SUNDAY SCHOOL CITY CHURCH, KOHIMA

Expressions!!

City Church
CHRIST THE POWER OF GOD AND THE WISDOM OF GOD

EDITORIAL NOTE: Hekali Shikhu

We thank God for enabling us to bring out this edition of Expressions (2021-2024) The last 4 years has been a journey of much joy, challenges, fruitfulness and growth.

From 2022, we have started using the FaithWeaver NOW curriculum, and it has since been 3 years of fun-filled experiential and systematic learning and growing in the Word of God for both students & teachers.

It is our prayer that God will in His love and mercy grant us more years ahead to bless the children through this Sunday school ministry.

God bless all the children, teachers and parents.

WORLD SUNDAY SCHOOL DAY

Presentation in the Neighbourhood fellowships - Lock Down Memories!







2021

In 2021 we continued to be in partial lockdown with large gatherings still not allowed. As such while the church was meeting in neighbourhood localities, the Sunday school was conducted through online classes and zoom meetings occasionally. To enhance the online ministry, the teachers also sent recorded audio/ video lessons once a while and decided to regularly pray for the children. Making the most of this situation the department was at work planning and conducting a fundraiser sale while also preparing the new classrooms- painting, furnishing, etc.

FUND RAISING - Furnishing Sunday School Classrooms











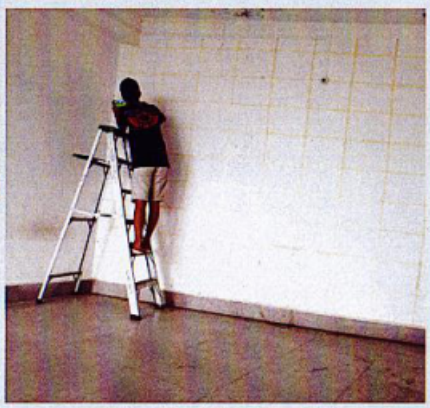
CLASSROOM MURALS IN PROGRESS

- A special thanks to ROKO, ELILO & NUNU









2022

EVENTS

6th February	- Sunday school resumed
13th March	- Teachers Orientation on FaithWeaver NOW curriculum with Mrs Azonuo Viluo, ABCC
27th March	- Love Feast Day
8th April	- Two teachers (Mathiuthonlu and Hekali) attended Teachers training at Baptist mission church
21th – 24th June	- VBS Rocky Railway Theme: "Jesus' power pulls us together" at The Vineyard School Lerie
12th – 14th Sept	- "Crisis Care training" (Rokolhuvinuo and Nunu attended)
6th Nov	- World Sunday School Day cum Talent Celebration
12th Nov	- Children's Club, Life Connect
20th Nov	- Person with Disability Sunday
9th Dec	- Annual picnic day at Highland Park

LOVE FEAST DAY

One of the best ways to express and experience love is through the sharing of food with one another, and that is exactly what the Sunday school kids and teachers did on our Love Feast Day on the 27th of March 2022 at the Meriema Campus NU for a day out after class.

Everyone had a fun time sharing our tiffins and playing games in the open field.







VBS: Rocky Railway

Based on the theme *Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls us Through*, the annual Vacation Bible School was held from the 21st- 25th of June 2022, at the Vineyard School with a total of 105 registered students ranging from ages 2-15, 17 camp officials and teachers, and 27 volunteers.

It was 4 memorable days packed full of interactive learning about the power of God that gives us hope, helps us be bold, helps us live forever, and helps us be good friends. The fun games, focused crafts and activities, energetic and fun choreography, and real life testimonies of kids from around the world as they experienced the power of the gospel of Jesus, all worked together to reinforce the bible lesson that we learned each day.























CHURCH INAUGURATION

The Sunday school children joined in the festivities of the much anticipated inauguration of the new church building on the 4th of September 2022.

The Junior and Intermediate students decked up in their most attractive traditional attire and waving streamers lined up along the stairs and hallways to welcome everyone who came to celebrate and worship Jesus.

Their excited smiles and happy chimes of "Welcome to City Church!" added much cheer to the bright and beautiful morning.





WORLD SUNDAY SCHOOL DAY CUM TALENT CELEBRATION - 6TH NOVEMBER 2022

- Suyimtenla Jamir
(SS teacher: Junior class)

One of the most thrilling days in a Sunday school event calendar has to be the World Sunday School Day Celebration!

And it definitely did not disappoint. The SS department made every effort to make this one day as memorable as possible, not only for the students but for the teachers and the congregation too!

The children's efforts to perform their best for those watching from the audience, including their own family and friends, was truly heartwarming. It was a joy to catch the faces of parents and siblings smiling gleefully as each of them tried to find their little ones amongst the jumble of faces. The kids only have one day a year to perform on stage and truly express who they are while exhibiting their talents, and they did just that! I think it's safe to say that our church will have no shortage of musicians, artists, orators, etc., in the coming years.

To see so many young, talented cooks who have perfected the art of "baked goods" and serving up delectable dishes was quite a surprise.

Overall! this day was a roaring success, and our community truly experienced God's magnificent work unveiled in the lives of the children who performed for all of us. To all the children who were part of this celebration, I urge you to continue building yourselves in the ways of our Heavenly Father in the hopes that we may be fit to fulfill his purpose as He calls us.











The Sunday school department visited children's club under the ministry of Life connect and had fellowship on 12 th November 2022 at 10:00 am at UCRC New Market. The children were grouped according to age and divided into 4(four) classes.

"Jesus not only heals but forgives" was the lesson for the day.



In the morning session we had singing and prayer before going into their respective classes. Light refreshment was also provided to the children after the class. On a personal note, I was caught off guard in the class because there were children from other faiths - Hindus and Muslims. To reach out to them was my biggest challenge, that too in Nagamese. However it was a very good experience. Blessed richly to have this opportunity to sow God's living word in small way into the lives of this young souls.

TEACHER TESTIMONY – RokoLhouvinuo Suohumvu

A Sunday school teacher is one who facilitates and guides the kids to discover, learn and apply God's word and I am really fortunate to be one. When I started my journey as a Sunday school teacher, I began with the thought that I have to know something to do something, only to find out that I am engaged in a spiritual journey of finding out who I really am. I was surprised to realise it was about seeing how I was being taught while leading the kids to be Christ-like. I enjoy coming together each sunday with the kids and the fellowship. And while it has its ups, it can be both emotionally and physically draining.

As Luke 2:52 says that Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all the people, I am grateful to God and to the Church for letting me grow mentally, spiritually and socially through this rewarding opportunity.

TEACHERS' TRAINING

LIFE CONNECT - Ethungbemo Ezung

The Sunday school teachers attended various seminars and training sessions through the year. Here are a few takeaways...

Mathiuthonlu Kamei: From the KidMin Training sessions, I have learnt that

- Teaching the young sunday school children is not only about what am I going to do as a teacher but finding out what works for children. And that it has to be learner-based.
- It is not our job to teach but to reach.
- Understand that a child is communicating to us through behavior. Behavior is communication.
- I need to create a classroom of love and grace. Have a cooperation policy instead of a discipline policy.
- Teacher must give kids a second chance. Honour the way God created them.
- Acknowledge that kids learn differently. Some are picture smart, some music smart, people smart (they like to talk to each other), some body smart(acting out), some are word smart, logic smart, some nature smart (lessons outdoor), some self smart (some kids learn through quiet time and reflection).
- I need to practice affirmation.

Rokolhouvinuo Suohumvu: From the Kids in Crisis seminar, I learnt that a child's behaviour is not always what it seems. What we see are the behaviour but what we don't see are what's under the surface. A child in crisis or trauma, will usually not express their feelings of terror, anger and fear in a verbal manner.

Respond to your children with love in their worst moment, and when we meet those needs, we begin to deal with the cause and not the symptoms. Children need to forgive in a way that they can understand and process according to their ability.



PARENTS TEACHERS MEETING - Karen Peseyie

Parents Teachers Meeting was held on 24th April, Sunday. We had a time of mutual encouragement for each other. The annual program for the children was shared to the parents. Time was also given to all the teachers to introduce themselves and the class which they were taking, so that parents could know them. We had a fruitful meeting.

PRIMARY CLASS - WHAT HAVE I LEARNT THIS YEAR

Enykhu Hannah, "I have learned about Abraham's son Isaac and have learned to make friends."
Orachen, "I have learned how to read Bible, how to forgive and also how to play drums."
Thungchibemo Ngullie, "I've learned how to help each other."
Xuwoto, "I've learned to be a good boy."
Isabella, "I've learned more about God and how much he loves me and learned a lot from the Bible stories."
Damian, "I've learned how to work"
Limtikhianla, "I've learned about good things and even to love others because God loves us. I've also learned how to read Bible and many other things."
Wabino, "I've learned to play football."
Wilona, "I've learned good manners and good behaviors. I've learned how to love God and that we should respect our parents and elders. I've also learned about Isaac."
Chathavinuo, "This year, I've learned to play keyboard, how to do many things like making crafts, drawing and many other things . I've also learned about many Bible stories."
Longyang, "This year, I've learned about the Bible, about discipline, learned new songs and many more. I've also made some new friends."
Nitova, "I've learned how to love and forgive others. And also to do gardening ."
Limeka, "This year, I've learned a lot of amazing stuff like loving our enemies and forgiving them. I've also learned how to play the piano. My most favorite story is how God made the whole world, how he did miracles and died on behalf of me. I love Jesus."

OF GRADITUDE: COUNTING OUR BLESSING - Senior Class

Thank you Lord for the rough days
For making it better in your own way.
Thank you Lord for the people I love,
For those looking from above.
Thank you Lord for the quiet moments alone
And for the fun, loud ones at home.
But mostly, thank you Lord for the sunrise and for the sunset
Because when mine comes
I will remember and be grateful for all your love – Jentina

"Thank you Lord for forgiveness of my sins. Thank you for saving me from sinful influence and peer pressure, for your protection no matter how small my life is compared to yours" – Samuel

"It seems all too hard to swallow the truth but my beloved Journey,
My tolerant, patient and forgiving Journey,
I am ever grateful for the life you have spent on me"
– Ruvi

"When pushed to my limits,
Your glorious light once more emits,
For you are there, thick and thin,
No matter how much I sin" – Suki

"Thank you lord for sending your only Son in flesh and blood to free me- the wicked, from the chains of sin and death, to be one with you" – Gwakenye

"Thank you Lord for strength to keep me on all day, for wisdom in my daily works, for a fine voice and stature, with no pain or stress in my body"
– Mhademo

Thank you Lord for those who teach me your Word, leading me in the right way and making me a better person – Sankey

"Thank you Lord for saving me from the depths of misery, for hope and the love I get" – Rebecca

Thank you Lord for this comfortable life- happy and safe in all situations – Chinglam

Thank you Lord for giving me light and warmth. Thank you for shining the night sky with countless stars – Chunglimong

"Thank you Lord for the days
that i breathe.
Thank you Lord for saving me from the things that I dread. Thank you for always being there for me, even when I depart from here"
– Rongsen

Thank you Lord for school, yes, even on Sundays! And thank you for sports that make my day better – Jeremy

2023

EVENTS

5th February	- Sunday school resumed
19th February	- Teachers Retreat
24th – 25th March	- Seniors Overnight Camp at Medziphema
30th April	- Love feast Day (Junior class visited Cradle Ridge) the other students met in the church
	- Had Parents Teachers Fellowship after the service
4th June	- Bible Memory Verse Competition
27th – 30th June	- VBS Stellar!
10th September	- Senior students had Session with Irene
12th – 14th September	- Crisis Care Training (2 teachers attended)
15th October	- Special Awareness sessions with different classes
	- Senior classes: Mental Health, Boys, Girls session by Athem, Zajamo &Nini
	- Junior class : Cyber crime by Apila
	- Primary Class : Good touch, Bad touch by Alemsong
5th November	- World Sunday school day (Growing in the Word) cum Talent celebration
25th November	- Ministry to Children's club Life Connect
10th December	- Annual Day picnic 2023.

SENIOR'S CAMP: 24th - 25th March

Recognising the specific needs and challenges of early teenagers the Sunday School Dept decided to have a special camp for the intermediate and Senior class students. The first such camp was held on 24-25th March at Medzhiphema.it was indeed an exciting and blessed, fun-filled time for everyone. Based on the theme ***Known*** we had sessions on Identity, Sexuality, Mental Health, and Manners and Decorum. In all of the sessions the speakers focussed on helping the students be equipped to face life with the confidence of being known and loved by God himself, and to live their lives as His children.















VBS: 27th - 30th June

The Annual VBS for 2023 was held on 27th-30th June under the theme ***Stellar : Shine Jesus' Light*** at the church premises. There were a total of 150 children attending the camp- 32 preschoolers & 118 scholars. 40 volunteers and & teachers worked to make this VBS a grand success.

We learnt that Jesus' light is stellar - something perfect & the very, very best! It was 4 unforgettable days of learning, fun and friendship. The children discovered how Jesus shines His light to us, and how we can shine that light to a world that desperately needs it. We focused on 1 Bible point each day along with a Bible verse, and this single point was illustrated and repeated in various ways at all the different stations through Bible lesson, activities, game & videos. Bible buddy give aways were handed out each day to remind the children to remind them of what they have learned that day at the VBS. It was a wonderful experience for not just the children but the teachers & volunteers as well as. We learnt to go beyond whats comfortable for us and tap into the inner child in us through the dances & science experiments. In all this we were able to identity giftings in ourselves and in each other.

What a blessing to learn of Jesus' stellar light and to learn to shine that light to others around us!







MISSION AWARENESS: 10th September

As part of the Life Impact program of the church a session on mission awareness was organised for the senior & Intermediate students with Irene Nicholson from OMF







LIFE CONNECT - Outreach to Children's Club: 25th November

In continuation of our annual partnership with Life Connect, 5 of our teachers ministered to the kids at their Children's Club. We taught on The True Meaning of Christmas, and were so blessed to be able to fellowship with the children as well as the volunteers and staff of Life Connect.



WORLD SUNDAY SCHOOL DAY: 5th November







LOVE FEAST DAY : JUNIOR CLASS VISIT TO CRADLE RIDGE - 30TH APRIL




ANNUAL DAY PICNIC - NAGI RESORT JOTSOMA, 10TH DECEMBER






2024

EVENTS

4th February	- Sunday school resumed
3rd March	- Children's day of prayer
23rd -25th March	- Evangelistic Camp for intermediate and senior classes at JMC
14th April	- Love Feast Day Junior, Primary, Beginners class went to Sakhrie Park AG colony - Intermediate and senior class had camp follow up.
5th May	- Children Worship at City Church 4pm
26th May	- Parents and Teachers fellowship
2nd June	- Teachers Training with Ms Jasen on "Discipline, Classroom management" and "Christian Education"
24th- 27th June	- VBS Scuba on the theme: "Diving into friendship with God"
5th October	- Senior class visit to Cradle Ridge
3rd November	- World Sunday school Day cum "Talent Celebration"
17th November	- Person with disability Sunday. Teachers could visit some homes and had prayer and fellowship with them.
23rd November	- Children's club Life connect.
1st December	- "Graduation Prayer" for the Sunday School graduating students
8th December	- Annual Picnic Day at Highland Park 2024

SENIOR CAMP : 23 – 25 March at JMC

The2nd Senior Camp was held on 23rd to 25th March, 2024 at JMC Lerie. On the theme ***Believe and Live*** based on John 3:16. It was a blessed time of learning and ministering to our intermediate and senior class students on topics ranging from Quiet time, Basic Christian Doctrines Purity, Mental Health, Identity in Christ and lived out Christian life along with fun and meaningful games sessions.







ANNUAL PICNIC AT HIGHLAND PARK- 8th December







VBS - SCUBA: Diving Into Friendship With God! 24th - 27th June
















WORLD SUNDAY SCHOOL DAY: 3rd November















Toodlers & Beginners



Primary



Pre Junior & Junior



Intermediate

LOVE FEAST DAY - Sakhrie Park 14th April







WHAT I LEARNED IN SUNDAY SCHOOL - Pre-Junior Class

Zenaro, "Sunday school is a place where we learn about Jesus and God. Sunday school if very fun and interesting. We learn new things every Sunday."

Chathavinuo, "What I like about our church is, it is fun to and sing with big people in the main church. I like learning about Jesus performing miracles, His disciples preaching and performing miracles."

Alina, "We learn about God, make new friends, we eat yummy food."

Yanbemo, "I learn Bible verses, activities, good food."

Ruyasenuo, "I leant many bible verses in my beloved Sunday school. This is what I like about Sunday school. Kind teachers, funny friends and most importantly learning bible verse and getting stars."

Mhaleho, "I like food, stories, song"

Zay Khu, "I learnt about how to be kind and not bad, about Jesus' kind and love, always respect each other, have good manners, not to disobey God and parents."

Eva, "We learn about Jesus/God and worship Him. We do fun activities, Bible stories and verses, we eat free food (he he) , we make friends (a lot)."

Senaya, "We worship God, we learn Bible stories, bible verses. We get free food, new friends, new teachers."

Sentizung, "Learning in Sunday school: to love, care, comfort each other. Having fun times: staying with my friends, joking with my friends, and helping each other."

Limit, "The first thing I like about Sunday school is the songs we sing and Jesus story. We enjoy singing in the main church."

SENIOR





GRADUATES REMINISCE- 2024



SEKETUO CHÜPUO

I thank God for making me a part of City church. I learnt a lot about God during my Sunday School years.It was a fun and memorable time with my friends and teachers. The lessons were interesting and I learnt a lot. I really thank all the teachers for teaching us very well, and for helping us draw closer to God.



KEKHRIE TSÜRHO

Reflecting back on my time in Sunday school, it has truly been a rewarding experience. Not only did I grow spiritually but i have come to see things from a different perspective. Sunday school has been more than a place of learning for me; it has been a place where I felt belonged and found comfort. Even though I fall short every now and then, i can say that Sunday school has been the very foundation of my life, and had nurtured me till now.

As I graduate from Sunday School, I am truly thankful to those around me, be it the teachers, my friends, and many others. Graduating from Sunday school is but the beginning of a new chapter, and truly I am scared but excited too. to end, I would like to add a line from one of my favourite artists, "There is no such thing as life that's better than yours..." therefore wherever you are or however you may be, always love yours.



NEITSONO PESEYIE

Though my association with City Church Sunday School was for a short time, I got to learn many good things. I love the warm and loving smiles of the teachers. It feels very welcoming and comfortable. I should say that my church has the best Sunday school teachers and I thank them for their love and care, and for teaching us about Jesus. I learned about God's love, forgiveness, assurance and hope. I should always stay close to Jesus to experience His love for me. I got to learn that we should be kind and compassionate, forgive and encourage one another for we are all God's creation. How I wish I could have started my SS journey from beginners, but I thank the Lord for the opportunity that I had for God's timing is the best.



VILITOLI AYEMI

I began my journey in City Church Sunday School in the beginner class. Since then I have gained a lot of knowledge about God and also different aspects of growing up that I face along the way in this walk of life. This understanding has allowed me to realise the love of God and all the beautiful things that He has done and brought into my life. I owe my gratitude to all my Sunday School teachers who have so patiently and wonderfully taught us the Word of God which has been and will continue to be a major stepping stone in my spiritual growth. Leaving Sunday School does not mean my most fun and exciting days are over, however I will truly miss Sunday School, all the activities from picnics to yearly VBS and not forgetting weekly classes which will always be cherished and form a source of foundation that aids in my spiritual walk with God. Thank you for remembering all of us in your prayers and please continue to do so as we step into a new phase of life. I thank God once again for all the opportunities that He has provided for me and for giving me the chance to be able to attend Sunday School.



PELESI IVY PESEYIE

I have been in City Church Sunday School since the beginners class. My years in Sunday school has been a great experience for me, making friends, learning new Bible lessons every Sunday. My two short year in senior class will definitely be my most memorable and favourite years of Sunday school. I have accepted Christ and took baptism which was a big part in my life this year. Sunday School senior class has helped me a lot in my faith, confidence and spiritual growth. I will definitely miss Sir. Uncle Bokato and Maam Aunty Naro's lessons every Sunday and all the class activities we had together in the past two years. All I have learned and experienced in Sunday School will be the foundation for the rest of my life.



KENRIN THONG

Sunday School helped improve my life in all aspects. Just last year, it made a positive impact in my mental health in leaps and bounds and the only reason that happened was because I started to pay attention to the lessons, listening to the Word of God from the Bible that was spoken and taught by the wonderful teachers and Pastors and I really appreciate them for their guidance and patience through out the formative years of my Sunday School life. I really am grateful for the kindness and everything this Church who I call my extended family has done for me. Thank you Sunday School for guiding me towards the path of righteousness and eternal life through the wonderful gift of salvation.



SENTISENLA JAMIR

I was part of City Church ever since I was a child and it is the place where I got to know more about God and learned more stories about Him. I grew up from here and I learnt a lot of stories and new songs as well. It was a place I could update and talk to my friends from other schools. A place where I got to know different people. Every year when summer break is approaching, I would get excited for VBS and would be ready to miss classes just to attend VBS. Being a part of the children's choir was really fun, staying back after Church for practice, singing on special Sundays, etc. Sunday School has taught me many things, not just Bible stories, but also how to be disciplined, respecting elders and being king to one another. In conclusion, I am really thankful to all the teachers who taught me and I am very grateful to be part of the City Church Sunday School.



LAXMI MAZUMDAR

My life in Sunday school has taught me many new things about Christ our Saviour and God, to overcome all the bad things that are in my life such as trouble, temptation and more. I have also realised that I am very blessed to know Christ and how much He loves me, how he is always there to protect and guide me in all my ways. Through Sunday school i got to make new friends from different places and talk to them about Christ our Lord. Also every year at VBS we experience the love of God through exciting activities which help us in bonding with one another, the Word of God and many more. Since my childhood I have been to many churches but for me every church feels the same because in every church we learn about Christ the Lord. In conclusion I give thanks to all the Sunday school teachers of City Church for making my Sunday school classes memorable and blessed.



IMLILONG JAMIR

If I think and look back unto all the memories of Sunday school, they would form a book. A book filled with happy memories. Memories of joy, memories of friends, family and most importantly God. I can still vividly remember the memories of the old church, a place that was small wherein people, students, teachers alike were all were clumped together in the hallways and the class rooms were filled with noise, laughter and endless chattering play, but its spaces held history and character even greater than what was visible. It was a place where we were brought up, nurtured and cared for as we aged. A place where we were taught manners, lessons and moral values at a pace. And it was also a place where we questioned and learned about the expanse of God's grace. Even now as I and all my fellow class mates are graduating this year, I can't and we can't express what Sunday school has done of all of us. It has made us into who we are and it is a place that has moulded us and shaped us. Looking back and standing here where I am today, I am so thankful for being a part of Sunday school. And to the kids that might be reading this, Sunday school might be boring for you or you might be just plain tired, but remember this Sunday school isn't all just about a class we attend every Sunday but it is a class that we attend to build ourselves up in character, personality and most importantly in God. I want to take this time to thank and express my gratitude to all the Sunday school teachers, assistants and people who just wanted to help us out in Sunday school or just have and a meaning full interaction with us. We wouldn't be here like this if it weren't for all of you. You were all pillars, pillars that moulded and shaped our childhood and you were the ones who toiled and were responsible for making us grow. Thank you all so much. Surely as we all grow up, we will never, and I will never ever forget Sunday school, the friends, family and the lessons we learned along the way.



VITHUKA HESSO

I can't imagine that my Sunday school days are over. It has been an exciting adventure with my friends and teachers. I wish this moment could last forever but unfortunately nothing lasts forever. The Bible Camps we had and VBS, the picnics and the outings are the moments I will cherish the most. I thank my Sunday school teachers for guiding me and walking with me throughout this journey. And now as I leave the Sunday school with all the memories, surely I know that all the things I've learned will help me navigate the life that's ahead of me.