



THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE FOR MISSION AND EVANGELISM STUDIES

PROSPECTUS



Grace Ministries of India
www.graceindia.in

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God's Doing...

It is the realization of our long time apparition to commence a Theological Institute in the perspective of mission and evangelism as another branch of GMI. I am sure that God's hand is enormously dynamic behind this endeavor and this Institute will not only enable to accomplish the vision of GMI but also help to emerge theologically trained men and women for the extension of God's kingdom in our nation. It was one of the important missions of the first century apostles of our Lord to give teachings and His commandments to all the nations transversely the globe. The church was inevitably enduring this mission in its ecclesiastical voyage. Whenever she forgot or overlooked this mission, she underwent much trauma and confronts in terms of heresy and relapse. My earnest prayer is that, let God the almighty use the TIMES for the perfect fulfillment of the vision of GMI, "a fully reached nation with an indigenous church in every village".

May God bless us.

D.J.Ajithkumar
President of GMI

Need of Theological Studies

The Theological Institute for Mission and Evangelism Studies (TIMES) is one of the important theological and ministry trainings in India which has been offering various programmes at different levels. These courses are particularly designed for those who involve in different areas of Christian Mission and who wish to perk up their ministry proficiency with a systematic study of the word of God without disquieting their ministry endeavors. The B.C.S and Dip.C.S are the courses offered by the Senate of Serampore College (University) which is the best and first university offers theological education and provides high quality teaching for lay people. The TIMES equips the candidates to appear the examinations of these courses (Dip.C.S and B.C.S) conducted by the Senate of Serampore College (University). Further, TIMES also offers B.Th and C.Th courses which impart standardized quality of theological education at an affordable cost. This prospectus will give you a comprehensible proposal about the diverse courses of TIMES and facilitate you to apply for any course in which you are fascinated.

Wish you every success in this academic pursuit.
God bless you

Director of **TIMES**

THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE FOR MISSION AND EVANGELISM STUDIES (TIMES)

The Theological Institute for Mission and Evangelism Studies (TIMES) is a multid denominational graduate institution in extension functioning under the Grace Ministries of India (GMI). The TIMES is founded to give systematic theological training in the area of mission and evangelism to prepare and send forth well-trained and committed missionaries and social workers with excellent theological understanding for evangelistic ministry purely in the perspective of mission and evangelism.

I. GRACE MINISTRIES OF INDIA (GMI)

Grace Ministries of India (GMI) is an indigenous and interdenominational missionary movement functioning in compliance with the greatest commandment and the Great Commission of Lord Jesus Christ. Rooted in Kerala, its branches are spread all over India, reaching the North Eastern boarder state of Tripura. The Ministry was started in 1980 under the leadership of D.J.Ajithkumar and grew up as an organization spreading into all parts of India through multifaceted activities like Resident Missionary Work, Mobile Tent Ministry, Theological Institute for Mission and Evangelism Studies (TIMES), Grace Fests, Christian Ashrams, Disciples' Family Fellowship, Happy Family Mission and so on.

I.1. Resident Missionary Work

Resident Missionary Work is the focal activity of GMI to accomplish its vision, "A fully reached nation with an indigenous church in every village." It is a church - planting programme in

the unreached villages. These Church planters are working in 17 states of India and the neighboring countries: Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. At present, a total number of 1600 villages are concentrated by these church planters. Now (2010) GMI has 222 such Missionaries and 324 congregations.

I.2.Mobile Tent Ministry

Mobile Tent Ministry was launched in 1995 by the GMI. This is an innovative concept in evangelism, aimed at reaching our great nation, both rural and urban, with the message of the saving Grace of our Lord. GMI is currently equipped with two MTM units, one TATA and one Ashok Leyland trucks. These vehicles are used to carry materials like tents, platforms, PA systems, film projectors, video projectors, power generating systems, music systems, lights equipments, other accessories and tools. When fully erected, each tent can hold more than 2000 people. It takes only five to six hours to pitch the tent. Meetings are held within the tent for one day or more according to the response and need. Since the commencement of this ministry, millions of people have been reached both in the rural and urban part of India by Mobile Tent Ministry.

I.3.Christian Ashrams

Establishing Christian Ashrams is another important work of GMI. 'Giving living water in an Indian cup' is the approach of Ashram ministry of GMI. The first such Ashram named 'Kristukripa Ashram' was established at Kattakada in the year 1993. Now GMI has four Ashrams in different States. In Kristukripa Ashram activities like Sat-Sanghs, Smrity (School of Major Religions and Indian Christian Theology), Hannah Prayer, Counseling & Prayer, Lydia Tailoring School (Free tailoring school), Gratia

Computer Training Centre Free computer training), Gurukulam Vidyapeedam, Manna Food, Elim Medical , Inter-faith Dialogue and so on are conducted.

I.4.Grace Fests

This is a means of mass evangelism for the cities and semi-cities where a gospel meeting has not yet been conducted. In these campaigns, the urban elite, the affluent and even the labor class gather in large numbers. The gospel is preached effectively in their own context. These campaigns are arranged in association with the local church leaders. Every year, more than ten such campaigns are arranged in different cities of the nation.

I.5.Hafam

Happy Family Mission is a noble scheme implemented with the vision of adoption of a suffering family by a happy family and making it a happy one. In other words, it is a scheme of helping the starving families by providing them with necessary food materials at their houses every month. In this programme, adequate amount of grocery items will be provided to those families who cannot eke out their living for some genuine reasons; that is to say, the bread – winner of the family is either dead or becomes invalid. The supporting families would see that the food materials should reach the beneficiaries regularly and systematically. Apart from providing foodstuff, items like clothes, medicines, small items of furniture, and materials for the children's education and so on would also be supplied by those who are willing to do so. A monitoring committee will function under the coordinator for the smooth and efficient functioning of the Happy Family Mission. Now 350 families are adopted in HAFAM.

II. MISSION STATEMENT OF TIMES

- ◆ To provide theological training for the people those who are in mission, evangelism, and other Christian service.
- ◆ To work with the vision of GMI, ‘A Fully Reached Nation with an Indigenous Church in Every Village’.

III. THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- ◆ To help the students to understand the urgency of Evangelism.
- ◆ To help the students to understand the need of social action in the area of Evangelism.
- ◆ To enable the students to have an in-depth and contextual study of the Bible.
- ◆ To help the students to understand the relation between Theology, Mission and Evangelism.
- ◆ To help the students to become effective ministers of Word with a well balanced understanding of the Word of God.
- ◆ To develop the theological and Biblical knowledge to interpret the Word of God.
- ◆ To help the candidates to apply the Word of God in relation with the social issues and the present situation.
- ◆ To relate the approach of ministry to mission/ ministry within the cultural context.

- ◆ To critically evaluate the ministry of the candidate and suggest methodologies to achieve appropriate transformation where essential.
- ◆ To commence the TIMES all over India.
- ◆ To help the ministers / missionaries / pastors / evangelists who are in the field of mission to perform their ministry with good knowledge of the word of God and help them to interpret the Bible in its meaning.

IV. ACCREDITATION AND FACULTIES

The candidates who are enrolling Dip.C.S and B.C.S are taught in such a way that they will be equipped for writing the examinations conducted by the Senate of Serampore College (University), Kolkata. The candidates who are enrolling for C.Th and B.Th will be able to do their higher studies with Theological Institute for Mission and Evangelism Studies. The Institute is lectured by notable faculties both theologians and missiologists from reputed, recognized and accredited Seminaries and Colleges.

V. SENATE OF SERAMPORE COLLEGE (UNIVERSITY)

The Senate of Serampore College (University) is located in Serampore Town, in Hooghly District, West Bengal, India. Serampore was granted the status of university in 1829, making it India's first university. The university was founded by William Carey, Marshman and Ward in 1818 and incorporated by Danish Royal Charter 1827 (Governed by Bengal Act IV of 1918) to give an education in Arts and Sciences to students and to train a ministry for the growing Church in India. The Senate of Serampore College

(University) runs the academic administration of all its affiliated theological colleges. The Council of Serampore College holds a Danish Charter and had the power to confer degrees in any subject, which it currently exercises only for conferring theological degrees as recommended by the Senate. Several theological Colleges and Seminaries all over India including Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are affiliated to the Senate of Serampore College. King Frederick VI of Denmark originally granted a Royal Charter giving the Senate of Serampore College the status of a degree granting university. The Senate of Serampore College (University) is a University within the meaning of Section 2 (f) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (as modified up to 20th December 1985). In fact, Serampore was the first institution to be given the status of a university in India. It confers its own degrees in Theology under the power vested by the Charter and Act of Serampore College.

VI. COURSES

- 1 CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY(C.Th)
- 2 DIPLOMA IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES(Dip C.S)
- 3 BACHELOR IN THEOLOGY (B.Th)
- 4 BACHELOR IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES (B.C.S)

VI.1. CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY

This is a foundational course mainly focused to give theological education for the persons who are already in the ministry having no formal educational qualification or less educated. Those who can read and write in their own mother tongues can enroll in this course. This course may help them

to get a wider understanding in the Bible and Mission. This course will also help to carry out their ministry in systematic and effective method. The objective of the course is to enable the candidate to get a proper theological understanding and make effective missionaries with basic theological education.

VI.1.a. Course Requirements

1. Those who can read and write in their own language can enroll this course. (10th/SSLC is always preferred)
2. Those who are in the Christian Ministry.
3. Those who are interested in the Christian Ministry

VI.1.b. Duration of the Course.

One year

VI.1.c. Medium of Study and Examinations

The medium of study and examination shall be in the regional languages.

VI.1.d. Curriculum

The subjects offered for C.Th are listed below:

- 1 Life, Teaching and work of Jesus
- 2 The Bible - its formation , interpretation and significance for the Christian faith
- 3 Christian faith affirmation
- 4 Christian worship traditions , rites and festivals
- 5 Origin and developments of Christianity in India

- 6 A survey of biblical history
- 7 Christian Ministry, Evangelism, Church Planting, Church Growth
- 8 Introduction to Major Religions and Indian Christian Theology
- 9 Social Problems in India, Social Action in Evangelism, Studying Society

VI.2 DIPLOMA IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES (Dip.C.S)

The Diploma in Christian Studies is offered by the Senate of Serampore College (University). The responsibility for administering the programme is with the Committee on Academic Administration under the overall supervision of the senate of Serampore College. Dip.C.S is designed to provide a specifically Christian perspective for the study of Christianity, to show the essential unity as well as diversity of the Christian Faith, to study history of Christianity in India as an integral part of Indian social, cultural, and political unity, to interpret Christian faith in its struggles to meet the contemporary challenges to be relevant and contextual and to promote inter-faith harmony for peaceful co-existence among various religious communities in India. TIMES helps the candidate to study this course in a perspective of mission and evangelism. The objectives of the course is to provide an opportunity in the Indian context for the study of Christianity, its history, faith, and practice, to make aware of the life, teaching, and work of Jesus Christ in the Indian context. Further, the course will help to interpret the Bible, its formation and its significance for

Christian faith in the Indian context and to provide an opportunity in the Indian context for the study of the interaction of Christianity with people of other faiths and cultures. Moreover, this will enhance to study the interaction of Christianity with the socio-economic and political realities of India/ South Asia in the Indian context. The course will also help to equip for ministering the people in their context. The studies will give focus on a mission and evangelism perspective.

VI.2.a.Course Requirements

At the time of registration the candidate should have:

1. Completed 18 years of age
2. Pass 10+2 with eligibility to enter a degree course of a University.

OR

3. Passed 10th class and have done two years of further study in a theological or secular institution and had experience in Christian ministry or any public service.

OR

4. Passed 10th class and should have had experience of at least five years in any form of service acceptable to the Senate

VI.2.b. Registration

The academic year for the Dip.C.S Course will begin in January and ends in December. A candidate is expected to send the Registration Form by 30th November each year prior to commencing the study. The Registration Form should be submitted along with the following documents:

- (i) Academic certificates or certified copies of academic qualifications.
- (ii) Birth Certificate or other acceptable evidence of date of birth.
- (iii) A certificate of character from his/her appropriate church authorities.
- (iv) Additional information and references that may be considered desirable in support of his/her application.
- (v) The registration fee should be sent by Demand Draft drawn in favor of the Senate of Serampore College.
- (vi) The application for registration that reaches the Registrar later than the specified date may be received at the discretion of the Registrar provided that it reaches him not later than 30th November of the same year on payment of a late registration fee.
- (vii) The application submitted without any of the above will be rejected.

VI.2.c. Medium of Study and Examination

The medium of study and examination shall be English and any other language approved by the Senate.

VI.2.d. Duration of the Course

The duration of the course is two years. However, the diploma should be completed within a maximum of four years from the date of registration.

VI.2.e. Curriculum

VI.2.e. i. Compulsory Foundational Courses

1. Life, Teaching and work of Jesus
2. The Bible - its formation, interpretation and significance for the Christian faith
3. Christian faith affirmation
4. Christian worship traditions, rites and festivals
5. Origin and developments of Christianity in India
6. A survey of biblical history
7. Life and thought of Paul the Apostle
8. Christian Ministry, Evangelism, Church Planting, Church Growth
9. Introduction to Major Religions and Indian Christian Theology
10. Social Problems in India, Social Action in Evangelism, Studying Society

VI.2.f. Optional Papers (5 papers are to be opted)

1. Images names and titles of Jesus Christ in the Bible and in the Contemporary Society
2. Selected Literary Texts from Bible
3. Christian response to Other Faith
4. Christian Ethics
5. Introduction to Communication
6. Introduction to Social Analysis

VI.3. BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY (B.Th)

The main focus of this course is to train mission oriented people in such a way that they will be effective Christian workers for the extension of the Kingdom of God. During the course of studies they will be taught the Word of God together with other related subjects such as Understanding Indian society, Christian response to the multi-faith Society, Counselling and so on. This may help the students to get a wider understanding about the social and cultural situations in India and they will be well equipped for ministering the Gospel in an effective way without hurting the emotions of other religions. ALL THE INFORMATION LIKE OBJECTIVE, COURSE REQUIREMENTS, MEDIUM and CURRICULUM are exactly as same as Dip.C.S Course. The additional papers for BTh are listed below.

1. Christian Management (Leadership, Organization, Vision, Mission, Strategy, Finance, Performance, Human Resource, Time etc)
2. Mission, Evangelism and Missiological Issues
3. Cultural Anthropology and Christian Mission
4. Theologies of Christian Mission
5. Linguistic Study and Phonetics
6. Social Analysis and Research
7. Dissertation

VI.3.a. Duration of the Course

The duration of the course is three years.

VI.4. BACHELOR OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES (B.C.S)

The laity are the presence of the church in the world. They are called to commend their faith particularly in their secular professions or vocation in which they are involved and participate in the process of social change. The B.C.S Degree Course is designed to provide Christian professional and laity with academic skills for an in-depth understanding of Christian faith, history, doctrine and practical dimensions of ministry to interact with their neighbors and professionals colleges in their common quest for meaning of life. The course is intended to integrate theological education with the professional orientation of the candidates as well as to facilitate lay leadership in the church and society. This course is equivalent to BD or M.Div.

The Objectives of the B.C.S Degree programme shall be to:

- (a) Develop “Kingdom of God” values (with special reference to justice, peace and Integrity of all creation)
- (b) Create critical conscious and openness, to analyze cultural, social, economic, political and ecclesiastical values.
- (c) Provide tools for interpreting the word of God in different contexts in society.
- (d) Enable more persons to become effective witnesses in the context of their varied and diversified vocations.
- (e) Provide theological education as a transforming influence in personal, ecclesial and societal life.

VI.4.a. Course Requirements.

(i) A candidate should be a holder any Bachelor Degree from a recognized Indian University.

OR

(ii) A holder of the Diploma in Christian Studies of Serampore College (University) in II Class including Two qualifying English Papers (B.Th.72&73).

OR

(iii) A mature person who is at least 25 years of age and, was prevented for special reasons from pursuing his/her secular studies and is able to produce evidence to that effect and has been in full time vocation/profession/employment for two years and has passed the “Mature Candidate” Entrance Examination. This examination will be conducted by the Senate and will consist of Seven Papers.

VI.4.b. Registration for the Course

The academic year for the B.C.S.Degree Course is January to December. For registration, an applicant must provide (a) academic certificates or certified copies of academic qualification (b) certificate of birth, registration or other acceptable evidence of date of birth (c) a satisfactory certificate of character from his/her appropriate church authorities, and (d) must be ready to supply additional information and references that may be considered desirable in support of his/her application. The registration form should reach TIMES office on or before 1st of December or 15th with payment of late registration fee as indicated in the fee structure.

VI.4.c. Medium

The medium of study and examination for the B.C.S. shall be English, However, candidate may be permitted to study and write the examination in the regional language approved by the Senate.

VI.4.d. Duration of the Degree

The B.C.S Degree Course shall be of 4(four) years duration from the date of registration. The maximum time allowed to complete the degree is Seven years.

VI.4.e. Curriculum

VI.4.e.i. Compulsory Foundations Course

- 1 Understanding the Old Testament (Content, History, Critical Study of Text)
- 2 Re reading of selected Old Testament books from liberation perspective
- 3 Understanding the New Testament (Content, History, Critical Study of Books)
- 4 Jesus as presented in the gospels with the study of selected text
- 5 Understanding Christians Faith
- 6 Introduction to Christian Ethics
- 7 History of Christianity in India
- 8 Selected events in the history of Christianity with emphasis of ecumenical movement
- 9 Outline of major religions and traditions in India
- 10 Christian response to multi faith society

- 11 Introduction to christen ministry
- 12 Introduction to communication
- 13 Christological issues – classical and contemporary

VI.4.e.ii.Optional Courses

- 1 Re reading of selected Text Wisdom Literature
Or
- 2 Re reading of selected Text from the book of Psalms.
- 3 Contemporary missiological issues
- 4 Re reading of the Gospel of John
Or
- 5 Re reading of the Letters of St.Paul.
- 6 Contextual Theology-Minjung, Liberation, Dalit, Feminist, Black etc
- 7 Modern religious and secular movements in India
- 8 Christian education and social change
- 9 Introduction to counseling
- 10 Communication ethics
- 11 Professional issues in Christian perspective (choose one)
- 12 MEDICAL-Healing Ministry
 - ◆ Labour and industrial
 - ◆ Social work
 - ◆ Teaching
 - ◆ Technology
 - ◆ Legal
 - ◆ Professional ethics
 - ◆ Any other

- 13 Christian perspective of contemporary Issues (Choose One)
 - ◆ Ecology
 - ◆ Conflict resolution and peace building
 - ◆ Human Right
 - ◆ Woman in church and society
 - ◆ Globalization
 - ◆ Communalism and fundamentalism
- 14 Understanding Social Analysis
- 15 Language study and other requirements (see Senate regulations)

VII. FEE STRUCTURE

VII.1. Course-C.Th

(i) Application & Prospectus	- ₹150
(ii) Registration Fee	- ₹200
(iii) Tuition Fee	- ₹150 Per Month
(iv) Notes	- ₹900 (150 per paper)
(vi) Examination Fee	- ₹600 (100 per paper)

VII.2. Course.Dip.C.S.

(i) Application & Prospectus (TIMES)	- ₹150
(ii) Application & Prospectus (Senate)	- ₹400
(iii) Registration Fee (Senate)	- ₹400
(iv) Tuition Fee	- ₹150 per month
(iv) Exam Fee(Senate)	- ₹250 per paper
(v) Special Fee(Senate)	- ₹200
(vi) Printed Notes in Regional Language(TIMES)	- ₹2000 (1000x2)

VII.3. Course-B.Th

(i) Application & Prospectus	- ₹ 150
(ii) Registration Fee	- ₹ 200
(iii) Tuition Fee	- ₹ 150/month
(viii) Printed Notes in Regional Language	- ₹ 4000 (1500+ 1500+ 1000)
(v) Exam Fee	- ₹ 250/paper
(vii) Thesis Fee (Final year)	- ₹ 1000

VII.4. Course-B.C.S.

(i) Application & Prospectus (TIMES)	- ₹ 150
(ii) Application & Prospectus (Senate)	- ₹ 400
(iii) Registration Fee (Senate)	- ₹ 400
(iv) Tuition Fee (Senate)	- ₹ 1000/year
(v) Contact Seminar Fee (Senate)	- ₹ 1500 (2 years compulsory)
(vi) Compilation Note (Senate)	- ₹ 800 (one time fee)
(vii) Exam Fee (Senate)	- ₹ 250/paper
(viii) Special Fee (Senate)	- ₹ 200
(ix) Printed Notes in Regional Language (TIMES) (Optional)	- ₹ 4000 (4x1000)
(x) Tuition Fee (TIMES) (Optional)	- ₹ 150 per month

VIII. CLASS ROOM TEACHING (CRT)

Each Course is introduced at compulsory Class Room Teaching (CRT) for three days in a month. The CRT is arranged in various states of India in English and regional languages. No special fee is needed for CRT. However, travelling, accommodation (boarding/lodging) and food have to be arranged by the candidate in their own expense. At the third day of every CRT, there will be a class

test and the marks will be included in the internal assessment. The internal assessment is based on three criteria- mark in the class test, assignments, and attendance in CRT. There will be useful and healthy discussions and explorations during CRT.

IX. APPLICATION FORM

1. All applicants should complete the application form enclosed with this prospectus.
2. Applications from ordained ministers should be accompanied by endorsements from their local church and the appropriate officer of the denomination/church on the appropriate endorsement forms.
3. Applications from other candidates should be accompanied by endorsements from their local church and the appropriate officer of the organization for whom they work on the appropriate endorsement forms.
4. Applications should be accompanied by the relevant degree certificates or attested copies of such certificates.
5. Application should be made to the Director, TIMES at the address given on the application form.

X. AFTER THE COURSE

The TIMES equips the candidates to carry out the Christian ministry in effective manner with proper theological understanding as mentioned earlier in the objectives and mission statement of TIMES. After the completion of the course, the candidate can either proceed for their higher studies or work in their ministerial context. Those who are intended to work with the Grace Ministries of India (GMI), can give their service with GMI. As mentioned earlier, there are various activities in the diverse fields of GMI. However, it is not compulsory that the candidate must work with GMI after the completion of the course.



Printed and Published By
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