

St. Johannis, Leonhardstraße 39, 38102 Braunschweig

Bishop Dr. Christian Samraj  
The Tamil Evangelical Lutheran  
Church  
Tiruchirappalli, India

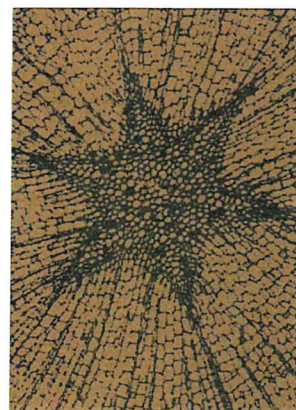


Ev.- luth.. Kirchengemeinde St. Johannis  
Leonhardstraße 39  
38102 Braunschweig  
www.johannis-bs.de  
johannis.bs.buero@lk-bs.de  
0531 7017830  
Mo, Di, Do, Fr, 9-11 Uhr, Mi 15-18 Uhr

Konto BLSK  
IBAN DE06 2505 0000 0002 0045 88

Most honorable Bishop Dr. Samraj, dear Brother Christian,  
Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the bright morning star, whose  
epiphany illuminates and liberates the whole world!

United with you in joyful celebration, the Congregation, the Congregational Council and the  
Partnership Group of St. Johannis in Braunschweig wish to extend their sincere congratulations on  
your election and forthcoming consecration as XIV. Bishop of Tranquebar of TELC. We are so  
thankful to know you as faithful and energetic pastor of the congregation of  
Peelamedu and as partnership liaison officer of TELC who has always  
encouraged and brought forward the partnership between our congregations  
and churches. Therefore, we share the joy of your Church that you have been  
entrusted the honour and responsibility as Bishop to guide and shepherd the  
church at large for the coming years. Unfortunately, we cannot be there to  
be present at your consecration service. However, we look forward to the  
visit of a partnership group from Peelamedu and pray that you'll be able to  
accompany them as well to further strengthen the partnership.



The picture above shows a cross-section, enlarged 30 times, of the root of a  
Chinese redwood tree. The cells of the root gather in the form of a star  
sending off its light. This wonderful picture was discovered by a scientist  
under the microscope – to his amazement, and one of all who share it!

One needs to look carefully and prayerfully – like the wise men did – for the star of Bethlehem; its  
light is hidden from the powerful and mighty. But it is there, ready and strong as in the root of Jesse,  
for those who search for it: for it rises, like the bright morning star, in the hearts of those who bow  
down at the crib in the stable and the cross of Golgotha, and continues to enlighten the many who put  
their faith in Him, our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

May you be guided and enlightened by HIM every day you rise to your tasks and duties of your new  
office, dear Bishop and Brother in Christ, and may the fruits of your work continue to strengthen the  
partnership between our congregations and churches. May your family be blessed as well, as you  
move to a new home and tasks!

The old hymn „O Come, O Come Emmanuel“ in the German version puts our prayer like this:

*„O komm, o komm, du Morgenstern,  
lass uns dich schauen, unsern Herrn.  
Vertreib das Dunkel unsrer Nacht  
durch deines klaren Lichtes Pracht.  
Freut euch, freut euch, der Herr ist nah.  
Freut euch und singt Halleluja.“*



Picture of the Partnership Groups of St. Johannis Braunschweig and the Deanery of Königsutter taken during the visit of Rt. Rev. Daniel Jayaraj in 2022 on the occasion of the celebration service of 50 years of partnership between the TELC and the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Brunswick

Braunschweig, on the Feast of the Epiphany, the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2023

Yours faithfully,  
united in Christ, our Lord and Saviour,

  
Rev. Thomas Vogt

  
Rev. Antje Tiemann

  
Rev. Klaus J. Burekhardt