

October 2019 Mission Trip to Kochi, Kerala, India, to visit India Christian Bible College and area churches

October 14 (Mon) to October 22 (Tue), 2019



The faculty, staff and student body of India Christian Bible College at, Kochi, Kerala.

GOALS OF THIS MISSION TRIP

1. SEE FIRST-HAND: Visit and learn more about India Christian Bible College. ICBC was founded in 1984. During the 35 years since then, ICBC has graduated 3,000+ students who are serving in churches across India and in many other countries. ICBC does tremendously important work for the Kingdom in India, one of the largest and most influential countries of the world.

A significant part of ICBC's support comes from the U.S. However, nobody from the supporting churches has visited ICBC in more than 10 years. We will visit to see first-hand what the college is accomplishing and how we can help ICBC continue its good work. We will pass along what we learn to ICBC's many supporting churches.

2. ICBC'S FUTURE: Founder-president Dr. John Philipose is in his early 80s. Daughter Laly Joseph is in line to succeed John as president. We want to help John and Laly make sure the college continues its good work seamlessly into the next generation.

3. PREACHING/TEACHING: Terry Hull will preach/teach several times (and if other preachers/teachers join our team, they will have an opportunity, too). Those opportunities include daily chapel services at the college and visiting nearby churches in the evenings. John and Laly say it is a big encouragement to students, faculty and nearby churches to hear God's Word from a visitor's perspective.

4. PROJECTS: Team members will participate in **two projects** to bless ICBC :

- a. **Construction:** There is plenty of painting and carpentry work to be done on the campus.
- b. **Health clinic:** We will work with an India doctor and a dentist to provide a health clinic to students and faculty. It will be the first time many of them have seen a doctor.

5. EXPLORATORY: This trip came about when John and Laly learned about our work in Costa Rica. That work includes Discipleship University, a series of 10 day-long classes on essential Christian doctrine that Terry has been teaching to CR pastors and church leaders. We also provide

study Bibles and computer tablets and visiting CR churches to do construction projects and health clinics. We will be exploring the feasibility of providing some of these same ministries to Indian churches in partnership with ICBC.

DATES

We will leave Okla City on Mon aft, Oct 14, and arrive in Kochi, India, very early in the morning on Wed. We will have six days in India: Wed-Mon. We will leave very early Tue morning, Oct 22, arriving home shortly before midnight on Tue.

FLIGHT

Many airlines fly from the U.S. to India. The best option we have found so far is a Qatar Airways flight that goes from OKC - Dallas - Doha, Qatar - Kochi, India. It is 25 hours of travel time.

Kochi is 10.5 hours ahead of us. So, we would leave at 2:20 pm Mon and arrive in Kochi at 4 pm Tue our time, but it will actually be 2:20 am Wed in Kochi.

At the time of this writing, the cost of that flight is \$1400. We will set a **deadline of Thu, Aug 29**, for team members to raise the \$1400 (or whatever the price is on that day), and we will purchase the best available tickets on the following day.

Jet lag is an issue. But we have work to do! To avoid being exhausted during our six days in India, we will provide suggestions on how to switch to “India time” before we leave, so we are adjusted and ready to hit the ground running on Wed.

HOTEL

We will stay at the Hotel Park Residency in Kakkanad (a section of Kochi). Here is the website: <https://hotel-park-residency-kakkanad.business.site/>. This hotel is recommended by John and Laly and is just 5 miles from ICBC. The website makes the hotel seem rather fancy, but it is not too fancy; various review sites describe it as good but not great, and the cost is modest.

FOOD

Breakfasts will be at the hotel. Lunches will be at the Bible college. We will visit Indian restaurants most evenings. Food in Kerala features rice, fish and coconut. Other popular items include chicken, lamb, lentils, yams and bananas. Curry, peppers and many other spices are used. Laly said that on one evening, they will teach us how to make chappati (Indian tortillas) and chicken or beef curry.

All meals in India are covered by your trip payment. All meals while traveling are out of your own pocket.

TENATIVE SCHEDULE

- Day 1-2 (Mon-Tue, Oct 14-15): Travel. Leave Mon aft, arrive very early Wed am.
- Day 3-5 (Wed-Fri, Oct 16-18): Ministry.
 - * Daytime: Serve on campus. Fellowship with 55 students and 12 faculty/staff. Chapel services @ 10:30 a.m. daily. Painting and carpentry work on campus. Health clinics on Thu and Fri.
 - * Evenings: Participate in local church services, possibly at Vypin, Vytala, Pahaganada.
- Day 6 (Sat, Oct 19): Kerala backwaters.

We always spend one day of our mission trips exploring the beauty of God's creation. On Sat we will take a 6-hour houseboat tour of the backwaters of Kerala. We are looking into possibly inviting some faculty and/or students to join us.

- Day 7 (Sun, Oct 20): Church on campus, followed by a farewell lunch.
- Day 8 (Mon, Oct 21): Our last day in India. Time to say goodbye to our many new friends, buy some souvenirs and pack our things.
- Day 9 (Tue (Oct 22): We will head for the airport about midnight on Mon. We will travel all day Tue. Thanks to the 10.5-hour time change, we will arrive home around midnight on Tue.



A chapel service at India Christian Bible College.

COST PER TEAM MEMBER: \$2400.00

Covers airfare, baggage fees, hotels, ground transportation, all meals, travel insurance, and the houseboat tour. This total is based on current estimate of \$1300 for airfare. If the actual cost is significantly higher, this total will be adjusted accordingly.

You can literally come without a single penny in your pocket and get by for the week; everything necessary is included. However, here are some additional expenses you might want to be prepared for:

- Airport meals coming and going.
- Personal expenses: snacks, drinks, incidentals.
- Souvenirs.
- Offerings at church meetings.
- Donations for any special ministry needs that arise during the week.

DUE DATES

- ASAP \$200 Non-refundable deposit, to confirm your place on our team.
- Aug 29 \$1200 Remainder of flight ticket. As explained above, this amount may increase.
- Sep 22 \$500
- Oct 6 \$500

BAGGAGE AND BAGGAGE FEES

Depending on our airlines, baggage fees for a transatlantic flight are as much as \$60 (1st bag one way) + \$100 (2nd bag one way). We will have many things to carry and probably a small team to divide them among: Bibles, books, computer tablets, reading glasses, gift items, etc. We will distribute these materials among all of our team members to pack along with your personal items.

Your baggage fees for two bags both ways is included in your trip cost. However, if feasible, please use one bag that you can leave in India or pack inside another bag for the flight home, to save us one baggage fee.



A path on the campus of India Christian Bible College.

PASSPORT? VISA?

You need a passport and a visa to visit India. If you don't have a passport, you need to apply for one immediately. If you do have a passport, the expiration date must be at least 6 months beyond the time we are traveling (i.e., expiration date later than April 21, 2020). If it is not, renew it immediately.

After you have an updated passport, you can apply online to the Indian government for a visa (<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>). Terry will give you written instructions to guide you through the visa application process.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN INDIA

India is 73% Hindu, 14% Muslim, and 5% Christian. India has no official religion, but some Hindu nationalists seek to make Hinduism the official religion and to restrict other religions. Christian ministry Open Doors ranks India No. 10 among nations for persecution of Christians.

India's constitution guarantees freedom of religion. "All persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice, and propagate religion subject to public order, morality and health."

However, freedom of religion is hotly debated in India, with several federal and state laws adopted or proposed over the years. Freedom of religion is understood by some Indians to restrict words or actions that insult another religion or which attempt to convert someone from one religion to another.

We will be visiting the state of Kerala, which is 18% Christian and is friendlier to Christianity than some other states. We will work on the ICBC campus and visit a couple of nearby churches, all in Kerala. We will be the guests of ICBC and President John Philipose. We do not expect to experience any danger, but when traveling to a foreign country, we are unable to guarantee one's safety.

All of our efforts and interactions in India will be with fellow Christians. At no time will we attempt to evangelize people of other religions. Doing so could jeopardize the standing of ICBC and could jeopardize our ability to return to India. All team members are asked to cooperate with this intention; any team member not willing is asked to be honest with us about their intentions.

FAQ

(1) How do I sign up? Send an email to terryhull@joshuaone.org telling us you want to go. Then send the nonrefundable deposit. *Welcome to the team!*

(2) Can I get a refund if I drop out of the trip? Every gift from you and your supporters is accepted as a donation to the ministry and will be used for that purpose. There are no refunds to team members or your supporters if you drop out, raise “extra money” or for any other reason.

(3) Who should checks be made to? You can handle your fundraising two ways:

(a) Have all checks made to and mailed to Joshua One Ministries (with your name on the memo field), or ...

(b) Have checks made to your own church and allow your church to accumulate the funds and write larger checks to Joshua One Ministries. Make sure to discuss this with your church treasurer.

(4) What if I want to go but can't afford it? The Bible (Rom 10:14-15) says that when it comes to spreading the gospel, there are two groups of Christians: those who go, and those who send the ones who are going. *If you are willing to go on this mission adventure, it is the obligation of your fellow Christians to send you.* If you devote your time and effort to telling people what God has called you to do, you will find plenty of partners who will be glad to help send you. You bless them by giving them a way to participate in what we are doing. We will give you some step-by-step written instructions to guide your fundraising efforts.

If you are embarrassed about doing the Lord's work or too proud to raise funds, here's our suggestion: *Get over it!*