## Church Investigation in India Finds No Wrong

**WINGS Note:** David Jayaraj's North American convention tour in August 2023 was prematurely terminated due to credible allegations of indiscretions with adult women and unverified CSA allegations. See WINGS reports:

Clarification re removal of Indian worker

Indian worker removed from Olympia, WA convention

\_\_\_\_

Letter from Church Leadership in India

## MESSAGE TO THE STAFF

As you know, in March, 2024 a group of overseers from various places met together with the local staff in India to help the staff deal specifically with allegations that have been made against David Jeyaraj and Jeeva Panchavarnam as well as other issues of concern in the Church. On March 31 a decision was made that David Jeyaraj and Jeeva Panchavarnam would be asked to step down from their places in the work while an investigation into the allegations against them was made.

On April 2, 2024, Four of the overseers along with Prabhakar met with a trusted legal advisor that a respected elder of the Church introduced them to. They asked for his advice as to how best to carry out this investigation. After carefully considering the nature of the allegations that we are dealing with, and the lack of detail provided in the allegations he strongly advised against hiring a third party agency to look into these allegations. His hesitance to suggest engaging in a third party agency, was based on the fact that there is corruption that exists in this country and that 'pay-offs', in the end would determine the outcome. He has suggested that it is the proper procedure that those who are responsible for guiding the work in our fellowship, look into and deal with these cases. He further helped us sift through the material we have and has given us his opinion on what action, if any, should be taken in each case. We feel that this is the right and scriptural way to handle this based on 1 Corinthians 6:1 to 7, where Paul strongly recommends that matters like these be settled within the fellowship rather than taking them

to be settled by unbelievers in the world, but only when no criminal activity has been found to have taken place. Otherwise it will be taken to the relevant authorities.

In following the recommendations given us by the legal advisor, we have undertaken to look carefully into the allegations that have been made against David and Jeeva. It has became clear that there is not sufficient, verifiable proof of the allegations made against them to justify them being asked to leave the work. In our investigation we have had to sift the truth out of many untruths so of course we were left with some questions still. Unfortunately, as we sought to find the truth in these matters, we did find that an anonymous person, or group of people, whose motives are very questionable, appear to be responsible for making the majority of these allegations.

We appreciate David and Jeeva's cooperation in agreeing to quietly step down from being active in the work while this investigation was in progress. Now that the investigation has been concluded, we find no reason why they should not continue to fill an active place in the work on this staff.

It has saddened us all to think we should need the help of a legal advisers when we believe that we are the children of the Living God and we're following His Son Jesus as our Saviour in all things that he lived and taught.