

STREE

(E-magazine : Commission on Women's Concerns)



Dec 2025- Jan 2026 issue

UNLEASHING OUR POTENTIALS



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Revd Jyoti Samuel Singh, Executive Secretary NCCI- Women Concerns.
&
Rachael Pradhan

FOREWORD

The first and fresh edition of *STREE* for 2026 has arrived.

This edition celebrates the unyielding potential of women for generations. Within these pages, you will encounter the remarkable work of women's ministries across diverse groups. Their contributions mark their wisdom, vision, and capacity to breathe life into spaces that are broken, overlooked, or waiting to be renewed.

The new year calls us to look ahead with faith and expectation. Every new beginning invites deeper wisdom, clearer insight, and bold imagination. The journeys shared here reflect how women continue to overcome obstacles, discern new possibilities, and envision God's renewed and redemptive work.

I congratulate the Editorial Team, led with dedication and insight by Rev. Jyoti Singh, for crafting compelling and hope-filled issues of *The STREE*. May this edition inspire every reader to step into the new year with courage, compassion, and unwavering faith.

Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer
General Secretary, NCCI

EDITORIAL NOTE

Beloved,

Welcome to this special edition of STREE MAGAZINE, where we explore the profound and inspiring theme of **"Unleashing Our Potentials."** In a world that often places limits on us, we are reminded that the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7). Each of us has been fearfully and wonderfully made, endowed with unique gifts and a divine purpose (Psalm 139:13-14, Jeremiah 1:5). This issue is a celebration of that truth. We aim to inspire each one of us to identify, embrace, and activate the potential that the Lord has planted within us. It's not just about professional success or personal achievement, but about aligning our passions and talents with God's magnificent plan for our lives. Living out our potential is a form of worship, a way to be the salt and light in our families, churches, and communities (Matthew 5:13).

Inside these pages, you will find:

- how to discern our spiritual gifts and apply biblical wisdom to our everyday challenges.
- Opportunities for connection and community building, reminding us that we are part of a global sisterhood, supporting and encouraging one another.

As you read through the powerful stories and insightful articles, we encourage you to reflect on your own journey. What is an area you are struggling to hand over to God? How can we use our unique voice and gifts to make a difference for His glory? We are thrilled to share highlights of the amazing work God is doing through our member churches! These reports showcase the diverse ways our sisters in Christ are living out their faith and impacting their communities

Let us be women who build, who speak with wisdom and have faithful instruction. Together, empowered by faith, we can break barriers and build the Kingdom.

In His Service,
Rachael Pradhan

(Some of you may know me very well, but at the same time, I may be new to most of you. It was a privilege for me to get the opportunity to serve the Programme Office of the Church of North India in Nagpur for 5 years and then with the NCCI-AICCW for 5 years after which I was back to my hometown helping the women of the Nepali Churches in Assam and Nagaland, Its been two years I am in Bangalore staying with my son who is working in SAIACS, Though season's change, God's love remains steady-guiding me to trust, hope and grow. Thankyou!)

Building Beautiful Friendships in the New Year: Lessons from Mary and Elizabeth

A Biblical Blueprint for Meaningful Women's Relationships as We Begin Anew

As we step into a new year filled with fresh possibilities and renewed commitments, there's no better time to reflect on the quality of our friendships and intentionally cultivate the relationships that will sustain us through the months ahead. In a world where female friendships are often portrayed through the lens of competition, drama, or superficiality, the story of Mary and Elizabeth offers us a refreshing and profound alternative—a timeless template for building authentic, supportive, and life-giving connections between women.

The Story: A Divine Encounter

When Mary, a young teenager, received the earth-shattering news that she would bear the Son of God, she didn't retreat into isolation. Instead, she journeyed to the hill country of Judea to visit her relative Elizabeth, who was six months pregnant with John the Baptist. What unfolded was one of the most beautiful moments of female solidarity in scripture.

As Mary entered Elizabeth's home and greeted her, something extraordinary happened. Elizabeth's baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, blessed Mary with words that would echo through eternity: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!"

Seven Principles for Building Strong Female Friendships This Year

1. Seek Out Relationships Across Generations

Mary was young, likely a teenager. Elizabeth was older, described as "well along in years." Yet their age difference became a source of strength rather than division. Elizabeth's maturity and life experience provided wisdom and reassurance that Mary desperately needed, while Mary's youthful faith and courage likely inspired Elizabeth.

New Year Application: As you set intentions for this year, consider who you might mentor and who might mentor you. Make it a goal to develop at least one meaningful cross-generational friendship. Don't limit your friendships to women in your exact life stage. Seek mentors who have walked paths you're beginning, and embrace opportunities to guide younger women. These relationships provide perspective, wisdom, and fresh energy that same-age friendships sometimes cannot.

2. Celebrate Each Other's Blessings Without Comparison

Here's what makes this story remarkable: both women were experiencing miraculous pregnancies. Elizabeth could have felt overshadowed—after all, Mary was carrying the

Messiah. Instead, she celebrated Mary's blessing with genuine joy and humility. There was no competition, no jealousy, only pure celebration.

New Year Application: Make this the year you break free from the comparison trap. Practice genuinely rejoicing when your friends succeed, even in areas where you're struggling. When your friend gets the promotion you wanted, the relationship you're praying for, or the breakthrough you're waiting for, choose celebration over comparison. True friendship creates space for multiple victories. This year, commit to being your friends' biggest cheerleader.

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3. Offer Affirmation and Encouragement Freely

Elizabeth didn't hold back her affirmation. She blessed Mary publicly and enthusiastically, acknowledging both her favor and her faith. She spoke life into Mary's situation at a time when Mary likely faced doubt and fear about her unexpected pregnancy.

New Year Application: In this new year, be generous with your words of encouragement. Challenge yourself to send at least one affirming message to a friend each week. Tell your friends specifically what you admire about them. Affirm their character, their choices, their gifts. In a world full of criticism, be the voice that speaks life and truth into your friends' lives. Let this be the year you become known for your encouragement.

4. Create Safe Spaces for Vulnerability

Mary travelled approximately 80-100 miles to reach Elizabeth—a difficult journey in ancient times. She knew Elizabeth's home would be a safe place to process her overwhelming experience. And indeed, Elizabeth received her with understanding, not judgment.

New Year Application: This year, commit to being the friend who creates emotional safety. This means listening without immediately offering solutions, maintaining confidentiality, and responding with grace rather than shock when friends share their struggles. Make your home, your coffee dates, your phone calls safe harbors where

friends can be honest about their fears, doubts, and challenges. In this new year, be someone's safe place.

5. Recognize and Validate Each Other's Experiences

Elizabeth acknowledged the magnitude of what Mary was experiencing. She didn't minimize it or make it about herself. She recognized that Mary was carrying something precious and treated both Mary and her situation with honour and reverence.

New Year Application: As you navigate this year's conversations with friends, resist the urge to immediately relate everything to your own story. Sometimes the most loving thing you can do is simply acknowledge and validate what your friend is going through without making it about you. Practice the discipline of focused listening—truly hearing your friends' experiences without mentally preparing your response.

6. Provide Practical Support

The scripture tells us that Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months. This wasn't just a weekend visit—Mary provided companionship and likely practical help to Elizabeth during the final months of her pregnancy. She showed up with her time and presence.

New Year Application: In this new year, move beyond good intentions to concrete actions. Don't just say "let me know if you need anything." Be specific in your offers of help. Bring a meal, offer to watch the kids, help with job applications, or simply show up to keep someone company. Put dates on your calendar now for checking in with friends who are going through difficult seasons. Practical support demonstrates that your care is more than words.

7. Share Spiritual Journeys Together

Both women were experiencing God's movement in profound ways, and they shared that spiritual journey together. Mary's response to Elizabeth's blessing was the Magnificat, a beautiful prayer of praise. Their time together was marked by worship, wonder, and spiritual connection.

New Year Application: Make this the year you deepen the spiritual dimension of your friendships. Invite your friends into your spiritual life. Start a practice of praying together regularly, share what you're learning, discuss your questions and doubts, worship together. Consider forming a small group or prayer partnership. Friendships rooted in shared faith have a depth and resilience that purely social friendships often lack.

The Fruit of Authentic Friendship

The relationship between Mary and Elizabeth teaches us that women's friendships should be characterized by mutual honour, generous celebration, and genuine support. These relationships don't happen by accident—they require intentionality, humility, and emotional maturity.

Consider what this friendship provided for both women:

- Validation in experiences that others might not understand
- Companionship during seasons of significant life change
- Encouragement to embrace their unique callings
- Spiritual support as they navigated God's purposes for their lives
- Joy that multiplied rather than diminished through sharing

A New Year Action Plan: Cultivating Mary-and-Elizabeth Friendships

As you plan for the year ahead, consider making these practical commitments:

January-March: Foundation Building

- Identify 2-3 women you want to invest in more deeply this year
- Schedule regular monthly gatherings (coffee dates, walks, phone calls)
- Begin a practice of sending weekly encouragement texts

April-June: Deepening Connection

- Share a vulnerable moment or struggle with a trusted friend
- Offer practical help to a friend going through a difficult season
- Start or join a women's Bible study or prayer group

July-September: Expanding Your Circle

- Reach out to someone from a different generation
- Celebrate a friend's success intentionally (throw a small party, write a heartfelt note)
- Forgive a friendship disappointment and reconnect

October-December: Sustaining Momentum

- Reflect on how your friendships have grown this year
- Express gratitude to the women who have blessed your life
- Plan how you'll continue investing in these relationships into the next year

New Year Resolutions for Friendship

Consider making one or more of these specific commitments:

1. **Reach out intentionally.** Like Mary's journey to Elizabeth, building deep friendships requires effort. Don't wait for friendships to happen—pursue them. Make the first move this year.
2. **Practice vulnerability.** Share not just your highlight reel but your real struggles and questions. Let this be the year you let people see the real you.

3. **Check your heart.** Regularly examine whether you're genuinely happy for your friends' successes or harboring secret resentment. Make jealousy-free friendship a goal.
4. **Invest time.** Deep friendships require consistent investment. Schedule regular time together, even when life gets busy. Put friendship dates on your calendar like any other important appointment.
5. **Speak words of life.** Make it a habit to affirm and encourage the women in your life. Set a goal: one encouraging message per week.
6. **Show up in hard times.** Be present not just for the celebrations but for the challenges, losses, and ordinary difficult days. This year, be the friend who doesn't disappear when things get tough.
7. **Forgive quickly.** No friendship is perfect. Extend grace when friends disappoint you, and ask for forgiveness when you fall short. Don't let this year's friendships carry last year's grudges.

A New Year Call to Sisterhood

As we begin this new year, we have a fresh opportunity to reimagine and rebuild our friendships. In a culture that often pits women against each other, we need the example of Mary and Elizabeth more than ever. We need friendships marked by celebration rather than competition, by encouragement rather than envy, by presence rather than performance.

The beautiful truth is that we don't have to carry this year's joys and burdens alone. Like Mary, we can journey to the women in our lives who will bless us, encourage us, and stand with us. And like Elizabeth, we can create spaces where other women feel seen, celebrated, and supported.

This new year asks us important questions: Who is your Elizabeth? Who is your Mary? And more importantly, are you being the kind of friend that these two remarkable women show us is possible?

A New Year Blessing for Friendships

As you step into this new year, may you find the courage to be vulnerable, the grace to celebrate without envy, and the commitment to show up consistently for the women in your life.

- ❖ May you experience the joy of cross-generational friendships that provide both wisdom and fresh perspective.
- ❖ May you speak words of life freely and receive affirmation generously.
- ❖ May you create and find safe spaces where authentic connection flourishes.
- ❖ May your friendships deepen spiritually as you journey together in faith.

And may you discover that the friendships you invest in this year will become some of your greatest treasures—relationships that sustain you, challenge you, and reflect the beauty of genuine love.

Your Invitation

The world needs the kind of friendships that Mary and Elizabeth modelled—relationships that honor each other's uniqueness, celebrate each other's blessings, and create space for authentic connection. These friendships don't just enrich our individual lives; they transform our communities and reflect the beauty of genuine love.

This new year, may we be women who journey to each other's homes, bless each other's lives, and stay long enough to truly show up for one another. That's the kind of friendship worth building—and it starts today, with this new year, with taking that first intentional step toward authentic connection.

Let this be the year your friendships flourish. Let this be the year you become the friend you've always wanted to have. Let this be the year of beautiful, life-giving, spirit-nourishing connections that reflect the extraordinary friendship of Mary and Elizabeth.

"A friend loves at all times, and a sister is born for a time of adversity." – Proverbs 17:17

May this new year bring you friendships that love at all times and sisters who stand with you through every season ahead.

Rev. Jyoti Singh, Executive Secretary, Women's Concern - NCCI

UNLEASHING THE GOD-GIVEN POTENTIAL OF WOMEN

Imagine a world where women are free to soar, to dream, and to achieve their full potential without any barriers or limitations – a world where every woman can unlock her inner strength, confidence, and talents to make a meaningful impact in her community and beyond. This is not just a dream, but a reality that can be achieved when we unleash our potential. The Holy Scriptures remind us that the Creator made both male and female “in His image” (Genesis 1:27), affirming equality, dignity and divine purposes for every person. This means that as human beings both men and women are endowed with unique gifts, talents, and abilities which are, if used to serve will make a lasting difference in the society through our lives. Each one carries a divine spark of creativity, compassion, and resilience that has the power to bring change to families, communities and nations. Psalm 139:14 affirms, “You are fearfully and wonderfully made.” Yet, the God-given potential often remains untapped due to social barriers and cultural norms that restrict freedom and possibilities. The challenge is to rise above these barriers, build one another, make a stand to live out to the inherently God-given potential to serve humanity and create a new world.

Recognizing the God-Given Potential

We have several examples both in Biblical and secular history of women who chose to rise above limitations and aligned with divine plan for their lives. Ida Scudder, Amy Carmichael and Mother Teresa are shining examples, impacting the world through their service, love, compassion and unwavering faith. Deborah led Israel with courage and wisdom, Esther risked her life to save her people, and Ruth, despite all her difficult circumstances demonstrated steadfast faith and loyalty, becoming part of the lineage of Christ. Mary, borne the Saviour of humankind as she embraced her divine calling with humility, saying, “*I am the Lord’s servant, may your word to me be fulfilled.*”(Luke 1:38).

These women turned out to be historical figures and their life examples remain as hallmarks of what truly one achieves when a woman unleashes her God-given potential through faith and obedience. They did encounter challenges, had all reasons to give up, yet allowed God to work, shaping a life with dividends and impact.

Even today, women continue to face social, economic, cultural and emotional challenges that hinder them from reaching their full potential. Yet, God is calling each woman to rise up and shine as declared by prophet Isaiah in chapter 60:1, “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.” When a woman recognizes her worth in God’s eyes, she begins to walk in confidence, equipped to transform her home, church, and community. St. Basil the Great said, “The woman also possesses creation according to the image of God, as indeed does the man. The natures are alike in honour, the virtues are equal, the struggles equal, the judgment alike. Let her not say, ‘I am weak.’ The weakness is in the flesh, in the soul is the power.”

Opportunities for Women to Unleash Their Potential

The Church, as the body of Christ has the vital role in nurturing and empowering women by offering opportunities for strong spiritual foundation and practical avenues to discover and unleash their God-given gifts and potentials. When women are given the opportunity

to learn and be informed, they become full of faith, confidence and powerful vessels of God's love and instruments of healing and empowerment.

Creating opportunities should be all-encompassing – spiritual, educational and development oriented. Tailor-made Leadership Training, Social Upliftment Programs, Skill Development Training, Discipleship and Mentorship, Workshops and Seminars would equip women face life's responsibilities with confidence and wisdom. More importantly, this would encourage women to use their talents and skills not only for personal growth but for the enhancement of families and society.

When a woman realizes her God-ordained dignity and identity, she begins to see her not as limited by circumstances, but recognizes self-worth and as one empowered by divine endowments. The Church, therefore, is not just a place of worship; but a shelter to receive inner healing and discover one's personal worth. Church is a beacon of hope and a catalyst for change.

Call to live with a Purpose

Unleashing potential is not just about aiming toward personal success; it is about fulfilling God's purpose for humanity. A woman's potential finds its greatest expression when it is aligned with divine purpose. Whether it is in her home, workplace, or community, she becomes an agent of grace, healing and hope to all around.

In Proverbs 31, we see a portrait of a noble woman who is industrious, wise, compassionate, and God-fearing. She does not confine herself by her circumstance; instead, she uses her abilities to bless others. Chapter 3:25 beautifully states, *"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come."* This verse sums up the core character of a woman who has unleashed her God-given potential.

Conclusion

Jesus Christ in Mark 9:23 said, "Everything is possible for one who believes." Let every woman believe this with all her heart - believe how wonderfully she is created, in the gifts given by God, and Faith in that everything is possible with the one who believes. Unleashing the potential within us is a journey of faith.

Helen Keller said, *"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."* Let us encourage one another to grow, learn, and serve. Let us together strive to create opportunities where every woman - young or old, educated or uneducated— to discover her purpose and worth and walk boldly in it. Let us turn our fear into faith, limitations to opportunities and weakness into strength. May the Lord in His mercy help us to be women of wisdom, courage and compassion, committed to building a better and brighter world!

*Mrs. Jeena Praison, Executive Secretary, Department of Women,
Believers Eastern Church*

WOMEN OF PURPOSE: RISING TO OUR GOD-GIVEN CALLING

Every person carries a unique God-given potential-planted by the creator and meant to flourish for his glory. Yet many times this potential remains hidden under fear, self-doubt, or routine. Scripture reminds us that “we are Gods workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good work (Ephesians 2:10). Unleashing our potential begins with understanding who we are in Christ.

DISCOVERING OUR IDENTITY AND GIFTS

We are not defined by our past weaknesses, or the opinions of others. Our true identity comes from God, who calls us his children. When we embrace this identity, confidence replaces in security. Along with identity, God has placed within each of us special gifts – some visible, some quiet, but all valuable. Whether it is leadership, compassion, prayer, teaching, creativity, or service, every Gift has a purpose in Gods kingdom.

BREAKING BARRIERS

This was one of the theme in 90s of AICCW. Often the greatest obstacles are not outside us but also within us. Fear of failure, comparison, and feelings of inadequacy can hold us back. Gideon saw himself as the weakest, yet God called him a mighty warrior. In the same way, God sees in us what we cannot yet see. When we take small steps of faith, God multiplies our efforts.

GROWING WITH DISCIPLINE AND FAITHFULNESS

Potential becomes reality only when it is cultivated. N God gives seeds, but we must water them through discipline, practice, and perseverance. Even great biblical leaders like Joseph and Moses grew through seasons of preparation. When we stay faithful in small responsibilities, God opens great doors.

LIVING WITH IMPACT

Our potential is not for personal success alone. God unleashes our potential so that we may bless others—encouraging, serving, lifting, and making a difference where ever we are placed. A life lived in purpose becomes a light in dark places.

We can unleash our potential by:

- Investing in spiritual growth both self and church community.
- Developing our skills
- Seeking wise counsel,
- learning from mistakes,
- staying faithful in small responsibilities.

EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Ultimately, it is the holy spirit who enables us to rise beyond our limitations. When we surrender to his leading, ordinary abilities become extraordinary instruments for God. Unleashing our potential is a journey of faith, courage and obedience. Let us rise to be everything God created us to be walking in purpose, shining his light, and living out the “more” He has prepared for us. We are created for more. We are called to rise. We are empowered to unleash our God given potential. “Let us step into the – with courage, faith and the assurance that We are created in his image “.

*Dr. Neerja Rajeev Prasad
Secretary BSI Nagpur Branch, Bombay Auxiliary*

MARY'S FAITH AND RESILIENCE

This New Year, as women of the Church, let us focus on Mary's faith and resilience, recognising that God works through humble circumstances to bring hope and light to the world. We can also embody the gifts of love and service, sharing the hope of the Gospel with those around us, and finding our hope not in the short-term joys of the world, but in God's enduring love and promise.

From Mary's Eyes: Faith in the Face of Uncertainty

- *Mary's perspective:* Mary treasured the prophecies and the miracle of Jesus's birth in her heart for a long time before it came to pass. She knew God's promises were true, even when they were not yet fulfilled.
- *Our reflection:* Like Mary, we too can hold onto the truth of God's promises in our hearts, even when circumstances are difficult or uncertain. We are called to be women of faith, believing in God's plan for our lives and the lives of those around us.

Gifts for Mankind: More Than Just Material Things

- The greatest gift: Jesus is the greatest gift ever given. The true meaning of the greatest love of the Almighty is not in the wrapping or the expense of presents, but in the love and gratitude with which it was given.
- Our response: This new year let us give the best gifts to people around us: the gift of love, forgiveness, and service to those around us. We can share the hope of the Gospel with our friends, neighbour's, and coworkers.

Hope Through Darkness: Light in the World

- *God's light:* Even in the darkest of times, the Jesus brings light and hope. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it".
- *Our purpose:* Through Christ, we can push back against despair and darkness in the world. We are called to be a beacon of hope to others, reflecting the light of Christ in our own lives and sharing His love with everyone we meet.

Let us thank God for the indescribable gift of Jesus. My God help us to be like Mary, to have hearts of surrender, faith, and joy. In a busy world, may God give us the wisdom to focus on the miracle of our love and presence.

Rachael Pradhan

NCCI WOMEN CONCERN

Respected Bishop/General Secretary,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We write to invite our church community to join millions worldwide in observing the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, which runs annually from November 25th (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to December 10th (International Human Rights Day). The theme for the 2025 16 Days of Activism is *UNITE to End Digital Violence against All Women and Girls*.

As people of faith, we are called to stand against all forms of injustice and oppression. Violence against women and girls is a grave violation of human dignity and contradicts the biblical truth that every person is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). This campaign provides us an opportunity to raise awareness, take action, and be agents of transformation in our community.

Why the Church Must Respond

The statistics are sobering—globally, one in three women experiences physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. Our silence can inadvertently enable this injustice. As followers of Christ who proclaimed good news to the oppressed and freedom for the captives (Luke 4:18), we must actively work toward a world where all people live free from fear and violence.

Proposed Activities for Our Church Community

Week 1: Awareness and Education (November 25-December 1)

- Dedicate Sunday service to address gender-based violence with relevant scripture and testimonies
- Host an awareness session on recognizing signs of domestic abuse
- Display orange ribbons and decorations (orange is the campaign's official color)
- Share educational materials and statistics in bulletins and social media

Week 2: Prayer and Reflection (December 2-8)

- Organize daily prayer vigils for survivors and those affected by violence
- Create a prayer wall where congregants can post anonymous prayers
- Host a candlelight vigil in memory of victims
- Facilitate small group discussions on healthy relationships and biblical models of respect

Week 3: Action and Advocacy (December 9-10)

- Partner with local women's shelters or crisis centres
- Organize donation drives (toiletries, clothing, household items)
- Invite speakers from support organizations to share resources

- Launch a mentorship program for vulnerable women and youth
- Commit to policy advocacy by writing to local representatives.
- Organize a peaceful community rally or march to raise public awareness and demonstrate solidarity
- Conduct lobbying efforts by meeting with local government officials and legislators to advocate for stronger laws protecting women

Additional Action Steps

- *Training and Capacity Building:* Provide training for church leaders on pastoral care for abuse survivors and appropriate referral pathways
- *Safe Spaces:* Ensure our church is a safe space by establishing clear policies against harassment and abuse
- *Youth Engagement:* Organize workshops for young people on respectful relationships, consent, and gender equality
- *Men's Involvement:* Create forums for men and boys to discuss positive masculinity and their role in ending violence
- *Economic Empowerment:* Support skill-building programs for women to achieve financial independence
- *Ongoing Commitment:* Establish a task force to continue this work beyond the 16 days

How You Can Participate

- ❖ Attend services and events throughout the 16 days
- ❖ Wear orange to show solidarity
- ❖ Share information and resources with your networks
- ❖ Volunteer with local support organizations
- ❖ Make financial contributions to support survivors
- ❖ Examine your own attitudes and challenge harmful beliefs
- ❖ Speak up when you witness disrespect or violence

We find our encouragement from the Scripture

"Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." – Isaiah 1:17

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute." – Proverbs 31:8

Let us unite as a church family to declare that violence against women has no place in our community or in God's kingdom. Together, we can create a culture of respect, dignity, and equality for all.

We invite you to join us in this sacred work. For more information or to volunteer, please contact **+91 9455059522**.

Looking for yet another year of meaningful observations.

Rev.Jyoti Singh, Executive Secretary, Women Concern, NCCI



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN INDIA

32 Member Churches | 18 Regional Christian Councils | 18 All India Christian Organizations | 7 Related Agencies

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

24th November- 10th December 2025

"End digital violence against all women and girls".

6 things we can do..



01

Awareness and Education

Dedicate Sunday service and testimonies. Host an awareness session on recognizing signs of domestic abuse



02

Prayer and Reflection

Create a prayer wall where congregants can post anonymous prayers. Host a candlelight vigil in memory of victims



03

Action and Advocacy

Partner with local shelters. Invite speakers organizations to share resources. Launch a mentorship program.



04

Safe Spaces

Ensure our church is a safe space by establishing clear policies against harassment and abuse



05

Training

Provide training for church leaders on pastoral care for abuse survivors and appropriate referral pathways



06

Rally & Lobby

Organize a peaceful community rally or march to raise public awareness and demonstrate solidarity

For More information:

ncci@ncci1914.com, jyoti@ncci1914.com



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer is an annual global ecumenical Christian initiative, led by women, that takes place on the first Friday of March. It is a movement of prayer and action that involves over 170 countries and uses the *motto* "*Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action*". Participants gather to pray for common causes, learn about the concerns of sisters in other countries, and engage in prayerful action for global issues such as peace and justice.

- **Purpose:** The movement aims to bring together Christian women of various backgrounds for a common day of prayer and to build fellowship, understanding, and action throughout the year.
- **Activities:** Christians in over 170 countries celebrate on the first Friday of March. They participate in a common day of prayer and learn how to pray for specific global issues and the needs of women and children.
- **Motto:** The movement's motto is "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," emphasizing that prayer and action are inseparable.
- **History:** The initiative began as a way for women to support women and children, and it has grown into a large, international movement with a history of uniting women of diverse traditions.

The National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) (NCCI) Women's Concern is a part of the global World Day of Prayer (WDP), an ecumenical movement of Christian women who pray together annually on the first Friday of March. Through this movement, Indian women, along with Christian women worldwide, use "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action" to address issues, share burdens, and support projects for justice and peace, such as tackling gender-based violence and promoting child rights.

What the movement does:

- **Prays for a specific country:** Each year, the WDP's resources are prepared by a different country, and the prayer services focus on that country's theme.
- **Raises funds:** Offerings from prayer services are used to fund projects and initiatives for women's justice and peace.
- **Promotes social action:** It encourages action on various issues, such as gender-based violence, child rights, and environmental concerns. The NCCI's women's concern promotes campaigns like "365 Days Zero Tolerance to Gender Based Violence" in connection with WDP.
- **Enriches faith:** It fosters a deeper understanding of faith by sharing the experiences of Christians from different countries and cultures.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN



The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement for justice, peace, and reconciliation led by Christian women for women and girls all over the world.

Women of all ethnicities, nationalities, ages, educational backgrounds, and socioeconomic statuses are invited to participate in this global movement by praying for justice, peace, and reconciliation in their own lives whenever they experience personal conflicts and challenges. As well, they are invited to pray for justice, peace, and reconciliation for women and girls all over the world who face injustice, violence, and poverty every day.

It includes "least" coins...

As tokens of these prayers, women are encouraged to set aside the least coin in their country's currency. Only the least coin is offered so that women of all backgrounds and means can be equal partners in justice- and peace-making.

These least coins are then collected by Christian women's groups and ecumenical women's organizations in countries and regions all over the world. They are then forwarded to the Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) Fund, which is faithfully stewarded by the International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC).

The "Fellowship of the Least Coin" (FLC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement for justice, peace, and reconciliation, led by Christian women and coordinated with the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI). The **Women Concern** of the NCCI actively promotes the FLC, which involves collecting the "least coin" of one's currency as a symbol of prayer, with the collected funds being used for projects that support women and children worldwide. These funds support initiatives for education, economic self-reliance, and

gender justice, and the movement aims to foster a sense of prayerful solidarity for women and girls facing hardship globally.

- **Global Movement:** The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) is an international ecumenical prayer movement for justice, peace, and reconciliation, spearheaded by Christian women.
- **NCCI's Role:** The National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) coordinates and promotes the FLC through its Women Concern .
- **Prayer and Action:** Participants pray for personal and global challenges and are encouraged to set aside the "least coin" in their currency as a symbol of their commitment.
- **Funding Projects:** The collected coins are sent to a central fund, which supports projects for women and children globally. These projects include educational programs, skill-building initiatives, and efforts to promote economic self-reliance and gender justice.
- **Focus on Women and Children:** The movement provides support for a wide range of initiatives for women and girls, such as literacy classes, vocational training, and leadership development.

THURSDAY IN BLACK

Thursday in Black" is a global campaign against sexual and gender-based violence, a movement the Women's Concerns of the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) actively supports. The campaign encourages people to wear black every Thursday as a visible sign of solidarity and protest.

Thursday in Black campaign

The movement is a peaceful protest against the violence women and girls face globally.

Symbolism

- **Black clothing:** Serves as a symbol of resistance and a way to mourn the suffering and pain caused by sexual violence.
- **Safety and respect:** The campaign works toward a world where women, men, and children are safe from rape and violence in all parts of society.

The NCCI's role in the campaign

The NCCI's Women's Concerns spearheads the "Thursday in Black" campaign within India, carrying out its advocacy efforts through prayer and other initiatives.

Goals of the ministry

- Advocate for gender mainstreaming in the Church and society.
- Enhance church women's ability to create inclusive communities based on justice, peace, and reconciliation.
- Challenge attitudes that perpetuate rape and violence on both a personal and public level.

Calls to action

- Wear black every Thursday to visibly support the global movement.
- Join discussions on how to reduce domestic violence within the community.
- Pray for survivors and commit to action that brings justice and safety for everyone.
- Transform despair and anger about violence into political action.

How to get involved

- **Wear black:** Make a point to wear black clothing or a campaign badge on Thursdays.
- **Join the discussion:** Engage with the NCCI and the World Council of Churches through their social media channels using hashtags like [#ThursdaysInBlack](#).
- **Support survivors:** Listen to and amplify the voices of survivors, and support organizations that provide resources and shelter for victims of violence.

BELIEVERS EASTERN CHURCH

The Department of Women of the Believers Eastern Church, through the vibrant network of over 9,000 Women's Fellowship units across local parish church, various nations we serve, is deeply committed to the holistic development and empowerment of women. We believe, a woman when empowered enhances not only herself but also her family and community. The Department therefore, continues to focus its efforts on education, self-sustainability, inner-healing and health care.



Church's major women empowerment initiatives, such as **Adult Literacy Project**, **Self-Sustainability Project**, and the **Health Care Project** are designed to reach women at the grassroots level. These projects are implemented through trained and skilled workers who responsibly organize awareness programs and enroll women into various development activities. Their

passionate involvement ensures that every initiative touches the lives of women in meaningful and practical ways.

Under the **Adult Literacy Project**, we have developed and printed a comprehensive literacy curriculum in 16 languages. Through the active promotion of this program, we have successfully started 200 new literacy units in the current year 2025. Hundreds of women are enrolled, gaining the ability to read and write – skills which open doors to confidence, participation, self-reliance and self-worth.



The **Self-Sustainability Project** focuses on equipping women with vocational and entrepreneurial skills. Tailoring units and skill development programs have been established to enable women to earn an income and support their families. These initiatives are helping women build self-esteem, leadership qualities and open ways to live with dignity.

Recognizing the significant importance of women's health, through the **Health Care Project** we have organized awareness programs covering topics such as maternal care, nutrition for children, and preventive health care practices. These programs have created significant impact by encouraging women to prioritize their well-being and make informed choices for healthier lives.

Through these sustained efforts, the Department of Women continues to transform lives by developing women in their skills, strengthening families, and nurturing communities for a better and brighter future.

*Reported by: Mrs. Jeena Praison
Executive Secretary, Department of Women, Believers Eastern Church.*

GELC: KALISYA MAHILA SANGH

GELC consists of 5 dioceses named South West Diocese (Odisha) Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamilnadu, Kerala, Karnataka) South East Diocese (Jharkhand, West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands), North West Diocese (Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, New Delhi, Punjab, Haryana) North East Diocese (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh), and the Council of Ranchi congregation (CRC) in Jharkhand. The Moderator of our Church is Rt. Rev. Marshall Kerketta. Our women's Desk is associated with all the Dioceses and CRC women's committees and a central women's desk named '**Kalisya Mahila Sangh**'. The head office is located in Ranchi.

Yearly Activities in GEL Church

1. The Kalisya Mahila Sangh had observed **International Women's Day on 8 March 2025**. Different activities were conducted at various locations of the Church. An WDP as instructed by NCCI women's department for Cook Islands.
2. On 27th April 2025, Women Sunday was observed. In the different congregation's women leaders lead the church service on that day.
3. The month of May and June was the time to conduct Diocese level women conferences. Every year we conduct a blood donation camp on **Mother's Day**, this year it was held on 11th of May 2025 by Jamshedpur Parish.
4. A tree plantation campaign was also conducted to contribute towards climate justice. More than 2000 trees were planted on 10th July 2025, at GELC. This will be a regular program from now onwards.
5. The Central women conference and Seminar is conducted every alternative year in the month of October. This year, the conference was held at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. More than 2500 people participated in this program. It was planned to conduct a Seminar in North East Diocese, Assam, next year for 300 lay women leaders, who are leading the parish-level women committees.
6. On 22nd and 23rd October, the 25 Years of Women Ordination Silver Jubilee Celebration was held under the leadership of Rev. Sosirita Kandulna (Women Desk Secretary), Mrs. Shama Rani Kandulna (President) and Mrs. Kusum Aind (Treasurer) GEL Church, under guidance of Central Council GELC, in Ranchi. Rev. Jyoti Singh, NCCI Women's Desk General Secretary was the Chief Guest on that auspicious occasion.



We were privileged to have the presence of few dignitaries, who have encouraged us - Agriculture Minister Mrs. Shilpi Neha Tirkey, Rajya Sabha member Mrs. Mahua Maji, MLA Naman Biksai Kongari. UELCI Executive Secretary Rev. Dr. Joshua Peter, Rev. Elina Soren (Vice President UELCI) LWF Council Member Mrs. Ranjita Borgowary,

Rt. Rev. Marshall Kerketta, Moderator GELC, General Secretary Iswardutt Kandulna and others presented as the Guests of honour. 52 women are ordained, till date. The 1st women Ordination took place on 26 October 2000, ordaining three women namely, *Rev. Merian Minz, Rev. Isabella Barla and Rev. Ashisan Kandulna*.

7. November was the time to remember the Fellowship of least coin, materials have been distributed for celebrating its motto meaningfully. 16 days of activities have been planned including an awareness program with the schools of our Church, focusing on girl children this year.

8. The women committees have also planned to take up few social work activities among the poor and needy, like helping orphanages and also remote places for ministry in December.



The above-mentioned are the yearly activities that is taken up throughout the year, besides the local programs organized by individual congregations.

Reported by:
Rev. Sosirita Kandulna
Secretary - Women's Desk, GEL Church

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP (PWF), PCI: A REPORT

The **Presbyterian Women’s Fellowship (PWF), PCI** continues to serve as a vibrant fellowship of over **8,50,000 women** across all Synods of the Presbyterian Church of India, promoting spiritual growth, leadership, and collective mission. Between **2023 and 2025**, the Fellowship undertook several meaningful programmes, including **Workshops and Consultations** on women’s empowerment, theological understanding, and leadership development, as well as **Prayer Observances** such as the PWF Prayer Day and the World Day of Prayer.



The **Charitable Outreach at Christmas** was entrusted to one of the Units to organize special programmes and extend care and support to **needy and underprivileged children**. In addition, the **Rebuilding Manipur Project** was extended to assist and uplift the **Sisters’ Unit** who faced hardship and loss during the recent unrest—an expression of the Fellowship’s compassion, solidarity, and commitment to service.

Financially, PWF contributes annually to the PCI Mission & Evangelism, General Assembly Fund—and towards Capacity Building & Empowerment.

The Fellowship remains an active member of the National Council of Churches in India Commission for Women Concern (NCCICWC), engaging in ecumenical partnerships and participating in conferences and programmes organized by the CCA, WCRC, CWM, etc.

The **19th Biennial Conference** was hosted by Rymbai Presbyterian Church, KJP Synod Mihngi from 24th–26th October 2025. The conference brought together 609 delegates and representatives from all Synods under the PCI, uniting women in worship, reflection, and renewal under the inspiring theme *“Heal Our Land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14*

The sessions included a **Keynote Address** by **Rev. S.T. Kaia Vaiphei**, Administrative Secretary (In-charge), PWF; a **Bible Study** by **Dr. Pancilia Thawmuit**, Assistant Professor, JRTC; and a **Message on the Theme** by **Dr. Rosy Zoramthangi**, Professor, ATC. The **Holy Communion** was administered by **Rev. S.R. Dkhar**, Moderator, KJP Synod Mihngi. The **Sunday Worship Services** featured messages from **Mrs. Maya Pohlein**, former Chairperson, and **Rev. Dr. B.L. Nongbri**, Principal, JRTC. The **Closing Service** concluded with the installation of new Office Bearers for the term **2025–2027**.

The Key resolutions at the Business Sessions include a **Charity Grant to Tripura Synod**, **Sponsorship of a Mission Teacher** in the CHT Synod, an **Environmental Initiative** at the PCI Capacity Building Centre, Shillong, and continued advocacy for **Women's Ordination** within the Church.

The next Biennial Conference will be hosted by the **Mizoram Synod** in October 2027, under the theme "*Renew, Restore, Refresh*" (Isaiah 40:31).

The 19th Biennial Conference truly reaffirmed the PWF's mission—to serve faithfully, empower women, and bring healing and renewal within the Church and society.



Reported by:
Bakordor W. Bannett,
PWF Secretary (PCI) 2023-25

SWFCS – CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA, SYNOD

With hearts full of gratitude and purpose, the Synodical Women's Fellowship for Christian Service (SWFCS) of the Church of North India submits this report, detailing our service, leadership, building, and transformation efforts.

The order of worship of **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER & FELLOWSHIP OF LEAST COIN** was sent to SWFCS by NCCI in English was translated only into Hindi, for the past three years, along with Hindi, it's also translated into Odia, Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati & circulated throughout CNI, thanks to our so efficient conveners.

An online retreat was organized by **MOTHERS' UNION, UK**, along with the president & secretary (SWFCS) & neighboring countries for 5 days & both of them were felicitated with the medal, certificate of participation & letters of appreciation.



- SWFCS takes the credit for Lord's answer to our long-pending prayer that finally Church of North India has three lady Bishops when this report was being written. Our unceasing prayer will bring many more ordained lady pastors & Bishops in the days to come for CNI.
- A compiled report of DWFCSs & SWFCS through DISHA (magazine) is circulated every alternate year.
- Four zonal meetings were organized for all the 27 DWFCSs over **Zoom** on June 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th in a group of seven dioceses. It was very effective as the DWFCS office bearers could share the reports & challenges. An open discussion could take place to make them understand the matters.
- A workshop on **DISCIPLESHIP & WITNESSING** was organized for the women lay leaders from 22 dioceses from 25th-28th August'25 at CNI Program Office, Nagpur, which was led by the Rt. Rev. Andrew B. Rathod, Director, Satyaniketan School of Theology, resource persons were Mrs. Vijaya Andrew Rathod & Rt. Rev. Sushma Kumar, Bishop of Chhattisgarh diocese, Revd. Dr DJ Ajith Kumar and Revd. Binod Peter Senapati, who made us understand & realize the true meaning of **DISCIPLESHIP & WITNESSING** theologically & interactively. A booklet of individual testimonies of the participants is on its way to printing.

- Pathankot, diocese of Chandigarh, witnessed the 4th National program of SWFCS organized at Avalon Girls School, Pathankot, on 3rd & 4th of November. It was a spectacular program with 90+ participants from 21 dioceses, the Chief guest being the newly consecrated Dy. Moderator, the Rt. Rev. Silvans S. Christian, Bishop of Gujarat diocese & the keynote speaker, The Rt. Rev. Darbara Singh, Bishop of Chandigarh diocese, who spoke on the theme “GATHER CONNECT GROW “with testimonies which made the participants learn to gather, connect & grow in today’s context & how to apply it in our own circle.

Additional attractions were the release of DISHA, the signature magazine of SWFCS, financial help to 14 girl students of 14 dioceses & most importantly, the celebration of FLC theme through a colourful & meaningful skit organized by Mrs Ujwala Reddi, convener, SWFCS. The guests of honour & guest speakers, Rev. Rajkumari, diocese of Chandigarh & Rev. Jyoti Singh Pillai, Executive Secretary, Women’s Concern, NCCI, for their insight related to the theme.

- SWFCS is all set to observe the 16 days of Activism against Gender -Based Violence (24th Nov-10th December 2025) through all the 28 dioceses.

Acknowledgement of Synod Leadership

We express our **deepest gratitude** to the **leadership of the CNI Synod** for their unwavering support—spiritually, financially, and personally. We are especially thankful for their prayerful encouragement, wise counsel and constant presence. May God continue to bless their leadership and service in the Church of North India.

*Reported by: Sucheta Mohanty
Secretary, SWFCS -CNI*

MIZORAM BAPTIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Mizoram Baptist Women's Fellowship celebrated 87 years since its inception. The main objectives of the Fellowship is to strive towards the extension of God's reign here on earth and to that end it serves the church, society and family. It has a motto "I am ready to do whatever the Lord has asked me to do." The fellowship has its convention at the Pastorate level every year. According to the latest statistics, the Fellowship has 34857 members comprise of 475 Units.

Major programs

Handful of Rice

One of the major programs of the Fellowship is collection of handful of rice. Every time a meal is about to be prepared a handful of rice is put aside in a container which is kept separate for the Lord. The assigned collectors collected it from house to house. It has been an important ministry and utilised for Mission work of the Baptist Church of Mizoram in and outside Mizoram.

Rehabilitation Centre

The Baptist Church of Mizoram started a rehabilitation centre called Baptist Rehabilitation Centre (Baptist Chhawmdawlina In) look after by the Women's Fellowship and is run with the contributions made by the members.

Relief

Every year, each member contributed Rs 20/- for Relief Fund which is then distributed equally to those who have no one to care for them. The fellowship also contributed to different institutions based on the needs.

Observance of various prayer days

On every Friday night all the Units held a prayer meeting specifically for their children and grandchildren. The Fellowship is affiliated under North East India Christian Council Women's Assembly (NEICCWA), India Baptist Women's Union (IBWU), Asia Baptist Women's Union (ABWU) and Baptist World Alliance Women Department (BWA-WD), every year it observes prayer day of the mentioned organisations.

Fasting prayer

Every year June 30 is set aside for fasting prayers on various prayer items. All units are dedicated for this fasting prayer where participants contributed their one meal in kind and in cash which is then used to help missionaries send by the Baptist Church of Mizoram.

Seminars & Visitation of Units

At the pastorate and unit level, the fellowship conducted Leadership training, seminars and awareness campaign on contextual issues. Every year, the Leaders visit different units to create good relationship, strengthen the spirit of ministry.

Reported by:
Lalrammawii Thangluah, Secretary,
Mizoram Baptist Women's Fellowship

GLIMPSES OF ACTIVITIES TAKEN UP BY DIFFERENT CHURCHES







WE RISE, RESIST & UNITE

**This Christmas, let's spread peace
Online and Offline—
Stand Against Digital Violence
and create safe spaces for
all Women.**



**#Voice Out Voice Loud
Women's Fight For A
Better Future**



#THURSDAYS IN BLACK

Need Help?

Feel Free to call : 9455059522

mail us your concern: jyoti@ncci1914.com; ncci@ncci1914.com.

**TiB is a global movement of people who commit to wear black on Thursdays
to address gender based violence*

16 Days Activism against Gender based violence campaign

Day1



Day2



Day3



Day4



Day5



Day6



Day7



Day8



Day9



Day10



Day11



Day12



Day13



Day14



Day15



Day16

