

WHAT'S NEWS



Southwest California Synodical Women's Organization • Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2017

Dream Anew

REGISTER NOW

SoCal SWO

AUTUMN RENEWAL

**Cal Lutheran University
Lundring Events Center
October 20-22, 2017**

Now glory be to God, who by His mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of – infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes.
—Ephesians 3: 20:

Discover God's dream for you and how you can Dream Anew.

During our time together we will have inspiring worship, bible study, music, food and fellowship with amazing women from all areas of our synod. During your free time there will be opportunities for meditation, shopping, arts & crafts, health, and wellness seminars. Hang out with newfound friends during our movie night or take a sunset walk through one of our prayer labyrinths. The choice is yours!

Our in-kind offerings will be donated to the CLU student food pantry. Congregations are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items or gift cards. Our offering will be split between the Churchwide Women of the ELCA and International Women Leaders Campaign. Autumn Renewal attendees will be staying at the Best Western Posada Royale Hotel & Suites, Simi Valley, CA.

Friday, October 20

3:30 - 7:30pm Registration/Meet and Greet with Rahel & Val
5:30pm Dinner
7:00pm Gathering Songs
7:15pm Announcements
7:30pm Dream Session #1

12:00pm Lunch

1:00pm Free Time
5:30pm Dinner
6:45pm Gathering Songs
7:00pm Dream Session #3
8:00pm Evening Program

Saturday, October 21

9:00am Gathering Songs
9:15am Devotions
9:25am Dream Session #2
10:30am Free Time

Sunday, October 22

9:00am Hotel Checkout
9:15am Gathering Songs
9:45am Dream Session #4
10:00am Worship Service

MEET OUR *Dream* CURATORS:



Valora K. Starr-Butler
Bible Study Leader

As a Women of the ELCA director for discipleship, Valora develops and coordinates programs, events and conversations that involve discerning God's call, understanding God's gifts and responding to God's presence in our lives. She also serves as coordinator of W/ELCA's global education network and administers the scholarship program, which offers annual scholarships for post-secondary education and graduate studies.



Rahel Mwitula Williams
Keynote Speaker

Rahel Mwitula-Williams, is Donor Relations Manager for ELCA Global Church Sponsorship where she seeks to deepen relationships with congregations, inviting them to join the call to service and lasting impact thru: ELCA missionaries; young adults in global mission; global ministries; and the international women leaders initiative. A third-generation Lutheran, her faith was shaped in part by her grandfather, who was one of the first Lutheran missionaries in Tanzania.



REGISTRATION FORM

FULL WEEKEND PACKAGE:

Includes registration, accommodations and meals

- \$350 1 person per room
- \$240 2 persons per room
- \$200 3 persons per room
- \$185 4 persons per room

SATURDAY ONLY:

Includes registration and meals

- \$130 per person

(please provide separate registration form for each roommate)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Church: _____ Church City: _____

In case of emergency, contact: Name: _____ Tel# _____

Special dietary needs: _____

Hotel has no elevator - do you need to have your room be on the first floor? yes no doesn't matter

Roommates' names:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Total amount enclosed:

Make checks payable to WOMEN OF THE ELCA
and mail, along with this completed form to
JULIE JENSEN, registrar, 921 Gill Avenue, Port Hueneme CA 93041

Registration is transferable but NOT refundable. Questions? call 805 486-5762



PEACE WITH JUSTICE

by Sharon Heck

The speakers at July's 2017 Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering in Minnesota all spoke to JUSTICE. The theme was **ALL ANEW**, and Leymah Gbowee, a Nobel Peace Prize winner from Liberia, stated that Anew is not an event, it is a process. The word All means you can't act in a silo. All Anew means linking together and putting all that fire together to change the world. Jesus renews all of us on a daily basis. But all of us need to bring that renewal together, to be the troublemakers of the world, to be the firebomb of the world, to change

the things that need changing.

Kelly Fryer was the writer of our summer Bible Study in *Gather* magazine. where she spoke a bit about being "good" rather than "nice" when confronting some justice issues. Standing with those who have been: sidelined, who are poor, who are part of marginalized communities, that's standing right there side by side with Jesus. That's where Jesus is. That's where God is and you can't open a page of Scripture without seeing that. She said, "We have never needed you more. Don't tell me, 'I am too old.' Don't tell me, 'I'm tired.' Don't tell me, 'It's somebody else's turn.' You're

it." Kelly said, "You are the daughters of a troublemaker."

Our final keynote speaker was our very own Pastor Alexia Salvatierra from our synod. She talked about making the journey from mercy to justice. She quoted a favorite Bible passage, Micah 6:8 and said, "it tells believers to do justice and love mercy." "Lutherans and particularly Lutheran women can celebrate that we are pretty good at acts of mercy." Even though the world typically separates mercy and justice, she said, "biblically, mercy and justice kiss." She said, seeing injustice in the world is the first step to taking action to correct it. She shared actual stories of what has happened to youths in El Salvador who are trying to escape gang and mafia violence by coming to our country. She said moving from mercy to justice requires compassion and vision. Her talk was very moving and a great addition to the Triennial Gathering.

FROM THE TREASURER

ARE YOU PART OF AN ACTIVE UNIT?

Part of being an active unit means your unit supports financially the Women of the ELCA.

This involves regularly doing the following:

- Collecting regular offerings and sharing a portion with your synodical women's organization (regional-form A).
- Having regular Thankoffering services and sending 100% of those offerings to the Churchwide women's organization (national-form B).
- Supporting Women of the ELCA designated giving programs such as: Katherine Von Bora Luther endowment fund, Augusta Victoria hospital,

Jerusalem, Freight for quilts (national-form B).

- Participating in occasional giving opportunities, like the anniversary of the organization, a memorial or even disaster relief. (national-form B)

■ Subscribe to:

Gather at www.gathermagazine.org

Interchange at www.womenoftheelca.org/publications

Bold Café for the younger women at www.boldcafe.org

- Purchasing other resources produced by Women of the ELCA.

Another part of being active is to have one person in your unit be the

contact person, so that information from the synodical and Churchwide women's organizations can be provided to the unit through this person.

New forms, A & B, need to be used. These forms are almost yearly updated. If you do not have this year's current report forms, please contact me, Karil Drake (my information is listed in newsletter roster) to obtain new ones. This is important because Churchwide has changed where their receipts are mailed to. Mail form A reports to me, not to anyone else.

Thank you to all of the churches that are sending their offerings!

Peace,
Karil Drake, Treasurer,
SW California Synodical Women's
Organization



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Karen Moyer Reports

WOW my mind is whirling from the information packed into the 10th Annual Triennial Convention and Gathering. The convention was the work of the people, our women, who met in to discuss business, elect officers and board members, participate in Bible Study, and hear fantastic speakers. In addition check out the new Women of the ELCA Website www.womenoftheelca.org.

At the Gathering we learned more about PV for Phebe - a solar panel project is now complete. In case you are wondering PV means "photovoltaic" the process by which light is turned into electricity. PV for Phebe is a project of Northeastern Minnesota's Synodical Women's Organization, voted on by the 9th Triennial Convention in 2014. Donations provided solar panels for electricity to the Phebe Hospital and School of Nursing near Monrovia, Liberia so that there is no worry that the electricity may shut down. Future donations will help cover the cost of medicine and supplies. Women of the ELCA is currently supporting Phebe Hospital Nursing School and Curran Hospital, a ministry of the Lutheran Church in Liberia. More information on the 10th Triennial Convention and Gathering is in other articles in this newsletter.

The Presidents of Region 2 met in conference August 29, which includes 2A Sierra Pacific, 2B Southwest CA, 2C Pacifica, 2D Grand Canyon, and 2E

Rocky Mountain. During a conference call with Women of the ELCA church-wide administrators Lisa Polin, Linda Post-Buskofsky and Valora Starr, each conference answered Lisa's request to describe a SWO joy. I mentioned our Autumn Renewal coming up at California Lutheran University entitled "Dream Anew" to coincide with the Western States Youth Gathering "Dream Big" and the 10th Triennial "All Anew". During this conference call I heard many new ideas. The Grand Canyon SWO will have Mark Allen Powell come to discuss his 2018 Bible Study. Most are planning their fall gathering and working on their newsletters.

Our Autumn Renewal is set for October 20-22, 2017 at California Lutheran University, Ullman Commons Friday evening and Saturday and Sunday in Lunding Events Center. Our theme is

Dream Anew

based on Ephesians 3: 20-21. Valora Starr, is our Bible Study leader and Rahel Mwitula Williams, is our keynote speaker. Valora Starr, as director for discipleship, develops and coordinates programs, events and conversations that involve discerning God's call, understanding God's gifts and responding to God's presence in our lives. She also serves as coordinator of Women of the ELCA's global education network and administers the scholarships program, which offers annual scholarships for post-secondary education

and graduate studies. Rahel Mwitula-Williams, a third-generation Lutheran, tells about growing up in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

This is the year, the 500th year of the anniversary of Reformation. We in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America use the theme "Freed and Renewed in Christ" in observance of the Reformation that began with the 95 theses that Martin Luther first made public on Oct. 31, 1517. "500 Years of God's Grace in Action" is a tagline. In "The Freedom of a Christian" (1520) Martin Luther famously wrote "A Christian is lord of all, completely free of everything; a Christian is a servant, completely attentive to the needs of all." The ELCA's theme expresses this message of the Christian faith's freedom and a renewed life of service to others in Jesus Christ.

The Southwest California Synod just completed the Reformation Road trip from the south end of the synod to the north. Six churches were selected and Bishop Guy Erwin, a Luther scholar, gave inspiring lectures. The Synod currently is retaping these lectures. What has your church planned for the 500th Anniversary? I located five dramas on Luther that St. Timothy in Lakewood presented with our Lenten Evening prayer. The Greater Long Beach Conference is planning a Reformation Service for October 29 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Long Beach, with Bishop Erwin presiding.

The Gather Bible Studies for 2017 - 2018 is something I would encourage each unit to purchase and participate in the studies.

Fall 2017:

The Apostles' Creed by Julia Seymour

- September Session #1: I believe in God...
- October Session #2: I believe in Jesus Christ...
- November Session #3: I believe in the Holy Spirit...

Advent/Christmas Devotional 2017

- December: Joy to the world

Winter 2018: Multiple meanings: Learning from other interpretations by Mark Allan Powell

- January/February Session #1:
Washing hands with distant hearts
(Mark 7:1-12)
- Session #2 – Prepare the Way of the
Lord (Luke 3:3-17)

- March Session #3: The Good Samaritan
(Luke 10:30-37)
- April Session #4: The Prodigal Son
(Luke 15:11-20)
- May: Intergenerational devotional
(Title and author to come)

In the August *What's News*, there was information on "Faithful Friends." It is a way a we can give a monthly recurring gift to support the Women of the ELCA. Please consider joining this

group of especially devoted friends of the Women of the ELCA who provide consistent, sustain support for our many ministries www.womenoftheelca.org/FaithfulFriends. Discussion at the Triennial Convention was "If every woman gave 33 cents a day or about \$120 a year to the organization, Women of the ELCA could more than meet its budget for conventions, regular ministries and resources that women love.

HOSPITAL'S NEW SOLAR POWER PROJECT SEES LIGHT OF DAY

BY WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Pictured below: putting in the solar panels | photo by john ruvelsin



be" (PV stands for "photovoltaic," the process by which light is turned into electricity) has raised nearly 65% of its \$624,000 goal to provide solar energy to the hospital. And in March 2017, the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL) (a Minnesota-based not-for-profit that helps provide solar energy

to people of all income levels) began installing solar panels at Phebe Hospital.

The project has been a "faith walk from the very beginning; indeed, an army of believers brought it here to this point," said BJ Allen, RREAL's project manager for Phebe. "Over \$400,000

from more than 600 individuals came in so far."

More than 400 ELCA congregations, conferences and synods, ELCA Global Mission, Global Health Ministries, Wheat Ridge Ministries and the National Geographic Society have donated to the cause, Allen wrote in a recent report.

"Countless additional supporters helped bring about the dream" of providing solar power to Phebe, Allen said. "This project is a living manifesta-

tion of the unstoppable, caring, powerful, bold women of the ELCA."

Founded in 1921 by the Lutheran church, in partnership with Methodist and Episcopalian churches, Phebe Hospital and School of Nursing sits 112 miles from Monrovia and serves approx. 450,000 patients a year.

People living near the hospital recently stood in line to earn \$5/day to help install the system. Monrovia has no concrete trucks, so laborers mixed the concrete by hand, said former Northeastern Minnesota SWO board member Mary Jo Mettler.

Mettler came up with the idea for PV for Phebe after she took part in a Women of the ELCA-sponsored "Women Building Global Community" 25th anniversary trip to Liberia in 2012.

"A follow-up trip to Phebe Hospital is planned for November to fine-tune the solar energy system," said Mettler, who hopes to be there. The formal commissioning of the system will take place then.

Here's how to stay updated on PV for Phebe progress:

- Follow updates on Northeastern Minnesota's synodical website.
- Follow updates on RREAL's website.
- Like RREAL on Facebook for pictures and news briefs.

Read the original story of the PV for Phebe project.

For women giving birth at the Phebe Hospital and School of Nursing near Monrovia, Liberia, the worry that the electricity may shut down just as the baby's head is crowning has long been a reality.

Thanks to the Northeastern Minnesota's Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) that worry will soon be a thing of the past.

An initiative of the Northeastern Minnesota SWO called "PV for Phe-

SAVE THE DATE



SoCal SWO Winter Gathering January 27, 2018 9am to 1pm

**Theme: "Do not grow weary....
Caregiving Opportunities"**

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all... —Galatians 6: 9-10a

The Lutheran Center/Synod Office will be hosting our 2018 Winter Gathering. We will have four panelists to discuss our topic; Lynn Carter (Salem, Glendale), hospice volunteer and Dr. Carol Mack (Holy Trinity, Thousand Oaks), grey lawyer so far are participating

"Carol Mack has a PhD in nursing and practiced oncology nursing for many years before becoming an elder law attorney. She was admitted to the California bar in 2009 and is a Counsel at Darnall Law. Dr. Mack also teaches health science at California State University, Channel Islands. Throughout her career, she has been concerned with the needs of older adults; she is on the Board of Directors at Grey Law of Ventura and serves as a volunteer attorney for that organization." **Save the date and plan to attend.**



EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE

The event sponsored by the Foothill cluster in August did not feature a famous speaker but instead highlighted stories of the women who came and expressed their love through the needlework they did in response to the message of Mark 12:31—*The second is this 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.*

The women seated around one large table listened first to the story of the "prayer shawl" ministry of Anastasia McGee from our host church – Salem Lutheran, Glendale. She told of the joyous and comforting feelings expressed by prayer shawl recipients. Each shawl is unique and often made to the interest of the one receiving it.

Most everyone spoke of a ministry that challenged them to use their talents to create "masterpieces" for use as blankets, scarves and quilts. Two women felt inspired to enhance their skills so they could do more for some friends in the church and in a care facility in the community. Karil Drake had thoughtfully brought lots of needles yarn and thread and two women went to work on their creations. Penny Moyer, along with her sister Karen Moyer, our SoCal SWO president went to

work learning how to crochet.

While enjoying the meal, attendees spoke of the need to encourage others to learn more about quilting, knitting and crocheting specially since it is a valuable expression of love toward others. It is a multigenerational activity where a young group can learn and participate on many projects. Special thanks was extended to members from Church Women United of Glendale who participated in the program.

The Women of the ELCA published a study "Knitting as a spiritual practice." Download free at www.womenoftheelca.org.

PICK UP DATES for delivery to Lutheran World Relief Quilts, School Kits, Personal Care Kits, Baby Care Kits

Wednesday, October 18:

• 9am-12noon: Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran, 73 N. Hill, Pasadena (626-792-4169)

• 2-4pm Holy Redeemer Lutheran, 14515 S. Blaine Ave., Bellflower (562-867-0714)

Thursday, October 19

• 9am-12noon: St. Andrews Lutheran 15520 Sherman Way, Van Nuys (818-782-5953)

• 2-4pm: Mt. Cross Lutheran Church 102 Camino Esplendido, Camarillo (805-482-3847)

TRIENNIAL 2017

by Keia Morris, Board Member
and 1st timer Triennial attendee.

This was all new to me. It was my first time at Triennial, it was my first time as a voting board member, and it was my first time serving as a chair at the convention. The days were very long but also very rewarding. Because it was my first time, I didn't want to miss out on anything. I went to Morning Prayer, attended all the workshops I could, spent a significant amount of time sewing for "Days for Girls" and volunteered wherever I could.

The entire experience of the convention and gathering was energizing and motivating for me. I was eager to share my experience with my congregation and friends and I was excited to help make give-aways for the next triennial because I had just as much fun meeting new people as I did collecting them.

My most gratifying experience was the work I did for "Days for Girls." This is a program where volunteers make beautifully colorful re-usable personal hygiene supplies for young girls in Africa. These supplies allow these young girls to leave their homes and continue their regular daily tasks with dignity and confidence during their time of the month.

My most memorable experience was Kelly Fryer's Bible Study, entitled "Don't You Dare Disengage." She spoke about those being under "God's authority" who are expected to be humble and sober and how we are supposed to use our gifts for the good of community, to live harmoniously, and to leave vengeance to the Lord. But she really brought it home for me when she introduced the idea of being a "nice" Christian versus being a "good" Christian. She went on to explain that a "nice" Christian is the peacemaker, loves on others and prays for our leaders. But a "good" Christian stands up and speaks out against injustice and welcomes those who are different. Kelly went on to tell this story of a Hispanic woman who visited a Sunday morning church service with her young daughter. As the two walked into the sanctuary a church member remarked, loud enough

to be heard by all who were around her, as well as the two visitors, "who let 'them' in here?" Although many Christians around heard the comment, no one said anything. How could no one say anything? At first I was outraged as I listened to this story. How could those so-called "Christians" allow someone to enter God's house and have them to feel not only unwelcomed but probably enraged and angered at the hypocrisy. Then I thought about myself. Have I ever sat back and witnessed an unnecessarily unkind act and said nothing because I wanted to keep the peace. I recall how I painstakingly avoid upsetting a church member, especially those who maybe already unyielding when it comes to things like congregational changes and compromises. You know who I mean...those who complain about the minor insignificant things like changes in the worship music or a

modification in the liturgy. I mean, we just want peace in the church so we can encourage involvement in our outreach, the children's choir and whatever upcoming event our congregation is focused on. But is that always the right thing to do? Are we in God's will at those times? Do we attend congregations full of nice Christians being polite and ignoring tough uncomfor-

table issues, not wanting to ruffle any feathers? I want to be bold in my faith and speak God's truth. I left the 2017 Triennial gathering wanting, not to be a "nice" Christian but desiring to become a "good" Christian, through the leading of the Holy Spirit by faith.



**Twin Valley Cluster
Meeting
Sat., Sept. 30 2017
American Lutheran
Church
Registration: 9am**

**KATIE LUTHER
PROGRAM**



2016-2018 ROSTER OF SWO BOARD MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND SUPPORT

OFFICERS

President

Karen L Moyer
5601 Kenwood Ave
Buena Park, CA 90621
H: 714-670-6756
W: 949-420-8835
C: 714-330-1440
H: karenmoyer@msn.com
W: karen.moyer@pacificlife.com

Vice President

Rosemary Lawson
2832 N Brighton St.
Burbank, CA 91504
H: 818-767-2879
W: 818-767-7260
Lawson5323@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Dianne Tillman
19443 Cypress Point Drive
Northridge, CA. 91326
H: 818-363-5951
C: 818-429-0474
dianne.tillman08@gmail.com

Treasurer

Karil Drake
1329 Western Ave.
Glendale, CA 91201
H: 818-243-9573
C: 818-395-2353
KarilDrake@yahoo.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Sharon Heck
6032 Comstock Ave
Whittier, CA 90601
H: 562-698-0476
C: 562-858-9253
heck37@verizon.net

Keia Morris
3976 Hepburn Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90008
W: 323-837-1841
C: 559-246-1462
KEIA001@YAHOO.com

Terri Kelly
2908 Hyacinth Court
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
H: 805-492-2015
terrikelly27@yahoo.com

Kristal Shipp
4633 Maytime Lane
Culver City, CA 90230
H: 310-559-4452
C: 310-751-8000
kristalshipp@gmail.com

Mary Ridenour-French
145 North "4th" Street #329
Santa Paula, CA 93060
C: 805-746-7751
mkridenour@gmail.com

Dona Kintzi
1127 Foxenwood Drive
Santa Maria, CA 93455
H: 805-938-1433
C: 805-868-4833
dkintzi@gmail.com

Boardmember Dona Kintzi writes: I have been living in Santa Maria for 20 years and currently teach High School Art and Choir. I love working with teenagers and all the adventures that brings to my life.

At church I find great joy directing the handbell choir. We have a lot of fun and occasionally hit all the notes. I sing with the worship team and assist with Stephen Ministry.

I love dogs and cats and our house is usually full of animals.

I am happy to serve on this board and hope to build lasting relationships with the Women of the ELCA.

CLUSTER ASSIGNMENTS

Central Coast: Dona Kintzi
South Bay: Kristal Shipp
San Gabriel: Sharon Heck
Channel Islands: Dianne Tillman
Greater Long Beach: Karen Moyer
LA Metro: Keia Morris
Tehachapi: TBA
Twin Valley:
Terri Kelly & Mary Ridenour-French
Foothill: Karil Drake

FACILITIES LIAISONS

AUTUMN RENEWAL CHAIRS

Julie Jensen
What's News Database Manager
921 Gill Avenue
Port Hueneme, CA 93041
H: 805-486-5762
C: 805-218-8416
juliejnsn1@roadrunner.com

Robin Tribbitt
1939 Sunridge Dr.
Ventura, CA 93003
H: 805-654-8252
C: 805-218-8416
rtblue@sbcglobal.net

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Karil Drake (point person)
1329 Western Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201
H: 818-243-9573
C: 818-395-2353
karildrake@yahoo.com

Maxine Cameron Stenstrom
Graphic design and editor
PO Box 5350, Pine Mtn. Club, CA 93222
661-242-1622
maxinecameron@sbcglobal.net

WHAT'S NEWS

Women of the **ELCA** 

SWO • SoCal Synod

OUR MISSION & PURPOSE: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

Julie Jensen, 921 Gill Avenue
Port Hueneme, CA 93041

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

all anew is.. a process...

TWO WORDS GUIDE ME THESE DAYS

by Valora Starr

I am still in awe of how God speaks to me and to the circles of faith through which I live out my calling. God has not been so intently clearer to me than with the ripples created with Women of the ELCA's Tenth Triennial Gathering theme all anew.

We have lots of reminders here in the office, and sometimes I find myself staring at those two little words—lower case, no punctuation (though I love a good exclamation point or two if I am truly excited). I am moved to study them just as they are. Two words.

*From keynote speech by
LEYMAH GBOWEE at the
Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis*

When God has called you to be in someone's corner, you can't be there partially. It is all the way. The word all means you can't act in a silo. **All anew** means linking together and putting all that fire together to the change the world.

Anew is not an event. It's a process. Jesus renews us daily. We have to understand that every day we are anew. All of us, on a daily basis, are anew. But all of us need to bring that renewal together, to be the troublemakers of the world, to be the firebomb of the world, to change the things that need changing.

Racism is at its peak, domestic violence has increased, wars and rumors of wars are everywhere. When you are determined to be in someone's corner, God will be with you. God is calling each of us today to be in a corner to align with one another because it is the only way that you can change this troubled world.

...of hope

"Hope is something I must hold on to in this world of pessimism and injustice," she said. "Then I see the young people I engage with in my life, who despite everything, still believe in the future. They still fight for justice, believe in justice. Then I remember, 'who am I to give up hope when these people are not?'"