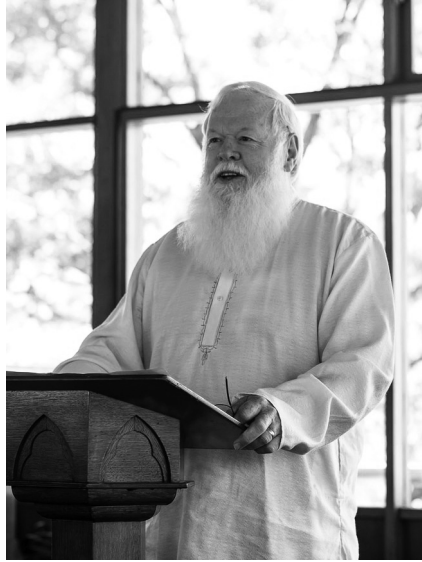


About the Author



Carl Vadivella Belle obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree at the Australian National University, Canberra. Between 1976 and 1979 he served in the Australian High Commission, Kuala Lumpur. He has maintained a long-term interest in Malaysian social, political, religious and political issues, especially Hinduism in Malaysia and the history and traditions of Malaysia's Indian population. His doctoral dissertation, "Thaipusam in Malaysia: A Hindu Festival Misunderstood?" was accepted by Deakin University in 2004. He has also acted as principal consultant to several television and radio productions focussing on the festival of Thaipusam as it is practised at Batu Caves, Kuala Lumpur. Dr Belle was appointed Inaugural Hindu Chaplain at the Flinders University of South Australia in 2005. He has lectured extensively on both Malaysian politics and society, and on South Indian Hindu traditions, as well as wider religious issues, and has published numerous papers on these topics. His earlier work, *Tragic Orphans: Indians in Malaysia*, also published by ISEAS, in 2015, constitutes a comprehensive general history of the modern Indian presence in Malaysia.