



A Baptist Seminary
of South India
Newsletter

Refresh

REFLECTIONS

From Our President's Desk....



When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way to Gilgal. And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here". But Elisha said, "I will not leave you"....Elijah said to him, "Please stay here"...but Elisha said, "I will not leave you".....Elijah said to him, "Please stay here, for the Lord has sent me to Jordan....but Elisha said, "I will not leave you". (2 Kings 2:1,2,4,6)

Elijah ministered during Israel's spiritual run-down time. He was known for his courage as he ministered fearlessly under wicked Ahab and Jezebel, performing some of the spectacular miracles of the Old Testament. In 2 Kings chapter 2, the time had come for this great man to depart. The departure of such a great man should have been placed in a setting of VIP glamor, but strangely, the chapter presents a private setting. There are enough indications in this text that Elijah knew exactly what was going to happen to him as he was about to be taken into heaven by means of a whirlwind without seeing death. That should have been the grand finale for this great man to publicly demonstrate how great and close to God he was. But to our surprise, we see in the above verses that Elijah was trying to separate himself from his only companion, Elisha, who wants to be with him during those last moments. Three times in this chapter, as we read above, Elijah tells Elisha, "Please stay here," which indicates that Elijah did not want even Elisha to see what will happen to him.

There is an important lesson we all could learn from this inspired account in 2 Kings 2, and here it is: Humility and not heroism is the unseen halo around great men and women. Great lives are lived not always on the platforms of performances but also in those secret private moments of solitude. Elijah did not use every opportunity to prove himself to be a hero, instead, he sought to be alone during the most spectacular event of his life. Between humility and heroism, what do we choose? True greatness is the kingdom of God comes through the former and not the latter, and that may be the reason John the Baptist prayed, "He must increase but I must decrease (John 3:30)." Let us not forget that Jesus himself addressed John as Elijah (Matt.17:11-13). May God grant us the courage to be humble with all wisdom in a society of glamorous heroes. May we not go insane in a culture of Instagram celebrity but stay with the Spirit's humility always.

I had an opportunity to minister for 2 days in the month of September at Evangelical Baptist Church in Delhi which is pastored by two of our graduates. During my stay there I heard from the congregation that they are pleased to witness humility and hear expository sermons from our graduates. There is no greater joy for us than to witness such testimonies concerning our graduates and we praise God for the same. Please continue to pray for the needs of the Seminary. We are yet to complete 33% of the work in our new building where we have already started functioning. We still need 1.6 crores (\$170,000) to complete the work, of which we urgently need Rs. 25 lakhs (\$30,000) to clear off some pending payments to our contractor. As of now, we have decided to put the work on hold until we clear off the pending payments. The seminary is also running on a monthly deficit of Rs. 33,000 (\$400). Please also pray for a good groundwater source for the seminary as our borewell does not have enough water to supply our needs. This situation has led us to buy water every day which has become an additional expense while we are already running on a monthly deficit of Rs. 33,000 (\$400). We appreciate your prayers and support and we continue to solicit the same.

- Simeon Sundar



BSSI family 2023-24



First Chapel Service in our new building



PRAY FOR US

- That the Lord may continue to provide the required funds for both the training as well as the building construction needs.
- For the well-being and faithfulness of our students, faculty and staff.
- For our graduating class, that they may continually seek God's will and guidance as they prepare for His ministry.
- For our alumni in different parts of the world. Pray that the Lord would strengthen and bless them as they co-labor in His vineyard.
- For the safety of our construction workers.



BUILDING UPDATE



Partner with us by investing in at least One SQUARE FOOT, at ₹1,800 (\$30) per square feet

To make a contribution please visit the 'Get Involved' page on our website bssiindia.org/get-involved

"All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for . . . training in righteousness." - 2 Timothy 3:16-17