




INDIAN
CHRISTIAN
WOMEN'S
MOVEMENT

ICWM
wishes you the
light of
Awakening!

Of Unity
across India...
Of Respect
between
brother &
sister...
Of Justice by
rule of law...
Of Hope for
a new
Citizenship
Acceptance
Act...

The Light of
God with us!

May this
Christmas
Light fill us all
this season
& through the
New Year
2020

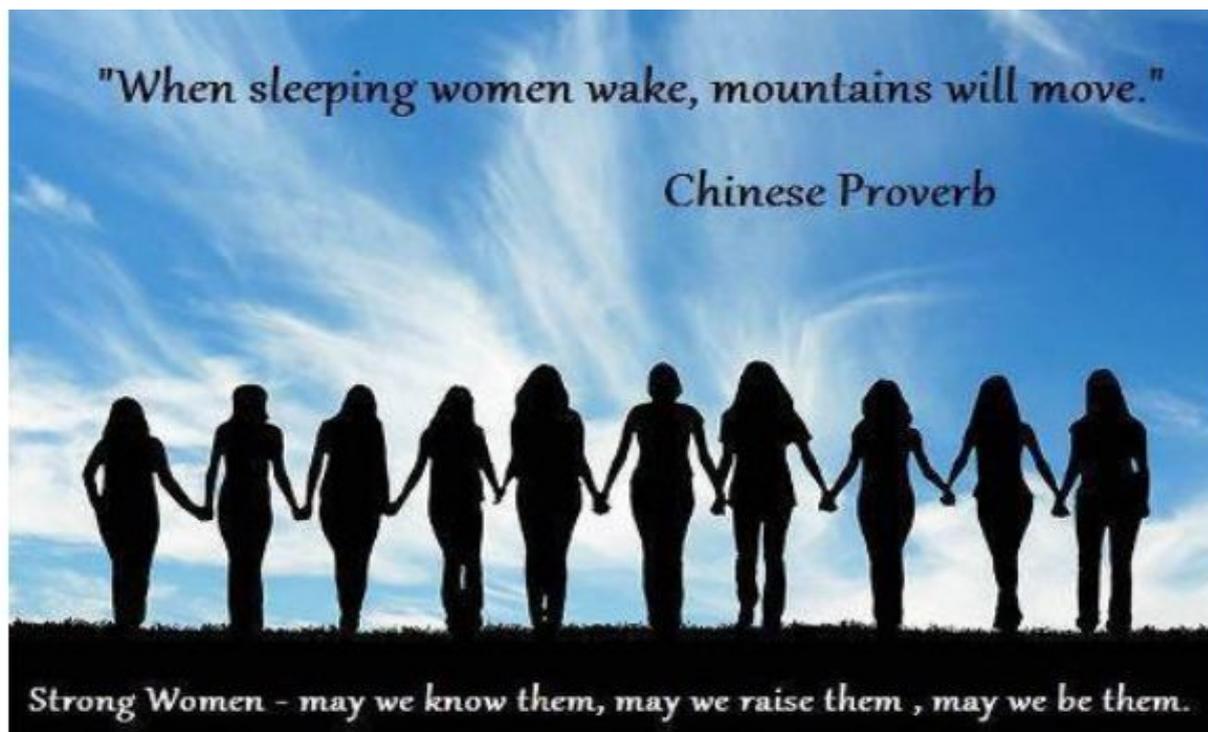
*The people who walked
in darkness have seen
a great light.*

Isaiah 9:1

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WHEN WOMEN WAKE

Marcia D'Cunha



When Women Wake ... expect the unexpected. We are fifty percent of this planet after all, surely enough to move mountains and energise the earth. Yet we have allowed ourselves to be trampled upon by family, by society, even by our church – the church of Christ! ICWM (Indian Christian Women’s Movement) started an awakening in 2014, when the idea of Christian women of all denominations coming together, found resonance. A beginning was made that has grown with time, crossing all barriers of age, education, profession, and geographical boundaries. At the 2nd National Convention (Restless for Justice) in October 2019, many felt that we needed more channels of connectivity, to energise and inspire each other.

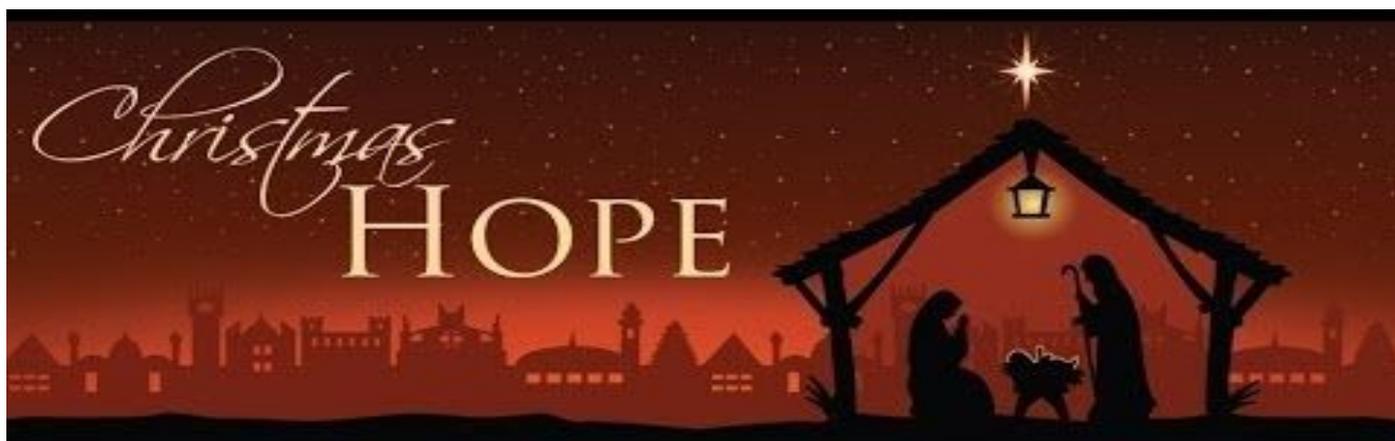
Our quarterly Newsletter aims at doing just that – sharing news from across India, exploring different responses, documenting our journey forward. Each issue will be planned by a different region. The December issue is being spearheaded by the Western region. The next issue in March will be led by the South, the June issue by the East and September by the North. Our masthead has been created in the 3 colours represented in our logo. But these 3 colours will also vary according to our theme, so that we are not limited in any way.

WWW spells out our dream. To awaken a sleeping giant – Indian Christian women - and build a world wide web of support, for women, for children, for the voiceless in our society. When sleeping women wake ... mountains move, says an old Chinese proverb. May we during this beautiful season of Advent and Christmas stay awake and be alert ourselves to spread the liberating message of God’s love for all.

AND I KNOW WE HAVE HOPE!

Aruna Gnanadason

National Convener of the ICWM (on behalf of the National Team)



This newsletter provides a new platform for various units to keep in touch with each other; to draw inspiration from what is happening in other units, so as to plan and contribute together to the transformation of India. The national team and the units can also stay connected through WWW as requested by the second National Convention. Let us commit ourselves to see this 5 year old movement grow – if each of us would induct 5 more women to join us think of how far we can reach!

At the time of putting this newsletter together, we have been in the midst of the annual 16 days of activism against gender-based violence (November 25 - December 10) a global movement that encompasses many important anniversaries and days of remembrance of women and struggles of resistance, all over the world. This year and in these last few days, India mourns the murder of the 23-year-old Unnao rape victim; the gang rape and murder of a woman lawyer in Hyderabad; and the gang rape of many Dalit and Adivasi/Tribal women who too often go unnamed and unknown. All this against the backdrop of the government's push for the registration of "citizens", which smacks on targeting minorities and has led to violent reactions all over the country.

We as Christian women turn to the Christ Child and the peace and hope that Jesus' birth instils in our hearts and lives. We as Christian women turn to the Christ Child and the hope that this birth instils in our hearts and lives. By our united strength and by joining hands with all other women and men who are committed to create an equitable and violence free India, we know there is hope for a New Year of justice and peace! May this hope shine in your lives through this season and through the New Year.

"Down in a slum a newborn child stirs in his sleep
 He wakes, he looks, he looks in my eyes.
 He looks in my eyes...
 And I know we have hope... I know we have hope..."*

*(Fr. Christopher Coelho, OFM in Sing a New Song" 1980)

THE HOPE OF 'GOD-WITH-US'

Astrid Lobo Gajiwala



The word 'advent' is derived from the Latin *adventus*, which means 'coming,' and in Christian tradition refers to the second coming of Christ. As such, the season of Advent is marked by a yearning similar to the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah. It is a pause point in the dance of life, a time to wait; not in idleness but in readiness, preparing, with penitence for what has been, and hope for all that will be.

As I thought about the message of hope that Advent proclaims, my thoughts went to the 27-year-old veterinarian doctor who on the night of 27 November, was stalked, ambushed, gang-raped and killed, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, by four men, contemporaries in age, but vastly different in social circumstance.

Even as the country was reeling under the shock of this horrific act there was news on December 5, that a 23-year-old gang-rape survivor was thrashed with sticks, then stabbed multiple times by five men including two of her alleged rapists, in Unnao district. The woman was doused in petrol and set ablaze. She succumbed to her burns two days later.

How is it possible to offer hope in these circumstances?

The Hyderabad police provided a quick answer. The four suspects in the Hyderabad case were killed in "cross-fire" by the police when they allegedly tried to escape police custody in the early hours of December 6. The woman's father, said that the actions of the police would mean that his "daughter's soul will finally attain peace." His sentiments were echoed by the mother of the victim of the 2012 brutal gang rape in Delhi, who said that the news was like "an ointment to her wounds". After seven years she is still waiting for justice.

But can such extra-judicial executions pose as harbingers of hope? Or do they in fact, destroy the hope of rule of law? If we are to uphold the values of our Constitution, justice cannot come from erasing the sharp line between the State and criminals. It must come by respecting the authority of the State and holding it accountable for timely and lawful action.

For those struggling with healing and closure from sexual abuse, Eve Ensler, 65, the creator of the seminal stage play, 'The Vagina Monologues', that sparked a worldwide movement, 'One Billion Rising', to end gendered violence, offers a different kind of hope in her latest book "The Apology". Battered and sexually abused by her father from the age of five, almost murdered several times, she grew into adulthood battling with drink, drugs and suicidal self-destructiveness. In her 2013 autobiography she describes feeling exiled from her body and "trying to find a way back". Her father died without ever owning what he had done to her

or uttering a word of repentance. “The Apology” is a cathartic, soul wrenching, imaginary letter from her father making the apology she craved to hear.

To write this apology Eve got into her father’s voice, body and mind. For the first time she felt she had agency over her story. The exercise of writing a letter to herself from her father enabled her to write her way out of a story she was in. Writing it while being supported emotionally by her therapist, was a profoundly transformative, healing experience.

In the process of writing her father’s apology Eve discovered the anatomy of an apology that a sexual abuser must make to be truly meaningful. The first step is deep self-interrogation of his childhood and history - who and what made him - and an investigation of the personal, cultural and political origins of his being, to understand what made him this monster. The next step is detailed accounting of what he did - “I took your head and banged it against the wall” – in order for him to own what he has done. The second part of this step is examining and articulating what was the intention – “I wanted to destroy her beauty and her power”. The third step is recognising and admitting the specific impact of the sexual abuse and violence on the victim, getting inside the victim. Did it destroy her life? Did it ruin her body? Did she go crazy? The last step is making amends and taking responsibility for his actions.

Hope for change comes when abusers apologise in this manner, with full recognition of what they have done, without making justifications. As Eve emphasises, “Apologies, deep sacred apologies, are the pathways to healing and inviting in the new world.” Perhaps, if rapists are made to write these apologies to their victims and their families, there will be fewer chances of them coming out on bail and seeking revenge.



Hope comes too when men join the struggle to fight violence against women. As Eve’s friend, Tony Porter, points out, “We have called men out, now we need to call them in.” Time for men to hold other men accountable for misogynistic attitudes and behaviour and to take the risk of being “gender traitors”. Time too for men to redefine toxic masculinity, to exclude violence, sex, status and aggression, and include sensitivity, emotion and vulnerability.

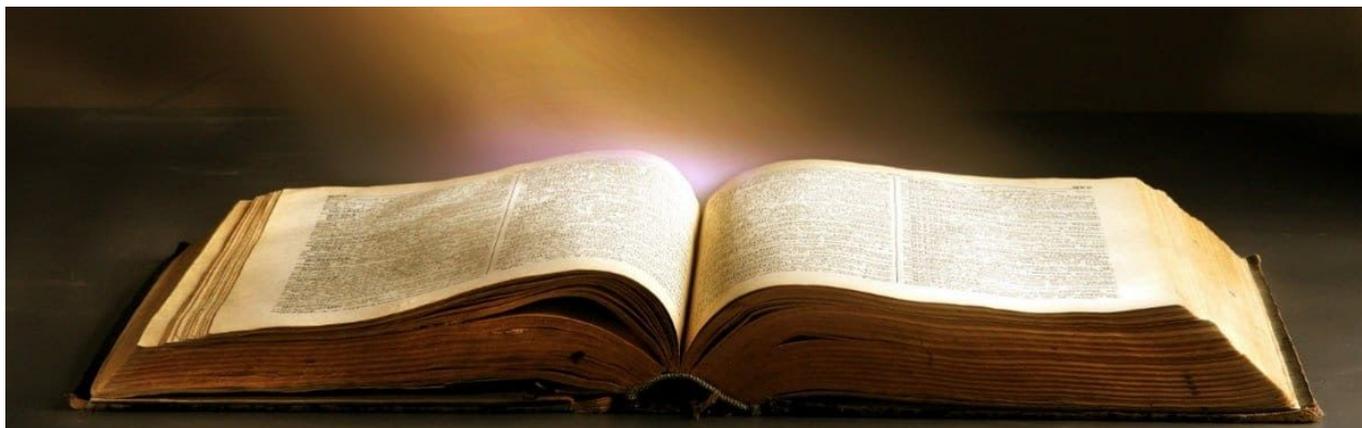
And finally, hope comes from standing together against perpetrators. Women need to speak out as soon as there is abuse, and communities and families must stand by them. Like the five brave young nuns did when their Superior in Kerala accused a bishop of sexually abusing her multiple times. It is the hope for justice that drives and sustains them through the pain of being ostracised, the humiliation of being subjected to vile accusations made by the accused’s supporters, and the emptiness of the long wait.

Watching their backs are a group of lawyers, women activists and many anonymous supporters; standing with them is the survivor’s counsellor, herself a nun, who refuses to bow down to pressure and will testify in court against the abuser; and in the midst of silent Church authorities, they have found a bishop who listens and responds.

These are reminders that hope is possible because of who God is – Love Incarnate, Emmanuel, ‘God-with-us’, who works in and through us. This is the promise and the challenge of Christmas that the Christ child brings.

FEMINIST BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS (INTERPRETATION)

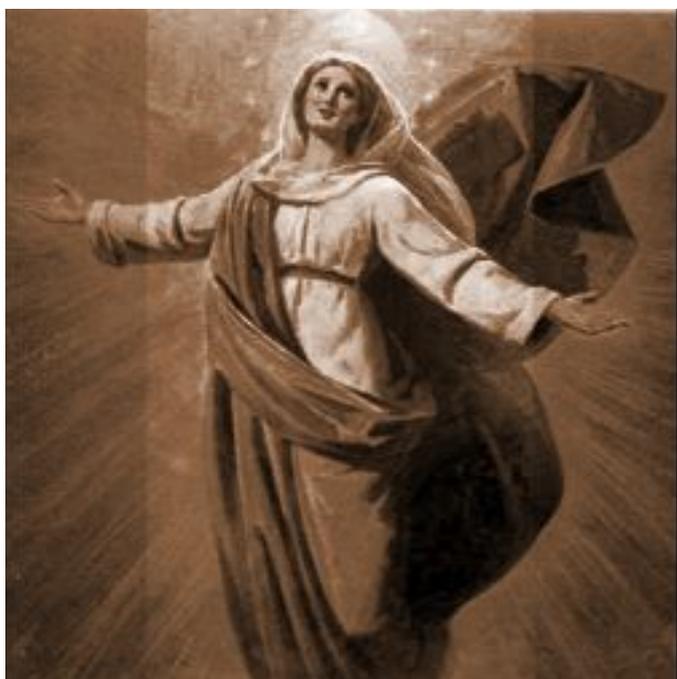
Dr. Sr. Pauline Chakkalakal, dsp



The Bible, written from the socio-cultural perspective of male authors, as well as its interpretations, has legitimized women's subordination in Christian tradition. Women have appeared in patriarchal teachings as types: virgins, temptresses, seducers. This experience of stereotype makes women suspect the validity of a 'biblical revelation' that has come to us solely through male categories. Therefore, a 'hermeneutics of suspicion' should inform any reading of biblical texts and commentaries, and reconstruct them in terms of praxis for liberation of everyone. As all theological articulations are based on a particular understanding of the Bible, feminist scholars emphasize the need to scrutinize the patriarchal elements in biblical texts and retrieve the position of women and their partnership with God in salvation story.

Rooted in the sufferings, struggles, hopes and aspirations of the **silenced** and **silent** women and the marginalized in all strata of Indian/Asian society, our hermeneutical method has necessarily to challenge the socio-cultural, religio-political and economic systems, and caste, class and gender based oppression of a patriarchal society. It is equally important to denounce the prejudice of male chauvinistic prescriptions on women's sexuality, as well as to question the prevailing exclusive male God symbolism and sexist language for God and humanity. Simultaneously, it has to promote **a life-affirming, change-oriented and contextual reading of the Bible and theologizing.**

Aware of India's/Asia's multi-religious and pluri-cultural reality, it is imperative that we also engage in dialogue with people of different faiths and their Scriptures. Without undermining the *scientific seriousness* in re-formulation of Biblical texts and Christian theology, feminists reject "imposed tradition and realize that their spiritual heritage goes beyond institutionalized religion and official theology" (Mary-John Mananzan). Applying the feminist hermeneutics of liberation (thanks to E.Schussler Fiorenza) to our specific contexts, we continue to unearth the lost 'feminist coin' from biblical tradition and recapture the original dignity and equality of human beings (Gen 1:26-27; Gal 3:26-28) and challenge the androcentric mainstream biblical-theological scholarship.



By way of illustration, as we look forward to celebrating Christmas, it is befitting to contemplate Mary of Nazareth at the Annunciation (Lk 1: 26-38). What strikes us in Mary's 'Yes' (v.38) is her total openness and availability; she has been caught up in God's plan beyond the realm of human imagination and control, and commits herself to cooperate with God in the realization of that plan. Hers was a free, courageous and responsible act of self-surrender, and not a passive, helpless submission. It was an adult response, a creative fidelity of a fully liberated human being.

The point to be emphasized here is the fact that God chose Mary, a *woman* to collaborate in God's plan of salvation (Gal 4:4). It is an affirmation of the sacredness of woman's body. Endorsing Teresa Okure's view, despite the cultural predicament of the woman in a patriarchal society, God chose that

channel for the birth of Jesus. God has honoured womanhood in Mary and empowered her for liberative mission. The Magnificat of Mary (Lk 1: 47-55) is a powerful testimony to this counter-cultural action of God.

To sum up: The feminist demand is for a re-structuring of thought and analysis in view of developing a holistic approach to Divine-human realities. Far from rejecting the Bible because of its androcentric and anti-women characteristics, and the many discrepancies within the text, Indian/Asian women are engaged in exploring new insights in methodology and hermeneutics.

THE ICWM TEAM

Shefalle Karanjikar



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

The 2nd National Convention was held between 30th September and 2nd October on the theme 'Restless for Justice'. It was at this convention that ICWM members who represented different parts of India chose 7 members to lead the movement at the national level. We are glad to introduce the elected team holding the momentum of the movement for the next two years.



National Convener
ARUNA GNANADASON

Aruna Gnanadason with a doctorate in ministries in feminist theologies from the San Francisco Theological Seminary USA, directed the global programme on Women in Church and Society and the Justice, Peace and Creation work of the World Council of Churches, Geneva from 1991 till 2009. She is a member of the Church of South India. She headed the All India Council of Christian Women, of the National Council of Churches in India (1998-2003). Her new book "With Courage and Compassion: Women and the Ecumenical movement" (Fortress Press) will be released early in 2020. She has published many articles in books and journals, has edited and authored books in India and globally and has travelled extensively. She now lives in Chennai.



**National Secretary
 MARCIA DCUNHA**

Marcia D’Cunha was Exec. Secretary of the Bombay Archdiocesan Women’s Commission between 2009 -2015. Former teacher and lecturer, she has spent 20 years in the field of Advertising and is now professionally involved as a Music Consultant and is Hon. Director, Music For Change, Thane. Actively involved in church Music Ministry, she has toured India as part of an all Bombay Liturgical choir and was on the Archdiocesan Liturgy team for over 15 years.



**National Treasurer
 REV. PROF. JAYACHITRA LALITHA**

Rev. Prof. Jayachitra Lalitha is a New Testament and Postcolonial Feminist scholar, an ordained minister of Church of South India and Director of EKKLESIA: Biblical Research and Pastoral Accompaniment.



**Ex-Officio Member
 Former Convener
 DR KOCHURANI ABRAHAM**

Dr Kochurani Abraham is a catholic feminist theologian, gender researcher and trainer from Kerala, India. She holds a Licentiate in Systematic Theology and a PhD in Feminist Theology. She was the former coordinator of Ecclesia of Women in Asia (EWA) and active in Indian Women Theologians Forum (IWTF). Currently she is the Vice-President of the Indian Theological Association (ITA). Her research interests include gender, ecology, spirituality, sexuality and transformative education.



**TEAM MEMBER
 JOYCIA THORAT**

Joycia Thorat is a member of Robinson Memorial Marathi Methodist Church Mumbai. She is an Ecumenical activist and policy analyst. Worked with Student Christian Movement of India as programme secretary . Was former Vice President of YWCA India .Served as Co-chair of Act Alliance Advisory Group on Advocacy , a global network of Faith based civil society organization.



TEAM MEMBER
Sushma Ramswami

Sushma Ramswami is professionally a journalist and short film maker. Presently working as Communication Secretary, Church Of North India Synod. Formerly Vice President, NCCI. Ecumenically well connected. Also well involved with the YWCA movement and other Ngos. Presently also the chairperson, local committee (ICC) of DDMA, South East Delhi, member ICC, CARA and other government organizations.



TEAM MEMBER
Dr. Thuamiteii Aizwal

Dr. Thuamiteii Aizwal, Professor at Aizawl Theological College. Teaching Feminist Theology, Contextual Theology and Christology. She is working with the grassroots women in Mizoram.

NEWS FROM THE WEST

MUMBAI MATTERS

Celebrating 150 Years Of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti at St Paul Methodist Tamil Church, Aarey

Joycia Thorat



On 8th October, 2019, ICWM Mumbai decided to celebrate 150 years of Gandhi Jayanti and show solidarity with the most recent Aarey protest following the court order wherein many youngsters were arrested while standing to preserve the Aarey forest cover. 7 ICWM members from Mumbai collaborated with St. Paul's Methodist Tamil Church to arrange the programme.

The programme witnessed a gathering of 35 men and women including youth and children. We began with a meaningful, interfaith prayer service in English and Hindi (with Tamil Translation) on the theme of national integrity, tolerance, respect, and solidarity with the pain of the voiceless (Kashmir, Assam, and Aarey). In a short interactive talk, we stressed on prayer in action with insights on standing up for one's rights in the manner Christ did.

The vision and mission of ICWM was thus introduced to all gathered. We were privileged to have Adv. Raymonds who witnessed the protest of the youngsters against the felling of trees at Aarey on 5th October 2019. He reinforced that rather than insisting on academic education we must stress on the right way of living an ethical life and a life close to nature. We also took time to reflect on the clampdown in Kashmir. As a part of leaving a mark, those gathered helped in planting Palmyra trees that benefits water conservation.

Engage Disability Mumbai Conference 23rd To 24th October, 2019

Joycia Thorat



ICWM Mumbai partnered and collaborated with the Engage Disability Movement that works to strengthen the Christian response to disability. 6 members of ICWM Mumbai attended the conference and contributed with their individual talents. While ICWM member Caroline compered the first day, Brinelle D' Souza (also representing TISS Mumbai) and Dr. Astrid Lobo Gajiwala chaired 2 parallel sessions on how disability impacts life in family and church; Remembering the forgotten : Bioethics and disability -edge of life issues for the vulnerable. Ms. Merlyn D'Sa shared on government schemes for the differently abled. The concluding session on next steps and way forward was facilitated by Dr. Joycia Thorat. ICWM further supported Engage Disability by a monetary contribution towards organizing the event as well as tokens for the guests and speakers.

New Paradigms for Biblical Interpretation

Jerin Jacob & Caroline Francis



The Indian Christian Women's Movement, Mumbai organised an interactive workshop titled 'New Paradigms for Biblical Interpretation' on the 26th October, 2019 at Young Women's Christian Association, Andheri. Dr. Sr. Pauline Chakalakkal, the facilitator of the workshop, gradually led the audience on an intense, yet engaging, literary, theological and practical journey. The workshop focused on clarification of terms and concepts, understanding God's word in human language, and guidelines for re-reading history/herstory.

After a brief welcome and introduction to the workshop Sr. Pauline, a biblical scholar, began her sharing. The workshop was well received by participants, and below are a few responses:

'The Biblical session was very informative, radical, interesting and relevant to today's context. Dr Pauline led it with a lot of interesting anecdotes and humour along with ample research reference. I enjoyed it fully.'

'Dr. Pauline session was so informative, well interspersed with a wry sense of humour. I loved it.'

'Sr. Pauline was fantastic with her high level of academic rigour and humor. What was beautiful was that Christian women and men had come together to study the scripture rising above our theological differences. It was also exciting to see so many young people involved.'

'Sr. Pauline's wisdom is a delight to behold.'

'Sr. Pauline's session of course reflected her undeniable wisdom, but it was also so spiritually moving.'

The affirmation from the audience encouraged the organising team to plan more upcoming workshops as a series to this session.

GOA GYAN

ICWM (Goa Unit) Training Program For Domestic & Migrant workers In Mapusa, North Goa

Due to the gender based violence that women – especially in the rural and marginalised sector - face at home, in the work place as well as in society, ICWM – Goa Unit took it up as its **first challenge** to reach out, educate and empower them at various levels.



ICWM – Goa Unit joined hands with the “Goa Domestic and Migrant Workers Forum” “Video Volunteers” as well as a ‘theatre Group’ to have a program in Mapusa, North Goa with the theme “**Gender based Violence in Homes, Work Places and in Society at large.**” The program had theatre where the plays focused on the ‘theme of patriarchy’ and how this was the controlling factor for power that leads to violence. Videos, presentations and interactive sessions found many coming forward to share their stories of violence. Advocate Caroline Collasso spoke about the legal solutions and how they could empower themselves in the future.

The program ended with a group song specially written for this occasion by a young adolescent girl who works with the grassroots workers. It was very heartening to see a big crowd especially where the men came in great numbers to support their women. The whole program was conducted in English, Hindi and Marathi which showed very clearly the influx of migrant workers from other states in the northern part of Goa.

ICWM (Goa Unit) Training Program for Domestic & Migrant Workers in Margao, South Goa

A similar program was held in Margao (South Goa) with a very different set of participants – mainly Goans and people from the Hindi speaking belt, so the languages used were mainly Konkani and Hindi.



In the first part of the program, Olga Netto, Coordinator for the Goa Unit conducted the program with the help of the videos and PowerPoint presentations, focusing on issues that existed in their day to day living. There was a very interactive dialogue where women, especially young girls shared their experiences in the bars, hotels and even in the homes of the rich that led to abuse and violence taking place. They were scared of losing their jobs and had to let go of their dignity. She

showed them how to empower themselves in order to escape such situations without the loss of their livelihood. She educated them on the various services and help lines offered by trained psychologists. Advocate Caroline Collasso interacted with them about the legal solutions and spoke to them on how they could seek help in such situations and empower themselves to handle them in the future.

Panjim Workshop On “Empowering Women: Enriching Families and Societies”

After reaching out through its program to the domestic and migrant workers in Mapusa, North Goa.....the ICWM (Goa Unit) decided that it was important to help empower women at all levels – whether rich or poor, rural or urban and so it took up the challenge of conducting a Workshop on “**Empowering Women: Enriching Families and Society**” in association with the Women’s Forum, YMCA (Goa Unit).

Olga Netto, Convenor of the Goa Unit of ICWM introduced the theme as well as spoke about ICWM and



how it is helping women all over India through its various initiatives. Raynah Braganza, Chairperson, Women’s Commission of Diocese of Pune took up the topic of “The Status of Women in India, with emphasis on Women in Goa” and with her flair got the women themselves to come up with various concrete and creative solutions.’ Sheryl Afonso e D’Souza, Chairperson, Women’s Forum, YMCA and a Professor at Carmel College, South Goa spoke on the “Glass Ceiling, Women’s Health and Health of the Family.” Advocate Caroline Collasso, Advocate and Activist for

Human Rights gave an “Overview of the Legal Rights of Women in India” which was a real eye opener for the audience which had men and women. Andrea D’Souza, ICWM team member concluded the workshop and the whole organising team came up with effective and concrete solutions on the “Way Forward.

The workshop was a great success as it generated a lot of interactive discussions and there were a lot of enquiries about ICWM and its work.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH

KERALA KLIPPINGS

Dr Kochurani Abraham

Kerala state, though it stands tall on the Gender Development Index (GDI) compared to other states in India with a high female literacy (96.9 %) and an elevated female life-expectancy (77.9 years), it also makes apparent a strange phenomenon of gender paradox. The high GDI coexists with a contradictory situation of low female labour force participation and highest rates of recorded crimes against women in the country. In this context, ICWM Kerala Unit has decided to focus on gender concerns addressing the issue of ‘Women and Mental Health’ and ‘Crimes of Passion.’



Since August 2019, two programmes on *Women and Mental Health* were held. The first programme was at

Amos Centre, Kottayam on 22 August, 2019. Dr. Kochurani, Sr. Jessina, Shanta George and Omana Mathew led the discussions. The participants included 50 women leaders from the different Catholic dioceses of Kerala.

On 18 Sept. 2019, a 2nd programme on 'Women and Mental Health' was conducted in collaboration with YWCA, Moovattupuzha. Sr. Noel cmc, Jiji Johnson and Kochurani led the discussions. Besides the members of YWCA, some members of Kudumbasree, a grassroots women's organization also participated.

Another aspect that has called the attention of ICWM for urgent intervention in Kerala since the beginning of 2019 is the increasing incidence of violence against women and girls that can be broadly termed 'Crimes of Passion'. ICWM Kerala has begun a campaign and awareness programme against these crimes of fatal violence against girls and women on account of refusing love/sex advances or proposals for marriage. August 27, 2019 the first campaign was held in association with Dept. of Social Work of St. Berchman's College, Changanassery. Sr. Jessina, Omana Mathew, Jiji Johnson and Shanthi Mathai led the sessions. 65 students and 5 faculty members of the College participated in the programme enthusiastically. This provided a sound platform to initiate the students to open and healthy discussions on issues related to love, gender and sexuality.



ICWM Kerala continues to be in deep solidarity with the nuns struggle for justice. Some members have maintained regular contact with the affected sisters and continue to accompany them closely.

In another instance of protesting sexual violence in Kerala, ICWM Kerala issued a press release on 4 November 2019, in solidarity with the people seeking justice in the case of rape and murder of two young girls

from Walayar, north Kerala.

At the meeting of core-team Kerala ICWM unit held on 2 November, some changes were made in the present core-team. Since the core team members of Kerala unit reside in three different districts of the state and physical meeting is very difficult, this meeting was done through tele-conferencing. Kochurani Abraham (coordinator), Shanthi Mathai (secretary) and the core-team members Sr. Jessina SRA, Ms. Shanta George and Ms. Jiji Johnson participated in this meeting. In place of Adv. Jaisy, Shanta George agreed to be the treasurer. It was also decided at this meeting that Sr. Jessina will assist Shanti Mathai with secretarial work of getting the reports and keeping the records.

BANGALORE BUZZ

Rev Dr Jayachitra Lalitha



Say NO to RAPE and SEXUAL VIOLENCE! EKKLESIAWOMEN observes 16 days of activism against rape in collaboration with Women's Concerns Desk (NCCI), Association of Theologically Trained Women (ATTWI) and Indian Christian Women's Movement (ICWM) Bengaluru.

NEWS FROM THE EAST

MIZORAM MUSINGS

Dr Thuamteii Aizwal

The Mizoram unit had a short meeting on Friday 13th December, discussing the Christmas Message in the context of CAB issues, where all the people in Northeast India are going to be affected. Our culture, Identity, language, etc. will be affected badly by the CAB. We are in turmoil, curfews are launched, internet connections are shut down. The first Regional Newsletter was distributed.



NEWS FROM THE NORTH

DELHI DIARY

Sushma Ramswami

The Delhi group protesting at Jantar Mantar, the lack of Safety measures for Women.



Mommy, did you know

*Adapted from Mark Lowry's song MARY DID YOU KNOW
 by Ré*

Mommy, did you know, that your baby
 girl was born to be a leader?
 Mommy did you know, she will fight
 each day, to have the same rights as
 her brother?
 Did you know, society will shame her,
 call her a slut, a whore
 And when sick men harass her, they'll judge
 the clothes she wore...



Mommy, did you know, that your baby girl would one day
 smash glass ceilings?
 Mommy, did you know, she'd have to bite her tongue, no
 matter how she's feeling?
 Did you know, that this girl has power, to lead, to love, to
 choose?
 The child that you delivered, will empower women like you?

[Bridge]

Women will speak, and men will hear, and we all will
 recognise
 That half the world, silenced so far, refuse to be patronised!
 Mommy, did you know, that your baby girl, is creator and
 creation?
 Mommy did you know, that feminine wisdom, will one day
 rule the nations?
 Did you know, that this baby girl, will trample misogyny
 That sleeping child you're holding, will SMASH THE
 PA-TRI-AR-CHY!



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