

RECAP OF THE MONTH THAT WAS AND THE UPCOMING EVENTS OF AAS

15th August (Independence Day)

The dawn of 15th August was grace with a blessing from above in showers of rain. All the inmates of AAS rose and paraded in the volley ball court at 6 am sharp to pay respect and homage to the patriots, who had sacrifice their yesterdays for our today. The Tri-color was hoisted by Mr. Gill, Deputy Commandant of NDRF, followed by the singing of the National Anthem with full enthusiasm. The flag hoisting session was followed by a friendly Volley ball match between AAS and NRDF teams. By the end of the match, the later overcame the former after a thrilling performance from both side. Another match between the old inmates and the new inmates of girls hostel was witness, there the 'The old is gold' beat the new.

After the day activities comes night (**FUN NIGHT**), where all students with different talents comes up with several skits and shows. The laughter from the scenes made us forget the tiredness and the weariness of the day. The Independence Day celebration in AAS shows not only our patriotism for the Nation and respect for the departed Patriots, but also our activeness, obedience and cooperation to the call of duty.

Upcoming events

5th September – Teachers Day

19th September – Movie night

3rd October – Ministry Department fund raising day

[N.B All are invited and your presence is coveted and your participation is valuable]

ACHIEVEMENT

*Great achievements are but the accumulation of conquered difficulties.

*To do just a little more and a little bit better is the secret of achieving excellence.

*All of man's gains are the fruit of venturing.

*What counts is not the number of hours you put in, but how much you put in the hours.

*The only way to make sure you are not moving backward is to move forward.

*Genius is not spontaneous combustion; it is a trail of sparks from a grindstone.

*Yesterday's dreams are today's achievements and tomorrow's history.

*Each accomplishment makes the next task easier.

*It is of no profit to begin many things and bring none to an end.

*Notice the gain in confidence upon accomplishing a tiresome labor.

*Knowledge may give weight, but accomplishment gives luster and more people look than weigh.

THE LITERARY TEAM

1. Ms. Chubala Sangma, 2. Ms. P. Azon, 3. Ms. KG Gailumliu, MDiv. III,

4. Mr. Rakesh Lang, BTh. III, 5. Mr. Lalsangmoi Vaiphei, MDiv. I, 6. Mr. Samuel Mangbiaklian, BTh. I

Asia Antioch Seminary, Patgaon, Rani Road, Before Accoland, P.O. Airport, Guwahati 781 015

0361- 213 1319; 098640-24524; aaseminary@gmail.com; www.aaseminary.com



Antioch Heights

A private Newsletter for alumni, prayer partners and friends of Asia Antioch Seminary, Guwahati, Assam_Vol. 1 Issue 2_Sept. 2015

From the Editor's Desk 

Greetings to all in the name of Christ!

Dear Readers, Literary Committee would like to thank all of you for your constant prayer and support to bring out this Newsletter. Your encouragement, appreciations, and sincere comments always motivate us to improve and work better.

In continuation with what has been mentioned in the previous issue, Christian life has to be always in the process of growth. There is no limit to one's growth in Christ, towards becoming Christ-like because that is our ultimate goal and until we reach that stage we are to continuously strive for it.

An important criterion necessary and which is vital for growth in Christian life is having a 'desire to grow'. A desire means, 'to wish' or 'long for', 'to crave'. In simple words having a desire is a longing or craving as for something that brings satisfaction. Food is essential for growth and in order to have a healthy growth we need the right food. The writer of the letter Hebrews in Chapter 5 has given strict instructions to the believers to crave for solid food (the deeper teaching of the Word of God) for spiritual growth

and not to be satisfied with milk (the basic knowledge about God).

These Hebrews had been living in a spiritual sense, on milk alone. Having grown a little in their faith, they had now stopped growing. Our spirituality or our faith may not be different from those of the Hebrews, very shallow, if we don't have the desire to grow in the knowledge of the Lord. Having the desire for solid food will lead us to grow from our stage of spiritual infants to spiritual maturity.

Do we have a desire to grow? Are we developing in us the right desire to be fed solid food or are we satisfied with milk? Let us create in us 'a desire' to grow in every area of our Christian life and encourage one another to follow the same.

God bless us all, Have a blessed month.

In Christ
Chubala Sangma
(chubasangma@gmail.com)

REPORT ON VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2015

Jam Haakip, Ministry Incharge

Vacation Bible School which was held from 24th to 26th of July 2015 was a success with a turn out numbering 224 children (**Campus 51; Matiyagaon 63; Soikata 25; Maligaon 60; Hiramapur 25**). In all, 26 teachers were involved in 5 different centers. We had a big turn-out in the campus, the reason is unlike other years, children from Pitbari attended VBS. Their attendance also paved way for us to start Sunday School in Pitbari.

Thanks to the “Go Ye” team who passed on the information about VBS to them. Many interesting things happened in different centers. Children dance crew from Panichanda raised the air of excitement in the campus everyday with their skilful moves.

In Soikata, the program culminates with a feast.

In Maligaon, it opened the way for women's fellowship.

In Matiyagaon, the team got a request from a nearby school to teach the students about different religions.

In Hiramapur, the sudden change in the venue does not deter the spirit of the teachers as well as the students.

It kicked-off well and ended well. One remarkable progress this time is teachers from different centers shared the gospel to the children which they accept it favorably. Letting them aware of the good news is one important step towards making them disciples of Christ.

Also, mention may be made that 3 of our students helped **Lalmati Church** in conducting VBS on 2nd August which started and ended exceedingly well. The Ministry Department would like to thank all those who contribute towards VBS in different ways – either big or small. Above all, we thank God for making VBS 2015 a successful event. It is also our prayers that God will bless the seeds we sowed in the hearts of the children and make it full grown in the days to come.

(Contd. P-3)



2 The greatest good we can do for others is not to share our riches but to reveal theirs. _Anonymous

PHOTO GALLERY



7 Don't use a hatchet to remove a fly from your friend's forehead. _Chinese proverb

Father's Love Letter

The cry of a Father's heart from Genesis to Revelation

My Child

You may not know Me, but I know everything about you I know when you sit down and when you rise up.

I am familiar with all your ways even the very hairs on your head are numbered. For you are made in My image in Me you live and move and have your being for you are my offspring. I know you even before you were conceived I chose you when I planned creation. You are not a mistake for all your days are written in My book I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live.

You are fearfully and wonderfully made I knit you together in your mother's womb and brought you forth on the day you were born. I have been misrepresented by those who don't Me, I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of Love and it is My desire to lavish My love on you simply because you are My child and I am your Father. I offer you more than your earthly father ever could for I am the perfect Father. Every good gift that you receive comes from My hand for I am your provider and I meet all your needs. My plan for your future has always been filed with hope because I Love you with an everlasting Love.

My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore and I rejoice over you with singing. I will never stop doing good to you for you are my reassured possession. I desire to you to establish you with all My heart and all My soul and I want to show you great and marvelous things if you seek Me with all your heart, you will find Me. Delight in Me and I will give you the desires of your heart for it is I who give you those desires. I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine for I am your greatest encourager. I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles when you are brokenhearted. I am close to you as a shepherd carries a lamb; I have carried you close to My heart.

One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes and I will take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. I am your Father and I love you even as I love my son Jesus, for in Jesus My love for you is revealed. He is the exact representation of My being and He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you. Moreover, to tell you that I am not counting your sins Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled. His death was the ultimate expression of My love for you. I give up everything I loved that I might gain your love if you receive the gift of My son Jesus, you receive Me and nothing will ever separate you from My love again. Come home and I will through the biggest party heaven has ever seen I have always been Father and will always be Father. My question is will you be My child? I am waiting for you.

Your Loving Dad....

Almighty God

Bijoy Roy Reang, BTh III

Jams Tirkey (Matiyagaon Center) –

"It is not easy to make the children attentive during class hours. However, starting the lesson with a simple, interesting and catchy illustration like story can do the trick. To become an effective teacher, we need to understand the minds of the students and face them in their level of understanding."

Dip Jyoti Hazarika (Soikata Center) –

"Teaching in VBS has helped me to experience the love from fellow believers. It opened my eyes to see and learn leadership qualities. It also convinced me that I teach the best by becoming an example first. Above all, I experienced the love, care and guidance of Lord Jesus at every moment of VBS."

Bijoy Roy Reang (GSC Center) –

"It is a great joy for me to be a part of VBS in teaching, singing and playing with children. In these three years time, I have observed that the children grow both physically and mentally. I discover my need to update and prepare myself in the field of teaching so that I will be able to cater to the needs of the children."

Numali Tara (Hirambapur Center) –

"Involvement in VBS has helped me to learn how to deal with children and maintain myself before them. To minister among children, we need to identify ourselves as one of them. It also helped me to learn more memory verses and short stories to connect the children with God's word."

Dipa Among (Maligaon Center) –

"I consider teaching in VBS as a great privilege. I not only teach them, but also learn a lot in the process. I am able to learn how to encourage, take care and mingle with the children. It also helps me to understand the responsibilities of a teacher, how hard it must have been to become a good one."

A REFLECTION ON "ETHICS"

The word ethics is derived from Greek word "ethos" which means "custom or behavior" and it is equivalent to the word "morality" which is derived from Latin word "mores/mos" meaning character or conduct. Ethics demands not only observing one's behavior, but also a critical evaluation of the motive behind the behavior or action. Different people believe in different ethical modes. Generally, there are three modes of ethics. A) Deontological ethics focus on "what is right" taking the lessons from the past as its reference point. B) Situational/contextual ethics focus on "what is happening" or "who is/are affected" taking the present situation as its reference point. C) Teleological ethics focus on "what is good" in the light of the desired goal to be achieved in the future.

We are living in a world with an unending list of ethical issues. In our lives, we cannot stand rigidly in one particular mode of ethics but according to the issues, condition and situation we must consider different modes for the most appropriate action. We need to determine the rightness or the wrongness of a particular course of action in the light of our desired goal. We claim we are Christians but many times, we think only for ourselves and fail to think for others. Christian ethics taught us to seek the "highest good" that is "Christ likeness". Christian ethics demands us to act like Christ and work for the good of all. In our lives, we need to combine all the good parts of different methods. Since all the modes of ethics have their own merits and demerits, we must learn to take the merits of different modes and apply them in our lives. We must not give importance to only one methodology, but must take into account all the methodology of ethics. Our conduct must be always directed towards the highest good or common good. Our daily activities must reflect the likeness of Christ in us. As we practice Christian ethics, we must follow His path and set good examples for others. I encourage A.A.S family to use different modes of ethics wisely at the right time with the right motive for the right goal.

_Ganguang BTh III

THANK YOU TEACHERS

(Dedicated to all the teachers of AAS on the occasion of 'Teacher's Day, 5th Sept.)

God understood our thirst for knowledge and our need to be led by someone wiser,

Who have a heart of compassion, encouragement and patience.

Someone who would accept the challenges regardless of the opposition.

Someone who could see the potential and believe in the best of his students.

So He made teachers.

And today I am happy that you are my teacher, I enjoy each lesson you teach,

As my role model you inspire me to dream and to work and to reach.

With your kindness you get my attention. Every day you are planting a seed of curiosity

and motivation to know, to grow and to succeed.

You help me fulfill my potential.

I am thankful for all that you have done.

I admire you each day and I just want to say,

As a teacher, you are my No.1.

Thank you my teacher, for being there at times when the skies were grey,

Thank you my teacher, for lending an ear when I had things to say,

You shower love on me lavishly when no one seems to care,

You brought me joys untold to fill my heart with moments of gold.

I would have felt isolated and lonely if you had not been there.

I lack words to let you know how much you mean to me,

But I will profusely thank God for you until eternity.

_Sangmoi Vaiphei, MDiv I

"PRAYER FOR DELIVERANCE"

Hear my cry, Oh Lord;

For its You whom I wait on

Humbly at my knees, it is in You,

where my hope lies

When men plan their thoughts against me,

I feel so empty and dry

I become so lonely that I cry;

But trusting in You I still try.

May the evil plans of men go in vain,

And let my unworthy prayers be answered at the end.

For, I ask unto You as a friend.

Lord I know Your ways are hard to understand

But, on Your solid rock I firmly stand

For Your time is always perfect;

And You make no mistake.

When I am in you, and You in me-

No mountain is too high to climb.

Neither any sea is too deep to dive

Nor any dreams too far to achieve

So, one thing I ask of you Lord;

Deliver me Lord, deliver me.

_Ngamrei Patar (BTh I)

"A VISION TO TRANSFORM SOCIETY"

Society is where there are groups of people living together sharing a common past struggle and where there are different culture, custom and tradition. There are different kinds of people who have different ideas, different personalities and it is a place where people have interaction. It is also a place where there is an interpersonal relationship.

Our vision to transform society is to transform our people, to transform our ideas, to transform our beliefs and to transform our nation according to the scriptural values of worship, love, peace and justice.

There are many steps to be taken to transform a society. Here are some ways:

1. As there are different groups of people living in a society, we need to have and share common ideas and take up awareness among the community. The people plays a vital role for developing a society by cooperating and doing the needs. They need to have a proper relationship so that they can share their deepest thoughts and ideas for the good of the society.

2. The church also plays a very important role in transforming the society. As there are different religion and different people living in a society, the church also can help in many ways and can share the importance of love, peace, forgiveness and the need for unity. It is also necessary to see the matters of every family and especially the teenagers and children who will soon become a leader in the later years.

3. In a society we see a lot of politicians and people who are well learned. They can also give a helping hand in the development and in uplifting the people. As a society and as a community living together, the politicians must be willing to give the needs of the people. They must help each other in happiness and in sorrow.

As the world is growing and changing rapidly, there must be a good change in the society too. As we know, people are becoming more and more educated but our minds are becoming narrower, we need to build up ourselves and use our education as a helping source. We need a good leader and a good representative who would be true and who would be courageous enough to stand. Today society needs many things and there are so many burdens for the people. As John Lennon said, "everybody must have peace, instead of a new television set," we must have the heart of unity and peace. Luxury, fame and riches are important but because of human selfishness and greediness, peace cannot prevail among us. So, we need to build a good relationship among ourselves and we should not look down on others. Only when we know the importance of love, unity and commitment, our society will be better and our nation and our world will be a better place to live in.

_ Chingneikim (BTh I)