



MILESTONE

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

Dear Reader,

Welcome to another version of Milestone, the newsletter of Christopher Educational Trust. We hope you enjoy reading about all that happened in the year 2013. We'd love to hear your questions, comments and enquiries so that we can be more involved in connecting with you as you participate in our mission of promoting quality education and instilling Godly values to the underprivileged children in India. Please connect with us through our contact information at the end of the newsletter.

Ministry and Church Activities:

We continue to preach the Gospel to the villages around Salem to spread the light of Jesus Christ. Through the two village churches, Ebenezer Prayer House and Gandhinagar Prayer House, we tell the down trodden people about Jesus and how their Salvation will be a blessing to their lives. We encourage them to send their children, who otherwise work in agricultural fields or stone cutting, to our school, so that they may be given education and guided for a better future. Children in Christopher Children Home attend the English service in the school chapel. The service is led and organized by the Children so that they are trained to spread the Gospel. Distinguished pastors come to preach at the Chapel and the children learn about the love of God from them. Salem District Pastors Fellowship meetings



Distributing food after a service in a nearby village



People who found Jesus will be baptised

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



Dental checkup



The „Smart Class“-system



The children start learning early in the morning, before school starts.

continue to happen every month. Various people like Rev. Paul Rajkumar from Malaysia conduct seminars for these pastors to help equip them as they do the work of spreading the Gospel. From September, 2013, Gospel meetings are conducted on the first Saturday of every month. Parents of school children, neighbors and friends are invited and the good news of Jesus Christ is shared with them. Dr. Srinivasan, a Brahmin (staunch Hindu caste in India) who accepted Jesus, shared his testimony of how he was saved. Other friends of his, brother Balasundaram and Mr. Peter Prakash also talked about how their lives changed after becoming Christians and let the gathering in worship. So far, around 150 people come every month for these meetings. Dr. Vijay and Sunita Vijay, who are well-wishers of our mission, conduct free dental checkup for the people who come.

We also have baptism for people who accept Christ.

Education and School Activities:

We strive to bring more children from the nearby villages to the school. We face the challenge of changing the misconception in people's mind about various rumors spread about the school. A team from the school visited homes in the villages surrounding the school to encourage parents to join their children in the school and clear confusions that they had. The hard work done by the team resulted in the admission of around one hundred children.

Teachers are oriented by various professionals, such as Mr. Jeyasekar, a retired bank manager, so that can teach the children in a better way. Maria Hirschi from Switzerland came as a volunteer to the school for two and a half months. She involved herself by teaching moral science and drawing for kindergarten to fifth grade students. She also organized interesting story time for the

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small children where she read and told stories to them. After school hours, she spent time with the Home children by teaching them songs and being a spiritual guide for them by answering children's doubts and question from the Bible.

In September, Smart Class was placed in service in our school. This is a digital platform where lessons are taught through computer and projector. Every week, each grade gets to attend this audio visual learning class two to three times.

Children also enjoy other activities and occasions that are celebrated. The Indian Republic Day and Independence Day was celebrated on January 26th and August 15th. There was flag hoisting and marching parade on these days. Teacher's Day was celebrated on September 5th where the students honored their teachers with drama, poem recitation, singing and dancing. Each teacher received a gift from the students. Educational trips were made to water reservoirs (dams). On these educational trips, students learnt about how water was stored and electricity generation. They also heard of interesting facts how the reservoir was built without the use of machinery one century ago.

Alumni Activities:

The Alumni association organized a get together in January, 2013. Around 150 old students came to their school and had a day of looking back at their school days, games and fun time. Here are some experiences shared by them:

Kavitha, who was one of the first students of the school in 1980 said, "Christopher School laid the foundation of discipline and orderliness in my life." She is currently an agriculture officer in Salem. Kanimozhi studied from kindergarten to 12th grade in our school. She said, "After I left CMHSS, for 1 year I was crazy in the mornings because I missed the morning verses recitation, singing and prayer in the school assembly". She talked about how she was taught values of life that help her every day.

Arivusri was a student for two years. She said, "I came to CCH as a Hindu girl. In the two years I understood Jesus is the only Savior of everyone. I trust Jesus and I'm a believer now, Hallelujah."

Ramesh Kumar who lived most of his life in Christopher, said, "I have committed thousands of mistakes and blunders in my child hood and teenage days. I received forgiveness all the time, through which I can taste Jesus Christ more and more and serve Him now."

Mrs. Roja Rani was a teacher in the school for 7 years. "At present, I'm a principal in another school. The way how I manage my job is 100% learnt from the punctuality, sincerity and skill that I developed from this school" was her witness.

Mrs . Manimohana was a Tamil teacher for 7 years in Christopher School. She is currently working as a Tamil teacher in a Government school. "Everyone is amazed at the speed with which I can manage the school work and teaching work and my fluency of English though I'm a Tamil graduate. Apart from this because of the grace of Jesus Christ, I have a family which is beyond our imagination in our culture" were her words.

Infrastructure Development

In May, the construction of a portion of the compound wall was started in faith. The plan for the first phase is to place a gate and build a portion of the wall along with security rooms and administrative block around it. We continue to seek support for the rest of the wall, hostel complex and landscaping of the campus.

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What we need and what you can pray for:

- Completion of the wall around the campus: Enclosing the school with a wall will provide safety for the school and the children.
- Hostel for Boys and Girls: There is need to have separate areas for school and where the children stay. We need permanent hostel buildings for home children.
- Landscaping: To set up and make use of various facilities like volleyball court, football ground and gardens in the school campus.
- Volunteers: To give time to develop the children by teaching and participating the day to day life of the children.

We thank God for:

- A radio transistor donated by Intermission, Switzerland so children can listen to radio programs.
- Sponsorship and donation by various people who have been supporting our ministry.
- For good Christian people who visit and spend time in the school and ministry.
- Two additional buses that were purchased to accommodate transportation for children coming from nearby villages.
- Smart Class digital learning system set up in the school which will help children have a better learning experience.

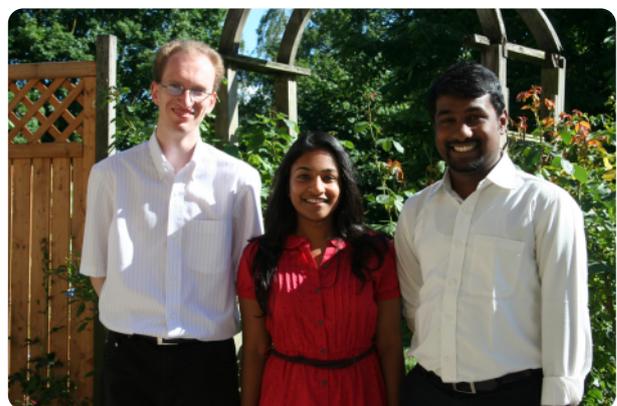
We hope you enjoyed our newsletter! If you would like to get in touch, we would love to hear from you! Your feedback to us is valuable. Thank you for taking time to go through "Milestone". It will be a pleasure for us to take you through many more!

Get in touch to learn more about us and be a part of what we do:
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*Yours in His service,
The Milestone Editorial Team.*

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