

REPORT C.S.I. WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Church of South India Women's Fellowship was founded by Sr. Carol Graham and was formed on the 27th September 1948. The women group of the Uniting churches like Mothers' Union of the Anglican church, Sisterhood of the Methodist and King's daughters of the Presbyterian church and Mothers' meeting or women's meeting of the congregational church came together and became the Women's Fellowship of the Church of South India.

The Aim of the Fellowship is to unite the women of the church and to equip them for Christian witness and make them part of all the programmes of the church.

The Women's Fellowship has been one the effective bodies of the Church of South India which works towards a meaningful ministry among the needy, poor and oppressed, neglected women and children. We as a body of women are 'called to serve' by promoting unity, fellowship and justice. We are caked to equip and empower women to become effective leaders in their families, church and society.

Motto and Emblem

'Arise and Shine' is the Motto of the Women's Fellowship and our emblem a Yellow cross on the blue background represents the light of Christ emitted to the world. The twenty-four rays emerging from the cross represent the hours of the day. The chain connecting these rays denote a continuous unbroken fellowship with Christ.

Objectives

To unite members in prayer, service and witness and help them to grow in deeper spiritual life, helping them to uphold the sanctity of Christian marriage and family life and help mothers in the Christian nurture of children, training young and old for participation and leadership in the church and community. Providing opportunities for younger women to take an active part in all the programmes of the church, to create awareness about their rights and privilege and help them to seek justice at all levels.

Activities of the Women's Fellowship 2014-2017

- 1) Re-reading the Bible through the eyes of another
- 2) Leadership Training programmes for Bible women, Rural Pastors wives and Women Missionaries.
- 3) Awareness, care and counseling training programmes
- 4) Administrative and managerial skills training programme
- 5) Pre-marital and family counseling
- 6) Prison ministry
- 7) Training for women especially nurses in geriatric care
- 8) Issue Based Bible study
- 9) Home for the aged and the orphan children and working women

Gender Equity Enabling Time Table Programme – GEET jointly done by C.S.I.W.F and CSI-SEVA. In this programme resource persons spoke about Harassment at work places, Domestic violence and positive masculinity, SH WW(Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act and Rules 2013 and Gender empowerment and Appropriate inquiry bringing awareness among youth and working women, self-employment projects, Tailoring units and canteen.

C S I Women's Fellowship is having 24 diocesan women's fellowship units and they have their own unique projects and programmes and projects. In this report few of the diocesan projects are included.

Mathamma Project is a unique project run by the **Madras Diocesan W.F.** It's a project concerned for women and girl children. This is a project for the women who were as temple prostitutes. In some part of Tamil Nadu it is a cultural and faith practice that when the children are fallen sick they are dedicated to the temple Goddess. Boys are brought back home after they are healed whereas girls are left in the temple and they are being misused as prostitutes. The Madras Women's Fellowship has taken it as their mission to bring the Temple women and Girls under their care. They give them food and shelter, education and skill training programme for their livelihood. A church is being constructed and scripture is taught to them.

Girl child rehabilitation projects, Centre for women in distress, Mathar Jyothi is another unique project run by **Coimbatore Diocesan W.F.** It has been running for the past 80 years among the other faiths. It's done by the Bible women. During their visit to houses they counsel them telling about Jesus Christ and His love for the humanity. The women who believed and have faith in Jesus Christ gather in a place for singing and worship. Gradually their faith increased and they have a zeal to study scriptures and they regular study classes and worship.

Asha Bhavan and Keremehas are the projects where the mentally disabled children are taken care. According to the IQ skills are taught.

In 2017- 2018 the C.S.I.W.F. has started a new programme 'Divya Bodhini' designed for all the 24 dioceses. Divya Bodhini is a women empowerment life skill Training programme, a course for one year which is divided into 3 semesters. In each semester different topics are dealt with which gives an opportunity for women to study theology, leadership training and other life skills development. The objectives of the course is to bring women from margin to centre, to develop self esteem, self respect and self identity, providing knowledge-what they believe and why they believe and equipping women with life skills and other training aiming at the grass root level. This course helps them to become as leaders, teachers, preachers, worship leaders and counselors. It also helps the women to understand the society and human psychology to become better persons.

For every 4 years we have a **Quadrennial Conference** where the women of C.S.I.W.F will come together to renew and revive themselves through the theme give and bring out the best result to move forward to uphold the women. This year's we met in Trichy Heber College and the them was 'Creation, its Completeness and Complexities'.

On the commemoration day of C.S.I.W.F and the CSI 70 years day a melodious music video album 'Swara Bhavana' was released where the Sangamom of different languages is intertwined with melodious voices singing shouts of joy to the Lord.

We are celebrating our 70th year on 27th September 2018 and a book on the History of C.S.I Women's Fellowship, a Music album of tribal dance and tribal song which will give the information of all the mission field in the CSI and the number of tribes and the churches that are present in different places will be released. As the light is placed on the lamp stand God is blessing the C.S.I. Women's Fellowship to 'Arise and Shine' to be a ray of hope towards a borderless church.

Dr. Mrs. Susan Thomas,
President,
C.S.I.W.F