

MILE STONE

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

Dear Readers,

We hope you are well and are enjoying the pleasant temperatures. Perhaps a little bit of the Indian summer for some.

The beginning of every academic year is difficult for the following reasons:

- Loss of staff due to various reasons (marriage, maternity, higher government salaries)
- Loss of some children sometimes due to 'attractive gifts' in other religious & government institutions (free cycle, free laptop, free transport etc.)

But we also thank God for new children. The aim of Christopher Educational Trust is to give quality education that every child deserves regardless of caste or creed in the Indian culture. Not only that, but also knowledge and training in the TRUTH with life principles. So here is another prayer point: we need teachers with a big heart and parents to have a vision for their children. Your prayer counts!

The 'peak' summer in India are three weeks in May where temperatures soar over 40, sometimes 50 ° C. In recent years, the heat lasts much longer. There is very less rain resulting in lower yields in crops, dry wells, no drinking water etc. We need YOU to join hearts with us in prayer for more rain – for with God nothing is impossible!



The school in Salem got additional storeys - at last.



In Panamarathupatti there is now a basketball court for the students and home children to play.

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



Students winning a prize for good marks - congratulations!



Teaches at the "Teacher`s appreciation day".



A small part of the participants at the Vacation Bible School.

Milestone

is the name of our newsletter - so what are some of our (yours+ours) milestones in the last year?

Additional storeys for Christopher Nursery & Primary School (CNPS)

As a special project support from Switzerland, two extra floors have been built in CNPS as there was big space constraint. We had to deny some children admission to the school as we could not accommodate them. As of today, the new floors are almost complete except for furnishings. We praise God and thank our partners for your contribution!

Basketball Court

The children can now learn to play basketball in the new court which was completed towards the end of May 2017. Thank you, Friends of CIH, for enabling the speedy completion of the project together with other friends in Europe!

100% Exam results for the 10th & 12th graders

This year all students passed their final exams with good grades which shows hard work from Esther & staff as well as the children. A 100% result motivates new families to bring their children to the school. Even if some children don't pass in some academic year we encourage them to try again.

Teacher's appreciation

For the teachers and other staff, we organized an appreciation event. In a short program, we thanked

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them for their service during the year and encouraged them for the coming academic year. The staff also had an opportunity to give feedback and express their views during the occasion. We closed with a community lunch for all the staff.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Every year, we use the summer holidays to bring in children from our surroundings and conduct Vacation Bible School. This year it was held from May 1 to May 6. The seed of the Word of God was planted through songs, puppet shows, and lessons focused to each age group. We are glad that our own old students volunteered to teach and partake in this year's Vacation Bible School. We had an average attendance of 193 students each day. We were glad to share gifts and food with them on the last day.

We hope you enjoy this short update and the attached pictures. We are glad that our Lord is using us to touch the lives of so many people and children. Every morning we pray that God will open new ways for us in the changing India that we live in. Government that is against Christians are gaining hold in many states and in the country. Challenges from teachers, parents, education department, home ministry and the community around us is growing. But our progress is slow and steady and we are on our knees in front of our Lord every morning, submitting it all to Him. We praise God for the work of your hand in His mission in India and for your generous heart. We pray for God's blessings for every sacrifice that you make for us.

Your prayers and support are so valuable for His cause. We assure you of our prayers and greet you all warmly. Please stay in touch and feel free to know more about God's work in Salem, Tamil Nadu.

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What we need and what you can pray for:

- **School-uniforms & books:** At the beginning of the school year, every child must purchase books and uniform. If there is a possibility and God opens your heart, you can sponsor books and uniform for one child at an approximate cost of €90 per year. This will give the student all the books, notebooks, tie, socks, one set of sports uniform and three sets of uniform for one year.
- **Electrical appliances for Christopher Nursery & Primary School:** The school in Salem area (slum) is in need of electrical appliances worth €1720/- Your help would be much appreciated. For details on the purchase please feel free to contact us.

We thank God for:

- Completion of the Basketball Court construction.
- Enabling all students who appeared for public examinations last February to April to pass successfully in all subjects.
- Bringing new children to the school in the new academic year.
- Books and uniforms provided to some needy kids by friends.
- Furniture provided by Christopher Indienhilfe.

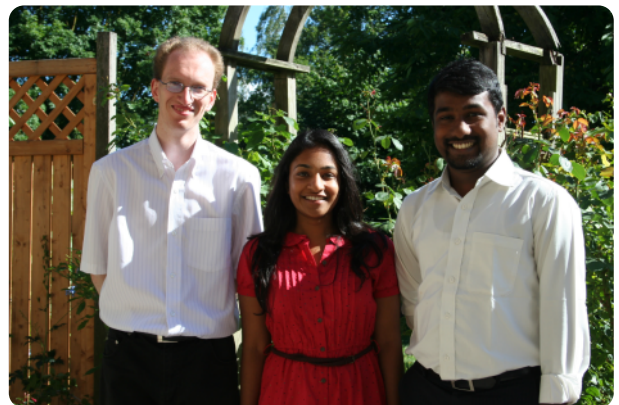
We hope you enjoyed our newsletter! If you would like to get in touch, we would love to hear from you! Your feedback to us is valuable. Thank you for taking time to go through "Milestone". It will be a pleasure for us to take you through many more!

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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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 1979 to promote education and uplift underprivileged children in India.