



Welcome

The North Delhi Evangelical Graduates Fellowship (EGF) and Inter-Collegiate Evangelical Union (ICEU) welcome you to the Intensive Summer Study 2013. We crossed a milestone with last year's success. We are grateful to God for opportunities like these.

The North Delhi EGF is not a Church-regular nor does it seek to duplicate the Chapel Service. We are mere Christians, intentionally crossing over Ethnic and Confessional boundaries to explore together the entailments of the LORDSHIP of CHRIST over Art, Economy, Polity, Science- everything under the Sun.

Instructors



Samuel Vaiphei: An independent scholar working in the field of *Philosophy of Physics & Economics and its interaction with Theology*



Neilenthang Kom: A doctor by profession with MBBS from Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) Imphal, Manipur. Cleared Civil Services 2012.



Kanato Chophi: Pursuing PhD in Anthropology in Delhi University.



Kevisetuo Dzeyie: A doctor by profession with MBBS from RIMS Imphal. Had worked with Municipal Corporation Delhi as a Medical Officer among those having Tuberculosis. Did Masters in Christian Studies from Madras University. Currently pursuing Masters of Public Health at National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Delhi. Married to [Unsa-na Sumpi](#) and has a lovely daughter of 7 months.



Chubamenla Jamir: Asst. Professor in the Department of Natural Resources at TERI University, Delhi and Associate staff in the Environment Department, University of York, UK. Prior to this, she worked as a Doctoral Fellow at the Stockholm Environment Institute, York, UK. She has a PhD in Air Pollution, Climate Change & Food Security from University of York, UK and an M.Phil in Environmental Sciences from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi.



Jirlyne Katharpi Ingti: A degree in Biotechnology; LLB from Delhi University. Currently pursuing MA Environmental Science from Delhi University.

Highlights of this year's Summer Study:

- **Week 1 & 2:** The Study will meet 4 hours a day, 4 days a week (**Monday – Thursday**).
- **Week 3 – end:** The Study will meet 4 hours a day, 5 days a week (**Monday – Friday**).
- Devotional notes and mp3s for weeks 3 & 4 will be provided.
- In the sessions on *Strategic Games & Group Competition*, (refer to Week 4 & Week 5), we will look at simulating **Black Money Laundering, International Trade Negotiations** and **Climate Change Summit debates**.
- Special lectures from world renowned Christian thinkers and scholars will be arranged and screened.

Books

Week 1:

1. *The King Jesus Gospel* by Scot McKnight

Week 2:

2. *Jesus: A Theography* by Leonard Sweet
3. *Who is This Man? The Unpredictable Impact of the Inescapable Jesus* by John Ortberg

Week 3:

4. *From the Ruins of Empire* by Pankaj Mishra
5. *Empire* by Niall Ferguson
6. *Run With the Horses: The Quest for Life at its Best* by Eugene Peterson

Week 4:

7. *# To be decided with Canato*
8. *The Intimate Enemy* by Ashis Nandy
9. *Church and Mission in the New Asia* by Vinoth Ramachandra
10. *The Black Economy in India* by Arun Kumar
11. *The Ascent of Money: A Financial History of the World* by Niall Ferguson

Week 5:

12. *Christianity, Climate Change and Sustainable Living* by Nick Spencer
13. *Colossians Remixed* by Brian J. Walsh and Sylvia C. Keesmaat

Week 6:

14. *Fresh Thinking on Prayer* by Dennis Lennon
15. *After You Believe* by N.T. Wright
16. *Holy Spirit* by Leonard Sweet

Report

The North Delhi EGF has been conducting the Summer Study since the summer of 2007, and has gained impetus in 2012. This year's Summer Study will be much more voluminous than other years. This year's study will continue for 6 weeks beginning on **28th May, 2013**.

The Intensive Summer Study 2013 began on 28th May and continued till 5th July, an intense six weeks of thorough confusion, anger, contemplation, and finally an emergence of a fresh perspective and wisdom.

We began with the question, "**What is the Gospel?**" and moved on to *The Art of Interpreting Scriptures*. These sessions confused us but helped us to grasp a wider understanding of what the Gospel is, and how we have diminished the Gospel today. These sessions allowed us to dig deeper into the word of God and see things afresh. We have all been infected with what Leonard Sweet calls "versitis" – reading of isolated Bible verses without understanding the entire story. We learned that the Bible is one continuous story; to read the New Testament without the Old Testament makes no sense, and to read the Old Testament without the New Testament is to miss out the climax of the story.

We learned to **look at the person Jesus Christ from a new perspective**. What does it mean when we proclaim that "Jesus is Messiah"? Did Jesus come just to *die* for our sins? What did he live for? How has he impacted world history? – are some of the questions we grappled with.

As the weeks progressed, our eyes were opened to the **wider concerns of the nations around us**.

Pankaj Mishra's book *From the Ruins of Empire* helped us see great people of the likes of Al Afghani, Liang Qi Chao and others, and pondered what a Biblical assessment of their lives would

look like. One serious question that we pensively contemplated and pondered upon was “Why are the churches in South Asia and India unable to produce effective leaders, statesmen, thinkers...of the likes of Amartya Sen, Salman Rushdie, Nehru, etc.; and what must the church do about it that it might be able to produce avant-garde leaders and thinkers in the next 100 years?”

We also looked at the life of the Prophet Jeremiah, often called the *weeping* prophet. Humiliated and disgraced for twenty four years, Jeremiah never stopped the task at hand – of prophecy. He woke up each morning not to bear the grunt of humiliation and indifference but to spend a day with God. He was true to his calling, and lived out his vocation to be a prophet of God, speaking against the oppression and injustices of his day. We are to be no less prophetic in our own context today.

Next, we moved on to **what it means to live in a postmodern, postcolonial, post – everything world?** Leonard Sweet in his lecture challenged us by saying that this is the world we live in; that *God will not commend us for living our lives well in the world of the 1950s when we are actually living in the 21st century.* This enabled us to open our minds and eyes to the world where everything seems to be falling apart, when relativism is at its height, and where there is no single coherent story. However, we also looked at the positive aspects of postmodernism and how as Christians we can live wisely in this postmodern world.

If God is Lord over all creation then the created world, **the environment** is our *neighbour* is what we learned next. If our vertical relationship is to flourish, we have to set right our horizontal relationship. *To call ourselves Christians yet care nothing about the environment we live in is to fall into the error of thinking that God doesn't care about the world he created* and called it good. We learned that *many* of the so-called natural catastrophes happen due to human choices and often, human greed to exploit nature for his personal comfort. Interweaving this understanding, we looked at Paul's letter to the church at *Colossae*, and what the Lordship of Christ entails. A challenging book by Brian Walsh titled *Colossians Remixed* helped us to broaden our understanding of the inclusive nature of Christ's earthly mission.

Finally, we looked at the **power of prayer** in our lives, and how, very often our prayer lives are shallow and mean nothing, if not very less. We learned that no day is an ordinary day – the challenge lies before us whether to get through a familiar day half asleep, or to be wide awake and observant even on *familiar* and *mundane* days to allow God to work out new possibilities in our lives. We learned to pray the Lord's Prayer in a fresh new way. Life in the city is a battle of busy schedules and meeting deadlines, with too many things to do, wanting too many things and having very little time. In such a busy cosmopolitan city, we were able to see another side to living our lives – the art of contemplative and meditative prayer – to take things slowly and let God work in our lives, without hurrying things. The Paraclete was what Jesus promised us before he left. We were able to examine the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers. Some call themselves Charismatic or Pentecostal or Revival, whereas some at the other end, cessationist. In some, or most churches today, what Paul regarded as the least important of the spiritual gifts, namely speaking in tongues, became a rod to measure the amount of spirituality in one's life. We also looked at the second order interpretation of what speaking in tongues would mean in today's world. It would mean the language of the *scientists, economist, biologist* etc., which is found in every university, and it is our task to be able to speak and interpret them.

Last but not the least, the entire journey helped us to uncover **our blind spots**. The Word of *God opened our eyes to read our own academic disciplines in a fresh new way*. The Word of God is rich in content, permeating and transforming all subjects – be it polity, economics, philosophy, mathematics, physics, and all others.

This Summer Study has helped us to be people who stand at places where the world is in pain, where the world needs transforming, where we can be agents to fulfill God's intended purpose for the world in our own capacity.

For details of the program see:

<https://summerstudy2013.wordpress.com/>

Author: Samuel Vaiphei and colleagues

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Event organizer: The North Delhi Evangelical Graduates Fellowship (EGF) and Inter-Collegiate Evangelical Union (ICEU)

Event topic: Intensive Summer Study 2013

Location: New Delhi

Country: India

Participants: Recent graduates of Indian universities

Language: English