



# *The* **WAR CRY**

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**“WATCH AND PRAY SO THAT  
YOU WILL NOT FALL INTO  
TEMPTATION. THE SPIRIT IS  
WILLING, BUT THE FLESH IS WEAK.”**

**Matthew 26:41**



## Human Rights – Not to be Violated!



**T**he Russia-Ukraine war, which began on 24th February last year completes one year. The UN General Assembly called for ending the war in Ukraine and demanded Russia's immediate withdrawal from the country, in line with the UN Charter. He added his voice to international condemnation of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, telling the Human Rights Council that it had "triggered the most massive violations of human rights we are living through".

Because of this conflict, millions are displaced, millions of people lost their livelihood, and their dear ones, extreme poverty, and hunger are rising and nearly 40 percent of the population of Ukraine require aid and protection. Almost 10 million people, including 7.8 million children, are at risk of acute post-traumatic stress disorder. Russia is also suffering the deadly consequences.

War always causes grave global crisis and results in people's suffering. Most of the world leaders called for 'encourage every meaningful effort to end the bloodshed and to prevent further escalation, at long last, give peace a chance to silence the guns in Ukraine.' Life is a living hell for the people of Ukraine! The guns are talking now!

The month of March is blessed with the observances of International Day of Prayer and International Women's Day. In Bible we see a woman - Hagar - who painfully chosen the desert to escape from life experiences and then being seen by God in her hurts, bitterness and loneliness. Being powerless and afraid, she was fleeing to wilderness firstly. But God meets her in the desert and sends her back with a promise that I will bless you and be with you.

The second time God meets Hagar when she was forcefully sent to the wilderness by her master. Being exhausted, fiercely thirsty, and utterly hopeless, she started to weep. She thought she and her dear child were going to die, but gracious God willed her to live. He spoke to her audibly, He opened her eyes to witness the new streams near by.

God speaks tender words to Hagar. Even though she was part of a bad human plan, God promises her that it would be turned into a blessing. And asks her to trust Him for a much brighter future. Yet He blesses Sarah as the mother of the Promised one. Instead, God used Hagar and Ishmael and his future wife's descendants to form a great nation made up of 12 tribes. (Genesis 21 & 25)

Our God sees and cherishes us all. We are under God's infinitely wise purposes and glory forever. Deserts and brokenness will be there, but still, angels are there to talk and guide us, along with the new streams!

Blessings! 

Major Evama Shaijuraj, Editor



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**Commissioner Suresh Pawar**

International Secretary  
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# Lean not on your own understanding!

**W**e live in the age of the Holy Spirit as promised by our Saviour Jesus Christ. This means that for those who are born into the family of God, through the new birth as the result of forgiveness of our sins and sanctification by the blood of Jesus Christ, this new life opens for us the way into the Kingdom of God. We experience God's presence in our day-to-day life. This helps us to see beyond our physical life, our capacity, and our situations and circumstances, and understand the spiritual realm. We only need to trust God. King Solomon, the man of great wisdom in his time, puts it this way: 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil' (Proverb 3:5-7, NIV).

The King reveals the secret of the amazing victorious Christian life that one can live and witness. The secret is that we never, ever, lean on our own understanding. Ignoring God's omnipresent existence will bring us down and make our life miserable. New life without God's continual presence will draw us back to our former life without God. This makes our life even worse. Jesus cautions us when He said, "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and

they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first" (Luke 11:23-26, NIV).

We encounter people who go through long-term illness and difficulties, and we see unending fears and distress. In such things, it is easy to blame God and doubt His presence, power and faithfulness. Satan's main weapon against God's people is creating doubt by using convincing half-truths about God and our lives. That's why the Word of God tells us, 'Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour' (1 Peter 5:8, NIV).

'Leaning on our own understanding' means taking pride in our wealth, our knowledge and our strength. That means we limit the value of our soul and lose the true purpose of our lives. This proves dangerous to our soul. The Word of God asks, 'What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?' (Mark 8:36, NIV). Such a person not only damages their own soul, but also underestimates others. The prevalence of wickedness in the world is the consequence of people who follow their own evil ambitions. 'There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community' (Proverbs 6:16-19 NIV).

We cannot hide from the eyes of the Lord. He sees everyone, everywhere, for he fills the heavens and the earth (see Jeremiah 23:24). He is the everywhere, ever-present God.

The unchanging truth is that God loves us unconditionally and His faithfulness is unending. Here is what the Word of God says,

"Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the majesty, and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honour come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all" (1 Chronicles 29:11-12).

You may be someone who is exhausted depending on your own understanding: trying everything without seeking God's help, and needing to come to your senses by turning to God for His help. Your life is bigger than any treasures of this world. Your soul is meant to live forever. The cross of Jesus Christ is the only way to meaningful and everlasting life. There should be nothing hindering our way to that everlasting life: if we submit ourselves to Him, who is the way and the life, He will make our paths straight. He frees us from fear of hell and death, and gives us everlasting life. If we ask His Holy Spirit to take control of our lives, and submit to His authority and power, God takes control of our lives. He opens our eyes, and we learn to look at our lives through His eyes. We say 'no' to evil and acknowledge God's presence, honour him in everything we do and bring joy to our lives, and walk in God's light.

Take this good advice for your good self: acknowledge God's presence by asking the Holy Spirit to take control of your life, so that you no longer depend on your own worldly understanding and are misled and lost to sin and its dominion. Humble yourself before God and trust in Him with all your heart. Submit to His authority and obey His voice. He will make your life worthwhile and empower you to enjoy your life in the light of God.

May the grace of God be upon you. 🙏



# WOMEN STANDS SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH MEN

**T**his month of the year is important for us. We join together in celebrating the gift of women God has created for the world. On 8th March women and men all around the world join together to celebrate Women's Day. Also, the Christian Church around the world, Celebrate World Day of Prayer on 3rd March, initiated by the women. I take this opportunity to congratulate all women and girls for being women – being created in the image of God.

As women, we had journeyed through a difficult history. Nevertheless, the 21st century has brought some magnificent changes in lifting up women's position, enabling them in strength and power. Making them stand and walk shoulder to shoulder with men. Though there is still lot need to be achieved, as most of the women in our communities and in homes are not able to raise to that position which gives them their dignity and power. We must have growing desire and ambition with perseverance to achieve the highest dignity of women in our world by our united commitment to investing in the physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual development of women and girls by using of our time and resources.

As Christian believer and being God chosen leader in my own area of responsibility, I strongly believe that it is desire of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, for women to have their right place in his Church, here on earth. During His ministry on earth, as Mark mentions in his Gospels, there are two incidents where Jesus refers to women and

their actions, in mist of strong presence of men. One we read in Mark 12: 41 – 44. A poor widow offering all what she had earn for that day into the treasury of the temple, while the rich people presenting their offering attracting the sight of the crowd with expectation of applause on their big notable offerings. The women and her noble, yet a simple act faith and her contribution was totally ignored by the crowd. But Jesus appreciated this poor widow's offering and acknowledge her contribution that was ignored by others. Giving importance to valuable and meaningful contribution of the woman, Jesus openly made his statement, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others' (Mark 12: 43 NIV).

Other incident is mentioned in Mark 14: 1 – 9. This took place when Passover festival was just away from two days. Jesus was reclining at the table with his disciples and while other people were around him. The Passover celebration that particular time was significant for God the Father, and His Son and for whole world, as Jesus himself was going to be offered as the lamb of God to be killed for the sins of whole world. The woman comes with an expensive perfume alabaster jar. She breaks it and anoints the feet of Jesus. This also a significant gesture, which indicates the death of Jesus. None of the disciples, and those were around understood the importance of this women. Some of the men targeted her with criticism, but Jesus acknowledged her extraordinary act by stating, 'Truly I tell you wherever the gospel is preached through out the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her' (Vs 9 NIV).

We have all reasons to celebrate. Not only on this day but every time we see and acknowledge with thanks giving to God for the women's contribution in transforming ministry of the Salvation Army. We women must realise, how wonderfully God is using us in doing his will on earth as it is heaven. In every area, we are working Infront line of




**Commissioner Martha Pawar**  
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our ministry with shoulder to shoulder of our men. We may not be above over them or lower to them, but we are equally partners in the mission of the Salvation Army. This should be the reason for our celebration.

Nevertheless, we cannot be contained with what we have achieved, for we must do more, for there are women in the homes in our neighbourhood, communities and even in our church who are not treated with respect and integrity. There are girls, women who daily become victims of injustice, discrimination, and violence. We must do something to bring change at every level of our society.

Let us make every activity, meetings, gathering an event of change to achieve equity and dignity for the women. Our Home-League programme should be more proactive in addressing issues that affects integrity of women and girls. Our Junior Home League to be a platform where girls find freedom to share their concern, find strength and courage to fight discrimination and injustice. Our fight is not with men, neither we separate ourselves from them. We need each other. We stand alongside with them with confidence in ourselves, using God given gifts and potentials to become women of God. Take courage to lead. We must take every opportunity to make our men aware of God's gifts in us as women. We women should have freedom to participate in bringing change. Encourage each other as women to overcome on fear to stand with shoulder to shoulder with men.

Let me share with you a prayer from a fourteen-year Minnal Christina from India Central Territory. This prayer is from a collection of prayers - a booklet 'We believe Girls Can Change the World', published by International Women's Ministry, her prayer is: 'Help us to fix our lives and lifestyles, to lift our voices for lasting change.' May this prayer be answered as we women convert our faith in action. 





**Colonel Annamma Simon**  
Secretary for Women Development  
India National Office, Kolkata

# Know! Women are Strong

**I**nternational Women's Day is a secular observance celebrated globally on March 8th each year to honour the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, as well as to raise awareness about gender equality and women's rights.

From a Christian perspective, the Bible teaches that both men and women are created in the image of God and are equal in value and worth (Genesis 1:26-28, Galatians 3:28). Jesus treated women with respect and dignity, and many women played important roles in his ministry (Luke 8:1-3, John 4:7-42). The Apostle Paul also recognized the contributions of women in the early Christian community (Romans 16:1-2, Philipians 4:2-3).

In the Bible and Christian tradition, women are valued and considered precious in various ways. Here are a few examples:

**Creation:** In the book of Genesis, both men and women are created in God's image (Genesis 1:27). This means that women have inherent dignity and worth because they reflect the image of their Creator.

**Jesus' ministry:** Jesus frequently elevated and valued women in his ministry, treating them with compassion and respect. He spoke to women directly, which was uncommon at the time, and

offered them healing and forgiveness (Luke 8:43-48, John 4:1-42).

**Leadership:** Throughout the Bible, women are shown to be leaders and examples of faith. For example, Deborah was a judge in Israel (Judges 4-5) and Esther was a queen who saved her people (Esther).

**Marriage and family:** The Bible upholds the institution of marriage and the importance of family relationships. Women are valued as wives and mothers who play an important role in raising children and nurturing the family.

**Equality:** In Galatians 3:28, it says "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." This verse highlights the equality of all believers, regardless of gender or social status.

*International Women's Day is a secular observance that celebrates the achievements of women and raises awareness of gender inequality around the world. While it is not specifically a religious observance, it can be celebrated in a biblical and Christian context in several ways:*

**Recognizing and inspired by the women in the Bible:** Women played significant roles in the Bible, such as Mary, the mother of Jesus, Ruth, Esther, and Deborah. On Women's Day, Christians can celebrate the contributions of these women and reflect on how their lives can inspire us today.

**Addressing gender inequality:** In many parts of the world, women still face significant barriers to equality and suffer from gender-based violence and discrimination. Christians can use Women's Day as an opportunity to raise awareness of these issues and advocate for justice and equality for all.

**Empowering women:** Jesus often elevated and empowered women in his ministry, such as the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4) and the woman caught in adultery (John 8). Christians can follow Jesus' example by empowering women in their communities and supporting organizations that help women overcome poverty, oppression, and other challenges.

**Celebrating women in the church:** Women have played a vital role in the history of the church and continue to do so today as leaders, pastors, missionaries, and volunteers. Christians can use Women's Day as an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of women in their local churches and thank them for their service.

In Christianity and the Bible, women are often portrayed as strong and powerful figures who played significant roles in shaping the faith and its history. Throughout the Bible, women are often depicted as strong and resilient, showing courage and faith even in difficult circumstances. They play important roles in God's plan for salvation and are valued members of the faith community. As we celebrate this Women's day, know that our women are strong. They are in the plan of God. Let us join together in saluting these wonderful forces for all their love, care and continued concern. I and my team at national office extend our grateful thanks, and wishes to all the women on this special day. 🙏

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**Colonel Indumati Christian**  
Territorial President for Women's Ministry  
India South-Western Territory



# Proud to be a Woman of this Century

## Introduction

The proud Indians of the 21st century rejoice when a boy is born in the family, and if it is a girl, a muted. The social structure and practices in the communities, in which men dominate, oppress, and exploit women. Women are supposed to be in the custody of their father when they are children, they must be under the custody of their husband when married and under the custody of their son in old age or as widows. In no circumstances women should be allowed to assert their independence. Though every year government starts various schemes and programs apart from existing ones for the benefit and empowerment of women on the ground, there are not enough visible changes.

## EDUCATIONAL STATUS

Educating a girl child was seen as a bad investment because she is bound to get married and leave her paternal home one day. Dowry was another great problem for educated girls during the marriage. The women are deployed for manual work mostly in Agricultural fields. The Parents did not allow their girl children to go for higher education.

## ECONOMIC STATUS

Most of the women were involved in agricultural labor and other manual work.

Their wages are comparatively low because there is a general feeling that the efficiency of women's labor is low compared to men's.

## SOCIAL STATUS

Families were not having safe shelters. Women were not in family decision-making. The women were not having the right to inherit the family assets. Women had no savings or bank accounts in their name. For every need, they must depend upon their husbands.

## HEALTH AND HYGIENE

Women were not having knowledge and awareness about the diseases and the importance of taking preventive measures and early treatment. They were not taking care of their own health as they were taking care of their children.

## JESUS AND WOMEN

Every gospel speaks about Jesus and woman in many circumstances. Jesus demanded women's development. It was the age when women were not considered a human with values. But, Jesus, denounced and forcefully demanded the development of women in the Bible age. The woman at Jacob's well, after her encounter with Jesus daringly took the message of Jesus to the villagers. The Canaanite women after touching the fringe of Jesus' cloak daringly came forward to make her shown in the public.

Jesus' heart was always moved with passion and care after women in every gospel incident.

## Modern women


Modern women claim to be worthy and equal to men. They are more in knowledge and values in many fields such as socio, economic, cultural, educational, technological, religious, astrological, health, and so on.

The present age women's share of knowledge to the world is more innovative. They are more digitalized, and so are dignified and equal to men in their social status. They are more to preserve God's beauty of the world on this earth.

It is proud to say that every woman of this century is a gift of God. She is a gift to her family, society, and the world at large. She is to be respected and rewarded as she makes the world differently through her sacrificial contributions of time, skill, and knowledge.

## Conclusion

Women are called and committed to the purpose of God. They are the proud creations of God of this century.

I wish every woman on this women's day every success by challenging the difficulties comes across in life. 





**Lt. Colonel Ruth J. Mahida**  
TSWM, India Northern Territory

# WOMAN AND HER RIGHTS



Every year 8th March is celebrated as International Women's Day. The purpose of International Women's Day is to draw attention to the social, political, economic and cultural issues women face, and to advocate for the advancement of women in all those fields. International Women's Day shows us, "Through purposeful collaboration, women can help advance and unlock the limitless potential that economies around the world have to offer." The day is also often used to recognize women who have made significant contributions to society in their development as women. It is a day of honor and celebration for women that says "women's rights are human rights" and shouts the message of equality between men and women. The achievements of women who overcame difficult situations have become a focal point in the women's rights movement, drawing attention to issues such as gender equality, women's mental and physical rights, violence and abuse against women. When women are being exploited in a male dominated society, it is very important to maintain the respect of women. The importance and value of women plays a major role in the development of every society. Let's look at what the Bible says about women.

## The value of women in the Bible:

God has created woman since the beginning of creation. A woman has great value in God's eyes. Because God felt that it was not good for man to be alone, he created helpers. Who was a woman? Its Value cannot be estimated. There are many women in the Bible who have played a vital role that cannot be underestimated.

- In Exodus 1:16-17 God used two women to save Moses and those women showed great courage to save him from the hands of King Aaron. It was Moses who freed Israel from slavery in Egypt.

- Judges 4:4 After Ehud died, the children of Israel again did what was evil in the eyes of Jehovah. At that time a woman named Deborah was judging Israel. And there Jehovah defeated Sierra's army by using a woman Deborah to save the Israelites (Judges 4:14-16).

- Esther who was the queen of King Ahasuerus. She was a Jew but God used her to protect Her people and protect His people from foreign kings.

God has a purpose for every woman, including us as Christian women today. General William Booth of our Liberation Army gave Catherine Booth the right to be a woman leader, the right to make a promise on his pulpit and Catherine Booth understood God's purpose and proved it with her talent. Today's women are advancing in the social field, business field, political field, sports field, and religious field. In many places, women are even ahead of men. Women have also contributed a lot in science and technology. Even when women have reached the moon, men and women are the same. Women have their own unique sense and understanding by using which a woman can live with dignity and honor in the society.

In the modern times women are given all kinds of relaxation but in ancient times there was no such relaxation. Women had all kinds of bonds but as time and ideas changed, women's rights came out. As a result, women have got a place and respect in society, state, and religions. Remember some rights are God given to women and some are earned rights.

## Women's Rights:

- **The right to give birth to a child:** According to (Genesis 3:16) the womb of a woman gave the right to give birth to a child. The Government of India has recognized this right and given the age

limit for childbearing after the completion of 18 years. This is a decision taken keeping in mind for her good health.

- **The right to marry:** The marriage relationship is respected in the Bible. There is no biblical age limit for marriage, but after the completion of 18 years of government, a person can marry himself or marry according to the wishes of parents or society.

- **Right to education:** Our government motto is "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao". Benefits like educational assistance scheme, scholarship scheme, fees waiver for female education are provided for Betty. According to Indian law, women have the right to receive education.

- **Protection against domestic violence:** Indian laws provide protection against sexual testing, physical and mental violence against women, domestic violence and provide punishment for the perpetrators.

- **Women's right to leadership:** Nowadays, women can come forward and lead to benefit the society, the state, the country and the society. At present, women in the political field are providing their talents by standing in the elections.

Let us understand the rights and privileges we have as women in today's changing world. Know that we are very precious. One should think about what is God's intention for one's life. God has created us according to His image and image, so let us live a life useful to society and spread the light of Christ in this dark world in such a way that only God gets honor and glory with our bodies, with our services, with our behavior and actions. 🛡️



# Lent -

## AN OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

Lent is a season of fasting, repentance, and spiritual renewal that is observed by many followers of Christ, and Christians as a way to deepen their relationship with Jesus. It is a time to focus on our relationship with God and to make any necessary changes in order to grow closer to Him. Strengthening one's relationship with Jesus during Lent is a valuable opportunity to renew one's faith and to experience the grace and power of God in a deeper way.

One of the keyways to strengthen one's relationship with Jesus during Lent is through fasting. Fasting is an act of sacrifice that helps us to break our dependence on worldly things and free us from the things that keep us from God. In the Bible, fasting is mentioned several times as a way to draw near to God and to seek His guidance and wisdom. In Matthew 6:16-18, Jesus says, *"When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."*

Fasting can help us to cultivate a heart of humility and to seek God's will in our lives. When we fast, we can focus our attention on God and experience His grace and power in a deeper way. Fasting can also help us to develop a more intimate relationship with Jesus and to deepen our faith.

Another important aspect of Lent is repentance. Repentance is an opportunity to confess and turn away from our sin and to restore our relationship with God. Through repentance, we can receive forgiveness for our sins and experience the peace and joy that come from being in right relationship with God. In Luke 13:3, Jesus says, *"I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will*

*all perish."* This passage highlights the importance of repentance and the need for us to turn away from our sin and turn towards God.

In order to strengthen our relationship with Jesus during Lent, it is important to be mindful of our thoughts and actions. Our thoughts play a critical role in shaping our lives and during Lent, we should strive to fill our minds with things that are pleasing to God. Philippians 4:8 says, *"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."* This passage reminds us to focus our thoughts on things that are pleasing to God and to avoid things that are harmful to our spiritual lives.

Our actions should also reflect our love and devotion to God. During Lent, we should strive to live lives that honor God in all we do. In James 2:17, it says, *"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."* This passage highlights the importance of living out our faith through our actions and the need for us to put our faith into action.

Another way to strengthen our relationship with Jesus during Lent is by cultivating a heart of gratitude. Expressing gratitude to God for His blessings and thanking Him for His love and grace is an important aspect of our spiritual lives. In Colossians 3:15-17, it says, *"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you are called to peace."* And always be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all. Strengthening one's relationship with Jesus means to deepen one's faith and commitment to Him. It involves actively seeking to know Jesus better and to follow His teachings and example in our daily lives. This can involve prayer, Bible study, worship, serving others, and living a life that is pleasing to God.



**Captain Aseervadam Cheeli**

Executive Secretary to National Leadership  
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A relationship with Jesus is based on faith and trust in Him as the Son of God and the Savior of the world. Strengthening this relationship requires an ongoing effort to grow in our knowledge and understanding of who Jesus is, what He taught, and how He lived. In addition to deepening our knowledge and understanding of Jesus, strengthening our relationship with Him also involves following His teachings and example in our daily lives. This means living a life that is guided by God's love and grace, and seeking to reflect that love and grace in our relationships with others. It also means striving to live in a way that is pleasing to God, and seeking to serve others in need.

Ultimately, strengthening our relationship with Jesus is not only in this season of Lent, but a lifelong process of growth and transformation. As we grow closer to Jesus and become more like Him, we experience greater peace, joy, and fulfillment in our lives, and we become better equipped to share His love and grace with those around us. May this time of lent be an opportunity in growing in our spiritual life, increasing our fervent faith in Jesus and practicing a God pleasing life with transformed hearts. 🙏



# STAND UP FOR WOMEN



**Captain Ruby Lucas Masih**

Chaplain, Mac Robert Hospital, Dhariwal  
India Northern Territory

**G**reetings to all in the name of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I am very happy to write something on this very special event of International Women's day 2023. International women's day has been celebrated every year on the 8th of March worldwide for protecting the rights of women. It began 8th March 1908, when female textile workers marched in protest of unfair working conditions and unequal rights for women. It was the first organized strike by working women.

According to the Bible, women have equal rights in this world. God created Adam, and Eve in his own image. Through Eve and all women who were to come after her, God shows us that His Purpose

cannot be fulfilled without equal participation of both men and women that's why Holy Bible gives more importance to women. We can see in The Bible some prominent women like Ruth, Mary the mother of Jesus, Hannah, Elizabeth, and Sarah, and many more, God fulfilled His purpose through these women.

Ruth gave more importance to social revelations and her own comfort (Ruth 1:8-22) but her co-sister left after. God blessed Ruth and later Jesus Christ born to her generation.

Mary the mother of Jesus Christ her excellence was the holiest woman and became the mother of the creator of the Universe (Luke 1:30-32)


Hannah prayed to God with a broken heart and God valued her tears with heavenly blessings. God blessed her womb and gave her a child named Samuel who later own who became a great minister of God (1 Samuel 1:10-11)

Elizabeth was a very innocent woman, her husband was a minister to God and was very faithful in His fear. God appeared to her husband and proclaimed the blessing of Elizabeth when she had lost every situation to have a child. She believed in the words of her husband spoken by God to him and became mother of John the Baptist (Luke 1:11-14)

Sarah a faithful wife to Abraham was a lady of

sincerity. She never had any negative role in the family and she got the blessing of a child when she was too old because of her sincerity to her husband and to God she became a mother of Nations (Genesis 17:19)

God used the women in His ministry as He used men, there is no any differentiation in God's sight for either sex. But it is very sad that the modern age does have so much discrimination and today's woman is struggling for their social rights.

For many ages, women are fighting for their rights and still they are struggling. In our male-dominated society, women always had been ignored, maybe this is the reason this event started. Now a day's women are equally capable to men in every field. Today we need to plan some plans in favour of women for their prosperity. India does have very high social values since the beginning, if we keep all these values then there is no need to celebrate the such type of women's day. But this is very sad that on one side woman is being worshiped as a goddess and other side female feticide is also in practice. Celebrating women's day is not enough until we are not giving them the opportunity for equal participation. We need to change our thinking toward women. At this event let us examine ourselves and what we have done for women this year. Let us have an oath today together to honour women from now onwards and cooperate with them in every manner. 



# Significance of Women's Day



**Neetu A. Mattu**

Staff Nurse, Mac Robert Hospital  
India Northern Territory

**I**nternational Women's Day: The goal behind celebrating International Women's Day is to give equal rights to women in society and promote their participation in society. This day is celebrated in different ways in every country. On this day, women's economic, political, and social achievements are remembered. Most people give flowers and gifts to women on this day. In many countries, there is a holiday on this day; women are given leave in schools, colleges, and offices on this day. But very few are those who know about the history related to International Women's Day, how International Women's Day started, why it is celebrated only on March 8, etc. So, let's know all these things related to International Women's Day.

International Women's Day started with a protest movement. In the year 1908, on February 28, about 15,000 women took out a march in New York City, USA, to protest for fewer hours in the job, equal pay with men, and the right to vote. Exactly a year later in 1908, the Socialist Party of America declared this day of February 28 as the first **N a t i o n a l** Women's Day. After this, it started being celebrated on the last Sunday of February. How did International Women's Day start to be celebrated?

Clara Zetkin was the first to think about celebrating Women's Day internationally. Clara Zetkin first suggested celebrating International Women's Day in 1910 at an International Conference of Working Women in Copenhagen. At that time, 100 women from 17 countries around the world were involved in the press conference. Everyone supported this suggestion and in 1910, Women's Day was given international status at the Copenhagen Conference of the Socialist

International.

At that time its main objective was to give women the right to vote because at that time women did not have the right to vote in most countries. International Women's Day was first celebrated in 1911 in Switzerland, Austria, Denmark, and Germany, in 1917, the Soviet Union declared this day a national holiday. And it spread to other surrounding countries as well. It is now celebrated in many eastern countries as well. Why is International Women's Day celebrated only on March 8? Now the question arises: why and how was the day of March 8 chosen for International Women's Day from the last Sunday of February? In fact, Clara Zetkin, who brought the concept of International Women's Day, did not set any date to celebrate Women's Day. During the war in 1917, the women of Russia decided to go on strike for 'bread and peace',


This strike was also historic because the women's strike had forced Emperor Nicholas to leave his post there. After that, the interim government gave women the right to vote. At that time the Julian calendar followed in Russia and the Gregorian calendar followed in the rest of the world. The date on which the women started this strike was 23rd February. This

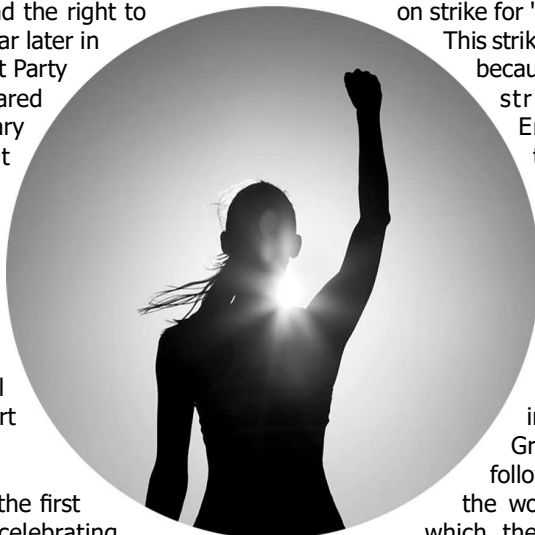
day was March 8 in the Gregorian calendar (according to the Julian calendar of Russia). At that time, the Gregorian calendar runs all over the world.

Therefore, since then, International Women's Day started being celebrated on 8th March. This day is not just a day of celebration but also gives guidance to women in their own interest for the times

to come, International Women's Day is a very important day dedicated to every woman of the world. The progress of the country seems incomplete without the contribution of women. The whole world is created by a woman only. There is no doubt that no matter how far the world has progressed today, women have been considered best only for taking care of the house and family responsibilities. Even today, many such people around us consider it their religion to keep women imprisoned in the four walls of the house. However, such people should never ignore the fact that showing respect and love towards women is also one of the biggest achievements of life. Women in our country have always shown their indomitable power and potential through their courage and sacrifice, however, today women are being neglected in our country; they have to fight for their own rights.

On the other hand, the status of women has always been changing in India, but women have proved themselves in every situation and have played an important role in the development of family, society, and nation.

That's why respect and development of women- are necessary. That is, we all should work for the upliftment of women, and everyone must change their thinking towards women, only then we will be able to progress in a true sense and our country will be included as a powerful and developed country. 



## New Appointments

**Heartiest Congratulations to Colonels  
John William Polimetla & Ratna Sundari  
Polimetla on your new appointment as  
Territorial Commander and Territorial  
President of Women's Ministries in India  
South-Western Territory with effective  
from 1st May 2023**

– India National Office



Colonels John William Polimetla and Ratna Sundari Polimetla

## Doing the most good

### Testimony



**Adv. V. Ramesh Babu**, BA, BL,  
Non-Executive Director  
The Salvation Army India

I greet you all in the name of Lord Jesus Christ and thank our almighty God and leaders of Salvation Army for this opportunity. My name is V. Ramesh Babu, an advocate practicing at madras high court in Tamil Nadu, India. I belong to India Central Territory, Chennai division, Villivakkam Corps.

This is the living testimony of Salvation Army's dedicational service towards the social reforms among the criminal tribes in India. In early 19th century our forefathers were identified as criminal tribes in India. They followed Hindu customs and they produce illicit liquor and rob others due to their illiteracy and unemployment.

In the beginning of 1920 The Salvation Army adopted many criminal tribal areas in India. They adopted our forefather's area - Villivakkam in Chennai province. In early days total 500 families (100%) involved in illegal activities so that they had no social status in society. But Salvation Army officers very patiently preached about real God, spiritual standards, and educated them. They also gave cattles for unemployed, homes for homeless, lands for agriculture to bring social reform in our area.

God made real changes in the lives of our fathers through salvation army. Slowly and steadily families came forward to know real God. Year by year many families accepted Christ and left their illegal activities and concentrated on education and spiritual growth. In this 2023, the salvation army changed lives of all 500 families. Now our children became doctors, engineers, advocates and IT Professionals and degree holders in many fields.

The Salvation Army India Central Territory recognized and appointed me as Non-Executive Director of The Salvation Army India from 2019. Now Villivakkam Corps constructing a new Prayer Hall-cum-Community Center. We finished 50% of the construction work by our own corps funds and we are looking for contributions from our well wishers and friends.

Let me conclude that if Salvation Army was not there, we couldn't know the real God. We are one of the living witness now for The Salvation Army's noble service in India Central Territory, Chennai Division. May God bless our Salvation Army with all his grace and wisdom.



## Notice!

Dear Subscribers,

Your kind attention is invited to the subject that due to the price hike in the printing cost of "The War Cry" magazine, it was discussed in the last Conference of Indian Leaders (COIL) 2022 and decided to increase the price up to INR 15.00 per copy. So now the price of each copy is INR 15.00 and it will be applicable from April 2023. We request all readers to kindly continue your support and co-operation.



# ALL INDIA EDUCATION WORKSHOP



**I**t has been a wonderful time for the education department teams from six Indian territories to gather in a time of reflection, review and generate strategic priorities for the education development, during the recent All Indian Education Workshop, held from 13th to 15th February 2023, at Hotel Marriott, Kochi. Commissioner Suresh Pawar, International Secretary was the chief guest and his presence during the entire workshop motivated the delegates and supported for a positive outcome. It was the generous support from SAWSO to hold this important education workshop, which was a follow-up of the workshop held in 2019.

28 delegates from six Indian territories were present in this workshop. Commissioner Suresh Pawar inaugurated the workshop, which was led by Colonels S. P. Simon and Annamma Simon, the National Office leaders, where the International Secretary inspired the delegates to put efforts to offer quality services. The overseas facilitators Mr Howard Dalziel - Director, International Schools, Dr. Patience Fielding, Sr. Technical Advisor for Education, SAWSO, and Ms. Anisa Gasper, Programme Manager - Education, Netherlands territory, and Captain Aseervadam Cheeli. Executive Secretary to National leadership took over the sessions that motivated the participants in a systematic manner to formulate a strategy that boosts the education ministry in each territory.

The Strategic document outlined by Dr. Patience Fielding, was the key to engage the delegates in the workshop to carefully assess and design the programmes that suit the contemporary needs. Mr Howard Dalziel, explained about the international schools vision and stimulated to fit our education programmes as per the criteria so as to make our education programmes wholistic.

Captains Aseervadam Cheeli, Latha and Dr. Patience Fielding delineated the National Education Policy of India, and driven the delegates to look into our current programmes and to re-design our education programmes which would take the policy as an advantage to reach out more communities in an efficient manner.

Ms. Anisa Gasper, during three days brought out excellent timely report and encouraged the participants how best they could engage in the discussions. Colonels S. P. Simon and Annamma Simon, the National Office leaders led the devotions to activate them in a spiritual thought to focus on the Christ centred ministry.

Over all, this has been a fruitful workshop with a productive outcome. Every territory developed and formulated the education strategic plans and would promote the education services accordingly in the days to come. We thank our international secretary who concluded the workshop with a deep biblical thought based on "Feed, Care and Feed". The delegates renewed themselves once again to put their level best emphasis on education. Being the national education secretary, Captain Latha led the workshop in a blessed manner. May the prayers of the readers provide inspiration to our territories to prioritise education and to focus on the educational needs.

**Captain Latha Cheeli**  
Secretary for Education,  
Youth & Children  
India National Office, Kolkata



## THE WAR CRY

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## Our Mission

"The Salvation Army is an international movement, a part of the Christian Church whose spiritual motivation has practical application in an evangelical, social, educational and health ministry.

It's goal is to help all people find fullness of life in a relationship with the living Christ discovered through the scriptures and demonstrated by holy living in peace and harmony with others."

# VISIT OF GENERAL BRIAN PEDDLE AND COMMISSIONER ROSALIE PEDDLE – INDIA CENTRAL TERRITORY

India Central Territory experienced abundance of blessing through the highly anticipated visit of the International Leaders, The General Brian Peddle and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle, WPWM from 25th to 29th January 2023. During those days the whole territory witnessed marvellous invigorating fellowship and spiritual blessings!



## Senior Reserved and Reserved Officers' Meeting

On the bright and sunny day of 25th January 2023, the Senior Reserved and Reserved Officers of India Central Territory had the wonderful opportunity of fellowship with our International Leaders at Hotel D V Manor, Vijayawada. The Territorial Commander, Colonel Yaqoob Masih, led the meeting, introducing and warmly welcoming the International Leaders. Captain Charles Chalrimawia, Private Secretary to the General, was also well received by the ICT leadership. In response, Commissioner Rosalie Peddle encouraged the officers to serve our God faithfully and challenged officers with the question from Romans 8:38-39, "Who can separate us from the love of God?"

In his introduction, the General reminded the officers about the significance of the South Asia Zone in the international army, and the importance of the 6 Indian territories. Then he urged the officers to have faith like Abraham and Sarah, based on Hebrews 11: "Be obedient to God, have faith in God, be ready to surrender yourself to God." As a response to this challenging message, almost all the officers knelt and

rededicated their lives at the mercy seat.

## Public Meeting

It was stunning and joyful to receive the international leaders in a specially arranged chariot escorted by many vehicles, officers, soldiers and a special band of musicians at Bapatla Division, where there was an enormous crowd waiting for the Public Meeting on 26th January. The Territorial Commander introduced and welcomed the International Leaders with bundles of love. Commissioner Rosalie Peddle shared the word from Psalms 96, emphasizing the need to: "Stand strong in the word of God; proclaim his salvation day by day; declare his glory among the nations." According to Scripture, in Colossians 3:1-15, the General reminded the congregation that through Jesus we all became brothers and sisters, and that God raised up the Salvation Army to bear fruit.



## Youth Congress

On 27th January the General and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle were warmly welcomed to the M. M. Convention Hall, Tenali, which was fully packed with the enthusiastic youth of

India Central Territory. Lt. Col. M. Stalin, Chief Secretary, led the meeting and Tenali Division youth presented a welcome dance. Following the honouring of the leaders by the youth, officers, and politicians, the youth from Tenali Division performed a traditional dance. Captain Charles Chalrimawia motivated the youth by sharing his personal testimony of how he came to know Jesus, how he dedicated his life to full-time ministry, and how God's faithfulness is evident today in serving Him.

Mr. Marshall Prem, accountant at THQ also inspired the congregation by the testimony of his miraculous personal experience.

The Bible message given jointly by the General and Commissioner was extraordinary event for the congregation. They raised the question, "Do you face the world with fear or faith?" They explained the

story of the extraordinary young men from the book of Daniel: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who had Confidence, Commitment, and Courage. Afterwards, hundreds of youths dedicated their lives to Jesus with tears and prayer. More than 2,200 young people throughout the territory came and participated in this Youth Congress.

## Officers' Council

It was amazing to watch the magnificent group of active and retired officers gather for an afternoon session on 27th January at the M. M. Convention Hall at Tenali. Nearly more than 600 officers (Active and Retired) came to Tenali and attended this Council for Officers. In the International Snapshot PowerPoint presentation, the General shared a personal testimony and gave a detailed

*Continued to page 14*



explanation of the 5 zones of the international army and its work in answer to the questions, "Where is the Army now?" and "How is the Salvation Army doing?" The Commissioner expressed their heartfelt thanks to all for the wonderful fellowship and urged the officers to serve the Lord faithfully. The General reminded the officers to hear the voice of God in the gentle breeze and called them to ensure that they are always standing with the Lord.

### Women's Congress

The international leaders were received onstage with songs and stick dance by a great multitude of women at Central Corps, Eluru Division, on 28th January 2023. The Territorial Commander introduced and welcomed the General and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle, WPWM, and stated that women are the strong pillars in the church and the community. The General greeted and blessed all the women gathered in the congress, and then he departed the stage with all the men officers to attend the 'Meet and Greet' programme with The General. The rest of the meeting was led by Colonel Sumitra Masih, TPWM. The women of Eluru Division presented the welcome song with a beautiful performance of classical dance. A lovely special song was presented by THQ

women officers, and a cultural item from Hyderabad Division was very interesting. A very powerful Bible message was shared by the WPWM. God is calling us to stand up and be counted.

### Meet and Greet with The General

While all the women folks were engaged with the Women Congress, a special program was arranged for the Men Executive officers on 28th January 2023, "Meet and Greet with The General" at the Hotel 'N', in Eluru. Here all the officers were provided opportunity to ask the General few questions regarding the Book "Called to be A Soldier, Day by Day Call to Mission". This was a unique opportunity for the officers to learn and equip well about this spiritual book.

On the same day at Hotel 'N' Major Evama Shaijuraj, Editor, National War Cry, had an opportunity to have an interview with our beloved General.

### Holiness Meeting

Our international leaders' visit to India Central Territory ended with the Holiness meeting conducted at Vepery Corps on 29th January 2023 at 10:00 am. The meeting was led by Colonel Yaqoob Masih, Territorial

Commander. After his introduction and welcome, Vepery Corps presented the welcome song. Then Commissioner Rosalie Peddle, WPWM shared the response and a personal testimony. She said that the joy of the Lord is seen around the world, and we see such a moving of the Holy Spirit. She expressed joy and gratitude for the days they spent in ICT, because God has been moving and speaking.

Mr. Rado Paul, Corps Helper from Bangalore District also shared his testimony. The General gave a powerful message on the challenging life of Joshua, with the main points: I was redeemed for a reason – I am converted – I am mobilized – I am sending you now Go. This statement of the General was thought provoking and stirred up the congregation like a whirl wind. A great number of people submitted their lives to the Lord Jesus, kneeling at the mercy seat, and many standing and raising their hands.

God answered all our fervent prayers and granted successful visit of the World Leaders to our India Central Territory. All Glory and Honour is to the LORD. 🏹

**Major Evama Shaijuraj**  
Editor, India National Office

## TERRITORIAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TRAINING FOR OFFICERS' AND EMPLOYEES - ISET



**T**erritorial Information Technology Training Conducted by Territorial Leadership with the support of the Business Department at Palayamkottai Central Corps, Tirunelveli on 31st January 2023.

Mr. Buddhika Adikari, South Asia Zonal IT support and Mr.

Christopher, Territorial IT Coordinator were the resource persons and taught Microsoft Office 365 web application like Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, users if Office 365 and Tips, Teams and Microsoft Share Point.

Senior Leaders (DC/DO/Training Principal) /Middle Management Leaders (DS/DYS), CHDP Director,

THQ all Officers and all employees were attend this training. It was very much useful and had a wonderful time for all the delegates to develop their IT knowledge. 🏹

**Mr. I. Christopher**  
Territorial IT-Coordinator  
India South Eastern Territory

### Pictorial



Least coin fellowship observance in India National Office, Kolkata



# GENERAL'S VISIT TO INDIA EASTERN TERRITORY



**G**eneral Brian Peddle and his wife, Commissioner Rosalie Peddle, World President of Women's Ministries arrived in Aizawl on 30th January, 2023 for a week-long visit to the India Eastern Territory.

During the visit, General Brian Peddle held a press conference for the local media which was widely publicised by both print and electronic media of the State. General Peddle and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle also gave an interview to the IET's media unit, Salvation Army Communication Network (SACNET) which has a YouTube channel.

The Officers' Council held on 1st February, 2023, was well-attended by



Officers and Cadets of India Eastern Territory coming from its seven Divisions and one District. It was a mutual spiritual upliftment for the International Leaders and the IET's Officers and Cadets.

During their visit, the General and World President of Women's Ministries opened and dedicated prayer halls of three Corps - Vaivakawn, Hunthar and Phunchawng.

The members of these Corps considered it a great blessing that their prayer halls were opened and dedicated to God by the Salvation Army's Spiritual Leaders.

Congress for Women, Corps Cadets and Young People and a Joint Congress of male Local Officers and Men's Fellowship were held during the visit. At the Joint L.O. and MF Congress,


General Brian Peddle was given a customary welcome reserved only for chiefs and great warriors in olden times when he was carried on a bamboo chair and lifted and taken for some distance by several members of the Congress' venue Bethlehem Corps' Men's Fellowship.

At the Women's Congress, held at the same time as the Joint L.O. and MF Congress but at a different venue, WPWM Commissioner Rosalie Peddle was also entertained with several traditional and ethnic dances that are found within the Territory's Divisions and District.

During the Congress for Corps Cadets and Young People, members of the Young People's Corps displayed their talents in various ways such as skits, music and timbrel displays. The General and World President of Women's Ministries awarded 438 Corps Cadet Merit Badges to the Territory's Corps Cadets who had completed their six-year Corps Cadetship. The Youth Meeting, held on the night of 3rd February, 2023, was a sight to behold as the Holy Spirit touched and dwelled amongst those attending the meeting. The

General's Bible message inspired many of the youth to come to the altar to re-dedicate themselves to God.

The Holiness Meeting on Sunday, 5th February, 2023 saw nearly 4000 people attending it. The Salvation Meeting at night saw a little less attendance. However, the call for re-dedication by the General was answered by hundreds of people at both meetings and the presence of the Holy Spirit could not be denied.

The International Leaders repeatedly said how blessed they were through their visit to the Territory. Officers and soldiers of the Territory also expressed again and again how re-invigorated and blessed they were by the Holy Spirit through the Leaders' visit. 

**Major Reuben Lalnunthara**  
Editor, India Eastern Territory







← Photos of General's visit to ICT  
Photos of General's visit to IET  
↓

