

Report of the Southern Asia Division Biblical Research Committee to the TOSC

Members of the Southern Asia Division BRC

Chair: Gordon Christo, Secretary, SUD (Ph D Old Testament)
Members: R John, President, SUD
G S Robert Clive, Treasurer, SUD
Daniel Devadhas, Secretary, Ministerial Association, SUD
G Nageshwar Rao, Education Director, SUD
T. P. Kurian, Dir, Communication, SUD (PhD, Systematic Theology)
M Wilson, President, East Central India Union (DMin)

Religion/Theology Professors:

Mohanraj Israel, Dean, School of Theology, Spicer College, DMin
Roy Jemison, Assoc VP for Academic Adm, Spicer College, DMin
Naveen Isaiah, Religion teacher, Lowry College
Chawngdinpui C, Director, EGW Research Center (SMC) (PhD New Testament),

Invitees:

Johnson Swamidass, Director, Hope Channel India (DMin)
Shadrack Samuel, Retired Pastor

The Biblical Research Committee of Southern Asia took the time to read papers presented to the TOSC which they considered most important and representative from the areas Old Testament, the New Testament, theology, history and the Spirit of Prophecy, from both perspectives of the problem and discussed their strengths and weaknesses and came to the following conclusion:

1. We recognize that there is no direct teaching in the Scriptures or the Spirit of Prophecy that either prescribes or prohibits the ordination of women to the pastoral ministry.
2. In the absence of direct teaching in inspired writings we accept the authority of the church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to take a decision.
3. If the world church takes a decision to allow certain areas of the world to ordain women to pastoral ministry, we would have no objection.

The BRC of SUD assumed that the Southern Asia Division would not be ready at this time to implement a decision like this.

The Division Executive Committee which met in November 2013 took the following action:

Resolved to record and give consent to the recommendations from the Division Biblical Research Committee after the brief summary presented by Gordon Christo, Secretary, SUD.