

COUNCIL OF SERAMPORE COLLEGE

College founded by Carey, Marshman and Ward, 1818

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1827, and

Bengal Act IV of 1918, as modified

upto 1997 by Government

of West Bengal



**BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS
(1818 - 2018)**

**PROJECTS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY**

Serampore, Hooghly District, West Bengal – 712201, INDIA

Website: www.seramporecollege.org

Serampore College Bicentenary (1818-2018) Project

Dear Friends of Serampore College & Partners in God's Mission,

Warm greetings to you from Serampore College.

Serampore College is a premier institution in India, primarily started as a mission centre by the great modern missionaries Rev. Dr. William Carey, Rev. Dr. Joshua Marshman and William Ward on 10th January, 1800. The missionaries were successful in their missions mainly on Bible Translation, Social Reformation and Education. The reformation that has been taking place in the society through the missionary movements from the past till today gives new form of life to the Indian society, South East Asian countries and to the world at large.

Serampore College was established on 15th July, 1818. Through educational mission, the pioneer missionaries made tremendous changes in the life of the common people. The Danish ruler King Frederick VI, who was the then ruler of Serampore was highly impressed by the works of the missionaries. The King therefore granted Royal Charter to Serampore College in 1827 which empowered the college to grant any degree to students in respect of their field of education. In other words, Serampore College was given a university status under the King of Denmark.

Serampore College is now functioning in two different streams of learning, Arts-Science-Commerce Stream (*affiliated to the University of Calcutta*) and Theology Department which functions on its own right as a teaching institution in different streams of Theology under Serampore College (University). This historical institution is looking forward to celebrating 200 years' milestone in the year 2018.

To mark this great milestone of Serampore College in the Ministry of the Lord, the Council of Serampore College initiated

projects based on **programme-oriented infrastructural developments** which will enhance the learning environment and research work of the students drawn from different parts of India and abroad.

We therefore request you to kindly go through our projects and invite you to be part of our dream and prayer for this great institution:

1. Bicentenary Centre for Integrated Studies (BCIS)
2. Bicentenary Students' Home (BSH)

I. PRESENT BACKGROUND OF THE COLLEGE:

Serampore College boasts as an ecumenical and non-denominational institution where students and teachers are drawn from different ethnic communities, language groups and denominations. The college though founded by the Baptist missionaries belongs to all the denominational churches in India but does not have any particular church or parent body to cater to the needs on regular or term basis.

Students: The College has provided and contributed immensely towards the development and transformation of Indian nation and society by nurturing and grooming young and talented students. Every year the College enrolls approximately 140 students from 25 linguistics backgrounds and 14 different church denominations.

Courses: At present, the College is running the following theological programmes which are all vital and important for equipping students for their ministerial training viz., (a) Bachelor of Divinity; (b) Master of Theology; (c) Doctor of Theology; (d) Diploma in Bible Translation and (e) Bachelor of Bible Translation Studies.

Infrastructures: Even after nearly 200 years of its existence, Theology department (*which has been functioning as the mother theological college*) does not have proper library, classrooms, hostels, teachers' common room, conference rooms and adequate space for learning. Many important ongoing programmes and those planned for the future are unable to run smoothly due to inadequate space and lack of infrastructure. At present, our classes and programmes are held in the three common rooms of the Men's Hostel building. The women students have to pass through the men's hostel to avail of the classrooms.

Due to limited space in the Theology office, files and documents cannot be maintained properly in a systematic manner. Students and visitors do not have a lounge where they may wait or sit when they come to meet someone in the office. The Teaching Faculty of Theology Department also does not have office or common room.

II. RATIONALE/ IMPORTANCE OF THE PROJECTS:

1. BICENTENARY CENTRE FOR INTEGRATED STUDIES (BCIS):

1.1. Development of the Bible Translation Programme, Linguistics and Cultural Studies: The Bible translation continues to be one of the pillars beside education and social transformation of Serampore Missions and confined more vigorously even after the college was founded. However, Bible translation as a separate academic discipline was never taught. Therefore, in order to revive the mission and legacy of William Carey in the field of Bible translation, linguistic and cultural studies, Serampore College Theology Department in partnership with the Bible translation organisations initiated the course 'Diploma in Bible Translation' since 2010 which was

incorporated as one of the courses administered by the Senate of Serampore College.

However, the lack of infrastructural developments has inconvenienced the ideal functioning of this course and seminars and lectures could not be frequently organised due to lack of classrooms and library. Apart from this Diploma programme, we have recently launched a higher course in this area of studies with the Bachelor and Master programmes.

Therefore, keeping all these in mind, it is essential and necessary for the Theology Department of Serampore College to start a building project to enhance and develop the facilities for widening and expanding the Ministry of Serampore College in the coming years.

1.2. Centre for Indigenous People, Women & Other Margins' Studies: Theological education is shaped to meet the needs of the Indian churches, equip ministers for diverse ministries. Contextual theological education addressing to the needs of the margin's group like Adivasi, Tribal, Dalit, Women, Children and HIV/AIDS affected people in the entire society is an ongoing and urgent need. Serampore College thus gives emphasis on the need and demand of our present society. Therefore, in order to acquire better skills and knowledge to combat with the present social issues and challenges, separate studies on the issues and problems of the margins' groups will be conducted among the students, which will enhance our ministry and bring changes to the society.

1.3. Development of Library and Seminar Rooms: At the moment, one of the main inconveniences of Serampore College is the lack of library space/materials and seminar rooms. The development of

the college library and seminar rooms has long been the primary need of the college. The present library has a large number of old books and documents which are worth preserving. However, due to limited space and resources, the old precious materials are deteriorating and even the current facilities and library space cannot be extended or developed. Therefore, there is a great need to have a separate building for the library and seminar rooms for the Serampore College which has a great reputation for training young and committed students for almost two hundred years.

1.4. Development of Pastoral Refresher's Course and Missionary Seminar: The Serampore College is known as the centre of Missionary movements and pastoral training. Till today, the churches in India and abroad have high respect and expectation for the Ministry of Serampore College.

Due to the dynamic nature of our ministerial context, most of the churches in India are eager to send their rural and urban pastors for short term refresher's courses and mission seminars to widen and develop the perspectives and approaches of the church workers in their mission. This training will be beneficial for different communities in which pastors and mission workers are working. The ultimate aim of this training and refresher's course is to combat various social, political and religious problems that are happening in our fast changing world. By equipping the pastors with better knowledge suited for the changing context, development and a positive transformation of the masses can be encouraged.

However, due to lack of seminar rooms/classrooms and proper accommodation, the College is unable to fulfill the desire of the churches. Therefore with the development of this bicentenary building, all such problems could be solved.

1.5. Better Learning Space and Environment for Ministerial Training Students:

The Serampore College is known for training of pastors and missionaries for the past hundred years. Many of the past and present leaders of the churches in India are products of this historical institution. The Serampore College can be proud of being a channel of transformation to the Indian society by way of imparting theological education to committed servants of the Lord. The full residential theology course imparted for last hundred years can be considered as one of the key instruments for the growth of the churches and the society at large.

However, due to inadequate space for classrooms and reading rooms, the college needs to develop the learning environment for the increasing number of students to revive the past glory. Therefore, through this 'Bicentenary Centre for Integrated Studies' the college will be able to provide better learning space and environment to students coming for full time and part time residential course for ministerial trainings.

2. BICENTENARY STUDENTS' HOME (BSH):

2.1. Accommodation for Participants for Different Programmes:

It is impossible to run theological education and its related courses without accommodation for the students and participants. Moreover, the College is in great demand for giving proper and adequate accommodation to students of different College's programmes. Due to inadequate accommodation for the students and guests, programmes like Bible Translation, Linguistics and Cultural Studies could not run smoothly and the College is unable to organise seminars and workshops for lay leaders and pastors.

2.2. Special Provision and Better Accommodation for Women

Students: The Serampore College has been working for the gender equality and especially for the uplift of women. The academic curriculum too places great emphasis on gender justice and liberation of women. However, due to inadequate hostel space/accommodation, the college is unable to admit many women students who have the desire to go for full time ministerial training.

It is one of the serious concerns of the College that through this 'Bicentenary Students' Home', many women students could be admitted and be given special accommodation in the college for their ministerial training which will help in the uplift and transformation of women.

2.3. Special Dining Facilities: Development of accommodation and learning environment automatically ask for the development of dining facilities for all the students enrolled for ministerial training in the college. At present, the college dining hall has the capacity for only 130 students and the condition of the kitchen and dining hall are shabby. So, improving the hostel kitchen and dining space is an urgent need.

2.4. Income Generating and Self Sustainable Development:

The Theology department, as already mentioned above, does not have a permanent source of income. Apart from the small amount of donation received from churches and well-wishers on certain occasions, students' fees are the only stable and reliable source of income. The college also often makes financial appeal to the churches to supply the need of the college. However, it is impractical for churches to contribute for Serampore College on every occasion as churches themselves have their own projects and many other needs.

Therefore, in and through this increased number of students the financial position of the College is expected to be much more healthy. At present, the hostel facilities and accommodation available are not enough to meet the need. Therefore, expansion of the existing dining hall with proper kitchen and expansion of hostel building to accommodate at least 50 – 70 students more and 40 – 50 rooms for short course seminars and training will be of great support for income generation.

III. SPECIFICATION OF THE PROJECTS: As spelled out into two sub-projects, below is the specification of each project:

1. BICENTENARY CENTRE FOR INTEGRATED STUDIES:

(1) Area for Construction: 23.93 Metres (Length) x 17.38 Metres (Breadth) = 4516 Sq.Ft/ 419 Sq. M

(2) Total Volume of Proposed Work: 9347 Cu. M.

(3) Building Type: 5 storey building (G+4)

(4) Location: Empty space/land at the back of M.Th hostel building located inside the Theology Hostel.

(5) Plan and purpose of the Building:

Ground Floor - DipBT, Bachelor & Master, Theology
Administrative Section

First Floor - Seminar rooms/Classrooms for the
programmes

Second Floor - Library, Reading room & Seminar rooms

Third Floor - Library (Stack room) and Reading room

Fourth Floor - Conference Hall & Guest rooms

2. BICENTENARY STUDENTS' HOME: This is a continuation of the first project to enhance the accommodation of the students and participants, who attend the Seminar, Workshop and Consultation of the above mentioned project. The project will involve the following:

(1) Area for Construction: 32.47 Metres (Length) x 23.5 Metres (Breadth) = 8742 Sq.Ft/ 812.45 Sq.M

(2) Total Volume of Proposed Work: 10190 Cu. M.

(3) Building Type: 3 Storey Building (G+2)

(4) Location: Current dining hall and empty space between the men's hostel and dining hall.

(5) Plan and purpose of the Building:

Ground Floor - Cafeteria and Kitchen

First Floor - Women's Hostel

Second Floor - Men's Hostel

IV. ROUGH ESTIMATED COST OF THE PROJECTS:

1. Rough estimated cost for the construction of Bicentenary Centre for Integrated Studies.

(As per the rough estimated cost prepared by Engineer)

= INR 4,10,09,746
USD 661,448 (Approx.)

2. Rough estimated cost for the construction of Bicentenary Students' Home.

(As per the rough estimated cost prepared by Engineer)

= INR 4,47,11,962
USD 721,160 (Approx.)

GRAND TOTAL = **INR 8,57,21,708**
USD 1,382,608 (Approx.)

V. TENTATIVE TIME FRAME FOR THE COMMENCEMENT AND COMPLETION OF THE PROJECTS:

The above projects are slated to start by November 2016 and are expected to be ready for inauguration in three years.

VI. HOW WILL THE FUND BE GENERATED:

The College would expect ecumenical partners and from overseas to help in raising 75% of the total estimated cost of the projects. The remaining 25% will be raised by the College locally.

VII. HOW CAN YOU HELP US OR BE INVOLVED IN THESE BICENTENARY PROJECTS?

We understand that the above projects and dream we have for this great Missionary College cannot be achieved through individual effort or church's contribution alone. It is only through our total involvement and participation that will help us achieve it. Your kind participation in the form of financial contributions, prayers and awareness to others will help us move closer to our dream.

Your kind contribution can be made through Bank Transfer in the bank details mentioned below:

Beneficiary : COUNCIL OF SERAMPORE COLLEGE
Account No. : 0344101012672
Bank's Name : Canara Bank, 27 Brabourne Road,
Kolkata - 700 001, West Bengal, INDIA
Swift Code : CNRBINBBCDB

For any queries relating to the above, kindly write us to:

vsanglura@gmail.com



(BISHOP PROF. DR. JOHN S. SADANANDA)
Master of Serampore College
President of the Council



(PROF. DR. VANSANGLURA)
Principal of Serampore College
Secretary of the Council