



**Department of Christian Studies  
UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS**

cordially invites you to a webinar on

**“Contemporary Social Concerns and Christian Scriptures:  
Hermeneutical Explorations”**

09 & 10 November – 10.00 AM – 01.00 PM (Both Days)

Biblical interpretation has come a long way, passing through literal, allegorical, analogical, ecclesial, evangelical, contextual approaches, and so on. The modern era saw the blossoming of historical critical method in its various strands of ‘criticisms’, which explored the Bible with critical depth. The contemporary approach, however, has come to centre round the hermeneutical method that opens up an interpretative engagement with texts. What has come to significantly inform this method is a set of approaches which privilege the reader as the starting point and the reader’s response as a meaningful way of discovering the meaning of the Biblical texts. When it begins with the reader, it is the context of the reader which counts as the anchor of the meaning-making process. ‘How can the contemporary reader, represented by various contexts, especially the contexts of marginality, subalternity and oppression, can read and find the liberative meaning in the Bible?’ is therefore a significant question that arises from the hermeneutical opening. This seminar poses the question in the present-day context and tries to bring about inspiring conversations on the subject.

**Programme**

09-11-2020, Monday

**Inaugural Address:**

**Rev. Fr. Dr. Alvin Peter Fernando**

(Secretary, Sri Lankan Biblical Scholars’ Association)

**Speakers:**

1. **Dr. Bennet Lawrence** (Assistant Regional Secretary, Asian Theological Association)  
*“Psychological Rhetorical Analysis: Paul’s Use of Empathy in Philippians”*
2. **Dr. M. Ubald** (Secretary, TNBC Commission for Bible)  
*“Christian Scriptures and Contemporary Religio-cultural Nationalism”*
3. **Dr. S. Sobanaraj** (Professor, Madras Theological and Seminary College)  
*“Paul’s Approach to the Reality of Migration”*
4. **Dr. Jegan Kumar OMI** (Professor of Biblical Studies, Sri Lanka)  
*“Inter-textual Readings of the Bible: The Concept of Faith and Grades of Faith in the Gospels and Its parallels in Hindu-Buddhist Scriptures”*
5. **Dr. Arvind Jeyakumar Moniraj** (Professor, Gurukul Lutheran Theological College & Research Institute)  
*“Biblical Resources for Responding to COVID 19”*

10-11-2020, Tuesday

**Speakers:**

6. **Dr. Sharon Jacob** (Asst. Professor of New Testament, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California)  
*“Made in Bethlehem! Reading Mary alongside Indian Surrogate Mothers”*
7. **Dr. Arul Raja** (Director, Institute of Dialogue of Cultures and Religions, Chennai)  
*“Revisiting the Dalit Biblical Commentaries Today”*
8. **Dr. Pushpa Joseph** (Formerly Provincial Superior, Bangalore Province of FMM & Trustee, United Board, Hong Kong )  
*“Revisiting Indian Feminist Interpretation of Bible Today”*
9. **Dr. Jayachitra Lalitha** (Director, EKKLESIA Centre for Biblical Research and Pastoral Accompaniment)  
*“Gender-Sexuality Nexus – Mary Magdalene and Postcolonial Feminist Hermeneutics”*
10. **Dr. Nelavala Gnaana Prasuna** (Professor, Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute, Chennai)  
*“A Dalit Feminist Hermeneutical Interaction with the Bible”*
11. **Dr. Immanuel Ebenezar** (Guest Lecturer, Dept of Christian Studies, University of Madras) &  
**Ms. Arputhamani** (PG Student, Dept of Christian Studies, University of Madras)  
*“Tamil Translations of the Bible: Overview and Prospects”*

**Registration Link:** <https://forms.gle/oE8t5BVJnwbKjrMS6>

- Participants are requested to register in advance by clicking the above registration link.
- Google Meet link, ID & Password of the webinar will be sent to the registered participants on the basis of first come first served.

**Dr. E. D. Immanuel Ebenezar**  
**Dr. Anthuvan Akilan Xavier**  
(Conveners)

**Dr. Gnaana Patrick**  
(Director)