

# Baker Bulletin



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## Secularized India

Because of the prominence of Hinduism in India, many people, especially those in the west, erroneously view India as a Hindu country. However, that has never been the case.

India may be home to the largest Hindu population in the world but it is still a secular nation, as was confirmed by its Supreme Court last Friday.

On January 28, 2011, India's top court of justice dismissed a petition launched by a Hindu man who objected to his taxes being used as a 'Haj' subsidy from the government to assist Muslims on their pilgrimage to Mecca.

*"The only policy which can work and provide stability and progress is secularism."*

In its ruling the court declared, "if we wish to keep our country united, we need to have tolerance and equal respect for all communities and sects. It is due to the wisdom of our founding fathers that we have a Constitution, which is secular in character and which caters for the tremendous diversity in our country."

The court also said, "The only policy which can work and provide for stability and progress is secularism and giving equal respect to all communities, sects, denominations, etc."

However, while Christianity is most certainly accepted in India, persecution still exists. Pastors constantly face danger from radical fundamentalists and really need your prayers.

## PAOI Pastors Tithe Over 30%

Taking a leap of faith, lead pastors of the Pentecostal Assemblies of India (PAOI) Church Planting Ministry unanimously agreed to increase their personal tithe to over 32% by means of a 25% cut in their salaries.



*"God loves a cheerful giver."*

This initiative is designed to help support new church planting pastors who would otherwise receive no income, and also to build a reserve fund for the future.

Currently, the 60 plus pastors of the PAOI rely exclusively on the support of one PAOC church and have no other means of income.

*"You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." 1 Cor. 12:8 (NLT)*

They recognize the need to find other means of income so as to reduce dependency on foreign support.

Besides helping new pastors, part of the tithe will go toward construction of the PAOI Leadership Center, which will be used as the National Headquarters of the PAOI.

## A Challenging Year Ahead for TCC

Trinity Christian College faces a challenging year ahead due to several issues.

- A reduction in funding from Canada, with one PAOC church withdrawing its support and another reducing its support by 50%.
- The landlord of the college campus has increased rent for 2011. The College has already given up part of the building to reduce rent and must now consider giving up

more, or if necessary, finding a new location.

It costs about \$600 a year, including residence fees, to train one student at Trinity Christian College, to become a pastor in the PAOI's church planting ministry.

- Delay in the College's charitable status registration hampers efforts to raise funds locally.

- Obstacles in obtaining FCRA (Foreign Currency Revenue Act) registration to facilitate transfer of funds from outside of India.

*(Note: This is also the case with the PAOI, which urgently needs FRCA Registration.)*

- Recruiting sufficient students for the church planting ministry of the PAOI. TCC's support from the PAOC is geared to the number of church planting students enrolled.

## Praise & Prayer

### Praise Report

Donations to the PAOC 'HEART' fund will be used to build two churches in India.

### Charitable Status

TCC and PAOI are still facing hurdles to register as charities with the Indian government.

### Widow's Center

Please pray that progress for the planned Widow's Center will run smooth as we seek a facility and volunteers to help.