

YOUTH TURN



Smriti Priyansha
Executive Secretary
Commission on Youth



youth@ncci1914.com
smriti@ncci1914.com
+91 9685331424

EDITORIAL

Hey fam!

Welcome to the latest issue of Uth Turn — where faith meets real life and young hearts find fresh direction!

Life throws a lot our way, confusion, pressure, and choices that can feel overwhelming. But here's the good news: no matter where we've been or what we've done, with God, it's never too late for a U-turn. God specializes in fresh starts and second chances.

That's what Uth Turn is all about, reminding us that change starts with one turn. You don't have to wait till you're older to make an impact, your faith, your story, and your courage can spark change right now.

So as you read through this issue, let it remind you: you're not just part of a generation; you're part of a movement. A generation taking a turn and showing the world what real hope looks like.

Let's keep making those Uth Turns together — one bold step at a time!

With love and purpose,
Smriti Priyansha

Stewardship: The Divine Responsibility - Ms. Alomi Chisho

For centuries, Genesis 1:26 has often been interpreted as granting humanity permission to rule over the earth. In many ways, humans have exercised this authority—over land, sea, sky, and all living creatures. However, the consequences of how we have ruled are now impossible to ignore. In 2023, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres warned that the “era of global boiling has arrived.” Extreme heat, floods, droughts, and the rapid extinction of species are no longer distant predictions; they are the lived reality of our world today.

Genesis 1:26 declares that human beings are created in the image and likeness of God and entrusted with dominion over creation. To be made in God’s image is not a privilege alone, but a responsibility. It calls us to reflect God’s character—His love, justice, wisdom, and care. Psalm 104 paints a picture of God as one who provides for all creation, watering the earth, feeding animals, and sustaining life. If we truly bear God’s image, our role must mirror this nurturing and protective care, not destruction. Stewardship also applies beyond the environment, shaping how we use our time, resources, and relationships.

Dominion, therefore, must be understood as stewardship rather than exploitation. A steward does not own but responsibly cares for what is entrusted to them. Jesus Christ is the clearest model of this kind of authority. Though He possessed all power, He chose to serve. He calmed storms, fed the hungry, withdrew to honor the rhythms of creation, and reminded His followers that even the smallest creatures matter to God. Ruling in Christ’s image means living in ways that heal, sustain, and restore. It challenges our habits of consumption, waste, and indifference toward animals and ecosystems.

Ultimately, the environmental crisis is a spiritual crisis. It reveals humanity’s struggle with greed, pride, and disregard for God’s purposes. As Mahatma Gandhi wisely stated, “The earth has enough for every man’s need, but not for every man’s greed.” When creation is exploited, God’s heart is grieved. Humanity is not only in danger—we are the danger. Yet we are also the solution. This passage calls us not just to reflect, but to act: by reducing waste, supporting sustainable practices, and speaking up for the protection of God’s creation.

Youth Step Forward for Child Protection



A special Child Protection Training was held from 28th-30th January 2025 in Mizoram, bringing together young leaders from Northeast India and Nepal of The Salvation Army. The event was organized in the Eastern Territory of India with the aim of empowering youth to stand up for the safety and rights of children.

The training was led by Captain Charles Chalrimawia, South Asia Zonal Child Protection Specialist, as part of the International Child Protection initiative. He guided participants through important topics related to child safety, responsibility, and leadership.

Adding to the learning experience, experts from the District Child Protection Office, Aizawl District, shared their knowledge and real-life experiences. Their sessions helped the delegates better understand how child protection works at the community and district levels. Through interactive sessions and discussions, they gained skills and confidence to become strong advocates for child protection in their own communities.

Empowered to Lead: Youth Leaders Unite for Mission and Ministry



The India National Office of The Salvation Army organized a National Youth Leaders Conference from 6th to 8th February 2025 at The United Theological College, Bangalore, bringing together 17 delegates from six territories. Guided by the Global Strategic Framework focusing on people, mission, and legacy, the conference aimed to strengthen youth and children's ministries and equip emerging leaders for effective service.

The event featured sessions led by Colonel S.P. Simon, Colonel Annamma Simon, Captain Charles Chalrimawia, Colonel Vanlalfela, and Ms. Lalhruaitluangi. It opened with a candle-lighting ceremony highlighting the responsibility of youth leadership. Sessions addressed biblical perspectives on youth, youth psychology, leadership styles, and youth-friendly ministry strategies. Team-building activities encouraged unity among participants. The conference concluded with reflections on creating lasting legacies and a spirit-renewal session, inspiring delegates to return motivated to guide young people in Christ's mission.

Empowered to Lead: Youth Leaders Unite for Mission and Ministry



The 48th Annual Conference of the Mizoram Thalai Kristian Pawl (MTKP), held from February 13 to 16, 2025, at Lunglawn Playground, Lunglei, strongly encouraged young people to deepen their faith and commitment to God. Organized by the BCM Lunglawn Pastorate Youth Department, the theme “Draw near to God” (James 4:8) challenged youth to build a closer spiritual relationship through prayer, worship, and fellowship.

The 71st Annual Business Session on February 14 highlighted youth leadership and responsibility, including a resolution to begin fasting prayers for the nation. With 447 units across 92 pastorates and over 50,000 members, MTKP continues to empower young people to grow spiritually, serve society, and strengthen Christian unity across Mizoram.



Youth Assembly Sparks Ecumenical Dialogue



The Kerala Council of Churches successfully hosted its Youth Assembly, “Eudaimonia,” from 7th to 9th February, 2025 at Mar Baselios Dayara, Njaliakuzhy, Kerala. Bishops, clergy, and youth delegates from member churches gathered for discussions on ecumenism, youth leadership, and contemporary challenges facing Christian youth. Interactive sessions and debates promoted dialogue, mutual understanding, and collaboration across denominations. Worship services, prayer meetings, and meditation offered deep spiritual enrichment. A special highlight was the Sunday visit of delegates to member churches, experiencing diverse worship traditions. The assembly strengthened Christian unity, empowered young leaders, and reinforced enduring ecumenical relationships for future church and community engagement.



Developing Visionary Leaders for Sacred and Secular Spaces



The Nagpur Archdiocese organized the Believers Youth Leadership Seminar from 27-29 May 2025, aimed at empowering young leaders with essential skills in administration, pastoral care, and Christ-centered leadership. The seminar provided participants with practical tools and insights to serve both the Church and society with purpose and vision. Through interactive workshops, group discussions, and hands-on activities, attendees developed confidence, responsibility, and critical decision-making abilities. The program emphasized holistic growth, encouraging youth to become transformative agents in sacred and secular spaces alike. Organizers highlighted the importance of nurturing ethical, compassionate, and visionary leadership, equipping participants to address societal challenges while remaining rooted in faith. The seminar concluded with a renewed sense of commitment among the youth to lead with integrity and make a lasting positive impact.

Faith Meets the Future: Exploring 'AI for Life'



In a powerful blend of faith and relevance, the 113th Mar Thoma Students' Conference was held from April 29-May 2, 2025 exploring the timely theme "AI for Life," examining the intersection of technology, ethics, and Christian witness in an increasingly digital age.

Youth Ignited in Faith



The Methodist Church in India, Council of Youth Work held a vibrant All India Methodist Youth Conference from June 23 to 26, 2025 at the historic Centenary Methodist Church, bringing together the youth in joyful worship, teaching, and fellowship. The Convention served as a platform to inspire, equip, and strengthen the faith of the next generation within the Methodist tradition.

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

On June 15, the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) brought together pastors, elders and youths within Nagpur churches to observe World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, focusing on the theme “Beyond Age: Addressing Abuse of Older Adults” which emphasised on respecting and protecting older adults. Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer opened the event with a reflection on the true meaning of being an elder. Led by Ms. Smriti Priyansha, Executive Secretary for Youth Concerns, NCCI, the program included prayers, an open mic where elders shared personal experiences and a fun game session that fostered intergenerational bonding. Participants also wrote personal commitments on elder care, ending the day with gifts and refreshments. The event was a meaningful celebration of elder dignity and community care.



GLOBAL GLIMPSES : YOUTH ACROSS BORDERS



The South Asia Youth Consultation of the Council for World Mission (CWM) was held from 2–5 October 2025 at the CSI Centre, Chennai, under the theme–

“Celebrating Identities: Cultural Hegemonies and Diversities.” The consultation gathered young leaders from across South Asia for reflection, dialogue, and collective action on identity, inclusion, and justice. Jointly led by NCCI, CSI, IPC, and CWM, the event reaffirmed the churches’ commitment to empowering youth for transformative leadership in church and society.



On 4 October to 2 November 2025, the India Peace Centre (IPC) hosted Face to Face 2025 in Nagpur and New Delhi,

bringing young participants from eight countries under the theme “Interfaith Harmony– Promoting Peaceful Communities.” Participants engaged in interfaith learning and cultural exchange, symbolically nurturing peace by watering a Tulsi plant during the inauguration.

Nurturing Leadership Across Generations



The South Asian Christian Youth Network 2025 Module Training held from 22–26 October 2025 at The Juniper Tree, Chiang Mai, Thailand, was a meaningful gathering centered on the theme “Called to Lead: From Generation to Generation.” Over five days, participants engaged in teaching sessions, discussions, and reflective activities designed to explore leadership as a calling rather than a position.

The program emphasized the responsibility of passing values, vision, and faith across generations, highlighting the importance of mentorship, integrity, and servant leadership. Speakers shared insights on how leaders can remain grounded while adapting to changing times, and how intergenerational collaboration strengthens communities.

The peaceful setting and wider circle of young people provided an ideal environment for learning, prayer, and relationship-building. Participants left encouraged and equipped with practical tools to lead effectively within their families, organizations, and communities. Overall, the gathering successfully inspired a renewed commitment to nurturing leaders who will influence the present while intentionally shaping the next generation.

HONOURING THE BIBHAS LEGACY— RECOGNISING BRAVE YOUTH COMBATING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



Reports confirm that Bibhas Nayak, a young member of the Church of North India and son of the Most Rev. B. K. Nayak (Moderator, CNI), tragically lost his life after bravely intervening to stop an assault on two young women by three men in the dark. His courageous action saved the lives of two male companions and shielded others from further harm.

In recognition of his heroism, the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) on March 13 2025, has proposed the creation of an annual national award in Bibhas's name, honouring young individuals who stand against Gender-Based Violence with courage and integrity.

SCHOOL OF ECUMENISM (SOE) 2025



The National Council of Churches in India (NCCI), Commission on Youth, successfully organized the five-day School of Ecumenism (SOE) 2025 from 31 October to 4 November 2025 at the NCCI Campus, Nagpur. The programme brought together 22 young participants from diverse church traditions including CSI, CNI, ECI, Believers Eastern Church, SCMI, and the Poumai Naga Baptist Association, creating a vibrant space for dialogue, learning, and fellowship.

Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer, General Secretary of NCCI, extended warm greetings on behalf of the Council. The sessions focused on church polity and Reformation, ecumenical formation and theology, networking, Bible studies, constitutional values, peace-building, and service-oriented leadership. Resource persons such as Rev. Vinod Shemron, Rev. Ribin John, Dr. Yogal J. Rayalu, Dr. Tejinder Singh Rawal, Rev. Vinod Victor, and Rev. Joy offered rich theological and socio-political insights, linking faith with justice, inclusion, and nation-building.

Exposure visits to different churches, historical sites, Nag River, Deeksha Bhoomi, Dragon Palace Buddhist Temple, and a Gurudwara deepened participants' understanding of India's pluralistic context and ecological concerns.

A Youth Parliament enabled young voices to articulate issues related to caste, gender justice, inclusiveness, and grassroots ecumenism. SoE 2025 concluded with a renewed commitment among youth to foster unity, collaboration, and transformative leadership in church and society.

FAREWELL OF YOUTH INTERNS



Samiksha Dilip Gawande has completed her internship at NCCI from 1st March 2025 to 31st May 2025. She has completed her MBA in Finance and HR from G.H. Rasoni College of Business Management, Nagpur.

During this period of her internship in NCCI, she was engaged in the HR and General Administration Department and also contributed to Youth Concerns and Finance related tasks. This internship has provided her with valuable exposure to various functional areas within and outside the organization and helped her strengthen both her administrative and interpersonal skills.

Yash B. Bastian a BSc Statistics student from Hislop College joined as an intern in NCCI from 24th Feb to 31st May 2025, where he gained practical experience in organisational work, ecumenical engagement and social justice. Currently, Yash is pursuing his Master of Business Administration at the Alliance School of Business, Bangalore.





Alomi Chisho, belonging to the Sumi tribe from Nagaland, is a member of the Nagaland Baptist Church Council. She has completed her Bachelor of Divinity from Bishop's College, Kolkata. Alomi has joined NCCI as an intern from May 2025 under Youth Concerns for a period of six months. Her theological background and commitment to youth ministry are valuable assets to NCCI's ongoing work among young people.



Anurag Nile is an active member of A.H.M 1840 CNI Church and the Life Alive Fellowship, actively participating in youth and community programs. Anurag brings with him a passion for faith-based service and social engagement, resonating with the ecumenical vision of NCCI. He joined as intern from March 2025.

Iza Naomi Suguna, an involved and participating member of the St. Stephens Church, CSI Diocese of Central Karnataka from Bengaluru, has recently completed her Bachelor of Divinity from the United Theological College, Bengaluru, where she was shaped by ecumenical and socially engaged theological education. She has joined NCCI as an intern under the Youth Concerns department for a period of six months starting June 2025.





WELCOMING NEW INTERNS

Irene David is from Nagpur and is pursuing a BA in English and Psychology at Hislop College, Nagpur. She is a member of the New India Church of God, Nagpur, and currently serves as a volunteer with the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI).



Emmanuel Joel is a member of the C.S.I. Wesley Tamil Church, Haines Road, Bengaluru, under the Karnataka Central Diocese. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce in Business Analytics.

He is a self-taught musician, he plays the bass guitar. While pursuing his bachelor's degree, he worked in a Mission School and a Montessori House of Children as a music teacher, where he taught children hymns and songs. He later served as an intern with the Student Christian Movement of India (SCMI).

He is currently working as an intern at the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI), serving with the Youth Department and the Ecumenical Fora, gaining experience in service and community work.



ECUMENICAL EXPOSURE TO STUDENTS AND SEMINARIANS



Susanna Cynthia Solomon a Bsc. Psychology student in Women Christian College, Chennai from CSI Madras Diocese joined NCCI for her summer internship as part of the final year curriculum from 22 April to 31st May 2025.

Vijay, a BD IV student at Master's College of Theology, Visakhapatnam joined as an intern in NCCI as part of the extensive practical exposure.

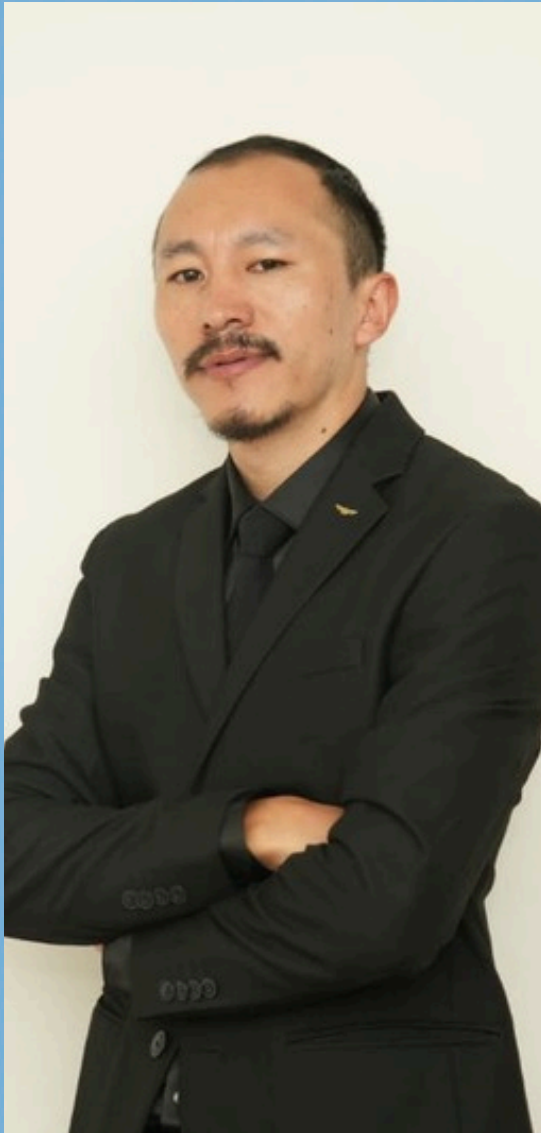
Vijay enjoys preaching, storytelling and using digital media to communicate theological truths in fresh and relevant ways.



Daniel, a BD IV student at Master's College of Theology, Visakhapatnam joined as an intern in NCCI as part of the extensive practical exposure. He belongs to the Pentecostal Church.

Daniel likes socializing and strives to live with humility and compassion.

NCCI COY WELCOMES THE NEW PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE FOR YOUTH CONCERNS



Bevei Konah Simeon is from Purul, Senapati, Manipur. He belongs to the Poumai Naga community under the Poumai Naga Baptist Association (PNBA), a constituent member of the Manipur Baptist Convention (MBC), which is affiliated with the Council of Baptist Churches in North East India (CBCNEI). He completed his Bachelor of Divinity (BD) at the Baptist Theological College (BTC), Pfutsero, Nagaland, and his Master of Theology (MTh) in Social Analysis at the Tamilnadu Theological Seminary (TTS), Madurai.

After completing his master's degree, he also received a Complementary Certificate (CC) in Ecumenical Studies from the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey, Switzerland, part of the World Council of Churches (WCC), and certified by the University of Geneva. He has served as Youth Director and Sunday School Superintendent at his local church, Purul Akutpa Baptist Church, PNBA. Currently, he is serving as Programme Executive for Youth Concerns, with further responsibility of assisting the General Secretary's Office, NCCI.

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**Commission on
Youth Concerns**
youth@ncci1914.com

WHAT IS AHEAD???

UPCOMING EVENTS

YOUTH LEADER'S
MEETING

ECUMENICAL YOUTH
GATHERING

SCHOOL OF
ECUMENISM

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
OF YOUTH (RAY)