

Elizabeth Joy

Elizabeth graduated from Bangalore University with a B.Sc. in Chemistry, Botany and Zoology in 1982 and then completed a Bachelor of Divinity at United Theological College, Bangalore in 1986.

From 1986 to 1988, Elizabeth worked at the Student Christian Movement in India, firstly as a Programme Assistant and latterly as Co-ordinator of the Women's Desk. In between these two roles, she was Editorial Officer for the Bible Society of India.

Whilst Elizabeth was brought up within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in India, she married Rev Fr George Joy, a priest of the Malankara Orthodox Church. From 1989 to 1992, she served St Thomas' Orthodox Church in Singapore with her husband and undertook particular responsibilities with the youth, women and Sunday School.

In 1993 Elizabeth was appointed as Southern Regional Co-ordinator for the Joint Women's Programme of the Christian Institute for the Study of Society and Religion (JWP-CISRS), responsible for Church-Related Programmes in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. During this time, she completed a Master of Theology in Christian Theology in 1997 at United Theological College, Bangalore. Her thesis 'A critique of Dalit Christian Theology in the light of the experiences of Dalit Women' sowed the seeds for a publication 'Lived Realities – Faith Reflections on Gender Justice', published by JWP-CISRS in 1999.

In July 2000, Elizabeth was appointed as General Secretary of the Student Christian Movement in India – the first woman appointed as chief executive officer in the organisation's 90 year history. During this time she was involved in a variety of programmes and activities with an emphasis on Church and Society, including issues of gender awareness, climate change, globalisation, human rights, religious pluralism and inter-faith relations.

Since 2002 Elizabeth has been working with the Council for World Mission as the Executive Secretary for Mission Education, based at Ipalo House in London. Working on a wide range of programmes, which cover youth and gender issues. Human trafficking has been an issue of growing importance under the remit of Mission Education, highlighted as an area of importance to the CWM member churches at the October 2008 Gender workshop in Taiwan, this led to a CWM global consultation being held in New Delhi in March 2009. The main outcome was a statement entitled 'From Nowhere to Nowhere – Act to Combat Human Trafficking' focusing on proclamation, prevention, protection and restoration and giving practical suggestions for combating human trafficking on the global, national and local levels.

Council for World Mission

The Council for World Mission is a worldwide community of Christian churches. The 31 members are committed to sharing their resources of money, people, skills and insights globally to carry out God's mission locally.

CWM was established in 1977 in its present form. It grew out of the London Missionary Society (LMS, founded 1795), the Commonwealth (Colonial) Missionary Society (1836) and the (English) Presbyterian Board of Missions (1847). Most member churches have backgrounds in the Reformed tradition. Many are united churches. CWM has 31 members in: the Pacific (9), Europe (5), East Asia (6), Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (5), South Asia (4), and the Caribbean (2).