

JOURNEY TO THE

City Cathedral

THE 40 YEAR WALK - UNRAVELLED

"REMEMBER HOW THE LORD YOUR GOD LED YOU THROUGH THE WILDERNESS FOR THESE FORTY YEARS...FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS BRINGING YOU INTO A GOOD LAND OF FLOWING STREAMS AND POOLS OF WATER, WITH FOUNTAINS AND SPRINGS THAT GUSH OUT IN THE VALLEYS AND HILLS." DEUT 8



As we look back at our humble beginnings and see how far we've come today, our hearts are filled with praise, thanksgiving and gratefulness for all God has done. As the psalmist says, "Indeed the Lord has done great things for us, for which we are glad." In 1976, we started our first church in a small underground hall with only a handful of people which was our place of worship for 3 years. We would come together in that dusty little hall & sit on the floor to receive the word each Sunday. The next year we moved to an open car garage that seated 200 people. Slowly, as we came together in love & fellowship, we grew as a church and graduated to our now current church building. In 1989, Rev. Curt Johansson an apostle of faith, prophesied through the Word of the Lord that God would enlarge our tent and give us a bigger church. True to His word, the Lord enabled us to purchase a land in the heart of the beautiful city of Coimbatore. With the help of our dear Swedish partners Trosgnistan, we built our first church building in 1991. It was a big 1,200 seater auditorium that had many amenities we had not known previously. It was the very first church in our city to feature a gallery. At that time, it was such a large auditorium that people wondered if we could even fill it. But God is faithful and as we continued to

serve Him, He filled our church over & over again. In 1984, my wife Ketzia and I went to Korea to participate in the cell church conference of Dr. Cho. We were able to meet Dr. Cho at that conference and came back challenged with a vision for early morning prayer and house group meetings. Soon after our return we started to have early morning prayers and house group prayer meetings regularly. The church began to grow & Pastor Philip Prakasam (our youngest brother) was an incredible help throughout this time. He worked faithfully alongside his brother, building the kingdom of God, until 1994 when God called him home & he entered into glory. Our dear father, Rev. Dr. Job Gnanaprakasam was a great encourager! He always had such a special grace about him: a kind word of encouragement for anyone he met. He was the first to encourage my wife Ketzia to lead worship, as she was gifted in singing. My wife at that time was very fearful and reserved. But, encouraged by the words of our dear dad, she stepped out in faith to lead worship and the presence of Lord started to increase. People began to flock to the church! In 1991, my father Job, handed over the reigns of the local church to my wife and I and we became the senior pastors of Bethel Indian Pentecostal Assembly.