

GREEN CHURCH CAMPAIGN OF CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA (CSI)



CSI Synod Department of Ecological Concerns (CSI SDEC)



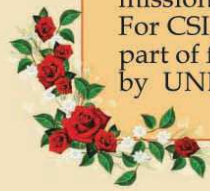
MISSION

CSI SDEC seeks to create awareness among all people about environmental and ecological concerns and thereby to care for God's creation. Encourage people to refrain from the abuse of nature's resources and to strive to keep the earth a habitable place for all. We encourage parishes to incorporate ecological concerns in their order of worship and include both advocacy and direct action for eco-justice and the integrity of creation in missional activities.

VISION

Fossil-fuel based, automobile-centered, throwaway economy is not a viable model for the world. The alternative is a solar/hydrogen energy economy, an urban transport system that is centred on advanced - design public rail systems and a comprehensive reuse/recycle economy. The cities are to be designed for people and not for cars. We have to build an economy that will support, not undermine, future generations.

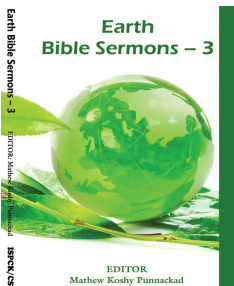
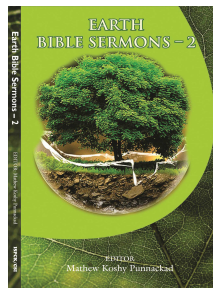
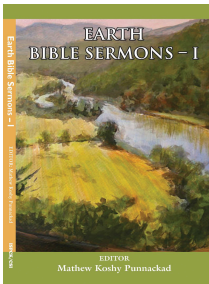
UNIQUENESS



The Most Rev. Ryder Devapriyam, then Moderator of CSI, inspired by the call of WCC, constituted an ecological committee in 1992. The CSI is the only Church in India which has mentioned Ecology as a mission in the Constitution and in Mission statement. For CSI, Ecological work is not a social service, it is a part of faith. It is the only Church in India, recognised by UNDP with an eco Award.

1.EARTH BIBLE SERMONS

A sound theological backing is essential for the Green Church Movement. Hence members have to be taught about the faith aspect of the environmental ministry. In order to reach grass root level, we have published Earth Bible sermons which can be used by clergy during Sunday services(three volumes in English and four in vernacular languages.).

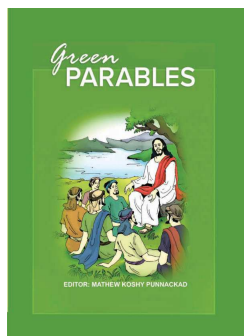




Earth Bible Sermons are readings of the Bible from the perspective of the Earth. The sermons are the Biblical responses that Jesus would have had to face the present ecological crisis. It is a listening and responding to Bible texts from the standpoint of Earth. A unique and innovative work of the Ecological Department of CSI.

2. GREEN PARABLES

Parable is a language that Jesus used to make people think. It helped people for a self-discovery and started a process of transformation. Jesus parable is a powerful means to know oneself and brought transformation. People asked questions which created a peoples' movement. The Department of Ecological Concerns conducted two workshops for writing green parables. It is for creating a movement to understand the worth of the creation and also the worth of the creator. The parables will inspire people to join the movement for a green Earth





3. ECOLOGICAL SUNDAY

15000 congregations, 4.3 million people of CSI celebrate Ecological Sunday on 2nd Sunday of June every year, marking the beginning of innovative programmes in their parishes. Every year the Department of Ecological Concerns prepares the sermon and liturgy for Ecological Sunday relating to the World Environment Day theme and distributes. Through eco-liturgy and eco sermon we are giving insight to the congregation on the faith aspect of conserving the integrity of creation.

4. PLANTING OF SAPLINGS

Planting Jatropha/Punna on barren lands, Mangroves in the coastal areas, Vetiver and fruit bearing plants in populated areas. CSI is joining hands with ecumenical and environmental organizations in planting 20 million plants in the next 10 years. Vetiver is a unique plant which we are propagating to Recharge Ground water, Prevent soil erosion, Stabilise river banks and roads, Reduce global warming and Reduce floods.

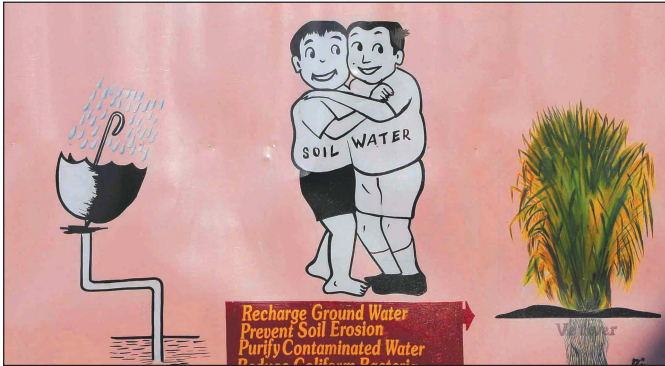
The CSI Church is the only Church in India which has taken a strong stand in favour of the Gadgil committee report to protect

the biodiversity of 1600 km stretch of Western Ghats. Planting sapling and nurturing is a spiritual work. Some healthy practices in some dioceses- after Marriage, the first task the couples perform is planting a sapling on the campus of the Church. Welcome the guests with a sapling of a flowering plant.



5. RAIN WATER HARVESTING

We promote digging mud pits in all the lands of our churches and our institutions, in order to harvest rain water. Due to climate Change water scarcity is a serious issue. CSI is promoting rain water harvesting in order to mitigate water scarcity.



RAIN WATER IS A BLANK CHEQUE

(During rainy season, people think continuous raining is a headache. Harvested Rain water is telling her story)

Do you think that I am a headache?.

*All headaches are due to misunderstandings,
Proper understanding will remove all headaches.*

*See my case, I have been falling on the roof tops
of your Church/School*

for the last so many years during the monsoons.

I have been running on land to reach the rivers and lakes.

*If you would like to recharge ground water-
train the running rain water to walk,*

walking water to crawl and the crawling water to stop.

*If you do like that, at last, I will stop my usual journey
and I will rest in the mud pit, you made for me.*

Yes, I will sleep there till the onset of summer.

*I will be thankful to you for the wonderful rest
you have given to me in this hectic world.*

*I will come back next summer to see you again,
to quench your thirst, also to see you for giving me
a new dimension to my journey.*

*I wish you also a new life Journey without causing headache
to others.*

6. WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste Management education in schools, with pupils designing posters, writing essays, staging a drama, and making other presentations about recycling. As a hallmark of operation our phrase is “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse.” Some Dioceses are supplying portable biogas plants to all parsonages-converting kitchen waste to fuel.



7. RENEWABLE ENERGY

The CSI is promoting solar-absorbing panels to generate electricity in all the institutions owned by the CSI. CSI promotes the use of solar energy wherever possible. Instead of Nuclear / thermal/ hydel projects to generate energy we demand setting up a Solar Energy Commission on the same lines as the Indian Space Research Organisation with a clear mandate to achieve a clearly defined target for substituting 50 percent of the country's fossil fuel consumption by solar energy, within ten years.



8. GREEN CLERGY FELLOWSHIP

The Clergy of CSI, interested in Ecological Concerns are grouped as Green Clergy. Through WhatsApp and emails we regularly update them of the latest eco developments. Green Clergy meet twice a year. Earth Bible Sermons, Green parables are the contributions of Green Clergy fellowship.



9. GREEN TEACHERS FELLOWSHIP

The teachers who are interested in ecological work are grouped into Green Teachers Fellowship. Through WhatsApp, Emails we regularly update and share eco concerns. Green Teachers meet once in a year.



10. ENVIRONMENTAL RALLY

For educating the public we conduct rally.



11. GREEN DIOCESE, GREEN PARISH, GREEN HOME, GREEN SCHOOL, AWARDS

We have been giving green awards to promote ecological Concerns since 2004



12. GREEN SCHOOL PROGRAMME – WE WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The CSI Synod Department of Ecological Concerns do believe that the mission mandate of the Church today in the education sector is to teach Sustainability. CSI has 1900 schools spread all over five southern states in India. In addition to the curriculum prescribed, we would like to teach the students a sustainable way of living. Green Schools give emphasis to sustainability. Students are encouraged to take a proactive approach to environmental challenges and are asked to share

their new found knowledge and skills with members of their family. Ultimately, sustainability is about being good global citizens: ensuring adequate resources for a clean, healthy environment for all and giving students the tools to be innovators, and giving them a healthy environment in which to learn and play.



GSP is a student centered teaching methodology which makes the teaching and learning more interesting. Through GSP, students are doing a green audit in the School which will study about sustainable living which is essential in protecting our planet. The CSI Department of Ecological Concerns has signed MoU with the Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi (CSE), for helping CSI to make 1000 schools of CSI as Green Schools. Every year CSE will give rating for the schools. CSI synod will honour schools in each state every year and it will be an encouragement for each school.

The role of the CSI is to motivate the CSI Schools to join GSP and give training for teachers in charge of GSP, Principals and to the School Managers. As it is a five year programme we are conducting regular training programme in regional level. We want to clean up and protect the environment. We want to be part of the change that is so desperately needed today. We know that the air we breathe is so polluted that it is hazardous for our health. Our rivers are dying because of garbage and sewage; our forests are under threat. We know that much has to be done to safeguard our environment, because without this, our planet's survival is at stake. The CSI believes that the right place to give training is to School Children. Hence we began the Green School Programme.



13. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ECOLOGICAL CONFERENCES

CSI organised six National and five international ecological Conferences for net working and sharing our concerns.



14. ORGANIC FARMING

We promote organic farming. The CSI has taken a strong stand against GM crops. GM inevitably leads to loss of our right over seeds thereby the loss of food sovereignty of the country



15. CLIMATE JUSTICE MINISTRIES

The most of the CSI Congregations belong to the communities that are vulnerable to Climate Change. We create awareness on “Climate Justice” at the congregational level in these diocese. Further, re-read the Bible and reaffirm our faith from the perspective of Climate Refugees. We inspire the congregations to discern climate justice as an integral part of churches public witness today. We hope that the congregations would be equipped to involve in saving creations whose life and livelihood are under threat.



16. EDEN ECO SPIRITUALITY CENTRE, OTHERA

Model eco centre . Rain water harvesting, Bio gas for cooking, renewable energy, ecology sound buildings, organic farming, domestic animals like cows, rabbits, hens, etc, meditation halls, natural beauty.



17. WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY / EARTH DAY CELEBRATION



18. SECRET OF LIFE

I have learnt this secret, so that anywhere, at any time, I am content, whether I am full or hungry, whether I have too much or too little (Philippians 4: 12).

19. PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing we will be content with that. (1 Timothy 6:6-9)

Books Published

- 1) **Reconciling with Nature** (English, Telugu, Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada) **2002** A Guide to a Green Church. Edited by Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackad.
- 2) **God is Green (2004)** Ecological concerns and work of CSI Synod and Dioceses. Edited by Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackad.
- 3) **Eco Vision and Mission (English and Tamil) 2006** A guide to Sunday School teachers, Contributors: Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackad, Ms. Jessy Jeyakaran, Dr. Edwin Chandrasekharan.
- 4) **A Christian Response to Ecological Crisis (2009)** Edited by Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackad and Rt. Rev. Thomas Samuel.
- 5) **Green Gospel (2011)** Edited by Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackad and Rt. Rev. Thomas Samuel.
- 6) **Forest: Our Good Neighbour (2011)** A Worship Resource on 'Biodiversity',
- 7) **Turn to God: Turn to Green (2012)** A Worship Resource Book on 'Green Energy'.
- 8) **Bread of Life: Bread for Life (2013)** A Worship Resource Book on 'Food Justice'.
- 9) **Word & World (2013)** Bible Studies on Climate. Edited by Viji Varghese Eapen & Mohan Larbeer.
- 10) **Renewed Faith for a Redeemed Earth (2014)** Eco-Theological Reflections Edited by Viji Varghese Eapen & Allan Samuel Palanna.
- 11) **Green Church (2014)** Edited by Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackad.
- 12) **Earth Bible Sermons 1 (2015)** Edited by Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackad.
- 13) **Earth Bible Sermons 2 (2015)** Edited by Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackad.
- 14) **Earth Bible Sermons 3 (2016)** Edited by Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackad.
- 15) **Green Parable (2016)**
- 16) **Earth Bible Sermons (2016)** Telugu, Kannada, Tamil and Malayalam.

The Creed of Green Fellowship members of the CSI

- The 10 most important words : I won't wait for others to take the first step.
- The 9 most important words : If it is to be, it's up to me.
- The 8 most important words : If not me, who? If not now, when?
- The 7 most important words : Let me take a shot at it.
- The 6 most important words : I will not pass the buck
- The 5 most important words : You can count on me.
- The 4 most important words : It's my job!
- The 3 most important words : Just do it!
- The 2 most important words : I will.
- The most important word : Me



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<http://www.csisynod.com/deptnews.php?cat=EC>

<http://www.csimkdecological.org>

Face book page Ecology Csi

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