

PRIORITIES OF THE NCCI—YOUTH CONCERN

- 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 grassroot ecumenism.
- Identifying Young people to engage them in a process of articulating their faith and understanding about God.

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COMMISSION ON YOUTH - NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN INDIA

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REFLECTION: THE PEACE WE BATTLE TO INHERIT (JOHN 14:27)

Albert Camus, a French philosopher, author and journalist once said that "Peace is the only battle worth waging." The world seems to have waging an unending war physically, in pursuit of peace yet unaccomplished. The infamous colonial ideology of 'Pax Romana' (c. 27 B.C.E. to 180 C.E.) that enforces peace through subjugation and conquest in favour of Roman Empire continues to hang back somewhere in the saga of world peace buildings.

A peace without liberty, freedom and independence slowly seeps in to become the epitome of world peace. The biased and instability of peace given by the world in fact let more people sacrificed, especially the young lives at its prime time. As Greek historian Herodotus of Halicarnassus rightly said "In

peace sons [sic] bury fathers, but in war fathers bury sons." It takes a person to wonder how the world has really come to understand the fact that the peace is our rightful inheritance. It is fundamental and ultimate that cannot be taken away from us by any circumstances. Nevertheless, how does the world give peace? Does the struggle for world peace inclusive? This is what Jesus means by it and said "I do not give to you as the world gives."

There is a need to allow our hearts and minds to seek and to be engulfed in the peace that Jesus gives in the midst of troubles and turmoil. Jesus shows us the proper response to his promise of peace, "Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful". We ought to be able to lay hold of this peace. It is

there, it is ours; but we must take hold of it. It is interesting that He says "I give you peace," then He says, "Do not let your heart be troubled." The peace He gives has to be received and applied in our lives. If we lay hold of the promise of the very peace of Christ, we will have calm, untroubled hearts, regardless of external circumstances. *Pax Christi*, a peace of Christ that is just and inclusive to all human kind and the whole creation.

May the peace of Christ, the Prince of Peace, which he has given to inherit be upon us all. Amen

Jianthaolung Gonmei, Executive Secretary – Commission on Youth, NCCI

REPORT-INTERNS FIELD WORK AT BOOTIBORI 26TH -28TH AUGUST

First of all I give all glory and honor to our living God for his guidance in our field trip, at the outset I would like to thank Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad the General Secretary of NCCI for giving us the opportunity for this trip and also I would like to thank all the Executive Secretaries of NCCI for allowing us the interns to go for this trip. We, five interns of NCCI reached bootibori on 26th August at 4:30 pm, we met Mr. Rajesh Jadhav of VCLC who briefed us about the activities which we are going to do. After the briefing we were taken to a place called 'Tembari' where we spend our night in one of the laborer house named Mrs. Kamla bai who works in plywood factory as a daily wage labor getting wage of Rs. 150 for eight hours in a day.

The next day we went to a centre Called "Kritadnyata Vidyaarthi Griha" which is centre cum shelter specially meant for those students whose parent are not economically well established. We spend our day by interacting with students and the care taker of the centre Mrs. Usha.



In the afternoon we had the opportunity to interact

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Dr. Bankar who is the director and founder of this centre. In the evening we went to a village called 'Saat Gaon' where we spend our night in one of the laborer house named Mrs. Sushila Bai who works in a farm as a daily wage labor earning Rs. 170 for eight hours in a day. The next day 28th August we left to see the Dam where around 7 villages were displaced and around 8 villages were submerged under the water due to the construction of the dam and in the afternoon we returned safely back to NCCI campus.



The whole motive of this trip for the interns was to grasp the opportunity and fit into the streams of the lives of the labors, however in this exposure trip although

with the given opportunity it was not possible to wholly know and fit into the lives of the laborers but nonetheless it was indeed an eye opener to see the status quo of how people strive to live their daily life in midst of poverty and intricacy. The economic status quo be it in social, religion, political and economy the laborer seems to project that the only source from which the labor society can be uplifted is only through

the material sustenance of 'Money' which has deeply rooted within the life of many laborers which has also made many laborers to fall into the pit of poverty



and depravity. Beside this, there seems to be a huge gap of recognition and upliftment between the male and female labor groups, a male labor earns Rs. 300 in a day for eight hours were as a women labor earns only Rs. 150 in a day for eight hours which clearly shows the deep contrast between the understanding of development within the labors. Grass-root mission paradigm which talks about **Education** on human sustenance via gender equality and life maintenance via leadership, socio lifestyle education and economy and ecological concerns is in the need of the hour which may create an impact for the laborers to live their life in such a way where they can take care of themselves and stand together for their basic rights and demands with gender equality.

V. Shitovi Sema

Intern Youth Commission
29th Aug, 2016.

Workshop on 'Youth for Peace'

A Relevant Diaconal Intervention for Youth Today

23rd July 2016, Aruppukottai, Virudhunagar, TN

A one-day workshop on Relevant (Diaconal) Mission for Youth under the theme "Youth for Peace" was held on 23rd July 2016, at Church of South India(CSI)Parish Hall, Aruppukottai, Virudhunagar District, Tamilnadu. National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) - Commission on Unity, Mission and Evangelism and Commission on Youth, Conflict Transformation and Peace Building Program of United Evangelical theran Churches in India (UELICI), Christian Service Agency (CSA) and Congregation Accompanied Reformed Diaconia In Action (CARDIA) and Dept. of Communication of CSI Diocese of Madurai and Ramnad jointly organized this workshop.

There were over 175 boys and girls from 10 grassroots congregations who participated. Rev. Vinolin Caleap, Director, Christian Education Department of the CSI-DMR welcomed the gathering.

Rev. Jothinayagam, the Chairman of the Local Council inau-

gured the Workshop. Mr. :Kasta Dip, Director, India Peace Centre, shared the greetings with a call to the youth to be the ambassadors of peace in addressing the issues that ruin peace in our societies.

Mr. Jianthaolung Gonmei, Executive Secretary, Commission on Youth, led the devotion on "Blessed are the Peace Makers" (Matthew 5:9). He emphasized three points: Peace-Breakers, Peace Fakers, Peace Makers. He further challenged the youth to be effective instruments of Peace in the society.



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Rev. R. Christopher Rajkumar, Executive Secretary, Commission on Justice, Peace and Creation, led a workshop on 'Contextual Scanning through various cross-learning activities.



This session facilitated the participants to have a better understanding of their neighborhoods and what the injustices are that ruin peaceful and harmonious

living of communities. Further he challenged the participants by saying the 'youth are the heart' of the church, so we need

to know our role and function. If we fail, the entire life of our church would be a failure. This session challenged and encouraged the youth to stand for justice and peace with love in action.

Reported by:

Conflict Transformation and Peace Building Programme of the United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India, Commission on Justice, Peace and Creation and Commission on Youth of the National Council of Churches in India, Christian Service Agency and CSI Diocese of Madurai – Ramnad

WORKSHOP ON 'FAITH AND HUMAN SEXUALITY' (FOR SEMINARY STUDENTS AND PASTORS)

Jointly Organised by Aneka-ECC- NCCI National Ecumenical Forum of the Gender and Sexual Diversities

July 26-28, 2016 ECC, Whitefield, Bangalore



(Brief Report)

There was fifty participants from 15 Theological Seminaries and 5 Churches and Gender Rights Defending Organizations participat-

ed in the Workshop on 'Faith and Human Sexuality' jointly organized by Aneka, Christian Service Agency, Ecumenical Christian Centre and National Council of Churches in India – National Ecumenical Forum of Gender and Sexual Diversities at the ECC, Whitefield, Bangalore from 26 -28 July 2016.

Many came with anxiety, apprehensions and also expectations to learn, unlearn, de-learn and relearn from each other. Most of us were shocked when we heard testimonies from the Christian LGBTIQ believers, how they practice their faith and live as Children of God. We confess that, knowingly and unknowingly we are part of the traditional spiritual, theological and ministerial abuse against the LGBTIQ friends. It is unfortunate that such religious spirituality discriminates and stigmatizes the LGBTIQ as sinners. The participants realised the responsibility how to proclaim that stigmatizing and discriminating the LGBTIQ is violence against them and it is a sin. Therefore, the participants were invited to build a Spiritual, Theological and Critical Reflection on Body, Sexuality, Violence against Women and the Sexual Minorities. The partici-

pants also realized that though HOMOPHOBIA IS TRANSLATED IN BIBLE, yet the BIBLE IS NOT HOMOPHOBIC!

The participants also read and analyzed biblical texts that are often used against homosexuality, e.g. Genesis 19, Ezekiel 16:49, Leviticus 18 and 20, Romans 1:26-27 1 Corinthians 6 and 1Timothy 1:10. lot of questions filled the minds of the participants minds yet there was the courage to re-read them with the lenses of the sexual minorities.

The participants also took note on the call for greater openness and inclusive behaviour, which is in the spirit of Christ Jesus who never judged or condemned but only expressed the love of God for everyone and being in Christ means a new humanity, restored and born anew, then why are sexual minorities not recognized with the same full dignity as others?

At the end of the program the participants admitted that our great hurdle is overcoming what our cultures, traditions, and religious teachings have taught us. While these may have served as 'comfort zones' for some, we realized that these have kept us from truly living out God's will for justice and equality.



AN ECUMENICAL LEADERSHIP FORMATION (PEACE EDUCATION TRAINING PROGRAMME)

28 – 30 SEPTEMBER



This Program was jointly organised by India Peace Centre, North East India Christian Council and National Council of YMCA at Pastoral Centre, Shillong, where around 50

participants from different parts of NEI and churches participated in the program. Mr. Shitovi Sema the intern of Youth Commission also had the opportunity to be a part of the program team.



Mr. Kasta Dip, Director India Peace Centre warmly welcomed all the delegates from different churches and instructions followed by greetings from

the Rev. Khongwir, President of NEICC

There was around 54 delegates from different denomination Altogether there was 11 sessions on the following topics from the various resource people that were present on the 3days of the program

Session 1-Scanning & Context Rev Dr. Roger Gaikwad

Session 2- Perspective of Peace Rev Dr. Basaiwmaoit

Session 3- Mission and Peace Mr. Mani Kumar

Session 4- Youth Dealing with Conflict Mr Mani Kumar

Session 5- Bible Study Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad

Session 6- Religion and Peace Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad

Session 7- Christian as Peacemaker Mr Bibudhatta Sahu

Session 8 -Symbiotic Living Rev Dr. Basaiwmoit.

Session 9—Bible Study Rev Dr. Roger Gaikwad



Session 10—Knitting Neighbourhood for Peace Mr. Kasta Dip

Apart from these sessions there was also

group discussions where the participants pour out their thoughts and concerns regarding peace issues in the North East region. The program concluded with the concern to have more peace education training and the Churches and organization to come together for a common cause to tackle with peace issues in North East region.

Brief Report by,

V. Shitovi Sema, Intern

Commission on Youth



YOUTH FOR PEACE

I AM YOUNG AND I AM STRONG

I AM TOUGH AND I AM STONE

I HAVE BLOOD THAT BOILS AND REIGNS

I HAVE THIS BLOOD THAT GUSHES THROUGH MY VEINS

I HAVE THE FREEDOM TO LIVE IN MY DREAMS IN DUE

AND I HAVE THE STRENGTH TO MAKE MY DREAMS COME TRUE

I AM A WANDERER IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD

I AM A DISCOVERER OF MY OWN WILL

YET FORCED TO DO SOMEONE'S OWN WILL

YET,

I AM A SYMBOL OF DISASTER AND WRECK

I AM A SYMBOL OF FIERCE AND FURY WITH NO CHECK

IT'S NOT MY DARKNESS THAT FRIGHTENS THE MOST

IT IS MY LIGHT THAT FRIGHTENS THE MOST

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I AM NOT INADEQUATE IN MY THOUGHT AND SENSE
 I AM QUICK TO ACT AND QUICKER TO PROVE MY PRESENCE
 IT'S MY MIGHT THAT EVERYONE SPEAKS OFF
 AND IT'S MY STRENGTH THAT I AM DESPISED OFF
 60 PERCENT OF THE WHOLE POPULATION IS OF MY KIND
 WE ARE MOST POWERFUL AND ONE OF A KIND
 PEACE IS WHAT WE SEEK AND THRIVE FOR
 CAUSE WE ARE THE ONE'S WHOSE PEACE IS STALKED FOR
 WE CARRY MANY YOLKS FROM OUR VERY TEENAGE
 WE NEVER KNOW COULD WE EVER BE SUCCESSFUL IN OUR AGE
 WE ARE FILLED UP WITH THE THOUGHTS, IDEAS AND BELIEFS OF
 OUR ELDERS
 AND WE ARE DEPRIVED OF OUR RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF OUR
 SHOULDERS
 WE ARE FRUSTRATED AND AGONY HAS FILLED OUR HEARTS

WE ARE HIT BY THE SOCIETIES VISCIOUS AND POISONOUS DARTS
 WE ARE PROVOKED BY OUR RELIGIOUS HEADS
 WE ARE PROVOKED TILL WE REACH OUR DEATH BEDS
 WE CHOSE OUR PATHS NOT KNOWING WHERE IT LEADS
 WE SWAM ACROSS THE OCEANS OF FAILURES AND DREADFUL
 NEEDS
 WHERE IS THE PEACE THAT YOU CAN FIND IN US?
 DO YOU SEE ANY PEACE THAT YOU SEE IN US?
 PEACE WITHIN US IS A MYTH
 WE NEED PEACE AND WE ARE WORTH IT
 PEACE BE UNTO YOU AND PEACE BE UNTO US
 GOD HAD MERCY UPON YOU AND ALSO UPON US.

Poem by **John D Benony**

B.D graduate from Leonard Theological College

PHOTO GALLERY



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