

**The Ways of Wisdom  
and an Outline of Wisdom Christology  
A Tamil-Christian Interpretation**

**Christina Manohar**

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**CSOT**

‘The Ways of Wisdom’ is a beautiful evocation of the Tamil way of understanding life, as expressed in both writings and sayings, and the rich wisdom which this expresses. Christina Manohar has woven all this together with the Christian wisdom tradition embedded deep in the Bible, and with her personal reminiscences of those she has known who have lived from this wisdom. This is a wisdom which is rooted above all in love, and throughout the book we are aware of the author’s own wise and loving gaze, as she reflects on the culture of her people and the heart of her faith.

*Rev. Simon Witcombe, Senior Chaplain, University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham, UK.*

This is a time of increasing polarisation politically, culturally and religiously, between communities globally, and also within India. This makes the publishing of this book by Christina Manohar all the more timely. Having been an external examiner for Christina’s Doctoral thesis in 2005, I am well aware that she is an inclusive theologian, who brings together different strands in her harmonious writing. She remains thoroughly biblical in her heart, and this latest book shows how Christ-centred she is, where Jesus is the wisdom of God, and it is on this that her Christology is centred, and the cross remains at the heart of her message. But she writes here unambiguously from her Tamil culture, and shows a breadth of vision, that includes several key Tamil Christian writers, and also Tamil Hindus with whom she has much empathy, and reveal much wisdom from their culture and faith. These can be found in her very extensive bibliography, from which others can draw. And where the book is at its most creative, and original, is in the way she roots it in stories. The text also includes pictures to illustrate these figures, in a way that warms the heart, and shows how deeply rooted she is in her culture, as well as her Christian faith. I myself love the Tamil culture, having been associated with it since 1975, when I first went to teach at the Tamilnadu Theological Seminary, in Madurai, which is a city at the heart of Tamil culture. It is to be hoped that many readers will be attracted to this book, who have never had such an in depth experience at first hand, but can get a real feel of the wisdom that comes from South Indian Christian faith.

*Canon Dr. Andrew Wingate, OBE, Inter faith Adviser in the Diocese of Chichester, UK*

People who have read Thirukkural, the poems of Auvaiyar and the poems and writings of Subramania Bharati will understand that the teachings of the Bible are not alien to Tamil wisdom but embrace the ideals of Tamil wisdom and also complement its teachings in some significant ways. Theologians who wish to explore an anecdotal approach to theology will find this work insightful. Tamil Christians will find this treatise a presentation of Christian understanding of wisdom in a Tamil way. This book can be recommended to theological institutions that celebrate and welcome theology emerging from local people and their literatures.

Christina Manohar has a Ph.D (University of Gloucestershire, UK) and a Post-Doctorate (University of Wales, UK) in Christian Theology. She has authored books on theology including *Spirit Christology: An Indian Christian Perspective* (2009). *The Knowledge of God in Mechthild of Magdeburg* (2010). *Women’s Issues and Reflections* (2012). *Spirit, Time and Eternity: East-West Reflections* (2015). *Seasons of Thoughts: Reflections on Theology and Nature* (CSOT, 2017; ISPCK, 2018).

