

UTH TURN

CONNECT CREATE & CHANGE
Youth Concerns– National Council of Churches in India

PRIORITIES OF NCCI

* 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 concern ministry through organizing program both at regional and National levels

* Strengthening direct partnership with youth fellowships of the member churches and NCCI youth concern ministry and encouraging them to create ecumenical platform for young people to promote grassroots ecumenism

* Identifying young people to engage them in a process of articulating their faith and understanding about God

IN THIS ISSUE

Reflection	1
Youth Convention and National Volunteers Meeting	2
NCCI Youth Secretaries meeting	3
WCC awareness program in Japan	4
Invitation for Stewards program	5
ICSA Political Theology training	6
CSI Synod Youth Festival	7

You Are No More Children

Ephesians 4:14-15

The letter of Ephesians chapter 4 challenges us to become mature like Christ. Paul says to the church in Ephesians that each one of us have a special gift. These gifts should be used to help each other(verse7).Christianity is nothing but reflecting Christ in matter of love, peace, justice, truth, etc. Paul says be “no more children” means mostly children they will be lack of stability ,and they can easily deceived . In the Context of today’s youth there are many talented young people in our communities .But they aren’t aware of challenges ahead of us. Youth have the major responsibility in church and society .Their gifts and talents must also be used to be involve in struggles of people with a prophetic voice standing for the voiceless community. The presence of youth should not be only as Worship leader or volunteer or musician or something else. The active spiritual involvement of youth is needed for contemporary times.

As we are moving forward the problem ahead of us is mainly peace building. Particularly among Christian communities many of them are discriminated based on caste, gender diversities and as migrants etc .This is the time to understand our diversities and try to become inclusive in our relationships with our neighbors inside or outside the community. Building peace is very sensitive work. When we are working on peace we should not only think about our perspective but also think about Perspective of others. Treat your neighbors politely, serve them with love. This reminds us the story of prophet Elisha. When the aramean army surrounded Elisha he asked God to make them blind. When they became blind he took them to king of Israel .When king asked shall I kill them? Elisha replied no! He gave them food, drink and send them home again to their master. After that Aramean army stayed away from the land of Israel (2 kings 6:18) This matured act of Elisha created space for peace in Israel for some times.

As a Christian Youth community reflecting Christ in our daily life, We are no more to behave like children .Take a step forward to start loving our neighbors, there will be proper serenity in our surroundings which leads us to mutual understanding and peace building. As a friend I urge to think wise, act wise and be matured in our behavior. *(Instead, We will speak the truth in love, growing in every way and more like Christ.*

Ephesians 4:15

B.Asher Intern NCCI

Youth Convention and National Volunteers Meeting



The Youth Convention and National Volunteers Meeting was organized on 8-10 August 2019 at the NCCI Campus, Nagpur. The convention was a collaboration of the National Council of Churches in India – Youth Concerns and the United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India – Youth Desk for capacity building among the youth to improve the quality and recognition of youth work and also to develop a youth volunteer network called, India Lutheran Volunteer Network among the Lutheran churches in India.

Rev. Asir Ebenezer, General Secretary, NCCI, in the inaugural session, welcomed the delegates and in which he reflected the strength of the youth in India and the potentiality youth have to bring change in society. He further encouraged the delegates to extend their participation in the societal issues that has crippled the marginalized sections in society. The theme of the convention – *Diakonia* was introduced. Mr. Shalem Peter, Youth Secretary, United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India – Youth Desk, expressed the urgency of association of the Lutheran youth across the nation to build a network of volunteers that serves the society and works to eliminate social evils.

The challenges exposed to the youth delegates, (migration, human rights, human trafficking, gender justice and peace), were new for few. They were encouraged and affirmed to engage in the society for change. The convention started on 8th August, 2019 and lasted for three days with delegates from Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church, South Andhra Lutheran Church, Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church, Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church, Evangelical Lutheran Churches of Himalayan States, Church of North India, Methodist Church in India and Mar Thoma Syrian Church.

PRAYER POINTS

1. We pray for the young leaders of our nation engaged in various domains.
2. We pray for the socially marginalized communities and the agencies working for their rights.
3. We pray for the liberation of Dalit community victimized by various religious and democratic laws.
4. We pray for the essential needs of security, shelter, water, and medical care for he migrants
5. We pray for the ecological crisis arising and people's commitment



INVITATION TO WRITE

Member churches of NCCI are requested to share recent reports of youth programmes with the NCCI youth concern.

NCCI YOUTH SECRETRIES MEETING on “PEACE BUILDING AND JUSTICE”



The National Youth secretaries Meeting was held in Calvary worship centre, Avadi, Chennai from September 3-5, 2019, hosted by Samavesam of Telugu Baptist Churches (STBC) one of the member church NCCI. The theme was on “Peace building and Justice” Based on the Contemporary issues facing in Church and in our society where violence was destroying the communities and humanity therefore no space for peace and justice. NCCI Youth concerns came up ideas Resolving the Violence with Peace and Justice among the youth Members and Communities. The Topics were Presented in particular areas such as Gender identities, Human sexuality, Migration, understanding the socio-political context, Peace Building in Multi-faith context, Youth peace building and conflict resolution Praxis, This Topics and Sessions encouraged the youth leaders to build peace and Justice in their Respected Areas.

Love, peace and Humanity are the core principals for Christian communities. Therefore Jesus Proclaimed peace, showed the Love and his fullness of humanity. Peace doesn't belong to one thing perhaps it is interlinked with Society economy Religion and Health etc. Building the peace means creating equality of Space in every aspect. Therefore this meeting focused on some areas where churches need to rethink to build peace and justice.

“Continuing Formation Youth and Racism Awareness in Asia and Indigenous Youth Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace” (PJP)



The “Continuing Formation on Youth and Racism Awareness in Asia, and the Indigenous Youth Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace (PJP) was organised by the (WCC) World Council of Churches in collaboration with NCCJ at Fukuracia Osaka Bay Hotel Osaka , Japan on Sept 8 – 12, 2019.

This programme is intended to provide an opportunity to learn about the ecumenical movement: its history, its present, and where it is leading to; and analyse own experiences with each other and the WCC .The main objective of the programme was to bring the youths from different regions, from different cultures, and from different countries together to have dialogue on the issue of “RACISM ” in different contexts and to come up with some new ideas to tackle this burning issue. Specially problems related to IP group (Indigenous People) from different countries. Mr Sourav and Mr Anant Soren IP (Indigenous People) Youth group, from NCCI (National Council of Churches in India) attended the program in Japan.



WCC invites applications to Central Committee Stewards Program



With application deadline 1 December 2019, the World Council of Churches invites ecumenical youth to be stewards at the 2020 Central Committee in Geneva, Switzerland. The Stewards Program brings together a dynamic and diverse group of young people from all over the world from 12th to 25th March 2020 (inclusive of travel dates). At the Central Committee meeting, the Program will host 20 young people from different backgrounds, churches and regions. Stewards are young people between the ages 18 and 30 years old. English is the working language of the program, and patience, ability to work with people from other countries and cultures, as well as a willingness to work together as a team, are key.

For any questions or further information, please visit the official website of WCC
www.oikoumene.org/en

Training in Political Theology



Three days seminar on Political Theology was organized by Inter-church Service Association (ICSA), from October 24-26, 2019 at Manapakkam, Paripurna Center, Chennai. There were around 30 participants representing various churches, organizations and theological colleges. The three-day training was deliberated on topics such as politics, law and constitution, democracy, Right to Information (RTI) and Biblical Hermeneutics. Dr. Chandran, retired High Court judge from Chennai delivered the Keynote Address sharing the current political scenario of India and the judicial practice of the Government. He urged that the judicial system should be the guardian of the Indian Constitution however he laments that the present judicial practice is not approachable by the people. And he also shared about various issues like NRC, conversion bill. The Democracy is silent because of uneducated people in our country. From NCCI Youth Executive Secretary MR Jianthaolung Gonmei, Project Coordinator of Policy Governance & Public Witness Mr Neil Alexander, Interns of NCCI Anant Soren, Smriti And B.Asher Attended the Program.



CSI Synod Youth Festival



A great gathering of 2500 youngsters participated from across South India for a three-day CSI Synod Youth Festival under the theme “Seekers of Truth; Doers of Justice” that got underway at the Bishop Heber College, Trichy, which has been organized by the Synod Youth Department and hosted by Trichy- Tanjore Diocese of the Church of South India (CSI). The day began with a welcome procession in which participants from 24 dioceses of the Church of South India participated.

