



# College of Theology & Evangelism Fiji

Ambassadors for Christ International – USA ☒ AFCI USA Service Center

PO Box 369 ☒ Roswell, GA 30077, USA

Office: 470-514-5427 ☒ E-mail: [info@afci.us](mailto:info@afci.us)

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## Psalm 91 “My God in Whom I trust!”

### Verses 1–2

“He who dwells in the **shelter** of the **Most High** will abide in the **shadow** of the **Almighty**. **I** will say to the **LORD**, “**My refuge** and **my fortress**; **My God**, in whom I trust!”

As you read Psalm 91, you discover that God makes some marvelous promises to those who will live under His wings, in the holy of Holies. In the span of just two verses, the psalm contains an eloquent opening, enriched not only by the **four metaphors for security** but by the **four divine names**. This rare arrangement in the Scriptures is worth considering.

The first name, **the Most-High**, is the Hebrew word **Elyon**. It is first used in Scripture in Genesis 14:18, describing Abraham's encounter with the king-priest Melchizedek. *Elyon* suggests a Supreme monarch, one who is elevated above all things. The name signifies God's majesty, sovereignty, and pre-eminence.

The second name, **the Almighty**, is translated from the word **Shaddai**. Shaddai has many meanings, but it primarily suggests a mighty, powerful God who is strong beyond our imagination and is more than capable to supply our every need. In His name and in His power, there is no need that cannot be met, and no circumstance He cannot overcome.

The third name, **the LORD**, is the Hebrew word “**Yahweh**.” It is the personal, covenant name that specifies God's intimate knowledge and superintendence of the life as well as his protecting presence. Revealed to Moses at the burning bush (Exo 6:2), this name specifies a nearness and a presence. The significance of this name is that it represents a relatable God who seeks for us to know Him on a deep and personal level (Psalm 139).

The fourth name, **my God**, comes from the Hebrew **Elohim**. It is one of the most common names for God that first appears at the very beginning of the Bible in Genesis 1:1 “*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*” The basic meaning behind the name *Elohim* is one of strength or power of effect. *Elohim* is the infinite, all-powerful God who shows by His works that He is the creator, sustainer, and supreme judge of the world.

This special revelation of God's nature has great implications for a believer. It summons a high entreaty of **trust**. The names of God evoke confidence, as they connote the power of the Creator-God as well as the endearing love of the covenantal God (“the LORD”). What a chorus' declaration of the blessedness of **dwelling** with and in God!

Psalm 91 speaks to the **protection** of one who ‘dwells in the shelter of the Most-High.’ The Psalmist declares his own faith before applying it to us. It causes us to ask where it is that we **dwelling**. Do we dwell in our own self-doubt? Do we dwell in anger? Do we dwell in what could be or what could have been? Or do we dwell in the **shelter** of the Most-High God, the Holy king of heaven who promises to protect and keep us (1 Pet 1:5; Rom 8:31–39; 1 Pet 2:25)?

However, these wonderful promises of Psalm 91 can confuse believers when they encounter trouble. The psalmist is not attempting to portray a care-free life void of calamity (John 16:33; Acts 14:22b; 2 Tim 2:3); rather, he is portraying a confidence in God's promises to deliver believers from calamities in accordance with his sovereign will. The psalm is a psalm of **trust** and **confidence** in the refuge provided to believers by God in the face of any and all of life's calamities.

Such is the **bounty** of **trust** in God. It is the bounty of God's presence, rich beyond conception, but readily available to the man who trusts. For the poet of Psalm 91, these benefits were bound up in deliverance and security. For our Lord, they were bound up in the will of the Father. For the Christian, they are the profit of self-forgetful discipleship (Matt 16:24–25). Hence, no outward ills of life can really and lastingly hurt us!

Would you believe it if someone told you that the safest place on the planet is under a **shadow**? Psalm 91 determines this possibility only if the shadow is the shadow of the Almighty! It won't be wrong to say that I would rather be **overshadowed** by Almighty God than protected by the mightiest army in the world. **Elyon, Shaddai, Yahweh, and Elohim** as the “secret place” is our great asset of victory.

## Meet CTEF's Five Freshmen of 2020. The Journey Ranges between 1 Mile and 6,789 Miles!



**Suraj Ranasandhna (Odisha, INDIA)** is CTEF's first student from India. Suraj was raised a Catholic but professed faith in Christ through the ministry of the Indian Orphan Mission in the year 2013. He has left behind his mom and a younger brother to come to study the Word of God. His father died when he was eight years old. Suraj and his family has suffered a great deal for being identified as Dalits (the lowest caste system in India known as the 'untouchables'). We are thankful that Suraj has a new identity in Christ. He learned about CTEF through word of mouth. After his studies, Suraj desires to return to India and proclaim the Gospel to the unreached people group there.



**Ameet K. Singh (Lautoka, FIJI)** is from a nearby village located a mile away from CTEF. Ameet grew up as a Hindu. He recalls life to be difficult and parents to be very strict. He was an exceptional student until one unforeseen tragedy changed everything. At the age of 13, Ameet went into depression. Worst still, it remained undiagnosed until his final year at high school. This took a serious toll on his health and he is still on medication. His two older brothers became a doctor and a pharmacist, but Ameet stayed home for 10 years. The Lord laid in his heart this year to apply to join CTEF. Ameet recently completed his first semester studies and appears to be our brightest student!



**Sitani Dabedabelaca Tatau Naoko (Labasa, FIJI)** is from Vanua Levu, the second biggest island of Fiji. As a native Fijian, Sitani was raised in a Methodist home. He came to Christ at the age of 16. After finishing High School, he joined a local rugby club while also keeping himself busy doing root crop farming on the family owned farm. Later he applied and was selected to join the Fiji Corrections Services. Unfortunately, his interview didn't go too well. Upon his return to the village, he went back to farming. In the meantime, he started to meet with a CTEF graduate, who is serving in the Fiji Prison Ministry. Through difficult circumstances and prayer, the Lord guided him to CTEF.



**Manipua Taitusi Puafolau (TUVALU)** is from the least visited nation in the world. As a native Tuvaluan, Manipua was raised in a Methodist home. He came to Christ in 2017 and since then has been growing steadily in Christ. He was discipled by a former CTEF graduate who also encouraged him to consider biblical studies. Manipua after finishing High school was a seafarer from 2011–2013. He recalls wasting his life in pursuit of happiness in the things of this world. His desire now is to nurture his relationship with God. Manipua has resolved to dedicate the rest of his life in knowing and serving God. After finishing the biblical studies, he hopes to return to his home country.



**Telua Fepulai (TUVALU)** is also from the least visited nation in the world. As a native Tuvaluan, Telua was raised in a Methodist home. He came to Christ in 2019 and since then has been attending a Bible teaching church pastored by Mr. Litagi Taliu, a CTEF graduate. Telua faces a lot of challenges with his English grammar and comprehension. He works doubly hard to keep up with the demands of theological studies. All our curriculum is in the English language. After finishing his training, Telua hopes to return to his homeland Tuvalu to give a hand to his pastor. His desire is to help in the youth ministry of the local church. His talent is in choir and climbing coconut trees!

### First Semester Examination



- We have 19 students in the residency program.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> semester studies began 3 weeks ago.
- Glad to be back in the classroom!
- I am teaching 5 classes.

Despite so many disruptions of our plans, nothing encourages me more than to be reminded that the Lord's purposes have not been thwarted. He is still on His throne, and He is still accomplishing His work. **This current pandemic provided an unparalleled level of ministry opportunities in the areas of evangelism, discipleship, preaching, teaching, and counseling.** Ashwin and I am encouraged and blessed!

- Charlene plans to do her university studies via online.
- COVID-19 had impacted our College's financial support.

**Thank you for your faithful and generous support to our ministry.**

By God's Grace & For His Glory

*Premend & Ashwin*