

STREE

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Editorial Board

Revd Jyoti Samuel Singh, Executive Secretary, NCCI- Women Concern.

&

Rachael Pradhan

FOREWORD

The latest edition of *The STREE* is now available for readers.

This edition offers fresh and meaningful reflections on *Me and My Peace* through the lens of women's faith and action. This issue highlights the transformative engagement of women through the World Day of Prayer and the Fellowship of the Least Coin, spaces where prayer, solidarity, and justice come alive in everyday life.

It captures how women continue to cultivate peace in everyday realities, building communities rooted in justice, sharing, and collective strength. Through these collective journeys, they embody a transformative leadership that strengthens both Church and society.

I congratulate the Editorial Team, led by Rev. Jyoti Singh, for bringing together this thoughtful and inspiring edition of *The STREE*.

Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer,
General Secretary - NCCI

EDITORIAL NOTE

Dear All,

In a world that constantly demands more from us, peace often feels like a distant dream. As women, we carry many roles—daughter, wife, mother, sister, caregiver, professional, and servant of God. Amid these responsibilities, our hearts sometimes become weary, searching for a quiet place to rest. The theme “*Me and My Peace*” invites us to pause and reflect on where true peace really comes from.

Peace, according to the world, is often defined as the absence of problems. Yet our lives remind us that challenges are unavoidable. For many women, especially in our Indian context, life can be filled with silent struggles—balancing family expectations, personal dreams, financial concerns, and spiritual responsibilities. In such moments, peace cannot simply be found in circumstances. It must be rooted deeper.

The Bible reminds us that peace is not merely a feeling but a gift from God. In John 14:27, Jesus says, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.” This peace is different. It is steady even in uncertainty, calm even in storms, and hopeful even when the future seems unclear.

For a Christian woman, peace begins with a relationship—with Christ at the center of her life. When we surrender our anxieties, fears, and disappointments to Him, we discover that peace is not something we create; it is something we receive. Through prayer, Scripture, and quiet moments with God, our hearts slowly learn to rest in His promises.

However, living in peace also requires intentional choices. It means letting go of comparisons that steal our joy, forgiving those who hurt us, and trusting God’s timing instead of rushing ahead in our own strength. It means learning to care for our spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being. When we nurture our faith and guard our hearts, peace begins to grow within us.

This issue of our magazine celebrates the journey of women who seek peace in God. Through personal reflections, biblical insights, and stories of faith, we hope to encourage every reader to rediscover the gentle assurance that God’s peace is always available. No matter our age, stage of life, or circumstances, His peace can sustain us.

As we turn these pages, may we be reminded that peace is not far away. It lives within the presence of God. When we walk with Him daily, we learn that true peace is not found in a perfect life—but in a faithful God.

May each of us learn to say with confidence: *My peace is in Christ.*

Rachael Pradhan

Peace and Me: Reflections from a World of War and the Power of Women in Peacebuilding

Peace is often spoken of as an abstract idea—soft, distant, almost utopian. Yet, for those who live in regions scarred by violence, whether across international borders or within our own nation, peace is not an idea. It is a longing, a necessity, and sometimes, a fragile hope that flickers in the darkest moments. As I reflect on the realities of war—from global conflicts that redraw boundaries to internal strife such as that witnessed in Manipur—I find myself asking: what does peace mean to me, and who builds it?

The World Divided: War Beyond Borders

Across international boundaries, wars have shaped the course of human history. Nations clash over territory, ideology, resources, and power. These conflicts are often framed in terms of strategy and victory, yet beneath these narratives lies immense human suffering—displacement, trauma, and loss.

War creates visible destruction—broken cities, shattered infrastructure—but its deeper scars are invisible. Families are torn apart, children grow up in fear, and communities lose their sense of belonging. Peace, in this context, is not merely the absence of war; **it is the restoration of dignity, trust, and humanity.**

What strikes me most is how distant such wars can feel when we read about them in newspapers or watch them on screens. Yet, **the pain is universal.** The grief of a mother in a war-torn country is no different from that of a mother in my own land. This realization dissolves boundaries—political lines may divide nations, but human suffering unites us.

War Within: The Reality of Manipur

Closer to home, the violence in Manipur reminds us that conflict is not always between nations; it can exist within them. Ethnic tensions, political grievances, and historical injustices can erupt into violence, leaving communities fractured.

In such internal conflicts, the pain is often more complex. Neighbors turn against neighbors. Trust erodes not across borders, but within them. The sense of safety that one expects from their homeland is disrupted. For many in Manipur, daily life has been overshadowed by fear, uncertainty, and loss.

These conflicts challenge our understanding of peace. It is no longer just about diplomacy or treaties—it is about reconciliation, healing, and rebuilding relationships at the grassroots level. Peace here requires empathy, dialogue, and the courage to forgive.

Peace and Me: A Personal Reflection

In the face of such realities, I find myself questioning my own role. What does peace mean to me, an individual who may not stand on the frontlines or at negotiation tables?

Peace, to me, begins with awareness. It is about acknowledging the suffering of others and refusing to be indifferent. It is about choosing compassion over hatred, dialogue over silence, and understanding over prejudice.

But peace is also deeply personal. It is reflected in the way I treat others, in my willingness to listen, and in my ability to challenge injustice. If war begins in the minds of people, as often said, then peace must also begin there.

Women: The Silent Architects of Peace

Amid the noise of war, one group has consistently worked—often quietly, often unrecognized—to rebuild peace: women.

Historically, peace negotiations have been dominated by political and military leaders, yet evidence shows that when women are included, peace processes become more sustainable. Studies indicate that the participation of women increases the likelihood of peace agreements lasting longer, sometimes by as much as 35%.

Why is this so?

Women bring perspectives shaped by lived experiences during conflict. They often bear the brunt of war—not only as victims of violence but also as caregivers, providers, and community stabilizers. Their understanding of conflict goes beyond battlefield strategies; it encompasses social, economic, and emotional dimensions.

Organizations like UN Women emphasize that women’s involvement leads to more inclusive and credible peace processes, ensuring that the needs of entire communities—not just armed actors—are addressed.

Grassroots Peacebuilding: Where Women Lead

While high-level negotiations often exclude women, they have long been active at the grassroots level. Across the world, women have organized community dialogues, mediated local disputes, and created support networks for those affected by violence.

These efforts may not always make headlines, but they are essential. Peace is not built only in conference rooms; it is nurtured in homes, schools, and communities.

In conflict zones, women often take on new roles—leading households, ensuring access to education and healthcare, and fostering resilience. Their work sustains communities during war and lays the foundation for recovery afterward.

In places recovering from conflict, women also play a crucial role in addressing trauma. Initiatives supported by global organizations show how women leaders help communities heal, emphasizing mental health and reconciliation as key components of peacebuilding.

Women in the Context of Manipur

In Manipur, too, women have historically been at the forefront of social movements. Women lead Groups have played significant roles in advocating for peace, justice, and human rights.

Their actions highlight an important truth: women are not just victims of conflict; they are powerful agents of change. They bring moral authority, community trust, and a commitment to non-violence that can bridge divides.

In a region fractured by ethnic tensions, women can act as mediators—connecting communities, fostering dialogue, and advocating for reconciliation. Their involvement can transform the narrative from one of conflict to one of coexistence.

Challenges to Women's Participation

Despite their contributions, women remain underrepresented in formal peace processes. Cultural barriers, lack of access to decision-making platforms, and systemic inequalities often limit their participation.

This exclusion is not just unjust—it is counterproductive. Peace agreements that do not consider the perspectives of half the population are unlikely to address the root causes of conflict.

Recognizing this, global frameworks such as UN Security Council Resolution 1325 have emphasized the importance of women's participation in peace and security efforts. Yet, implementation remains uneven.

The Way Forward: Building Peace Together

If peace is to be meaningful and lasting, it must be inclusive. This means:

- **Recognizing women as equal stakeholders** in peace processes
- **Supporting grassroots initiatives** led by women
- **Addressing gender-based violence** in conflict and post-conflict settings
- **Ensuring representation** of women at all levels of decision-making

Peacebuilding is not a one-time act; it is a continuous process. It requires patience, commitment, and collective effort.

Conclusion: A Shared Responsibility

As I reflect on peace in the context of global wars and local conflicts like Manipur, I realize that peace is not something that can be imposed—it must be cultivated.

Women, with their resilience, empathy, and strength, are essential to this process. They are not just participants in peacebuilding; they are its foundation.

But peace is not only their responsibility—it is ours as well. Each of us has a role to play, whether through our actions, our words, or our willingness to stand for justice.

In a world divided by conflict, peace begins with a simple yet powerful choice: to see each other not as enemies, but as fellow human beings.

And perhaps, in that choice, lies the beginning of a more peaceful world.

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

ME AND MY PEACE – LEARNING FROM DEBORAH

Peace is something every woman longs for. In the middle of responsibilities, challenges, and expectations, a woman often searches for calm and strength within her heart. A woman can rediscover her peace through simple but powerful spiritual practices:

Prayer: When we speak to God honestly about our worries and fears, our hearts become lighter.

Reading Scripture: God’s Word brings comfort and direction during confusing times.

Quiet Reflection: Taking a few moments each day for silence and reflection helps the mind and heart rest.

Trusting God’s Plan: When we surrender our worries to God, we acknowledge that He is in control. Jesus himself invites us in John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.” His peace is a gift that strengthens women to face life courageously.

The Bible gives us many inspiring women who found peace in God even while facing great responsibilities. One such remarkable woman is Deborah. Her story, found in Judges 4–5, teaches us that true peace does not mean a life without difficulties. Instead, it means trusting God so deeply that we can lead, serve, and stand strong even during difficult times.

1. A Woman of Strength and Peace

Deborah was not only a prophetess but also a judge who led the people of Israel. During her time, the Israelites were suffering under oppression and fear. Yet Deborah stood firm because her peace came from God. She sat under the “Palm of Deborah,” and the people came to her for guidance and justice. Her leadership shows that a peaceful heart can make wise decisions. “The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord blesses His people with peace” Psalm 29:11. Deborah listened to God before guiding the people. This inner peace helped her lead the nation with courage and clarity

2. Peace that Inspires Courage

Deborah encouraged Barak to lead Israel into battle against the enemy. Even when Barak felt hesitant, Deborah’s faith strengthened him. She reminded him that God would give them victory. A peaceful woman does not create fear in others; instead, she inspires courage. Deborah’s confidence in God helped others believe that victory was possible. This verse enables us to put our trust in God,
“When I am afraid, I put my trust in You.” Psalm 56:3

3. Peace in the Midst of Responsibility

Deborah carried many responsibilities—she was a leader, a judge, and a spiritual guide for the people. Yet she remained calm and faithful. Her peace did not come from power or position but from her deep relationship with God. As the vs in Proverbs 31:25 says “she is clothed with strength and dignity.” Today, many women carry multiple roles in their homes, churches, and communities. Like Deborah, they can lead with wisdom and patience when their hearts are rooted in God.

4. A Woman Who Brings Peace to Her People

After Israel experienced victory, Deborah sang a song of praise to God. She did not take glory for herself but gave thanks to the Lord for His faithfulness. This teaches us an important lesson: when women rely on God, their leadership brings peace and blessing to others.

The story of Deborah reminds every woman that peace and leadership can go together. A peaceful heart can guide others, strengthen families, and inspire communities. When women trust God, as Deborah did, they become instruments of courage, wisdom, and peace in the world.

*Ms Caroline Anita David,
Interim General Secretary,
CSI Women’s Fellowship*

ME AND MY PEACE: IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STORM

“Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give you” (John 14:27)

Many people hear “Peace be with you” and wonder why their own life still feels heavy, chaotic, or painful. You’re not alone in that struggle. In the Bible, when Jesus Christ says, *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you”* (John 14:27), He isn’t promising a life without problems. The kind of peace He speaks about isn’t the absence of storms — it’s calm **in the middle of the storm**.

The story of the Prodigal Son shows that peace is not found in running away from God, but in returning to Him. The son searched for freedom and happiness in the world, but found emptiness instead. True peace came when he went back to his father and was restored. In the same way, Jesus says, “Peace be with you.” Peace is not the absence of mistakes or struggles — it is the presence of forgiveness and a restored relationship with God.

David experienced deep pain when his son Absalom rebelled against him. He was betrayed, forced to flee, and heartbroken. Yet instead of reacting in anger or panic, David entrusted the situation to God. This story shows that peace is not the absence of conflict — even family conflict — but trusting God in the middle of it.

Peace doesn’t mean no problems:

Even faithful people in the Bible faced fear, loss, betrayal, and suffering. Peace is not a perfect life — it’s inner steadiness despite imperfect circumstances. Job lost everything — But Kept His Faith. Romans 5:1 states, “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”.

The story of Job (Book of Job) shows a righteous man who lost:

- His children
- His wealth
- His health

Yet he said:

“The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” (Job 1:21)

Job had devastation — but he still clung to God.

His peace was not based on his possessions. “Job had peace despite his suffering.”

Sometimes our environment is loud:

Stress, financial pressure, family conflict, health issues — these can drown out any sense of peace. That doesn’t mean God’s promise failed. It means you’re human and living in a complicated world.

Paul in a Noisy Prison:

Paul the Apostle was in prison:

- Chains clanking
- Guards watching
- Other prisoners listening

Instead of giving in to the noise of fear, he and Silas were praying and singing hymns (Acts 16). The environment was loud — but their worship was louder. “Paul had peace despite his suffering.”

Peace is often practiced, not just received:

Peace grows through:

- Prayer or quiet reflection
- Letting go of things you can’t control
- Forgiveness (even when it’s hard)
- Seeking support instead of carrying everything alone

Daniel practiced daily Prayer:

When praying became illegal, Daniel did not panic or hide his faith. The Bible says he **continued praying three times a day**, just as he had always done (Daniel 6:10).

He practiced peace through

- Consistent prayer
- Faithful routine
- Refusing fear-driven reactions

His peace didn't come accidentally — it came from discipline.

Why Peace Seems Lacking:

- **Misunderstanding Peace:** Peace is not the absence of conflict, but the presence of God in the midst of it. It is an inner calm during storms, not a life without storms.

In Mark 4:35–41, the disciples were in a violent storm. Waves were filling the boat. They feared for their lives. Yet Jesus Christ was **in the boat with them**. The storm didn't mean God was absent. His presence was already there — even before He calmed the wind.

Truth: The peace came from who was in the boat, not from calm water.

- **Distraction by Circumstances:** Focusing on problems (the storm) rather than on God (the Saviour) leads to fear and anxiety

The Twelve Spies

In Numbers 13–14, twelve spies explored the Promised Land.

- Ten focused on the giants.
- Two (Joshua and Caleb) focused on God's promise.

The land was the same. The obstacles were the same. But perspective made the difference between fear and faith.

- **Relying on the World:** True, lasting peace is different from the temporary, fragile peace the world offers.

Solomon — Wealth Without Lasting Peace.

Solomon had:

- Wealth
- Power
- Wisdom
- Fame

Yet in Ecclesiastes, he wrote that everything was “meaningless” without God.

He had everything the world offers — yet it did not satisfy.

Lesson: Success and comfort do not automatically produce peace.

- **Need for Relationship:** This peace is found through a relationship with Jesus the "Prince of Peace," and is considered a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 9:6 prophesies about the coming Messiah and calls Him:

“Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace.**”

That title is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Peace is not just something He gives — it is part of who He is. To know Him is to encounter peace.

- **The Choice to Trust:** Often, we fail to let the peace of Christ "rule" in our hearts by choosing to worry instead of trusting in His promises.

Martha Distracted by Worry.

In Luke 10:38–42, Martha was “worried and upset about many things,” while her sister Mary sat at Jesus' feet.

Jesus gently corrected Martha:

“You are worried and troubled about many things, but few things are needed...”

Martha allowed anxiety to rule. Mary allowed Christ's presence to rule.

Romans 5:1 states, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (NIV). This verse highlights that being made righteous in God's sight comes solely through faith in Jesus, resulting in a reconciled, peaceful relationship with God.

- **Justification by Faith:** Righteousness is declared through faith, not personal effort or works.
- **Peace with God:** This refers to an objective reconciliation with God, removing the enmity caused by sin.
- **Through Jesus Christ:** Peace is only accessible through the sacrificial work of Jesus.

How to Find This Peace:

- **Turn to God:** Actively bring worries to God, relying on Him rather than self-reliance.
- **Shift Focus:** Focus on God's presence, not on the chaos of the world.
- **Live in the Spirit:** Allow the Holy Spirit to produce peace in your heart, which can exist even in difficult times.

*Mrs. Janet Abraham
Evangelical Church of India*

ME AND MY PEACE : PEACE IS MY POWER

In today's fast moving world, peace often feels distant. With the problems that we face every day - wars, natural calamities, sickness, poverty, responsibilities, expectations, noise, and the constant activity - we feel lost and sometimes forget that peace still exists. True peace does not begin outside us, it begins within us. This Theme "Me and My Peace" reminds us that peace is Personal. It is something we must seek, nurture and protect in our own hearts.

Now let us try to understand the meaning of the word Peace. *What is Peace?* Peace is one of the most difficult terms to define. According to Webster's dictionary, peace means a state of tranquility or quietness when there is no conflict but harmony between the people. The elimination of war is peace and the social contract between two different groups is also peace. However, Johan Galtung, a founder of peace studies and peace research, differentiated between "positive" and "negative" peace. "Positive" peace denotes the simultaneous presence of many desirable states of mind and society, such as harmony, justice, equity, and so on; whereas "Negative" peace refers to the "absence of war" and other forms of large-scale violent human conflict. Therefore, Peace is not only the absence of problems but the presence of calmness even in the midst of difficulties.

How can we achieve this Peace with in? Many people are searching for peace but often fail, because we are trying to find it externally. However, to experience this peace we must first be at peace with our selves and most importantly with God. We must first learn to accept ourselves as we are. Sometimes we lose our peace by comparing ourselves with others or by trying to meet unrealistic expectations. Our lives and hearts will become peaceful and calmer when we know how to appreciate who we are and trust our journey knowing that every step of our life all our journey are directed by God Himself.

From the biblical perspective peace are of two kinds worldly peace and Godly Peace as it is written in *John 14:24 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you" I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid*". This verse shows that the peace that Christ gives us is different from the worldly peace. When life gives us challenges, suffering, fear when we walk closely with God and surrender our worries and place our trust in God, His peace guards our hearts. *Philippians 4:7 "And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"*. Our spiritual relationship with God is the source of true peace.

Sometimes we lose our peace because of worries and anxiety that life gives us. However, *Philippians 4:6-7* says "*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds In Christ Jesus*". This verse encourages us not to be anxious but to pray about everything, because prayer is one of the powerful tools that transform worries, anxiety in assurance because when we bring our fear, doubt, problem to God, He will replace them with Peace that transcends all human understanding that will guard our hearts and minds in Jesus. We often heard testimonies of many people whose lives were filled with struggle and anxiety, yet when they learned to trust God, their worries were replaced with peace that amazed both them and others.

When we have peace with ourselves and peace with God our personal relationship with others also improve because all form of restlessness, anxiety, pain and war begins in our mind or within ourselves before manifesting to the world. When we focus our thought on God by trusting in his perfect plan it helps us to remain peaceful. Therefore, the letter to the **Roman 12:18** Paul encourages the believers to live at peace with everyone ***“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone”***. Knowing ourselves and understanding others is very important. When we are peaceful within, we respond with patience instead of anger, kindness instead of bitterness, and hope instead of despair.

A peaceful heart reflects Christ love in our family, society and our ministry. It makes us an instrument of peace to the people around us because is not only personal- it is relational. Jesus promise that all the peacemaker will be called ***Children of God*** which is a great privilege that God offer us to be call His children by being the peacemaker. Peace is also one of the fruit of the Holy Spirit ***Galatians 5:22***, therefore as the fruit grows as long as it remains in the Vine, the same way peace grows as long as we walk closely with the Spirit and trust God daily.

However, we should always understand that Peace does not come easily but it requires effort. It means we need to set boundaries, spend time with God, meditating in His Word and prayer and trusting Him. In the world full of Chaos, choosing to surrender our self to God can restore our inner peace because peace is not weakness; it is the strength under control.

Therefore, this theme ***“Me and My Peace”*** is a journey that we must walk every day. It is about choosing faith over fear, trusting God who is in control of our lives, and nurturing a calm spirit daily. When we put God first in our life, His peace becomes our foundation and with that peace we can overcome every challenge with confidence and hope.

*Ms. Badasuk Lyngdoh
Secretary Women Relation
PCI*

ME AND MY PEACE: RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

In a world filled with noise, pressure, and constant expectations, peace often feels distant. We search for it in success, relationships, achievements, or even in temporary escapes. Yet, true peace is not something we create on our own—it is something we receive from God. When I reflect on “me and my peace,” I realize that my peace is deeply connected to my relationship with Him.

The Bible reminds us in **John 14:27**, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” This verse teaches me that peace is not dependent on circumstances. Jesus offers a peace that is steady even when life is uncertain. While the world’s peace fades when problems arise, God’s peace remains.

There are moments in my life when fear and anxiety try to take control—worries about the future, responsibilities, failures, or misunderstandings. During such times, I turn to **Philippians 4:6–7**, which says, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your

Me and My Peace

A Reflection Based on the Bible

In a world filled with noise, pressure, expectations, and uncertainty, peace often feels distant. We search for it in success, relationships, money, or approval from others. Yet, true peace is not something we can manufacture for ourselves. The Bible teaches that real peace comes from God alone.

When I reflect on “me and my peace,” I realize that peace is not the absence of problems. It is the presence of God in the middle of them.

Peace Is a Gift from God

Jesus said in John 14:27, “*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*”

This verse reminds me that peace is not earned—it is given. The world offers temporary comfort, but Christ offers lasting peace. His peace does not depend on my circumstances. Even when I face difficulties, disappointments, or fears, I can hold on to His promise.

Peace Comes Through Trust

Sometimes I lose my peace because I try to control everything. I worry about tomorrow, about what people think, or about whether things will go according to my plans. But Proverbs 3:5-6 says, “*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.*”

When I surrender my worries to God, I begin to feel lighter. Trust replaces anxiety. Faith replaces fear. Peace grows when I stop depending only on myself and start depending fully on Him.

Peace Guards My Heart

Philippians 4:6-7 teaches, *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God... will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

This verse shows me that prayer is the doorway to peace. Whenever anxiety tries to enter my heart, prayer stands as protection. God’s peace becomes like a shield, guarding my thoughts and emotions.

Peace in the Storm

Life is not always calm. There are storms—loss, failure, rejection, uncertainty. Yet, I remember the story of Jesus calming the storm (Mark 4:39). The disciples were afraid, but Jesus spoke, *“Peace! Be still!”* and the storm stopped.

This story reminds me that even when the storm does not immediately stop, Jesus is in the boat with me. His presence gives me peace even before the waves settle.

Living in Peace

Having peace does not mean I will never struggle. It means I choose faith over fear. It means I forgive instead of holding bitterness. It means I trust God’s timing instead of rushing ahead.

Colossians 3:15 says, *“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.”* Peace must rule—not anger, not worry, not doubt.

Conclusion

Me and my peace are deeply connected to my relationship with God. The closer I draw to Him, the stronger my peace becomes. When I read His Word, pray, and trust His promises, I discover a calm that the world cannot take away.

True peace is not found in perfect circumstances but in a perfect Saviour.

And in Him, my heart rests.

Rachael Pradhan

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) 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.

The 2026 World Day of Prayer (WDP) theme was "**I Will Give You Rest: Come,**" based on Matthew 11:28-30. Prepared by the women of Nigeria, this theme invites worshippers to bring their burdens—such as poverty, despair, and injustice—to find spiritual rest, renewal, and community support in Christ's love. To enable this global participation, the worship order was translated into Khasi, Garo, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Odiya, Bengali, Gujarati, Tamil and Telegu, and it was distributed online with coordinators for the smooth running of the program.

The NCCI Women's Concern also holds WDP Asia Prayer on the last Friday of every month. Please join the Bible Study using the Zoom link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83624789030?pwd=CTNHauO87wB3Fzl06onWA07GCg93V2.1>

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

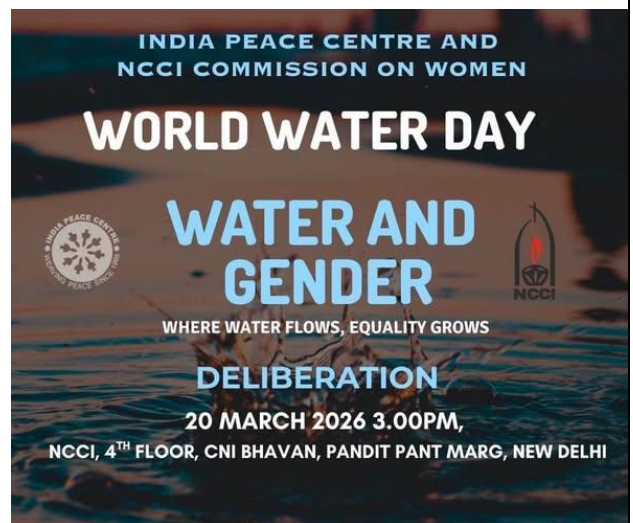
- **Wear black:** Make a point to wear black clothing or a campaign badge on Thursdays.
- **Join the discussion:** Engage with the NCCI and the World Council of Churches through their social media channels using hashtags like [#ThursdaysInBlack](#).
- **Support survivors:** Listen to and amplify the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

Thursday in Black observed in Office Jan-March 2026. A glimps



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN INDIA WORLD WATER DAY

IPC and Commission for Women's Concern, NCCI observed World Water Day on the theme: Water and gender. The invisible burden which whole have to carry. The focus of the workshop was to deliberate on Water as fundamental to life, health, dignity, and sustainable development of women. Yet access to safe and adequate water remains a challenge for millions of people around the world. Water scarcity and poor sanitation affect entire communities, but women and girls are often the most affected. In many parts of the world, they bear the primary responsibility for collecting water for household use. This task frequently requires long journeys and consumes significant time and physical effort, limiting opportunities for education, employment, and community participation. The issue of water is therefore not only an environmental or infrastructural concern; it is also closely connected to gender equality, health, dignity, and human rights.



The month of March provides a meaningful context for this dialogue as it marks two important global observances: International Women's Day on 8 March, celebrating women's rights and empowerment, and World Water Day on 22 March, highlighting the importance of freshwater and the global water.

Purpose of the Deliberation was

To have interactive discussion aims to bring together participants from diverse backgrounds to reflect on the relationship between water and gender. Participants explored issues such as the gendered burden of water collection and its implications for education, health, and livelihoods; water, sanitation, and dignity including safety and privacy concerns for women; women's leadership in water conservation and community water governance; climate change and water scarcity and their impact on vulnerable communities; and community initiatives and policy approaches for gender-responsive water management.

Exp Background

Water is fundamental to life, health, dignity, and sustainable development. Yet access to safe and adequate water remains a challenge for millions of people around the world. Recognising the importance of water for human well-being and environmental sustainability, the United Nations observes World Water Day every year on 22 March. Water scarcity and poor sanitation affect entire communities, but women and girls are often the most affected. In many parts of the world, they bear the primary responsibility for collecting water for household use. This task frequently requires long journeys and consumes significant time and physical effort, limiting opportunities for education, employment, and community participation. The issue of water is therefore not only an environmental or infrastructural concern; it is also closely connected to gender equality, health, dignity, and human rights.

Relevance of the Theme

The month of March provides a meaningful context for this dialogue as it marks two important global observances: International Women's Day on 8 March, celebrating women's rights and empowerment, and World Water Day on 22 March, highlighting the importance of freshwater and the global water crisis.

Bringing these themes together allows us to reflect on how access to water can influence women’s well-being, safety, and opportunities, and how gender equality can strengthen water governance and sustainable resource management.

Purpose of the Deliberation

This interactive discussion aims to bring together participants from diverse backgrounds to reflect on the relationship between water and gender. The deliberation seeks to highlight how water scarcity and poor sanitation disproportionately affect women and girls, discuss the social, economic, and health implications of water insecurity for women, recognise the important role women play in water conservation and community water management, and encourage dialogue and collaboration among civil society, faith communities, and institutions on gender-sensitive approaches to water access and sustainability.



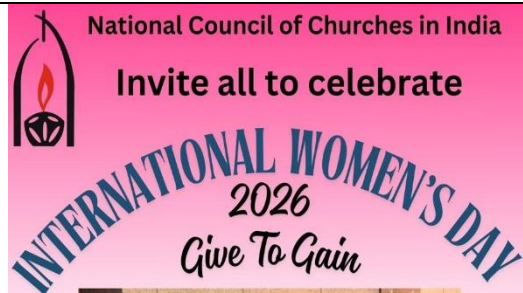
Themes for Discussion

Participants may explore issues such as the gendered burden of water collection and its implications for education, health, and livelihoods; water, sanitation, and dignity including safety and privacy concerns for women; women’s leadership in water conservation and community water governance; climate change and water scarcity and their impact on vulnerable communities; and community initiatives and policy approaches for gender-responsive water management.

Expected Outcome

The deliberation aims to foster deeper awareness of the link between water security and gender equality, encourage informed dialogue, and inspire collaborative efforts to ensure that access to water contributes to dignity, equity, and sustainable development for all. “Where water flows freely and safely, equality has the opportunity to grow.” There were 45 women and men leaders who joined the workshop. Ms Kirti Kale a renowned poetess, brought flight through poetry about the burden of topic. Rev Jyoti explained the social, economic, mental and health effect of water on women and how it adversely affects them. Dr Ralwal brought to light the topic in general. “Where water flows freely and safely, equality has the opportunity to grow.”





*Give Recognition, Give Equality, Give Justice
End Discrimination*

PRELUDE A music can be Played or as per the local customs

PROCESSIONAL Hymn: Women's ministry leaders and guest proceed to Alter

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Responsive)

Leader: We gather today to celebrate the faithful women who give of themselves freely.

People: For in giving, they have gained immeasurable blessings.

Leader: They give their time, their talents, their treasures, and their testimony.

People: And in return, they receive joy, purpose, and the presence of God. **Leader:** Let us worship the One who first gave to us.

All: To God be the glory for the gift of giving hearts!

OPENING PRAYER Gracious God, we come before you with grateful hearts for the women who embody the spirit of giving in this community. Thank you for teaching us that true gain comes not from what we accumulate, but from what we freely offer. Open our hearts today to receive your Word and to understand more deeply the paradox of your kingdom—that to give is truly to gain. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE RECOGNITION OF WOMEN

Special recognition of women in ministry, service, and leadership Presentation of flowers or tokens of appreciation

SCRIPTURE READINGS Old Testament: Proverbs 31:10-20, 25-31 (The Virtuous Woman)

New Testament: Acts 9:36-42 (Dorcas: A Woman of Good Works) Gospel: Luke 21:1-4

(The Widow's Offering) **WOMEN'S MINISTRY LITANY** (Responsive)

Leader: For the women who give their mornings to prayer,

People: They have gained intimacy with God.

Leader: For the women who give their hands to service,

People: They have gained purpose and meaning.

Leader: For the women who give their voices to encouragement,

People: They have gained lasting friendships.

Leader: For the women who give their resources to others,

People: They have gained treasures in heaven.

Leader: For the women who give their pain to testimony,

People: They have gained the power to heal others.

All: To give is gain—this is the way of our Savior!

SERMON Title: "The Paradox of the Kingdom: To Give Is Gain" Text: Philippians 4:15-19; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

HYMN OF RESPONSE "I Surrender All" or "Something Beautiful"

Intercessory Prayers for Women, Social Justice, and Peace Leader's

Introduction: Let us lift our hearts and voices in prayer for women around the world, for justice in our communities and nations, and for peace that surpasses all understanding.

After each petition, please respond together: "Hear our prayer, O God."

PRAYERS FOR WOMEN

Leader: Gracious God, we pray for women who lead in homes, churches, and communities. Grant them wisdom, strength, and courage to fulfill their callings with grace and conviction.

People: Hear our prayer, O God.

Leader: We lift up mothers who nurture the next generation. Bless them with patience, joy, and the resources they need to raise children who will be agents of love and justice in this world.

People: Hear our prayer, O God.

Leader: For women who face discrimination, harassment, and violence, we cry out to you. Protect them, vindicate them, and raise up advocates who will stand with them in their struggle for dignity and safety.

People: Hear our prayer, O God.

Leader: We pray for women denied education, healthcare, and economic opportunity. Open doors that have been closed, and break down barriers that prevent them from reaching their full potential.

People: Hear our prayer, O God.

Leader: For widows, single mothers, and women caring for aging parents, we ask for your provision. Surround them with community, meet their needs, and let them know they are not alone.

People: Hear our prayer, O God.

Leader: We remember women struggling with illness, grief, and despair. Be their comfort, their healing, and their hope. Restore what has been broken and bring light into their darkness.

People: Hear our prayer, O God.

PRAYERS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Leader: God of justice, we pray for communities ravaged by poverty and neglect. Stir the hearts of those with power and resources to act with compassion and to create systems that lift up rather than oppress.

People: Hear our prayer, O God.

Leader: For children trapped in cycles of hunger, homelessness, and abuse, we intercede. Raise up protectors, providers, and advocates who will fight for their welfare and future.

People: Hear our prayer, O God.

Leader: We lift up refugees and migrants fleeing violence and persecution. Give them safe passage, welcoming communities, and the chance to rebuild their lives with dignity and hope.

People: Hear our prayer, O God.

Leader: For victims of human trafficking and modern-day slavery, we cry out for liberation. Expose the darkness of this evil, bring perpetrators to justice, and restore survivors to wholeness.

People: Hear our prayer, O God.

Leader: We pray for those imprisoned unjustly and for reform of systems that punish rather than restore. Grant wisdom to lawmakers, judges, and advocates working for a more just legal system.

People: Hear our prayer, O God.

Leader: For workers denied fair wages, safe conditions, and basic rights, we ask for your intervention. Convict employers who exploit, and empower workers to organize and demand justice.

People: Hear our prayer, O God.

Leader: We remember communities facing environmental destruction and climate crisis. Give us the will to be good stewards of creation and to protect the most vulnerable from ecological harm.

People: Hear our prayer, O God.

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

Leader: Prince of Peace, we pray for nations torn apart by war and conflict. Soften hardened hearts, silence the weapons of destruction, and raise up peacemakers who will choose dialogue over violence.

People: Hear our prayer, O God.

Leader: For soldiers and civilians caught in the crossfire of war, we intercede. Protect the innocent, comfort the traumatized, and bring swift resolution to conflicts that steal lives and futures.

People: Hear our prayer, O God.

Leader: We lift up divided communities where racial, ethnic, and religious tensions run deep. Break down walls of hatred and suspicion, and build bridges of understanding and reconciliation.

People: Hear our prayer, O God.

Leader: For leaders of nations, we pray for humility and wisdom. Turn their hearts from self-interest to the common good, from power-seeking to peace-building.

People: Hear our prayer, O God.

Leader: We remember families fractured by estrangement and unforgiveness. Heal old wounds, restore broken relationships, and teach us all the ministry of reconciliation.

People: Hear our prayer, O God.

Leader: For our own hearts, often troubled and anxious, we ask for your peace. Calm our fears, quiet our minds, and anchor us in the certainty of your love and presence.

People: Hear our prayer, O God.

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: Loving God, you have heard the prayers of your people. We trust that you are already at work, bringing justice where there is oppression, peace where there is conflict, and hope where there is despair. Make us instruments of your peace, agents of your justice, and bearers of your love to a world in need. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

OFFERTORY:

Special offering for women's ministry outreach Offertory Prayer TESTIMONIES Brief testimonies from women sharing how giving has blessed their lives

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER BLESSING (Based on 2 Corinthians 9:8)

May God who is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, equip you to abound in every good work. Go forth as women who give freely, knowing that in giving, you gain the riches of Christ. Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN Suggestions for the hymns Hymn: "Take My Life and Let It Be" or "Blessed Assurance" "We Are Marching in the Light of God" or "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" "Blessed Be Your Name" or "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" How can we make it more meaningful. Encourage more participation of the congregation in the liturgy. Identify few women who have done remarkable work for creating equality, honour them.

Do activities for encouraging women to speak and participate. Organise workshops in the church for leadership development and issues related with women. Have workshops on prevention of Sexual Harassment and GBV.

Liturgy Prepared by Commission for Women Concerns, NCCI

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF INDIA- PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FELLOWSHIP

Consultation Program: This program is usually organized once every two years. Each time, a theme relevant to women is carefully selected. The primary aim of this program is to support and uplift women in various aspects of their lives. It also strengthens women in their ministry, society and family life as well.

WEUP (Women Empowerment and Upliftment): The PWF organized awareness program through this society in order to enhance the quality of life of women, particularly the weaker section of the society, to enable them to grow to their potential, to achieve fullness of life through a holistic approach for sustainable development-economically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. To bring together members of the Presbyterian Women Fellowship to strive towards promoting health, education, moral values, economic values and leadership qualities among women in their constituencies.

WDP is observing every year with different themes. The Theme was circulated to all the units to translate in their own languages according to their own convenience.

PWF Biennial Conference

Charity program

Prayer Day and Relief Funds for Manipur situations



*Ms. Badasuk Lyngdoh
Secretary, Women Relation, PCI*

CSI WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Mothers' Union Programme

On 19th and 20th January 2026, Mrs. Gay Curtis the liaison officer from Mother's Union Visited CSI Women's Fellowship. She wanted to see some of the projects of KCD Women's Fellowship, so we took her to a tailoring unit of Zion Church on 19th evening and on 20th we took her to two preschools in David Memorial and Karunalaya Church. The President, Vice President, Treasurer of CSI Women's Fellowship and Rev. Dr. Pricilla Ruben Bishopamma and myself visited these places in the morning. In the evening, we had a gathering at St. Andrews Church for an orientation program about Mothers' Union, which was conducted by Mrs. Gay Curtis and the message was given by Rev. Dr. Pricilla Rueben. All the core committee members of the Women's Fellowship of the city and civil area churches were invited.

10-Day Global Prayer Orientation Program

On February 16th and 17th, 2026, a 10-Day Global Prayer Orientation Program was conducted by the founder Mr. Jonathan Fritz, his wife, Cassi and Sunil Gaikwad at the Hindustani church for all the Bishopammas and the office bearers of the CSI WF Dioceses. About 40 people participated and were blessed by this program, only 6 Bishopammas attended the meeting. Sincere thanks to Sister Thapeethal for providing accommodation and hospitality.



World Day of Prayer

The CSI Women's Fellowship of different Dioceses celebrated World Day of Prayer on 6th March 2026. The Theme given by the Nigerian women is "I will give you Rest: Come". They had a worship service and an offering was collected for the women. Some of the Dioceses enacted dramas based on the stories given by the Nigerian women. Songs were sung in their language.

*Ms. Caroline Anita David, Interim General Secretary
CSI Women's Fellowship*

EVANGELICAL CHURCH (MP)

Empowered Women of Faith: Bringing Spiritual Change for the Next Generation

On 12/01/2026 at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bijori, Madhya Pradesh, and again on 14/02/2026 at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh, we were blessed to conduct two one-day seminars focused on spiritual growth and women's empowerment.

These gatherings became powerful moments of learning, reflection, and transformation. The women beautifully studied the lives of biblical characters like Ruth and Naomi, and Martha and Mary, drawing deep spiritual lessons for today's world. Ruth's loyalty and commitment remind us that faithfulness and trust in God can open new doors of blessing:

"Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay." (Ruth 1:16)

Naomi's journey teaches us that even in bitterness and loss, God's restoration is possible. Martha and Mary show us the importance of balancing service with devotion—serving the Lord while also sitting at His feet to receive His Word:

"If you believe, you will see the glory of God." (John 11:40)

Through these studies, the women reflected on how they can bring spiritual change in their families, churches, and society. There was a strong desire to become instruments of God's love, peace, and transformation.

A key focus of the seminars was preparing for the future—especially for the next generation of daughters. Together, we discussed and began shaping strategies to ensure that young girls grow up as:

- Spiritually grounded in God's Word
- Self-educated and wise
- Confident and independent
- Strong in faith and character

The Bible reminds us:

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come." (Proverbs 31:25)

This vision is not just a dream, but a calling—to raise daughters who walk in faith, wisdom, and purpose.

Let us continue to encourage one another, stand together in unity, and build a future where women shine as lights in the world. May the Lord strengthen every

woman to be a blessing in her home and community.

"God is within her, she will not fall." (Psalm 46:5)



World Day of Prayer 2026: Sisters United in Faith for Nigeria and the Nations

With great joy and gratitude to God, we share that on March 6, 2026, we were blessed to observe the World Day of Prayer 2026, focusing on the country of Nigeria. It was a deeply meaningful and spiritually enriching occasion in which all the sisters participated wholeheartedly with great enthusiasm and devotion. The program brought together women from different congregations, united in prayer and fellowship. It was not only a time of worship but also a moment to reflect on the lives, struggles, and faith journeys of women in Nigeria. The sisters prayed earnestly for the nation, especially for women who face hardships and challenges in their daily lives.

A particularly inspiring and memorable event took place in our area, Itarsi. The sisters organized the entire program in a beautiful and well-coordinated manner, reflecting dedication, unity, and a deep commitment to God's work. The theme of the program was based on the comforting words of Jesus Christ from Matthew 11:28–30 (NIV): “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” This message touched every heart present and reminded us that in the midst of our struggles and burdens, we can always find peace and rest in the Lord.

One of the most powerful highlights of the program was the presentation of the story of Chiyoma, which was creatively adapted and performed by the sisters. Alongside this, the struggles of widowed women within the church were portrayed through real-life-inspired stories. What made this presentation even more impactful was that the widowed sisters themselves took part in presenting their experiences. Their courage and honesty brought authenticity and depth to the program, leaving a lasting impression on everyone present.

These presentations were not only emotional but also educational. They helped raise awareness among the congregation and the wider community about the real challenges faced by women, especially widows. Many people expressed that the program opened their eyes to the social and emotional struggles that often remain unseen. It encouraged a spirit of compassion, understanding, and support within the community. All the member churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Madhya Pradesh actively participated by organizing similar programs in their respective congregations. It was truly encouraging to see such unity and involvement among the churches. The sisters came together with one heart and one purpose—to pray and to seek God's guidance and blessing.

During the prayer services, special intercessions were made not only for Nigeria but also for other nations of the world. Prayers were offered for peace, unity, and harmony in India, Iran, Israel, and America. The sisters prayed earnestly that conflicts and divisions may come to an end and that God's peace may prevail in every nation.

We often spend our time and energy worrying about our problems and burdens. However, the Word of God reminds us to come to Him with all our struggles. As it is written in Matthew 11:28 (NIV), “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” This powerful promise encourages us to trust in God and seek His presence in every situation of life.

The World Day of Prayer 2026 was truly a time of spiritual renewal, unity, and reflection. It strengthened the faith of many women and encouraged them to continue trusting in God despite life's challenges. It also reminded us of our responsibility to stand together in prayer for one another and for the world.

In conclusion, we thank God for His abundant blessings and guidance that made this program possible. May we continue to grow in faith, support one another, and serve as instruments of God's peace and love in this world.

May the Lord lift us up and use us for the glory of His Kingdom.

*Anita B Thomas
Women Secretary
ELC - MP*

EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF INDIA

Empowered Voices: Lydia Women’s Fellowship Champions Social Justice Through Creativity in honour of Day of the Oppressed and the birth anniversary of Father Bishop Ezra Sargunam, the Lydia Women’s Fellowship of the Chennai Diocese hosted a vibrant celebration focused on justice and creativity. Women from across the diocese participated in themed competitions, including a Bible quiz, cooking without fire, painting, essay writing, and elocution—each event highlighting the values of equity, compassion, and faith. The winners were joyfully recognised and awarded prizes on 19th July, making it a day to remember for its spirit of empowerment and community.



Stitching Hope, Shaping Futures: Empowerment Begins in Kannagi Nagar. On 27th July, a significant milestone unfolded in Kannagi Nagar as the Chennai Diocese of ECI inaugurated the Annai Mangalam Tailoring Centre and Free Tuition Centre—a mission rooted in compassion and community upliftment. Known for its government- built housing for the economically underprivileged, Kannagi Nagar became home to an ECI church through the outreach efforts of ECI Sholinganallur Church. Recognising the needs of this vibrant yet struggling community, Dr. Ruth Duraiswamy, Director of ECI Relief and Development, Mrs. Janet Rex, Secretary of ECI Chennai Diocese LWF, and Area Chairman Rev. Ponnudi led the dedication of these



new centres. With education and skill development at the heart of the initiative, the project seeks to transform lives and open new doors of opportunity for the families residing there. May this effort sow lasting seeds of hope and empowerment.

A Sea of Blue: Young Lydia’s Fellowship Meeting 2025 On August 15th, the Villivakkam ECI Hope Cathedral Church came alive with the vibrant presence of over 1,000 young girls who gathered for the much-awaited Young Lydia’s Fellowship Meeting of Chennai Diocese. The church was a breath-taking sea of blue, as every participant adorned herself in shades of the chosen colour—symbolizing unity, purity, and faith. It was a moving sight to see God’s daughters gathered together in harmony for His glory.



This year’s theme, “*Do Not Be Silent*”, was drawn from the life of Queen Esther. The message was clear and urgent—Christian women must raise their voices boldly, speak up for others, and proclaim the Good News of Jesus across India.

The program was rich with inspiring presentations that beautifully echoed the theme: Choreography – Several churches presented graceful and moving choreography pieces, powerfully portraying the message, “Speak up for the Lord.” Their performances stirred hearts and gave a visual call to bold witness.

Special Song – A group of children from Thirumudivakkam Church touched the gathering deeply with a song they themselves had written, composed, and dedicated to the Lord. The song highlighted the importance of opening one's mouth and speaking for Christ. Its heartfelt lyrics and music made it an unforgettable moment of the day.

Skit – The young women of Madras Theological Seminary and College (MTSC) brought to life the inspiring story of Mary Jones, a little girl in England who saved every penny to buy a Bible. The skit reminded everyone of the priceless treasure of God's Word and the need to read it daily. The performance was done so beautifully that it touched many souls and left a lasting impression. The gathering was further enriched by Mrs. Hema Arokiyaraj of Hosanna TV Ministries, who delivered a powerful message encouraging the girls to be courageous voices for Christ. Rt. Rev. Dr. Kathiroli Manickam, Bishop of Chennai Diocese, shared from the story of Esther, reminding the young women that just as Esther risked her life to save her people, so too they must take bold steps to lead others to Christ.

Adding words of encouragement, Mrs. Daisy Stephen, wife of our Bishop President, exhorted the gathering to follow Esther's example in fasting and prayer, believing that God can change the course of events through their intercession. The program concluded with a final encouragement and benediction from The Most Rev Dr Stephen Daniel, Bishop President of ECI, who called the young Lydia's to live with faith, courage, and dedication to God's mission. The meeting ended with joyful fellowship over a shared lunch, as the girls caught up with friends from various churches across Chennai. Laughter, conversations, and then warmth of Christian unity filled the atmosphere. Truly, it was a blessed and unforgettable occasion—a day when God's young daughters were reminded to lift their voices, proclaim His Word, and be courageous witnesses in India. Let us continue to pray for these young souls, that they may be rooted in Christ, bold in their faith, and instruments of change for the Kingdom of God.

*Mrs. Janet Abraham
Women's Secretary
Evangelical Church of India*

INDIA NATIONAL OFFICE – SALVATION ARMY



India is The Salvation Army's oldest mission field. Frederick St. George de Latour Tucker, of the Indian Civil Service, read a copy of **The War Cry**, became a Salvationist and, as Major Tucker (later Commissioner Booth-Tucker), took the Indian name of Fakir Singh and commenced the Army's work in Bombay on 19th September 1882. The adoption of Indian food, dress, names, and customs gave the pioneers ready access to the people, especially in the villages.

In addition to evangelistic work, various social programs were initiated to alleviate distress caused by famine, floods, and epidemics. Educational facilities, including elementary, secondary, and industrial schools, cottage industries, and settlements, were provided for the depressed classes. Medical work originated in Nagercoil in 1893 when Captain (Dr.) Harry Andrews set up a dispensary at the headquarters there. The medical work has grown from this. Work among the Criminal Tribes began in 1908 at the government's invitation.

The Salvation Army is registered as a Guarantee Company under the Indian Companies Act. 1913. The name of the company is "**The Salvation Army**". The Chairman of this Association is **Commissioner Lalhmingliana Hmar**, and the Vice Chairman is **Commissioner John William Polimetla**, and the Secretary of this association is **Colonel (Dr.) Andrews D. Christian**.

The National Office for India serves the country's six territories. The Conference of Indian Leaders (COIL), established in 1989, meets annually to coordinate national Salvation Army affairs and give direction to the National Executive Officer.

Several national offices had been established in earlier years, including the Editorial, Literary, and Audit Offices. The establishment of the Salvation Army Health Services Advisory Council (SAHSAC) in 1986 provided regional support for various aspects of Salvation Army work in India.

An administrative reorganisation took place in 2008, which resulted in all the Secretarial departments being brought together in one building under the leadership of a National Executive Officer, with the result that, for the first time, the India National Office could function as a whole and not as separate departments to support the six territories.





Colonel (Dr.) Andrews D. Christian (*Effective from 1st July 2025*)
National Executive Officer

Colonel Sunita A. Christian (*Effective from 1st July 2025*)
National Secretary for Women's Development & Administrator

Lt. Colonel Lalliankunga (*Effective from 1st September 2025*)
Programme Secretary

Lt. Colonel Zonunsangi (*Effective from 1st September 2025*)
Spiritual Life Development Secretary:

Major Samson Macwan
Secretary for Human Resources Development

Major Kalpana Macwan
Cashier, Maintenance & Facility Officer

Captain Christopher Macwan (*Effective from 1st October 2025*)
Chief Financial Officer & Projects Secretary

Captain Dorothy Macwan (*Effective from 1st October 2025*)
Assistant to NSW

Major Amrik Masih (*Effective from 1st July 2025*)
Editor, The War Cry

Major Anugrah Masih (*Effective from 1st July 2025*)
Social Justice Secretary & Zonal Coordinator, MSHTR and Assistant HRD

Major John-Christopher Mony (*Effective from 1st October 2024*)
Administrator, The Salvation Army Retreat Centre, Coonoor

Major Pappa Asirvatham (*Effective from 1st October 2024*)
Home Care Officer, The Salvation Army Retreat Centre, Coonoor

Major Kanakaratnam Kagitha (*Effective from 1st November 2024*)
National Business Secretary for C & A, Mumbai and Education Secretary (Additional Responsibility)

Captain Charles Chalrimawia (*Effective from 1st September 2023*)
Secretary for Youth & Children and Child Protection

Secretary for Health & Emergency: *TBA*

Colonel Sunita A. Christian
National Secretary for Women's Development & Administrator

REPORT
ON THE 19TH ORDINARY TRIENNIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF SWFCS,
CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA
16th & 17th MARCH 2026, AHMEDABAD

The 19th Ordinary Triennial Meeting of the Synodical Women's Fellowship for Christian Service (SWFCS) was held with great spiritual fervour and organisational excellence on the 16th and 17th of March 2026 in Ahmedabad. The gathering brought together women representatives from across the Church of North India (CNI), reflecting unity, commitment and a shared vision for ministry.

The Triennial was formally inaugurated by the Most Reverend Dr Paritosh Canning, Moderator of the CNI Synod & Bishop of Calcutta. The inauguration ceremony commenced with the hoisting of the SWFCS flag, symbolising unity, faith, and the mission of women in the Church, followed by the recitation of the CNI Mission Statement. The theme for the Triennial was **“Grow in Christ.”**

In his inaugural address, the Moderator delivered a thought-provoking message based on the biblical account of the Samaritan woman, emphasising courage, nurturing strength, inclusivity, hidden sacrifices and the vital role of women as witness of Christ's love and truth. The address inspired the delegates to undertake their responsibilities with renewed faith and dedication. The Moderator then formally constituted the 19th Ordinary Triennial Meeting.

The event was further graced by the presence of Rt. Rev. Silvans S. Christian, Deputy Moderator of the CNI Synod, as Guest of Honour, and Mr Subrata Gorai, Treasurer of the CNI Synod, who conveyed his greetings and appreciation.

A total of 84 women delegates 2 observers representing 25 dioceses participated in the Triennial compared to the delegates (72) & dioceses (20) last triennial, demonstrating the diversity and strength of the fellowship. The diocese of Gujarat , The Rt. Revd. Silvans S. Christian , Bishop , Diocese of Gujarat , the women's fellowship of the diocese & their fervent prayer made it possible to host the triennial for the first time in the diocese of Gujarat .

Business Sessions and Deliberations :

The sessions included presentation and adoption of reports, evaluation of past activities, and discussions on future plans aimed at empowering women and strengthening their participation in the life and mission of the Church. Delegates actively engaged in discussions, sharing insights, challenges and recommendations.

Election of Office Bearers & Executive Committee members (2026–2029)

The following members were duly elected to serve as Office Bearers & Executive Committee Members of the SWFCS for the ensuing triennium in the honourable presence of The Rt. Revd. Dr. Silvans S. Christian , Deputy Moderator , CNI SYNOD , the ex-officio to SWFCS :

Office Bearers:

President	:	Mrs Bliss J. Kharadi , diocese of Gujarat
Vice President	:	Mrs Shashi Singh, Agra
Secretary	:	Mrs Shivani Behara , Amritsar
Treasurer:		Mrs Ujwala Reddi, Bombay

Conveners:

- Dr (Mrs) Alka Suna, Chhatisgarh
- Mrs Suwarna John(Anita) Adbale, Nasik
- Ms Manasi Inamdar, Pune
- Mrs Florence S. Chakrabarty , Barrackpore
- Mrs Bharati Rani Hansdak, Patna
- Mrs Savita Joseph , Jabalpur
- Mrs Kanta Rai , Eastern Himalayas

The sub-committees were constituted by taking the resolution to include women from each Diocese to carry forward the mission and activities of the SWFCS effectively, learning from the conveners under their convenership and making connections with the mainstream. It was also resolved to invite the outgoing President, Mrs. Archana Singh & the outgoing secretary Mrs. Sucheta Mohanty as Advisor, as & when necessary.



Conclusion

The meeting concluded with thanksgiving, closing worship, installation of the new committee and a renewed sense of commitment among all participants. The delegates returned to their respective dioceses spiritually enriched and motivated to contribute more effectively to the mission of the Church.

The 19th Ordinary Triennial Meeting stands as a significant milestone in strengthening unity, leadership and spiritual growth among the women of the Church of North India.

Sucheta Mohanty
Secretary (outgoing)
SWFCS, CNI

GLIMPSE OF ACTIVITIES TAKEN UP BY DIFFERENT CHURCHES













You are cordially invited to share insights about your work. Your dedication, experiences, and stories are valuable contributions and meaningful gifts to this community.

Please mail your stories to jyoti@ncci1914.com, ncci@ncci1914.com

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