

WORLD FEDERATION OF METHODIST & UNITING CHURCH WOMEN

Study Day Programme - 2021

SOUTH ASIA AREA



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



The World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women supports the Sustainable Development Goals

AFFILIATED UNITS



Church of South India (CSI)
Church of North India (CNI)
Methodist Church in India



Methodist Church of Myanmar
(Lower Myanmar)



Women's Synodical Church
of Pakistan



Methodist Church
of Sri Lanka

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean water and Sanitation.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action, to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. There are 17 SDGs, which are integrated—that is, they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic, and environmental sustainability. These Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations express a global desire and commitment of making the world a better place for everyone, through the construction of sustainable societies.

The 6th Goal focuses on “**Clean water and Sanitation**” for all. Water scarcity affects more than 40 percent of people all over the world, an alarming figure that is projected to rise with the rising world temperature due to Global warming. More and more countries are experiencing water stress, and increasing drought and desertification is worsening these trends. By 2050, it is projected that at least one in four people will suffer recurring water shortages. In the field of Sanitation, world survey indicated that in 2015, 4.5 billion people lacked safe sanitation services (with adequately disposed or treated excreta) and 2.3 billion lacked even basic sanitation.

The Sustainable Development Goals provide concrete markers for progress toward transformation of the world by striving for justice, peace and availability of essential resources to all, irrespective of their economic, social and cultural differences. Faith calls the people of God to be part of this transformation. The SDGs reflect what the church has been doing since its inception in guiding its members toward a just world that reflects the intentions of God, our Creator and Redeemer.

Just like it is written – *“In the full reign of God they will thirst no more.” (Rev. 7:16)*, in our world today, we as a community of believers must ensure that everyone has access to clean water.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reflect the interrelatedness of creation and the interdependence of human needs. Scripture reminds us that the church universally is called to work for justice, and to ensure that the needs of our neighbours are met, and to advocate for the rights of all.

Cultures around the world view water with a sacred respect. It is known for its life giving and cleansing abilities. Jesus promises to *“give freely from the springs of the water of life” (Revelation 21:6)* to all who are thirsty. In his gospel, John clarifies that the living water Jesus offers, refers to the Spirit of God (John 7:39), but the association with physical water should not be dismissed. Without clean water there can be no life (Exodus 17:3). Access to clean water is a right given by God for all humans (Matthew 5:45), it should not be denied, and it should not be commoditized and sold unjustly.

Similarly, the provision of hygienic disposal of waste is every human right. *“Cleanliness is next to godliness”* is a well-known saying by John Wesley. This idea can be associated with the purification rites of many religions. We should not take modern sanitation conveniences for granted but work to make cleanliness possible for all. Although, as we do, we should be careful not to create such a sanitised lifestyle that we miss the importance of burning waste metaphors related to the mortal dangers of behaving contrary to God’s standards of right living (Luke 12:5).

The gifts of creation cannot be reduced to tools for humans and their desire to conquer and consume. According to the narrative of creation, Humankind is unique within creation, as only men and women are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). This implies that we are God’s co-workers in promoting what is right, good and true. It is a vocation that includes all human beings, not only Christians. This perspective adds an important insight to our reflection on the SDGs and the way to implement them.

Thus, the SDGs provide a unique opportunity for us as a church to join in, as part of our Christian social responsibility, in achieving a sustainable society where access to clean water and sanitation is free and readily available. For this, protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems is essential. Safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030 requires us as a Nation and as a Church to invest in adequate infrastructure, provide sanitation facilities, and encourage hygiene. We are required to devote our time, resources and try to implement the goal of providing Clean water and Sanitation to all humanity.

As fellow pilgrims we need to respond to this calling of compassion and care, to promote justice and peace, to protect creation and defend human dignity by ensuring that all humankind has access to basic requirements for a sustainable living.

Bibliography United Nations web site: [United Nations Sustainable Development – 17 Goals to Transform Our World](#)

Below are two options, for the event to observe World Federation Day and UN Sustainable Goal 6. Your group may select items from the full set of resources, suitable for your situation and time available. Introduction, Hymns, Songs & Drama on following pages.

OPTION ONE

ORDER OF SERVICE

Theme: SDG 6 - Clean water and Sanitation for all

1. Leader: Welcome and Call to worship

Dearly beloved, as many rivers merge together in the Sea we have come to worship God, the fountain of Living Water.

As we worship God in Spirit and in Truth, let our hearts be overwhelmed with praise.

Let us be washed by the water of God's Grace and forgiveness.

Let us be revitalized and restored by Jesus Christ who assures us the waters of Life through His resurrection.

2. Invocation/Introit: Breathe on me breath of God [The UM Hymnal, No. 420] First stanza only

3. Opening Prayer:

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father we come together today to thank and Praise you for the World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women which has brought women from the World together and enabled us to reach even those who have not yet been glorified by your Name.

We pray for your Blessings on us as we battle the World Pandemic, knowing that you are there and have been our Protector and Guide. We bring before you all those who have felt the misery of disease and death, loss of homes, incomes and devastation and ask for your comforting hand upon them even at this time as we think very specially of those who are deprived of clean water and sanitation.

Our humble prayer is that serving your children by focusing on providing Clean Water and Sanitation to our communities, where ever we are called to serve will bring relief to your children.

In the Name & presence of our Lord and Saviour we come before you. **Amen**

4. Opening Hymn: We worship You, Lord, Creator of all [Tune: O Worship the King, The UM Hymnal, No 73]

5. Prayer of Adoration:

Leader: Creator of the oceans blue, we adore you for the beauty of Nature, the gurgling sounds of water that stimulates joy and cheer to a tired and weary soul.

RESPONSE: **WE ADORE YOU, GOD OF THE OCEANS.**

Leader: Creator God We praise You for the gift of water, for Your promise that You make rivers flow on barren heights, springs within the valleys, turn the desert into pools of water and the parched ground into springs.

RESPONSE: **WE PRAISE YOU, O LORD**

Leader: We worship and rejoice at the God of the heavens who turns storms into gentle winds and troubled seas into tranquil waters and the rain that falls by night.

RESPONSE: **WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD**

Leader: Creator God, your justice flows like a river to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life, God of the deep ocean and the tiny brook lead us through the manifestations of Your Grace toward the gift of water.

RESPONSE: **WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD, FOR YOUR GRACIOUS PROVISION.**

6. Prayer of Confession:

Leader: Merciful God, we are aware that water is essential for life on Earth. There can never be a substitute for this precious resource. And yet we waste, pollute and commodify it. Grant us forgiveness so that we act responsibly in our use of water, become sensitive to the desperate needs of those without water and gain wisdom in conserving and preserving water.

RESPONSE: **FORGIVE US, O LORD FOR OUR CALLOUSNESS.**

7. Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Leader: Loving God We come before you with grateful hearts to express our gratitude for all the blessings and gifts we have been given especially your awesomeness in creating the water bodies for our benefit.

RESPONSE: **WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

Leader: God our Parent your masterplan and concern for your living creatures for the use of water is marvellous. We come across water in the reading of the Bible about 722 times and many a time you chose to meet people at the well.

RESPONSE: **WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

Leader: God our provider we thank you for the water that has irrigated the earth in order to be fertile, which becomes the source of our food, and 80% of our body is water which is truly honourable.

RESPONSE: **WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

Leader: Great God your ministry was closer to the sea or the lakes and the miracles were in union with water which communicates with us, your connection to the water when you walked on the sea and stilled the storm, you divided the red sea and made it eco-friendly for the Israelites to continue their journey. For all this,

RESPONSE: **WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

8. Scripture reading: John 4:1-26

9. Collect:

God of the Ages, we remember Your Gift of water which you designed for all living creatures, on the very first day of Creation. We are sojourners quenching our physical thirst with Your mindful springs, rivers, lakes, oceans and all fresh and clean water bodies spread all over our globe. We invite You to flow through us the fountain head of living water. You have promised that "Whoever drinks the water I give them, will never thirst". Teach us to respect water sources and live in harmony with the created order around us. Let this cleansing agent cleanse our body and soul and release the river of Life to sustain us in our life's journey. Revive the dryness within and without by the ever living and flowing water. Your invitation is open to all, "Come all you who are thirsty...Come to the Waters."

We pray that we will celebrate a day when every person on this planet will have access to clean water and sanitation.

10. Hymn: O God, the Maker of the seas [Tune: O God our help in ages past The UM Hymnal, No. 117]

11. Message/Sermon [Water of life to a thirsty woman]

12. Federation Song

13. Announcements & Offertory

Offertory Hymn: Lift up your heads, ye people, the Lord is seeking you [Tune: Stand up, stand up for Jesus, The UM Hymnal, No. 514]

14. Offertory Prayer (To be said after the collection of offering) [The UM Hymnal, No. 117]

Bless Thou the gifts our hands have brought
Bless Thou the work our hearts have planned.
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
The rest, O God, is in Thy hand. Amen.

15. Intercessory Prayers:

Leader: Sustainer God, you have ensured availability of water and sanitation for all. Man has designed a blue print to achieve the target of reaching out to all. Help us to make responsible decisions and discover creative ways to provide clean water for all peoples and all that lives and grows.

RESPONSE: **LORD, GIVE US YOUR LOVE FOR THE WHOLE CREATION.**

Leader: Almighty Father, you commanded us to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. Enable us to work towards meeting the needs of others for clean water acquisition; teach us how to use and preserve the waters of our Planet

RESPONSE: **LORD, GRACIOUSLY HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Leader: For centuries, it was women and girls who transported water from distant sources spending long hours walking lonely pathways to bring home clean water. Protect them and walk beside them in the difficult terrain.

RESPONSE: **LORD PROTECT OUR GIRLS AND WOMEN IN THEIR ARDUOUS TASK.**

Leader: God, our Healer, we intercede for child malnutrition related to water, sanitation and hygiene. We pray that you will safeguard our children from diarrhoea which has been the cause of death of our little children.

RESPONSE: **LORD, PROVIDE CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION FOR OUR CHILDREN.**

Closing Prayer: World Federation Prayer

16. Benediction (Lord dismiss us with Thy blessing, The UM Hymnal, No. 671) [First stanza only]

Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing;
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Thy love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,
Travelling through this wilderness.

Offering to be sent to World Treasurer – contact Leu Pupulu on world.treasurer@wfmucw.org

OPTION TWO

ORDER OF SERVICE

Theme: SDG 6 - Clean water and Sanitation for all

1. **Registration** – an hour before session.

2. **Study Day Leader: Welcome & Introduction to SDG 6.**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action, to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. Of the 17 SDGs, which are integrated, Goal 6 focuses on “Clean water and Sanitation”. Water scarcity affects more than 40 percent of people all over the world, more countries are experiencing water stress, and increasing drought and desertification as a result of Global Warming. 4.5 billion people lacked safe sanitation services (with adequately disposed or treated excreta), 2.3 billion lacked even basic sanitation. Rev. 7:16 states *“In the full reign of God they will thirst no more.”* In our world today, we as a community of believers must ensure that every one has access to clean water. Cultures around the world view water with a sacred respect. It is known for its life giving and cleansing abilities. Jesus promises to *“give freely from the springs of the water of life”* (Revelation 21:6) to all who are thirsty. Similarly, the provision of hygienic disposal of waste is every Human right. *“Cleanliness is next to godliness”* is a well-known saying by John Wesley. The SDGs provide a unique opportunity for us as a Church to join in, as part of our Christian social responsibility, in achieving a sustainable society where access to clean water and sanitation is free and readily available.

3. **Opening Prayer**

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father we come together today to thank and Praise you for the World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women which has brought Women from the World together and enabled us to reach even those who have not yet been glorified by your Name.

We pray for your blessings on us as we battle the World Pandemic, knowing that you are there and have been our Protector and Guide. We bring before you all those who have felt the misery of disease and death, loss of homes, incomes and devastation and ask for your comforting hand upon them even at this time as we think very specially of those who are deprived of clean water and sanitation, which brings diseases and death.

Our humble prayer is that serving your children by focusing on providing Clean Water and Sanitation to our communities, where ever we are called to serve will bring relief to your children.

In the Name & presence of our Lord and Saviour we come before you. Amen

1st Session

Study Day Leader: *Introduction of Panellists to participants*

Panel Discussion based on Stories /Articles[10 mins each]

Panellist 1 - Betrayed by a pail of water

Panellist 2 - Five pots of water

Panellist 3 - A search for clean water

Panellist 4 - Clean water and Sanitation in Myanmar

Panellist 5 - Rainwater Harvesting Scheme in India

Group discussion [15 mins]

SHORT COFFEE BREAK [15 mins]

2nd Session

Study Day Leader: *Introduction of Bible Study leader to participants*

Bible Study topic: Water of life to a thirsty woman [John 4: 1-26] [20 mins]

Group discussion on Bible Study [15 mins]

Group Recommendations/ Action Plans [15 mins]

Drama – “Save water, save life”

Responsive reading

Responsive Reading

Leader: Giver of life and hope of mankind when you created this Universe you made provision of land and water for us. We marvel at your wisdom and concern for us .

RESPONSE: **Lord we thank you for your provision**

Leader: Holy Father, you have given to our country the rich sources of water, body, knowledge for their storage and supply for daily need of your people.

RESPONSE: **Lord, we are grateful that we have clean and easy water supply in our homes**

Leader: We pray for wisdom and knowledge of responsibility of officials in charge.

RESPONSE: **Lord we seek blessing on them.**

Leader: We remember Lord with concern our sisters in remote and deprived areas who daily have to walk miles to collect clean water for their daily use for the family .

Lord, we pray for their daily need to be fulfilled. Many women who are privileged are concerned about supply of clean water and education about sanitation have started projects and hold seminars for propagation of health and hygiene

RESPONSE: **Lord bless their endeavours**

Leader: [During Lockdown period WFCs of local Churches have distributed clean water bottles to migrant workers on road expressing solidarity and healing brokenness]. ***State your own women groups contribution in your country***

RESPONSE: **Lord bless them and engage them ever to be on the look-out to show your love for mankind .**

Leader: As health and standard living depends largely on Sanitation and Clean water supply it is imperative for women to affirm their solidarity with social and economic activities of the Community .

RESPONSE: **Lord bless their endeavours .**

Leader: Lord, we ask this prayer in the holy name of our Saviour Jesus Christ who taught us to pray for our daily bread which includes health giving water. **AMEN**

4. Announcements and Close Session

5. LUNCH BREAK [30 MINS]

3rd Session

6. Offertory Hymn Lift up your heads, ye people [Tune: Stand up, stand up for Jesus, The UM Hymnal, No. 514]

7. Federation Prayer

8. Closing remarks by Study Day Leader:

Thus, the SDGs provide a unique opportunity for us as a Church to join in, as part of our Christian social responsibility, in achieving a sustainable society where access to clean water and sanitation is free and readily available. Safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030 requires us as a Nation and as a Church to invest in adequate infrastructure, provide sanitation facilities, and encourage hygiene.

9. Benediction. (To be sung at the end) [First stanza only] (Lord dismiss us with Thy blessing, The UM Hymnal, No. 671)

Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing;
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Thy love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace. O refresh us, O refresh us,
Travelling through this wilderness.

STORIES

i. **Betrayed by A Pail of Water**

Rekha walks with just one thought in her mind – to avoid anyone calling out her name. She walks among the narrow slums dodging the women washing clothes, bathing their young ones in the narrow pathway. It is 10 in the morning and the cacophony that surrounds her is deafening. She wishes she can make it to her destination without any drama.

But she is betrayed by the pail of water that she carries in her hand. The knowing smiles of women and the leering glances of men cause her embarrassment as always. It is broad daylight and she needs to use the public toilet that is in the middle of the slums that is her home.

Her small rented-hutment is just 100 square-feet which houses her 3 children and her. She was widowed 2 years ago and she is the sole breadwinner. She works as a domestic maid in homes and she worked for me too. She walks without a mask. Nobody wears a mask in the urban slums of Northern Mumbai. The pandemic does not allow them the luxury of staying safe in their homes.

The public toilet that her slum and 10 other slums can use is made of 4 cubicles for use of men and women. Rekha tells me that this public toilet is cleaned by a hired person. Each family has a key to the locked doors. But the tragedy is that there is no running water. Each person has to carry a pail of water when they use the toilet.

This toilet complex does not have a proper drainage facility. Every 6 months, one would see the human waste seeping out of the tiles of the pathway which is the main path that connects to the main road. The stench, unhygienic conditions in which they live is now a common occurrence to all who live in these slums.

Apart from the embarrassment of carrying the pail of water in the sight of all to see, and further embarrassment of standing in queue where men and women stand together; there is a further challenge of young girls and women using these toilets in the dark hours of early mornings or late evenings. While these hours could have offered a sense of lesser embarrassment, it is unsafe for young girls. Rekha's 13-year old daughter was molested while on the way to the toilet. She is still fighting the case that she filed in court for the past 5 years. Another woman, Sujata tells me that she always accompanies her teenage daughter to the toilet and even carries the pail of water for her daughter, to save the girl of any embarrassment.

The pandemic has rendered most of these women jobless. Rekha is just 1 woman among the thousands of women in these slums. Sanitation, hygiene, hand-washing, wearing a mask and maintaining social distance is almost impossible. The urban slums have semi-literate population. Most of them throw caution to the wind as they had been advised of herd-immunization.

Hanuman Tekdi is slum on the Kajupada Hills in Borivali East. Borivali is a place in the Northern suburbs of Mumbai. While one part of the hill houses bungalows and apartments, the other part of the hill is littered with slums and hutments. For every 50 hutments there is a public toilet complex of 4 Indian toilet cubicles. Most of the slum dwellers are auto rickshaw drivers and their wives work as domestic help/maids in the surrounding apartments/bungalows.

Their children go to government schools and privacy is a luxury unknown to them.

ii. Five Pots of Water

It is 3:30 am and Anju can hardly open her eyes. The noise outside her small hutment has roused everyone in her family. There is the noise of the banging of pots and pans from within her house and outside her house.

Her husband carries the plastic pots and the steel pots and opens the door. There's an explosion of noise outdoors. Men, women, children have already queued their pots near the water-tap. Each one guarding his/her vessel and his/her turn to fill water.

For every 25 hutments there is a tap assigned on the main path. The timing for water is 4:00 am in the morning to about 5:45 am to 6:00 am in the morning. This tap is locked and the key is kept with a leader.

Each person can fill just 2 pots of water when their turn comes. So a person can get to fill another 2 pots of water after every 25 turns. These are the man-made, unwritten rules of the slums.

Anju is a frail woman. She is extremely small -made for Indian standards and is often sick. She works as a domestic help. Her weakness does not allow her to carry the pot of water from the beginning of the pathway to her hut.

Her husband helps her in this. She stands in the queue and guards her pots and her turn to fill water. There is no quiet in these slums. The mornings are filled with shrieks of men and women fighting over their turn to fill water. The shrieks and cat-fights increase as the clock moves closer to the 6:00 am deadline.

One can see women being mean and abusive in their frenzy to get water for their family. Most of the times, each family gets about just 5 pots of water. So some women bring out their clothes and start washing them on the pathway. Others bring out dirty dishes and start washing them.

Fires are built to heat up water to get ready for a bath. The public toilet also has a crowd lining up for use. Each one making efforts to see that before 6:00 am they can accomplish all that they have to do.

There are some who pay money to collect water from the next tap which is supposed to supply water for the next 25 hutments.

Anju is fortunate in that her husband helps her but not so for Renuka. Her husband is a drunkard and refuses to. Renuka has to provide for the running of her house. Her added difficulty in getting water to her hut is that her hut is built on top of the hut of her in-laws. She has to carry the water to the top on the frail, narrow, wooden steps. This makes it difficult for her though she is strong.

Mumbai faces water problem galore. The slums sometimes go without water supply for days together. Then the local Corporater gets a tanker to supply water.

There is no hygiene around these taps. The water is also unsafe for drinking till boiled. The municipal workers often come and teach about boiling water for drinking purposes and covering the pots of drinking water.

During the pandemic, awareness of how to wash their hands frequently were taught by the municipal workers, but the people face the problem of scarcity of water.

What do they do with 5 pots of water – wash hands or use it for cooking and cleaning?

The number of pots of water will diminish in the summer from March to June until the rainy season sets in. [Ganesh Nagar is slum on the Kajupada Hills in Borivali East. Borivali is a place in the Northern suburbs of Mumbai. While one part of the hill houses bungalows and apartments, the other part of the hill is littered with slums and hutments. For every 25 hutments there is a common water tap. Most of the slum dwellers are auto rickshaw drivers and their wives work as domestic help/maids in the surrounding apartments/bungalows. The younger generation however are working in call-centres and in hospitals and malls as receptionists and in packing/ billing counters.

During the pandemic, Ganesh Nagar was sealed by the Municipality time and again as many positive cases of COVID were being reported].

iii A Search for Clean Water – A Genuine Cry

Devastated and desperate we moved Eastward to a village in Puttalam, Sri Lanka. Though at first we were able to make ends meet, the land was dry and there was hardly any rain. Following the demise of my husband during the war, I moved here with a hope of restoring the future of my children. We were promised better schools and a place we could call a home. Alas, it was to no avail. We continued to live in our temporary make-shift homes. I was able to support my family by working as a housemaid at several homes through the day. The local school is at the town and is 8 Km away from our village.

My children, Kala and Vasu who are 7 years and 10 years respectively travel by bus or walk each day. Despite the many challenges, our main issue is access to clean water. There is one well in the village that most families access. My day starts at 3 am in order to collect water for our needs. I have to make two trips as I am required to provide for my family single-handedly. If water was available more freely, I could prepare some home-cooked meals and start my own business. Unfortunately, everything is on hold due to the lack of access to clean water. My children also often get sick and add to our burden in living each day. We kindly request that those who have the privilege of clean water being available at the opening of a tap to use it scarcely and reach out to those whose livelihood is at a standstill because of the lack of it.

ARTICLES

1. Clean Water and Sanitation in Myanmar

Myanmar is rich in natural resources including water. However, we are still facing challenges for water security, mainly drinking clean water in rural areas. The Water Aid executive hails Myanmar for its strong commitment to provide safe drinking water, good sanitation and hygiene for its people by 2030. Access to improved water has been improving since 2015. It has mostly been driven by the private sector, rather than through increased and most sustainable use of piped and ground water resources. However, the use of surface water for drinking remains high in Ayeyarwaddy (the Delta area) and Rakhine (Southwestern Area).

The NGOs are working together with Myanmar Government in monitoring rural water supplies as well as in providing safe drinking water, good sanitation, and hygiene in health care facilities. The trainings of health professionals are also organized and given by different groups. As Myanmar is the agricultural country, many people depend on farm lands and livestock. More than 230 dams and reservoirs and irrigation facilities are arranged to supply water to farm lands. Due to climate changes such as flooding, storms and lesser amount of rainfall occur and the water flows into the dam is less at present. The participation of local people in regions and states are formed into groups for effective use to supply water to farmlands.

The Myanmar Council of Churches (Service and Development Department) has been working on clean water and sanitation projects in different areas and states. The new projects in the coming years will be in Kayah, Karen and Bago states. The local council of churches will be working together in different parts of rural areas – digging ground water, contributing safe drinking water and organizing trainings to villagers. The Methodist Church (Upper Myanmar), Wesley Clinic in Tahan, Kalay Division, has a safe drinking water project. The clinic helps nearby village schools to educate awareness in clean water and sanitation. This is a three year per term project which covers ten villages. They have already done two terms which cover twenty villages.

To maintain the lake water quality, 150 toilets will be built around the Indawgyi lake in Kachin state. It is to maintain water quality and enabling people to use the toilet systematically so as to avoid the cost of contamination to the lake.

347 villages are in the dry zone area which has the possibility of the shortage of drinking water in the hot season. These villages are in 86 townships all over the country. Even in the cold season this year, some villages in Mandalay Division, Shan State and Nay Pyi Taw Regions have faced shortage of drinking water and safe drinking water has to be distributed by government sectors, social workers and charity organizations. We hope that by 2030, the goal to access safe and affordable drinking water for all, the improvement of water quality and management of water resources at different levels and to protect the environment and restore water related ecosystem will be achieved in Myanmar.

2. Efforts to Provide Safe Water and Sanitation

Myanmar is one of the least developed countries in the world and very little information is available for our nation's water quality.

The current situation in our country is presenting in urban areas of Myanmar. River, dam, lake and well water sources were found to be generally good quality. Heterotrophic plate counts in drinking water were highest in public pots, followed by non-piped tap water, piped tap water and bottled water.

In our country, to provide clean water and sanitation:

- 1) improve sanitation facilities by providing toilets that flush into a sewer.
- 2) promote good hygiene habits through education such as hand washing with soap and water can reduce diarrhoea cases.
- 3) implement rainwater harvesting system by building wells to extract groundwater.
- 4) provide home water-treatment through the use of filters to make drinking water safe.
- 5) some association promote low-cost solutions such as chlorine tablets to improve water quality.

Meanwhile, community-managed household water-metering systems are bringing life-saving water on tap to many homes, improving daily lives, and the health and safety of women and girls, who are more vulnerable without such facilities.

References :

1. Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Water quality standards.
2. WHO, Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation, World Health Organization.

3. Rain Water Harvesting – A Success Story

While the rest of the country is busy devising methods to conserve water for the forthcoming months, in India, Tamil Nadu had a head start with its successful rain water harvesting scheme.

The Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) scheme, a brainchild of our Late Tamil Nadu chief minister J Jayalalithaa. It was launched in 2001 in a bid to rejuvenate water sources and improve ground water levels in the parched southern state.

The scheme has helped people in water-starved regions such as Chennai by raising water tables in most neighbourhoods, winning support from activists and local residents long dependent on groundwater for their daily needs. The scheme has been implemented in rural pockets too, with a great degree of success. "We used to spend sleepless nights, thinking about sourcing water for daily needs. All that changed after the government came up with the RWH method. The water table has risen and we no longer face such an ordeal," said Vanitha, a Chennai resident.

Rainwater harvesting has many benefits but the main one is that it is a sustainable water management practice that can be implemented by anyone on many different levels, from a simple rain barrel to a comprehensive rainwater harvesting system that integrates with an irrigation system or household plumbing.

When you think about it... do we need to use municipally treated water to sprinkle on our lawns and landscaping? Definitely not! Harvested rainwater is the perfect candidate for irrigation use in addition to so many other water uses. By using rainwater harvesting systems to supply water for some, or all of our water needs, you can reduce our dependence on municipally treated water.

Overall, rainwater harvesting is viewed as a practice that is socially acceptable and environmentally responsible all the while, promoting self-sufficiency.

The Water Conservation Benefits of Rainwater Harvesting

The benefits of Rainwater harvesting include economic, environmental, reducing energy consumption and saving water at little or no cost. Rainwater harvesting helps utilities reduce peak demands during summer months, saving treated water for more important and appropriate water uses.

It is an excellent source of water for plants and landscape irrigation since it has no chemicals such as fluoride and chloramines (chlorine). Replacing municipal water use at a home and property with rainwater reduces the amount of water that a municipality has to treat and then pump to your house.

Therefore, the practice of rainwater harvesting reduces water demand and thus allow municipalities to provide potable water service at a lower cost.

The Ancillary Benefits of Rainwater Harvesting

Rainwater can be used for irrigation use, indoor non-potable water use, and/or potable water supply.

Rainwater harvesting can provide an independent water source in areas where other water sources are unavailable, or the water quality is unacceptable, or they are too expensive to develop, or they are too difficult to obtain. If used as a potable water source, the zero hardness of rainwater provides many advantages.

It eliminates the scale build-up in household appliances that could occur with the use of other water sources. This extends the life of the appliances. In addition, it reduces the amount of detergent or soaps needed in laundry and dishwashing appliances, reducing money spent on these detergents and soaps.

Rainwater from a potable rainwater harvesting system that has been properly filtered and disinfected is some of the best tasting water available. It doesn't have the many chemicals that municipally treated water has such as fluoride or chloramines (chlorine).

Rainwater Harvesting Is Vital for the Future of Sustainable Water Resources

As local water resources are stretched to provide for population growth and economic development, new water supply strategies and paradigms will be necessary to meet this demand.

Rainwater harvesting is an untapped resource that could be developed quickly within communities and that will also have a tremendous impact.

Rainwater harvesting is part of a sustainable water supply strategy for local communities.

Source: Directorate of Town Panchayats Tamil Nadu, S. India

[Town Panchayat - Administrative control, Municipal Administration under the Water Supply Dept.]

DRAMA

“SAVE WATER, SAVE LIFE”

Characters:

- Anna – A 16 year old girl
- Grandma
- Mary
- Four women

[Morning music plays in the background. Anna is seen brushing her teeth in the bathroom. Enter Grandma]

Grandma: What are you doing Anna? Why have you kept the tap on?

Anna : Yeah so what! I’m brushing my teeth!

Grandma : Anna, you should always shut off the water when you aren’t using it.

Anna: But, how will I brush my teeth without water? Also, we learnt in school that earth is full of water so why do we have to save water when we have so much.

Grandma : Yes, yes you are correct, but did you know that many children of your age walk miles

and miles to find a drop water to drink?

Anna : Really? Why is that? We have so much of water so why do they have to go and find for it?

Grandma : My dear child. This world is not so great for everyone. Let me tell you a story from the Bible.

[Grandma and Anna exit the stage. The stage is changed to village setting. The sun hot and bright. Four women gathered around a well to catch up on their daily gossip. Water keeps running and baskets full of cloths can be seen near them. Another woman known as Mary is at a corner waiting till the others finishes their chores. All pause for a moment gaze at her for few minutes].

All laugh

First woman: Are you serious? I always thought she is a person like that. Have you seen her clothes?

Second woman : Yes. I heard she lost her job recently and anyways that was not a well-paid job. She is not that much educated also isn’t it!

Third woman : Hmm... yes yes I heard that too. And you know what the other day my husband was telling me that lady was pardoned by Jesus and you know what she did?

Fourth woman : No no! tell will you what happened?

Third Woman : So, the other day Pharisees caught hold of her being unfaithful to her husband.

Second Woman : Oh my! I was wondering how she is managing when she doesn’t even have a proper job

Third Woman : Yes, that’s what. So, you know Jesus, he had to pass his judgement on her.

Fourth Woman : What did he do?

Third Woman : He simply let her go. (indignantly) It did not matter to him.

Fourth Woman : So immoral!

First Woman: Sinful!
Third Woman : Yes, but you know Jesus was talking to her like she was so special. He did not worry about her past.
Fourth Woman: Shame shame!

[Four women begins to whisper, and Mary starts to speak to herself]

Mary: Why are these women wasting so much of water. We have to protect God's creation. Let me talk to them. ***Speaking to the four ladies*** I'm sorry to disturb your conversation but can you not see how much of water you are wasting?

Mary turns of the tap and continues talking to them

Water is inseparable from life. Do you know that the entire creation was emerged out of water? Could you not remember how God used water as a liberation for the Israelite's successful escape from slavery? It is our responsibility to save these resources. Do you remember how Naaman, the Syrian got cured from the leprosy? Isn't God's gift not good enough?

[All four women looks at each other in disbelief as after all the 'sinful' lady they were gossiping about taught them a lesson indeed. All women (including Mary) stays still...Enters Anna and Grandma to the stage].

Anna: Thanks for the story Grandma. I agree with you that we must protect God's creation and I had no idea there are so many lessons from the bible about the power of water.

Grandma: Ann do you know water is mentioned 722 times in the Bible? And you know what Anna around 844 million people around the world don't have access to clean water.

Anna: Grandma I have seen that during the baptisms water is used. Do you know why is that?

Grandma: Yes, my child. That is because we use water to clean something which is dirty or not pleasant. So, baptism we use water to symbolize that our soul is being purified by God's grace and love.

Anna: So Grandma we must to do something to protect it and now I understand that we have to start it from our home. I promise you I will not waste water anymore and protect God's gifts.

Grandma: Yes, indeed Anna. We all must start it from our home. Okay Anna now enough chit chatting for today let's go down for breakfast.

[Grandma hugs Anna and leaves the stage and Anna stand at the centre of the stage and recites the verse below]

"The earth cracks with blistering heat, Rivers dry crops wilt,
If water is consumed without a thought, we shall bear the brunt of drought
Life is water, water is life, Conserve water before Shortage is rife."

[Music fades and Anna walks out of the stage slowly].

BIBLE STUDY: Water of Life to a thirsty woman. John 4:1-26

Throughout His earthly ministry Jesus recognized, appreciated and sympathized with the broken and marginalized and had compassion for women. He was sensitive to the social and religious handicaps with which women had to struggle, and He lifted those burdens. Jesus had a mission to redeem the world from sin and He crossed all man-made boundaries and traditions to reach people at their point of need.

- **Traditionally women were avoided.** Nothing prevailed in the Mosaic Law that prevented men and women from communicating and intermingling - yet the religious groups of the day established behavioural rules. But Jesus overthrew them and consistently treated women and men as equals.
- In Jesus' day, the Jews had "no dealings with the Samaritans" (John 4:9). The direct route between Galilee and Judea went through Samaria. However, many Jews nearly doubled their travel time and bypassed Samaria. Jesus was different. He travelled through Samaria.
"Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as He was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water," vs 6-7.
- **He did not avoid her.** His conversation with a Samaritan woman is very significant, even though he knew her marital record and she was considered a sinner in society. She came to fill her empty jar. So was her life – empty, dry and broken – with deep spiritual and emotional needs. Jesus met her at her point of need by conversing with her:

1. He asked her for a drink. The Jews despised the Samaritans more than they did the Gentiles. This woman came in the heat of day, definitely thirsty and did not expect or wish to see anyone, may have chosen that time of day for that very purpose.

Imagine her surprise when she saw a man at the well! Even more surprised when he asked for a drink of water. She was taken aback, intrigued, and may have thought, "Who is this stranger who is willing to address me?" "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman," she reminded him. "How can you ask me for a drink?" (John 4:9). Jesus said: "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that says to you, Give me to drink; you would have asked of him, and he would have given you living water" (Jn. 4:10). Jesus spoke of a gift. A free gift stimulates anyone's interest! Her search was for water and Jesus mentioned Living water – water that bestows life. The Lord's statement produced a startling effect. The woman immediately changed her tone and addressed the friendly stranger with a term of respect.

"Sir," she said with some bewilderment, "you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where will you get that living water? You're not greater than our father Jacob, are you, who gave us this well, which provided water for him, his family, and his livestock?" She is still thinking of literal water.

2. He discussed theology openly with her. For a rabbi to discuss theology with a woman was even more unconventional. The Saviour gently nudges her forward. He wants to emphasize that He is not speaking of the kind of water contained in Jacob's well. But "One can keep on drinking and never will be thirsty again"; Still not grasping Jesus' offer of Living water, she urged Jesus, "give me this water" (Jn. 4:15).

3. This woman was thirsty for truth. The water pot she carried represented her emptiness - brokenness. The Lord seized the opportunity, lifted the conversation to a higher level, and arrested her attention further by introducing several matters that were bound to stimulate her interest.

The woman's thirst for water from the well was now a thirst for the truth and the free gift of Living water Jesus was offering her. This free gift of salvation is available to those who are thirsty for the truth – a

longing to receive the Gift of Living Water that brings abundant life – forgiveness of our sins. The malady in mankind. John 3:16-18.

4. A Broken woman – crushed and distressed by broken relationships stood before Jesus. He now determines she is ready for His next instruction, “go call your husband”. “I have no husband”. She confessed. She had lived with five men and was living with a man unlawfully. Imagine her mental state - Broken inside.

Jesus knew all of that. He never treated sin lightly. He loved the sinner but hated the sin. Suddenly her conscience was smitten, her sin came before her eyes. She had to face the question squarely; there was no side-tracking of the issue.

Jesus offered hope to this broken woman. He offers this hope to all who wish to receive. From the depths of our brokenness and repentance, there is acceptance – there is hope. “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,” (Eph. 2:1) .. made us alive with Christ” (Eph. 2:5). We can be made alive, for God promises us “a new heart...and a new spirit.” (Ezek. 36:26) In brokenness and repentance we can find wholeness in the arms of a loving Father – our God. He will forgive, embrace and accept us. A deliberate confession is needed as in 1 John 1:9, Psalm 32:5

5. Recognised Jesus as Messiah: Her natural curiosity prompted her to ask deeper questions with no cause for nervousness. Jesus handled her doubt and disbelief.

The woman was intelligent, in her discernment of Jesus! “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet” (Jn. 4:19). Step by step her eyes of faith opened. I know that Messiah is coming (he that is called Christ): when He comes, He will declare all things to us (Jn. 4:25). She had a clear vision of the Messiah. She was able to see that this could be the Christ - the Messiah the Jews were waiting for. The thirsty woman found the fountain of Living water, she confessed her sins. She looked beyond – saw Jesus as the Messiah. It did not take her long to see and acknowledge.

This is a question we need to ask ourselves, Is Jesus your saviour? Have you moved on to recognise Him as Lord of your life? May we have the thirst and discernment to see with our spiritual eyes, Jesus the Christ – the Messiah.

6. The woman wanted to share the Living Water. She had to tell her people of Jesus. She left her water pot and went into the city. “Come see the Man who told me everything I ever did.” She was not ashamed of her past. Vv39-42 is a beautiful account of how the woman brought many Samaritans to faith in Christ. She came to Jesus as a broken woman – ashamed of herself – with low self-esteem, broken relationships.

7. A broken woman whom Jesus used and she became the first Evangelist – A LADY EVANGELIST!!

CONCLUSION: We may be able to identify with the Samaritan woman in some way. Yes we may be broken – distressed and burdened – Jesus is willing to take our brokenness make us whole and use us, but we need to fulfil His standards.

Points to ponder and discuss:

- **Are we thirsty to know the truth?** Psalm 42:2 describes the psalmist's thirst for God. For what are you spiritually thirsty? What promises do you find in Matthew 5:6 and John 6:35?
- Receiving God's Gift of forgiveness by confession of your sins and acknowledging Jesus as the Lord and Master of your life which is the foundation of a relationship with God the Father. John 1:12,13; 3:36;
- Some may have all the facts and no personal encounter with God. John Wesley the founder of Methodism was an ordained minister – yet it was “his heart warming experience” that changed his life.

Recommended Words for Hymns & Songs

Tune: O Worship the King, The UM Hymnal, No 73

1. We worship You, Lord, Creator of all
The birds up above and sheep on the ground
The sun and the moon and the stars in the sky
The vales and the hills and the oceans and land
2. Your wisdom we praise in giving us grace
Your earth to sustain, O teach us always
The rain and the wind and the warmth and the light
Are treasures of heaven that shine on us bright
3. Our banners we raise, in song and in praise
The King of all earth, whose love o'er us reigns.
Our Teacher, Defender, Redeemer and Friend
The Father, the Son and the Spirit are One!

Hymn to be sung before the Bible Study/Exposition

Tune: O God our help in ages past, The UM Hymnal, No. 117

1. O God, the Maker of the seas
Of lakes and wells and streams
You give to all your waters clean
And bid us do the same
2. The rocks so hard with waters flowed
When your creation cried
In desert places streams to roll
Your promise calms each soul
3. Your body we, your word obey
To quench the thirsting world
Revive the fire in us we pray
As we look through your eyes.

Offertory Hymn: Lift up your heads, ye people To be sung while the offerings are being collected Tune: Stand up, stand up for Jesus, The UM Hymnal, No. 514

1. Lift up your heads, ye people, the Lord is seeking you
To holy living bids you, He teaches what to do
Ye are His stewards on earth, His hands and feet are we
Let love and mercy lead you, come be His body now

2. Lift up your ears, ye people, the cries around us rise
The chanting voices pleading - "Clean waters, save our life"!
A thirsty world that echoes, our Saviour on the cross
Let Living waters stir you, come be His body now
3. Lift up your eyes, ye people, the scenes of dirt and grime
Our Holy God commands us – hygiene and clean all time
Entwine our hands to help them, and serve humanity
Let clean surroundings flourish, come be His body now

Offertory Anthem (To be sung/said after the collection of offering) (Bless Thou the gifts, The UM Hymnal, No. 117)

Bless Thou the gifts our hands have brought;
Bless Thou the work our hearts have planned.
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
The rest, O God, is in Thy hand.

Benediction

(To be sung at the end) First stanza only (Lord dismiss us with Thy blessing, The UM Hymnal, No. 671)

Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing;
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Thy love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,
Travelling through this wilderness

**The WFMUCW anthem and Prayer can be accessed on the WFMUCW website
www.wfmucw.org**

Suggestions For Preparation - Worship Service/ Study Day Seminar For Local groups

1. **Theme:** GOAL 6 - **Clean Water and Sanitation.**
2. **Date:** Each Area to choose a suitable day around 26th October 2021
3. **Preparation:**
 - Constitute a small committee. Delegate responsibilities and encourage participation.
 - Follow COVID -19 protocol. Caution before, during the event & cleaning up after, Provide all necessary supplies – hand hygiene stations, hand sanitizer or soap and water, tissues, closed-lid bins, distance markers, masks.
 - Choose outdoor venues over indoor spaces – if indoors, ensure the area is well ventilated.
 - Choose Resource person and provide for aids for presentation as required subject to availability: Black or white board, markers, Equipment for Power Point Presentation.
 - Choose Ushers, Leaders, Music team, refreshments team and any other as per venue requirement & Resource Persons.
 - Drinking water, snacks and lunch may be made available – as this may be a day or half day long Seminar.
4. **Room setting:**
 - Create a Pleasant & Creative room ambience.
 - Invite women or youths to make posters of UN or NGOs information on Sustainable Development Goal 6. Involvement of women in this issue, programmes etc.
5. **Material for Participants:**
 - Copies of Order of service/programme, writing pads, pens etc.
 - UN or NGOs information on the theme may be made available.
6. **Finances:** Prepare budget and plan ways to defray expenses of Seminar.
7. **Federation Day offering to be sent to World Treasurer – Leu Pupulu.**
world.treasurer@wfmucw.org

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1. Introduction

Importance of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 6 Clean water and Sanitation. *Sylvia Servand, President, All India Women Society of Christian Service, Methodist Church, India.*

2. Stories

- **Betrayed by A Pail of Water**
- **Five Pots of Water** *Glory George - Methodist Church, India WSCS*
- **Clean water access - A Genuine cry** *Rajini Jegasothy - Sri Lanka*

3. Articles

- **Clean Water and Sanitation in Myanmar** *Irene Khin San Myint, Conference MWA, Methodist Church (Upper Myanmar)*
- **Efforts to provide Safe Water and Sanitation** *Lily Chen, President, Conference Methodist Women Fellowship (Lower Myanmar)*
- **Rain Water Harvesting – A Success Story** *Evangeline Yesurathnam, Methodist Church, India, Evelyn Mercylin, SAA President*

4. Drama

Save Water Save life. *Tharika Rajapakse, Sri Lanka, Helen Kim Memorial Scholar 2016-2021*

5. Bible Study

Water of life to a thirsty woman *Dorothy Sampath Kumar, WSCS, MCI, TOL Editor 2006-2016*

6. Prayers

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