



Republic Day

"We are sending satellites to the Moon but haven't yet developed a mechanism to prevent a person from descending into the manhole." - **Manohar Ranganathan**.

Republic Day was observed at the SCMI Programme Center in the presence of all staff, tenants, and students. Mr. Manohar from CARE, a friend and associate of SCMI, was the day's guest speaker.



- Ms Ramya Angelina, Program Secretary, Karnataka Region

He spoke in detail about the reasons why Republic Day is observed, while the Executive Secretary of the Human Rights Desk shed light on faith and fundamental rights. The gathering was encouraged to uphold the core principles of our Constitution—Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity—and safeguard our Socialist Secular values. Together, let's work to prevent further instances of suffering like that of Bilkis Bano or the passing of Fr. Stan Swamy.

Mentors Meeting

The Mentors of the Fellowship Programme, SCMI's flagship initiative benefiting students from the Constitutionally Disadvantaged sections of India, convened at the National Mentors Meeting organized by the Mission and Scholarship Desk at the SCM Programme Centre in Bangalore on the 9th and 10th February 2024. Mentors from across the country participated in the meeting to understand the functioning of the Fellowship program and discuss collaborative strategies for its enhancement. The program commenced with a reflection by Mr Ram Traite reminding the audience that SCMI is a Christ-centric, contemporary, and student/people-based social movement. We are called to respond to the needs of the time, following the footsteps of Christ our Liberator and the principle of Love. The meeting was fruitful with discussion and deliberations regarding the successful organising of the Fellowship programme.

-Ms Jessie Jason, Executive Secretary, Mission and Scholarship Desk



Intensive Staff Training

SCMI organized an Intensive Staff Training from February 19th to 24th, 2024, at Xavier Retreat House in Goa, focusing on "Servant Leadership in Changing Times." Ms Masooma Ranalvi from 'We Speak Out' addressed critical issues like Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), secularism, minority rights, and democracy, using powerful storytelling. Dr Deenabandhu Manchala led sessions on "Understanding Ecumenism and Social Engagement" and challenged participants to rethink "Servant Leadership," emphasizing empowerment and collective fulfilment.

Technical sessions taken by the staff covered topics such as Fundraising, Digital Skills, Budgeting, Report and Documentation etc. Preliminary training was organised in Bengaluru on the 15th and 17th of February. Mr. Vinod Shemron discussed "Student Mobilization and Programme Planning" using Paulo Freire's Pedagogy of the Oppressed. He helped the staff identify Issues, the impact it is causing and the questions that need to be raised to the students to make them aware of the social realities. Mrs. Leila Passah emphasized solidarity over servitude, urging active field engagement. This training equipped SCMI staff to address social realities better and nurture student aspirations effectively.

- Ms Rini Eliza Anien, Executive Secretary, Communication Desk



KARNATAKA REGION

Let's Talk Love...

On February 14th, all National and Regional Programme Staff participated in a discussion on how love is translated and resonates among the student community and amongst ourselves. This conversational rapport took place in Cubbon Park. The session aimed to encourage Programme Staff to create safe spaces for opening up discussions on taboo or sensitive topics among students.

- Ms Ramya Angelina, Program Secretary, Karnataka Region

MEGHALAYA REGION

Unlearning Toxic Masculinity: Towards Holistic Growth

On 6th February 2024, John Robert Theological College, Mawklot, Shillong, Meghalaya. The program dealt with the basic understanding of toxic masculinity, to understand its circumstances on how it affects the mental health of a person followed by the interaction between the students, senior friends and the Resource Person. A question was raised by the Students on the Biblical Perspective of Toxic Masculinity; it was raised on the relationship between the traditions and cultures and its relation to Toxic Masculinity. The resource persons for the seminar were, Wanskhemlang Marbaniang and Jessica Rymba. JRTC Unit Members plus Senior Friends in a total of 90 participants.

- Mr. Baiathrang Khonglah, Programme Secretary Meghalaya Region



KERALA REGION

International Women's Day observation

On March 6, 2024, SCM Kerala hosted an International Women's Day observation at Marthoma College Thiruvalla. Dr. Mathew Sam, the Chairperson of SCM Kerala, presided over the meeting. The program took the form of an open discussion and experience-sharing session centred around the importance of Women's Day and the theme #InspireInclusion. Students and staff alike shared personal experiences of being inspired by women in their lives. The discussion prompted participants to reflect on and recognize the women who have influenced and inspired them throughout their lives.

"Sharing Christmas joy, remembering life commitments"

On December 22, 2024, SCM Kerala, in collaboration with Anjappam Trust, organized a perspective development session and Christmas celebration. Marthoma College SCM friends from Thiruvalla spread Christmas joy by distributing cakes to people on the streets.

Dr Liji Samuel from Thiruvalla Marthoma College SCM unit presided over the meeting, while SCM Kerala treasurer Susan Kuriakose delivered a Christmas message. Anjappam coordinators Jibin P.B. and Anish T. Thomas provided felicitation and orientation to the students. This sharing experience offered students insights into various life situations and reminded them of their life commitments. They realized the profound impact a simple act of care and love can have on someone's heart.



"Challenges and Concerns of Contemporary Youth"

SCM Kerala organized a group discussion on "Challenges and Concerns of Contemporary Youth" at Marthoma College, Thiruvalla, on January 17, 2024, as part of the National Youth Day observance.

The session was inaugurated by College Principal Dr Mathew Varkey T. K., with Dr Thanuja Thomas, Project Director of Asthma My Mind My Care, as the moderator. SCM Kerala officials including Treasure Susan Kuriakose, Student Secretary Christy Baby, and Staff Advisor Dr. Liji Samuel addressed the student community.

Around 60 students from various departments actively participated in the discussion, sharing their concerns such as mental health issues, relationship challenges, confidence struggles, identity crises, anxiety about the future, and job security.

Mental Health Campaign

SCM Kerala launched a regional mental health campaign in collaboration with Athma My Mind My Care and Anjappam Charitable Society to raise awareness of mental health issues among students. Led by Dr. Sijiya Binu, Founder and Chairperson of Athma My Mind My Care, awareness sessions on "Emotional Well-being" were conducted at various colleges. These sessions aimed to promote mental wellness among students. On January 30, 2024, an awareness session was held at CSI College of with Dr. Sajith Lal, College Principal, presiding, Education, Parassala,

and approximately 150 students actively participating. On January 31, sessions were organized at John Cox Memorial CSI Institute of Technology and The Kerala United Theological Seminary in Kannamoola, Thiruvananthapuram, with around 100 and 150 students respectively. Additionally, on February 7, 2024, an awareness session took place at Marthoma College for Women, Perumbavoor, in collaboration with NSS and the Department of English, with approximately 100 participants. Furthermore, on March 2, 2024, an awareness session was organized at Marthoma College, Thiruvalla, specifically for hostel students, with 80 participants. These sessions are integral in fostering a culture of emotional well-being and mental health awareness among students in Kerala.



Project "MITHRA"

"MITHRA" is a student wellness initiative which is jointly coordinated by the Student Christian Movement of India Kerala Region, Athma My Mind My Care and Anjappam Charitable Society. Which aims to help students to get Online Counselling services at their fingertips.

Single Mothers Fellowship & International Women's Day Celebration

On March 11, 2024, SCM Kerala celebrated International Women's Day with single mothers fellowship at Anjappam Outlet Ranny. Mr Anil Cherian, Secretary of Anjappam Charitable Society, presided over the meeting. Mrs Sini Rachel, an entrepreneur, delivered a motivational message by sharing her own experiences. The event provided a platform for single mothers to share their inspiring life stories and discuss the strategies they employ to overcome challenges. The gathering was meaningful, and participants made the moments even more memorable by cutting cake, singing songs, and enjoying a love feast together.

- Sneha Susan Mathai, Program Secretary (Kerala Region)





NAGALAND

Observing International Women's Day

On International Women's Day, Oriental Theological Seminary joined the global community in celebrating the achievements of women across social, economic, cultural, and political spheres. The seminary organized a series of events to honour and recognize women's contributions, including presentations from male and female students, choreography, skits on gender equality, and empowering musical performances. Personal narratives were shared, illustrating the influence of mothers in challenging societal norms, and the historical challenges faced by women, countered by the empowering traditions of Naga society. The event emphasized the pivotal role of women in theology, ministry, and society, showcasing their unique experiences and challenges while promoting gender equality. It served as a reminder of the ongoing effort needed for genuine equality. Oriental Theological Seminary's commitment to celebrating and empowering women is evident, and it is hoped that the event's spirit will inspire positive change within the institution and beyond.

To Call, Communicate and do justice

On January 20, a one-day program was held at JELC Church in the Jeypore unit with the theme "To Call, Communicate, and Do Justice." Led by Sidharth, the program featured beautiful songs and key points shared by N. Martin. The Program Secretary elaborated on the theme and concluded with a prayer. The discussion centred on addressing the prevalence of injustice and finding solutions. The outcome emphasized the importance of respecting human rights and preventing discrimination. The successful event saw participation from 35 students.

Sports Day

On December 16, 2023, Sports Day was organised at JELC Church in the Jeypore unit. Various sports were organized for both boys and girls, including indoor games like chess and carom, and outdoor events such as races, high jump, and long jump. Led by Sidharth, with a welcome by honourable Bishop Bidhan Nayak, the program featured an effective session by chief guest Shri Daniel Mylaathula and Sri Pras Vuppula. Around 80 students participated, and winners were awarded. The event was highly enjoyable and emphasized the importance of sports for students' physical and overall development.

ODISHA



Environmental Education among Youth

On January 21, a one-day program was held at JELC Church in Jeypore unit with the theme "Environmental Education among Youth" in collaboration with Youth Climate Ministry. Led by Climate Ministry staff Nanu, the program included group discussions and the sharing of experiences by SCMI Senior friend Mrs. Rupashi. The Program Secretary emphasized the importance of environmental awareness. Students actively participated, selecting empty roadside areas for tree planting. Mr. Anil provided additional insights on the topic. The enthusiastic participation and well-organized activities contributed to the program's success, receiving appreciation at every step.



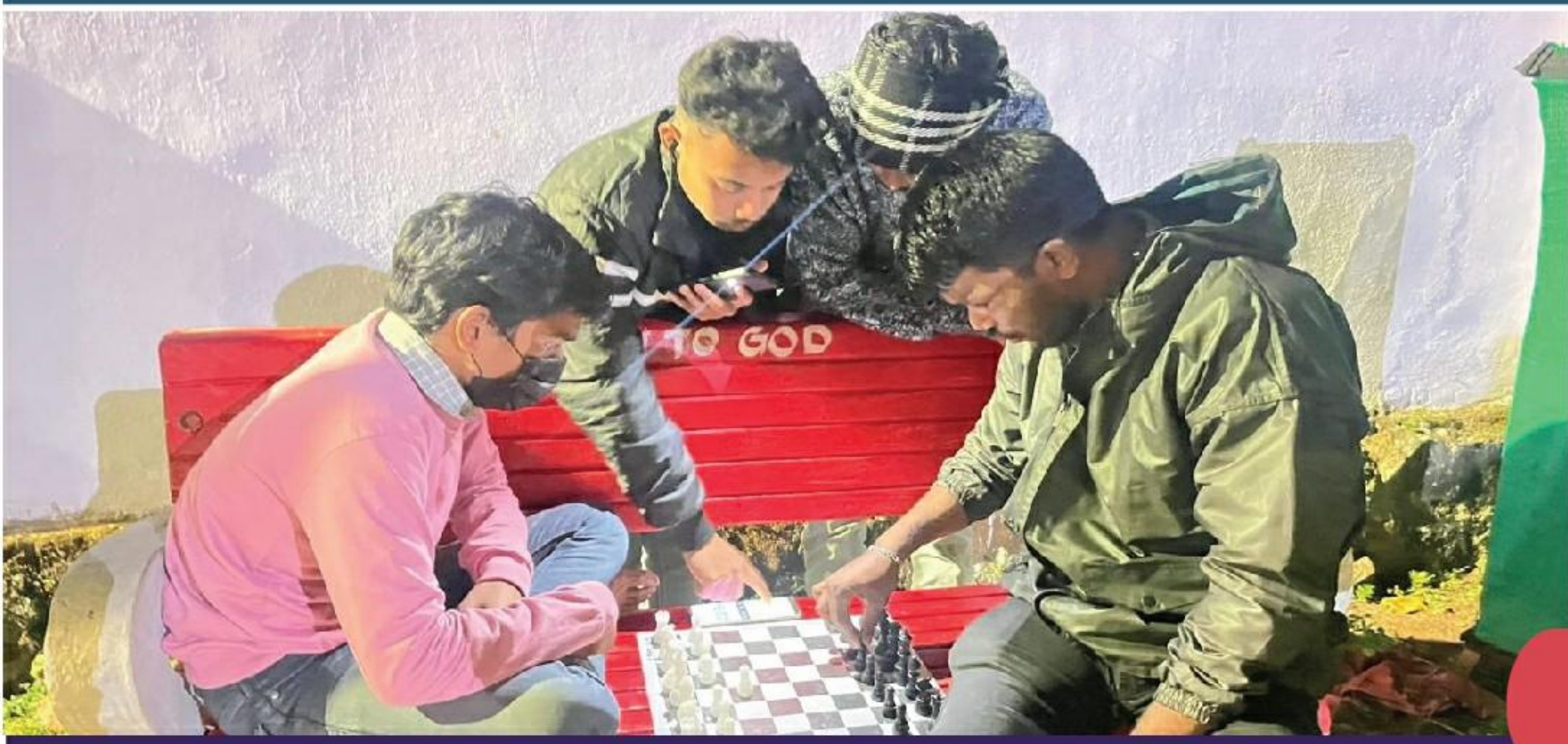
Blanket and Saree Distribution

On December 23, 2023, Saintala Town Unit organized a blanket and saree distribution to the widows of the local society, at the Church. Program Secretary. Led by Sarada, the program featured three resource persons, including Advocate President Manbhanjan Panigrahi, Sarapancha Bhimsen Swain, and youth representative Jubaraj, along with notary person Satya Narayan Sahu and press reporter Pradeep Bag. The event was successful, providing love and care to those in need.



Role of youth in a sustainable world

On January 18, 2024, the Majhiguda unit organized a one-day program at JELC Church with the theme "Role of Youth in a Sustainable World." Led by Dheeraj, Pastor Surrendra welcomed attendees. The Program Secretary discussed the theme, engaging 25 students in a discussion on preserving natural resources for future generations. The program was informative and educative.



ODISHA

In Memory

On January 22, a prayer meeting was conducted at JELC Church in the Jeypore unit in remembrance of the 25th anniversary of Graham Staines' murder. The Program Secretary shared a short reflection on Graham Staines, accompanied by a video clip. Many students found inspiration from Graham Staines' life and his dedication, despite the tragic circumstances. Thirty members participated in the event, which was deemed very successful.

Role of Youth in a Chaotic World

On January 25, a one-day Youth Retreat was held at JELC Church in the Jeypore unit. Asish led the program, with a welcoming address by Sidharth. Rt Rev Bidhan, Bishop of JELC, delivered a message on the theme "The Role of Youth in a Chaotic World." Group discussions were conducted on the topic of "My Role in the Future of India." Approximately 40-50 students participated, sharing their opinions. Some students, upon joining SCMI, realized their potential to impact society positively. The program was deemed successful, fostering reflection and empowerment among the youth attendees.

End the violence

On February 15, a program was conducted at JELC Church in Majhiguda unit with the theme "End the Violence with a Biblical Perspective." Saiban led the program, and Ps. Surrendra shared keynotes and a message. This was followed by group discussions and personal sharing by students. The discussion focused on strategies to end both internal violence within families and external violence in schools and workplaces. Twenty members participated, and the program was successful in promoting reflection and awareness on the issue of violence.

Inspire INCLUSION

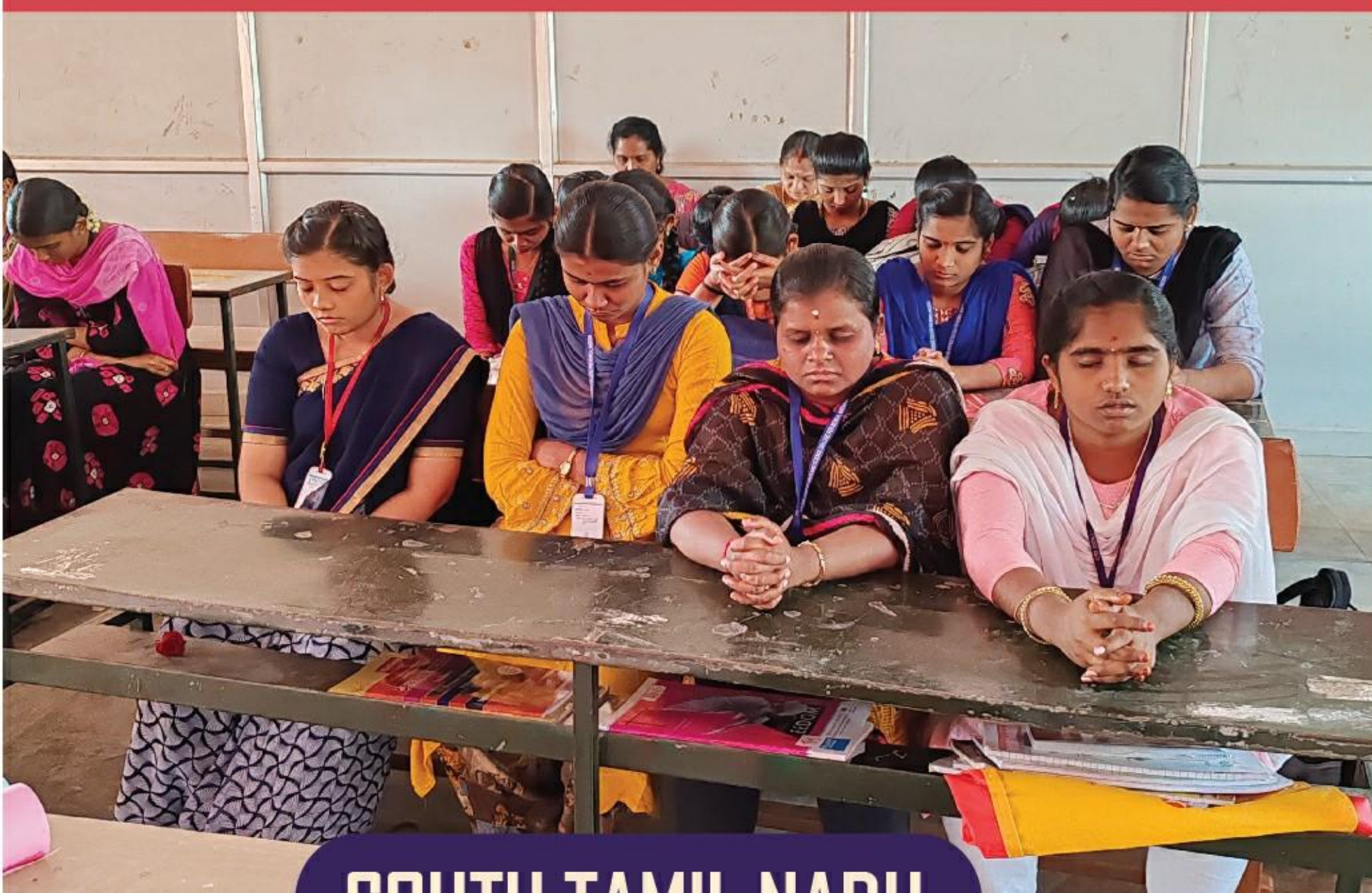
On March 8, JELC Church in the Majhiguda unit hosted a one-day program themed "Inspire Inclusion." Led by Pastor Surrendra and Dheeraj, the event featured keynotes by the Program Secretary, a quiz, and songs.

Additionally, 90 women from seven villages participated in a 5-kilometre rally, advocating inclusion with slogans and posters. Discussions highlighted the necessity of breaking barriers and stereotypes to ensure all women are valued and respected.

Meanwhile, at JELC Church in Jeypore unit, a similar program was held with resource persons Sarah and Mita engaging approximately 90 women. Discussions centred on gender diversity, promoting support for gender identity, and addressing issues like violence against women. The event successfully inspired attendees to advocate for gender equality and inclusion.

In the Gunpur unit, a program at Kadasi Village focused on LGBTQIA+ inclusion. Led by Sheela, discussions led by Sunita addressed discrimination against LGBTQIA+ individuals. With 70 participants engaging in games, the program effectively raised awareness and dialogue on inclusion.

On March 12, the Saintala Town Unit observed Women's Day. Resource Person Pinky Barik, alongside the Program Secretary, led the event. Stiwagh Chatriya facilitated, a group song led by Suchitra Nanda. Discussions emphasized inspiring others for women's inclusion, with 30 participants. The program successfully promoted awareness and dialogue on inclusion and empowerment.



SOUTH TAMIL NADU

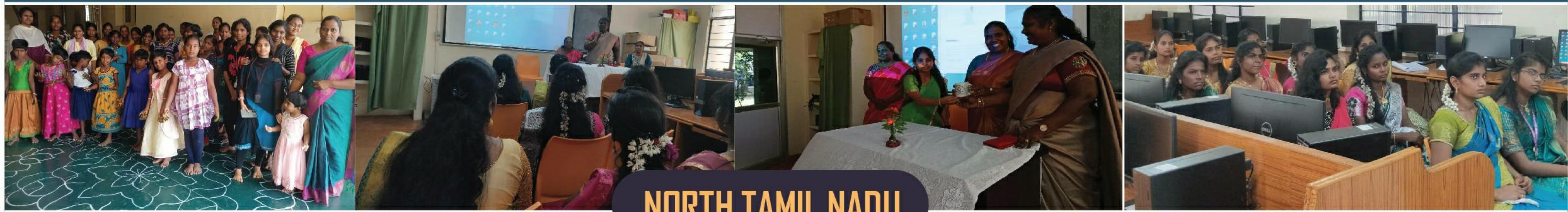
Bridging Communities: Embracing Diversity

On January 23rd, SCM South Tamil Nadu hosted a Bible Study session themed 'Bridging Communities: Embracing Diversity,' engaging SCM and Fellowship students at Rev. Jacob Memorial Christian College. Yabes Manokaran, Programme Secretary, encouraged and led an interactive game to assess English proficiency. This blend of reflection and engagement deepened participants' understanding of biblical teachings while nurturing unity and appreciation for diversity. Drawing from the Samaritan Woman story in John 4:4-42, the session emphasized breaking barriers between communities. Students reflected on the narrative's message, gaining insights into embracing diversity and supporting marginalized groups. The program concluded with renewed commitments to unity and understanding within and beyond the college community. SCM Student L. Janet led the closing prayer, marking the end of the session.

Faith for Rights Campaign

The Faith for Rights Campaign unfolded across two events in the South Tamil Nadu Region. On January 30th, at CSI College of Arts and Science for Women in Madurai, around 60 students engaged in discussions led by Yabes Manokaran, focusing on understanding the Indian constitution's protections for minority groups. They observed a moment of silence on Mahatma Gandhi's martyrdom anniversary, promoting national unity and peace. On February 2nd, at CSI Erode Women's Christian College in Erode, over 50 students participated in lively activities and discussions, led by Yabes Manokaran, delving into the theme of faith and rights. Insights were gained from a UNHR case study on blasphemy laws' impact on citizens. Both events emphasized collective efforts to uphold rights and concluded with prayers or the SCM Solidarity Song, fostering solidarity and dedication to the Faith for Rights Campaign's values.





NORTH TAMIL NADU

National Youth Day

The National Youth Day was celebrated with fervor and dedication on 12th January 2024 at C. S. I Ewart Women's Christian College, Melrosapuram. The event commenced with a prayer led by the Principal, setting a solemn tone. Prof. Pramila delivered an insightful speech, emphasizing the pivotal role of youth in society. Her words resonated with the audience, urging them to recognize and harness their potential to effect positive change. Following this, the Programme Secretary delivered a motivational speech, echoing the timeless message of "Arise, Awake, and Realize" the power within oneself, inspiring the attendees to strive for greatness. As part of the celebration, a poetry writing competition was organized, aiming to nurture creative expression among the youth. Ms. Monisha, the Organizing Secretary of SCM-Ewart, emerged as the deserving winner, showcasing her talent and literary prowess. The event concluded on a high note, leaving a lasting impression on all participants.

TEHILLA - SING A SONG

The SCM unit at C. S. I Ewart Women's Christian College, Melrosapuram, organized a soul-stirring Praise and Worship session titled "TEHILLA - SING A SONG" on 13th February 2024. The event aimed to uplift spirits through music and spiritual reflection, with participation from all college students. Esteemed guests, Mr. David Vijayakanth and Dr. Jecinth David, graced the session, sharing valuable insights and guidance on educational, career, and personal development journeys. Their presence added depth to the event, enriching the experience for all attendees.

Valedictory Ceremony

The C. S. I Ewart Women's Christian College-SCM Valedictory Ceremony, held on March 1st, was a significant milestone celebrated with fervor and enthusiasm by all students. The event marked the culmination of a memorable chapter in both academic and personal growth for the fellowship students. Ms. Gnanamani, Program Secretary of North Tamil Nadu, graced the occasion with her esteemed presence. In her address, she highlighted the significance of International Women's Day (IWD), urging students to celebrate the remarkable achievements of women worldwide. Ms Gnanamani emphasized the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment in contemporary society, encouraging students to draw inspiration from women leaders and continue their efforts towards promoting inclusivity and gender justice. Her words resonated deeply, leaving a lasting impact on all attendees.



IMPURE

(Based on Mark 1:40-44)

I shouted!!!
"Impure! Impure!"
Seeing Jesus from very far
I quickly run to Jesus
With one hope in my heart!

I knelt down before him
My hands were folded,
Tears were running from my eyes,
And my clothes were dirty!

Jesus was with his disciples,
So as many people were there,
Some shouted, 'Go away from here'
I listened from a distance!

I couldn't remove my eyes from Jesus,
And also didn't care much,
What people will say!
I just told this:
"If you are willing,
You can make me clean!"

Having said that
I wrapped myself up,
As I remembered
My bad times
Loneliness,
Weakness and
All the taunts!

Christina D. Chaudhari
(13 Jan. 2024)

I don't know,
Then what happened
But
The crowd showed up,
Jesus' outstretched hand!
He touched me,
And he said Just this,
"I am willing, Be pure!"

Oh!
How merciful that hand,
That took away all my sorrows,
Took away all my sins!

Oh!
What happened to my body?
Who was impure
Just few minutes ago?
My skin was new as a baby?
Oh!
My leprosy went away,
And all the days of loneliness,
Also went away,
All the days of staring,
Also went away!
I've got a hope to live!
Oh!
I found Jesus!
I found my creator!

INAUGURAL WORSHIP CWM PRE-ASSEMBLY LED BY SCMI



NEW JOINERS



Priscilla Suresh Rawade
Executive Secretary
Gender and Social Justice



Sathia Rabbin Das .A.
Associate Executive Secretary
Mission and Scholarship



Varsha Bhingardive Shashikant
Program Secretary
Western India



Uttam Guria
Program Secretary
Jharkhand Region

Editorial Board

Dakerlin Mukhim, Rini Eliza Anien, Vilhu Chalieu, Jessie Jason,

Priscilla Suresh Rawade, C. Ramenglien Traite, Sathia Rabbin Das .A, Ramya Angelina.