



THE PILGRIM

A Church Publication since 2000

*A monthly Newsletter published for the
Church of South India, Toronto, Canada
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Brampton, Ontario*

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Motto for 2011

*"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us,
that we should be called children of God!" 1 John 3: 1*

കുറിവാക്യം-2011

കാണിൻ, നാം ദൈവമക്കൾ എന്നു
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Rev. Raju Jacob**

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**Dear Parish members,
Greetings in the name of Christ**

We have moved in to a new sanctuary on 16th January 2011. It is very remarkable that this is happening in our 25th year of existence. We started our worship service at the Wycliffe college chapel then moved in to the Centre for Christian Studies and for the past 16 years we worshipped at St. David's Anglican Church. We congregated at these facilities on a rental basis mostly in the afternoon time because these places had other worshippers making use of the morning time. Now we have a worship place, as one of our members testified in a recent prayer group "where we can meet on our own terms"

A church building is a structure whose primary purpose is to facilitate the meeting of people. The people are the church not the building. The first century church met in Catacombs. The edict of Milan changed the scenario and the 'church' became a legal entity and started erecting its own structures for worship. People belong to the Lord. There are many questions that are flooding our minds regarding this new facility. One may doubt whether this facility is our own or not. Why should we spend our resources on maintaining a facility like this? How long will we be able continue the worship at this place? Well, down the lane we need to grapple with more questions like this. At the moment I am only looking at the immediate context and trying to put together the opportunities, possibilities and challenges this change brings to us as a congregation. In order to understand the topic for discussion, first of all we need to understand the doctrine of the Church from the scripture. The word church is from the Greek word 'ekklesia' which means, called out people. Who are we? What are the purposes and core values of our congregation as the people of God? We should be a welcoming Christian community, worshipping God and serving one another and leading others to Christ.

The St. Wilfrid Anglican Church was dis-established on April 11, 2010 after serving the community for 52 years. The Parish does not exist anymore and the property belongs to the Anglican Diocese of Toronto. Now as per the terms and conditions of the letter of understanding between the Madhya Kerala Diocese and the Diocese of Toronto the current user of the facility is CSI Church Toronto. Also we have signed a lease agreement to be the user of the facility like a prudent owner. However this new facility for worship comes to us with great opportunities, possibilities as well as challenges.

The greatest difference we will be experiencing is the change in time and space. Instead of afternoons, we are able to congregate in the usual Sunday morning time. Sunday morning service is a very unique experience in the life of a Christian as well as a congregation. This is a great **opportunity** for the congregation to go back in to the Sunday morning worship time. Psalm 63:1 "You, God, are my God, earnestly (early in the morning) I seek you" This will result in better quality of worship that will enhance the spiritual ambience of the worship. Also we have more opportunities for activities other than Sunday worship. Beyond the Sunday celebration the new facility will enable our Parish organisations to meet and have fellowship and prayer together. There will be opportunities to meet for a mid week service, prayer and Bible study. Our organisations should be able to use the new facility for the spiritual development of the members. The space is really sufficient for example for a One day Children's camp. Also senior members can meet in the church for Biblical reflection, fellowship and prayer. Moreover the administrative operations can function from this new set up as there is enough space and resources for the same.

What are the **possibilities** this move can offer to us? We can reach out to the community around the new geographical location. Worship is the main vocation of the church. But as we worship God it should give us new responsibilities of moving out of the walls of the church building. Jesus said 'You are the light of the world' and you are the salt of the earth', Matthew 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot

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(Pastor's Message contd)

be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." The communities around us should be served in the spirit of Christ. We should become light and salt to the people around. This means that the new facility should have access to others also. This is the mission of the church. There is a great possibility of serving the community through different programs which we can offer. New programs can be developed with the help of governmental and nongovernmental agencies for the community around. Also we should make use of the connection with the local diocese of Toronto. This offers us tremendous possibilities. The congregation should be both local and global. While maintaining our ties with our mother diocese we should make all the efforts to be part of the programs offered by the Toronto diocese. Our parish representatives will be attending the synod meetings. The youth can participate in exchange programs and short term missions to different countries. Last but not the least this facility may fetch us financial resources through renting the space for other organisations and churches. This will cover a certain percentage of the cost incurred in maintaining the place.

There are **challenges** with these new opportunities and possibilities. The first challenge will be to find more resources to maintain our new place of worship in terms of finance and personnel. Quite sure that the coming months will be a time of more giving to the church and personal involvement. Most of the work may be outsourced but there are opportunities for congregation members to volunteer and give their time for the upkeep of the sanctuary. Apart from maintaining the sanctuary and preparing it for Sunday worship service, there are opportunities for gardening and ground maintenance in summer. Various volunteer teams can be formed and people need to be sacrificially involved in such activities. There has always been the problem of a faithful few everywhere so new members should be encouraged to take up responsibility of service. Our mindset should be changed regarding this. As the worship time changes we can expect more families to join us. This will again need more openness and willingness to accept and receive more members in to the congregation. Our prayer groups should be able to cater to the needs of these new comers as they face the hard realities of a new situation. The new families that are coming to us should be appropriately cared for and welcomed to the congregation. Ephesians 2 19-22. "Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Once the true vision and mission of the parish is received from Christ and the church is built by the Spirit of God, with the help of God the financial needs of running the day to day operations of the sanctuary will be taken care of by God. "God's work done in God's way will never lack supply"

Philippians 2:19 "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen"
May God continue to help us and guide us as a Parish.

With prayers and blessings

Achen

Birthdays

2	Shaji Levison Moothedom
3	Sheba Omman
3	P. J. Skariah
3	Santhosh Cherian
5	Jancy John
6	Pranoy Narayan
7	Rayna James
7	Sudeep Oommen
10	Shaly Oommen
12	Aaron Fredrick
14	Smitha Abraham
15	Rahul John Oommen
16	Binu Sajan
17	Vijaya Thomas
18	Latha Isaac
18	Roby P. George
18	Rohan Raj
18	Thomas Mathai
18	Jes Victor Daniel
19	Mariamamma Thomas
19	Mariamamma Cherian (Sunu)
20	Philly Z. Mathai
20	Abraham P. John
20	Rishvi Narayan
24	Tanya Mary Thomas
25	Joy Chemmanoor
25	Jinu Mary Jacob
25	Susan Benjamin
26	Asha Achamma Abraham
26	Christine Elma Joseph

Anniversaries

2	Sajan Itty & Binu
3	Roby George & Seena
4	Johncy John & Miriam George (Bitty)
7	Premod Kangirappallil & Betty
10	K. V. Cherian & Chinamma

BIBLE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2011

Feb. 6th. – Following Christ's Example (Eng)

1st. Lesson: Proverbs 3: 5-12
 Psalm: 119: 73-80
 2nd. Lesson: 1 Thess. 1: 2-10
 Gospel: John 13: 31-35
 Read by: Mr. & Mrs. George Samuel & family.

Feb. 13th. – Compassionate Love and Healing – HEALING MINISTRY (Mal)

1st. Lesson: Isaiah 57: 14-21
 Psalm: 103: 1-14
 2nd. Lesson: James 5: 1-6
 Gospel: Mark: 2: 1-12
 Read by: Mr. & Mrs. Christy Abraham & family

Feb. 20th. - Celebrating Salvation History (Eng)

1st. Lesson: Isaiah 65: 17-25
 Psalm: 8
 2nd Lesson: Colo. 1: 15-20
 Gospel: Mathew 6: 25-34
 Read by: Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Thomas (Thampan) & family

Feb. 27 Celebration of a New Ministry (Eng)

1st. Lesson: Jeremiah 1: 4-9
 Psalm: 84
 2nd lesson: 2 Corinthians 1 - 6
 Gospel: John 15: 9-16
 Read by: Mr. & Mrs. Wincy John & family

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

Our Annual General Body Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 6, 2011 after the Worship Service. The agenda will be announced in Church in due course.

Please visit our website: csitoronto.org for pictures of church events

COTTAGE PRAYERS FOR FEBRUARY 2011

PRAYER GROUP	DATE	PLACE	TIME
BETH-ZA- DA	Feb. 5, 2011	Mr. & Mrs Isaac Mathews	6:30 pm
SILOHAM		NOT SCHEDULED	
GILEAD	Feb. 19, 2011	Mr. & Mrs. Reji Johnson	6:30 pm
JORDAN	Feb. 26, 2011	Mr. & Mrs. Raj Hariharan	6:30 pm

MONTHLY CHURCH PROGRAMS

The Executive Committee has proposed days and times for various monthly meetings that will be held at our church at 1315, Kipling Ave. If anybody has any objections or suggestions please present it during the Annual General Body Meeting on March 6, 2011. They are as follows:

1. Bible Studies for Men's and Women's Fellowship– every 3rd Wednesday at 7:30 pm.
2. Youth Fellowship meeting and Bible Studies – every 2nd Saturday 10:30 am – 1:00 pm.
3. Fasting and Prayer – every 4th Saturday from 10:30 am – 1:00 pm.
4. Sunday School will continue as usual (during the service)
5. Malayala Lokam classes – at 12:30 pm after the Worship services
6. Choir Practice – from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm after the Worship Services.
7. Cottage Prayers groups will meet as usual.

CELEBRATION OF A NEW MINISTRY

A 'Celebration of New Ministry Service' will be held on Sunday, February 27th. 2011, at 4:00 pm. Bishop Rt. Rev. Philip M. Poole will be the chief celebrant along with other members of the clergy. This service marks the beginning of the ministry of CSI Church Toronto in the Diocese of Toronto and at this service our Achen will be inducted into the diocese of Toronto. This is a very important service in the life of the Diocese of Toronto as well as our Parish. The celebration and induction will be followed by a Holy Communion Service. Please make it a point to attend the service. There will be no service in the morning.

SUNDAY SCHOOL EXAMS AND ANNIVERSARY

Sunday school exams will be held on Sunday, February 13, 2011. Sunday school Anniversary and Talent show will be held on February 20, 2011 after the Worship Service and social hour. The children who are interested in taking part in the Talent show should give their names to the Sunday school Director by February 13, 2011. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

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Turning Yourself In

David Jeremiah

There is no peace when you're on the run. If you're running from God, it's hard to have peace of mind. You can find momentary pleasure, but not inner peace; fleeting diversions, but not eternal joy; short-lived escapades, but not long-term happiness.

Maybe you're tired of being a fugitive from God. You may be at your wits end, but you haven't been sure where to turn.

You can turn your heart toward home. There's no sin God will not forgive when we come to Him in humble contrition; no shame He can't repair; no barrier the power of the cross of Christ can't demolish. Not even our stubborn addictions can withstand the forceful application of the blood of our Lord. He cleanses us from all sin.

But we have to turn to Him in repentance and faith. Returning to Christ is a matter of remembering, repenting, and redoing. Revelation 3:5 says, *"Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works."* If you've drifted away from God, remember the earlier peace and joy you experienced, repent of your wanderings, and come back to the simple steps of Christian victory.

Surrendering yourself anew to Him requires humility, confessing your sins and seeking reconciliation with those you've been avoiding. It requires godly sorrow, coming to Christ with contrition and earnestness; and determination, for Satan doesn't give up his prey easily. But if you will ask, God will give you the will and the ability to do His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

When we return, we experience the joy and freedom that comes when we run into the arms of our loving Father.

It's easy to be in church and sometimes to be involved in the Lord's work, yet to be an inward prodigal. Millions of men and women have been greatly used by God after they returned to Him. In fact, those who repent of the deepest sins most understand God's greatest love and are best able to communicate it.

America's first missionary, Adoniram Judson, ran away from his Christian home in the 1700s. Entering Brown University at age 16, he befriended a deist named Jacob Eames. After reading Voltaire and the French philosophers at Jacob's urging, he told his parents he'd become an atheist.

Lured by tales from the American frontier, Adoniram saddled his horse and headed west. Travel weary, he got a room at an inn. He slept fitfully, hearing painful and desperate groans in the room next door, which made him wonder what his friend Jacob's view of fear, illness, and death was.

The next morning, he asked about the man in the next room. The proprietor said, "I thought maybe you'd heard. He died, sir, toward morning. Very young. Not more than your age. Went to that Brown University out East... His name was Jacob Eames."

The West suddenly lost its allure, and Adoniram turned his horse toward home. He gave his life to Christ and, shortly afterward, devoted himself to missions. On February 6, 1812, Adoniram Judson was commissioned as America's first foreign missionary.

How strange and true are the ways of God! One of the most comforting verses in the Bible is 2 Samuel 14:14: *"(God) devises means, so that His banished ones are not expelled from Him."*

We can run from God in many areas in our lives, but sooner or later we grow tired of running. We can ignore a thousand altar calls, spurn a hundred invitations to church, and resist a dozen friends who are trying to help us.

But God devises means to restore us to himself.

He wants us to have peace, for His very name is Peace. He is the Prince of Peace who said, *"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid"* (John 14:27).

He's waiting for you to stop running and to start trusting. You can remember, repent, and re-do. Today can be the greatest day of your life if only you'll bow your head, and say, "Lord, I'm coming home."

(This article was excerpted from Turning Points, Dr. David Jeremiah's devotional magazine)

In a VERY Light Vein...

The new church

A rich man goes to his minister and says, "I want you and your wife to take a three-month trip to the Holy Land at my expense. When you come back, I'll have a surprise for you."

The minister accepts the offer, and he and his wife set off to the Middle East.

Three months later they return home. They are met by the wealthy parishioner, who shows them a new church he has had built for them while they were gone.

"It's the finest building money can buy, reverend," the man says. "I spared no expense."

And he is right. It is a magnificent edifice, outside and in. But there is one striking difference. There is

only one pew, and it is at the very back.

"A church with only one pew?" asks the minister.

"You just wait until Sunday," the rich man says.

When the time comes for the Sunday service, the early arrivals enter the church, file onto the one pew and sit down. When the pew is full, a switch clicks silently, a circuit closes, the gears mesh, a belt moves and, automatically, the rear pew begins to move forward.

When it reaches the front of the church, it comes to a stop. At the same time, another empty pew comes up from below at the back and more people sit down. And so it continues, pews filling and moving forward until finally the church is full from front to back.

"Wonderful!" says the minister. "Marvelous!"

The service begins, and the minister starts to preach his sermon. He launches into his text and, when 12 o'clock comes, he is still going strong, with no end in sight. Suddenly a bell rings, and a trap door in the floor behind the pulpit drops open.

"Wonderful!" says the congregation. "Marvelous!"