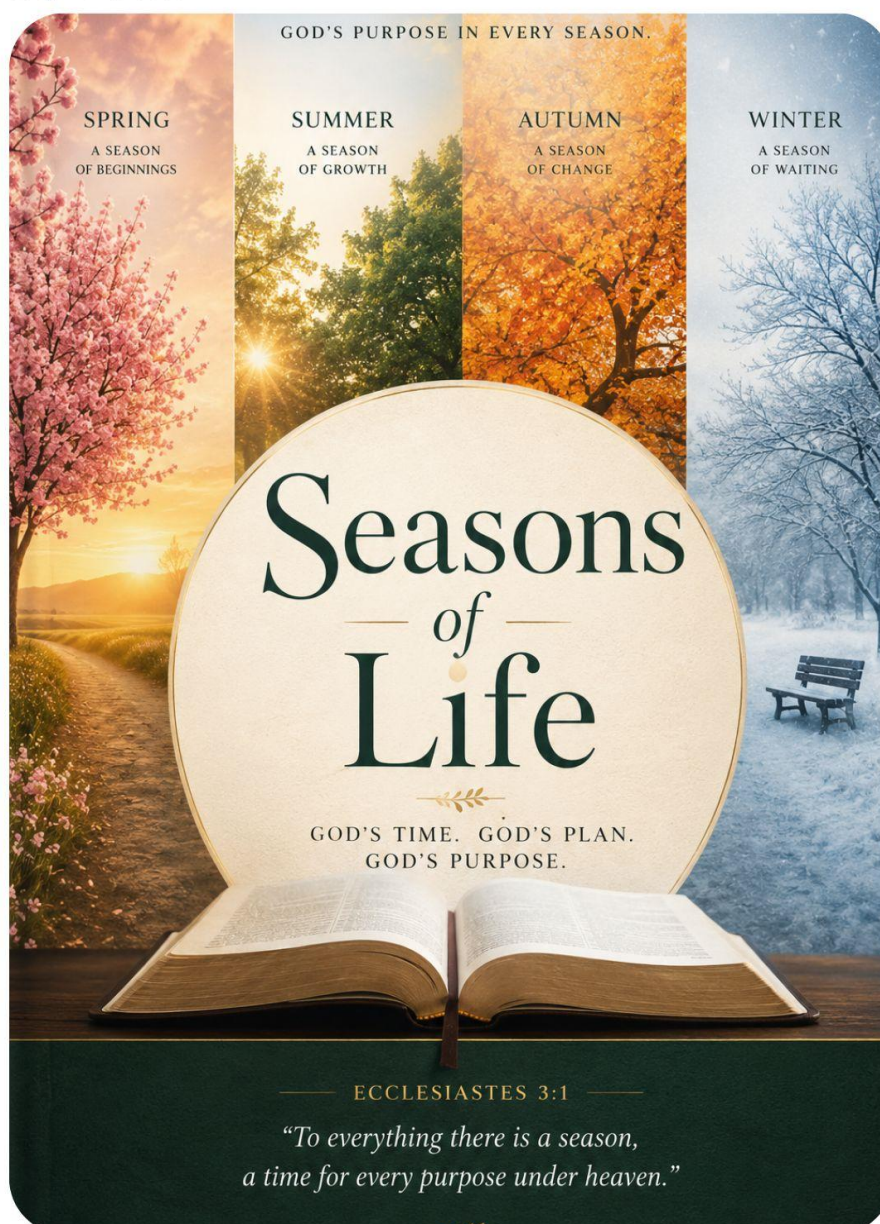


STREE

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



July 2026 issue



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Editorial Board

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

&

Rachael Pradhan

FOREWARD

The newest edition of *The STREE* is now available for reading!

Every season of life leaves us with its own souvenirs, seasons of blooming, waiting, letting go, and beginning again. Through each of these seasons, we discover renewed hope, deeper strength, and the grace to keep moving forward. This edition of *The STREE* invites us to reflect on what it means to anchor our identity in Christ, finding our true worth and purpose beyond changing circumstances.

This issue celebrates the inspiring work and witness of women across diverse churches and communities. NCCI recognises and affirms the contribution of women as leaders and changemakers, honouring the many ways they continue to shape and strengthen the Church and society through every season of life.

Our congratulations to Rev. Jyoti Singh and the Editorial Team for their dedicated efforts in bringing together this enriching and inspiring edition of *The STREE*. May it encourage, challenge, and inspire readers to embrace every season with faith, courage, and hope.

Best Wishes

Asir Ebenezer
General Secretary, NCCI

EDITORIAL

Dear All,

Welcome to the "Seasons of Life" edition of our *E-STREE Magazine*

Just as the earth transitions through distinct phases, a woman's life moves through seasons of blooming spring, sunlit summer, quiet harvest, and resting winter. Whether we are in a time of joyful transition, heavy sorrow, or seemingly endless waiting, let us remind ourselves of a beautiful truth: life's seasons change, but our God never does.

In this issue, we explore what it means to anchor our identity in Christ rather than our circumstances. We delve into practical ways to experience His grace during every phase of your journey. We will find encouraging articles of God's faithfulness in unexpected storms, and guidance on how to draw near to Him in every chapter of our story.

In every varied season of life, we have an unchanging God, His unchanging Word, and a timeless code of conduct: we are to be temperate and restrained (not overdoing in anything), discreet, teachers of good things, zealous of good works, purified for a purpose, sensible and sound in mind, loving to family, managing our home and resources well, denying ungodliness, and living righteously, looking forward to another season, "the glorious appearing of the great God-and-our-Savior-Jesus Christ."

It often seems like winter will last forever, and then all of a sudden, the sun comes out, and spring has arrived. No matter what season we are in, this is God's word to us today!!

We live each season with eternity in view.

Richael Pradhan

SEASONS OF LIFE

Humans are believed to be part of a grand design aimed at growth and development, which extends beyond our earthly existence. All individuals, regardless of their background, are shaped by the people and events they encounter throughout their lives. Every experience contributes our current situation. Therefore, just as nature passes through spring, summer, autumn, and winter, human life also progresses through various stages, marked by growth, waiting, joy, sorrow, abundance, and change, each with its own beauty, challenges, and lessons. The Bible teaches that God is present and purposeful in every season, guiding His people according to His plan. Therefore, we should remember that God ordained every season. One of the most well-known passages about life's seasons is found in Ecclesiastes 3:1

“To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven”.

1. Seasons of Growth and Blessings: There is a time in our life when life feels fruitful and rewarding. Opportunities open, relationship flourish, prayer seem to be answered quickly

This season resemble spring, the season of renewal and growth. It is a season where flowers bloom, trees regain their green leaves, and the weather becomes pleasant. It is a time when nature comes alive after the cold months. During this stage, people are encouraged to remain humble and thankful recognizing that every good gift comes from God. Blessing and prosperity should therefore draw us closer to God rather than lead us toward self-reliance. As James 1:17 says “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows”. At the same time this season teach us to work hard and be active because procrastinating during this season leads to missed opportunities for growth and success, delaying action also results in regrets as opportunities will not wait for our readiness.

2. Season of Fruitfulness and Abundance: Achievement, productivity, answered prayers, strong relationships and enjoying the result of previous efforts are the blessings we receive in our life. A time of answered prayer, success, and spiritual fruit. This season is compared to summer, a season of warmth, growth and abundance, where crops mature and gardens flourish. However, Scripture warns against becoming self-reliant during times of prosperity. Moses reminded the Israelite not to forget God when they entered a land of abundance in Deuteronomy 8:18 “But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth”. Therefore, this season inspire us to remain humble and thankful and generous rather than pride.

3. Season of change and transition: Life is filled with transition: graduation, marriage, parenthood, career changes, retirement and other major milestones. Change can bring excitement, but it can also create uncertainty. This season resemble autumn, it is a season of harvest, gratitude, reflection, transition and preparation. It reminds believers that faithful sowing produce fruit, that change is a natural part of God's design, and that every ending can become preparation for a new beginning. Just as autumn bridge the abundance of summer and the stillness of winter. It teaches us to appreciate, and seek God's wisdom and guidance while preparing our hearts for whatever season lies ahead of us, because "all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" Roman 8:28. Through pain and uncertainty, God shapes character, strengthens faith, and reveals His sustaining grace.

4. Season of Waiting, trails and suffering: The season of waiting, trails and suffering is a spiritual winter, a time of testing, endurance, and hidden growth. Though often painful, it can produce deeper faith, stronger character, and greater dependence on God.

The Bible is filled with examples of faithful individuals who waited on God. Abraham waited for the promised son, Joseph waited through years of hardship to before his promotion, and David waited to become king after being anointed. Their stories demonstrate that waiting is not wasted time. God often uses these periods to develop faith, patience and dependence on God.

Isaiah 40:31 offers us an encouragement

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint"

Difficult season are inevitable part of life. Loss, disappointment, illness, and hardship can leave us questioning God's purpose. However, the Bible teaches that suffering is not meaningless. God often uses trails to refine His people, strengthen their faith, and draw them closer to Him. Just as gold is purified through fire, faith is often strengthened through adversity. Though painful, these seasons can produce spiritual maturity and deeper trust in God. Just as winter eventually give way to spring; believers can trust that God uses these difficult seasons to prepare them for renewal, blessing and future fruitfulness. Each season of life has a unique purpose. Some seasons might bring us defeat, and some victory, but all these challenges help shape and define a person's character by urging us to tap into their inner strength, resolve, and confidence to overcome adversity.

Therefore, we need to embrace all the challenge and obstacle taking all of them as opportunities to grow rather than barrier that hinder us, because all these challenges are like the soil which success grows.

The Bible teaches that life unfold us in different seasons. There are season of planting and harvesting, waiting and receiving, suffering and rejoicing. Some seasons are filled with blessings and success, while others bring challenges and uncertainty. Through every season, God works to shape our character, strengthen our faith, and draw us closer to Him. Therefore, the Bible taught us not to resist change but to trust God who guides us through every stage of life. As believers remain faithful, they can be confident that God makes all things beautiful in His time and that every season serves a greater purpose in His divine plan.

*Ms. Badasuk Lyngdoh
Secretary, Presbyterian
Women's Fellowship
Presbyterian Church of India*

Seasons of Life: A Biblical Perspective

Ecclesiastes 3:1 - "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

Life is often compared to the changing season of nature. Just as the Earth experiences Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. Every person passes through different stages of life filled with uniqueness, experiences, opportunities and challenges. The bible teaches that God is present in every season and that each phase of life has a purpose in His Divine plan.

The above mentioned verse from Ecclesiastes, reminds us that God has appointed times for growth, work, harvest, rest, joy and even trials. Like the tribe of Issachar, to know the right time and act accordingly bring abundance in the name of the Lord. Understanding seasons of grace and rejoicing, of faith and perseverance, of God's love and mercy are all spoken by the prophets through ages in the Holy Scripture, nurturing us, guiding us, preparing us for the times to come."

Spring: The Season of New Beginnings

As Isaiah 43:19 "says, behold I will do a new thing, now it shall Spring forth, shall ye not know it?"

God is a God of new beginnings. He brings fresh hope even after difficult times. This season motivates us to trust God as He leads us into new experiences and opportunities. God renews us in a new life, a new existence through Christ Jesus. It is a time to leave our old bondages, explore the newness of life and welcome the spirit of life in us. It's time to invite the change that God wants to make in our lives, time to make decisions and surrender in obedience to the everlasting. We need to have hearts to welcome the new spirit of God, just as the joy and energy of the fresh blossoming of flowers and buds of God's creation.

Summer: The season of Growth and Work

Summer represents responsibilities, service and hard work. It is a season of productivity where people strive to achieve goals, support families and serve others. The bible encourages diligence and faithfulness in our work.

Galatians 6:9 - "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season, we shall reap, if we faint not."

This verse teaches us not to give up when life becomes difficult because God's reward comes in His perfect time. God will never leave us nor forsake us, depending on this promise of the divine provider *Jehovah Jireh*, we carry our lives under the covenant of God.

The bible portrays perseverance and obedience in harsh times through many prophets. One such instance in the bible of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath as is written in 1 Kings 17. accounts for the providence of God's Grace on the belief of Elijah as he promises the widow that the supplies will not run out. Such exemplification of the unwavering faith of Elijah on God even in a situation where the widow was ready to cook her last meal before they die of starvation resulted in a miraculous act of God's love for His believers that supplies all our needs in moments of despair.

Even in famine God did not let the jar of flour and the jug of oil run dry. God rewards obedience even in scarcity through His grace which is beyond human comprehension. Work faithfully, knowing that God blesses perseverance and dedication.

Autumn: The Season of Harvest and Gratitude

Autumn is the season of harvest. It represents maturity, wisdom and enjoying the fruits of years of effort and faithfulness. This season encourages reflection and thankfulness of God's blessings. The season of harvest is celebrated in the month of September to October or as in the 1st and the holiest month of the Jewish calendar. Spanning 30 days, the month of *Tishrei* also called the Month of Beginnings, marks the auspicious celebrations of events of divine interventions from God for His people in the time of hardships, as the fruit of obedience of the believers towards the promise of God.

The festivals of *Rosh Hashanah* (Jewish New Year) and *Sukkot* (Feast of Tabernacles) are celebrated as the heart full thanksgiving for the great mercies of God throughout the journey of the wilderness.

For all the believers, the wonders and blessings of Christ, even in the late year, bring forth Thanksgiving and a time for rejuvenation and celebration of the love that God bestows upon us through his Son Jesus Christ.

Psalm 92:14 "they shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing. Giving thanks to God for His blessings and encouraging others in celebrations and joy brings out the true spirits of Autumn."

Winter: The Season of Reflection and Trust

Winter often symbolizes waiting. It may be a time when life feels difficult or uncertain. Yet God remains faithful during every winter season.

Living in the Himalayas, one thing that is often associated with our lives is the whitened hush of the winter snowfalls and the soft descending stillness that follows. The serene beauty of the white quilted the time of reflection and spiritual insight of one's own self. The cold months of winters portray stillness, patience, faith, and resilience in the word of God. It is a time to look back on the journey and embrace the beauty of God. throughout life's endeavours. It's time to rebuild our relationship with God that got lost in the hustle and bustle of daily routines.

Though the world around us may turn cold, the hearts of the believers are filled with the fire of the Spirit that comes from the Lord. Strengthening us, providing us, keeping our souls ablaze to strife even stronger in the blizzards of life. Jesus in Mathew 4:4, during His temptations in the wilderness quote. It is written. Man shall not live on bread alone, wilderness quote. On every word that comes from the mouth of God. in the times of despair living by the word i.e. Jesus Christ, the word manifested in flesh brings us closer to God's grace and warmth. Remembering Christ's sacrifice, love and the works of spirit throughout the year, overcoming shortcomings and preparing ourselves for the time to come in silence and trusting the word of God marks the passing of the winter season and the coming of Christ to take birth in the manger of our hearts.

Mrs. Shivani Behara, Secretary SWFCS, CNI

Seasons of Life: God is with Us in Every Season

Life changes constantly. Just like nature shifts through winter, spring, summer, and autumn, our lives move through different times too. Sometimes life feels bright and happy. At other times, it feels cold, lonely, or filled with waiting. The Bible reminds us that these changes are not accidents. God holds every moment of our lives in His hands

A Time for Everything

The Bible gives us this beautiful comfort in **Ecclesiastes 3:1**:

"For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven."

This means two simple things for you today:

- **Hard times will pass:** No winter lasts forever. Our pain, sadness, or worry will eventually give way to a brighter day.
- **God has a plan:** He uses the happy times to give us joy, and He uses the hard times to make us strong.

God promises to make sense of it all in the end. As the Bible says, *"He has made everything beautiful in its time"* (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

The Seasons of Our Heart

- **Spring (New Beginnings):** This is a time of hope, fresh starts, and new joy. The Bible says, *"The winter is past... the season of singing has come"* (Song of Solomon 2:11-12). Thank God for fresh mercies today.
- **Summer (Blessing):** This is a time when life feels good, warm, and comfortable. Enjoy these days, but stay close to God so your roots run deep.
- **Autumn (Letting Go):** This is a time of change and transitions. God might ask us to let go of an old habit, a job, or a chapter of life. Trust Him. He only empties our hands to fill them with something better later on.
- **Winter (Waiting and Pain):** This is the hardest season. It is a time of loneliness, grief, or silence from God. But remember, seeds grow deep underground during winter. The Bible promises: *"Crying may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning"* (Psalm 30:5).

- **God Never Changes**

Our circumstances will change, but God's love for us never will. He says in the Bible, *"I am the Lord, and I do not change"* (Malachi 3:6). He is right beside us in the bright sunshine, and He is holding us tight in the dark storm. We can rest easy today, knowing that the God who rules the seasons is taking care of us.

Richael 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) (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 Telugu, 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.

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.

Webinar reclaims sacred dignity of menstruation

A webinar, “Holy Blood, Hidden Shame: Reclaiming the Sacred Dignity of Menstruation in the Body of Christ,” held 3 July, examined, from a biblical perspective, women’s capacity for decision-making and the societal origins of stigma. The webinar was co-organized by the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches in India.

Rev. Nicole Ashwood, WCC programme executive for a Just Community of Women and Men, opened the meeting by noting that menstruation is understood by God. “For many people, this is probably a conversation that you think is not necessary,” she said—then went on to explain why it is, indeed, highly necessary and relevant in the world today.

Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer, general secretary of the National Council of Churches in India, brought greetings and prayers for the work already done on the topic as well as the work to come.

Rev. Rebecca Daniel, head of Chaplaincy and Development for the Council of Lutheran Churches in Great Britain, introduced the scripture at the heart of the conversation: the story of a woman who bled for 12 years.

“As someone who had internalized the shame and stigma that society had imposed on her, her first reaction is to approach Jesus in secret,” said Daniel. “Second, her courage teaches us about woman’s capacity for faithful decision making. No one brings her to Jesus or speaks for her.”

Rev. Priscilla Rawade, Executive Secretary for the Gender and Social Justice Desk at the Student Christian Movement of India, reflected on the world of Leviticus. “The people had lost their land and many were being taken into exile,” she said, commenting on the context in which we find the laws regarding bodily discharges.

“The ancient Israelites saw sexuality, reproduction, pregnancy, childbirth, blood as something that was very mysterious and very powerful,” Rawade said. “Also, when something unusual happened, as prolonged bleeding, it create a kind of uncertainty and anxiety in the people, and people did not fully understand these conditions medically so the purity laws gave them clear instructions about what to do.”

Rev. Dr Jessie Ini Fubara-Manuel, a gender justice and disability advocate, researcher, and author, returned to the passage in which the woman encounters Jesus. “We know the identity of Jesus,” she said. “We don’t know the identity of the woman. She’s defined as the fighting woman.”

Rev. Tabita Christiani, who teaches Christian Education and Theology of Disability at Duta Wacana Christian University, noted that 12 years is a long time to bleed, and that it mirrors the feelings and condition that many women with disabilities face. “The churches treat women with disabilities as charity rather than as contributing members of the body of the church of Christ,” she said.

Rev. Nishad Issac Chandy, who is pursuing his doctoral research in queer missiology at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, spoke on how the story of the woman calls men to challenge their own interpretations. Theologian and artist Jess Hall offered a liturgy in which blood traces the profound love God has for the world. “This cup echoes another: your humble stage in Bethlehem, the young woman bleeding,” said Hall. “Over and over, I am being made new.”

Rev. Jyoti Singh, Executive Secretary of Women Concerns for the National Council of Churches in India, closed the webinar by expressing deep appreciation. “After everyone speaking, I am at a loss for words because whatever I say will not be adequate enough to express how thankful we are,” she said & quote; Holy Blood, Hidden Shame: Reclaiming the Sacred

Dignity of Menstruation in the Body of Christ"

Date: 3 July 2026 Format: Online webinar Co-organized by: World Council of Churches

(WCC) and the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) Recording: Available *on the* -

www.youtube.com/@nccinet

Background

On 3 July 2026, the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches in India jointly convened an online webinar addressing the stigma surrounding menstruation from a biblical and theological perspective. The session formed part of the WCC's ongoing 'Just Community of Women and Men' programme and NCCI's Commission for Women's

Concern, continuing work on gender and women's concerns within the Indian church context. The webinar was opened by Rev. Nicole Ashwood, WCC Programme Executive for a Just Community of Women and Men, who set the tone by affirming that menstruation is a subject God understands and addresses directly, even though many consider such conversations unnecessary, a framing she used to argue for the topic's continuing relevance today. Rev Nicole Ashwood moderated the entire panel

Rev. Dr Asir Ebenezer, General Secretary of NCCI, followed with greetings and prayer, acknowledging both the work already undertaken on the subject and the work that remains ahead.

The heart of the webinar centred on the biblical account of the woman who suffered prolonged bleeding for twelve years and sought healing from Jesus (Mark 5 / Luke 8). Rev. Rebecca Daniel (Head of Chaplaincy and Development, Council of Lutheran Churches in Great Britain) introduced the passage, describing how the woman's decision to approach Jesus in secret reflected the shame internalized due to social stigma, while her courage demonstrated women's capacity for independent, faithful decision-making — noting that she acted without anyone speaking on her behalf.

Rev. Priscilla Rawade (Executive Secretary, Gender and Social Justice Desk, Student Christian Movement of India) offered historical-critical context on the purity laws found in Leviticus, situating them within a period of displacement and exile for the ancient Israelites. She explained that bodily discharges — associated with sexuality, reproduction, and childbirth — were viewed as mysterious and powerful, and that purity codes emerged partly as a response

to the uncertainty caused by conditions people did not yet understand medically.

Rev. Dr Jessie Ini Fubara-Manuel, a gender justice and disability advocate, researcher, and author, observed that while the identity of Jesus in the narrative is known, the woman herself remains unnamed — referred to instead through her act of persistence and struggle.

Rev. Tabita Christiani (Christian Education and Theology of Disability, Duta Wacana Christian University) drew a parallel between the woman’s twelve years of suffering and the ongoing experience of many women with disabilities, critiquing the tendency of churches to treat such women as objects of charity rather than as full, contributing members of the body of Christ.

Rev. Nishad Issac Chandy (doctoral researcher in queer missiology, University of Pretoria) addressed the passage from the standpoint of how the narrative calls men to interrogate their own interpretive assumptions.

Jess Hall, theologian and artist, closed the reflections with an original liturgy connecting the woman’s bleeding to the broader symbolism of blood in Christian theology, including the Eucharistic cup and the incarnation. “This cup echoes another: your humble stage in Bethlehem, the young woman bleeding,” said Hall. “Over and over, I am being made new.”

The webinar was brought to a close by Rev. Jyoti Singh, Executive Secretary for Women’s Concerns at NCCI, who expressed profound gratitude to the speakers and participants for the depth of the conversation.

1. Theological reclamation — reframing menstruation and related purity laws through

the lens of Christ’s compassion rather than exclusion.

2. Women’s agency — the biblical woman’s initiative to seek healing was highlighted as a model of independent faithful action.

3. Intersection with disability — parallels drawn between menstrual stigma and the marginalization experienced by women with disabilities in church life.

4. Historical-critical context — grounding purity codes in their socio-historical setting rather than treating them as timeless prescriptions.

5. Call to the church — an implicit challenge to faith communities to move from

silence and stigma toward openness and dignity on menstrual health. The webinar was meaningful and was well attended by the participants across the globe to listen and ask the difficult questions around mensuration and the taboos related to it.

Hope we see a change in the days ahead in the approach of the Church on this issue.

Rev Jyoti S Singh
Executive secretary
Commission for Women's Concern, NCCI



**National
Council of
Churches
in India**

Stand in Solidarity 5:00-5:33 pm

**Women's
STRIKE
33mins
daily**

**STOP DOING EVERYTHING
FOR 33 MINUTES EVERYDAY**

**Till We Get 33% Reservation In
Parliament & State Legislative
Assemblies**

5 PM to 5:33 PM DAILY

**33 minutes of Collective Silence
for Women's Representation**

You don't have to march, protest or do anything. Just stop working for 33 mins from 5 PM starting today...

- NO PAID WORK
- NO HOUSEHOLD WORK
- NO SHOPPING
- NO CARE WORK
(where it can safely wait)
- NO EMOTIONAL LABOUR
- NO EXPLAINING
OURSELVES



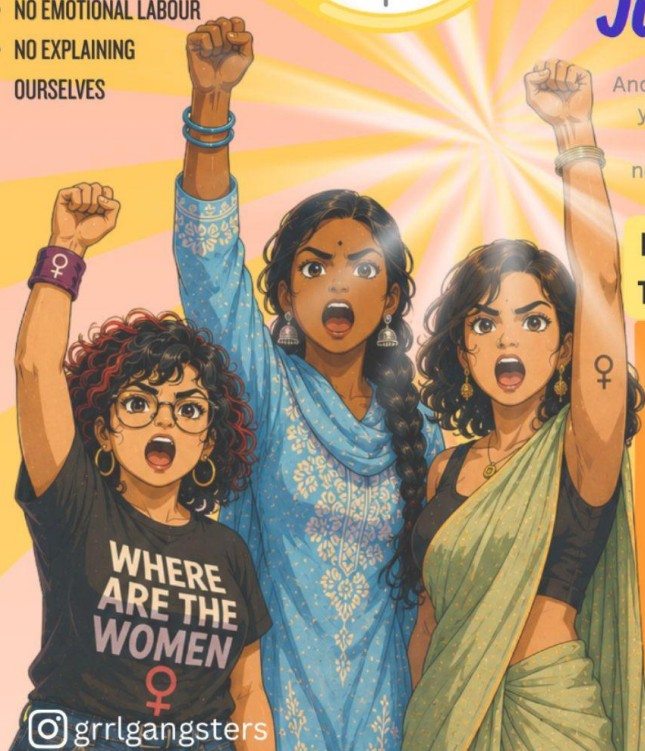
Just pause...

And invite at least 3 other women, your mother, sister, domestic worker, friend, colleague, neighbour, acquaintance, more women to join the Strike.

**If Millions of Women Stop
Together, India Will Notice**

**Reclaim 33
Minutes daily, to
stake your Claim
in
33% Reservation
with No Strings
Attached**

**Take
it!**



@grrlgangsters

**It's My 33 Minutes
It's YOUR 33 Minutes**

It's OUR 33 Minutes

For more information please contact.

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Let's Talk

Women's Reservation Bill and the Case for Delinking it from the Census **Background**

The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (106th Constitutional Amendment), passed in 2023, reserves one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for women. However, the Act tied its implementation to two future events: a fresh census and the delimitation (redrawing of constituency boundaries) that follows it. This reservation was set to be based on the first census after the commencement of the 2023 Act, with the reference date for the ongoing census being March 1, 2027. PRS India

Given that the next Lok Sabha elections are due in 2029, it is unlikely that a delimitation exercise based on the 2027 census would be completed in time — meaning women's reservation would not apply until well after 2029, likely 2034. (PRS India) In April 2026, the government introduced a package of bills — the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, the Delimitation Bill, and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill — to enable fresh delimitation using the 2011 Census data instead, expand the Lok Sabha to 850 seats, and operationalise the 33% women's reservation sooner. The bill delinks the implementation of women's reservation from the next census, enabling it to be implemented following the proposed delimitation exercise instead. The constitutional amendment, however, failed to pass the Lok Sabha on 17 April 2026, falling short of the required two-thirds majority. (Drishti IAS + 2)

The Case for Delinking

1. It removes an open-ended delay. As things stand, women's political representation is hostage to a bureaucratic sequence — census, then delimitation — that could take a decade or more. Delinking allows the reservation to take effect on the existing seat map, without waiting for a chain of administrative processes that have no fixed timeline.
2. The 33% figure doesn't depend on population data. Since the 2023 Act reserves a flat 33% of all seats rather than a share tied to women's actual population proportion, there is no technical reason it needs new census figures at all — it can be implemented at any time. Delimitation is about redistributing seats between states based on population; women's reservation is about redistributing seats within each state's existing allocation between

men and women. These are conceptually separate exercises. (Mainstream Weekly)

3. It prevents the promise from being used as leverage. Critics have argued that delimitation and census requirements function as "poor excuses" for postponing the women's quota, turning a settled legislative commitment into a bargaining chip tied to other, more contentious reforms. Delinking would let the reservation stand on its own merits rather than being bundled with unrelated and more politically fraught questions. (Deccan Herald)

4. It avoids compounding two separate controversies. Delimitation based on post-2026 population data raises serious federalism concerns, since states that successfully stabilised their populations, fear losing relative seat share to higher-population states. Bundling women's reservation with this exercise means a popular, broadly-supported reform gets delayed by — and politically entangled with — a much more contested one. (The Hans India)

Opposing and Complicating Perspectives

It's worth noting this is a live and contested debate, not a settled question:

The bundling itself is controversial. Critics such as Shashi Tharoor have argued that linking delimitation to the Women's Quota Act effectively "hold[s] the aspirations of Indian women hostage" to a separate, more divisive exercise — meaning the current government proposal to delink was, in their view, still entangled with delimitation rather than genuinely separate. Wikipedia Which census/delimitation year is used matters. Opposition parties have argued that the original 2023 Act intended delimitation to use 2026 census data, and that shifting to 2011 data instead was a separate, contested move — with some suggesting it was designed to boost seat shares in certain regions rather than purely to accelerate women's reservation. (Wionews) Some advocates want an even cleaner separation. A petition signed by over 500 people called for outright deleting all references to census and delimitation from the 2023 Act, rather than merely rescheduling which census/delimitation triggers implementation — arguing the reservation should be fully independent of both processes. Mainstream Weekly Federalism concerns remain genuine. Population-based seat reallocation after decades of a freeze raises legitimate representation questions for states that curbed population growth, and these concerns deserve transparent negotiation rather than being overridden in the name of speeding up women's reservation. (The Hans India).

The current bill failed regardless. The 131st Amendment Bill was voted down in the Lok Sabha on 17 April 2026, 298 votes to 230, so as of now the earlier framework (reservation contingent on the 2027 census and subsequent delimitation) technically remains in place, and the next realistic window for implementation has shifted toward the 2034 elections. (Wikipedia The Hans India)

In short

The core argument for delinking is that the 33% reservation figure is fixed and doesn't need updated population data, so tying it to a census-and-delimitation cycle mainly serves to delay a settled reform. The counter-arguments center on how that delinking is done — whether it's bundled with unrelated and more contentious delimitation changes, which census year is used, and whether federalism concerns are being sidelined in the process.

(Please share your views on this to us)

Rev.Jyoti Singh
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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF INDIA- PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FELLOWSHIP

1.Consultation Program: This program is usually organized once in 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. This year the program will be organized from the 21st-23rd October 2026.

2.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.



3.Tree Plantation Program: As a mark to observe the Environment Day, the PWF have organized the Tree plantation program to create an awareness and realization of the needs to protect and care the nature which is a gift from God.

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.

1. PWF Biennial Conference
2. Charity program
3. Prayer Day and Relief funds Manipur situations

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EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - MP

Two-Day Women's Seminar Held on 06–07 June 2026 at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh

"But one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." – Luke 10:42

A spiritually enriching Two-Day Women's Seminar was held on June 6–7, 2026, at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh. The seminar brought together women from various congregations for a meaningful time of worship, Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and spiritual renewal.



The seminar was conducted under the leadership of Rt. Rev. S. K. Sukka, Archdeacon Dr. Rev. Anil Martin, Rev. Jayant Matthew, and Mrs. Anita B. Thomas.

The theme of the seminar was based on Luke 10:42: "But one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." Through this theme, participants were encouraged to follow Mary's example by giving Christ the first place in their lives and

remaining devoted to His Word amid the many demands and distractions of daily life.

The resource persons, Dr. Suman Martin and Rev. Isha Christopher, delivered inspiring and thought-provoking sessions on the challenges faced by women in today's world. They addressed topics such as spiritual growth, family responsibilities, leadership, emotional well-being, and the role of Christian women in a rapidly changing society. Their biblical teaching and practical insights encouraged the participants to remain steadfast in their faith and to faithfully fulfil God's calling in their lives.

The seminar also provided opportunities for prayer, discussion, and fellowship, enabling the participants to encourage one another and grow together in Christian faith and unity.

The entire event was excellently organized by the sisters of the Sagar congregation under the dedicated coordination of Mrs. Ekta Matthew. Their warm hospitality, careful planning, and wholehearted service contributed greatly to the success of the seminar.

The seminar concluded with a thanksgiving service and a renewed commitment among the participants to choose "the better part" by living lives rooted in God's Word and faithfully serving Christ in their families, churches, and communities.

Anita B Thomas, Women's Secretary, ELC, MP

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (MP)

Drug Awareness Seminar Conducted at St. John's Church, Chhindwara and E L Barkuhi. By the grace of Almighty God, a one-day Drug Awareness Seminar was successfully organized at St. John's Church, Chhindwara, and E L Church, Barkuhi, under the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Madhya Pradesh.

The seminar was conducted under the guidance of Rt. Rev. S. K. Sukka, Rev. Shantwan Lal, Rev. Morvin Lal, and Mrs. Anita B. Thomas. The resource person for the seminar was Dr. Rev. Abraham Varghese from the Lucknow Teen Challenge Drug Rehabilitation Centre, whose inspiring sessions combined professional knowledge with biblical teaching and personal ministry.

Addressing the growing concern of substance abuse, Dr. Varghese explained how addiction often begins with the use of seemingly harmless substances but gradually develops into dependency, destroying the physical, emotional, spiritual, and social well-being of individuals. He emphasized that drug addiction not only damages the life of the user but also brings pain and suffering to families and society, often leading to illness, broken relationships, hopelessness, and even death.

The seminar included informative sessions on:

- Types of drugs commonly abused in Madhya Pradesh
- Physical and psychological effects of drug abuse
- Personality disorders associated with substance addiction
- Prevention, recovery, and the importance of family and community support

Drawing from Luke 7:47, Dr. Varghese shared the powerful message of God's unconditional love, forgiveness, and the transforming grace available through Jesus Christ. He encouraged participants to seek freedom from every form of bondage through faith in Christ.

The seminar was a great blessing to the congregations. Through the prayers, counselling, and dedicated ministry of Dr. Rev. Abraham Varghese and the Lucknow Teen Challenge Drug Rehabilitation Centre, many young people who had once struggled with addiction have experienced freedom and restoration.

Today, they are living transformed lives with their families and are grateful to God for His saving grace and for the ministry that helped them begin a new life.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Madhya Pradesh expresses its heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Rev. Abraham Varghese and the entire Lucknow Teen Challenge Drug Rehabilitation Centre for their faithful service in bringing hope, healing, and restoration to those affected by addiction. May the Lord continue to bless and strengthen this life-changing ministry so that many more lives may be transformed for His glory.

Anita B Thomas
Women's Secretary ELC, MP

Women's Spiritual Fellowship and Refreshment Tour to Goa. ELC, MP
08–13 May 2026

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."
– Isaiah 40:31 From 08 to 13 May 2026, a group of women embarked on a spiritually enriching and refreshing fellowship tour to Goa. The purpose of this journey was to provide an opportunity for women to take time away from their daily responsibilities, experience fellowship, find physical and emotional refreshment, and renew their relationship with God.

The tour was organized under the guidance of Mrs. Anita B. Thomas and Dr. Suman Martin. Each participant willingly joined the tour at her own expense, reflecting her commitment to investing in her spiritual well-being, personal growth, and Christian fellowship.

The group was privileged to receive the encouragement, guidance, and wholehearted support of Rt. Rev. S. K. Sukka and Archdeacon Dr. Rev. Anil Martin, whose leadership and blessings added great value to the journey. Throughout the six-day tour, the women enjoyed meaningful moments of prayer, devotion, fellowship, reflection, and sightseeing. The journey provided a wonderful opportunity to strengthen friendships, share experiences, encourage one another in faith, and return with renewed joy and purpose. The fellowship tour concluded with hearts full of gratitude to God for His protection, provision, and abundant blessings throughout the journey. The participants returned home spiritually renewed, emotionally refreshed, and inspired to continue serving the Lord with greater faith, dedication, and joy. May God continue to bless such initiatives that nurture the spiritual growth, unity, and well-being of Christian women.

Anita B. Thomas
Women's Secretary, ELC - MP

SALVATION ARMY

A Legacy of Compassion

India remains the oldest mission field of The Salvation Army. 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 Founded by **Frederick Tucker (Fakir Singh)** in 19th September 1882. 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. to a unified National Office.

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. 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.

Glimpses of Activities







THANKYOU

Let us strengthen our faith by diving deep into the Word of God, test our knowledge and reflect on His Wisdom!

1. Who were the first witnesses of Jesus' resurrection according to the Gospels?
2. Which Old Testament woman served as a judge and prophetess who led Israel?
3. In Romans 16, Paul commends a woman named Phoebe. What role does he identify her with?
4. Which woman is described in Acts 18 as teaching and correcting the preacher Apollos alongside her husband?
5. Who was the businesswoman and seller of purple cloth who became one of Paul's first converts in Europe and hosted the church in her home?
6. Which New Testament woman is referred to as 'outstanding among the apostles' in Romans 16:7?
7. In which decade did the Church of North India (CNI) first ordain women as priests?
8. Which prophetess and judge of Judah is mentioned as confirming the authenticity of the Book of the Law found in the Temple (2 Kings 22)?
9. Who was the elderly prophetess who recognized the infant Jesus as the Messiah when he was presented at the Temple?
10. Which verse is most commonly cited in support of gender equality in Christ within the church?

Answers will be revealed in the next issue of STREE