

GOD

The GRANDFATHER?

Many would question the truth of the above title. It should be God the Father. Agreed! But over the last 6 months, during our trainings across India, I realised that for so many Christian parents, there is an assumption that God will be a grandfather to children. It works that way in the natural so isn't it also true in the spiritual?

In the last 6 months we trained 258 Sunday School teachers. In all the trainings there was one topic which the majority of people said was impactful and made them think. That topic was **"Presenting the Gospel to children"**. In this teaching, we show what the Bible says – that every person (adult and child) has the need to be saved from sin.

The assumption which we have seen so often is that since children come from Christian homes, the children will automatically be Christians. Not true! This lie has stopped so many teachers and parents from sharing the gospel to their children. A big missed opportunity! We don't become God's children through the faith of our parents but by



CBM

happenings

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"receiving and believing in Jesus Christ as our saviour." - John 1:12.

Sadly, this truth is held back from children and they grow up in Sunday School without the gospel being clearly presented to them. Those who would try to extinguish Christianity know that it would largely take only one generation to make this change.

We see this many times in the Old Testament with the nation of Israel. It only took one generation for the people to turn away from God when they had not experienced God for themselves.

Our responsibility as parents and Sunday school teachers is to pass on our faith, not by just telling our children about God but by allowing our children to have opportunities to receive Jesus as their own Saviour. God needs to be their father, not their grandfather.



Gospel Presentation Workshop

TRAINING

Training teachers is of paramount importance in the Christian education system. Investing in the training of teachers is an investment in the quality of Christian education, children's discipleship, and the overall development of a church. It is a key factor in building a robust and effective children ministry of Church.

In the second half of 2023 we conducted 6 trainings across India. The response for the training was very encouraging. Read and be blessed.



1) CHRISTIAN REVIVAL CHURCH- ARUNACHAL PRADESH

70 people participated in this 4-day training. Participants came from 4 districts, some even travelled 500km to learn and equip themselves so that they can be effective Sunday school teachers.



2) NEW LIFE BIBLE COLLEGE, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

The foresight for this training was to impart vision on the importance of children's ministry as most of them will go on to serve as Pastors in their church and that time they should not hinder the

work but give utmost importance to children, teens and youth in their community. 57 students attended this training.



3) VISHWAVANI CHURCH, UKALAPANI (GUJARAT)

12 people participated in this training which was conducted in the tribal region of Ukalapani.

Through this training some of the participants got the vision of reaching out to children in government schools during Christmas.



4) SOLDIERS OF CHRIST, CHINCHOD (GUJARAT)

We had an excellent 3 day training in Chinchod where 40 participants from 4 churches participated in the training. The group was lively and focused on reaching children in their tribal community. When they saw how good and systematic our curriculum is they immediately purchased it and made plans to use it in their mission fields.



5) TANGKUL BAPTIST CHURCH, NEW DELHI

We have a long-standing partnership with the Tangkul Baptist Church in Delhi and whenever they have a new group of Sunday school teachers, they invite us to train them. This year they organised training and even invited other church teachers as well to learn and be equipped. 38 teachers participated in the training of which 34 were taking training for the first time.

TESTIMONIES

1) 2 days of learning was really good. One thing that really touched me was that we should pray for our children which is important but often neglected.

2) The training team shared so many anecdotes from their own experiences which made the learning more meaningful and easier.

3) I am doing my PHD in Juvenile Justice and this training reinforced my belief in pursuing the work with children in church and in community.

4) I used to think that our children are safe because they come from Christian families but here I learnt the importance of giving the gospel to these children so that they are not lost.



6) ANGAMI BAPTIST CHURCH COUNCIL, NAGALAND

ABCC organised this training and they specifically focused on inviting the Sunday school Directors of the respective churches. 38 participated in this training, 8 of them were attending training for the first time. Some of them wrote beautiful testimonies how the training made them rethink about their Sunday school.



5) The discipleship process was eye opening.

6) Importance of fellowship and worship with children was something that really touched me.

7) I am the Pastor of this church and I felt that it was a waste of money and time organising this training. But the Lord really opened my eyes as I heard from the Word and I ask you forgiveness. (Pastor folded his hands and cried in front of the participants)





UPCOMING EVENTS

EXCEL CHILDREN'S CAMP 2024

In the month of May we will be conducting our 4th Excel Children's Camp. This camp is aimed at giving Hindi speaking children the opportunity to attend and experience camps which often they may never get. Over the years we have got many first time campers and we subsidise rates for them as well. To send your children for this camp you can contact us.



"Great peace have they who love your word, and nothing can make them stumble" - Psalms 119:165

The Word of God brings peace and in today's times our children need God's shalom more than ever before.

That is why in 2024 we have a vision - One Child One Bible through which we will distribute 1000 Bibles. These Bibles will not be distributed randomly to any children but be given to each child who attends our camp, VBS or outreach events.

If you would like to support this initiative, you can contact us. Your sacrificial blessing will not go unnoticed by the Lord.

SUPPORT US

The monthly expense of running our office is Rs. 55000/- (NZ \$1100) (USD \$690), and we are barely able to make that up every month.

We need your financial support to reach the children, teens, and youth of INDIA. You as individuals, as family, as church or as a specialised fellowship (like youth, women's - men's group) can support and bring transformation in the lives of thousands of children.



To support here are the details:

Account Name: **CHILDREN BIBLE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL INC.**

Account No.: **12301605511800**

Bank Name: **ASB Bank**

Swift/SORT Code: **ASBANZ2A**

Bank Address: 296 Dominion Road, Mt Eden, Auckland 1024. New Zealand

Reference: **"CBM MUMBAI"**



CBM WEST INDIA

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