City Church

EXPRESSIONS!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CITY CHURCH, KOHIMA

Vol-1 Issue-3 (2011)

Superintendent's Desk....



As we look back (to the years experience) with all the different kind of expressions– Wow! Ahh! Ouch! Yahoo! etc. – we are happy to bring out another issue of EXPRESSIONS!! – which is the reflection of this year's activities and experiences. We hope everyone enjoys reading and be blessed through the expressions of children, teachers, parents, etc.

Time with different children, with different abilities, needs, unique in their own way is a real experience and interesting. Every move, every word, every touch, every minute of teachers becomes very important for children. At times it is difficult but there are so many things that keeps us going. To mention some:

- The facts that precious lives are entrusted to us to love, care and nurture for His kingdom.
- Children look forward and come willing to Sunday School.
- Some parents come and say, 'We always pray for teachers.'
- The joy of seeing the passed out Sunday School students doing very well in different fields of studies and walking with the Lord.
- We know that our time and service is not in vain, it is bearing fruit.
- Above all, God's command and call to care for His sheep, His enabling power and presence.
- The love of Christ motivates us in His ministry.

We give all glory and honor to God for His grace and love that has brought us through.-***Hekali Shikhu***

Pastor's Column.....



It was Robert Raikes, a kind newspaper editor, who was instrumental in starting Sunday School. The burden began at the sight of children living in the industrial city of Gloucester, England. Many of them never got the chance to attend school - they worked at mills to help support their families. They only had Sunday to have fun, and on Sunday they ran wild. Seeking to bring about change in their lives and give them a better future, Robert Raikes started Sunday School in the kitchen of Mrs. Meredith at Sooty Alley in 1780. Fifty years later, the ministry spread worldwide. As public education developed, Sunday Schools began to concentrate on Bible teaching.

At City Church, we are grateful to God for bringing many children from diverse sections of our community right at our door steps of our Sunday School. The key endeavor of the ministry is to bring transformation of lives by introducing Jesus through Bible lessons. We thank God for providing us with dedicated Teachers. It is great to learn from several parents that their children always look forward to Sunday, to attend their Sunday School classes. Thus, there seem to be times when even reluctant parents are brought to church by their enthusiastic children. God bless the ministry of our Sunday School!

Rev. Malsawma Vanchhawng
Pastor, City Church, Kohima.

Special Days of 2011

22nd January - 'Teachers Retreat'
Rev. Bendang, CEEFI Guwahati.

1st May - Outing to Highland Park
Enjoyed a time of sharing and feasting on favorite TIFFINS

21st - 24th June - VBS
Theme: 'Walk in My Ways'. Stella Higher Secondary School, Agri.

14th August - Talent Celebration
27 varieties of items presented by different classes and individuals. It was a time of Talent Search and Celebration.

18th September - Thanksgiving Day
Teachers shared on the importance and meaning of thanksgiving. Everyone happily brought lots of thanksgiving offerings. (God bless all the cheerful givers)

28th & 29th October - Overnight Outing to Dimori Cove.
The children had fun and it was a time for the teachers to know them personally.

6th November - World Sunday school Day.
The Sunday school Department took up the Sunday Worship Service and presented different items for the glory of God.

Parents' Space

All the parents have great expectation for their children as they are our greatest investment. It gives me immense pleasure to see children growing up walking in the light, folding their hands to say simple prayers and opening their mouth to thank and praise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and yet have little time for some mischief.

During those worship hour, my heart always skip a beat every time I see my autistics son Tejopi flapping his hands happily and worshiping with his siblings and friends. Moment such as this is sufficient to bring tears of joy to parents like us.

For all the experiences that our children get and for being sensitive to Children With Special Need (CWSN), I would like to thank City Church, especially Rev. Malsawma Vanchhawng, Mrs. Hekali and her Sunday School team. God bless! - ***Daniel Thong***

Greetings from me and my family in the name of our Loving Father whose mercy abound with us.

I am honored and privileged that my children are a part and parcel of the City Church Sunday School.

I want to express my deep appreciation to all the Sunday School teachers for the selfless sacrifice in molding, guiding and imparting my children with the Word of God in the quest of spiritual life.

May God bless the Sunday School Teachers and the children. - ***H. Khekiye Yeptho***

Attending Sunday School has benefitted my children in every aspect.

The fear of the Lord is being instilled in them above everything. They are also learning the importance of knowing the Word of God.

One very important benefit is that they have learnt to pray to God at a personal level, pouring out their heart to God.

Learning the stories in the Bible from the teachers also impacts their life in a wonderful way. - ***Cannan***

Teacher's Column....



As someone once said, 'If you can explain or answer all the doubts of a 3-year-old, then you are a good teacher.' The How's and Why's of the little ones sometimes left me with no answers and sometimes made me sigh with a deep sense of gratitude knowing God is working in the lives of the little ones.

It's been humbling and challenging experience, the task of molding and tuning the lives of 3 - 5 yrs old age *group*. They are energetic, curious, expressive and very intelligent. The challenge for me is to be relevant, creative and keeping in mind their age, level of understanding, the limit of concentration time span they have.

This one year experiences have definitely made me grow as a person and as a teacher. I am sure God must have touched the lives of the little ones, maybe through the Bible stories, memory verses, songs, games and interaction that we have had. It's a great joy for me to say that I have been blessed through the lives of the children who are under my care. - **Mrs. Lalrinthari Tzudir**



Being in the Sunday School ministry is a joy, privilege and a blessing for me and my family as a whole. It's a platform where we can extend the knowledge of God through Bible and bring out God's gifted talent in them and in return they become an instrument of blessing at homes, in the society and wherever they go. Yes, at times it becomes a difficult task to teach the age group of 3-6 years old, as we have to go down to their level and adjust ourselves with them. But at the same time, it is a joy, fun, an exciting experience and also a great challenge for us to realise our own stand before God. It is really a blessing and an opportunity to win souls for Christ and to nurture the children to walk consistently with God in their life. Today, I would like to thank the parents for sending their children under our care. I can say proudly that I have been blessed through the lives of the children who are under my care. May God bless all the children, parents and teachers together. Thank you. - **Mrs. Usha Ezung**



Being in the Children's Ministry is a privilege and a blessing for me. I've learned and experienced a lot. It's a joy to be with the children and showing love, learning memory verses, singing songs and sharing God's Word. Our goal is to motivate them, win them to Christ and to bring them nearer to God.

-**Ms. Sentienla Kichu**



If we only focus on the immediate result, at times it is disappointing and wonder whether at-least something is getting inside these restless heads. But one day, when I asked my students to write about things they are thankful to God, one of them wrote, "Thank you, God, for saving the life of my mother." Such instances made me realize that God in His own way is enabling them to learn and grow in the knowledge of God. - **Ms. Akumla Walling**



I joined Sunday School thinking that I will teach the students about God. But to my amazement I discovered that the students and the teaching process taught me much more. The children's undiluted knowledge about God is truly inspiring. I am so blessed to be part of this Sunday School ministry.

- Dr. Chumbeno Ngullie

It's a privilege and joy for me to be a part of the Sunday School Ministry. I've been so much enriched and blessed as I study and learn the word of God together with the children.



Besides their own uniqueness,

- their eagerness to learn and to receive the word of God,
- their level of trust, faith and sincere love for the Lord and towards any neighbor,
- their forgiving, sharing and accommodating nature without any conditions,
- their teachable nature, innocence and
- their ability to spread smiles around are some of the qualities that always make them precious and special.

- Ms. Yansaroni Humtsoe



Only out of communion with the Lord and meditation of His Word will spring the resources to minister to the needs of our children. As parents and teachers, may we have the grace to look beyond their faults and see their needs.

- Ms. Juree



Involving in the Children's Ministry is a beautiful thing - a joy no one can steal! Indeed, to teach is to learn twice over, and I am happily learning. As a teacher, letting my children keep Psalm 23 in their hearts is not a difficult task, but leading them to their Shepherd is quite a challenge. Nevertheless, God is good. He is faithful. The very fact that we are in deep prayer and waiting upon the Lord is half the battle won. We are given the privilege to sow the seed - the rest, He will take over! It is our prayer that none of the seeds fall on rocky ground. Yesterday, with much love and care, somebody planted the love of God in our hearts. Today, as parents and as Sunday school teachers, we are passing on that love to our children; and tomorrow as these children grow up beautifully in the fear and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, may we, with rewarding smiles in our faces, be able to say, "all those prayers and time invested weren't in vain, after all!"

May God continue to bless the Children's Ministry!! **- Mr. Heroto Achumi**



Eleven years in the Children's ministry, numerically quite long yet experientially too short a time. It has been a rich learning experience for me spiritually. Nothing gives me delight, joy and pleasure than see the children grow in the Lord steadily. Every child is a unique gift of God and I feel so privileged to be a part of our Royal School of God. This is once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I am being blessed so much through these beautiful children.

-Mrs. Oponlumi Esaca



Sunday School ministry is a platform where I get the opportunity to impart life's basic principles taught in the Bible, into the lives of the upcoming very potential young students.
It always is an opportunity to search myself in the word of God which helps me in the process of transforming myself more in the likeness of Jesus Christ.

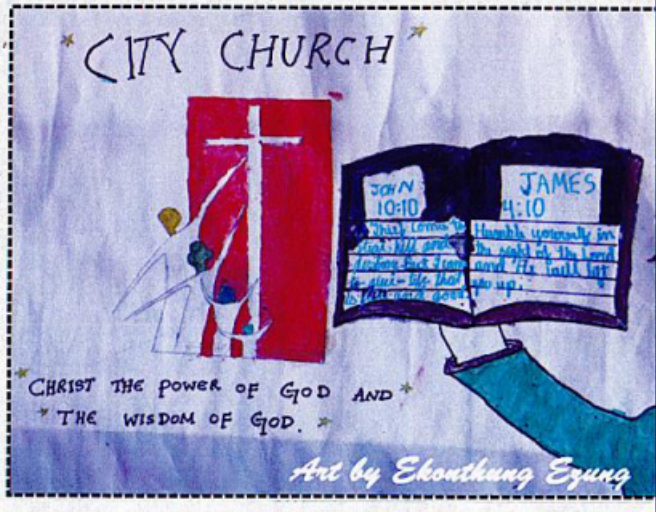
-Mr. Viketou Chüpou

The Voice



There's a voice inside my head
Telling me to be strong
It's telling me to be who I really want to be.
Whenever I fall
It tells me to pull myself up together
Even when I hear others laugh
It tells me just to believe in myself
I am going to make my dreams into reality There's no stopping it.
I am going to make it big
Discovering what's inside of me
I am going to be on top of the world.
It's coming my way.
It's coming soon.

- Stephanie Kevichusa.



Overnight Outing



Talent Celebration



THANKSGIVING DAY







Outing

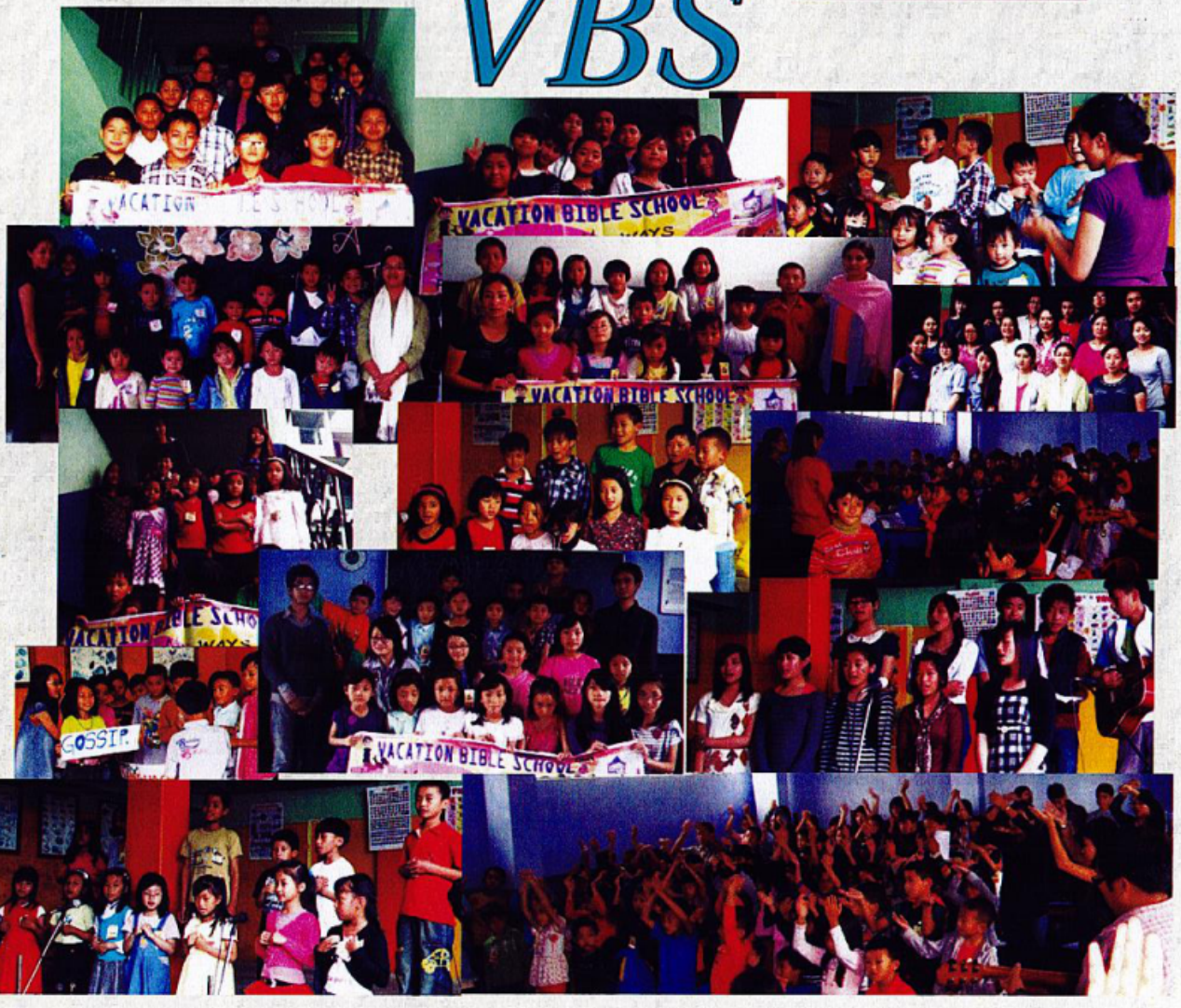








VBS



Students' Expressions!!!

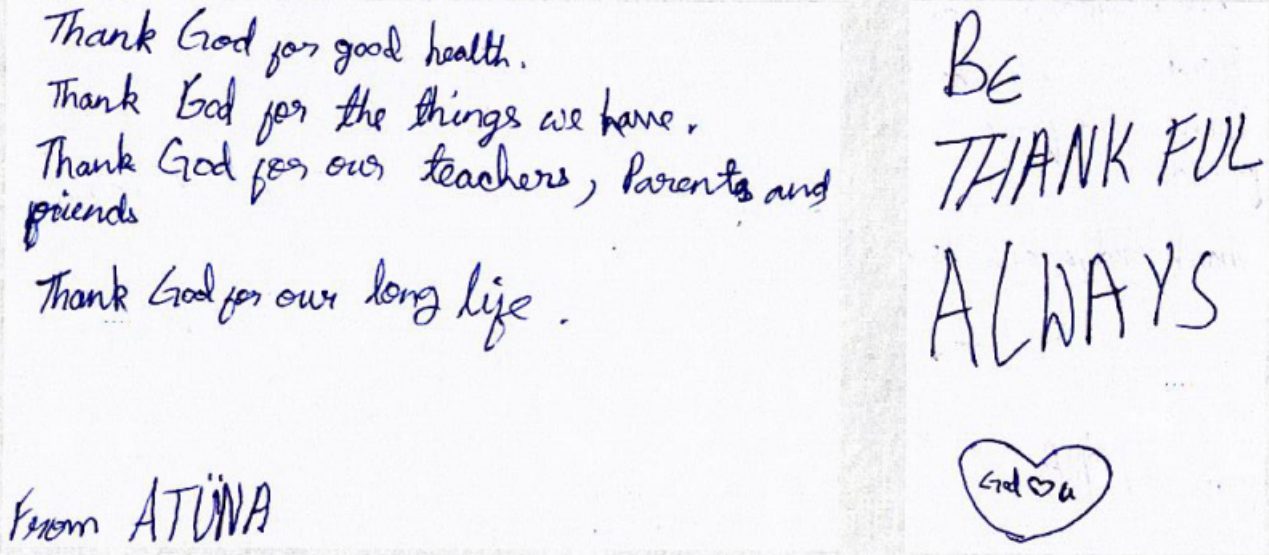
What I learnt from Sunday School this year?

- Learning about Jesus, how to pray and how to co-operate with others. - ***Vikithe Shikhu***
- I have learnt how to come closer to God, make new friends and know whose child we are. - ***Bocholong***
- I have learnt that even if bad people accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, Jesus accept them as His children. - ***Limasanen Aonok***
- I have learnt how to know God more and make friends and how to become a good person. - ***Salong***
- I have learnt how and why Christ was crucified for us. - ***Ekonthung Ezung***
- I have learnt to be patient, learnt many songs, and that Christians will live forever. - ***S-vei Khamai***
- Not to hide from God, to ask for wisdom, God will always forgive us and will save us. I learnt to read the Bible everyday, to love God more than anything and many more. - ***Atüna Shikhu***
- I have learnt a lot of things about God and how to pray, read the bible, asking Him for good health. - ***Vivi Tsürho***
- I have learnt to obey God, thank God for everything, to pray and listen to God, to be helpful and to give a smile to others. - ***Thimni***
- I have learnt that whenever someone is sick I can pray for them and will try to forgive others. ***-Dzüvarou khamai***
- I have learnt memory verses and stories. My favorite story is - Jonah obeys God. - ***Vilnu***
- I have learnt that it is always a good thing to pray and read the Bible, to obey God and be thankful to God always. - ***Luket.***

What I Have learned in Sunday School....



I am Akivi, a senior Sunday School student of City Church. I thank God for this wonderful opportunity to share the blessings that I have received attending the Sunday School class for the past years. I have learned how to pray and also learned so many Bible memory verses and songs but most importantly I have learned about the love of God and also to obey my parents, teachers and elders and also to be kind and help those who are in need. I have also learned the power of prayer in our life. I thank God for Sunday School teachers for guiding and teaching me and also leading me in a good way. I pray that God will bless our Sunday School teachers and all my friends too. God Bless! —Akivi Yeptho



Food for thought....

Judge Fawcett of Brooklyn, New York said, 'Out of 2,700 boys being brought before his court, not one of them was a Sunday School pupil.'

Jesus Loves the Little Children



When I look at a patch of dandelions,
I see a bunch of weeds that are going to take over my yard.
My kids see flowers for Mom and blowing white fluff you can wish on.

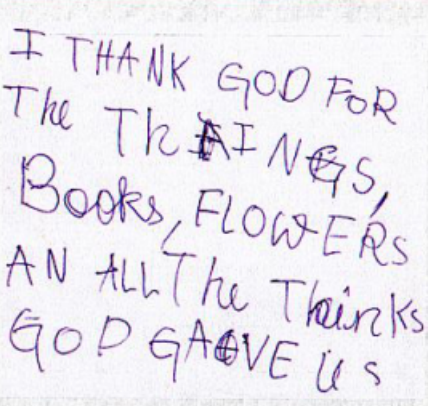
When I look at a homeless person and he smiles at me,
I see a smelly, dirty person who probably wants money, and I look away.
My kids see someone smiling at them and they smile back.

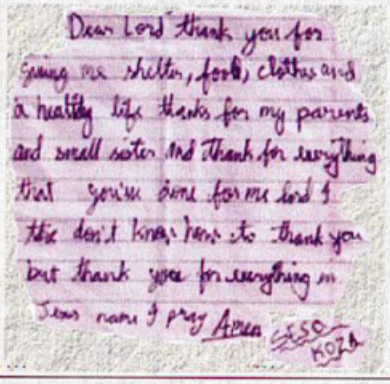
When I pray, I say thee and thou and grant me this, give me that.
My kids say, "Hi God! Thanks for my toys and my friends.
Please keep the bad dreams away tonight.
Sorry, I don't want to go to Heaven yet.
I would miss my Mommy and Daddy."

When I see a mud puddle, I step around it.
I see muddy shoes and clothes and dirty carpets.
My kids sit in it. They see dams to build,
Rivers to cross and worms to play with.

Sometimes I wonder if we are given kids to teach . . . or to learn from.
No wonder Jesus loves the little children!

- Kitiyala Jamir





Sunday School: An Integral Part of One's Growing Stages

- Imlionen Solo Longkumer*

The City Church Sunday School has been a real blessing to me. Who I am today is all thanks to the careful nurturing and prudent guidance of my God-fearing parents at home, and the never-tiring and relentless perseverance of my Sunday school teachers, each and every Sunday, to teach me exactly how to grow successfully in the Lord Jesus Christ. My faith in God has been greatly strengthened because of Sunday School. Putting God first in whatever I do, He has never let me down. I have been blessed with great health, good grades in my studies and success at any work I do. Even now, He always helps me succeed! I have no regret whatsoever having being a part of Sunday School. I encourage all growing kids to never miss Sunday School. You will be greatly blessed, as I have. God bless!

*(*Former Sunday School Student. He has finished his BBA-film and TV and right now working on a documentary for NBCC Platinum Jubilee)*

Flashback To My Memories.....



I am back in the same chemotherapy room. I have leukemia. I know what it is. Surgery. Sickness. Death. Slow. Quick. No other end. Inevitable. I still have so much to do in life and so many dreams to fulfill. I know I won't survive to see all my dreams come to reality. Because of my disease, I have to watch the world go past me like a waterfall. I thought I have no life... No future... No one can help me. But I am wrong. Some time back Grandma asked me, "What do you want to become, Ava?" "A pilot," I smiled, "Because when I fly, I want to see God in heaven." I went through chemotherapy and I don't remember what else. My hair is starting to fall off. I believe Jesus is waiting for me. He's giving me some time to say my goodbyes. I smile at mom beside me, "Guess I won't become a pilot after all." I don't remember how long I was in coma. When I wake up I'm no longer in my hospital room. I see Jesus, His arms wide open. This is a new life. A new beginning. I smile and run into his arms. **- Vivo Kechü**

Who is God?

- God is our loving father.
- God is the father of Jesus.
- God is a person who protects people.
- God is the one who made the world.

What is Heaven?

- Heaven is where the good men and women go.
- Heaven is a wonderful world.
- Heaven is a place where we can do anything.
- Heaven is where good people lives.

What is Hell?

- Hell is where the disobeying people go.
- Hell is bad place. It can make fire.
- Hell is a fire.
- Hell is place where bad people use to live.
- Where the devil lives.

- Primary Class (Age 7-9 years)

What Christmas means to me?

- Christmas means the birth of Jesus and going to Church. It's a joy that our Lord Savior was born. - ***Sujasula***
- For many people Christmas means Santa Clause, reindeers, Christmas trees and all that is related to winter but the real Christmas means the birth of Jesus, the one who died for us to save us. - ***Vitso-üTsürho***
- Christmas means celebrating birth of Jesus Christ who was born for us. - ***Dorothy***
- We celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with fire crackers. - ***Kekhrie*** *(class 1)*



World Sunday School Day 2011









Blessing from a Teacher's Heart to the Sunday school children:

May God bless you!
May you know how precious you are to God, to your parents and teachers.
May your personal relationship with Jesus be rich and meaningful,
May you never experience loneliness,
May you be kept from all harm and be blessed with good health,
Instead of being seized by fear during difficult times may you take refuge next to God's heart.
May you experience success in everything you do, and
May you have life in its fullness. Amen



Advent Christmas Wishes !!!

The Sunday School Students and the teachers wishes all the parents, guardians and believers of City Church a very happy and blessed Christmas.

May you all experience the Love, Peace and Joy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ during Christmas and always.