

Sunday School Year End Concert

The annual Sunday school Year End concert was held on 11th November 2012. This year, the focus of the event was on the many lessons the students learned during the year. As the year drew to an end, it was a time of reflection for the children as they came up with interesting ideas to showcase their work. The junior youth showcased their singing and music talent by rendering a song item. The toddler class rendered a song item. The students from primary classes showcased their memory power and recited their memory verse. It was a great time filled with joyous smiles as each and every one showed enthusiasm in their work. Gift certificates were given out for attendance and memory verse recital. The Sunday school would like to thank all parents for showing their support and encouraging their child to attend Sunday school and memorizing their verses. 2013 will see a new face as our Sunday School superintendent, Mrs Shireen Pandian, will take over from Mrs Julie. The Sunday School would like to thank Mrs Julie for her hard work and dedication all these years. At the end of the day, Sunday schoolers came together in a bonding with God and each other, gaining some of life's unforgettable and memorable experiences.

Article by: Anna Asirpatham

Church Christmas Party

Article by: Isaac P

The Church Christmas Party was celebrated on 9th December 2012. After Pastor opened the programme with a short prayer, the children from Sunday School presented us with a dance item. They did a cute little jig to the tune of Feliz Navidad.

Next on the programme was a short skit and nativity entitled "What Can I Give to The King". This was a joint collaboration with participants from various groups, the Sunday School, Youth, Parish and Young @ Heart. The next two items was a round of games to get all parish groups involved. Game 1, "Dress up Santa" involved dressing up Santa with given materials. Game 2, "Surprise Dance" involved getting two male participants from each parish group to dance using the 'kollatum' sticks. This brought about much laughter from the audience as they cheered the participants. This was also an apt prelude to the next item on the programme, "Kollatum" by the WSCS.

The whole programme proved to show the many talents that members of TMC had from acting to dancing.



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Church Calendar

January

- New Year Service

Ongoing Programmes:
Friday Praise & Prayer session
7.30pm to 9pm

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CHRIST'S BIRTH AS A HISTORICAL NECESSITY (JOHN 1:1-18)

My thoughts on Christmas revolve around the question, "What necessitated the birth of Christ?" Three quick thoughts from John 1:1-18:

The Finality of Human Condition

The truth of human condition, in John, is not in terms of ethnography, sociology, or psychology. The truth of God's character—Life and Light (v.5)—clarifies the truth of human condition. The world is basically a mirror-image of God, characterized by death and darkness, the exact opposites of God's character. There is a sense of finality to the human condition because of the absence of life and light. God being God and his character being life and light, he had created the world without their opposites, death and darkness (vv.3, 10). This human condition is therefore, because of willful rejection of God and correspondingly life and light (vv.10, 11).

The Finitude of Human Beings

Given the human condition, how can human beings disentangle themselves from their self-imposed bondage? Or, can they? Human beings have tried various ways, for instance, a kind of *karma mārga*: the Law of Moses (v.16). We can think of various 21st Century parallels. Paul clarifies, "No one will be declared righteous in God's sight by observing the law" (Romans 3:20 TNIV). James adds, "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it" (2:20). We can feel the human anguish the cry for help. The *Brihadhāranyaka Upanishad* articulates this human need: "Lead me from darkness to light (*Tamasoma jyotirgamaya*); lead me from death to life (*mrutyoma amrutam gamaya*)." Who can narrow the distance between God and us?

The Fact of God's Act

What necessitates the birth of Christ all? It is the human condition and their incapacity to help themselves described earlier that have necessitated the birth of Christ. Liberation is not about trying hard, but about the One who can help when we cannot help ourselves. A faithful observance of the law does not put God under obligation. This is God's world, and therefore, only he has to save it. A historical anomaly had to be set right only by a historical event. The Word had to become flesh as a historical necessity. Only God could saturate death with life and darkness with light. The Word became flesh and lived among us in the person of Jesus, personifying grace and truth (vv.14, 17). The life he gives liberates us (vv.4, 9) from the human condition that keeps us in bondage. He liberates us by making us his children. In the birth of God's Son, those who believe are too born as God's children (v.12). If then, the Word becoming flesh was a historical necessity, becoming God's children by believing is also a historical necessity. Herein lies the glorious promise of Christmas and the obligation it lays on us. Merry Christmas!

Article by: Pastor Babu Immanuel