



MILESTONE

The News Update of Christopher Educational Trust (C.E.T)

Dear friends,

We're glad to bring out another edition of Milestone, the newsletter of Christopher Educational Trust. Through Milestone, we wish to share what's happening in our Ministry, especially from the two schools that we run, with you and hope that you'll get involved in whatever way you are guided in your spirit.

In the last edition, we shared about how all the school activities took a backseat and how we took up more social activities to help the community in the dark days of the Covid-19 pandemic. Many families were provided food supplies and medical assistance, which helped them tide over the lockdown period. Since then, the school activities have restarted and we're once again working with our school children to impress on them through academic knowledge, moral and ethical values and exposure to a disciplined life.

The Government permitted schools to reopen from November 2022 in phases. Students and parents who faithfully returned to our school were welcomed and we continue to educate them in the classrooms. Here are some of the events and activities that took place since then:

School Activities

Since school started after the pandemic, we took various initiatives to bring the children up to speed academically. We started with the academic year 2023-24 with an academic year inaugural day. The teachers were introduced, and children were



Reopening CNPS after the pandemic



Gifts and ...



cake for the teachers on Teacher's day.

Blessed are those who show mercy. They will be shown mercy.
Mathew 5,7



A song for the republic on Independence day.



Culturac program on Independence day: Presenting a dance.



The flame enters the stadium on sports day.

encouraged to participate actively in their lessons and other school activities. All the classrooms have been equipped with audio visual equipment to support digital learning. Various activities were organized for the children to learn by doing and showcase their learning to the parents. Two of these activities were Student Led Conference (SLC) and Student Led Movement (SLM). SLCs were an exhibition of learning models and display of charts to show parents and visitors what the students have learnt. SLMs were rallies and social awareness programs to enlighten the society of environmental protection and personal well-being.

Additionally, the Children celebrate various days of national importance such as Indian Independence Day and Teacher's Day. During Teacher's Day, the children honoured their teachers and all the non-teaching staff. During the Indian Independence Day, there was a flag hoisting ceremony and cultural activities.

Sports Activities

After a gap of three years, we had the opportunity to conduct a combined Sports Day. The children were trained to do a march past along with a small band, to display drill and aerobics and compete in athletic events. Students also showed their skills in karate and silambam, a local self-defense martial arts form. All the visitors enjoyed the day and were provided with refreshments.

Our school also hosted inter-school basketball matches in the under 14 years and under 17 categories. Our boys and girls were the runners up in the under 14 category and winners in the under 17 category. We're grateful that the basketball court that was constructed with generous support from CIH could be used in this way.

**Blessed are those who show mercy. They will be shown mercy.
Mathew 5,7**

Gospel mission among gypsy community

In December 2021, David, along with an associate had the opportunity to visit a gypsy community called “Narikuravar” in Salem and other districts of Tamil Nadu. They are traditionally a hunting community, but with no scope for livelihood these days. It was enlightening that in this 21st century, they are an outcast community without recognition. They plead with the Government for ownership documents for the land on which they live and very few young people in the community prioritize education. David helped them in their representation to the Government and purchased the handmade artifacts, like beads, necklaces and distributed it to other associates. We also presented Christmas clothes to close associates from the community. It was a blessing when around 40 members of this community attended our Christmas Service at Ebenezer Prayer House (CNPS) on Christmas Day!

Gospel to the Students

One of our old students, Devakumar, conducted a ministry program for the children in our school. Devakumar was a Hindu who was introduced to Christ in our school. After he left school, completed college and started working, he received Christ through a Church in Bangalore. He witnesses that the introduction to Bible stories and prayer that he had in our school helped him in the decision to commit to Christ. Now he is working in Bangalore and along with another full-time pastor and a few volunteers, he conducted a Gospel program in our school. The children were taught about prayer and through games and interactive events, they were taught Bible verses.

Community gatherings of pastors and believers

We continue the practice of bringing together a group of pastors in the first week of every month. It is a time that the servants of God have to share experiences, both good and bad, pray for each other and rejuvenate their commitment during a communion service. Around 35 pastors gather in each of these meetings, and we provide breakfast to them.

Our believers gather in Gandhinagar Prayer House and in Ebenezer Prayer House under the responsibility of Pastor Moses every Sunday. They have house group fellowship throughout the week and Sunday School is held in different places on Sundays.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

During every Indian Summer (May/June), the school close for summer holidays. During this time, we conduct Vacation Bible School for children in the age group of 4 to 17 for four or five days. Both in June 2022 and in May 2023, many children came and participated in this outreach mission. We pray and work with the intention to introduce Christ and plant the seed of His word. Since the children come from a varied background, most of them being Hindu, we teach the Word of God through stories, activities and games. On the final day, the children show the gathering all that they have learnt. Many children testified as to how they came despite various hinderances. We thank God for their thirst and we pray for their souls to receive Christ at His appointed time.

Christmas Programs and the season's joy of sharing

By the grace of God, we were able to open the school for children in classes 1 to 10

Blessed are those who show mercy. They will be shown mercy.
Mathew 5,7



Environmental education on sports day: "Please use 3 R`s: Reduce, Recycle, Reuse".



The girls Karate-team smashing bricks.



Acrobatics on the pyramide.

from November 1, 2021. Even as December 2021 started, we were skeptical about the possibility of having a school Christmas program during this pandemic time. However, we were prodded in the spirit to not lose this opportunity to share the word of God when it is possible. Hence in a time frame of a week we organized a Christmas program for each of the two schools with minimum items of two dances, Bible verses and poem recitation and a skit about the birth of Jesus. The focus was mainly on sharing the Gospel and good news of Christmas through Ramesh with his puppets and evangelist Wesley with his tambourine. As a surprise, we had many parents attend the program and listen to the Word of God along with the children and they enjoyed the performance of the children's dances, Bible verses recitation and Christmas skit along with Santa Claus. Christmas cake and tea were distributed to all who were gathered.

In December 2022, both our school Christmas programs were celebrated on December 2nd and 3rd. The parents of the children enjoyed songs, Bible verse recitation, dances and nativity play presented by the students. Mrs. Lathika Charles from Coimbatore shared the gospel to the gathering. All the children and staff were given small gifts to share the joy of the occasion. Everyone who attended were given tea and cake after the program.

On 24th December 2022 the teacher's carol service was conducted in the school Chapel. The word of God was shared from John 3:16 and Isaiah 9:6 and we encouraged the teachers to get to know Jesus and have a personal relationship with him. All the staff were given a Christmas plum cake and greeting card.

Esther, along with two Christian teachers, formed a team to go caroling. With the main focus to visit non-Christian acquaintances, they visited 35 homes of old staff members, students and well-wishers of the ministry. At each home they sang songs, read the word of God, and shared how Jesus can help them in their circumstances and

**Blessed are those who show mercy. They will be shown mercy.
Mathew 5,7**



Full house during VBS.



Having fun with handicrafts.



A trip to the forest during VBS.

encouraged them to get to know him. Each family was presented with plum cake for the season.

Christmas is a joyous occasion to share gifts and make people happy. In that spirit of sharing God's love through giving, we presented many people with clothes. In India people are very happy to receive clothes as gifts during festivals. They wear the new clothes to the Church service and enjoy the fellowship on Christmas and New Year days. Recipients of the clothes include friends from the gypsy community, school drivers and helpers, pastors and Christian brothers doing ministry, children of the school and hostel inmates. We also gifted food to our poor and destitute neighbor on Christmas day. All teaching and non-teaching staff members were given cash gifts and all school students were given gifts during the school Christmas programs. In all the programs we provided good food for all the people. Food and clothes, which are still necessities for many people, made them happy on this joyous occasion. We look forward to continuing sharing this love in the coming Christmas 2023!

**Blessed are those who show mercy. They will be shown mercy.
Mathew 5,7**

Prayer points

- We thank God that we can continue reaching children through the Christopher Matriculation Higher Secondary School and Christopher Nursery and Primary School.
- We thank God for the staff team and children who are with us after the pandemic period.

We continue to pray for

- financial support to repair, renovate and rebuild hostel facilities as we have not reopened the hostel after the pandemic period.
- the support of qualified teachers and staff to train and teach children in innovative and disciplined ways.
- more young people to involve directly and indirectly in the mission, through education, to reach children who don't know the love of Christ.

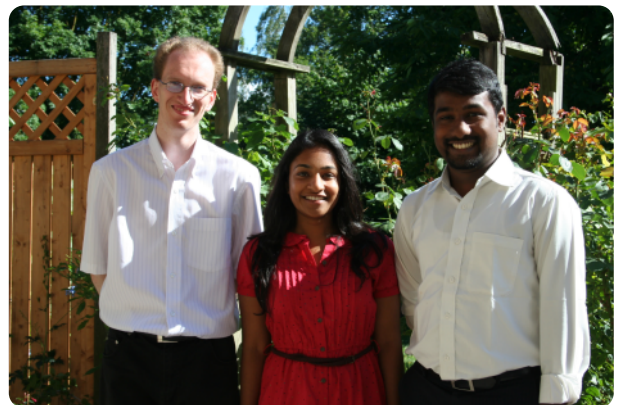
We hope you enjoyed our newsletter! If you would like to get in touch, we would love to hear from you! Your feedback to us is valuable. Thank you for taking time to go through "Milestone". It will be a pleasure for us to take you through many more!

Get in touch to learn more about us and be a part of what we do:
David G. Kirupakaran
admin@christopherschools.org

Walter Schmalzhaf
www.Christopher-Indienhilfe.de

Yours in His service,
The Milestone Editorial Team.

Stefan Schmalzhaf
Doris Rebekah Kirupakaran
Solomon Kirupakaran



Christopher Nursery & Primary School, Christopher Matriculation Higher Secondary School and Christopher Children Home are projects of Christopher Educational Trust which is the partner of Christopher Indienhilfe e.V. Christopher Educational Trust was established in 1987 to promote education and uplift underprivileged children in India.