Expressions!!

SUNDAY SCHOOLCITY CHURCH, KOHIMA NEWSLETTER (2018 & 2019)

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become Children of God"

Superintendent's desk

- Hekali Shikhu

Dear Children,
You are all so special, precious and wonderful gift of God. "You are fearfully and wonderfully made..." We thank God for all of you, for willingly and sincerely coming to Sunday School faithfully learning so much by participating in different activities, contributing ideas and being there.
We want to let you know that you bring such joy, smile, strength and inspiration to all the teachers. We have been blessed by your lives. We thank God for this great opportunity to grow together.
May God bless all of you. May you always put God first in your life. May you choose to do what is right. May you live for Jesus, be different and make a difference.

The Choice and The Beauty of God's creation

- Kenneth Moa Aonok

(Sunday School Graduate- 2011)

Though God created everything in six days, He specifically and specially made us apart from the rest of His "creations". We humans can communicate with each other with more advanced skills, we possess multiple languages and we have the ability to shape things to create buildings, rockets, vehicles and much more. However, the most amazing "characteristics" that sets us apart from all the other creations, is the Gift of Sacrifice of God for mankind and also the Gift of

Cherished events

3rd February- Sunday School resumed

24th February- Sunday School teachers training
Resource persons- Ms.Akhono & Mrs.Achila

3rd March- Children's day of Prayer

23rd March- Teachers visited the Children's Club (Sisterhood Network)

18th-20th March- Four teachers attended the NBCC Christian Educators training on Counselling and Mental Health

7th April- Celebrated Love Feast Day on an outing-cum-picnic to Highland Park

19th May- Parents-Teachers meeting was held after the church service in which most of the parents attended and shared their concerns & feedbacks

1st June- Teachers meeting cum fellowship

2nd June- Beginners class performed a presentation on 'Fruit of the Spirit'

24th-26th June- Children's Bible Camp was held at the Jubilee Memorial Centre (KABA) on the theme *'I am fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalms 139:14)'*

25th August- Talent Celebration Day was held at the church after the church service. The programme was led by Limanula and almost all the students participated, showcasing their God-given talents through singing, dancing, craftsmanship, musical pieces, bible verse recitations, etc. It was an encouraging event for the children alongwith the parents present during the programme.

14th September- Parenting seminar with Praveen & Veena Bunyan as the resource persons

28th September- Teachers visited the Children's Club (Life Connect)

20th October- Sunday School Graduates reunion cum fellowship

3rd November- World Sunday School Day was celebrated at the church with class-wise presentation followed by an outing-cum-picnic with the parents at the NU Meriema ground.

Choice. No other creations, even the Angels in Heaven were given that privilege.

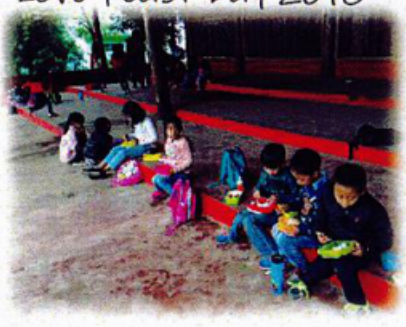
We humans journey through the various stages in life into adulthood, we continue to gain experience and maturity as humans. However, as Believers and as Christians, as we grow spiritually, the "difference" between Believers and the rest of the humans become very distinct. Unlike them, our Faith and our God makes us "privileged" and sets us apart in every form. As Christians, as we go through the various trials in life and as we gain experiences from it, we must realise that though God "allows" it, He has never abandoned us even for a single moment even when we were non-believers. I believe, as humans we may have the tendency to think for ourselves and question like *"Why would a loving God send people to hell?". "How is God portraying his unconditional love through this?"*

But as Believers, the real question that we should be embracing is *"Why would we choose hell over a loving God"*, inspite of knowing the fact that *"For God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son, that who so ever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life John 3:16"*. As humans, we always tend to forget that God through the most insignificant events in life, He continues to provide and sustains us. In addition, He gives us the freedom to make choices in life which may be hard or easy, but as Believers, if we persevere and continue to have Faith, God gives us the promise that He will guide us into a life that He has prepared for us as quoted *"He makes plans not to harm us but to prosper us Jeremiah 29:11"*. I would like to end this sharing by requesting each one of us to examine within and question ourselves that after realising God's Faithfulness and His Promises, are we sincerely willing to choose God or the worldly pleasures to be the most important part of our lives. This is the freedom that God has granted us in our Christian journey for us believers to mature upon.



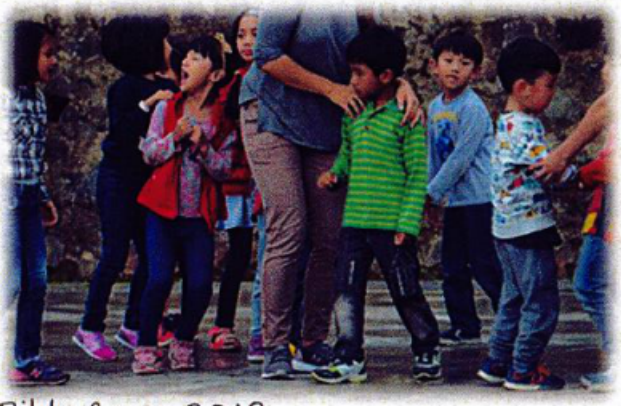


Love Feast Day 2018

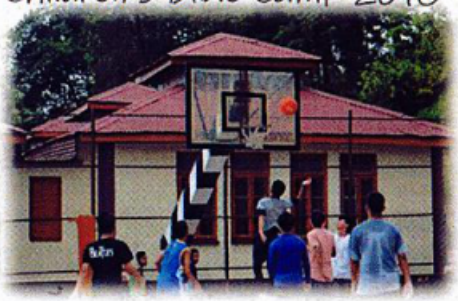







Children's Bible Camp 2018











World Sunday School Day 2018



















Annual Picnic 2018 at N.U. Ground Meriema



Graduates reminisce



Being part of the City Church Sunday School since I was a tiny tod has been such a blessing from the very beginning up till now. Growing up, I was always excited to attend classes because it always meant new stories from the Bible! It feels almost unreal to imagine that my time as a Sunday School student is coming to an end.

Throughout these years, I've genuinely enjoyed each Sunday class and I've learnt so much from all my teachers who have dedicated much of their time to us, Sunday School children. Something that I learnt from Sunday School that always seems to move me is that it wasn't I, but God, who chose me despite of my failures and shortcomings. I must say what a blessing it is to know Christ personally! Thanks to Sunday School, I believe I really am being prepared for life in His ministry. I truly look forward to what God has in mind for me.

- Line Colo

(Sunday School Graduate- 2019)



This year 2019 has been the most remarkable, memorable, as well as a blessed year for me. Like previous years, 2019 struck me differently- from the lessons I've learnt to the memories I have made, and from the experiences I have received, to the friends I have made. However, everything about this year was unique and all the credit goes to God for His gracious blessings bestowed upon me. Also because of my mentors, teachers, parents and my faithful and true friends, I've learnt more about myself and experienced so much over the past years. Now that my schooling years are coming to a close, these experiences and lessons of moral values established the foundation to support the pillars of my future.

Through this I wish to thank those who stood by me, prayed for me and taught me and helped me find my confidence. And I thank God for allowing me to meet such wonderful people and share memorable moments and learn together.

- Temshinaro Jamir

(Sunday School Graduate- 2019)



Being a part of City Church Sunday school has been such a blessing in my life. My journey as a Sunday school student began at a tender age. It's been 13 long and blessed years that I have been attending Sunday school (Toddlers'-Seniors' class). It's amazing how time travels by so fast without our knowledge.

As I grow older, I began to understand the main purpose of why I am attending Sunday School. Ever since I have learned about God in a much broader term, it has always been a source of strength and a blessing for me. I've learnt a lot of lessons and bible verses that I will treasure for the rest of my life. The midterm important thing that I've learnt in my Sunday School classes were om how to live a Christian life. Attending Sunday school has been a wonderful, amazing and beneficial experience. Not only did I have fun learning about the Word of God but also taking part in different activities such as outings, holiday bible school, participating in events, etc. has helped me socialize more with others and helped me boost up my self-confidence. All thanks goes to my dear teachers who have always been inspiring, motivating, supporting and moulding me throughout my time in Sunday school. Without their help and guidance, I wouldn't be who I am. The wonderful people and friends I've met here at the time will be remembered forever.

Even though I am leaving Sunday school, I believe that as I go on and face the struggles of life, I will overcome all these hiccups with God beside me. Once again thank you all so much for making my stay in City Church Sunday School a wonderful and a meaningful experience.

- Elivi Yeptho

(Sunday School Graduate- 2019)



Sunday School was a second home to me, a place where I would always feel free and myself. It made me understand my worth and the love that Christ has for me. I remember being confused about everything related to Christ. I basically felt like I was stuck in a maze, one without an end. But when one door closes, another opens. It was Sunday school which was that other door for me. It was through the guidance of my teachers and pastors that I realized that all the answers were already there inside of me, I just had to seek it, but with a little help of course! It also helped me take that step towards baptism. Sunday School not only moulded my childhood but made me mature as a Christian.

- Lisuno Koza

(Sunday School Graduate- 2019)



I remember walking down to the church for the first time, barely knowing anyone. I was a shy person who was just coming for a friend, but as the time gradually passed by I became a part of the church. In the years that I have spent in Sunday School, I have learned a lot of things. I learnt how to live by God's word, social etiquettes and also how to think outside the box. It has been a wonderful journey, I wouldn't be me if it weren't for my experiences in the Sunday school. It was an adventure of a lifetime. I will miss the classes as it taught me to be a better person, how to make friends and how to be a better Christian. In the end, I just want to thank my teachers for giving their 100% in teaching us, which I will always cherish in my heart.

- Marwati Imsong

(Sunday School Graduate- 2019)



I joined City Church Sunday School since I was a toddler, which has been a blessing to me, as it has helped me grow mentally and spiritually. Words cannot express how thankful I am to my Sunday School teachers for helping me grow in Christ. It is sad that my Sunday school days have come to a close, but I am comforted knowing that Christ is with me through every step of my life and with him all things are possible.

- Liron Ngullie

(Sunday School Graduate- 2019)



12 years have swiftly passed by, now I have to say goodbye to my awesome friends, my adorable juniors and my loving teachers. When I initially joined City Church, I was all alone but there were teachers who were always there by my side till today. As I was promoted to higher classes my mentality continued to grow and I became more mature in understanding what my teachers were teaching me. I came out of the world that is my school where people mocked me but I just kept quiet and thought of myself very low. But when I came inside my Sunday School, my teachers always taught me that 'I should think of myself very special and that God loves me'. These words were really motivating and whenever I recalled them, I was able to put my faith in God and face my challenges. As years went by, I have learnt and experienced a lot about God which really changed me and made me rededicate my life to God during the overnight camp in 12th October, 2012, when my teacher, Miss Chumbeno told me a few words which really touched me and left me in tears - she said, "God loves you, He is always listening to your prayers

and you are really special. He wants you to honour Him". She even asked me what was I there for. I told her "I was here to take care of my sister and also to know and learn more about God". She smiled and said "Thank You". I was and I am really blessed by God till today.

There were times where I enjoyed a lot with all my friends, my teachers and my juniors. And till now, this year has been the best camp for me and holds the best memories. I have really enjoyed knowing you all, meeting lots of people with unique ideas and talents. Before I wind up, I would like to say something "Dear friends, whoever is reading this, I hope you will also experience a lot more than I did. I wish you all the best in the coming future and never forget, God loves you. Be a Light in someone's life"

- Lanai

(Sunday School Graduate- 2019)



City Church has always been a blessing to me; the Sunday School is one of a kind. I started attending Sunday School from the year I was born in my mother's arms. And since then, it has helped me to build up a strong foundation in the Lord. The teachers would always protect me and help me in times of need; I thank God for their lives. The Sunday School not only helped me to grow stronger in the Lord, but also helped me improve my skills in speaking, memorizing and even in the field of music and I really thank God for that. It's been 16 years that I attended this Sunday School and every year has been very unique although I would know all the special programmes from the beginning of the year and nothing was much of surprises, but I still enjoyed every event. I don't know about the others, but I loved the World Sunday School Day bread with meat we used to get every year, and I'm going to miss that. Just last year I took baptism along with some friends and I am so happy to know that the Church is always remembering me in prayer and I ask nothing more but for you to continue to remember me in your prayers because I still have a long way to go. I will always be thankful of what City Church has done for me. "Thank you" to my dear teachers, my friends and most importantly thanks to God our Father.

- Atüna Shikhu

(Sunday School Graduate- 2018)

I have been attending Sunday School since I was six years old and it's almost ten years. Looking back at those memories of my journey of attending Sunday School here in City Church cannot be described in words, it has been



a memorable experience. Coming to Sunday School has created a positive impact in my life. I have grown so much spiritually, mentally and emotionally through consistent and devoted teachings from the words of God. I am grateful to the teachers who have been patient and loving to us. They let us to memorize bible verses, I can still remember the bible verses, especially which I have learnt during my younger days. They also organized camps which I really enjoyed and it taught me more about God's Word which helped me rekindle my relationship with God. Sunday School was fun but being the last year for me really saddens me. I thank God and appreciate the sacrifices my Sunday School teachers have put in. I will cherish what I have learnt from my teachers for the rest of my life. *"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom." Colossians 3:16*

- Deuvarou

(Sunday School Graduate- 2018)



"Aslan," said Lucy, *"You're bigger."*
"That is because you are older, little one," answered He
"Not because you are?" said Lucy. *"I am not, but every year you grow, you will find me bigger."*

This quote from the book, *'The Chronicles of Narnia'* is so relevant, at least to me. When I was younger, I remember learning about Bible stories like King David, Samuel, Jonah and baby Jesus. When I grew older, I learnt more about Queen Esther, Job and Isaiah. The older I got, the more complex Sunday school teaching became. You see, as I grew older, the more I learnt. That's the thing about Sunday school. As you get older, it helps you to grow in God. Even after all these years I feel I know not even 10% of God. He is that big.

"All shall be done," said Aslan. *"But it may be harder than you think."*

That's what I learned about Christian life; Easy? No! 'So why don't you give up? You can't handle it anyway' says the devil. But to all the struggling Christians out here, remember: You were not given this life because you are strong enough to live it. Sunday school teaches us a lot, whether we realize it or not. This is what I realize as I write this. As I leave senior class, a part of me wants to stay. But, a part of me also wants to know what the Youth services would be like. I know I will miss my class but there is something greater waiting for me and I can't wait to find out what that is.

- Rochelle

(Sunday School Graduate- 2018)



Ever since I could remember, my parents always made sure that I attended my Sunday School every Sunday and that for me has been the most amazing and intimate experience in getting closer to God. Sunday School has always been a very blissful escape from hectic day to day activities. A place which gives us, Children of God to engage with the study of the Bible and learn to embrace the scripture and to trust God's character and continue to live out God's story and His teachings. Sunday School has surely made learning the teachings of the Bible and the Word of God very interesting and engaging. I for one will always be grateful to my parents for always me making me attend my Sunday School classes whenever possible and my Sunday School teachers who always conducted our classes with passion and love. My time in Sunday School has come to an end but my passion to understand the teachings of God will always remain in me and catalyst me to be a better person.

Growing in faith takes time and effort, regardless of age and the Lord leads me to serve Him better with a humble heart.

- Vivi Tsurho

(Sunday School Graduate- 2018)





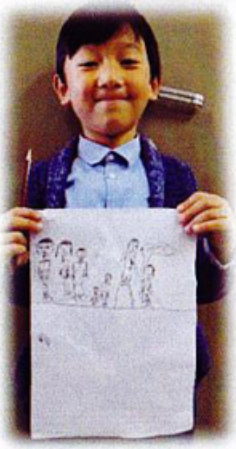



Love
Feast Day
2019





















Children's Bible Camp 2019

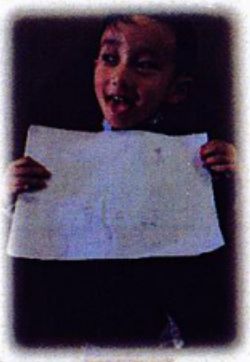




















Talent Celebration 2019


Children's Club (Life Connect)


Graduates reunion











World Sunday School Day 2019









A teacher's thoughts

Senior class students are like a bunch of different colors packed in one box. Each color is different from the other yet every single color gives out its unique and special color. Every one of them is different from the other and is very unique and special in their own ways. Their potentials and talents are incredible, quick and enthusiastic for any responsibility given to them. It was an extra ordinary experience to witness yet another batch of students getting transformed and growing together in the Word of God. May God continue to bless them abundantly! Wishing all the life's blessing to all the Sunday School students last year... God bless!

- Viketou

(Senior class teacher)

Intermediate Class deals with children of 12 to 14 years of age, people call them adolescent. Normally children of this age go through a lot of changes in their physical body which affect their moods and thinking process. They are innocent and clean at heart but sometimes they can be aggressive.

Students are from different backgrounds with different upbringings. At the initial months of the year it was a bit difficult to handle some of them especially boys some never open up. However, when we teach them the Word of God and discipline them with the method of Christian mentoring they reciprocated positively and learnt to be more discipline and teachable students. We praise God for their lives.

By the middle of the year they became very inquisitive and wanting to learn many more about God and His word, with lots of questions, sometimes difficult questions like "Where did God come from?" which are Christian apologetic questions that amazes teachers. All of them are fast learners and their assimilation capability is amazing. They are frank, honest and direct. By the end of the year some of them could stand up boldly and pray confidently in the class. We praise God for the lives of these children. We thank God for giving us the privilege to teach these lovely kids. We also thank the church for giving us this wonderful opportunity enabling us to be involved in Children ministry.

- Hoto Yeptho

(Intermediate class teacher)

It has been a good year with my class. I want to share some of the progress we made. We started from scratch (I feel) and came up to a point where we are now able to comprehend the gospel (Christ and The Cross) in simple ways. Now, as I casually converse with them, I find that they are aware of Sin and they acknowledge the truth that they are sinners too. Having them realise this, I am able to expound more on the "Love of God" for them and about giving their hearts to God. I see that they are starting to personalise God in small ways. That is a great joy.

Of many activities, let me share this one. We have been memorizing Scriptures and reading parables; making them find out the characters and who these characters represent, and what these characters and scriptures mean. It was good making them read and exercise their mind for themselves, as they started asking many questions on God and about God. I'd like to think it's a good start. I have also witness a shift in their character, personality and behaviour through this year. It may be small, but it certainly is a mustard seed (Matthew 13: 31-32).

I continue to pray that God will make the seeds we have sown in their hearts grow into His kingdom.

I'd also like to share an encouragement, a few important thoughts. Statistics on evangelism throughout the world shows that, there are less than 4% chances for a person after the age of 12 years to make a decision to follow Christ. Statistics also shows that 80% to 85% of all Christians make their commitment to Jesus between the age of 4 to 14, and after this the graph shoots downward radically. It is also true that 50% to 60% of the greatest missionaries, preachers and evangelists the world has seen throughout history were the people who had committed their life to Christ before the age of 12 years. This is a staggering statistics and truth before us. Sunday School has greater chances of reaching out the world than the adult church as per statistics; if we invest in their life. Sunday School

(Children's ministry) is the most fertile soil. Sunday School builds the Church from the seed and root, from the very foundation. (If it is any encouragement).

- Shahyong Konyak

(Junior class teacher)

How gracious is our God! For it is through Him we had another blessed and wonderful year with the children. It was indeed an awesome experience and at the same time a big challenge teaching and getting to know them with different interests and talents. Primary class is a group of children from Class 2 & 3. They are always active and high spirited and have the zeal to learn new things. Looking at all these children we can definitely say that our children are no short of talents, be it in singing, arts and crafts, music, etc. We also see that this is the age when they are expressive and open minded. So, it is important to take the opportunity as parents and teachers to recognize the God given talents and built on it by supporting them. We all know that this group of children can be easily influenced be it in the right direction or in the wrong direction so it is our duty as parents, teachers, elders, brothers or sisters to pave them the right direction and this can be done only through the Gospel, teaching them to be Christ-like. The work that is done on Sunday is just the beginning –true discipleship really happens at home. So, it is our hope and prayer that families prioritize their children in teaching and enabling them to good disciples of the Church and the nation.

- Imlisanen

(Primary class teacher)

Every child is a unique gift of God. Today I thank God for giving me this privilege to serve Him through the lives of these wonderful children that He has blessed us. As a teacher of beginner's class, teaching the age group of 3 to 6 years, yes, sometimes it is a struggle as we have to go down to their level of understanding, keeping in mind the attention span they have with so many different kinds of expressions like ahh, noo, wow, yeah, yahoo, etc. sometimes we get lost in their world and after reaching home only we feel so tired. The "How's" and "why's" of our little hearts sometimes leave us with no answers. But at the same time, it's such a joy, fun exciting experience and most importantly a great challenge for us to examine and realize our own stand before God. Thank God for His faithfulness and love upon our children throughout the year as we observed and see changes in their lives year after year gives us immense joy. I am sure that God must have touched the lives of the little ones maybe, through bible songs, interaction and through the prayer support of the parents.

- Usha Ezung

(Beginners class teacher)

The City Church Sunday school has been immensely blessed with the toddlers in the church. Their mischief innocence has always been the charm Sunday after Sunday. Each kid understanding that Jesus loves them adds up to the joy of playing and dancing around with them worthwhile. Toddlers even though the youngest among the Sunday school kids never fail to surprise and bless our hearts.

- Limanula

(Toddlers care teacher)

The Parable of The Lost Sheep

