

# ABHISHEK PRABHAKAR JOHN

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## EDUCATION

### **Ph.D. Candidate in Historical Studies (ABD)**

Boston University School of Theology (Expected September 2026)  
*Dissertation: The Rise of Indian Evangelicalism: Local Agency, Transnational Influences, and the Shaping of Mid-20th Century Evangelical Christianity in India, 1950–1974*  
Advisor: Dr. Dana L. Robert, William Fairfield Warren Distinguished Professor, Boston University

### **Master of Advanced Studies in Ecumenical Studies**

University of Genève, Switzerland (June 2019)  
Highest Score, Thesis Defense  
*Thesis: The World Council of Churches and World Evangelical Alliance: Progress and Challenges, 1950–2018*

### **Master of Theology in History of Christianity**

Senate of Serampore College (University), India (February 2017)  
Graduated First Class  
*Thesis: The Historical Impact of the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act 1968 on the Christian Community in the Mahakoshal Region*

### **M.A. in Christian Management**

Martin Luther Christian University, India (February 2014)  
Graduated First Class with Grade A  
Specialized in Financial Management, Management Information Systems, and Project Management

### **Bachelor of Divinity**

Senate of Serampore College (University), India (February 2009)

### **Bachelor of Theology**

Senate of Serampore College (University), India (February 2005)

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **Teaching Fellow**

*Boston University School of Theology* — Fall 2022 to Spring 2025.

- Courses:
  - Christian Mission (Fall 2022, Spring 2024).
  - Global Christianity (Spring 2023).
  - African Christianity (Spring 2024).
  - Mediterranean Antiquity to Modern Latin America (Fall 2024).
  - Mediterranean Antiquity to Modern Asia (Spring 2025).
- Designed syllabi and learning outcomes aligned with liberal arts principles and historical depth.
- Fostered inclusive, intercultural classroom environments promoting dialogue across traditions in keeping with ecumenical values.
- Provided mentorship in academic writing, research, and vocational discernment.
- Collaborated with faculty on curriculum development and classroom climate, integrating historical scholarship with creative pedagogy.
- Utilized digital platforms such as Blackboard to enhance student engagement and accessibility.

## **Lecturer and Registrar**

*Asia Antioch Seminary, Guwahati, India — May 2017 to May 2018*

- Taught courses in History of Modern Religious and Secular Movements, Church History, History of Missions, Intercultural Communication, and History of Christianity in India.
- Supervised Master's-level theses, mentoring students through topic selection, research design, and academic writing.
- Revised academic curricula and assessment strategies to meet accreditation standards.
- Led registrar operations including enrollment, scheduling, transcript issuance, and graduation coordination.

## **Lecturer**

*Believers Church Minor Seminary, Dehradun, India — April 2011 to December 2013*

- Taught History of Christianity, History of Missions, Intercultural Communication, and History of Christianity in India.
- Mentored graduate students through thesis development, promoting rigorous research and academic writing.
- Led comprehensive curriculum revisions to meet accreditation standards.
- Managed registrar duties, including enrollment, scheduling, and graduation protocols.

## High School Teacher

*Believers Church Residential School, Kerala, India* — June 2005 to March 2010

- Instructed high school students in Moral Science and Environmental Studies.
  - Designed co-curricular activities around ethics, civic engagement, and ecological stewardship.
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## TEACHING COMPETENCE

### History of Christianity

- Medieval Christianity (c. 1000–1500); Reformation (c. 1400–1700); Early Modern (c. 1500–1800); Modern Christianity (1800–present)
- Topics: theology and society; church, empire, and colonialism; Christianity and reform; methods in historical study of Christianity

### World Christianity, Mission, and Intercultural Studies

- World/Global Christianity; Christian Mission & Missiology; History of Missions; Intercultural Communication
- Christianity in South Asia and the Global South; ecumenical and transnational movements

### South Asia & Religions

- History of South Asia (18th–20th centuries); Hindu Traditions; Modern Religious & Secular Movements in India
- Religion and politics in South Asia; Islamic, Sikh, and Buddhist reform movements (introductory surveys)

### Surveys & Methods

- World/Global History surveys (e.g., Mediterranean Antiquity to Modern Asia/Latin America)
- Primary-source analysis; historical writing and research methods

Also prepared to teach: “Hinduism,” “Religions of South Asia,” “Global Religions,” “History of Christianity in India,” and “History of Christianity in Africa/Asia” (as topical or survey courses)

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## RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

### Research Assistant

*Dictionary of African Christian Biography, Boston University* – Summer 2025

- Redesigned digital collections at [OpenBU](https://openbu.org/), enhancing access to scholarly resources.

*Center for Global Christianity and Mission, Boston University* — Fall 2022 to Spring 2024

- Coordinated seminars and visiting scholar programs.

- Assisted in logistics for the 2022 and 2023 Eastern Fellowship of Professors of Mission Conference.
- Managed scheduling, communications, and research archives related to global Christian movements.
- Enhanced the Center's digital presence by promoting events and managing social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) to engage a wider academic and public audience.

### **President, Association of Ph.D. Students 2023-24**

- Represented doctoral students to the academic administration and school committees.
- Led planning for academic workshops, public symposia, and career development events.

### **Secretary, Association of Ph.D. Students 2022-23**

- Maintained meeting minutes, event records, and communications.

### **Administrative Manager**

*Evangelical Fellowship of India* — 2017 to 2021

- Drafted reports and policy submissions for the UN Human Rights Council in collaboration with international faith-based coalitions.
- Organized and hosted a national series of theological webinars and consultations addressing critical contemporary issues such as creation care, pandemic response, bereavement, and ecclesial crisis management.
- Directed media communication, advocacy campaigns, and fundraising initiatives.

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## **RESIDENT SCHOLAR**

Overseas Ministries Studies Center (OMSC), Princeton Seminary, Princeton, NJ – August 21, 2025 – May 20, 2026

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## **PUBLICATIONS**

- Prabhakar John, Abhishek. "Christological Themes in the *Physiologus* and its Place in Medieval Theology." *Doon Theological Journal* 19, no. 1-2 (June & December 2022): 118-134.
  - Prabhakar John, Abhishek. "John Jesudason Cornelius: A Forgotten Indian Christian Nationalist." *Doon Theological Journal* 18, no. 2 (September 2021): 81-93.
  - Prabhakar John, Abhishek. Review of *Missional Conversations: A Dialogue between Theory and Praxis in World Mission*, edited by Cathy Ross and Colin Smith. *International Review of Mission* 108, no. 2 (November 2019): 438-439. DOI:10.1111/irom.12299
  - "Cornelius, John Jesudason." Boston University School of Theology: History of Missiology. Accessed July 29, 2025. <https://www.bu.edu/missiology/missionary-biography/c-d/cornelius-john-jesudason/>
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## PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

- “J. Elwin Wright’s Global Vision of an Evangelical Coalition,” World Christianity Conference, Princeton Seminary, March 2025.
  - “Resilience in Community: Indian Christian Responses to Persecution,” BOISI Center, Boston College, April 2025.
  - “Religious Conversion Narratives in Judicial Reports,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 2024.
  - “Christian Response in the Wake of Eastern Sunday bombings in Sri Lanka,” Interreligious Dialogue hosted by the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, May 5, 2019.
  - “Hospitality to the Other,” Sri Lankan Independence Day All Religions Gathering, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, February 4, 2019.
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## AWARDS & GRANTS

- Thomas J. and Nellie M. Shire Scholarship, Boston University (2021–2025)
  - Mr. & Mrs. F. S. Clute Scholarship, BU School of Theology (2023, 2024, 2025)
  - Torrey M. Johnson, Sr. Research Grant, Wheaton College (2024)
  - Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs Travel Grant (2023, 2024)
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## ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Fellow, 2023-24, Institute for Culture, Religion, and World Affairs (CURA)  
Paper: “Judicial Reports and Narratives of Religious Conversion in India: An Analysis of the Judicial Reports of the Somasekhara and Saldanha Commissions on the 2008 Anti-Christian Violence in Mangalore, India”
  - Member, American Academy of Religion (AAR)
  - Member, American Society of Missiology (ASM)
  - Member, American Society of Church History (ASCH)
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## SKILLS & COMPETENCIES

- Instructional design and syllabus development grounded in liberal arts and ecumenical principles
- Student mentorship and academic advising focused on inclusive pedagogies and scholarly rigor
- Proficient with digital learning platforms (Blackboard), Microsoft Office, and Adobe Suite

- Experienced in intercultural communication and event planning in academic and community settings
  - Languages: Fluent in English and Hindi; reading knowledge of Bengali and German
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## REFERENCES

Available upon request