



UTH TURN

connect create change

YOUTH CONCERNS - NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN INDIA

PRIORITIES OF THE NCCI— YOUTH CONCERNS

- 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 NCCI Youth Concerns ministry through organizing programmes both at regional and national levels.
- Strengthening direct partnerships with youth fellowships of the member churches and NCCI Youth Concerns ministry and encouraging them to create ecumenical platforms for young people to promote grassroots ecumenism.
- Identifying young people to engage them in a process of articulating their faith and understanding about God.

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Presenting the Faith—James 1: 22- 25

Though little is known, the author of the book of James is an interesting character. He was a pious devoted man who truly lived the doctrine he preached. **Presenting the Faith** talks about personal character and right conduct of a person presented before God, others and self in daily walk of one's life; not being nominal but being committed and faithful to God. We have three exhortations here:

• Be Hearers (v.22)

The word **merely** has the meaning of **alone or only**. The words “**deceive themselves**” mean **deceiving oneself or imposing on one's own self by clever but misleading argument**; in other words deceiving or deluding one's self voluntarily. This means, we should not listen just for the sake of listening because it will be one's own foolishness if we do that. James words come to us as a strong warning to be mindful of the words of God that we get to hear every now and then. If we become mere listeners, then we might end up saying yes to all the words that are being spoken in front of us but not understanding anything. We will be deceiving ourselves if we also think that the words of God that we get to hear are for others.

• Identify the real us (vs. 23-24)

The metaphor of mirror used by James is very simple but also very expressive that carries a deep meaning. The usefulness of a mirror is to identify one's true self. The doctrines of God, faithfully preached to us, are such mirrors that can transform our appearances. Listening to the word of God and reading the Bible will show us the real us and the needs of our heart, for in it we will see an exact image, a portrait of us. But many of us fail to do so. Maybe this is what James really means by forgetfulness. We can assume that James mentioned the word **forget** because he was so fed up of the Jews being not mindful of the word of God that was being taught every now and then. Some of us are no different from them because, every time we hear the word of God, we cannot help discovering our own character and are being disturbed by our own distortions in our character. We regret and suggest improvements but when the preaching is over the mirror is also removed.

• Act out the word (v.25)

The words ‘**look into**’ has the meaning of **deep and attentive consideration given to a thing or subject which a person cannot bring up to their eyes and therefore must bend his or her back and neck, stooping down that s/he may see it to the greater advantage**. James encourages the people to look into the perfect law of liberty more carefully or intently in order that the people will get to see the law in greater advantage and preserve it in the whole being and also in order that they will put the words into action. This passage also means that one who obeys God from a loving heart and pure conscience will unfailingly find continual blessedness from God. Hearing the word without implementing it is deceptive, while hearing that results in action is blessed, because being doers of the word, and not only the hearers, is the only proper response to the word of God.

Conclusion

Listening or hearing out someone preaching, studying the word of God just to fill our head with knowledge is useless. It will be our own foolishness by deceiving ourselves as in no time the word will become rusted knowledge since it is not implemented in our life. **Augustine the Church Father** said that “a hearer of God's word ought to be like those animals that chew the cud; he is not only to feed upon it but to ruminate upon it”. True hearing involves an action, an appropriate response to what we hear because, listening and receiving again and again the truth of God's amazing love and grace for us will help us to be more deliberate and faithful in our words.

Let the words of God that we get to hear or reading the Bible injects us in such a way that we start identifying ourselves, and live according to God's will. God bless us all. Amen

Ms. Wapangyigla Ao, Intern, NCCI-Youth Concerns

Internship



Ms. Wapangyingla Ao, from Aonokpu, Mokokchung, Nagaland has joined NCCI-Youth Concerns as an intern from 3rd May 2017. She has completed her

M. Th in Christian Ministry from Clark Theological College, Aolijen, Mokokchung, Nagaland.

"Along with development, there has to be change in the lifestyle"

Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad



Regional Programme

The daily phenomenon of changes in the world is a challenge for students to cope with as they engage in the process of their education along within the changing scenario. In most educational institutions, the method is teacher centred, based upon the given curriculum and the demarcated syllabi of courses to be covered within the stipulated time in the four walled classroom. There is hardly any space for student interaction and discussion of the subject and their experiences in society. There is a need for students to have fellowship in learning together with practical exposure, so that they can share, exchange, experience and learn with each other, thereby enabling themselves to find out their potential and capabilities mental and physical and relate the same to the contextual challenges in society. Keeping these poignant thoughts in mind, a three-days Regional programme was initiated by Student Christian Movement in India (SCMI) in collaboration with National Council of Churches in India (NCCI)–Youth Concerns from 22nd – 24th May 2017 in the NCCI Campus, with the aim of building relationships of learning together, thereby being moulded and committed to engage in different areas and fields so that they become channels of hope for society.

Thirteen fervent students attended this programme. Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad, General Secretary of National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) inaugurated the three-day programme. He challenged the students by exposing the socio-economic realities of India and its politics, talked about India being the ‘youngest country’ in the coming years and relating it with the challenges of job opportunities, and reconstruction of India. The inaugural was followed by three important sessions. Mr. Rajesh Jadav, Coordinator of Vidarbha Centre for Labour Concerns (VCLC), talked about globalization and the development of industrialization and its impact (positive and negative), political corruption and caste system, youth power – the role of young people that are involved in industrialization as the agent of change, and the realities of Multinational Corporations (MNCs) exploitation of labour and land. Mr. Moses Gaur, Programme Coordinator of Evangelical Social Action Forum (ESAF) talked about personal development in the fast growing world, leadership development and socio-political influences among the working class especially among the youth. Ms. Moumita Biswas, Executive Secretary of Women Concerns, NCCI talked about gender justice and equality, discrimination of sex and gender in various social environments–families, society, religion and politics, sexual function and its social stigmas.

In addition to the above three sessions, there were sessions for interaction and debate. The concluding session was initiated by Mr. Jianthaolung Gonmei, Executive Secretary of Youth Concerns, NCCI, Ms. Wapangyingla Ao, Intern, NCCI, and Mr. Vinod Shemron, Intern, NCCI. The participants also got an opportunity to practically get involved in cleaning the environment during early morning sessions in the NCCI campus.



India to Become the Youngest Country by 2020



India is experiencing a youth bulge. By 2020, India is set to become the world's youngest country with 64 percent of its population in the working age group. The average age of an individual in India will be 29 years, very likely a city-dweller, making it the youngest country in the world. India's large youth population, often called a "demographic dividend," could potentially make India the biggest consumer market and the biggest labour force in the world. A closer analysis of the urban youth suggests that greater political participation, engagement at a policy level and urgent attention to improving their quality of life can ensure that India enjoys the benefits of this dividend. 'State of the Urban Youth, India 2012: Employment, Livelihoods,

Skills,' published in 2013, found out that every third person in an Indian city today is a youth, and India is set to experience a dynamic transformation.

However, it remains an unanswered question that if the younger median age will be burden or an asset, for, most youths do not have the remotest chance of acquiring the skills and education that would raise their living to those levels, even assuming enough jobs were created to employ them. India's education system is simply not delivering: A recent report from Pratham, a non-profit education advocacy group, found that half of India's 7-year-olds cannot identify letters, and one in five 10-year-olds cannot read sentences.

Source: Internet—

<http://www.indiatimes.com>, <http://www.thehindu.com>, <https://www.fresherslive.com>, <https://www.quora.com>, <http://www.outlookindia.com>, <http://indiatoday.intoday.in>, <http://www.financialexpress.com>

Response from the Participants of the Regional Programme

"Thank you SCMI and NCCI for conducting this camp for us...from guest lecture, we learned about industrialization, leadership quality, difference between gender and sex, we played lots of games, and we participated in Earth Care exercise"

Aman

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity...I learned many things from this camp. I learned about youth power, labour problems..."

Vinod D

"Thank you for selecting me, I never got the opportunity like this before. In this Regional programme I learned so many things from all the sessions. I feel really good to hear good lectures, I thank all of them for giving their precious time."

Rohini Chauhan

"Thank you NCCI-Youth Concerns and SCMI for choosing us for this programme. Giving us the opportunity to learn. Thank you for bringing good resources persons who gave us lots of information"

Pankaj

"Political parties are formed from the caste system and according to the caste system. We need to change our thinking in order to change the caste system."

Rajesh Jadav

Some facts about India and Youth

- Around 100 million years ago, India was an island.
- India's first rocket was brought on cycle and a satellite on bullock cart.
- The state of Meghalaya is the wettest inhabited place of earth.
- May 26 is celebrated as Science Day in Switzerland in honour of former President Dr. A. P. J Abdul Kalam, because on that day, Kalam visited the country.
- India is the world's largest importer of arms but India has never invaded or attacked a country.
- India leads the world with the most murders (32,719) per year, with Russia taking second at 28,904 murders per year.
- In 2004, 200 women took law in their own hands and came to the court armed with vegetable knives and chilli powder and murdered on the court floor a serial rapist – Akku Yadav. Then every woman claimed responsibility for the murder.
- About 20 percent of teens will experience depression before they reach adulthood.
- The top wish among all teen girls is for their parents to communicate better with them.
- Teens whose parents talk to them regularly about the dangers of drugs are 42 percent less likely to use drugs than those whose parents don't.

Source: Internet —

<http://www.youthconnect.in>, <http://stangebuttru.blogspot.in>

“Sexual violence and Cultural violence is most dangerous...breaking the silence is very important.”

Moumita Biswas

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Tentative Upcoming Programmes

- Music and Art Workshop for Youth
 -June, Nagpur
- Youth Reformation Workshop
 -August, Odisha

“To be a leader, role models are important but they also have expiry date. Therefore, we need proper guidance... take the courage and reach for your goal”

Moses Gaur