

## GATE WORKSHOPS IN INDIA



**Year 1 North East India**



**Year 1 South India**



**Year 4 North India**



**Year 4 South India**

Before the close of the year, several faculty workshops were held in India, where many of our member institutions are based. These workshops, offered by ATA in partnership with the Global Associates for Transformational Education (GATE), were held in different cities in India: Bangalore, Dehradun, and Dimapur.

The first workshop was held in Bangalore from November 27 to 29, and it was facilitated by Dr Bennet Lawrence (ATA India Regional Secretary) and Rev. Shaiju Thomas (ATA India Secretary for Value Added Services), who are part of GATE's Training the Trainers (T3) program. This workshop is year one of the four-year curriculum of GATE in South India.

### What's inside:

Page 2

**GATE Workshops in INDIA**

Page 4

**Advancing the Kingdom Initiative**

Page 6

**Christmas and New Year's greetings**

Page 7

**Invitation to apply for the Tearfund-ATA Scholarship**

Page 8

**Save the Date for the Academic Leadership Seminar**



It was attended by 31 participants from the following 7 institutions in this region of the country:

1. COTR Theological Seminary, Vizag, Andhra Pradesh.
2. Great Harvest Theological Institute, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
3. Hindustan Bible Institute, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
4. India Baptist Theological Seminary, Kottayam, Kerala
5. India Bible College & Seminary, Kumbanad, Kerala.
6. New Life College, Bangalore, Karnataka
7. New Life School of Mission, Vizag, Andhra Pradesh.

The second workshop, also held in Bangalore, took place from December 1 to 3. This time, it was the fourth year, the final workshop, for the following 6 institutions, also in South India:

1. ACTS Academy of Higher Education, Bangalore, Karnataka.
2. Centre for Global Leadership Development (SABC), Bangalore, Karnataka.
3. Jubilee Memorial Bible College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
4. Logos College of Advanced Studies, Trivandrum, Kerala.
5. South Asian Institute for Leadership & Cultural Studies, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
6. South India Baptist Bible College & Seminary, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

It was attended by 34 participants. Dr Mariel Deluca Voth, GATE Associate from Argentina and Dr Bennet Lawrence facilitated this workshop.



The third workshop was held from December 4-6 in Dehradun. It was also the fourth and final year for the following institutions in North India.

1. Caleb Institute, Gurugram, Haryana
2. Doon Bible College, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
3. Filadelfia Bible College, Udaipur, Rajasthan
4. Luther W. New Jr. Theological College, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
5. Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Attended by 36 participants, the workshop was facilitated by Dr Mariel Deluca Voth and Dr Bennet Lawrence.

Finally, the fourth workshop, attended by 38 participants, was year one of four for the following institutions in North India:

1. All Nations Theological Seminary, Siliguri, West Bengal.
2. Asia Antioch Seminary, Guwahati, Assam
3. Life Transforming College International, Siliguri, West Bengal.
4. Oriental Theological Seminary, Chumoukedima, Nagaland
5. Shalom Bible Seminary, Kohima, Nagaland
6. United College of Theology & Missions, Chumoukedima, Nagaland



The feedback from all four workshops held across the various parts of India has been very encouraging. Generally, the participants felt that they were not just simply attending a workshop, but rather, they were rethinking how theological education should work in their own institutions. The participants consistently described the GATE workshops as eye-opening and deeply transformative and have shared about how the sessions pushed them to examine the flaws within their existing systems, reassess long-held assumptions, and view theological education from a broader, more holistic perspective. They also greatly appreciated the workshop design not just because of its clarity but also because of its well-structured materials and engaging activities that made learning practical and meaningful.

Yet of all the activities in each of the workshops, the group discussions were always the highlight; and the recurring theme in the evaluations was how valuable group work has been to those who came. Whether the groups worked internally or alongside another institution, the discussions allowed each one to evaluate their programs, listen to one another, and imagine practical changes that align with their mission, vision, and the profile of their ideal graduate. In addition to the group discussions, many participants found the curriculum- focused tasks especially helpful in assessing how relevant their courses are to

their students' realities. Participants also highlighted how the workshop offered a framework rather than prescriptions, giving them space to adapt the ideas to their own context. There were also participants who mentioned learning new teaching approaches, gaining fresh perspectives from other colleges, and feeling renewed confidence that theological education in India can move toward deeper, meaningful, context-shaped transformation.



Finally, what is a workshop without resource persons- and they were deeply appreciated in these workshops throughout India. The participants not only valued the knowledge, energy, and encouragement of the resource persons, but also how they have created an environment where participants felt free to think, question, and explore ideas within their own institutional contexts. ♦



## ATA participates in the Advancing the Kingdom Initiative



Last November 18-21, around 600 key leaders and decision makers gathered in Bethany Church, Louisiana to “plan and implement a global initiative that will rapidly increase the rate of evangelization, enhance the consistency of discipleship, contribute to flourishing of communities, and strengthen the Christian Church world wide”. This is the Advancing the Kingdom Initiative (ATKI), an endeavor under the leadership and coordination of the Steering Committee comprised of 12 people from global and strategic networks such as the Lausanne Movement, the World Evangelical Alliance, and the Global Kingdom Partnership Network (GKPN). Selected and invited to this initiative were Senior Pastors of Influential Churches and Church Networks Worldwide, Leaders of Major Denominations Worldwide, Leaders of Influential Missions and Para-Church Organizations Worldwide, Youth Leaders from Churches, Para-Church Organizations, Media, Tech, AI, Blogs Worldwide, and CEOs/Kingdom Business Leaders Worldwide.

The mission of ATKI is simple: “go and make disciples of all nations”. It is an all too familiar statement but a crucial one at that, especially with the current ambivalent statistics of global Christianity. ATKI “is a collaborative process designed to spark creative solutions for increasing the annual growth of the Church from 1.8% to 5% over the next 15 years.” This supposed increase, as the Lord so wills, could possibly lead to a doubling in the number of Christians across the world! Again, this is not something any one organization can do on their own— which is why this gathering was so important. The gathering is meant to harness the synergy of some of the world’s most insightful and fruitful leaders... leaders who are already making a difference by bringing together their wisdom and passion to challenge the status quo”.

Our very own General Secretary, Dr. Theresa Lua, represented the ATA and contributed to the table-group collaboration. The gathering followed a four-day structure designed to move participants from spiritual alignment to practical action:

- Day 1: Unity and Shared Vision – Establishing spiritual unity and surrendering labels.
- Day 2: Global Landscape and Strategic Collaboration – Identifying trends and strengthening partnerships.
- Day 3: Strategy and Innovation – Designing scalable regional strategies.
- Day 4: Action Planning – Solidifying commitments for 2026.

It was indeed a productive time of working and planning and we are all excited to see how the Lord will make these plans into a reality! ♦

# Kingdom advance Initiative



**Picture of ATKI group  
Baton Rouge, November 2025**

## Come to the Manger

by Melissa Kruger  
originally published in *The Gospel Coalition*,  
23 December 2015

Lights bright, sparkling tree  
More to do, more to see  
Busy we run, tired we fall,  
Is this the greatest season of all?

Longing for stillness, fearing it too  
What if we miss something important to do?  
Parties, food, fine clothing to wear  
Dancing in the ball of Vanity Fair.

Sisyphian labor, day and night  
Bound by work, blinded by sight  
The stillness calls, but we do not hear  
Cold and distant, but God is near

"Sit still my child," hear Him say  
Come and meet with Him today  
At His table we will share  
A feast for the soul, the richest of fare

It matters not, rich or poor  
Seek and knock, He'll open the door  
In Him we find the joy we seek  
He's lowly in heart, humble, and meek

Come to the manger, thirsty soul  
Drink from Jesus, be made whole  
Word of life, wrapped in flesh  
Heavenly dweller, found in a crèche

This is your joy, This is your crown  
This is the reason that He came down.  
Second Adam alive for you  
The One that is Holy, the One that is True

Greatest gift and feast for all  
Listen now, hear the call  
Come to Him, find life in His name  
Sing to Him, with angels proclaim:

Glory to God and peace to mankind  
Freedom for the captive, sight for the blind  
Healing He brings, He takes our place  
King of Kings, mighty God of Grace!

Source: <https://tinyurl.com/ap7uzdnm>



# We are now accepting applications for the Tearfund- ATA Integral Mission Scholarship

*The Tearfund- ATA Integral Mission Research Scholarship is offered to **postgraduate students from East and Southeast Asia who are engaged in research in the field of integral mission.** The aim of the scholarship is to support research projects that will encourage the generation of data and the development of thinking in integral mission in the Asian context.*

*to apply, click on the following link:  
<https://bit.ly/4rXoyL4> or scan the QR code*

**deadline for application: 31 March 2026**



## ***Build your school with us...***

***Advertise your programs/events at affordable rate.***

*Text Box type, 1/6 page for \$50 only!*

## ***ATA News invites you to buy an ad space now!***

### **ADVERTISEMENT RATE**

Size	Group A	Group B
Full page	\$500	\$250
½ page	\$250	\$125
¼ page	\$125	\$65

*Please send a camera-ready layout by email attachment to the ATA News editor.*

Calling all Presidents, Academic Deans, Program  
Directors, and Curriculum designers

Save the date!

SEMINARI ALKITAB ASIA TENGGARA

# Academic Leadership Seminar

July 20-24, 2026

Southeast Asia Bible Seminary,  
Malang, Indonesia



**ATA News** is a quarterly publication of the  
**Asia Theological Association**

**[www.ataasia.com](http://www.ataasia.com)**

Address all correspondence to the editor:

**Angelica De Vera**  
***comms@ataasia.com***