

*"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of  
heaven belongs to such as these" Matthew 19:14*

# **IPC SUNDAY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION MAHARASHTRA**



**1993 - 2018**

*Silver Jubilee  
Souvenir*

*With best compliments from :*



**T.G. RADHAKRISHNAN  
& FAMILY**

**MUMBAI**

*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old,  
he will not depart from it.*

*(Proverbs 22:6)*



## **IPC SUNDAY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION MAHARASHTRA**

*Presents*

Silver Jubilee Souvenir  
1993 - 2018



Fulfilling the Great Commission for a quarter century  
with a burden for the children



## *With Loving Memories*



**Thomas Nainan**



**Oommen Abraham**

**Great men of God with a heart for Sunday School ...  
Now dwelling in their heavenly abode.**



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# Editorial

Mathews Paul | Chief Editor



**F**uture of any society is its children. In order to create a responsible and God fearing generation, moral and spiritual values are to be inculcated in them from the childhood itself. In the busy modern technologically advanced society, to realise the need of moral education and to find time for it is found to be a difficult task for many parents. It is the need of the hour to give much importance to Sunday School Education to impart moral and spiritual values in our children.

A recent study by T.H.Chan School of Public Health (Harward School of Public Health), Boston, USA revealed that “ Children those who have a spiritual life and close association with the Church are able to lead a healthy, joyous and peaceful life when they enter in to their young age, compared to other children. Those who have a daily prayerlife are found to be more satisfied in their life.” This study emphasizes the importance of Sunday school education.

IPC Sunday School Association, Maharashtra was formed in 1993. As we celebrate Silver Jubilee, we remember the ways through which our Lord has lead us through. Many Sunday school children could accept Jesus Christ as their personal saviour and took water baptism through this ministry.

It is a matter praise and proud that all the children who were active in Sunday school were blessed in their secular and family life and are found to be active in the ministry in their local churches. At this moment we remember the contributions of Pastors, Sunday School teachers, parents and Sunday School Board members for the growth of this ministry of moulding a God fearing generation.

This silver jubilee souvenir contains a detailed history of the Sunday School Movement from its early days of 18th century. It also gives light to the development of Sunday school movement in India along with few articles related to the Sunday school ministry. We have tried to give a detailed picture of the ministry of IPC Sunday School Association, Maharashtra for the last 25 years.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I express my sincere gratitude to all those who have written articles and felicitation messages and supported financially by sponsoring complimentary pages for the souvenir. We are also thankful to everyone who worked hard to bring this souvenir a reality with beautiful design, layout and printing.

We give all glory and honor to our Lord almighty for enabling us to publish this souvenir and pray that this would be a blessing to all.



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**Br. Varghese Abraham**  
Treasurer



## FELICITATION

I am extremely delighted to know that , the IPC Maharashtra Sunday School is completing 25 years of tireless journey in developing the teaching ministry among the children. It is not an exaggeration to say that both Sunday school and PYPa taking their best efforts in moulding and shaping our young generation in the biblical knowledge.

Regarding the Sunday school, it is a fact that children are lively and active part of any church. By God's grace, over the last quarter century the Lord provided all the resources for the betterment of our Sunday school. Therefore our Sunday school units in different local churches are well organised, equipped and considerably good in their performances. As the President of IPC MS, I take this time to appreciate all the executives and board members for their contributions to the growth of this ministry. I want to encourage all the responsible persons that, count this as a greater ministry and do remember you are accountable to the Lord. We are not forgetting the pioneers and promoters of the Sunday school in its inception in our state. May the Lord grant them the rewards according to their works.

Once again I use this opportunity to felicitate IPC Sunday school in this joyous occasion of the Silver Jubilee celebration. It is my sincere prayer that, if our Lord's appearance is delaying let our Sunday school take its wings extensively to mould our children in every churches with necessary curriculum for the glory of our Lord.

In the Lord's vineyard,

**PASTOR P. JOY**

*President - IPC Maharashtra*



## FELICITATION

I am so glad and overwhelmed with joy to hear that the Maharashtra Sunday School Association is celebrating silver jubilee in October, 2018. We praise God for His wonderful provisions. I still remember the days when IPC Maharashtra Region was formed in 1990 under the able leadership of Pr. P.Joy.

God was faithful in His promises and enabled you all to have more than 300 churches and Sunday School ministry in most of these churches with hundreds of children and teachers. You did a beautiful work in translating lessons to Hindi and Marathi.

We, IPC Sunday School Association, Kumbanad congratulate you for your laborious work and fervent prayers and tears of the pastors, elders, believers, parents and lay leaders and praise God that He enabled us to reach this level.

There are many more miles to go. Our God is good and faithful, His mercy endureth forever. Put your maximum efforts and pray without ceasing to win many more young souls for the Lord. We should be able to defeat the devil and declare victory over him.

May God bless you.

**BR. KURIAN JOSEPH**

(Director - IPC Sunday School Association  
Kumbanad, Kerala)



## FELICITATION

**How shall a young man cleanse his ways? By taking heed thereto according to thy word “  
Ps.119 : 9**

The knowledge has increased in today's generation due to the access of the advanced modern technology. Its impact on the spirituality of children has become a matter of concern nowadays.

Children play a major role in building any community and they need to know the values and purpose of life and the truth revealed by the Scripture. The modern generation should be guided in the right path and the role of parents, teachers and Sunday school towards this goal cannot be overlooked.

Today's children do not expect gifts but presence, not counseling but guidance, not sympathy but empathy. Very often we give importance to their studies to make them capable to earn more for tomorrow, but rarely we teach them how to live tomorrow. Our ultimate goal should be to equip our children to be witnesses of the gospel of Christ and train them to inherit the divine qualities, sound character, better commitment and integrity in life. Through Sunday school, we teach our children to discern good and evil so that they may be able to lead a spirit filled and successful life in the modern world. The future of every church and society depend upon the spiritual and social standards of the coming generation.

**“A child is not a vessel to be filled, but a lamp to be lighted ”  
“Win Children for Christ, Build Children in Christ and send Children for Christ”**

I am very delighted to know that the Indian Pentecostal Church of God Maharashtra State Sunday School is celebrating its Silver Jubilee and a souvenir is being published to mark the occasion.

I thank the Lord for His faithfulness that enabled the IPC Maharashtra State Sunday School Board for its achievements.

On behalf of the Indian Pentecostal Church of God, Gujarat State, I wish all success to IPC Sunday School Association - Maharashtra and may our Lord shower His blessings upon this ministry in coming days.

**PASTOR P. A. GEORGE**

President, IPC Gujarat State



## FELICITATION

“ Sunday.....School.... Enick Anandam.....,  
Nalla vazhick Ennei Nityam Nadathunna..  
Sunday...school enick aanandam.....”

This chorus from my childhood Sunday school still echoes in my ears. Someone said, “ Man sees how many seeds are in an apple; but God sees how many apples are in one seed.” The same way only God understands the full potentiality of Sunday School ministry.

In the year 1780, when Mr. Robert Raikes started the first Sunday school on the banks of river 'Thames' in London, he would have never dreamed that it would grow to a systematic chain of Bible study among the children worldwide, which would win millions of young boys and girls for Christ before they are contaminated by the world system.

I am one among those millions who is fortunate to be committed to Christ through Sunday School ministry. I thank God for my Sunday School head master, the late Mr. P.M. Abraham Sir ( Kuzhikala) who had the passion for Sunday School ministry until he passed away last year at the age of 98.

It is very much probable that the Sunday School teacher is not a renowned preacher of the gospel, but who can say that the souls he/she won for Christ through the living testimony and patience would not lead tens of thousands of souls to eternal life? Don't we remember how 'ANDREW' brought his own brother Simon to Christ who eventually became a vessel of honor, used by God to spread the Gospel much more than Andrew himself could do!!

I highly appreciate the great efforts of Br. Mathews Paul and his team taking to promote the Sunday School ministry in our state.

I believe that we must appreciate our Sunday School teachers and honour them accordingly. How many parents have ever invited the Sunday School teacher for a dinner to express gratitude who taught their children every Sunday morning?

I understand that the Sunday School ministry is spreaded only among the urban Malayalee congregations to this day. May I suggest, that immediate steps be taken to expand this blessed ministry to the rural churches also so that many native children can also be well equipped with the word of God.

At this point it is also noteworthy that Sunday School ministry had been going on in our churches long before the IPC Maharashtra state was formed in 1990.

As we are celebrating 25 years of Sunday School ministry, I pray that it will spread all over the state in the near future. I also appologize for my inability to attend the celebration.

Let us “ attempt great things for God and expect great things from God”  
Congratulations!!

**PASTOR V. J. THOMAS**  
(President, IPC Goa State & Greater Mumbai Dist.)



## FELICITATION

I am very glad to hear that IPC Maharashtra State Sunday school is completing 25 years in ministry and publishing a souvenir commemorating the ways that the Lord has lead this ministry for the benefit of children. I consider this opportunity to pen down few lines of felicitation as a privilege and praise God for the same.

Sunday school is one of the pillars of any Church where children are taught the word of God and trained to live for Christ as good christians to form a God fearing generation. Bible gives due importance to 'generations'. Understanding the biblical truth of "Generations come and generations go"(Eccl. 1:5), the early church made it a practice to conduct Sunday schools in local churches.

By the grace of God, the IPC Maharashtra State Council was formed in 1990. The Sunday school Board was formed in 1993 to organize Sunday School activities in Maharashtra with Pastor Albert George as the convener. Late. Br. Thomas Nainan gave good leadership as Director for 12 years since 1995 and presently Br. Mathews Paul and Dr. Saji Mathew are serving as Director and Secretary respectively and I appreciate all Board Members for their efforts for the smooth advancement of this ministry to different parts of Maharashtra.

In today's world, where the science and technology is in its peak position, the Sunday school activities should go forward as a great commission to prepare a generation who live for the Lord. This is my wish and prayer that the Sunday School Board may go ahead with new plans and projects, understanding the need of the hour, for the furtherance of His kingdom.

As we are celebrating 25 years of Sunday School ministry in Maharashtra, I extend all my best wishes on behalf of my family and IPC Maharashtra State council.

**PASTOR K. A. MATHEW**

*(Secretary - IPC Maharashtra State &  
President, IPC Mumbai West Dist)*



# ROBERT RAIKES

## THE FORERUNNER OF SUNDAY SCHOOL MOVEMENT

**R**obert Raikes (14 September 1736 - 5 April 1811) is remembered as the pioneer of Sunday School movement. He was not however the first person to set up a Sunday School, but rather his work pioneered Sunday Schools as a national institution in England.

He was born at Ladybellegate House, in the city of Gloucester on 14th September 1736. His father Robert (Senior) was a prominent citizen and businessman and the owner of the influential Gloucester Journal. His mother's name was Mary Drew. The family lived very comfortably for the times. Robert attended the St Mary de Crypt grammar school and at 14 he enrolled as a scholar at the College Cathedral School. He was baptised on 24 September 1736 at St Mary de Crypt Church in Gloucester. On 23 December 1767 he married Anne Trigge, with whom he had three sons and seven daughters.

Not much is known of the early life of Robert Raikes, except that his father died suddenly in 1757 and Robert, as the eldest son became the proprietor of a large business at the age of 22. In addition to this, he also had the responsibility of looking after his aged mother, his 5 brothers and one sister. His grandson, General Robert Napier Raikes (13 October 1813 - 23 March 1909) was a British Indian Army officer who became General of the British Indian Army, in 1889.

He began to use his News paper to alert his fellow citizens about the sensitive social needs and the first assault on the public conscience was to make them aware of the pitiful conditions of the prisoners in Gloucester prison. There was no proper provision for poorer inmates. Those who received no help from friends or relatives had to beg their food from their fellow prisoners. Like



many others during the mid 1700's he was passionately concerned with the need of prison reform and used his paper to tell the public of the terrible conditions he saw as a prison visitor.

Raikes formulated his theory concerning the direct connection between ignorance and poverty ....“Ignorance is the root of the degradation everywhere around us, Idleness is a consequence of ignorance, Idleness begets vice, and vice leads to the gallows,”

Thus it was in 1780, Raikes decided to turn his attention primarily to children. He saw little dirty neglected children with the pitiable slum born look written on their faces singing lewd, brutal songs rioting in vice and ignorance on Sundays in the streets of the cathedral city. He began his work amongst the poor and often mischievous city children of Gloucester by persuading them to meet him at 7:00am in the Cathedral yard. There at the cathedral he would gather the children, probably about 50 and sought to teach them the catechism. However this failed as the children did not want to learn and may have been suspicious of Raikes and his social class.

His second attempt was to gather some of these children into a school on Sundays. This was started in the kitchen of a house in Sooty Alley, belonged to Mrs Meredith whom he paid one shilling per week to run the school. About 12 - 14 boys came along the first week and were taught basic reading using the Bible.

Raikes was a churchman and wanted his School to be closely linked to the parish church. He therefore consulted Thomas Stock a local clergy who had been involved in a school in Berkshire. In July 1780 a Sunday School was established in the parish of St Mary de Crypt in Gloucester by Robert Raikes and Thomas Stock. There were two sessions every Sunday and four women were paid to teach children to read and to learn the Prayer Book Catechism. Raikes became actively involved and visited the children in their homes, examined their progress in reading and gave prizes for good progress.

A few months later he started a second school in Southgate Street. What was evident during those three years from 1780 to 1783 was the remarkable effect it had on the streets of Gloucester on Sundays. Noise and riotous behaviour was markedly reduced and a greater sense of peace prevailed across the city. During this time more Sunday Schools opened throughout the city.

In 1784 John Wesley wrote in his letters - “I find these schools springing up wherever I go. Perhaps God may have a deeper end therein than men are aware of - Who knows but some of these schools may become nurseries for Christians”

Meanwhile Raikes's work in Gloucester continued to attract attention. Queen Charlotte, wife of George III, granted him an audience and encouraged others to follow his example. The establishment of Sunday Schools was one small part of the great social changes that were to change the face of society over the next quarter of a century.

The Oxford Historian John Richard Green who wrote “Short History of the English people” In the section dealing with the 18th century says:- “ The Sunday Schools established by Mr Raikes of Gloucester at the close of the century were the beginnings of popular education”

Robert Raikes was a man of vision with a heart for children. His contributions to the Kingdom of God is much greater than we think as millions of children could come to the saving knowledge of Christ through the Sunday School Movement, through out the world. The Church will ever remember his contributions, as long as Sunday School exist in Churches.



**Br. Mathews Paul**

Director, IPC Sunday School Association  
Maharashtra State



*With best compliments from*



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 (EVERY WEDNESDAY)  
**SISTER'S MEETING : 10 AM TO 01 PM**  
 (EVERY THURSDAY)  
**FASTING PRAYER : 10 AM TO 01 PM**  
 (EVERY FRIDAY)  
**BIBLE CLASS: 7:30 PM TO 09 PM**  
 (EVERY SATURDAY)  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL: 8:30 AM TO 10 AM**  
 (EVERY SUNDAY)  
**PYPA MEETING : 12 PM TO 01 PM**  
 (ALTERNATIVE SUNDAYS)



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##### **OUTSTATION WORK AT LAADI & DOSTI COLONY:**

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**DOSTI COLONY : 4:30 PM TO 06 PM**  
 (EVERY SUNDAY)



#### **LAADI SUNDAY SCHOOL**



Dr. Saji Mathew  
Secretary,  
IPC SSA, Maharashtra

## IPC Sunday Schools Association, Maharashtra State

# *A Flash Back*

Sunday School Education is one of the most important ministry of the Church. The future of any Church depends upon the spiritual status of their younger generation - faith in God, knowledge in the word of God and the intimacy with Lord Jesus Christ.

By Sunday school education, we mean the following :

- Impart Christian values in students more than academic and technical skills.
- Equip children to face the modern competitive world and its pressures.
- Increase confidence level, enabling them to face challenges.
- Inculcate a vision about eternity in the young minds.

Though Sunday School is the most important part of any Church, it is a plain truth that it has been sidelined to a great extent in many Churches, which has to be considered a threat to the Church.

### **BEGINNING:**

The Indian Pentecostal Church of God ( IPC ) can claim the privilege of starting the first Pentecostal Church in Mumbai in 1955 at Chembur. All the Churches established since then in various parts of Maharashtra were very particular in conducting Sunday Schools in their Churches on Sundays.

The local Churches had the freedom to choose any good syllabus for their Sunday School and they used to conduct examinations at their level.

IPC has started Sunday School activities in 1960 in Kerala, in the name of Sunday School Samajam, and later in 1979, it was reconstituted and IPC Sunday School Association was formed. They had a prescribed syllabus upto class 10 and state level examinations were also been conducted every year.

The IPC Maharashtra State was formed in 1990. From the time of inception, many pastors and believers felt the need of an organized Sunday School activity in the state. To achieve this goal, a combined general body meeting of the Sunday School and PYP was held on 20-11-1993 at Pune and a Board was elected for the Sunday School.

The first Sunday School Board consisted the following members :

Pastor Albert George (Convener)

Members: Pastor P.M. Cherian, Pastor K.M. Varghese, Prof. Sam Skariah,  
Br. Mathews Paul, Br. Prasad Abraham and Br. Baby David.



*With best compliments from*



**Sunday School**

**Scripture  
School**



**IPC EBENEZER, KALYAN.**



## GROWTH:

The first meeting of the Board was held at Thane on 6-12-1993 and took the following decisions.

1. The annual examination to be conducted in December.
2. The syllabus of IPC Kerala State Sunday School Association to be followed in Maharashtra
3. Conduct Sunday school seminars in different areas and special training programmes for teachers.

The first annual centralized examination was conducted on 11th December 1994 and the result was published on 24.12.1994. The services of Prof. Sam Skariah and Br. Johnson K Samuel in setting the question papers and the initiative taken by Br. Mathews Paul in successfully conducting the first centralized examination are to be remembered.

The first anniversary meeting and second Annual General Body meeting was held on 26-01-1995 at Jondhale High School, Dombivli and new Board was constituted for a period of three years. The details of the Board Members from 1995 to 2015 are given below.

1995-1998	1998-2001	2001-2003	2003-2006
Director - Br. Thomas Nainan	Br. Thomas Nainan	Br. K. Cherian	Br. Thomas Nainan
Secretary- Br. K Cherian	Br. K. Cherian	Br. Mathews Paul	Br. Mathews Paul
Treasurer - Br. Mathews Paul	Br. Denny Varghese	Br. Jacob John	Br. John Varghese
Exam. Controllor -	Br. Mathews Paul	Br. Thomas Nainan	Br. Y. Georgrkutty
Members :			
Pr. K.M.Varghese	Pr. K.M. Varghese	Pr. K.M. Varghese	Pr. K.M. Varghese
Pr. Albert George	Pr. Babuji Samuel	Pr. Babuji Samuel	Pr. Babuji Samuel
Pr. Babuji Samuel	Pr. William George	Pr. William George	Pr. Binu Mathew.
Br. James Pappen	Pr. James Abraham	Pr. Binu Mathew	Br. Mathew Varghese
Br. Joy Kochummen	Br. Y. Georgrkutty	Br. Y. Georgrkutty	Br. K.S. George
Br. Baby David.		Br. Idiculla Daniel	Br. Joy KochummenBr.
Jiji Samuel	Br. Baby David	Br. Anthony Jacob.	Br. L. Simon
2006-2009	2009-2012	2012-2015	
Director - Br. Thomas Nainan	Br. Mathews Paul	Br. Mathews Paul	
Secretary- Br. Mathews Paul	Br. John Varghese	Br. John Varghese	
Treasurer - Br. John Varghese	Br. Saji Mathew	Br. Saji Mathew	
Ex. Contr. -Br. Varughese Abraham	Br. Varughese Abraham	Br. Varughese Abraham	
Members:			
Pr. K.M.Varghese	Pr. Babuji Samuel	Pr. K.M. Varghese	
Pr. Babuji Samuel	Pr. K.J. Shaji	Pr. Babuji Samuel	
Pr. K.J. Shaji	Pr. Benjamin Pappachen	Pr. Benjamin Pappachen	
Br. Mathew Varghese	Pr. Santosh V Mathew	Pr. Santosh V Mathew	
Br. K.S. George		Br. Binoy Punnoose	Pr. K.J. Shaji
Br. Jiji Samuel	Br. John Kunjukunju	Br. Shaji George	
Br. L. Simon	Br. Jibin Danikutty	Br. Sonu Varghese	
		Br. Abby Joseph	

*With best compliments from*



**INDIAN PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD,  
DOMBIVLI (SHALOM)**



Br. Samuel Mathai

### 2015-18

Director	-	Br. Mathews Paul
Asso. Director	-	Br. Danny George
Secretary	-	Dr. Saji Mathew
Jt. Secretary	-	Br. Jacob John
Treasurer	-	Br. Moncy P. George
Exam. Contr.	-	Br. John Varghese

### Members

Pr. Babuji Samuel	Pr. Johnson Chacko
Pr. K.A. Cherian	Pr. Benjamin Pappachen
Pr. Joseph George	Br. Varughese Abraham
Br. Abby Joseph	Br. Shaji George
Br. Sonu Varghese	

Though very few churches were associated with the Sunday Schools Association in the early years, now many Churches are actively associating with the Sunday School Board.

More than 350 students enroll every year for the Annual Board Examination and the Board gives special prizes to the Rank holders of classes III to X.

The Sunday School Board conducted State level Quiz Competitions in 2007 and 2008. The Board has conducted many seminars for Students, Teachers and Parents in different parts of Maharashtra.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL WEBSITE

Maharashtra IPC Sunday School Board could design a website, [www.sundayschool.in](http://www.sundayschool.in), for the children, and is the first of its kind in the history of Sunday Schools in India. This website was launched on 18th Nov. 2012 at Pune by Pastor K.C. John, IPC General President. Later, the Board decided to design a new website, more dynamic in nature, incorporating additional features and it was hosted in 2015 with address [www.ipcsundayschool.in](http://www.ipcsundayschool.in)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL SUNDAY

Every year, in the month of June, Sunday school Sunday is observed in local churches of IPC Maharashtra state. Participation of Sunday school students and teachers in worship service is ensured in most of the churches on Sunday school Sunday. Some churches conduct special meetings after the worship service to raise awareness about the importance of Sunday schools. Churches take special offerings for this ministry which is the main source of income for the Association.

### ANNIVERSARY

IPC Sunday Schools Association, Maharashtra conducts Anniversary in January/February every year. Presentation of Sunday school activities, performances from talented Sunday school children, Guest speakers' message, Award distribution for the rank holders etc. are the main programmes in the Anniversary.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEXT BOOK

IPC Sunday Schools Association, Maharashtra follows the text books published by IPC Sunday Schools Association, Kumbanad. Text books are distributed on Sunday School Anniversary. Translation



of Sunday School text books to Hindi and Marathi has been initiated and is in process.

### ANNUAL EXAMINATION

IPC Sunday Schools Association, Maharashtra conducts state level Annual Examination at the end of every year. Invigilators from other local units supervise the examination and centralized valuation has been carried out. Rank holders (1 to 3) from class III to X are honored in the Anniversary meeting.

### VILLAGE MINISTRY

By the grace of God, the activities of Sunday Schools are successful in Malayalee Pentecostal Churches across few districts such as Mumbai, Pune and Ahmednagar. IPC Maharashtra State has expanded its ministries into the rural areas of Maharashtra and has more than 300 local churches. More than 200 of these Churches have Hindi or Marathi speaking Pastors and believers. Hindi/Marathi Sunday Schools are initiated in some of these areas. Sunday School promotional meetings were conducted in Aurangabad, Amaravati, Nagpur areas.

### VISION

It needs to be mentioned that the IPC Maharashtra State Sunday School Board was instrumental in the salvation and spiritual growth of many children. The support of Pastors and parents need to be specially mentioned here and may the Lord bless everyone who is associated with this ministry for His glory.

It is our desire that many more souls may be added to His kingdom through this ministry in coming years. A well planned syllabus is the need of the hour as the influence of modern technology and culture in our generation is tremendous.

*With best compliments from*

## IPC Vashi Sunday School

**Train up a child in the way he should go:  
and when he is old, he will not depart from it.  
(Proverbs 22:6)**

**Pr. Joseph George**  
(Minister in-charge)



**Br. Sajan C. Mathew**  
(Head Master)



# HISTORY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL MOVEMENT



Mathews Paul

The modern Sunday school movement was begun by Robert Raikes and Thomas Stock in Gloucester, England in 1780. Although there were Sunday schools earlier to this, Raikes and Stock have become the recognized originators as their efforts made the Sunday School a movement in that century to mould millions of children in the path of morality and spirituality.

In 1529 Martin Luther set up a number of Sunday schools in Germany. He established religious schools on the Lord's day, devoted to the study of biblical catechism, singing the praises of God and the great duty of prayer.

In 1688 Rev. Joseph Alleine the author of the book "Alarm to the unconverted", started a Sunday School at his church in Taunton.

St. Mary's, the ancient Parish and Civic Church of Nottingham, U.K, the largest and most important medieval building in the City, pioneered Sunday School education for children who were unable to attend a day school. Pupils were taught the elements of reading, writing and arithmetic, as well as religious knowledge. A Sunday School was opened in 1751, 29 years before the generally acknowledged first Sunday School was founded in Gloucester by Robert Raikes.

In 1769 a lady called Hannah Ball, who had been converted under the preaching of John Wesley, set up a Sunday School in High Wycombe. Thomas King a dissenter started a Sunday School in Dursley Gloucestershire, and there were certainly many other individual Sunday Schools in existence up and down the land.

The Sunday School Movement got momentum in England in 18th century, while the industrial revolution was on move and many people from the rural parts migrated to cities for employment. The barter system of trade was changing into the monetary system and people did not know how to value and spend their money. Child labour was very common in industries and some of them were denied their rights and good living conditions. On Sundays, they wandered about the streets indulging in acts of vandalism and antisocial behavior.

Robert Raikes decided to instill moral values in the hearts of children to



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make them responsible citizens. He saw schooling as the best strategy and Sunday as the most suitable time as the boys were often working in the factories the other six days. The best available teachers were lay people. The textbook was the Bible, and the originally intended curriculum started with learning to read and then progressed to the catechism.

The original schedule for the schools, as written by Raikes was "The children were to come after ten in the morning, and stay till twelve; they were then to go home and return at 1 PM; and after reading a lesson, they were to be conducted to Church. After Church, they were to be employed in repeating the catechism till five, and then dismissed, with an instruction to go home without making a noise."

Raikes was a churchman and wanted his School to be closely linked to the parish church. He therefore consulted Thomas Stock a local curate who had been involved in a school in Berkshire. Stock seems to have drawn up the plans and Raikes provided the money. In July 1780 a Sunday School was established in the parish of St Mary de Crypt in Gloucester.

Soon the work was described in an anonymous article in the Gloucester Journal and interest spread rapidly. In 1788 his work received national publicity when his article was reprinted in The Gentleman's Magazine, a popular journal of the day. The country which had been profoundly affected by the Evangelical Revival was ready for such measures. Within seven years it was estimated that nearly a quarter of a million children were being taught in Sunday Schools. This was almost three percent of the population. The children aimed at in the scheme were those whose parents could not afford day schooling or children already in employment and so at work during the week.

In 1784 John Wesley noted in his Journal 'I find these schools springing up wherever I go. Perhaps God may have some deeper end therein than men are aware of. Who knows but some of them may become nurseries for Christians?' He was sufficiently interested in Raikes's efforts to give the movement further publicity by reprinting Raikes's original report in the Arminian Magazine. His interest undoubtedly helped to stimulate interest among his followers.

In 1785, William Fox, a member of the Baptist Church in Prescott Street established the 'Society for the Establishment and Support of Sunday Schools'. He then heard of Raikes's endeavours in Gloucester and corresponded with him, benefiting from his practical experience. Sunday Schools seemed to be the way forward and so with the help of Christian friends in the City of London he promoted his plans. He was able to unite Churchmen and Dissenters in a society which eventually became the Sunday School Union. Fox encouraged every church to establish a Sunday School and within a short space of time hundreds of Sunday Schools came into existence.

Meanwhile Raikes's work in Gloucester continued to attract attention. Queen Charlotte, wife of George III, granted him an audience and encouraged others to follow his example.

The Oxford Historian John Richard Green who wrote "Short History of the English people" In the section dealing with the 18th century says:- "A yet nobler result of the religious revival was the steady attempt, which has never ceased from that day to this, to remedy the guilt, the ignorance, the physical suffering, the social degradation and the poor. It was not until the Wesleyan impulse had done its work that this philanthropic impulse began. The Sunday Schools established by Mr Raikes of Gloucester at the close of the century were the beginnings of popular education"

Many were suspicious of the sudden explosion in numbers attending Sunday Schools, farmers thought it would ruin agriculture, factory owners thought it would affect production, some Christians even thought the Sunday schools were destroying family religion. Others thought some of the radical



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figures behind Sunday Schools were in league with the leaders of the French revolution. During the 1790's various acts of parliament were rushed through covering treason, seditious meetings and William Pitt the younger thought seriously of introducing a bill to ban Sunday Schools. As the farmers and factory owners began to see the good effect the Sunday Schools within their communities and churches and saw children being born again and joining the Churches, the opposition started to decline.

By 1831, Sunday schools in Great Britain were teaching weekly 1,250,000 children, approximately 25 percent of the population. As these schools preceded the first state funding of schools for the general public, they are seen as the forerunners of the current English school system.

### **The Sunday School Movement in the 20th Century**

As the Sunday School Movement entered the 20th century, its influence on the country and the numbers attending was still significant. In 1901,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all 5 to 15 year olds attended a Sunday School, by 1931 it had dropped to 2/3rds. A report was compiled by chaplains during the First World War, noting that amongst the soldiers they ministered to, 4 out of 5 said that they had been to a Sunday School. Right up to the 1950's - 60's it was still quite common for non-church parents to send their children to Sunday school.

However over the last 50 years with the introduction of the 'weekend', the motor car, Sunday trading, sport and entertainment, it has become the exception rather than the norm to send children to Sunday School.

### **Sunday School Movement in India**

A regular week-day school was started in Serampore in August 1800 by missionaries William Carey, Joshua Marshman and William Ward, the Serampore trio. It had a strength of 40 children. It had to be closed in December. In February 1802, the school was revived and children of converted Indian Christians were the students. These children were excluded from other schools as their parents were converted to Christianity. This school was the basis of the Sunday School that was started on July 9, 1803. The Sunday School confined itself to teaching catechism both in English and Bengali.

As missionaries of other denominations began their work in India, they also started Sunday Schools in different places.

In 1809, Church representatives of the Malankara Churches held a meeting at Kandanadu Church, near Ernakulam to arrange facilities to teach children in the Church about religion, prayers and sacraments.

The very first Sunday School Association was formed by the Baptist Church in 1819. By 1870, many other mission denominations also had their own association. In 1876, a Sunday School convention was held in the Baptist Church at Allahabad under the leadership of Rev. Dr. T.J. Scott, a Methodist educator. Eight societies were represented by 77 delegates and in this meeting "The India Sunday School Union" (ISSU) was formed. Auxiliaries to the ISSU were formed in other parts of the country such as Burma, Bengal, Madras, Bombay etc. The work of the ISSU was then supported by the London Sunday School Union. The World Sunday School Union was formed in 1808.

From its inception in 1876 to 1947, ISSU actively promoted Christian education and nurture through its curriculums and training programmes in India, China and Egypt. Since 1947 the work has been confined to India and a few neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Malaysia.



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The first field secretary of this organization was Dr. J.L. Philips. His major job was to organize Sunday Schools in all parts of the country.

In 1906, Jabalpur was selected as the head quarters which was later moved to coonoor in 1927. Rev. A.Ralla Ram was selected as the first Indian president of ISSU in 1933 and Mr. V.M. Koshy was appointed as the first Indian administrative secretary. Annual examinations were held under the auspices of the ISSU since 1896 in all parts of India.

The early CMS missionaries who came to Kerala began teaching the Bible to children also, and therefore Sunday schools were already functioning in many of the Churches established by these missionaries. Systematic Sunday school work is understood to have been started, in 1880, at Mallappally, by Arch Deacon Oommen Mammen who got in touch with the India Sunday schools union roughly around that time. Hence 1880 is considered to be the year of starting formal Sunday schools in C.S.I. Madhya Kerala Diocese.

Mar Thoma Sunday School Samajam was established on 25 February 1905, at the Maramon Convention.

### **IPC Sunday Schools Association**

In 1909, Rev. George Berg, the first Pentecostal preacher came to Kerala and many people got attracted to Pentecostal doctrines. In 1914, Rev. R.F. Cook came to Kerala with the message of Pentecostalism. In 1923, Pastor K.E. Abraham, the founder of Indian Pentecostal Church of God received baptism of the Holy Spirit and became a pentecostal believer. The churches started by the ministry of Pastor K.E. Abraham were known as “South Indian Pentecostal Church of God” and later in 1934 April 9, it was renamed to “The Indian Pentecostal Church of God”.

Sunday Schools were started in many churches in these days, but was not in an organized manner. A special Sunday School meeting was conducted in Kumbanad on 23 October 1929 and more than 40 students and parents attended this meeting and Rev. R.F. Cook attended this meeting.

In 1958, a Sunday School teacher's seminar was conducted in Kottayam Philadelphia hall and Br. C.V. Philipose (Thottackad) took initiative for this meeting. Hand written teacher's manual were given to the teachers under the leadership of Br. E.V. Abraham.

IPC Sunday School Samajam was organized in 1960 and Pastor K.J. Samuel was the President and Pastor T.K Philip was the secretary. A syllabus for the Sunday School from clases 1 to 7 and centralized examination system were introduced during these days. In 1979, the IPC Sunday School Samajam was reconstituted and named as “IPC Sunday School Association”. The vision of Pastor K.J. Samuel was the main reason for the formation and growth of IPC Sunday School Association and it will not be out of place to remember him as the father of IPC Sunday School Association.

The constitution ( Bye-Law) of Sunday School was formulated in 1979. Br. P.K. Abraham, a senior officer in Education department of Kerala, was the director during this period. The curriculum of the Sunday school was revised in 1981-82 and text books upto 10th standard were published.

Pr. K.J. Samuel, Pr. V.A. Thomas (Punnala Achan), Pr. George Varghese, Pr. P.K. Abraham, Prof. T.C. Koshy, Pr. Varghese Mathai were the directors of IPC Sunday School Association, Kerala and presently Br. Kurian Joseph is serving as the Director.

The contributions of Pr. T.K. Philip, Pr. K.E. Mathew, Pr. E.A. Moses, Dr. A.K. John, Br. A.T. George,



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P.C. Ninan, P.K. George, Joyce Chacko and many other executive members made Sunday school movement to grow to the present level. The Sunday School Boards elected from time to time made substantial contributions in terms of preparation of syllabus upto 15th class, revising the old syllabus, introducing multi level examination system, Vacation Bible Schools and talent programmes for the spiritual development of the children.

IPC Maharashtra State Sunday School Association was formed in 1993 and has completed 25 years in this glorious ministry. The translation of English text books to Hindi and Marathi is being undertaken by the Sunday School Association, Maharashtra and the work is going on.

The IPC Sunday School Association is the biggest Pentecostal Sunday School Movement in India, spread over many states and union territories of India.

### Conclusion

India, the great land of gentiles, need to be reached with gospel for which a committed, Godfearing generation with a zeal for evangelization should be moulded and equipped. This can be achieved only by Sunday School ministry and this need of the hour should be addressed with proper planning and prayer. All pentecostal churches need to take up this as a challenge and Sunday school activities to be developed with a new vision and vigor.

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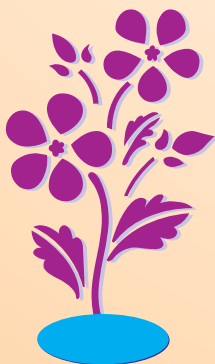
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## DO WE NEED SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY IN THIS CENTURY? YES, CERTAINLY !

Johnson K. Samuel  
(Managing Editor, Suvatha Magazine)



“Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:2-4)

“Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6)

A Christian leader was asked: “If Sunday School did not exist, would we have invented it”? He replied: “Yes, we would have invented it for many reasons. Sunday School is relevant now more than ever before”! Jesus Christ set a child in the midst of the gathering and made him the center of attraction for everyone. As a matter of fact, a child's position in society is at its center. Everyone's attention should be concentrated on him. As Jesus declared, the society has many lessons to learn from the child. At the same time, as Solomon said in Proverbs, the society has a responsibility to train him in the way he should go.

(Forgive me if I add a word of testimony before I write anything about Sunday School. My wife, Jessy, and myself were associated with the Sunday School ministry for more than 25 years in our church and in Maharashtra State. We think it

is the most productive and satisfying work that we have done in our lives. Our Sunday School students are currently distributed in many countries of the world and excelling in their respective professions. We had chances to meet many of them in their present locations. They expressed so much happiness and respect towards us while recounting their past Sunday School experiences and we praise God for them).

According to some reports, there are a few churches, especially in western countries, who tend to minimize the importance of the Sunday School ministry, citing reasons of lack of funds and lack of volunteers as teachers. They seem to think that it is an old fashioned activity and not very necessary to promote it in our new culture. Fortunately, such thinking is limited to a small minority of people. A survey conducted in USA by Barna Research Institute has discovered that 95% of churches still offer some type of classroom Bible teaching. Dr. George Barna, the founder of the Institute, says: “In a culture saturated with change, one of the most stable aspects in the

Sunday school provides a  
structure for teaching God's Word.

Preaching is not enough.

A systematic teaching of the  
Scriptures - not just  
preaching - needs to occur  
for all age levels.

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religious sphere has been Sunday School. More than ever before, people need a counterweight to the massive cultural shifts that modern societies are now experiencing. More specifically, children need Sunday School ministry". Sunday School helps children respect, appreciate and utilize the Bible. Reverence for God's written Word does not come naturally. A healthy class room environment, centered around the Bible, will elevate its importance in a child's life.

Sunday school provides a structure for teaching God's Word. Preaching is not enough. A systematic teaching of the Scriptures - not just preaching.- needs to occur for all age levels. Children, youth and adults need opportunities for discovery, review and interaction as they study God's principles. Sunday school meets those needs! We read what the apostles did at the time of the establishment of the church: "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ" (Acts 5:42).

The Sunday School organization that we see at present has a relatively modern beginning. The following is an excerpt from a historical narrative: "The movement began in Britain in the

1780s. The Industrial Revolution had resulted in many children spending all week working in factories. Even Saturday was part of the regular work week. Sunday, therefore, was the only available time for these children to gain some education. Robert Raikes was the key promoter of the movement to gather these poor, uneducated working children into education classes on Sundays. Later, denominations and non-denominational organizations energetically began to start Sunday schools. Within decades, the movement had become extremely popular. By the mid-19th century, Sunday school attendance was a near universal aspect of

childhood. Even parents who did not regularly attend church themselves generally insisted that their children go to Sunday school. Working class families were grateful for this opportunity to receive an education. They also looked forward to annual highlights such as prize distribution days, parades and picnics, which came to mark the calendars of their lives as much as more traditional seasonal holidays. Religious education was, of course, always a core component. The Bible was the textbook used for learning to read. Likewise, many children learned to write by copying out passages from the Scripture".

Sunday School gives kids a chance to ask questions. Sunday School is the perfect format for in-depth discussion, even debate. This format allows teachers to give kids more good food for thought. For those who think that 'Children's church' can replace Sunday School, the answer is: "No. 'Children's church' is not designed for a detailed 'Question & Answer' session".

Sunday School develops a community of believers. It uses the classroom method because in a classroom setting, kids are more likely to help one another and push each other along in their growth. A community of children,



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**The Sunday School teacher  
is not merely telling stories and  
teaching facts, but teaching  
obedience to the Lord's  
commandments and leading them  
to the saving knowledge of  
Jesus Christ.**

worshipping, learning the Bible and discovering God together creates a strong unbreakable bond among themselves. Sunday Schools form the basic building blocks for the future church. Sunday School plants spiritual seeds. We never forget the songs, the lessons and the love that we enjoyed in our Sunday School classes. Sunday Schools are like plant nurseries, they may look unimpressive at first, but under the soil, miracles are happening!

Sunday school is geared to teach Bible to specific age groups. The Lord God commanded Moses: "Gather the people together, men and women and little ones, and the stranger who is within your gates, that they may hear and that they may learn to fear the Lord your God and carefully observe all the words of this law, and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God as long as you live in the land which you cross the Jordan to possess" (Deuteronomy 31:12,13). It means a four-year-old can discover great biblical truth by acting out a Bible story, completing dot-to-dot pictures, singing songs and learning to obey parents. Higher age groups have their lessons presented to them in other suitable ways. During the same hour, senior adults can also learn from the Word and discuss their relationship matters or how their responses to daily crises reflect their trust in God. Thus, the children are taught according to the requirements of their age

groups, while at the same time, adults are also learning. All age groups leave Sunday School with specific applications for the week.

Sunday School is a training ground of church members for leadership. It is difficult to say who benefits more - the teacher or the student. The teacher's Bible knowledge grows, his or her life is changed and leadership skills are developed. Students learn and are challenged, but how much more is that true in the life of the teacher!

The Sunday school teacher is fulfilling the 'Great Commission' that the Lord has given to the disciples: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19,20). He / she has a small section of the nation in front of him / her. He / she teaches the class with an intense desire to see each student in his / her flock is led to a spiritual life changing experience. The Sunday School teacher is not merely telling stories and teaching facts, but teaching obedience to the Lord's commandments and leading them to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Sunday school is one of the most consistent programs in the church - as consistent as the worship service. It does not stop for the summer and for holidays. Sunday after Sunday its dedicated staff leads the church in this most important ministry. The teacher becomes a shepherd for the class, an extension of the pastor's ministry!

To conclude, let me quote Dr. George Barna once again: "Our research reinforces one simple but profound truth, over and over again - if you want to have a lasting influence upon the world, you must invest in people's lives, and if you want to maximize that investment, then you must invest in those people while they are young". Amen.





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# Teaching The Bible Effectively

## Lessons From The Master

Pastor Raju P. John, Navi Mumbai



Teachers are Christ's gift to the Church. They are appointed and equipped by the Master and the Lord of the Church. A gift is a Spiritual enablement. If so, a teacher is a Spirit chosen, and Spirit equipped person. We must thank the Lord for them.

Our Master himself was a teacher. People called Him 'Rabbi'. He taught his disciples. He taught the multitudes. The people of His day addressed Him as 'Teacher', though He was acclaimed as a prophet and a preacher. Nicodemus, the Pharisee who himself was a teacher of the Law came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi (i.e., teacher), we know you are a teacher who has come from God" (John 3:2). Mark says repeatedly, "..... and He began to teach". According to Matthew, "Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching good news of the kingdom and healing every disease among the people". (Matthew 4:23). Jesus was continually engaged in teaching. The evangelist Luke, thirty years after the Resurrection and Ascension said about the ministry of Jesus, "....Jesus began to do and to teach..." (Acts 1:1). Jesus' last commandment to his disciples, "Go and make disciples (learners) by baptizing them ..... and teaching them....." (Matthew 28: 19, 20).

In the Upper Room Discourse, Jesus made it clear that they were expected to teach what they had been taught. The Holy Spirit would refresh their memories regarding what Jesus taught them (John 14:26). The Book of Acts emphasizes again and again that the regular program of the early Church was teaching (Acts

2:42; 4:1, 2, 18; 5: 21, 25, 28, 42). Teaching the Word of God was the normal procedure for all converts all the time.

Jesus stands alone - the great Teacher. Jesus deliberately dedicated the large proportion of His time and strength to the ministry of teaching. His teaching method is worth considering because it was so effective that even after thirty and forty years, His disciples remembered everything He taught. Knowing that His teaching was oral and not written and that His disciples were ordinary folks of common upbringings, the impact of His teaching is phenomenal. What was the teaching method of Jesus? How did He present the truths? What made His teaching so effective?

Of the methods, He was above all rules. His methods were particular to Him alone. They cannot be duplicated. He was a born teacher; the prince of teachers and above all far more than a teacher. His teaching was so effortless. Still some principles in general and still some more in particular can be derived from His teaching methods for us the mortal teachers to make our teaching more effective and enduring. He tells us "learn from me". (Matthew 11:29 ).

His teaching was oral. It was spoken, not written. So his teaching was at risk. They were in danger of being lost in the winds of time. Memories fade. They could have sunk to oblivion, but not His teachings. They were so fresh in the disciples' memories, when they wrote them down after many decades. There were no contradictions or confusions. Also his teaching was adapted to His audience. They were spontaneous



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and free. Jesus met His hearers on their ground and led them on from there. He began where His hearers were. The wonderful simplicity of His language is unique. Most often He taught in parables. Jesus always used the figurative element in His teaching to capture the attention of His hearers.

Apart from these particular principles, some general principles can be noted. First of all, His teachings were authoritative. With Jesus there was no 'perhaps' or 'it may be so' or 'I rather think so', no speculation or guesswork or fumbling or faltering. "The people" says Matthew, "were astonished at His doctrine; for he taught them as one having authority not as the scribes." (Matthew 7: 28, 29).

He knew what He taught. For the teaching to be effective, the teacher must know the lesson thoroughly. Often the teaching is ineffective because the teacher doesn't know properly what he teaches. Saturate yourself with the lesson you teach and to achieve this end, you must prepare well. Jesus had authority in His teachings because He had mastery over what He taught. He never fled from the questions. His explanations had an irresistible authenticity. The listeners knew that this teacher cannot be taken lightly. The scribes and the Pharisees were often silent because their arguments were lost on Him. No wonder "The people were amazed at His teaching, because He taught them as one who had authority,....." (Mark 1:22).

A second characteristic of Jesus' method was that His teaching made people think for themselves. He stimulated His pupils to think. This is a main part of every teacher's work. Some teachers are afraid even of the thought of their students thinking. A thinking student is a threat to their teaching! They never allow the students to think but if the teacher fails in this he fails altogether. Jesus by His teaching gave the greatest stimulus to think. Through parables and questions He roused their dull and lethargic

minds. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart" said Jesus, "... And with all your mind." (Mark 12: 30). Again He says, "Therefore consider carefully how you listen" (Luke 8:18). Jesus engaged their minds.

Another great principle that made His teaching effective was His life. He lived what he taught. The disciples could never feel that there was anything vague or abstract or indefinite or contradictory about their master's teaching, for it was all being made concrete and personal before their eyes, all incarnate in Himself. He imparted His life as His lesson. The students see the teacher, not his teachings. A Sunday School teacher is not dealing with something local or temporal in significance, but universal and permanent. Greater is the effect of any teacher when he imparts his life through the lessons. Teach to change lives!

An effective teacher motivates his students and still more transforms them. Effective teaching is transforming. The local fishermen were transformed into full-time teachers in a span of three years. Finally, his teaching was effective, because it was never overbearing or dogmatic. Jesus said, "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear" (John 16:12). He never overloaded them.

Jesus was a man of prayer. He soaked every lesson in night long prayers. No teacher of the Word of God can ignore the need of prayer. A teacher must also possess good communication skill. Mastery over the language of instruction is essential for better communication.

A Sunday School teacher has many constraints. Within 30 or 35 minutes, to stimulate, to transform, to impart the lesson in its wholeness is truly challenging. But the Master Teacher has called and equipped you to teach!

Happy Teaching!





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**Y. Georgekutty and Family  
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# THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN SUNDAY SCHOOL



Pastor Shibu Joseph

## INTRODUCTION

The Sunday school is the vital part of any growing church. It is the seed-plot of the Christian life. To be true, if the churches are side lining or devaluing the importance of the Sunday school they are accountable to God first, then to the children. Because, providing the Word of God to the children at their young age is the plan of God (Dt. 4:10; 6:7). The Jewish community were well aware and serious in this regard and they practised it. Even in their diaspora they started Synagogues and taught the Torah of Moses - the law, to the children. This Jewish background became a threshold and inspiration of the New Testament churches later on. Even during the time of Jesus, children were free to come to Him and he loved and blessed them. (Mark. 10:14, 15.). That means in his ministry children were given with an ample space. Although we don't see explicit reference of teaching the children in the primary years of the church, it was perhaps not wrong to think that there must have been the time for children to learn the Word of God.

## PROBLEM:

Today, the children face a lot of crises in India and elsewhere. Abusing the children physically, mentally and sexually has become a global problem. Technological impact and internet games, pornography, drug abuse and other ugly sites are alarming that their life is at the verge of destruction. Another problem of today is the excessive classes in the secular education. The high demands and competition

make not only the time consumption but create hyper tension in their lives too. Even many Pentecostal children are not exempted, influenced by this situation and keeping themselves away from the church activities. In this particular scenario the churches have to be more alert and must give special attention to them. Here the Sunday school has an important role and the support of the churches to this great mission should increase more than ever before.

## WHAT CHURCHES CAN DO?

"Today's children are the tomorrow's church", someone commented. Obviously this is true and it should be our motto and slogan. One cannot imagine the churches without the presence of children. They are the integral part of the Lord's body. The churches therefore must plan considerable time and strategies for their spiritual nourishment and mental uplift purely based on the Word of God. Here we have to look what the churches' role in the moulding up of the Sunday school.

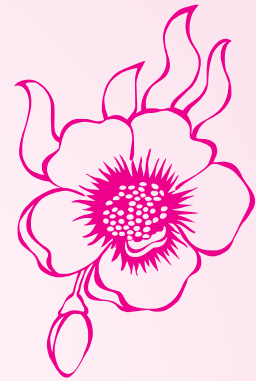
**1. First of all, the church has to realize the need of hour.** Sunday school is the unalterable learning part of the long term teaching ministry of the church. Children are the typical part of this learning programme. By doing this we are fulfilling the divine plan of God in their life. Because they are the gifts given by God. Hence never show any kind of negligence to our children.

**2. Set up a prime time for teaching them.** In this regard not only the church but parents also



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*Raphael Antony  
Et Family*



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should be responsible. Many parents have failed in this matter. They highlighted the other studies than Sunday school and degrading its value. Not serious about sending them on time but very careful about the timing of school and tuition classes. Churches should convince such parents about the credibility of the Sunday school.

**3. Make sure that teachers are systematic and disciplinary.** It is the duty of the church especially pastor or minister or the executives of the church to look after the improvement of the teaching session of the children. Sad to say, a few teachers are lethargic and not punctual in this great ministry. They take it as very light and not preparing to bring up the children. However they used to be very serious in other matters and very punctual in other gathering like wedding , church picnic etc.. Either the church has to give an awareness to them or remove them.

**4. The church has to elect the teachers carefully and prayerfully.** Although the ability to teach is an important matter it is equally or more important to appoint people with the good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit, wisdom, full of faith and grace. (Ref. Acts ch.6). Here the prayer and discretion of the church is crucial and significant. Such teachers can lead the young ones closer to the Lord and they will begin to love the Lord.

**5. Emphasize the regular attendance to the Sunday school and encourage them in attending worship service.** In some cases the students leave the churches after the Sunday school to other activities. Maximum, the church and parents must discourage this, except some unavoidable situations. By this, we are allowing them to make a commitment and show love to the church of our Lord. Moreover, we are teaching them that worshipping the Lord is as important as Sunday school.

**6. Teach them to put the church before all other activities.** (indebted to this point). Many, even parents do not know the significance of the church in God's plan. It is the only institution of God here on the earth. Through the church alone

He wants to impart every wisdom , power and knowledge (Eph.3:8-12). So the church is not the place of mimicry and worldly activities. We are the members of His body. If we love Jesus then definitely we need to love the church. Loving only one - either Jesus or Church- is not possible.

**7. Encourage and appreciate them in their various achievements.** The church should not forget to congratulate the achievers and similarly encourage and promote those are weak and backward. This would help all to feel comfort and joy.

**8. Finally, Pastors, elders and other church members must be careful in using the words and behaviour and have to avoid public criticisms, arguments etc.** If we are failed to lead an exemplary life before our children in the church how can we gain them? In many churches today it becomes an impediment for children in their spiritual activities. They feel bad about the church due to this reason. So the churches should be careful in dealing the different issues of the people. We should not be offensive. Today's children are quick to be offended in such situations. We need to remember that gaining is more difficult and losing is very easy.

#### **CONCLUSION :**

Thus far we have seen the various duties of the church in moulding and shaping up of the Sunday school. There might be more yet to be found out. However, the above underlined roles of the churches are very important in the matter of teaching the children. Sunday school is the essential and abiding ministry of the church. Through it ,we are bringing the Kingdom of God to the hearts of the young ones and inculcating the knowledge of God and his wisdom to their life. King Solomon wisely wrote, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Pro. 22:6). This is the challenge of the churches today. Hence, we need to promote the Sunday school wholeheartedly for the spiritual and biblical enhancement of our children, so that they will become an asset to the churches as well as to the Kingdom of our Lord.



## Scenes from various Sunday School Programmes





## Scenes from various Sunday School Programmes





## Scenes from various Sunday School Programmes





## Scenes from various Sunday School Programmes





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# Look Around

Bro. V. C. Justin | IPC Kalyan

“...look around you, where are the king's spear and water jug..?” 1 Samuel 26:16 (NIV)

Saul and his three thousand chosen men had been on the hunt for David since several days, and were now camping out in the difficult terrains of the desert of Ziph. Undoubtedly weary and possibly without much nourishment, these elite group of soldiers had fallen into a sleep - a sleep so deep, that they did not realize that an enemy the one they were chasing, had crept into their ranks in the night and stolen off with a spear and a water jug. It was only after they had been roused from their slumber did they realize the precarious position they were in. Apart from the danger to their lives, they were robbed of their weapon and their nourishment.

If we compare this incident, putting it side by side with our lives, we may find ample parallels which made us ponder on our situation too, and hopefully will make you too. Like the select group of soldiers that Saul had, we too are the chosen ones, the most elite group that ever were born in this world if we go by the definitions of Peter in 1 Peter 2:9. Like Saul's army, we too have been wandering in the harsh desert, with only our weapon and the nourishing word of God. But then comes the voice calling out, “...look around you, where are the king's spear and water jug..?” Have we too, like the Saul's army fallen into a slumber, lost our weapon and our nourishment? Have we stopped heeding the unsaved souls that had been entrusted in our care? Have we stopped looking around us?

These questions made us look around quite literally. The families who lived around our church, IPC Ebenezer, Kalyan, had none who knew the good news; and the one great work that our Savior entrusted to us before he was taken up to heaven was to preach the good news to all people. With this goal, we invited the kids of the neighboring families for a fun evening, consisting of action songs, Bible stories, memorizing Bible verses and learning how to pray. Since December 2016, every Saturday evening about 60-70 children regularly gather for an hour, for the Scripture School, followed by a Hindi prayer meeting with Word of God in Hindi, in which the children's parents are invited. To our surprise and God's glory, we have been seeing an enthusiastic response from the children, some of whom have memorized more than fifty Bible verses. Also, a VBS conducted during Diwali vacations gave a boost to this activity, with more than 200 children attending it.

We know that the seeds sown today in these little children's heart will surely bring fruit one day and over the years we have come to realize, that sharing our nourishment (the Word of God) and the weapon of prayer with those around us, only increases the sweetness of the nourishment, and the sharpness of the weapon.

May God help each one of us to look around our church, or our house, or our friend circle and share the gospel and the eternal nourishment by which we are strengthened each day.



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# Parenting - In a perspective of the Sunday School

**Pastor Johnson Chacko**

President of IPC Nashik District &  
Member of IPC Maharashtra State Sunday School Board



'Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward' (Ps: 127:3). When God created Adam and Eve in His own image, He blessed them and said unto them - Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth (Gen: 1:27, 28). When Noah and his family came out of the ark and entered into the new earth, God blessed them and said unto them - Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth (Gen:9:1). For a family, the matter of having a heir from their own blood is coming as a part of God's blessings. The Old Testament saints like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and all believed that children are the gifts from the Lord Almighty. Even Job told the same when his sons died - 'The Lord gave and the Lord has taken, Blessed be the name of the Lord' (Job: 1:21). We, the Pentecostal parents must understand this great reality.

When Jesus was in this world, at His public ministry there were certain parents who brought their children to Jesus so that He could lay His hands on them and pray. Even when the disciples rebuked those who brought them, Jesus took them up in His arms, laid His hands upon them and blessed them (Mt:19:13; Mk:10:13). God has given children as a gift to the family; the smallest family having only two members which is - husband and wife, becomes wide and also gives a new privilege as father and mother respectively. 'He makes the barren woman in her home as a happy mother of children. Praise the Lord' (Ps: 113). There is no privilege without responsibilities. Responsibilities and privileges go hand in hand. So here in the family when husband and

wife becomes father and mother of a son or a daughter - it is our responsibility to bring them up in a proper way.

Today's child is tomorrow's youth and tomorrow's youth becomes the next generation. Likewise, today's Sunday school is tomorrow's youth group and tomorrow's youth group becomes our next church community. As children develop from infants to teens and teens to adults - they go through a series of developmental stages such as physical, intellectual, emotional and social. The proper role of parental care will provide encouragement, support and access to activities. These can enable the child to master - key developmental tasks. Remember that parents are the child's first teachers and they should remain as the best teachers throughout their life. It's always a question, 'where/when/how do I start to train my child?' The mother of a 5 year old asks a psychologist, when she should begin training her child - "Madam", came the reply "You are already 5 years late. For a child - training should begin almost from the day the baby is born". The Bible says, 'Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it' (Prov: 22:6). Even, in the Old Testament times - when God gave commandments to the Israelites through Moses, He said that "These commandments that I give you today are to be in your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads and write them



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on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. Here we see the responsibilities which the Almighty God is giving to parents to impart godliness to their children by teaching the word of God.

In Jesus' great commission, the Lord has entrusted to His disciples - both ministry of preaching and teaching (Mt: 28:18-20; Mk: 16:15) Preach this Gospel outside the church and teach the word of God inside the church. We have been born again - not of the seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is through the living and enduring word of God. All flesh is like the grass and all its glory like flowers of grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall off; but the word of the Lord endures forever. And this is the word which was preached to us (1Pt:1:23-25) The members of the born again community (church) must long like new born babies for drinking the pure milk of the word and that they may grow in respect to salvation (1Pt:2:2) Church as a whole should take care of its ministry of Education for its members. When we send our children to the Sunday School, they are getting the opportunity to study the word of God as well as have fellowship with the other children and also with the whole Sunday School team.

The Sunday School ministry is an important wing of the church in its education purpose. It helps to maintain inter - generational unity in the body of Christ. Sunday School has the specific role to partner all generations to bring the Gospel with its joy of knowing Christ to the youngest in our churches. In the Sunday School ministry, it is essential to maintain a very strong partnership of parents and Sunday School teachers. Without the cooperation of parents, it is very difficult to run the Sunday School effectively. For partnering with the Sunday School team, every parent must keep certain points in mind:

**1. PRAYER:** Prayer is an important factor for the success of every endeavor. Parent must pray personally and also with their child for the Sunday School ministry - specifically for their child, class teacher and their classmates with

whom they study the word of God. This will help them to build a bond in their hearts with their teachers as well as their classmates. Even parents can take the initiative to spend time with other parents in prayer for the blessing of the Sunday School ministry.

**2. MEETING THE TEACHERS:** Parents must clearly know who is teaching their child in the Sunday School and also keep a close contact with them. Share important points about your child with their Sunday School teacher - like their behavioral changes, allergic cases, any kind of disability etc. Maintain a healthy nature of communication with them for the betterment of your child's spiritual growth.

**3. ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE:** Every parent must take the initiative to send their children to the Sunday School regularly. Make sure that they reach there on time. In some places there may be scarcity of transportation; in such places coordinate the same with other parents or other reliable people. Fix a time to sleep on Saturday in view of sending your child for the Sunday School on the following day.

**4. KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR CHILD'S SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK:** Ask your children about their activities in the Sunday School. About learning of songs, learning lessons-different stories, character study, memory verses, reading portions etc. Help them to complete their homework, coloring, making charts, preparing small projects-help them and provide materials as and when they need. Show them good websites or channels which will help them to grow spiritually.

**5. BE LIBERAL TO SPEND MONEY FOR YOUR CHILD'S SPIRITUAL TRAINING:** Normally, parents are ready to spend much for their child's secular education and also for materialistic things like food, clothing etc. In the same way each parent must be willing to spend finances for their spiritual development. Give them a personal copy of good bold letter printed Bible so that they can read and study the word of God. Provide them with other materials like Sunday School



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- Bible Study (Every Sundays from 10 am to 11 am)
- Sunday School (from 10 am to 11 am)
- PYPA Meetings (on 4th Sunday from 12 pm to 1:30 pm)
- Mid-Week Meetings  
(on Every Wednesdays from 7 pm to 8:30 pm)
- Fasting Prayers  
(Every 1st Friday, Saturday, Sunday of the month)
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textbooks, maps, other Biblical story books, CD's, devotional readings etc. Train your child and send offerings along with them to the House of God. Contribute liberally for the Sunday School ministry.

**6. BE THANKFUL TO THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEAM:** For any effective Sunday School ministry, its team members- Director, Supervisors, Teachers, Volunteers, and all other partners have to work together hand in hand. We all know that none of the above mentioned workers are paid by anyone. Even then with great commitment they work hard for saturating the word of God into our

children. Each parent must accept and acknowledge this reality and also be thankful to them for their great service. You can show your heartfelt gratitude to them in some meaningful ways like giving them small cards or small gifts etc.

Sunday School lays the foundation for the building-up of our future generation. Both parents and Sunday School team has to work together for fulfilling this great purpose. The above mentioned points will help all the parents to keep a healthy and positive perspective towards the Sunday School ministry. ■

## Children's Corner

*David sang songs fo praise of God*



**STEPHY MONCY**

*Zacchaeus climbing down from the tree to see Jesus*



**SOPHY MONCY**



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Sunday Worship	- Sunday - 9.30 to 12.30 pm
PYPA - Every 2nd Sunday	- Sunday 11.30 am to 1.00 pm
Fasting Prayer	- Friday - 10.00 am to 1.00 pm
Cottage Meeting	- Saturday - 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm
Prayer Meeting Vadgaosheri	- Sunday - 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm

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## THE TASK OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN THIS GENERATION

- Dr. P. M. Johnson

Very recently I had to give counseling to a young man. Occasionally I asked him whether he prayed that day and the answer was 'no'. Again I asked him whether he read bible on that day, and the answer was 'no'. It was surprising to know that, he was a Sunday school teacher in an established church. He did not have a habit of prayer and regular bible study, but still he is a Sunday school teacher. He was a busy student and has pleasure in teaching in Sunday school because it is a good position in the church.

We have a systematic Sunday school program and texts. Anyone can teach if he is able to manage to find some time to read the text. Though he is a good young man, he is not a good believer or a follower of Christ. He is not living by faith. What the Sunday school authority or pastor found in him as a Sunday school teacher? He had an interest in teaching, that's all. I strongly feel that Sunday school teachers should have some minimum qualifications. They are teachers of the Word of God and they need to realize their call to do so. Sunday school is not a tuition center, but a place where God's people are trained.

Paul writes to Timothy: "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus—2 Timo. 3:14-15". Timothy was used to teach many, but he was a student first, moreover

it was important from whom he was learned. That is what his qualification as a teacher. A Sunday school teacher must have this. Be a learner first, because the task is great

Timothy was the son of a heathen father and a converted Jewish mother, and he joined Paul's ministry at Lystra in his second missionary journey. He became a disciple through Paul's early ministry and he got a chance to learn much from this man of God. He accompanied Paul in his ministry and became his constant companion and intimate friend. He was a good student of the scripture, and then became a good teacher of it.

When the church suffered from heresy, Paul expected Timothy to be a proper example in those days. Paul found a good teacher in Timothy. Paul had a vision about the ministry of Timothy. We need to have a vision about the Sunday school students of this perverted generation. Paul expected Timothy to preach and teach the Word, be instant in the season and out of season, reprove, rebuke and exhort (2Ti 4:2). Great is the task of a Sunday school teacher.

The Sunday school teachers must touch the hearts of the students. Our students are going to be the evangelists and they are going to touch the hearts of many of this generation. We need to connect them to the great commission of our Lord. They must bring people to Christ.

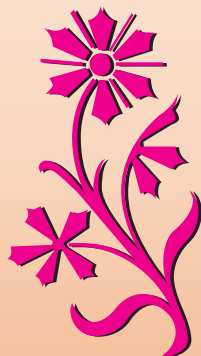
Timothy was a young man, but was given a great task by the Holy Spirit through Apostle Paul. This is the task Holy Spirit wants to give the



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**IPC NEW PANVEL  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**





Sunday school students through the teachers. The generation our children live is most wicked than any previous generations. Let us take the responsibility. Let us be more serious than before, then Sunday school becomes a powerful tool in God's hand to reach the lost ones of this generation.

Our Sunday school teachers are not getting any monetary benefit from anyone. Sunday school teachers are teaching the word of God and their duty is very important and their reward is

great. The church and parents must acknowledge them.

The Indian Pentecostal Church of God has a systematic Sunday school syllabus I was a Sunday school student, a teacher and now pastor. Sunday school helped me much in my ministry. I thankfully remember my Sunday school teachers. I appreciate the Sunday school authority of IPC Maharashtra when they celebrate their silver jubilee. God bless them all.

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## SHORT STORY

**Abigail Johncy**  
 (IPC Gerizim Sunday School,  
 Thane)



Hello everyone ...!!!

We are constantly told by our parents and elders that being a Christian, you are to do and not to do certain things. This is not easy when we see our friends in school, college and others enjoying life their own way. Nothing stops them from enjoying the fun things we see around us. We find it difficult to understand why we have a big list of do's and don'ts in the Bible. There is only one verse in the Bible with a question and its answer within it. It is found in Psalms 119:9 - **"How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to your word"**. This verse is an instruction to us youth and young children. The only way we can keep ourselves clean and pure in God's sight is by obeying the commands and instructions that God has given us in the Bible.

Let me share with you all a small story about a fish called Finney .Finney was a small baby fish living in a large lake. Right from his childhood his family members and parents had warned him of the dangers of the fishing hook. They had explained to him that the hook would look very tempting and delicious .He might be very hungry and feel like biting it, BUT NEVER EVER FALL FOR IT. One day Finney was feeling very tempted. He almost felt like gobbling up the worm. He could not see any danger like his parents had warned him about . Luckily that day his uncle saw him looking very greedily at the bait and took him away towards the shore . From there he saw the fishermen emptying their catch for the day . His uncle showed him the fishermen's catch. He also showed him some fishes with their jaws torn and the men threw them back into the water or for the birds hovering around to eat. Some of them were fighting a losing battle for life. His uncle explained how these fishes had fallen into the

trap. After seeing everything they swam back to their homes.

Still the sight of the colourful worms did not leave Finney. Everyday he would swim close to the hooks looking greedily at the different coloured worms. At first the warnings of his loved ones did not let him go close. As days passed, he pushed those instructions out of his mind and swam closer and closer to the worms . Now he swam so close that he could almost smell them. Then one day his urge was so high that he actually opened his mouth and gobbled the worm!!!! Once inside his mouth he realized it was not real but plastic. By the time he decide to spit it out ,he felt a sharp pain on his cheeks .Suddenly all the warnings of his loved ones came back to him and he tried to shake vigorously and escape .He felt his strength decreasing and he knew he was losing the battle . We can all guess what might have happened to Finney.

My friends similarly Satan tries to tempt us to sin every day. The devil wants to drag us away from God. He never gets tired but tries new ways and methods wherever we go. He is the father of lies. **Ephesians 6:11 says "Put on the whole armor of God so that you may withstand the wiles of the devil"**. We have a constant war with the devil's evil schemes and to strive to live a holy life. **Psalms 119:105 says "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path"**. We have to read God's word daily and meditate on it and let it not depart from our hearts. Only when we do so will we be blessed in our lives.

My prayer is that each of us be victorious in our Christian life and not fail like Finney the fish.



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# A GOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER



**Johncy Zechariah & Phebe E Johncy**  
IPC Gerizim, Thane.

In the Bible, in the book of Acts 8:26-40, we read about the Ethiopian eunuch, there were a few things he was doing right namely -

- **He was at the right place** -Jerusalem Temple. Even though from another country, he must have heard about the God whom the Jews worshipped and how He led them through the wilderness for 40 years.

- **He was not a passerby**, tourist or come there for some official work. Verse 27 clearly says he had come there for the right purpose to worship.

- **He was reading the right book** and the portion of God's Word in Isaiah 53:7 (Acts 8:30) so needed in his life.

Yet he could not understand it and needed someone to explain the same to him. Here God brings Philip into his life and we know towards the end of the passage, how the eunuch was saved and baptized and went home happily.

In the same way our children (born into Christian household) -

- Come every Sunday to the right place i.e. church.

- Parents bring them to the church for the right purpose.

- They carry and read the right book i.e. Bible.

Yet the truth is that they need to be taught systematically from the Bible and about salvation.

A Sunday school teacher's role is valuable and of importance. It is a God given responsibility. Like Apostle Philip each Sunday school teacher must reach out to the younger generation of their church and guide them in the right path.

To be a good teacher we must emulate Jesus Christ the best teacher of all. The lessons that Christ teaches us:-

- Jesus had a burden for lost souls. He was moved when he saw people living a sinful life: Matthew 9:35-38; Luke 19:10;.

- Jesus approached each individual with the message of salvation in a way he could



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understand. To a common man it was explained through everyday happenings that he saw around him. To the scribes it was expounded through the law and the prophets (Mark 4: 11).

- He simply communicated truth from its source, in fact, “as” its source. He cut out all the errant teaching and tradition that had been added to God's Word and taught it as it was originally intended (Matthew 7:28-29).

- He lived a blameless and sinless life. All through his ministry, the Sadducees and Pharisees were trying hard to find fault in Jesus (1 Peter 2:22-23).

- Jesus spent considerable time in prayer. If he could not find time in the day he would spend his night away from everybody in prayer (Matthew 14:23; Luke 5:16).

- Jesus knew the scripture well, he taught as one with authority and power.

- He lived a life that was worth emulating. Even though reviled, hurt and taunted, Jesus did not respond or deal harshly with them. He loved the sinner but hated sin.

From the above lessons it is essential that a Sunday school teacher must follow certain practices .Listed below are just few of them.

#### **A)- A Sunday school teacher must spend time in prayer**

Just as important as preparing a lesson, it is important for a teacher to spend time in prayer. He /she must submit himself /herself to God for guidance. He /she must pray for each child by name, their prayer needs and leading them to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

It has been seen a praying teacher have also been a good counselor and can sense when their student is hurt or in trouble. We must have heard how students open up to their Sunday school teachers about matters that need prayer and guidance.

#### **B) Bible is the teachers first and most important resource**

**And whatever we do,  
do it heartily, as to the Lord and  
not to men, knowing that  
from the Lord we will  
receive the reward of  
the inheritance; for  
we serve the Lord Christ.**

Even though we follow a Sunday school syllabus and text book, it must only be our guide to prepare .Our real source must be the Bible. Everything else like writings, books and internet sources are secondary. Even as we take lessons it is essential that the teacher use the Bible in hand rather than the text book and ask students to read out verses and passages loudly. Infact not only for the lessons, a Sunday school teacher must read and learn from the Word of God regularly. Every student is smart enough to gauge their teacher's knowledge on the subject. Only when we read and learn from the Bible can we teach with authority and confidence.

#### **C) Model teacher emulates Jesus Christ**

There are lessons that can be learnt from Christ as a teacher. Just as Jesus Christ, we must have a concern and compassion towards the students. We must not hate or despise a child even if they have some negative traits in them. In the course of our lessons, we should use everyday examples so that they can understand the lessons better just like Jesus used parable and stories. Jesus Christ knew the purpose of coming into this world. He was sure of what he taught and hence taught with authority that made the Jewish leaders wonder from where he acquired this knowledge. At the same time he showed a servant like attitude, ready to wash his disciple's feet. Similarly we must be confident in Jesus Christ and his Word and the need for salvation

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.Yet we must not be proud but have a meek, humble and gentle heart towards the Sunday school students.

**D) Model teachers live a holy life and portray Christ**

Our Sunday school students not only observe us during Sunday school time but also otherwise. Without us being aware, their eyes follow how we sit in church, how we behave and our approach to our fellow brethren. A teacher who is compassionate and sensitive to his fellow brethren will instill the same seeds in the student's hearts too. If the teacher shows lack of interest during worship service, backbiting, gossiping, fighting attitude etc, the child can see through our hypocritical life. Our lives must be a testimony to our students.

**E) Sunday School is a ministry**

Like I mentioned at the start, a person taking the role of a Sunday school teacher must know that this is a ministry. It can be successful or fruitful only when we submit to God's wisdom and do it with fear and prayer. Before his ascension, Jesus gave the commission of going out to all the ends of the earth and preaching Christ and salvation through him alone. A Sunday school does the same in a small way. It is a responsibility. It must not be considered a position of prestige in the church. At the same time remember it is a thankless job. There will be complaints and accusations. If Christ himself was not spared or the early apostles suffered for the gospel, then we must welcome negatives as a part of the role.

**F) A teacher should never stop learning**

We may have taught the same Bible story a number of times and also learnt the same in our childhood, yet we must not stop learning the Word of God. Every time we read and learn we unearth newer lessons and truths. Probably that is what the child in your present class needs and God is guiding you to the same. We must avail number of lessons and speeches available through books and internet. But remember they

must be only aids and not our final source. The Bible cannot be replaced.

**G) Be aware of the age group you are entrusted with**

Every age group and class have their own challenges and questions that needs to be addressed. A toddler will not have an attention span of more than ten minutes. As a teacher it is essential to find ways to keep them engaged and increase their attention in class by using the aid of charts, videos, activities etc. As soon as the Sunday school student enters their teens, the challenges are totally different. They see, hear and learn many things. There is a limit to how much a parent can control them. This leads to many questions and they need convincing answers regarding the same. A Sunday school teacher must be aware of them and be equipped to answer them Biblically. He /she must be their confidante and counselor too.

These are some of the qualities of a good teacher. In 2 Chronicles 34 and 35, we read about a sixteen year old King Josiah. As a young man he knew what was right and was determined to follow right. He knew that as a servant of God, he was obligated to use every power against sin. He acted, not with half-measures, not with popularity calculations, but with a fearlessness and determination that belongs only to one who knows the authority of the Almighty God! He urges young and old alike - never consent by silence to anything that dishonors God or that violates God's Word. In Titus 2:7 we read Paul exhorting that in all things we must be a pattern of good works. Our children must find us worthy enough to be emulated. And whatever we do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord we will receive the reward of the inheritance; for we serve the Lord Christ. - Colossians 3:23-24.

May God bless each and every Sunday school teacher to be good teachers and role models in the days to come.

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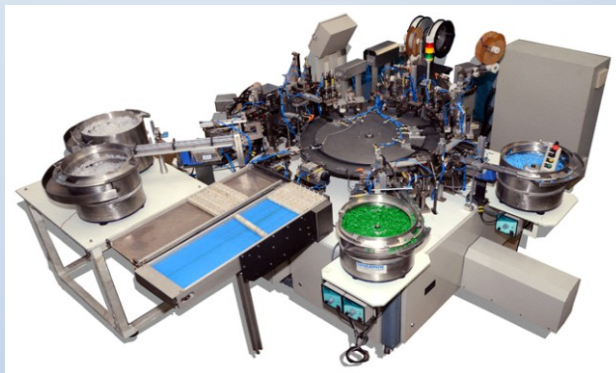


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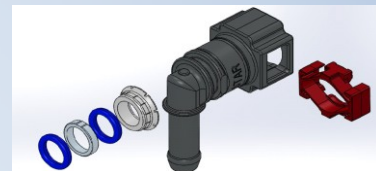
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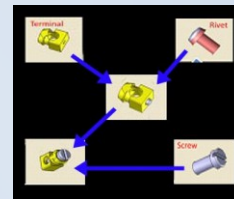
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# EQUIP THE GENERATIONS FOR EVANGELIZATION !

**Bro. Varghese Kollakompil**  
Mission Director - IPC Maharashtra State



One generation goes and a new one comes. In this process, we usually see the passing generation trying to accumulate as much material possessions as possible to hand over to the next generation.

We try to educate our children in the best schools and colleges in our country and even abroad. We give additional coaching to them so that they excel in competitive examinations. The intention is to get them into highest paying professions. Such keenness to equip the next generation is not usually seen in parents in the matter of providing sound biblical education to their children. As a result, we are currently witnessing a sad situation where our young people occupying high professional positions are swayed by worldliness and false doctrines and are being led into lives without separation and holiness as Christian believers, even entering into marriage relationships with members belonging to other religions and unhesitatingly offering incense before their idols!

Our Lord Jesus is the greatest teacher that the world has ever seen. If He learned and taught the Scriptures from His childhood, how much more we as His followers should learn the Scriptures ourselves and teach them to our children! Sunday Schools were started in our churches to fulfill this objective. The program is not just to give away some prizes to the students and felicitate them annually, but to encourage them to put their knowledge into practical life, to lead an exemplary life in front of others, bring others to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and stand steadfastly for the gospel at any cost.

Our dear Lord desires that His followers become participants in the task of evangelization

irrespective of their age. In this task, age should not be a factor. What is required is an intense desire for the spread of the gospel. Development of such a desire in the hearts of students is the objective that should be kept foremost in the minds of teachers, parents and the church in organizing the Sunday School curriculum. Our Lord will certainly be pleased if such an objective is achieved. A small incident is described below to illustrate the role of even young children in furthering the cause of evangelization:

The story is about a little girl, Hattie May Wiatt, who lived in Philadelphia, USA. Her church building was too small to accommodate the large number of students who used to come for attending Sunday School. On many occasions, Hattie could not get a seat in her class. Greatly saddened, she resolved in her heart to accumulate funds to help build a bigger church. Hattie began to set aside her pocket money for the purpose, instead of spending it on chocolates. A little later she fell sick and died. Her parents found a small bag and a letter under her pillow. The letter read like this: "Here I am keeping a small amount to help build a bigger church which can accommodate all the Sunday School students". The parents opened the bag and found 57 cents in it. They presented the money to Pastor and told him about the desire of Hattie. The Pastor was greatly inspired by her vision and declared it in public to his congregation and other friends. This was how the Temple Baptist Church and Sunday School building was constructed with a seating capacity for 3300 people. What an example of how a small girl's little contribution coming out of her sincere



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love for God's Word grew into a large sanctuary and a large congregation! We cannot forget the fact that Hattie's love for the Word of God must have originated from her parents and her upbringing in the family.

The important role of parents and their sincere efforts in the character development of their children cannot be over looked. Parents have to take seriously the matter of sending their children to Sunday School and constantly monitoring their progress in absorbing doctrinal truths and moulding them into the ways of the Lord. Timothy stood out as a genuine person in the midst of a crooked generation because of his sincere faith. St. Paul acknowledges the fact that Timothy's sincere faith came from his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice (2 Timothy 1:5). The important role of parents, especially mother, in the character building of children is very clearly emphasized by St. Paul. King Solomon in his great wisdom has instructed us: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and

when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

Young people have been mightily used by God both in Old Testament times and New Testament times. Young Samuel is such an example. He got the privilege of hearing the voice of God at a young age. He enquired of Eli, the High Priest and learned how he should respond to the voice of God. He did accordingly and responded: "Speak, for Your servant hears". Later throughout his life, Samuel ministered to the Lord according to His will, in obedience to His voice as instructed by Eli. "And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD" (1 Samuel 3:20).

Let it be our earnest desire that the main purpose of learning the Word of God in our Sunday Schools be fulfilled in the lives of our children and they are developed into faithful ministers of God, serving Him according to His will. May the Lord help us all in this joint effort.

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# THE ATTRIBUTES OF A GOD FEARING CHILD

Annie Acharya | IPC Gerizim, Thane.

“Therefore be the imitators of God”  
Ephesians 5:1.

We all have read this verse or at least heard of it through our parents and elders. Our parents always want us to be God fearing and the imitators of God. This does not mean getting up in the morning, reading a chapter from the Bible and praying before going to school. It also means to have some attributes or qualities of God in us.

What does '**attribute**' mean?

The literal or dictionary meaning of attribute is - 'a quality or a feature regarded as a character or an inherited part of someone or something.

Being children of God we have many of his qualities but we must be able to nurture them and stand as a testimony of God before this world.

Few attributes that a God-fearing child must have are listed below.:-

- **Obedience** - One of the Ten Commandments says '**Honor your father and mother**' which includes our obedience to them. The most important type of obedience that a child must learn to embrace is the immediate, unquestioning obedience. In Hebrews chapter 11, we see that Abraham walked with God even when he did not know where he was going. Similarly, a child must obey his or her parents and elders without thinking and doubting it, even unto death. We have an excellent example in the Bible of

Isaac and his obedience towards his father even unto death.

- **Unconditional love** - Mark 12:31 says, “**Love your neighbors as yourself**”. Jesus in Matthew 5:44 tells us to “**Love our enemies and pray for those who oppress us**”. This does not mean allowing people to behave badly without accountability, it means you love people enough to serve them and share your faith even if they look different, talk differently, smell bad or possess any other trait that would cause us to deny them our love, service and message of God. We must learn to love all those who have been rejected by the world, helping them and spreading the message of God's unconditional love.

- **Perseverance** - It's very common that children and even adults sometimes, are easily tempted to drop or severely modify their beliefs and principles in order to stand out at office or among non-Christian friends. A child should know to adhere to his path and principles amidst all difficulties and how to bring others to that God-fearing path. In revelation 3:10 God says, “**Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will keep you from hour of trial**”. If we stick to our path and be faithful to God, he will help us through our difficult times and keep us from trouble.

- **Compassion** - We must learn how to be compassionate and generous to others.



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Matthew 9:36 says, “When he saw the crowd, he has compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd”. Just as Jesus has compassion on them, we must also have compassion and mercy on those who are rejected by the world. No matter what the world calls them but we must be able to see them through those worldly labels. Just as God showed us compassion even when we were sinners.

- **Honesty-** Nowadays you can rarely find a person who is completely honest. But the Bible teaches us to be honest even in this

dishonest world. If you read the Bible, lying is something that bothers God so much that he regularly lists it out as something that he abhors (hates). Proverbs 12:22 says, “The Lord detests the lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy”. Many people in the bible have aroused God's anger on them because of their lying and deceitful lips.

In conclusion, I would like to say that these are a few attributes but we must check ourselves and make sure we have all of these qualities on us.

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# SECULAR EDUCATION & SUNDAY SCHOOL EDUCATION

**Bro. Danny George**  
(Associate Director, IPC SSA, Maharashtra)



Secular education in this technologically advanced modern times is of prime importance to the common man. High competitiveness is the hallmark of these times and this provides a platform of slight comfort edge in this world or society. We are just mortals and our life on this planet is very short. Death has a sway over us twice. Have you thought about the future? - the unending future of a person. The knowledge acquired through the secular education will never help us to reach an immortal stage (eternal life) kept after the physical death? On the other hand, we can avoid the second death by dedicating our life to our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ.

I am not against any person acquiring the secular education, as it is a must for everyone. Without proper secular education we may not be able to live a dignified life on this planet even if our journey is short. Even though our journey on this planet is short, we give huge importance and strive to have secular education, but are hardly concerned about attaining / achieving eternal life.

Dear Sunday school students, do you give importance to Sunday School as you do for your secular studies. It is sadly stated that neither the students nor their parents give much importance to Sunday School. Let's have comparative study.

Sr. No.	Secular Studies	Sunday School
1	Every week day the student gets up early in the morning and reaches school before time	On Sundays, the students get up late from their bed and are found always late for Sunday School. Why? Because they (students & parents) find no importance to the Sunday School.
2	Students are very much particular in doing their School Home-work due to fear of impositions and penalties	Since there is no such impositions and penalties, children are least bothered to do Sunday school home-works.
3	Students fear their teachers and give due respect to them, even though it may not be from their inner heart.	No fear hence no respect. If there is any slight altercation in the church these students do not restrain themselves speaking against the teacher
4	Students spend hours mugging the answers, refers textbooks, digests and solutions etc.	It may be on Sunday morning after the late getup, the Sunday School text book is being opened, that too for 5-10 minutes only.
5	Students mug up the full answers (half-page or full page) to be written down in the answer sheets to score full marks	Even the shortest Memory verses are not spoken without errors and hiccups.
6	Huge money is spent for external coaching (even on Sundays) so that the students can have an edge over others	Thinking of extra classes for Sunday school may be nauseating. Many students even do not buy a new note book for Sunday school.



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7	Even if student is sick parent s force them to go to external coaching classes so as to not to miss any portions of study.	However often students are absent for even regular Sunday school without any valid reasons
8	Students spend lot of time with latest gadgets viz. smart phones , Tabs and Computers playing games, chatting, texting and watching videos	There is no regular habit of reading the Word of God. May be only for ten minutes to satisfy self or parents.
9	If a teacher from a secular school or Coaching classes visits students' home warm welcome is given. All the points shared shall be carefully be noted.	If a Sunday school teacher visits students' home eyebrows automatically rise.
10	Worried about bad future, if not studied well.	Not worried about eternity and think that Jesus saves even if not attended Sunday School

Dear Children, where do we stand?. Do you understand the pitiable situation that you are in. What is the use even if you acquire the whole world and walk not in the fear of God. If your young heart is not dedicated for God, you can live like any other not-so-God-fearing-person, the life may be lived with Christian names registered in the Local Church registers only to benefit the

social life, but at the risk of your eternal life. It is high time that parents, students and teachers give due respect and importance to Sunday School, to save many scholarly backsliding souls having great secular education. Our Lord is coming soon. Ensure that your name is also written in the book of life.

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**Pastor Joji M. Varughese**

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*Secretary*

**Bro. Varughese Abraham**

Mob.: 9819 263 098



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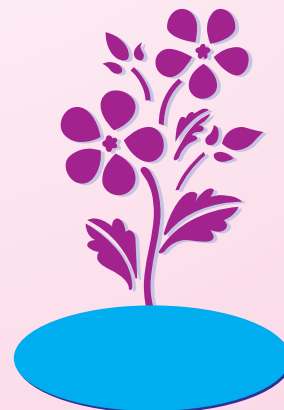


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Wednesday	07.30 pm	Hindi Meeting at Ulwe
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Saturday	07.30 pm	Cottage Meeting / Intercessory prayers

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