRC

July 3, 1980

Kottayam.

OLD TESTAMENT

Dr. K. V. Mathew, B. D. M. Th. Ph. D. (M. T. T. S.)
Dr. K. A. George, B. Sc., B. D. M. Th. Ph. D. (O. T. S.)
Fr. K. M. Alexander, M. A., B. D. S. T. M. (O. T. S.)

NEW TESTAMENT

Dr. Jacob Verghis, B. Sc., B. D. M. Th., M. A. Ph. D. (K. U. T. S.)
Dr. M. J. Joseph, B. Sc., B. D. M. Th. D. Th. (M. T. T. S.)
Fr. George Kaniarakath (Director, Biblical & Oriental Study Centre)

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Dr. V. P. Thomas, B. A., B. D. S. T. M. Ph. D. (M. T. T. S.)
Dr. K. M. George, B. Sc., B. D. M. A. D. Sc. Th. (O. T. S.)
Dr. K. C. Mathew, B. A., B. T. B. D. M. A. Ph. D. (M. T. T. S.)
Dr. P. G. Kuruvilla, B. D. M. Th. Dr. Theol (K. U. T. S.)
Metropolitan Geevarughese Mar Osthathios M. A., B. D., S. T. M. (O. T. S.)

VISITING PROFESSOR

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M. Th. COURSE—FFRRC (1980-'81)

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New Testament

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Christian Theology

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Lecturer, H. B. I. & College,
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M. D. Seminary,
Kottayam.
3. Rev. R. C. Thomas, B. Sc., B. D. (Mar Thoma Church)
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Lecturer,
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THE FEDERATED FACULTY FOR RESEARCH IN RELIGION AND CULTURE

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SOUVENIR COMMITTEE

Rev. Dr. K. M. George (Editor)

Rev. Dr. K. V. Mathew

Rev. Dr. Jacob Verghis

Rev. Dr. M. J. Joseph

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MESSAGES

THE ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

CATHOLICATE OF THE EAST

BASELIUS MAR THOMA MATHEWS-I
CATHOLICOS OF
THE APOSTOLIC THRONE OF ST. THOMAS
AND
MALANKARA METROPOLITAN

CATHOLICATE PALACE
KOTTAYAM-4
KERALA, INDIA

June 16th, 1980

Apostolic blessings to the members of the Federated Faculty.

We are pleased to hear that you are inaugurating the Federated Faculty for Research in Religion and Culture on July 3rd, the day of St. Thomas. The unusually bold step taken by the three churches (Orthodox, Mar Thoma and C. S. I.) in authorizing their Seminaries to initiate a joint programme of higher theological education carries great ecumenical significance. Through this joint venture we are beginning to realize a great vision seen by our Fathers and leaders. We trust that the new Faculty will assign to itself the urgent task of rediscovering the great tradition of Apostolic Christianity in our country and initiating a creative dialogue based on Christian love with our brethren belonging to other great religious traditions.

We bless you in the name of the Holy Trinity. May your efforts bear fruit for the greater glory of the Kingdom of God.

Sd/-

Baselius Mar Thoma Mathews I
Catholicos of the East.

MAR THOMA SYRIAN CHURCH OF MALABAR

THE MOST REV. DR. ALEXANDER MAR THOMA
METROPOLITAN

Tel: 313
TIRUVALLA-689 101
ALLEPPEY,
KERALA, INDIA.
14-6-80

IT IS very significant that M. Th. courses are being started through the Federated Faculty for Research of the Theological Colleges of the Orthodox Syrian Church, the Mar Thoma Syrian Church, and of the Church of South India in Kerala. Even though Theological Colleges have been functioning for some years here Post-graduate courses were not available in any of these colleges. Moreover, this is a united effort in which colleges of three main denominations are co-operating. This offers great possibilities for the future, in closer understanding and in strengthening the spirit of Christian fellowship.

I wish the new effort all blessings.

Sd/-

Alexander Mar Thoma, Metropolitan.

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SOUTH KERALA DIOCESE

THE RT. REV. I. JESUDASAN,
BISHOP

BISHOP'S HOUSE,
L. M. S. COMPOUND,
TRIVANDRUM-695 001
KERALA

June 6, 1980

Dr. K. M. George,
Editor, F. F. R. R. C. Souvenir,
Post Box No. 98,
Kottayam, Kerala.
Dear Dr. George,

I am very happy to understand that a Souvenir is going to be brought out in connection with the inauguration of the newly created Federated Faculty for research in religion and culture. I congratulate the three Seminaries for their joint effort in establishing such a Faculty in Kerala under the Serampore University. I am sure that this would help the Seminaries to rise up to high levels of intellectual competency to meet challenges of the time. I wish all success for the Faculty and its ongoing programmes. I hope and pray that by the research and study conducted through the Faculty, the churches in Kerala may grow above denominational barriers and the life giving power of God in Christ may penetrate deeply into the social and cultural life of the State.

With very sincere greetings and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

The Rt. Rev. I. Jesudasan, Bishop.

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Office of:
THE REGISTRAR

P. O. Serampore-712 201
Dist. Hooghly,
W. Bengal
2nd June, 1980

On the occasion of the inauguration of the FFRC, Kerala I wish to convey on behalf of the Board of Theological Education and the Senate of Serampore College our hearty felicitations.

For several years the Senate has been encouraging theological colleges in regions to pool resources to provide contextualised theological education at advanced levels. It is heartening to note that the Kerala United Theological Seminary, Trivandrum; Mar Thoma Theological Seminary and Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam have forged together to form a federated faculty and started an ecumenical enterprise in theological education at Post-graduate levels in Kerala. The co-operation and help from the nearby Roman Catholic Seminaries will further strengthen the programmes undertaken by FFRC.

It is our hope that FFRC will make a sustained effort to maintain academic excellence and provide leadership for the Church not only in Kerala but in the country as well.

Sd/-
(Rev. D. S. Satyaranjan)
Registrar

PROF. V. K. SUKUMARAN NAYAR,
VICE-CHANCELLOR

UNIVERSITY OF KERALA,
TRIVANDRUM-695 001

May 28, 1980

I am glad to learn that the three theological faculties in Kerala have formed a Federated Faculty of Research in Religion on Culture. Kerala is a State where different faiths—Hindu, Christian, Muslim and Jewish have co-existed for the last two thousand years. It is essential that we devote adequate attention to the study of Comparative Religion and Culture. I am sure that the Federated Faculty would be able to provide the leadership required for research in these areas. I wish the Faculty all success in its endeavours to promote research in this field.

Sd/-

(V. K. SUKUMARAN NAYAR)

Professor (Dr.) M. V. PYLEE,
VICE-CHANCELLOR

UNIVERSITY OF COCHIN,
HILL PALACE,
TRIPUNITHURA-682 301
KERALA
4. 6. 1980

Dear Dr. George,

Thank you for your kind letter dated 20th May 1980.

I am glad to note that you plan to bring out a souvenir in connection with the inauguration of the 'Federated Faculty for Research in Religion and Culture in Kerala' on July 3, 1980.

I hope that the creation of a new faculty will promote high quality research and it would make important contributions to our educational and cultural fields. It would also help promote inter-religious dialogue with a view to fostering mutual understanding and socio-religious harmony in our society.

I wish your attempt all success.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

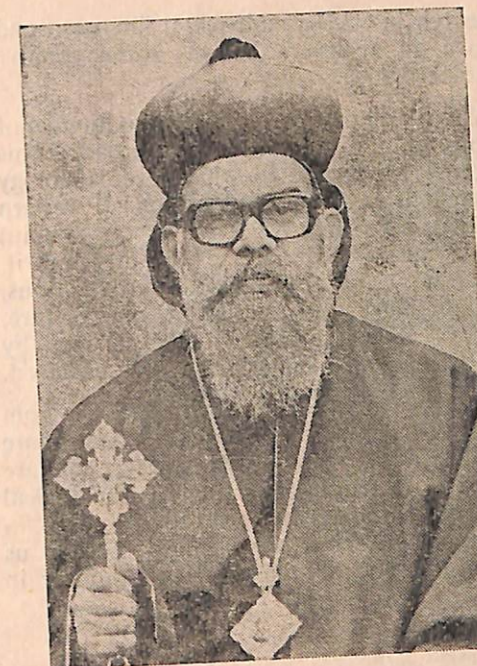
(M. V. Pylee)

Dr. K. M. George,
Editor,
F. F. R. C. Souvenir,
Post Box No. 98,
Kottayam,
Kerala.

Another Research Centre in Kerala?

Dr. PAULOS MAR GREGORIOS

[Principal, Orthodox Theological Seminary
& Chairman, FFRRRC]



People outside have the impression that we in India have little aptitude for research. This is so in Science as well as in Theology.

Some of our Scientists have done well—Sudarsan, Khorana, and others among the present generation; but they did most of their work in institutions abroad. The large bulk of our Scientists, however, have not been inventive, merely copying what has already been discovered or established abroad.

Why do Indians lag behind in research? Some people think that it is because we do not have enough resources to invest—neither money nor personnel: To a certain extent this is true. A recent UNESCO study has shown that 97.4% of the money spent by the world on fundamental Research and Development is used in the developed or rich countries and only 2.6% in the whole developing part of the world where 65% of the world's population lives.

But in our country, Jawaharlal Nehru saw the need for fundamental research from the beginning, and our Government has in fact set up a number of institutions all over the country dedicated to research. Tribute

must be paid also to Tatas for setting aside large sums for fundamental research.

Our achievement, however, remains rather minor, to date. Much of the Government money has been wasted on providing cushy, well-paid jobs without much responsibility to a few favoured scholars. There was no special incentive to do creative research in most of the Government institutions where the sledge-hammer of bureaucracy could always deal icy or crushing blows to any independent initiative.

Can we do better in a Church related institution? The present writer is not all that sanguine about our possibilities in research in religion and culture. It is with great diffidence that we have launched this project. No doubt the task will be up-hill for quite some time to come. Organizing a few master's degree programmes in New Testament, Old Testament and Systematic Theology is certainly not the crux of the problem. It is research—to provide facilities for creative scholars to do independent research, with very little bureaucratic control. But this needs well-endowed libraries, proper facilities for study and

research in society, adequate finances, and above all at least half a dozen creative scholar-thinkers.

We pay money for an enormous number of books written and produced abroad. This is one of the ways in which even theology becomes a means of exploitation. If western reviews rave about a western (or Indian) book, then we all pay money and buy it. These books do not deal with our situations, do not have their roots in our culture, and often contain the hidden strings by which the West keeps our minds enslaved.

It is here that we must break loose from our old fetters. The Senate of Serampore College is standing by us, because we are perhaps the only graduate theological faculty in India that is fully Indian in personnel. The challenge before us therefore is rather immense—to pioneer in

a new path. The most important first task of our research programme in religion and culture (and not just in theology) would be simply to delineate the main outline of that path.

It is important that the main churches of Kerala, with the exception of the largest of them, the Roman Catholic Church are cooperating in this venture from the beginning. We have individual Roman Catholic Scholars who promised support. As the F. F. R. C. develops and proves its quality, we can expect full cooperation from Roman Catholic institutions in Kerala also.

The important thing is—do we have the will to be creative and the desire to free our minds from its western shackles? I think we do. Time will show what the truth is.

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Head Office:
TRIVANDRUM

K. S. T. PANI
Managing Director

Federated Faculty for Research in Religion and Culture in Kerala

(GLIMPSE OF THE PAST AND
A LEAP INTO THE FUTURE)

REV. DR. M. J. JOSEPH

(Registrar—FFRRC)



The possibility of setting up a Post-graduate Theological Faculty in Kerala has been explored for the last 3 years. The first meeting of an exploratory committee consisting of delegates from the St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary (Vadavathoor), Mar Thoma Theological Seminary (Kottayam), Orthodox Theological Seminary (Kottayam), and Kerala United Theological Seminary (Trivandrum) was held at the Sophia Centre, Orthodox Seminary, Kottayam on 30th July 1977. The meeting was also attended by Dr. T. V. Philip, then Director of the Senate who came to Kottayam in connection with the Young Theologians' Conference under the Research Department of the Senate. The main purpose of the meeting was to explore the possibilities of pooling all the available resources in Kerala for advanced theological studies in Religion and Culture. Since then, the exploratory committee met several times and formulated rules governing the Federated Faculty and other related issues. The purpose of the Federated Faculty as stated in the original application to the Senate can be cited as:—

(1) To promote research in disciplines connected with religion and culture leading

to Master's and Doctor's degree of the Senate.

- (2) To provide facilities for advanced research not necessarily leading to a degree.
- (3) To promote the study of Church traditions in depth taking into account the secular, religious and the ecumenical contexts in India.
- (4) To provide a forum for creative dialogue between religious and secular thinkers.
- (5) To provide facilities for the teaching of classical languages like Hebrew, Greek, Sanskrit, Latin and Syriac and modern languages like German and French.

Besides the above, the following objectives are also included in the list at a later stage:—

- (a) To provide scope for training of resource persons for the mission of the Church and to strengthen the life of the Church and congregations for deeper understanding of their Mission and life.
- (b) To provide for greater interaction between the Churches and involvement in depth in their theological thinking.

- (c) To provide scope for greater involvement in the joint witness of the ancient Church in Kerala.
- (d) To strengthen the faculties of sister Seminaries and to provide scope for research and study at regional levels.
- (e) To ensure greater co-operation at Post-graduate level of studies without a "centralised structure."

From the above objectives, it is quite clear that the FFRC does not envisage the setting up of a Study Centre at a new place. The co-operation is extended in the area of sharing the faculty and Library resources of the Federated Colleges for study and research.

The Principals of the Mar Thoma, Orthodox and Kerala United Theological Seminaries were involved in all the levels of discussions and they secured provisional approval from their respective Governing Boards for such an ecumenical venture in Theological Education as early as 1977. On May 14, 1979 the exploratory committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Paulose Mar Gregorios, resolved to request to the Senate to grant affiliation for M. Th. courses in Old Testament, New Testament and Christian Theology. All the required details along with an application signed by Dr. Paulose Mar Gregorios, Principal Orthodox Theological Seminary, Rev. Dr. V. P. Thomas, Principal, Mar Thoma Theological Seminary, and Rev. Dr. Jacob Verghis, Principal, K. U. T. Seminary were submitted to the Registrar of the Senate on May 17, 1979. Rev. Dr. M. J. Joseph served as the convener of the exploratory committee. Consequently the committee on Academic Administration resolved to send Dr. P. V. Premasagar (President of the Senate), Dr. K. James Carl, Dr. C. Duraisingh and Rev. D. S. Satyaranjan

(Registrar) to the Federated Colleges for further enquiry. The Commission visited the Seminaries on November 1, 2 and 3, 1979 and submitted a report to the C. A. A. The Commission was also pleased to visit the St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor and the Ecumenical Biblical and Oriental Study Centre, Kottayam. The faculty and library facilities of the above two Roman Catholic institutions will be available to the FFRC for its study and research.

The Evaluation Commission submitted its report to the Senate stating all the details of the programme. In its meeting of the Senate of the Serampore University at Tamilnadu Theological Seminary dated, February 1st, 1980, the FFRC was recognized and affiliation at the M. Th. level was granted. The conditions laid down by the Senate have to be fulfilled by the Federated Colleges within three years.

The affiliation granted at present is for offering M. Th. studies in Old Testament, New Testament and Christian Theology, beginning from July 1980. There will be an executive body which will manage the affairs of the FFRC. The nomination of the following persons was approved by the Senate:

- (1) Chairmen : Dr. Paulose Mar Gregorios
- (2) Vice-Chairman : Rev. Dr. V. P. Thomas and Rev. Dr. Jacob Verghis
- (3) Registrar : Rev. Dr. M. J. Joseph (M. T. T. Seminary)

The Registrar's office will at present be located at the Mar Thoma Theological Seminary, Kottayam-686 001.

The Federated Faculty for Research in Religion and Culture: its Potentialities

REV. DR. JACOB VERGHIS,

Principal, K. U. T. Seminary, Trivandrum and Vice-Chairman, FFRC.



The Federated Faculty is an ecumenical venture to promote in-depth study and research in religious, social and cultural fields. The Kerala United Theological Seminary, Trivandrum, is extremely happy to join hands with the sister Seminaries in Kottayam—the Mar Thoma and Orthodox Seminaries—to form the Federated Faculty.

Although Christianity in Kerala is almost as old as the Christian Church itself, much attention has not been given to theological education in Kerala for a long time, except at a lower level (first L. Th. and then B. Th.). Therefore, all the different church denominations in Kerala, both of eastern and western traditions, had to depend upon Seminaries outside Kerala to a large extent, for the training of their clergy. Theological education at the Bachelor of Divinity level was taken up by these Seminaries only in the last decade. By the formation of the Federated Faculty, the non-Roman Catholic

Churches in Kerala are taking up the full responsibility of theological education and training of their clergy. It is even more gratifying that it is done as a joint venture by the three major church denominations in Kerala. Therefore, it also combines the rich heritage these Churches have imbibed in the past, both from eastern and western traditions. We hope that the Federated Faculty will bring our Seminaries and our Churches closer to each other and together we will be able to serve the Church in India in a more effective manner.

There is an increasing emphasis these days on doing theological studies with reference to the context of the Church. The training received outside one's own region is bound to be too general in character. This has got some advantage, no doubt. But such training is deficient in the sense that the contextual character, needs and problems of the church, where one is to exercise his

ministry is overlooked. The working of the Federated Faculty is designed in such a way that greater emphasis to the contextual character of the Church will be given, which we hope will help to make the training at B. D. level as well as at the research level to have some bearing to the situation of the Church in Kerala.

We very often hear the criticism levelled against the ancient Church in Kerala, that it was a sleeping Church, until the advent of the western missionaries. This is true to a certain degree. However, the fact that in God's great mercy this Church was preserved from extinction amidst a majority Hindu population, in spite of several odds it had to face both from within the Church and without, itself is a wonder. Needless to say that this Church (perhaps in denominations) must have been used by God at least in a small way in the past, which gives it sufficient reason to look for a brighter future. Very little attempt has been made by its own members to dig into its past and unearth several hidden chapters in the history of the Church, to see how the Church was used by its Lord, in a predominantly non-Christian land.

The Church has been established on this earth not to live in a protected green house, but to live in constant tension and dialogue with the non-Christian neighbours. The Church in Kerala has not entered into any meaningful dialogue with our non-Christian fellow scholars so far. How long can the Church live in isolation, mindful of its own internal problems only! It is hoped that the FFRRC will provide a forum to enter into a meaningful dialogue with our neighbours. The social and cultural heritage of our land which the Christians share equally with their fellow citizens, provides us with sufficient area for research and study, which will be beneficial both for the Church, and the community.

As our three Seminaries, supported fully by our respective Churches, move together forward pooling our resources in Library and Faculty (while remaining autonomous institutions under the respective Governing Boards), we hope that we may discover new avenues and horizons under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth.

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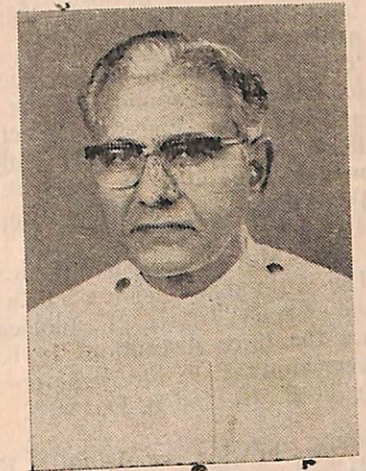
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Serampore University and Higher Theological Education in India

REV. DR. V. P. THOMAS

Vice-Chairman, FFRRC



Theological education in India is largely related to the Serampore College founded by William Carey, Joshua Marshman and William Ward. The services rendered to India by these pioneer missionaries from 1800 onwards were varied and manifold—evangelism, education, scripture translation, production of literature, printing etc. Serampore, thus, became "the Cradle of modern Missions." With the help of the Danish authorities, the Missionaries were able to found a college in Serampore in 1818. In 1827 King Frederick the Sixth of Denmark was pleased to grant a Charter of Incorporation to the college, empowering it to grant degrees. In 1845 when Denmark sold her possessions in India to the British Government, it was done so with the agreement that the British Government would honour the commitment of the Danish Crown in respect of the charter granted to the Serampore College. The College was to give instruction in Arts, Science and Theology. The Missionaries hoped to develop studies in Religion and Theology. As the Calcutta University came into existence the Missionaries thought it advisable to affiliate the College to the Calcutta University for Arts and Science. Serampore College continued to exercise university powers in the teaching of Theology and Religion and granting of degrees pertaining to them. In the year 1915 Serampore College, using for the first time the powers

of its Charter, conferred the degree of Bachelor of Divinity on Theological graduates of the College. These graduates were members of the Congregational, Presbyterian and the Syrian Churches. In 1918 the Serampore College Act was passed, by which the membership of the Governing Council and that of the Senate were enlarged to include denominations other than the Baptists. The Serampore College Act preserves all the provisions and privileges of the Royal Charter. Theological institutions all over India began to be affiliated to Serampore College for the courses of theological study set by the Senate. As years went by various degree courses were introduced such as B. Th., B. D., M. Th., M. R. S., and D. Th.

The reorganization of Serampore College under the Act of 1918 brought together many churches in India for the task of theological education and ministerial training. The College (University) became a means of unifying theological education and maintaining a high academic standard in the country as a whole. The story of Serampore is one of remarkable adventure in co-operation among various denominational churches. The courses of study, as years went by, have been adapted to the Indian context by the wisdom and experience of men both Indian and Western. In a theological curriculum which seeks to serve

varied Christian groups, the courses must have some flexibility. This has been achieved by providing in the curriculum a 'core' of common studies accepted by all as basic to a sound training in theology, and also for considerable choice among fields of study on which different bodies would lay different emphases. Even in these there emerged a unified approach.

The Mar Thoma Theological Seminary, The Orthodox Theological Seminary and the Kerala United Theological Seminary are the three institutions in Kerala which were affiliated to the Serampore University at the B. Th. and B. D. levels.

The Christian population in Kerala is the largest in India. The production of

Christian literature is also the largest in Kerala. The educational standard of the people and the clergy is fairly high. The number of students who are doing M. Th. and D. Th. studies and research in Post-graduate Colleges outside Kerala are comparatively high. These factors point to the need of upgrading of the three theological institutions to post-graduate level. However, none of them has adequate facilities for post-graduate research. But if they pool their facilities, there is the possibility of University recognition. This is what has happened in the formation of the Federated Faculty for Post-graduate studies. This is a new venture by three Seminaries in the field of higher theological education. This is a new step in co-operation and ecumenical sharing.

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The glare of glittering metal becomes a fascinating reality
In the splendour of myriad forms
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Rules and Regulations for the Master of Theology (M. Th.) Degree of the Senate of Serampore College

The degree of Master of Theology (M. Th.) is a post-graduate degree offered by the Senate of Serampore College. Responsibility for administering the programme is with the Committee on Academic Administration under the over-all supervision of the Senate.

1. PREAMBLE:

The M. Th. Degree Course has in the past been oriented mainly to meet the needs of adequate staffing of the theological colleges in India. But there has been a growing recognition of the need of theological education at the M. Th. level for equipping people for a more effective fulfilment of the pastoral ministry in different situations as well as different forms of specialized ministry such as Bible translation, production of Christian literature, leadership in social action, dialogue with people of other faiths and ideologies etc. The M. Th. Degree course can also be a suitable preparation for candidates to enable them to proceed for advanced study and research at the doctoral level.

2. PURPOSE:

The M. Th. Degree Course seeks to fulfill one or more of the following purposes:

- To equip persons for teaching in theological colleges.
- To equip persons for exercising more effectively various forms of pastoral ministry.
- To provide the knowledge and skills necessary for meeting the needs of different forms of specialized ministry.
- To develop academic proficiency for independent research.

3. ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS OF APPLICANTS:

- The following persons may be permitted to apply for registration for the M. Th. Degree programme of study:
 - A person who has previously passed the B. D. examination of the Senate of Serampore College in First or Second Class, securing at least B-Grade (55% mark) in the Branch in which he or she plans to do the M. Th. course.
 - A person who holds academic qualifications that in the opinion of the Committee on Academic Administration of the Senate of Serampore College are at least equivalent to the Senate of Serampore College B. D. in First or Second Class.

(iii) A person who has passed the B. D. examination of the Senate of Serampore College in Third Class with at least a B—grade in the Branch in which he or she plans to do the M. Th. course and who subsequently passes an examination in two papers of the B. D. level in other Branches (in which he had failed to secure a B—average in the B. D. examination), securing at least a B—average and not less than C in either.

(iv) A person who has passed the B. D. examination of the Senate of Serampore College in Third Class with a third class final average in the Branch in which he or she plans to do the M. Th. course and who subsequently passes an examination in two papers in the Branch of intended specialisation securing at least a B— grade in each, plus two additional papers at the B. D. level in other Branches securing at least a B—average and not less than C in either.

(b) **Language requirements**—Persons who have not taken the required language papers in their B. D. course and/or who have not secured the minimum grade prescribed for the language papers required for admission to their Branch of specialisation shall be required to take an examination in the language (s) concerned and pass at the level required for the Branch of specialization [See specific Branch for requirements].

4. REGISTRATION:

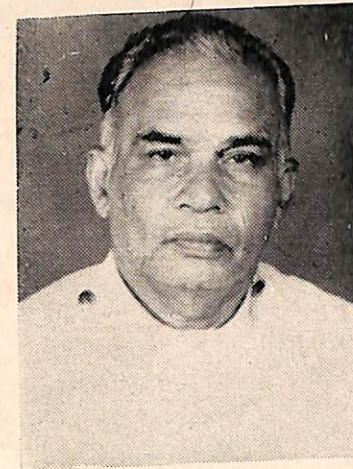
(a) Applications for registration must be made on the prescribed form and must reach the Registrar on or before August 10th in the first year of a candidate's M. Th. studies. Applications received later than the specified date may be accepted up to 31st August of the same year at the discretion of the Registrar, subject to the payment of a late registration fee.

(b) Before a candidate is registered for the M. Th. course of studies, he or she shall normally have at least one year of practical experience in some field of Christian service after his or her basic theological degree. However, in the case of applicants who wish to specialise in the Branch of Christian Ministry, two years of practical experience shall normally be required. The faculties of Post-graduate Colleges are expected to scrutinize the applications carefully and hold personal interview of candidates.

(c) Specific additional requirements for admission are given along with the details for each Branch of study.

5. PERIOD OF STUDY:

Candidates are ordinarily required to study as internal students in an affiliated post-graduate college for a period of two years. In the case of applicants who wish to specialise in the branch of Christian Ministry, one of these years or a part thereof, may be an involvement in a study project under careful supervision. Exemptions from this rule can be granted only by the Committee on Academic Administration and will be made only under exceptional circumstances and only for a period of up to one year for any candidate, depending upon the merits of each case. The maximum time limit for completing all requirements shall be five years from the time of registration.



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6. M. Th. CURRICULUM:

(a) A candidate shall choose one of the following as his or her Branch of specialisation:

- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Christian Theology
- History of Christianity
- Religions
- Christian Ethics
- Christian Ministry

(b) A candidate is expected to complete a total of 25-30 credits of course work with a minimal of a C— Grade. Of the total, normally six credits shall be from a Branch or Branches other than the Branch of specialisation and the remainder from the Branch of specialisation. For purposes of fulfilling the requirement of six credits from another Branch or Branches, inter-disciplinary courses which are listed in both the Branch of specialisation and in one or more other Branches may be considered as outside the Branch of specialisation.

(c) A candidate is expected to submit a thesis (weightage 15 credits) on a subject within the Branch of specialisation. It is recognized that the thesis subject may also be related to another Branch, but the major focus should be from the candidate's Branch of specialisation. But in the case of M. Th. candidates specialising in Christian Ministry and chose a research project, the length of the project shall be about 15,000 words.

(d) To qualify for the M. Th. Degree a candidate is expected to earn 40-45 credits, one credit represents approximately 100 hours of work, and six credits is approximately equivalent to a full paper in the former curriculum.

(e) The thesis and course work of not less than 9 credits shall be evaluated by the Senate; the remaining course work will be evaluated by the College in which candidate undertakes the programme of studies. The courses to be Senate-examined shall be registered at the time of registration; the College-evaluated courses may be registered either at the time of registration or at the time of submitting the thesis title.

7. FEES:

(a) Fees shall be payable according to the rates fixed by the Senate of Serampore College from time to time.

(b) The registration fee shall be payable at the time of submitting application for registration. The examination fee shall be payable on or before October 15th of the first year of M. Th. studies. The thesis fee shall be payable at the time of submitting the thesis. Referred course examination fees are payable on or before October 15th of the academic year in which the referred examination are given. The referred thesis fee shall be payable at the time the thesis is re-submitted. Fees are non-refundable. However, in the case of illness preventing a candidate from taking an examination, application with a supporting certificate from a qualified medical practitioner may be made by the Principal of the College through which the candidate is registered for transference of the examination fee; such transfers shall be subject to a 20% deduction. In the case of College-evaluated course the Colleges concerned may fix their own fees.

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8. EXAMINATION:

- (a) A candidate is normally expected to take the Senate examinations at the end of the 1st year of M. Th. studies, and to complete the College examinations and thesis by March 31st of the 2nd year.
- (b) A time-table of the Senate examinations will be furnished by the Registrar to each College with place, dates, time and details of the examinations. The method and time of evaluating the College-evaluated courses shall be fixed by the individual Colleges. For courses evaluated by the College, the College concerned shall also appoint external examiners from a panel approved by the Senate.
- (c) The maximum time allowed for writing each examination is 3 hours.
- (d) To successfully complete a programme of M. Th. studies a candidate must earn a minimum of 40 credits, which shall include the required courses and the thesis, securing at least a C— grade on all 40 credits.

(e) The following is the key to the grading system in the examination:

First Class	Second Class	Third Class	Failure
A + (80% and above)	B+ (65%)	C+ (50%)	D (30%)
A (75%)	B (60%)	C (45%)	E (20%)
A- (70%)	B- (55%)	C- (40%)	F (10%)

- (f) In awarding grades for the thesis, examiners will take into consideration the following matters:
 - (i) Accuracy and range of knowledge of the subject as shown by acquaintance with books and published and unpublished documents or based on personal investigation.
 - (ii) Coherence of the argument.
 - (iii) Independence of thought.
 - (iv) Presentation (format, typing errors, etc.).
- (g) Of the courses taken during a particular academic year, a candidate must earn at least 50% of the credits involved failing which he or she will receive no credit for courses taken that year.
- (h) In case of failure in one or more courses and/or the thesis a candidate may be permitted a maximum of two resits of the concerned courses and a maximum of two resubmissions of the thesis within the five year period in which all requirements must be met if the candidate is to receive the M. Th. degree.
- (i) The degree of Master of Theology (M. Th.) will be conferred upon a candidate who successfully meets the requirements set forth in 8 (d) above.

9. CENTRE FOR EXAMINATION:

Serampore College and all affiliated Colleges shall be centres for the Senate examinations. Normally candidates shall take the examinations at the College through which they were registered for the examinations. If for any reason a candidate has to write an examination in another place in India or outside, the Committee on Academic Administration, if satisfied, will decide the extra fee to be levied.

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10. THESIS FOR THE M. Th. DEGREE:

The following rules are to be observed regarding the preparation and submission of a thesis for the M. Th. Degree:

- (a) A candidate shall submit his or her proposed thesis title to the College in which he or she is studying by October 15th of the first year of M. Th. studies, for approval by the Faculty of that College by the end of November of the same year, and forwarded by the College to the Registrar of the Senate by January 31st of the same academic year for registration with the Senate. Any modification of the title must be approved prior to August 31st of the following academic year.
- (b) The thesis must be typewritten on one side only on paper of approximately 8½" × 11" and bound in stiff covers.
- (c) Three copies of the thesis must be submitted not later than March 31st of the Second year of M. Th. studies. Any extension of time shall be subject to approval by the Committee on Academic Administration, will be considered only upon submission of valid reasons, and will be granted only for a specific period of time according to the merits of each case.
- (d) A candidate preparing a M. Th. thesis is expected to work under the supervision of a qualified member of the staff of the College in which he or she undertakes residential studies.
- (e) The length of the thesis shall be about 20,000 words. But in the case of M. Th. candidates specializing in Christian Ministry and choose a research project, the length of the project shall be 15,000 words.
- (f) The thesis may be either in English or in one of the Indian languages approved by the Committee on Academic Administration; if in the latter, a summary of about 5,000 words in English certified by the supervisor shall be supplied.
- (g) A list of books consulted shall be appended to the thesis and exact references to quotations given.
- (h) *Abstracts:* When a candidate submits his or her thesis, he or she shall also submit three copies of an abstract of approximately 300 words. The abstract shall be a brief summary of the problem, the methodology followed in the research, and the main findings. When a thesis is resubmitted following revision, three copies of a revised abstract shall also be submitted.
- (i) One of the examiners of the thesis shall be a teacher under whose supervision it has been prepared.
- (j) *Viva voce:* Under certain circumstances a *viva voce* may be required through an interview with persons appointed by the Committee on Academic Administration, one of whom shall be the supervisor of the candidate. The panel of examiners shall consist of at least three persons of whom one shall be from outside the College appointed by the Registrar, and the rest from the College faculty, including the supervisor of the candidate. A *viva voce* shall normally be required if requested by any one of the examiners or the Registrar or the candidate. In case a *viva voce* is requested by the candidate, he or she shall pay a fee of Rs. 50/-, which shall be refundable in case the *viva voce* is not held.
- (k) Before a thesis is published the writer should obtain the permission of the Committee on Academic Administration. When published, the author will be expected to deposit three copies with the Senate.

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Application and Prospectus	Rs. 15/-
Registration	Rs. 50/-
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Tuition (For full course)	Rs. 1000/-

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