

Shine

IICS Newsletter

Vol. 26 • NL/17

Finishing Well



"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."
Matthew 5:16, NKJV

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Dear Parents,

The learning activities of 2016/2017 academic year have ended. If we look back, we are truly grateful that God with His Glorious love has been very care and has given us the opportunity to have His blessing and providence in going through the 2016/2017 academic year and ended it well.

Praise The Lord whose love has attached IICS in 2016/2017 academic year in doing various activities such as: VBS, Study Trip, Music Recital, Easter Drama, Social Activity ,and reaching some students achievement.

All the students hard work are struggles worth appreciation. The success of the students in all the achievement is due to parents and teachers supports.

We would like to appreciate the parents for their support in the learning process in 2016/2017 academic year. We are also very grateful for the hard work and effort of the teachers in guiding the students in 2016/2017 academic year. Thank you.

Grateful for the good cooperation between parents and IICS, both teacher and IPEKA Christian School management in supporting student's achievement.

Let us together give thanks for God's inclusion in 2016/2017, and keep praying to prepare ourselves in and welcoming the 2017/2018 academic year.

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

(1 Thessalonian 5: 18, ESV)

— Setyawati, M.Pd.

Location Coordinator



Dear Parents,

"How many days left?" is a question I've heard recently in IICS hallways and classrooms. This sentence is always in the lexicon of "school talk" in early June.

It is instructive for parents to ask children reflective questions about this past school year. Students should consider their personal highlights, difficulties and challenges. This allows children to state, and perhaps write, their goals for the beginning of next year in order to improve academics, time management, self-discipline and social interactions. Teaching children self analysis, reflective thought and goal setting is beneficial each year in developing resilient and independent children who are well prepared to become global citizens.

Parents have an opportunity to help children to think critically and plan for improvements each year through guided discussions. This positive talking time is best enjoyed out of the house and away from distractions. Summer holidays are a perfect time to focus, reflect and anticipate the new school year. Proactive planning and giving children advance notice of upcoming boundaries is a way of developing strong healthy children.

Have a wonderful summer and maximize your family time together!

Blessings in Christ,

— Dr. Janet Lowrie Nason

CEO Advisor



Shalom!

It is such a wonderful opportunity to share a little bit about myself in this new edition of SHINE magazine. My parents gave Tjhin Lince as my full name, yet my friends would normally call me as Link. Jokingly, whenever I am asked to introduce my family, I would cheerfully share that because my husband's name is Lunk, then together we become "Link-Lunk" (which in *Bahasa* it means "confused"). Being "confused", we have been married for more than 13 years and are truly grateful to have four precious children that we joyfully call: Keith, son of encouragement (11), Faith, son of endurance (9), Griffith, son of enthusiasm (5), and Kenneith, son of excellence (3).

I second Pdt. Dr. Stephen Tong when he said, "Children are always sweet burdens." Indeed, as you can guess, having four boys around do add so many amazing colors in my daily life. Our little home is always full of scream, cry, as well as laughter. My children know very well how to keep my hands full. From the moment I open my eyes in the morning until the minute I have to head off to bed in the evening; I always have things to do on my list. Have I ever felt tired carrying out multiple roles as a wife, a mother, and a teacher? Definitely yes!

Ravi Zacharias once said, "Beginning well is a momentary thing; finishing well is a lifelong thing." Having been experiencing His love, grace, and mercy during my journey serving Him at IICS in the past 12 years does make me think and ponders on this one phrase "finishing well". It eventually leads me to ask God, "Lord, how can I finish well in whatever ministry that you have entrusted me with?"

I believe this phrase "finishing well" would speak differently to different people. As I contemplate on this, finishing well to me means following Christ to the very end of my life, finishing His assignments for me and expecting to hear His "well done, good and faithful servant" being said to me on the day He calls me home.

To be honest, I find it is easier to begin something well than to finish well. Therefore, during my personal devotion time, I sincerely admit before God that regardless of the fact that I have some formal educational background that support me to "hopefully" be a good wife, mother and teacher, I still need more of His grace each day to be able to finish well.

Tjhin Lince

"Well done, good and faithful servant!"

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

-2 Timothy 4:7-8



Finishing Well

“And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.”

-1 Peter 5:10, ESV

Do you finish things well?

The 2016/2017 school year has been passed. Soon we will enter the new school year. But how was the end of this school year closed? Has it been ended well?

Finishing well is very important, just like reading which the end result is the most enjoyable. In entering the new school year it is important for all the teachers, staff, and students to plan and start well, but it is also important for us to end every year well.

So did IPEKA INTEGRATED Christian School throughout this school year, it motivated, accompanied,

and helped all the students to do all activities with all difficulties and challenges.

Praise the Lord that IICS and all the students can feel the love and inclusion of God, because in all troubles and challenges, Gods hands always remain with the students as well as the teachers, so that we all have a good ending and finish the school year well.

Following are some of the activities that have been done by IICS and also have been finished well for the glory of God.

IICS Study Trip 2017

The airport was crowded with 27 very excited students who were ready to go to Australia for a study trip. Though it was not too long of a flight, it sure felt like a lot longer since there is 4 hours time difference between Jakarta and Sydney. We arrived in Sydney and continued our flight to Gold Coast for some fun time at Dreamworld and Movie World. We really have to thank God for this arrangement because as soon as we left for Sydney from the Brisbane airport, the cyclone storm hit Queensland, but we were safe and sound in Sydney, ready for our university visit.

In total we visited seven universities and one high school. Each visitation was different than the others because of the uniqueness of the university. One of the highlights from our visit was I think, the visitation to Shire Christian School. Shire Christian School (SCS) is a school in similar size (in number of students) to IICS, we share similar values and the students even have a

PCG (Pastoral Care Group) time! IICS students were able to join in some of the classes. They joined the art and drama courses, as well as science and social science classes. The students were very welcoming, and soon enough friendships were made between IICS and SCS students. They were engaged in fun conversation about study and life in general. It was a very fun day for IICS as well as the SCS students. We hope they can visit our school next time.



The university visits provided a lot of information for the students and, with the campus tour that they provided, students were able to get the feel of the campus and imagine how their life would be if they studied here. They heard different kind of presentation from the faculty of Engineering to Art and Media, Science and Business, and Commerce.

The students were exposed to many different elements about living abroad and studying in Australia. We took the tram, we ate in their canteens, we went to a data room and got to interact with the collection of data they had, we saw how the students worked in labs and we asked questions of our alumni.

Praise the Lord that this study trip has been a very smooth and successful journey for all of us.

This is definitely an experience that every student should consider, because not only do you get to learn something, you get to experience it.



Shining in the World Scholar's Cup

We could hear our hearts pounding as we arrived on the first day of the World Scholar's Cup competition. However, we began to relax as the coordinators asked us to dance and cheer. A stuffed alpaca was even thrown to the audience. The alpaca is a relative of a llama, and is also the mascot of the World Scholar's Cup, an international competition that the six of us, Nathanael Winoto, Michael Leonardo, Ryan Batubara, Michelle Lie, Catalina Tan, and Alicia Sutandar from IICS Junior High competed in on May 6-7 2017.

We competed against 400 other students from schools across Indonesia. The three boys made up one team, while the three girls made up another team. Mr. Darren, who had been training us for the past four months, accompanied us. We competed in four categories: writing, Scholar's Challenge, debate, and Scholar's Bowl, based on six areas: Literature, Arts and Music, Science and Technology, History, Social Studies, and Mythologies.

Our weekend started with writing persuasive essays, followed by an hour to individually answer 120 questions. Soon, we had to spend 3 hours debating non-stop. We won two out of three debates each. The next day, we had to answer 200 questions as a team by choosing a button on a "clicker" that corresponded with our answer.

Our amazing weekend ended with earning a total of 47 medals, including 24 silver and 23 gold, as well as one team trophy. The boys won gold medals in debating and Scholar's Bowl, and a trophy in the Scholar's Challenge. The girls won gold medals in writing.

Our journey has not ended, for both teams have qualified to move to the next stage - the Global Rounds. The girls team will be competing in Hanoi, while the boys will be competing in Athens. The wonderful aspect of the World Scholar's Cup competition is that it is not just about winning. It is a celebration of learning, the showcase of everything we have learned with Mr. Darren. The memories, the unforgettable experiences, and the bonds we formed, will truly be engraved on our hearts for years to come.

by Alicia M. Sutandar, Sumatera Tigers 8.3 and Catalina A. Tan, Java Rhinos 7.3



Galactic Starveyors



This year's Vacation Bible School (VBS) of IICS Elementary Department was held on the 17-21st of May 2017 with the theme, Galactic Starveyors. The motto, Searching the Visible, Discovering the Invisible, was taken from Colossians 1: 15-16. The purpose of this event was for the students to discover that the God who made the entire

universe desired to have a personal relationship with them.

God created everything perfectly and beautifully, unfortunately, sin messed up everything. The relationship between God and human was broken. God promised us restoration. He sent His Son, Jesus to be the Savior of the world. In Jesus Christ, the broken relationship was restored by His death and resurrection. God did not leave human alone, He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us. God loves every one of His children and had planned the relationship from the beginning.

VBS week was culminated by a Parent's Night. Sermon was preached by Mr. Daniel and the parents' most awaited children's performances of all classes. Amazingly, the parents gave a huge contribution by decorating the chapel. We hope that not only the students, but also the parents can discover God as the Creator of the universe through this event.



It was a week full of adventure that the starveyors did not want to miss. The kids had their worship rally every day. They went to different stations where they explored God's word. Each day the kids encountered amazing and wonderful things designed by a Creator who is even bigger than the vastness of His creation, as well as made crafts, played fun games, enjoyed tasty snacks, sang cool songs, and learnt about missions. Indeed it was a week of searching the visible to discover the invisible.

Junior High Immersion Program

On March 2017, IICS held an Immersion Program to Sydney, Australia. It was a nine days program. This immersion program was a really great and memorable experience. We got to bond with the people that joined the trip and we became closer to them. The trip made all of us experience true Australian culture, including cultures of the Aborigines. We learned many new things during the wonderful ten days. Some highlights from the trip was going surfing in Manly Beach, sight-seeing through Sydney and the Blue Mountains, and doing the challenge of the wild ropes in Taronga Zoo, Sydney. Aside from all the activities we also visited Covenant Christian School (CCS) there we got to join the school timetable for three days. We experienced the cultural difference and learned to be adaptive. We also had a chance to attend cooking lesson to make lamington and bolognaise pasta.



This trip was truly a one to remember. With the results of bonding, independence, and acceptance, we really encourage future generations to join. As not only we get a fun time, we also grow in Christ more and more each day by the support of one another, and sharing through morning or night devotions. We get to do things differently as our parents aren't there to pamper us, so we get to be supportive of each other, learning from one another and we get to develop our independence.



The leaders of this trip was also another perk. The wonderful teacher, Ms. Engelina has accompanied us throughout the

trip, making sure we are okay. The amazing teacher and Australian chaperons; Mr. Frank and Mrs. Amanda, have made the trip way more enjoyable. Also, the person who drives us around, Mr. Mitch, was one very important aspect of the trip, as of without them, the trip would be less of a life time experience.

In summary, the trip was an extravagant one, with everything from accommodation to food exceeding our standards. It was a truly a memorable trip with meaningful experience to remember.

**by Matthew Hope, Sumatera Tigers 8.1 and
Dustin Kok, Bali Sharks 8.1**



A Moment to Give Thanks

By the grace of God, grade six students have finally finished their journey of their first formal stage of learning. God has been faithful in helping all of our sixth graders to finish this academic year 2016/2017. After six years of education in elementary, their knowledge was evaluated through a series of tests done by the school and the government. US/MBD, US and UP were not so easy for them since these are their very first official final tests. The hard work of the students, the guidance from the teachers and the nurture of the parents have been important factors that make their successes possible.

On 31 May 2017, a thanksgiving service was done at IICS grand chapel, attended by grade six students, their parents and their teachers. The purpose of this

thanksgiving service was to lift up thankfulness to God for His love, mercy, and guidance in these students life throughout their elementary years. On this occasion, the students have also used the opportunity to show their appreciation to their loving parents and their dedicated teachers.

The theme of this service was "God is the Scriptwriter of Your Lives". Hopefully the students would continue to trust God in the next season of their lives and believe that God has a special plan for each one of them, as it is written in Psalm 139: 16, "*Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*"

Kudos to all graduates!

FOTO 31 MEI

Feed My Lamb



Jesus asked: *"Teachers of IPEKA, do you love me like I love you?"*

Teachers of IPEKA answered: Because Jesus asked for the third time: *"do you love me?"* And I answered: *"Lord, You know everything. You know that I love you."*

Jesus answered: *"feed My lamb"*

The above is the opening illustration given by Ev. Anne Kertawijaya, in IPEKA Christian School Teachers and staff combined Service on February 23, 2017 in *Gereja Kristus Yesus*, Green Ville, West Jakarta.

"Feed My Lamb" was the theme taken from John 21: 15-19 for the reflection that the duty of a shepherd is to feed the lamb, just like IPEKA Christian School *"feed the students"* but a good shepherd know his lambs and serve with heart.



As shepherds, teachers and staff of IPEKA Christian School must feed the lambs well. School is not merely academic but also spiritual. Teachers must become an example so the students can understand the truth. Besides that everybody must feel that IPEKA students or graduates have good characters.

Through her speech, Ev. Anne Kertawijaya reminded us, serve with heart needed love, time, and also faith.

In the closing, she asked all of us to reflect, have we, as teachers, educated our students with love and heart? Many times, teaching routines make us saturated and frozen, let's go back to the first love, and serve with love, just like Jesus loves us.

"He said to him a second time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' He said to him, 'Tend my sheep.'"

- John 21:16, ESV



How to Finish Well?

"Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him."

Psalm 126: 5-6

When was the last time you recall having wept for your children before the Lord, as you sought to raise them up and train them for godly living?

I am a Christian, a parent and a teacher. As teachers at IICS we are charged with the responsibility to serve your children as, in loco parentis, which is Latin for, in the place or role of a parent, while they are with us. So, we are teacher or parents.

Being a Christian teacher is a tough, but glorious job. Why do I say tough and glorious? Because you are not only teaching, which is a teacher does but, you're also representing Christ whom you follow, which is what a Christian does. (Christ-ian: Christ means Messiah; ian means follower). Now, add parenting into that mix! I remember what a preacher once said: *"To believe in Christ, costs nothing. To follow Christ, costs something. To serve Christ, costs everything."*

Let me explain briefly. When I first believed in Christ, accepting Him as my Lord and Savior, I realized that it cost me nothing, but it cost Christ everything to save me. He suffered and died on the cross for my sin!

And, then, I felt a desire to follow Him. At that time, I began to realize that following Him would cost me something. One significant cost that I needed to *"pay"* to follow Him was: decreasing my ego, and letting Christ alone increase in me. As John the Baptist famously stated, *"He [Christ] must increase, but I must decrease."* John 3:30

As I began to follow Him, I received the calling to be a full-time minister. Not only did I go to Bible School and start to serve God in several churches before joining IICS, I also started my own family and became a father. I believe I now have a better understanding than before and, I have learned, that through all of

these seasons: to serve Him, indeed, costs everything!

But, the good news about following and serving Him is: no matter how great the cost, the reward of seeing the *"fruits"* of our labors brings such great joy!

Now, as we approach the end of this academic year, we need to ask ourselves two important questions: Have we finished this academic year well, in following and in serving Him? How do we know whether or not we have finished well?

These are my simple, honest and straight-forward reflections upon these questions: Did we *"sow in tears"* as we prayed over our children? Did we *"sow in tears"* as we provided discipline to our children, as a part of their training in godliness? Did we *"sow in tears"* as we tried to be a living example of Christian character before our children?

Now, consider the roles you play and apply my questions and reflections, as they might pertain to you. If you say, *"Yes, I did,"* and you are literally in tears, again, as you read this, congratulations! One day you *"shall reap with shouts of joy!"*, and you have finished this year well!

If you humbly whisper in tears, *"No, I didn't,"* that is actually a good sign, for you have a meek and teachable heart. That's enough for God to use you as a channel of great blessing to others. Congratulations to you too, you have also finished this year well!

by Daniel Adhi Surya

*"You've kept track of my every toss and turn
through the sleepless nights, Each tear
entered in your ledger, each ache
written in your book." -Psalm 56:8, MSG*

Year 7 Music Recital

The Year 7 Recital was a great experience for me. Being new to the school and new to Indonesia it was amazing to be able to do the Balinese Dance and sing traditional Indonesian songs.

The rehearsing took a lot of work and dedication. We came together almost every lunch time to work on memorizing the dance and words for the songs. Again, being new to Indonesia and speaking minimal Bahasa Indonesia made it very difficult for me to learn the songs, but the teachers had patience with me and I am very thankful for that. Along with that the teachers and staff put a lot of time and effort into this recital. Some memorizing songs, others setting up the performances. Without the teachers, none of the recital would have run smoothly or gone well. Many of us students were really devoted to practicing and learning for the recital.

It was a thrilling experience, which came with a lot of hard work as we wanted to give our best. This was the first time I have had a recital like this one and I thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it, from practicing, to getting on our costumes and performing in front of our parents. I think that knowing our parents were

going to watch gave us an adrenaline rush and made me give my all to the performance.

I am very thankful for the experience and being able to perform in the recital.

by Samantha Kumaraswamy, Papua Eagles 7.3



Were You There?

He is risen! He is risen indeed! What a privilege this year to honor Christ's death and resurrection. This was the first Easter drama presented by IICS, entitled, *Were You There?* It was a joy to showcase many of our Junior High students' tremendous gifts, talent, and abilities. God has richly blessed IICS with an abundance of artistically adroit students, enthusiastic about expressing their creative flair!



This dramatic Gospel presentation featured a cast and crew of 75 students, with teachers and staff assisting too. Through powerful songs and compelling monologues, we heard firsthand accounts of several who were there in Jesus' day, at His crucifixion. We listened as they shared with us, in the 21st century, their reflections

on what it was like to experience this historically significant moment in time.

We heard the heartbreak of a mother, Mary, who lost her own son, witnessing Him being tortured and crucified.



Mary Magdalene, the unclean woman, whom Jesus had forgiven. She recalled the Garden, where He lovingly spoke her name, like no one before.

Three times Simon Peter denied Christ; yet, he was given a threefold chance by Christ to declare his love anew.

Barabbas recognized Jesus took his place, wearing his thorny crown on the cross that day. Simon of Cyrene, forced to play a part in this story, carrying Christ's cross to Calvary. Pontius Pilate and Claudia caught between condemning and acquitting Him.

It was both moving and meaningful, communicating the timeless message of God's sacrificial love for us.



Family Day



Kindergarten's Family Day was held on 5 May 2017. In the morning, parents were invited to attend the seminar in the chapel with Ibu Charlotte as the speaker.

It started with the hat parade from Nursery 1 and Nursery 2, glasses parade from K4-1 and K4-2, outer-wear parade from K5-1 and K5-2. The parents were so excited to see their children on the stage wearing different kind of hats, glasses or outer-wear on their body.

After the parades, the seminar began. The topic of the seminar was about the importance for our children to 'struggle' to be independent. It is very important to train the students when they are young to be independent, for their own good. As we know, parents often do common mistake which is letting the nanny handles everything including feeding a child, putting shoes-on to a child, hold the bottle for a child to drink,

etc. Instead of helping, most of the nannies do those things for a child to help them save time. Usually nanny is not patience enough to wait for the child to solve these problems by him or herself.

Therefore, here is our role to support and encourage our children as parents to help them overcome the difficulty they face every day.

After the seminar, the parents were escorted to the classes where the students had been waiting for them. Firstly, the students greet their parents with hugs while saying "I love you". Then, the students, one by one, were serving food for their parents. They put spaghetti to the bowl with thongs, put cream cheese on garlic bread, and pour water on a cup. These were not easy for kindergarten students especially for Nursery students. Yet, these activities showed how developed their fine motor skills are and made the parents realize how important the parents' role in supporting the children's independency in their young age.



Stop Cuck! Drugs-abuse Prevention Starts From Home

Earlier this February, IPEKA INTEGRATED Senior High students had a seminar about drugs abuse prevention. The speaker of the seminar is Rev. Benny Pattinasarany, who owns a foundation called Yayasan Ronny Pattisarany that ministers to drug users and troubled teenagers. Rev. Benny himself was a drug-user back when he was a teenager, who got free from his life long addiction when he came to know Jesus Christ.

As a continuation to that seminar, Rev. Benny Pattinasarany was invited again to speak to the parents of our Senior High students. The seminar was held on Saturday, 08 April 2017, at IICS Grand Chapel.

Rev. Benny Pattinasarany opened the seminar by sharing about how he was introduced to drugs, got addicted to it, and how he went through the process of recovery from drug addiction. He then went on to share about the important role that parents play in helping their children grow to be healthy and content

individuals and how drugs abuse prevention really starts from home. Communication and trust between parents and children are keys.

The seminar was heart warming and many parents really engaged themselves by asking questions.



Sophilia Fine Art Center

On Thursday, January 26, 2017 grade 2 and 3 students visited the Sophilia Fine Art Center. Sophilia is taken from the word "Sophi" and "Philia". "Sophi" means wisdom and "Philia" means love and affection. Sophilia is an Art Center that is filled with wisdom, love and affection. It serves as an educational facility for the younger generation to learn about culture and arts as they grow up and mature, while the Concert Hall, *Aula Simfonia Jakarta* becomes a home for musicians in Indonesia.

Field trips serve one vital function as far as education is concerned. This particular trip visioned at improving their knowledge base grounded in the classroom concerning the beauty of God's creation. During this event, they encountered several wonderful paintings artifacts like the Mona Lisa by Leonardo Da Vinci. The Sophilia Fine Art Center with its combined history and culture offers the visitors a vast collection of Art pieces from the West and East, specifically China. The western Art section consists of hundreds of paintings, marble and wood carving, and sculptures that are exhibited in

50 museums all over the world. The Chinese Art section consists of a various collection of stones, swords, metals, ceramics, porcelains, and paintings on paper, silk and other materials, which represent China's long and unbroken 7000 years of history.

Students affirmed that the trip to Sophilia Fine Art Center was a tremendously optimistic experience for them. When asked which aspects of the field trip improved their interest and understanding, they rated learning about the beauty of God's creation and the skill and talent God has placed in the hearts and hands of the artists to glorify Him as the most important.



Junior High Social Activity



On Friday, April 7, 2017 the Year 8 students at IICS Junior High School department had a Social Activity visiting a school which is connected to an orphanage. When I arrived I was honestly not expecting much of anything but

boredom, but when I saw the enthusiasm and the energy of the children who welcomed us and sang for us I was astonished. These were children who had an eagerness to learn and did not allow their financial situations or family problems cause limitations for them.

I was assigned with my pastoral care group to teach the children how to make cubes from paper. At first I thought it would be hard to tell them how to do this. Then after a while I realized they had the will and desire to learn and this was the most important aspect of all. They did not think about the challenges that they were facing, but instead their will to learn new knowledge pushed them to improve their intelligence. I was also surprised by the natural talent one of the students had. Her precision with the scissors and

her ability to grasp the concept quickly amazed me. Then I was reminded about how blessed I am to be able to have the opportunity to learn in a magnificent school such as IICS with many opportunities. If she had the same circumstances as me, she could be more successful and have a more prosperous future. I wish I could have taught them about the hope that never ceases to exist with continuous hard work, good character, and wisdom.

I am grateful for the opportunity to meet the students at the orphanage and that taught me how to share my gifts that I have received from God.

by Dustin V. Kok, Bali Sharks 8.1



Searching the Visible; Discovering the Invisible



VBS, Vacation Bible School, is the most anticipated program by all the kids every year. This is the time where they get the chance to

learn deeper about God's word in a very fun way! Every year we have different theme and for this 2017 our theme was "Galactic Starveyors"; Discovering the God of the Universe.

We had five stations; Bible, Music and Mission, Art, Snack, and Recreation Station. In each station, the entire lesson was integrated well through games, songs, arts, and stories.

We started Day 1 by learning that in the beginning God created the world and everything in it, including people. God made people special. He made them able to think and to choose and to love. God loved and cared for the people He had created. God created us to love Him.

Day 2, the kids learned that God will always love them, even when they make wrong choices. The kids learned from Adam and Eve story in which they chose to eat the fruit God said not to eat. Because of their wrong choice, Adam and Eve had to leave the garden.

But God still loved them and took care of them.

Day 3, the kids were reminded over and over again of the special plan that God had for Jesus. Jesus was the promised son that God had sent for us all. Jesus never did anything wrong. Not even once. But He took the punishment of our sin in the cross; to save us all. Jesus died on the cross. Yet, he did not stay dead, He's risen.

On day 4 and 5, we emphasized that God is always with us and He promises to help us.

At the last day of VBS, we invited the parents to come to school for the Parents Night. The kids had prepared special performances that they had been learning throughout the VBS week. The parents were so excited to see their kids' performance. As their kids performed, many parents were on their feet trying to capture and record the moment. It was a happy day for the kids and the parents.

This year VBS has been a blessing for the parents, kids, and also the teachers. It is all about our relationship with God. The God who created everything wants a relationship with us. He is in control and how He loves us and will never leave us.





Stillness

"One of the primary enemies in overcoming pornography is stillness" (Mark Laaser, PhD). Parents are silent when pornography is easily available in virtual world. Parents are silent when their children are curious about their sexuality. Parents keep silent when their children start their puberty and develop their sexuality. Parents are silent when their children ask things about sexuality.

And will we still keep silent? When we keep silent, children will obtain knowledge of sexuality from the world. The information may come from the internet, driver, domestic assistant, friends, or even strangers. The danger of information is that it is likely to be wrong and misleading. Even we often realize that after our children has been misled by pornography.

Therefore, we have to stop keeping silent and be more active and take initiative in protecting our children from pornography, such as:

- Be more open to discuss about sexuality. Give more positive response to questions given. If you have not found the answer, tell them that you will find the answer and immediately tell them the answer when you have got it. If you keep silent, is it fine with you if the world gave the wrong answers for above topics to your children.
- Discuss with your kids about the sexuality topics such as the difference of men and women, wet dream, menstruation, pornography, and dating. If you keep silent, the children will obtain the values of the topics above from the world. Can you accept that if it happens?

• The discussion can be made in:

- Story telling before bedtime
- Family dinner
- watching movie together
- Car trip together
- Daily incidents (at school or around home)

A saying says the silence is golden, but silence is not golden in children sexuality education. Silence will not stop the children curiosity. In consequence, let us be more open in responding the children curiosity so that they can obtain the right values of sexuality.

by Budiman Hadi Pranoto, M.Psi, Psychology

"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

-Deuteronomy 6:6-7, ESV

Dari Hati ke Hati



Sekolah Kristen IPEKA

Syalom

Nama Saya Chika Septibela Sihalohe. Saat ini Saya Kuliah di Sekolah tinggi ilmu ekonomi. Alai. Sekarang saya sudah Semester 2, Saya sangat berterimakasih kepada Tuhan karna sampai saat ini saya masih di beri kesempatan untuk terus Sekolah walau dalam Keterbatasan biaya. Saat saya SMP saya pernah mendapat beasiswa, Saya bisa terus sekolah dan saat ini jika Tuhan mengijinkan saya untuk dapat beasiswa kuliah persemester bukan harga yang murah, Saya harus membayar delapan sampai sembilan juta persemester, dengan BPP Pokok sebesar 4.675.000 ditambah biaya BPP SKS sebesar 165.000 per SKS.



Saat Semester 1 Saya mendapat IP 3.00. Saya yakin di Semester Selanjutnya saya akan mendapat nilai lebih tinggi lagi. Karna dengan bantuan Tuhan saya tidak pernah merasa kekurangan. dan Saya akan terus berusaha agar saya dapat menjadi orang yang Sukses dan membahagiakan kedua orang tua saya, dan dengan itu nama Tuhan di Permuliakan.

Terima Kasih atas Semuanya Tuhan Yesus Memberkati.

Ditulis oleh : Chika Septibela Sihalohe

IDN : _____

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