

ARTICLE

AN INAUGURAL SPORTS DAY FOR
SHEPHERD LEARNING CENTER

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

PRAYER FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

FBC Today

UNLEASHING THE GOSPEL



AN INAUGURAL SPORTS DAY FOR SHEPHERD LEARNING CENTRE

Shepherd Learning Centre (SLC) is a homeschooling center for the Zo refugee children situated in Subang Jaya. When SLC— then known as Zo

Community Resource Center— first opened its doors in 2023, it had an enrollment of 16 students aged 6 to 11. Fast forward to today, SLC has grown

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

21 December 2025
The Throne of David

Isaiah 9:1-7

Preacher
Lee Yee Dian



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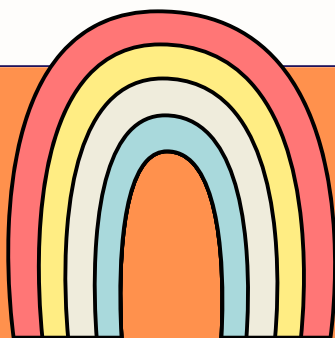
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SLC SPORTS DAY

to serve 55 students between the ages of 4 and 16, providing quality and affordable education based on an American Christian curriculum. Since July 2022, FBC has been partnering with SLC by supplying education materials, facilitating curriculum training, and organising extracurricular field trips and activities for the students.

This year's Deepavali was one to remember as SLC had its very first Sports Day, organised with the help of FBC's Young Adults (YA). Held at Oasis International School, the event brought together about 100 of us from the Zo community, FBC's YA, and the CIA Life Group.

The day began bright and early with the YA volunteers arriving at 7 am to transform Oasis' gymnasium into a lively sports arena. At 8:30 am, SLC students and their families arrived by bus, led by Joo Yee and her team. As participants and supporters started streaming in, the atmosphere lit up with energy, excitement, and anticipation.



The event kicked off with an opening prayer, followed by the singing of the Negaraku. Next, Pastor Khai, Principal of SLC, warmly welcomed everyone with a heartfelt speech, highlighting the milestone that this Sports Day represents. Mdm Lee Lin, Principal of FBC's Covenant Christian Center (CCC), also took the stage to encourage everyone to strive for excellence in all things for the glory of God. Then came the warm-up session, led by Ketch and her team. Music filled the air as everyone stretched, praised, and danced together. It was the perfect workout to get hearts pumping and ready to compete in the games to come.

FINALLY, THE GAMES BEGAN!



The SLC students were divided into four sports houses: Red, Yellow, Green, and Blue. Within each house, participants were grouped according to their ages (4-6Y, 7-9Y, 10-12Y, 13-16Y) so as to ensure fair competition and allow everyone to compete at their best. Participants competed in relay races against their peers in other houses, facing challenges tailored to their age group, vying to score points for their house.

Participants rotated through four creatively designed game stations: 'Hoop Race' by Dana and Jen Wen, 'Pass-ta' by Ai Xin and Ivan, 'Backyard Blitz' by Pei Ann and Sarah, and 'Dizzy Bat' by Caleb and Dickson. Each game station tested different skills, such as agility, balance, coordination, endurance, speed, and fine motor skills. Laughter and cheers echoed through the gymnasium as participants were encouraged with every jump, throw, kick, spin, and sprint.



It wasn't just the SLC students who got to have fun! Supporters also got a chance to get in on the action. During the half-time break, the younger children took center stage for a game of 'Keepy Uppy', where they had to keep their balloon floating above their heads for as long as possible. The last one standing was our very own, Jaziel from CIA LG!

Before the end of the day, while points for each house were being tallied, it was the adults' turn to shine. In a game of basketball shootout, participants took turns to shoot from different positions around the court. After four thrilling rounds, the SLC parents came out on top, winning 11-8!



With a little extra time to spare, we organized a friendly 5v5 futsal match between the SLC students and children from CIA LG. The court buzzed with energy as both teams showed off their skills and great sportsmanship. After an exciting match, SLC edged out a 1-0 win. What a game! It was a wonderful way to wrap up the day with teamwork, fun, and friendly competition.

As the Sports Day drew to a close, everyone gathered for the much-anticipated medal ceremony. The crowd gave a rousing reception as Green House was crowned champion of SLC Sports Day 2025! Smiles were wide and hearts were full as all the SLC students received a medal for participation and sportsmanship.


After lunch and some mingling, the SLC students and supporters were bused home at 1 pm. It was a memorable day for both the Zo community and FBC volunteers. This Sports Day certainly wasn't *just* an event; it was a brilliant display of community spirit, teamwork—especially among the YA volunteers, and love in action.

The day was also filled with God's blessing and protection as we had excellent weather, a smooth program, no injuries, and safety for all on the road.




One of my personal highlights from the day was meeting Nani (not her real name). Her teenage son had recently joined SLC, and her younger son, who's not a student of SLC, was with her. We had our belongings on the same bench, and I took the opportunity to offer her a mid-morning snack (because food is a Malaysian's trusted weapon of choice).

It was a pleasure to sit and chat with her and learn more about her family. I even managed to convince her to shoot some basketball hoops with me—it was her first time! As she got the hang of it, she started netting some shots, and I saw her smile grow brighter with every basket she made. Later, we exchanged numbers, and I sent her a video of her in action, a keepsake of a moment of delight.



What made meeting Nani special was simply being able to share in her joy. Beyond basketball and the thrill of trying something new, it was the bigger picture of her family's journey as her teenager is now back in school, thanks to SLC. School is where he belongs; it is a safe place for him to grow, gain valuable skills, experience the fleeting innocence of adolescence, and encounter God.

Another highlight for me was watching the children from my Life Group in action. At the 'Backyard Blitz' game station, the challenge was full-on: hula hoop, jump rope, balance a ball on a cone while hopping, crawl through a tunnel, and sprint back to tag a teammate. During the sprint back, the game masters realised that participants were taking a shortcut, cutting through the yard. That's when the CIA children (who were itching to participate) stepped up.



Led by Elvin, they started running alongside each participant, guiding the teams to complete the full course. It was both amusing and endearing to watch the little volunteers dashing down the running track every 30 seconds. Sometimes the younger ones got in the way, but I couldn't help seeing them as mini obstacles who made the course more challenging and fun! It was a beautiful display of eagerness to serve.



Last but not least, though it may sound cliché, a highlight for me was the sheer joy shared by everyone who showed up. Among the many things these SLC students have in common is that they and their families have been displaced by conflict. Some are also survivors of unimaginable horror. That's why it was so special to see parents cheering their children on, beaming as they watched them compete and thrive in a space they know is safe, surrounded by people they can recognise as family, because we are one body in Christ.

What made this Sports Day possible were the YA and CIA volunteers who demonstrated love in action through every word of encouragement, high-fives, and prayer, and our great God of redemption and grace.



By Rachel Lee

Rachel is a member of the CIA Life Group.





PRAYERSPOTLIGHT

PRAYER FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

O Lord God, You led Your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now so that, following Jesus, we may walk alongside refugee families as they build a new life in the bounty of Your love and mercy.

God of redemption, we pray for immigrant adults and children who have been forced to leave behind all they have ever known. We pray that they will find healing and comfort through the Lord Jesus. Heal them from the trauma of fear, deprivation, loss and abuse. Comfort them and give them peace and wholeness. Prepare us to be welcoming friends who share the good news.

O God of mercy and grace, lead us into active ways of love for our neighbors who have no place to call home. Clothe us in the armor of light to serve and tend the needs of refugees and all who flee violence.

Almighty God, bless all who seek refuge on this earth. Meet their needs for safety and for home. Move the hearts of your people to show them welcome and demonstrate gospel love. Cause wars to cease and bring justice to the nations that no one will need to flee again. In your great mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.

Adapted from prayers found in
<https://www.globalrefuge.org/get-involved/pray/>