

Church of the Good Shepherd, Thimbirigasyaya

118, Jawatte Road, Colombo 5

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT - MAY 2015 TO APRIL 2016

We give all the praises, honor, and glory to our heavenly Father, Jesus Christ our Savior and the Holy Spirit who empowers us and blessed us for spiritual growth of this Sunday School. I also want to thank & praise God for the privilege to lead and serve the COGST Sunday School. It is with most gratitude that I present below the Annual Mission Report of our Sunday School for the year 2015/16.

❖ CLASSES

Group	Number of Children	Approx. Age Group	Teachers/Mentors
Kindergarten	12	2½ – 5	Mrs. Dhayamani Ashok
Elementary	11	6 – 8	Mrs. Delani Jayasinghe
Primary	9	9 – 10	Mrs. Angela Seneviratne
Juniors	8	11 – 12	Ms. Nuala Thevathasan
Teen Ministry (from Oct 14)	12	13 - 18	1 st Sun - Ms. Rochelle Hackel Ranasinghe 2 nd Sun - Mrs. Deepika Dassanaikie 3 rd Sun - Mr. Viranga Wickremaratne 4 th Sun - Mr. Dilranjan Jacob Substitute : Mrs. Githa Algama
Total	52		9 Teachers
Relief Teachers = 04	Mrs. Varunica De Silva, Mrs. Michelle Ponniah, Ms. Radika Selvanayagam, Mrs Githa Algama		
Support & Admin = 01	Mrs. Sevanji Dedigama		

- ❖ **CLASS TIMES:** 1st 3rd 4th & 5th Sundays : 9.45 A.M. to 11.15 A.M.
2nd Sundays : 10.00 A.M. to 10.30 A.M.

TEACHING & SPIRITUAL AWARENESS

❖ SYLLABUS FOR THE YEAR 2015 -16

- Trinity Term - 10th May to 2nd Aug '15 - GOD'S VINEYARD (Trees & plants in the bible)
Michaelmas Term - 6th Sep to 13th Dec '15 - MISSION UNSTOPPABLE (based on book of Acts)
Lent Term - 10th Jan to 3rd Apr '16 - THE LORD'S PRAYER

- ❖ **SS TEACHERS' RETREAT & CURRICULUM PREPARATION** - SS Teachers gathered on 27.10.2015, at Mrs. Delani Jayasinghe's residence in preparation of Curriculum for the Year 2016. The detailed curriculum was constructed prayerfully by the SS teachers.

- ❖ **SS TEACHERS' NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2016** - organized by the Church of Ceylon Board of Christian Education with the aim of empowering each Teacher to fulfill his/her role as a Shepherd in Christ followed by the vision of our Rt. Revd. Diloraj Canagasabey, to invest faith in the hearts of children while they are still young. The Seminar was held at the Cathedral of Living Savior for 3 days from 15th January. The workshop organized with a very comprehensive and educative programme. The sessions covered valid topics of teaching the children in the modern world. There were about 900 Teachers from Parishes all over the Island and the conference was concluded with a beautiful Service of Dedication for teachers that was held in the Cathedral on Sun 17th Jan.

- ❖ **BIBLE QUIZ – ON 14.05.2016** .This year, COGST had two 3-member teams participating in the Colombo Central Zone of the 52nd All Island Bible Quiz held at Methodist College, Colombo 3. Junior team - under 12 years - Sahana Emmanuel (Captain), Shevon Ponniah and Levonne Krith. Senior Team - under 16 years - Trevor Francke (Captain), Seanan Ponniah & Redhesh Praveeshan. COGST Senior team won the first and second rounds and entered the quarter finals. The Junior team (first timers) were beaten only by 2 points (10 against 8). Well done, teams! Ms Nuala Thevathasan and Mrs. Dhayamani Ashok were the trainers. It was encouraging to spend time teaching as the children showed such enthusiasm in learning God's word despite the bad weather and obstacles. We sincerely thank Ms. Nuala Thevathasan, her initiative & her tireless effort in preparing COGST children for this programme. We thank the parents and our parish priest and members for their strong support and prayers. All praise & honour to our Good Shepherd who gives our kids many opportunities; may their commitment reap an abundant harvest.

CARING & DISCIPLESHIP

- ❖ **TEEN MINISTRY** - Preparing to become the disciples of the future.
- Our Teens & Youth conduct the worship singing on every 2nd Sunday for Family Services.
- Young Anaath Jacob from the Teen Ministry preached in one of family services, which was inspiring and his first ever preaching experience.

- ❖ **FAMILY SERVICE** : Our Sunday Family Service is an opportunity for all our church SS children & families to come together to part take in worship as one family. Scheduled every 2nd Sundays of the month morning at 8.00
- ❖ **MOTHERING SUNDAY** was held on 6th March 2016 – Children presented beautiful T-shirts with their hand prints to their parents on Mothering Sunday Service. SS Teachers gifted flowers to all mothers and key tags to fathers.
- ❖ **TREE PLANTING** - 10.05.2015 the To mark the Trinity Term theme "God's Vineyards - His creation of plants & trees", Children planted seeds & grew vegetables in pots.
- ❖ **ART COMPETITION FOR CCMU CALENDAR 2016:**
The Church of Ceylon Mothers Union organized the art competition for the children of all Parish, for their Calendar 2016, which held on 10th October 2015 and three children Sahana Emmanuel, Levonne Krith and Anustina Emmanuel from our church SS participated in the competition under 7-11 years.
- ❖ **THANKS GIVING SERVICE** - 25.10.2015 - Children offered little notes on Thanks Giving day which they made in SS class describing for what they are thankful to God
- ❖ **CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY** (by Kim Hackworth): "A New Home for Christmas", a story of the orphaned & abandoned children at the Christmas Eve. This was enacted by the SS children on 06.12.2015 and the Teens & Youth sang for the play. This was directed by Mrs. Romany Parakrama and we are ever grateful to her for her willingness and dedication towards God's ministry.
- ❖ **PALM SUNDAY** on 20.03.2016 & **EASTER SUNDAY** on 27.03.2016 - SS children participated in the service with their parents. They offered eggs on Easter Sunday.

SHARING & OUTREACH MINISTRY

- ❖ **SS CHRISTMAS PARTY & PRIZE GIVING** held on 10.12.2015. SS children shared the spirit of Christmas blessings with the displaced Children (5 - 14 years) from Hope Home, Mt. Lavinia.
- ❖ **DEVSIRI ELDERS' HOME WELISARA** visit on 23.05.2015 & 29.05.2016 by the SS children along with some of the teachers & parents. Spent a delightful time of singing, dancing & playing games with the home inmates. .

FUN & FELLOWSHIP

- ❖ **CHRISTMAS PARTY OF DMC CLUSTER (COLOMBO)** - Christmas party for Colombo Cluster Church Sunday Schools was organized by the Diocese of Colombo Cluster on 05.12.2015 (3.30 - 5.00 pm) at the Church of St Paul's, Milagiriya. At this event, our SS children sung two worship songs which was a great performance. DMC presented the gifts to all SS children which was very much appreciated. DMC thanked everyone for their participation and making this event a success. At the end of the programme, refreshments were served to everyone for which a few of our parents contributed food items & drinks.
- ❖ **PARENTS' DAY** was held on 03.04.2016. Our guest speaker was Mr Ruwan Fernando. Parents were briefed with SS curriculum & activities schedule for the year 2016 Lessons followed by fellowship & games.

I would like to acknowledge the passion and commitment of our SS Teachers & Teen Mentors who lead all SS activities respectively. Our Appreciation & thanks to Cindy & Anaath for dedicating in preparing the worship singing team on Family Services. Thanks to our substitute teachers for covering the classes during the absence of the class teacher; and thanks to Mrs. Sevanji Dedigama for her efficient service in the administration. Also we are most grateful to Mrs. Minal Ranatunga, Mrs. Simone Botejue, Mrs. Michelle Ponniah, Mrs. Ranjini Edwards & Mrs. Veronica Suresh for co-ordinating with our food arrangements for all events of the SS. We also thank all parents for contributing delicious food items & drinks to make every SS events a memorable one. Also we appreciate SS Teachers/Mentors and Teens who were committed to preach God's word on Family Sundays.

We wish to express our profound appreciation & thanks to Anil & Delani Jayasinghe for letting their home for five SS Teachers from our link parish Hambantota to stay for 2 nights during the National SS Teachers' conference and arranging all facilities for their stay.

We would like to thank the Parish Worship Committee & Parish Mission Consultation team for encouraging Sunday School affairs and for their follow up on our ministry which help us to learn, educate to serve efficiently & meaningfully to bring glory to God. Our appreciation to our church Board of Wardens who have given great support in developing SS. On behalf of SS, a special thanks to Mrs. Delani Jayasinghe, our Teacher & Warden for SS who liaises with Board of Wardens for the facilitation and smooth function of the SS.

On behalf of our Sunday School, I would like to thank Rev. Suresh Dias Bandaranaike, Fr. S Balasundaram and their family for their prayers & guidance in all our endeavors. We are also thankful to Dhass for his support on all our SS activities. Moreover, I thank God, for parents, youth volunteers and all our well wishers for their encouragement, prayers and support towards this wonderful ministry.

May the Lord richly bless and encourage you all as we seek to do the work that He has called us to through Christ Jesus our Lord. May your family be blessed with God's love and care. Above all, I thank God for all His blessings and mercies on this ministry and pray that His abounding mercies may continue in the years to come on all who are helping to build SS ministry.

Dhayamani Ashok
Sunday School Superintendent₂

