



# BIBLE COLLEGE UPDATE

LIFE AND LEARNING DURING LOCKDOWN



## HOPE FOR CHURCHES: UPDATE FROM THE RHEMA REVIVAL BIBLE COLLEGE!

Welcome to our Autumn Term update from the ATA Accredited Rhema Revival Bible College. Our new year at Rhema Revival Bible College started in a slightly different way - via video calls but we are thrilled that our university can continue to run in these unprecedented times.

### MEET VASTHI & GOLD!



Exciting news! On **17th November at 6.30pm GMT** Vasthi and Gold will host a 30 minute session about the bible college so you can hear live from India how everything is going.

To book your spot at this free event email Hilary on [Info@hopegardensindia.org](mailto:Info@hopegardensindia.org) who will send you the details.

### DID YOU KNOW

80%

80% of our staff teams at Rhema Revival Churches are alumni of this college.

9

This college directly brings employment for 9 local people.



19 Tamil Speaking students are enrolled and remotely learning.

### NEW ACADEMIC YEAR, NEW WAY OF LEARNING!

Technology has certainly been our friend over the last few months. Without this we would not have been able to finish off our 2019/20 academic year and even recruit our new students for 2020/21. I am so grateful that we have been able to conduct our faculty meetings and teaching all on whatsapp video or zoom. Of course not all students have great connection you heard about Samuel having to climb a hill for 30 minutes to even get a phone call - our students are dedicated!

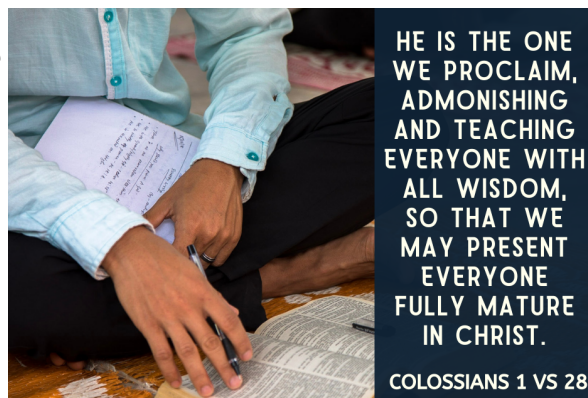
### RESILIENCE IN CHALLENGING TIMES

We are resilient at Hope Gardens and our staff team at our Bible College have been agile and adapted their teaching to keep this college going throughout the pandemic.

Vasthi our college Dean writes. "This term saw 8 new students join our bible college. Mr Thiugarajan was instrumental in ensuring that our new students were able to complete their application process and interviews remotely. We are so blessed to have Tamil speaking students who come from a wide range of family backgrounds who each have their own story to tell. We are excited about where their passion for ministry and theology may take them!"

"Our faculty members are working hard with the energy God gives us to create agile, resilient Christ centred, christian leaders of the future. This term in particular we have ensured that all students regardless of their financial and family background are able to attend our college and we are so grateful to you all for your financial support."

Our college moto is the verse Colossians 1:28. This has never been more crucial for us. Even in these different times our values remain the same; to instruct and teach with wisdom so that our students can become mature in Christ.



HE IS THE ONE WE PROCLAIM, ADMONISHING AND TEACHING EVERYONE WITH ALL WISDOM, SO THAT WE MAY PRESENT EVERYONE FULLY MATURE IN CHRIST.

COLOSSIANS 1 VS 28



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019/20 ACADEMIC YEAR

Our Bible College in Cumbum, Tamil Nadu is a warm and welcoming environment which this year reached out to predominantly Tamil Speaking students. The Students are encouraged to take an active involvement in the mission work of Hope Gardens in addition to their academic studies. We have been so impressed how willing they are to learn new farming techniques in the paddy field, mentored the young students and also adapted to learning under lockdown restrictions.

### CHAIRMAN'S VISIT



"I was immensely impressed when I met with the students on my visit in January. The quality of this years intake is remarkable - they all spoke so confidently about their studies and future calling. This is a very special ministry and it was great to reflect back over 20 years since Sept 2000 and the 500+ graduates, most of whom are thriving in ministry. What is fantastic is that 80% of our graduates go on to work in churches that are linked to Hope Gardens."

### COLLEGE TOURS - RAMESWARAM & KERALA



These special trips are a chance for the the whole college to come together and reflect on goals and achievements. It is refreshing to get a different perspective by visiting areas of natural beauty, churches and memorials. In Kerala we visited waterfalls, a Tea Estate, a beautiful Roman Catholic Church and played games at Rode Park. 7-9th January we visited Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi. We went to the coast and we visited former President of India Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's house and his memorial place.

### YESU'S STORY



"I stand out in my village it is a militant Hindu community. For my faith I have been beaten. There was an incident where a gang hurt and hospitalised my friends and I. After that, the leader of the gang that beat me became paralyzed, he came to the church, asked for forgiveness and asked me for prayer - what a turnaround. After my RRBC studies I want to return to my community so that these people can know the love of Christ"

### LEARNING IN LOCKDOWN

In line with the guidelines from the ATA our faculty members are taking classes in ZOOM, Whatsapp and via group phone calls. Some of the students don't have internet in their villages so some classes are being taken for them via normal phone calls. ATA has asked us conduct the exams in a modified way either by asking students to write assessment papers on each subject or conduct open bible exams.



"I am taking my B.Th II and I have no phone reception. Each morning I climb up a little mountain from the valley below where my home is situated a 30 minute walk just to receive even normal calls. I walk up to the mountain and call at 10am and attend classes that way. I then go home and study. It is slightly different to college life!" Samuel M

