

COMMISSION ON YOUTH

A JOURNEY OF
NAVIGATING YOUTH
TO THE ECUMENICAL
MOVEMENT

PRIORITIES OF THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH

- Encouraging young people to be part of the National Ecumenical Movement.
- Networking with the Local and International Ecumenical partners for sponsorship and partnership.
- Connecting the member churches and the local youth movements with the Commission on Youth through organizing programmes both at regional and national levels.
- Strengthening direct partnerships with youth fellowships of the member churches and Commission on Youth and encouraging them to create ecumenical platforms for young people to Promote grass-root ecumenism.
- Identifying Young people to engage them in a process of articulating their faith and understanding about God.

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connect create change

COMMISSION ON YOUTH - NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN INDIA

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Reflection: INCARNATION OF JESUS AND IMAGE OF GOD

Colossians 1:16-17

A famous theologian Kwok Pui Lan observes that recent ecological crisis is a result of breaking down of a great chain that connects human beings, all sentient things and nature. In other words, ecological crisis has resulted from a loss sense of interconnectedness and interdependence of creation. Human beings have forgotten that they are intrinsically connected to the wider created order for survival. Hence there is an urgent need to re-establish covenant with land, oceans, forests, rivers and mountains. Western Christian theology and world view had projected God as a distant God who rules the earth from a distance. He once entered the world by becoming a servant in the form of a human being and through resurrection went back to glory. This resulted in the dualism between God and nature. Consequently, image of God was taken away from the world and placed God at a considerable distance from created order. Such an approach which projects God as a distant reality should be reinterpreted and incarnation of Jesus Christ becomes a tool to reinterpret both the transcendence and the immanence of God.

The text makes it clear to us that through incarnation Jesus assumes God's role as creator and sustainer. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made. (John 1:3). Everything was created in him, through him and for him and everything is held

together in him (Col 1:16-17). This view of incarnation makes visible to us that God is present in cosmos and cosmos is present in God. God and cosmos are not separated or closed; they are open to one another. God is first present in universe and then in human beings. In the words of Samuel Rayan "The earth comes to complete truth in Jesus Christ. In him the earth does become the face of God and the place of saving encounter. In Jesus the earth becomes supremely honored, seated at the right hand of God." In Jesus the mystery of God has been manifested and Incarnation is the display of these mysteries. The text of Colossians shows us that Incarnation was already present at the beginning of universe, thus the Son was always the part of evolutionary process. Therefore, the Christ of faith is the head of cosmos and the meeting point of all beings. Thus Christ is ever present in evolution; he is its liberator the one who brings it to fulfillment. Incarnation reveals to us the cosmic image of Christ which is in harmony with created order. This cosmic image of Christ signifies the supreme glorification of God. Seeing the image of god through created order does not confuse world with God, yet it is a place where God is present to us and close to us. It helps us to see creator in creation and relate to it is a more significant way.

Rev. Samuel Mall, Programme Coordinator,
Training, Development and Empowerment, CNI
HPDP Centre, Nagpur

10 Commandments for Climate Justice

- #1. You shall not 'warm-harm' the God-created earth by any of your greedy actions.
- #2. You shall not make a graven image of 'Burning Globe' and worship the fuel economy
- #3. You shall not take the name 'globalization' as like a name of God or pay it reverence
- #4. You shall campaign for Increase of 'energy efficiency' by promoting 'Alternative energy systems' such as installing 'solar' panels' in our premises
- #5. You shall live longer by honouring God's creation—by 'planting tress' in order to decrease tropical deforestation
- #6. You shall turn-off your electronic and electrical equipments one day in each month
- #7. You shall preach, practice and promote 'Rain Water Harvest' systems
- #8. You shall exchange regular 'bulbs' with 'CFL and LCD bulbs' in order to 'Save Energy' and prevent Global Warming'
- #9. You shall 'cut back on driving', 'maintain zero-emission vehicles' and 'sequester carbon dioxide'
- #10. You shall be a 'Climate Justice Promoter'

R. Christopher Rajkumar, Executive Secretary,
Commission on Justice, Peace and Creation, NCCI

NCCI Scholarships

PRAYER POINTS

- We pray for the world environment
- We pray for the natural calamities occurring due to the Climate Change
- We pray for the people affected by the impact of Climate Change
- We pray for the Churches in India to be the agents of Climate Justice

INVITATION FOR REPORTS



Commission on Youth—NCCI invites reports of youth activities, articles, Bible studies from the youth of the member bodies of NCCI for wider circulation through its E-Newsletter.

Eligibility

- Candidates should belong to one of the Member Churches of the National Council of Churches in India.
- Should be in the age group of 25-35 years.
- Should be committed and willing to utilize their service and expertise in their respective Church or Ecumenical organizations.
- Confirmed admission in any college/university/institution (copy of admission letter must be attached along with application forms).
- Willingness to undertake an assigned project work from NCCI on the field of study.
- Candidates should belong to economically weaker section and should produce a certificate of source of income.
- Preference given to candidates from rural areas, Youth, Dalits, Tribals, Women and immediate migrants.
- Applications should be endorsed by the Heads (Diocese/Conference/Synod/Convention).

Restrictions

Scholarships are not awarded for:

- Studies in abroad/foreign countries
- Under Graduate or Graduate Studies or Doctoral studies (Ph.D/D.Th.)
- For a family (scholarship for spouse and children).
- Study duration less than 3 months or more than 2 years.

Scope of Scholarship

The scholarships are minimal and are only incentives for doing special studies and research in specified fields. Fifty percent of scholarships are ear-marked for women candidates. The proposed areas of studies must be ecumenical in nature.

Application Procedure

Download the application forms from the NCCI website (www.nccindia.in). Candidates should send the filled in application forms with relevant documents attached to NCCI office for screening and evaluation.

Areas of Study (with an Ecumenical Perspective)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Migration & Displacement | 9. Geo-Politics & International Justice |
| 2. Human Sexuality | 10. Climate Justice |
| 3. Just-Democracy | 11. Journalism |
| 4. Disaster Management | 12. Human Rights |
| 5. Peace Studies | 13. Bio-ethics |
| 6. HIV/AIDS | 14. Ecological Concerns |
| 7. Just-Tourism | 12. Other Relevant Issues and Concerns |
| 8. Disability | |

Last date for receiving applications is 31st August of every year.

Completed applications forms must be sent to:

Scholarships Secretary
National Council of Churches in India
Civil Lines, Nagpur 440 001, Maharashtra, India
Ph. 0712-2531312, 0712-2561464
Email: ncci@nccindia.in
www.nccindia.in

Environment Sunday Worship Order

CALL TO WORSHIP

All creation, its fullness and all that dwells therein belong to the Lord. We all live and share life with the heavens and the earth, with the waters and the land, with trees and grasses, with creatures of every form, and our fellow humans. Come! let us join in praising and worshiping God our Creator.

OPENING PRAYER

Living God, embrace us with your spirit of life as we rejoice the power of creation, the gift of life and relationships. We celebrate the diversity of life on this life enriching planet and all that live in. We open our hearts and minds to heed the voice of creation. **Amen.**

OPENING SONG/PRAISE AND WORSHIP

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator of all living things and author of life, you made the Earth of infinite complexity with beauty. You have created us out of the clay of the earth itself in your own image and entrusted us humans to be the stewards of all the creation. We forget that we are your creatures and we play at being gods. We neglect the work of stewardship that you have entrusted for our occupation and our joy. We have used, abused, and discarded those things that you have created for your delight. You have created a fragile world in a perfect and delicate balance. Greedily, we have upset the balance, acting with craven disregard for the complex ecosystems we barely understand. We have repressed the Earth and its environment only for unrestrained economic growth, for conspicuous consumption, for always wanting more, for not thinking through the consequences, for not caring for future generations, for blind indifference. We confess our insensitive approach towards our home planet and its resources only to quench our unending wants and turned blind and deaf to those who are affected by the impact of climate change. **Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, the giver of life, creator of heavens and earth and all lives therein. We believe in Jesus Christ, the redeemer of our polluted world, who offers new life and showed us to love and care for our neighbour, neighbour creation. We believe in Holy Spirit, the sustainer of all creation and new life, who reminds us to be the stewards of the creation. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Suggested Scripture Readings:

Old Testament

Gen. 9:8-17—God's Covenant with Noah and All Creation

New Testament

Rev. 21:1-5—Promise of the New Creation

SERMON/REFLECTION

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Creator God, we pray for the air, land and waters of the world that they may be restored and enriched ensuring abundant harvest and bountiful life for all living creation.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we pray for the plants, birds, fishes and animals which are affected and endangered by the climate change and the intrusion of their living territory by human beings that they may be nourished and reproduced its species.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Benevolent God, we pray for the human beings who are knowingly exploiting the resources polluting the environment and hunting birds, animals and fishes for selfish gain. Grant your wisdom to care and concern for the creation as responsible stewards.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Compassionate God, we pray for the suffering of the poor, the victims around the world who have been and who are on the brink to be impacted by the effects of climate change; those who have lost their homes, livelihoods and their lives to the ravages of heat waves, famine, fire, flood and drought across the world.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of wisdom, we pray for those who work to care for creation: those preserving forests and oceans, air and water, animals and plants.

Lord, hear our prayer.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND COMMITMENT

Creator God, we thank you for the beauty of the earth, for the diversity of land and sea, and its resources. Grant us the will to cherish you creation and use its riches for the good and welfare of all. God of life, we thank you for the gift of life you give us and all other living creatures and organisms. Help us to protect the environment so that all life may flourish. God of wisdom, help us in choices we make, in

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what we buy, how we travel, and what we reuse each day. Enable us to live in harmony with your creation. Help us to discern how we have polluted our planet and to empathize with the groaning of creation. Teach us to love our planet Earth as our home and be caretakers for the future. God of love, we commit ourselves with love and oneness to help those who are living in danger because of climate change to take a step and act for the good of creation sustaining your gift of nature. In the name of Jesus Christ, who is the creative impulse in all creation. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING SONG

CLOSING PRAYER

Cosmic God you have send your only Son who calls us to be his disciples to serve others with love and compassion, to be stewards of creation. Strengthen us to follow our Lord, the crucified Christ, to listen for cries of injustice from the earth and groan with creation. Enable us to follow our Lord, the risen Christ, in partnering with Christ in healing our planet, and join the wounded healer as he restores all creation and care for creation. Let the Spirit who renews all creation fill us with a sense of God's presence in all the creations and that are therein. Guide our actions by your grace that all things will be reconciled, renewed and restored through Christ our wounded healer. Delegate us to go serve Christ and proceed for the welfare of Creation.

BENEDICTION

(Celtic Wheel of the Seasons Blessing)

God of the Easter garden bless in every season of the heart.

May God of the Mountainside bless in time set apart.

May God of the beach bless whether tides ebb or tides flow.

May God of the upper room bless my doubt that I may know

Afresh the deep love of God that is stronger than death.

All: May it rise within me as I set forth this day, may it fall softly within me as I rest in you this night.

Jianthaolung Gonmei, Intern—Commission on Youth, NCCI

15 Frightening Facts About Our Environment That Show Why Our Planet Earth Is Dying

- #1. Pollution is one of the biggest global killers, affecting over 100 million people. That's comparable to global diseases like malaria and HIV.
- #2. More than 1 million species have already faced extinction due to global warming. One Million. And a considerable number is under threat.
- #3. Also, thanks to global warming, studies reveal that by the end of the century, around 1,50,000 people will have died of heat related causes.
- #4. And, in spite of all the startling consequences, the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has risen by 34% since the 17th century. And it continues to rise steadily and alarmingly.
- #5. The human population on Earth has grown as much in the last 50 years as in the past four million years.
- #6. We are using up 50% more natural resources than the Earth can provide. At our current population, we need 1.5 Earths.
- #7. Rainforests have taken thousands of years to form but every second a portion the size of a football field is destroyed.
- #8. One and a half acres of forest is cut down every second.
- #9. Thanks to the tremendous amount of reckless waste disposal, we have a garbage island floating in our ocean, mostly comprised of plastics – the size of India, Europe and Mexico combined!
- #10. According to USAID, one-third people of the earth will be facing "severe" or "chronic" water shortages by the year 2025.
- #11. Water pollution has gripped the planet miserably. According to the World Health Organisation, 3.2 million children under the age of five in developing nations die each year as a result of unsafe drinking water and poor sanitation.
- #12. In India, the scenario is gloomy as well. It has been estimated that 75% of all surface water in India has been heavily contaminated by human or agricultural waste.
- #13. It is estimated that approximately 40% of the children living in Africa and India have had their growth stunted due to unclean water and malnutrition.
- #14. According to a UN study on sanitation, far more people in India have access to a cell phone than to a toilet.
- #15. Plastic bags and other plastic garbage thrown into the ocean kill as many as 1,000,000 sea creatures every year.

Source: <http://www.youthconnect.in/2015/06/04/15-frightening-facts-about-our-environment-that-show-why-our-planet-earth-is-dying/>