

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 member churches and 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 grassroots ecumenism.
- Identifying young people to engage 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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BE AGGRESSIVE AND ANGRY (JOHN 2:14-16)

Jesus' attitude during his earthly life and ministry mostly composed of love, peace, calmness, patience and forgiveness but the passage of John depicts to us a very contradictory nature of Jesus. When Jesus went up to Jerusalem and entered the temple the scenario that Jesus found was utterly disgusting. The people had made a market out of God's temple. There was no sanctity of worship and fellowship. Their religion was a dull routine, presided over by worldly minded people whose main desire was to exercise authority and get rich. Witnessing all these happenings Jesus acted swiftly to cleanse the temple. And these actions we will study through three questions;

1) Why were the people selling cattle, sheep and doves?

In v.14 John depicts the scene of the people selling cattle, sheep and doves. All these animals and birds were usually used for offerings. As was the custom, people offered cattle, sheep and doves as a means of repentance. Seeing the needs of the people the money mongers took advantage and were misusing the temple as a means for their business.

2) What was Jesus' reaction?

Jesus' reaction towards those people was swift. Jesus made a whip of cords and drove all those people out of the temple and also poured out the coins and overturned their tables. Jesus with these actions spoke in anger and forbade them from making the Father's house a market place. Here we see a loving Jesus full of anger and aggression. The angry and aggressive nature of Jesus here depicts Jesus' attitude towards those who defile the fellowship and sanctity of God's holiness.

3) What do these actions depict?

Jesus' action on these commercial practices depicts his angry and aggressive nature towards the evil of the society. Here we see Jesus resisting the money mongers of the society.

Christians should be intolerant towards evil, angry with corrupt society, aggressively resisting the evils of casteism and classism, so that the sanctity of human hood and the fellowship of love is maintained in the society. It is now the turn of the youth to be aggressive and angry so that the society is changed and renewed. Make constructive use of your anger and aggression with optimism.

Ms. Mary Chang

ECUMENICAL FORMATION FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS



A workshop on Ecumenical Formation for Theological Students was held at Bishop's College, Kolkata on 11th July 2015 in collaboration with Bishop's College. Tribal and Adivasi Sunday was observed following a liturgy prepared and arranged by the NCCI-Commission on Tribals and Adivasis. Various resource persons addressed the students on different topics: Dr. Wati Longchar, Dean, SCEPTRE gave the keynote address on Ecumenical Movement: Prospects and Opportunities for Theological Students; Mr. Prashant S. Bhonsle, faculty from the Department of History of Christianity, Bishop's College spoke on the topic, Indian Contribution to the Ecumenical Movement; Ms. Ruby Hembrom, a Founding Director of Adivaani spoke on Ecumenical Movement: Subaltern Perspectives; Anindya Hajra, a Director of Pratyay Gender Trust, Kolkata and Rev. Pandhare Satvasheela Shankarrao, Department of Religion, Senate of Serampore College spoke on Ecumenical Movement and Its Challenges, from gender and interfaith perspectives respectively.

PRAYER POINTS

- ⇒ We pray for the youth in India
- ⇒ We pray for the church to effectively reach the youth
- ⇒ We pray for organizations working to help youth
- ⇒ We pray for the youth in the conflict-torn countries

INVITATION TO WRITE



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.

YOUTH FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE CAMP, BANGALORE



The NCCI-Commission on Youth organized a Youth for Social Justice Camp at Visthar, Bangalore from 3rd – 7th August, 2015 in partnership with NCCI-Commission on Justice, Peace and Creation, International Justice Mission and Visthar. The five-day camp focused on



engaging with different social problems such as Trafficking, Sexual Minorities, Child Rights and Disability. Different key resource persons namely Rev. David Selvaraj, Director, Visthar; Mr. Shantanu Dutta, Director of Public Engagement, International Justice Mission, New Delhi; Mr. Raja, popularly known as Auto Raja, founder of New Ark Mission, Bangalore; Ms. Akkai Padmashali, founder-member of Ondede; Ms. Brinda Adige, Director of Global Concerns India; Mr. Chip Kingery from

ProVision Asia, Bangalore and other resource persons engaged the campers unveiling the social realities of injustice prevailing in every form of society. Youth from different churches such as AELC, ALC, CBCNC, CNI, CSI, ELCMP, GELC, GSELC, JELC, MBC, MCI, NELC, SALC throughout India participated in the camp.

RADIO PROGRAMME



The NCCI-Commission on Youth organized a 20 minutes radio programme with a panel discussion on the theme “Youth Civic Engagement” at All India Radio, Nagpur in observing International Youth Day on 12th August 2015. Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad, General Secretary, NCCI gave the keynote address on Youth Civic Engagement. Various perspectives from educational institutions, social activists and secular society on Youth Civic Engagement in the present context and its negligence were addressed by the panel which was moderated by Ms. Pranita Sandela, Intern. Youth from Evangelical Lutheran Church in MP presented a special number and greetings were given by Rev. Sweetey Helen, Executive Secretary, Commission on Youth-NCCI.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY - DEBATE COMPETITION



NCCI-Commission on Youth observed the International Youth Day on 12th August 2015. Mr. Swapnil Ray and Mr. Samuel from Youth for Christ, Nagpur led the morning devotion at the NCCI secretariat. In the afternoon an Inter-College Debate competition on the topic “Capital Punishment should be abolished in India?” was organized in collaboration with India Peace Centre. About 6-7 colleges participated with about 15 speakers and other participants.



STREET THEATRE

Commission on Youth - NCCI organized a street theatre in India Peace Centre on August 12, 2015 at 5:30 pm. The theme of the Street theatre was “Youth Civic Engagement”. The Street theatre brought to focus the challenges young people face and the struggles for their rights. The Street Theatre group was from Bahujan Rang Bhoomi, Nagpur.

INDEPENDENCE DAY - YOUTH FRIENDLY MATCH



In observing Independence Day, the NCCI-Commission on Youth organized a friendly sports meet for the North-East youth at the NCCI campus at 3:00 pm. Rev. Sweetie Helen, Executive Secretary, Commission on Youth rendered the welcome address and Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad, General Secretary, NCCI offered a prayer to inaugurate the friendly sports meet. About 30 youth participated in the Sports meet. Volleyball and Badminton were played. Mr. Zuchon Ovung, Pastor, North East Christian Fellowship Nagpur offered the closing prayer and the sports meet was concluded.

YOUTH SUNDAY OBSERVANCE



NCCI-Commission on Youth observed Youth Sunday in association with North East Christian Fellowship, Nagpur conducted at India Peace Centre on 16th August 2015 following the liturgy prepared by the Commission on Youth. Rev. Sweetie Helen, Executive Secretary, Commission on Youth delivered the Sermon on the theme "Household of God".

SHORT FILM CONTEST



The Commission on Youth is organizing a Short Film Competition for all the Member Churches in observing August as Youth Month on the theme "Youth Civic Engagement from Dalit/Tribal Women Perspectives." For more details: <http://nccinet.blogspot.in/2015/08/youth-civic-engagement.html>

ACCOMPLISHMENT

Aparajita Priyadarshini Behera, aged 24, a daily-wage labourer's daughter from Odisha recently cracked the Indian Economic Services (IES) Examination securing 13th rank. Clearing such a highly competitive exam through sheer hard work, without affording the facility of any coaching center, earmarks and exemplary and sterling achievement for the youth, overshadowing the social stigma of gender and economic discrimination. The NCCI-Commission on Youth extends sincere congratulations to Aparajita for her success. She has become a role model for all young aspirants.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT YOUTH IN INDIA

- ◇ By 2020, 64% of India's population will be in the working age group, having an average of 19 years age.
- ◇ 41.5% of the Indian youth wants to be happy and 30% wants to be rich.
- ◇ 76% of India's internet users are under the age of 35 years. 42% of them are between the age group 15-24 years.
- ◇ 50% of India's population is below the age of 25.
- ◇ The population of young people in India increased from 353 million to 430 million in 10 years.
- ◇ Most of content related services in India is used by its youth.
- ◇ In 2014 Indian general elections, there were 150 million new voters.
- ◇ 66% of Indian Youth feel more accepted on Social Media than in person.
- ◇ Every 20 seconds some adolescent gets bullied online.
- ◇ 52% of the surveyed youth say their parents don't care about their online activities.

Source: Internet

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