



Christadelphian Sunday School Union Winter Newsletter 2025

Editorial:

Sunday Schools around the world

Usually when we collect material for our newsletter, we are concerned about promoting good practice, encouraging communication between teachers, students and the CSSU, and informing you about publications or events. In this issue though, we are focussing on what children and young people from other parts of the world get up to in their Sunday Schools. We include reports from Romania, Mozambique, Hong Kong, Russian-speaking countries and ???

Conditions in each of these may be very different to ours; numbers may be larger or smaller but children are children wherever they are, and we hope that you find reading about what goes on elsewhere in our community interesting and informative.

Perhaps you will be inspired to share what you read with your own students and encourage them to think about our worldwide fellowship and how precious this is. You might like to set up

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it.” **1Cor 12:12, 27**

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a project about a particular country and find more information about the brothers and sisters, their children and the way things are run in that place. It may even be that you will want to actually try to communicate with one of the Sunday Schools or ecclesias represented here. A good place to start would be the CBM linkman for that area.

Whether you decide to act upon what you read or not, we hope you enjoy our change of content. Please do share with us if you do actively follow up any of the reports, so we can encourage others and support and share your enthusiasm.

Ali Lawrence & Caz Parsons, Editors



We LOVE your contributions!

Please share any good ideas you have up your sleeve on our Facebook page or send to caz@cssu.org.uk for inclusion in our next newsletter so others can benefit!



Russian Speaking Sunday Schools run very differently to what most of us experience...

Sis Gill McDonald explains:

Whatever is BKRU? Anything to do with the children's game or cowboy Buckaroo? No! It is the name of the CBM amalgamated Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine - catering for Russian-speaking countries.

Running a Sunday School by post in an unknown language brings challenges. We have 53 children aged 5 - 16 in this situation, scattered across the BKRU countries, and they have not had the privilege of growing up in an ecclesia with a Sunday School and CYC. Distance-teaching on a one-to-one basis would be great – but impossible for BKRU as we don't have nearly enough Russian-speaking teachers. A very small group has a weekly lesson after the Zoom breaking of bread.

This is the 18th year that we have been sending 4 lessons each month. A few families have the technology to receive email, but they seldom have printers to print out the activity and craft sheets which are essential to the lessons. So, snail-mail prevails.

Mozambique

Did you know that the CSSU supports overseas Sunday Schools in many ways, from posting out magazines free of charge to one-off donations such as that described by bro Paul Rose, linkman to Mozambique?:

Mozambique in south-east Africa is an extremely poor country (ranked 181 out of 189), but within the poverty, there is a richness of faith on which monetary value cannot be placed. There are over 20,000 Christadelphians in 969 ecclesias in Mozambique (we don't know precise numbers as communications are poor). We estimate that these brothers and sisters have perhaps 7,500 children of Sunday school age (not including children from the surrounding areas). Education is slowly improving in Mozambique, but resources are poor so that many children have never even held a pencil or had an exercise book.

When our brothers and sisters in Mozambique requested help with the purchase of 1000 Sunday school books, we wondered where we could find the

Taking the CSSU 4 year syllabus as a template, the lessons have all been translated into Russian in such a way that they need minimal adult assistance. Adapting the activity sheets was a major undertaking, as simple translation is seldom appropriate. Thanks are due to the small group of sisters who battled through the job over several years.

Once a year, they receive a full colour magazine written and designed by our small, talented team in Montenegro, but printed in the UK. Our greatest thrill in recent years has been receiving the joyful news of the baptisms of some of our young people who have been right through the 12-year course. Postage is very expensive, and thanks go to CSSU who cover all the costs of the BKRU Sunday School.

Lessons-by-post can never replace the social side – children meeting their friends at Sunday School, CYC, Youth Weekends and Camps. So, the annual East European Bible School is the highlight of the year. In the mornings, there are Bible lessons and activities EVERY day for a whole week, shared with others. The afternoons and evenings are packed with social activities, games, sports and singing with friends. The climax is always the end-of-week concert with the children performing the Bible play they have rehearsed all week. Many of us take this sort of thing for granted, but this interaction is a rare but important treat for the isolated families who are starved of fellowship.

money for this venture. We reached out to the CSSU and to CBM Project Aid, and while we've not yet met our total, we are getting closer.

It is so important that we ensure that the brothers and sisters in Mozambique who teach the children in Sunday school have the resources they need. The CBM Mozambique team would like to thank the CSSU for their kind donation towards the purchase of 1000 Sunday school books.

Here is a photo of Kanjeza Sunday school where they have been learning about Noah and the flood.



In China there are no Christadelphian Sunday Schools - why is that?

A bit of background: Christianity is officially recognized by the Chinese government, but there are strict regulations on religious practices. There are two main types of Christian churches in China: the state-sanctioned churches, and underground or house churches that operate independently of government control.

The state-sanctioned churches are allowed to operate openly, but they must adhere to government regulations, which can include restrictions on the content of sermons and the appointment of clergy. Underground churches often face persecution, including harassment, arrest, and closure.

Sis Gao-Xing of Hong Kong sent us this report of children's sessions at the Hong Kong Bible School, which must have been very precious to the children who attended:

We had 12 children join the Sunday school with different ages. Sister Rainbow prepared many learning props to help children to understand the topics she taught.

For example:

- She prepared many stones and markers to guide children painting on the stones which will help children make a connection with Stone Peter.



- Sister Rainbow also prepared white T-shirt and printing and dyeing materials to allow children make DIY T-shirts and after drying, she used a flatiron to make a sentence "Follow his step" on it, that really make children more excited.

- To tell the story about fishing, sister Rainbow prepared paper-cut and other materials to guide children to design a 3D painting.



- And she let the children make handcuffs with paper, that's also a lot of fun.
- The last class children broke into many groups and played the roles that they learned, letting the others guess which story they were showing.

During free time, sister Rainbow prepared the work of stringing bracelets, game cards and colouring the card. The cards were sent to the brothers and sisters who did not come, conveying their longing for them.

News from Romania

Sis Jane Newton sent us this report:

There isn't a regular Sunday School in any of the Romanian ecclesias at the moment, but work with the children is ongoing.

Those who had been regular attendees at the Sunday School run by brother Danut in Cupercenii Vecchi are now teenagers and often attend the Romanian Zoom breaking of bread service, which takes place every Sunday.

Twelve young people aged from 7- 18 years old came to the Romanian summer Bible School this year. They were mostly grandchildren of Romanian brothers and sisters along with some of their friends. Some of them normally live with their parents in other countries but come to stay with their grandparents during the summer holidays.

Three of us from the UK led the children's sessions this year: brother Josh and sister Kez, and myself. We chose topics linked to the theme of the adults' sessions which were about people of prayer, namely Moses, David, Hannah, Mary and Jesus. They were led very inventively by Josh and Kezia and included some interesting and entertaining

activities, such as re-enacting the plague of frogs using balloons to represent the frogs and a circle of chairs as the house that was being plagued by them! The final session, led by myself, was about the faith and prayers of Hannah and Mary.

The main challenge of running these sessions was catering for the needs of the wide age range, so, while one of us led each session, the others were free to help the younger children with art and craft activities. For example, while Josh and I discussed prayer with the older group (things we could thank God for, good things to pray for, things we shouldn't pray for) Kez helped the younger ones design three different sized coats for Samuel.

We couldn't have run these sessions without the amazing translating skills of Alexia (13 years old), daughter of brother Razvan and his wife Andrea, who both speak excellent English and have passed on this ability to Alexia.

All the young people listened attentively, engaged with all the activities and were very respectful. We pray that they all benefited from what they were taught and learned more about God's will and purpose from these lessons. They certainly all seemed keen to come again next year!

News from the CSSU

Annual Teachers Forum 2024

Yet again we held our Forum online at the beginning of October. If you have never attended before perhaps you should give it a try:

"This is the first time I have attended this forum and I found it absolutely amazing. It has really opened my eyes in teaching. I am not a teacher and teaching has always scared me and I've never had the confidence in teaching but listening to you all, there is nothing to fear about teaching and encouraging our children about our amazing God and bringing the stories to life. Thank you again to everyone for all your hard work. It has truly been very beneficial to me"

Thanks to the speakers who gave us brief but encouragement-filled talks aimed at 'Making Learning Fun' for Infants, Juniors and Seniors respectively. The talks were followed by breakout discussion and ended with an encouraging thought by **bro Joe Vickers** on how vital it is that we walk

together in love and in the light of the gospel, making the best use of the time we have with our young people, for 'The days are long but the years are short'.

The event was recorded so if you'd like to view the talks or use them in a teacher training session, contact sis Caz to receive the YouTube link.



Teaching Tips

Have you ever thought about how the teachers manage in an education and resource-poor country? In another communication from Mozambique, we have a report from **bro Homeless** on the teacher training that has been going on there:

August 2024 - The training camp was held at Nabuzi Ecclesia and hosted by Bro Mpereya's aunt, a dedicated sister who ensured attendees from over 20 ecclesias were well cared for.

Introduction

The sessions began with a reading and explanation of Psalms 78:1–8, emphasising the importance of Sunday school, supported by Gen 18:19 and 2 Tim 3:14.

Objectives

- Information goals
- Transformation goals
- Edification goals
- Proclamation goals

Participants were encouraged to share their thoughts on these objectives, with teachers adding guidance from the manual.

Running a Sunday School

Trainees discussed Sunday school, with trainers providing key insights: 'Sunday school needs to start at home by parents and reinforced in ecclesias by Sunday school teachers' and 'where possible neighbourhood Sunday school also applies as this sometimes helps parental evangelization.'

Key considerations when establishing a Sunday School were identified as follows:

- When & Where?
- Who will the teachers be?
- Class duration and frequency
- How many classes/age groups?
- How many teachers needed?

Trainers emphasised the importance of having multiple Sunday school teachers and highlighted that both genders can teach.

Essential resources highlighted were the Bible, teachers, children, ecclesial support, and tools like blackboards, books, writing materials and space!

Trainees learned to structure lessons chronologically or thematically and received guidance on effective teaching methods.

Finally, the importance of preparation activities like prayer were discussed.

Bible Truth Cards

Thank you so much to **sisters Kellie and Sarah Movassighi**, who got in touch to share their lovely Bible Truth cards which they use to help children learn the truth of Scripture.

They say "a number of Sunday Schools are using them now as they are taken from our statement of faith."

A suggested way to use them:

- Younger classes: Learn the Bible Truth
- Middle Classes: Learn Truth & Proof
- Older Classes: Learn Bible Truth, Proof and ANOTHER verse to support the verse given.

We have our proof card at the back of the hall on show for the Sunday school and ecclesia and a sheet which is laminated for the children to weekly add on supporting verses for that bible Truth. This way we are all learning and revising the statement of faith annually. A great way to recall key passages when talking to others about our faith!"

You can see the cards here:

anchoredhopecompany.co.uk/products/bible-truth-cards



Rooted in the Bible

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