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# Pilgrim

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

15 Masters Green Crescent

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Parsonage Phone: 905-789-8238 - Pastor's Cell: 647-783-0650

Website: [csitoronto.org](http://csitoronto.org)

## 2011 Motto

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



## Happy Thanksgiving

**Church of South India, Toronto For private Circulation only**



**President and Pastor  
Rev. Shaji M. Johnson**

**Office Bearers 2011**

<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Mr. George Samuel</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Mr. Roy Abraham</b>
<b>Jt. Secretary:</b>	<b>Miss Gisha Oommen</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Mr. Joseph P. Mathew</b>
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<b>Choir:</b>	<b>Mr. Isaac Mathews</b>
<b>Sunday school:</b>	<b>Mrs. Susan Thomas</b>
<b>Social Activities:</b>	<b>Mr. John Cherian</b>
<b>Men's Fellowship:</b>	<b>Mr. Cherian Varghese</b>
<b>Women's Fellowship:</b>	<b>Mrs. Sajany Koshie</b>
<b>Youth Fellowship:</b>	<b>Mr. Ron Abraham</b>
<b>Auditor:</b>	<b>Mr. Philip Mathai</b>
<b>Trustees:</b>	<b>Mr. Koshy Oommen</b> <b>Mr. Benjamin Chacko</b>
<b>Youth Leaders:</b>	<b>Biju &amp; Meera Jacob</b>

**Dearly beloved in Christ,**

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

This month we focus mainly on peace and reconciliation. The word peace in the Old Testament derives from the Hebrew word 'Shalom' which means completeness, soundness and well being. It refers to total well being. The word for peace in Greek is 'eirhnh' and it means "to join." It also means a state of untroubled peace of mind, a state without war or dividing factions or enmity. It refers to a state of harmony and well being. It is also used to symbolize peaceful conduct toward others.

Peace only comes from having an association with God. God is the spring of peace. Isaiah envisions a world where people thrash their swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks. (Is.2:4) God demands a radical alteration in human life and work. He wants the arsenal of destruction to be turned into the weapons of construction. The transformation of these weapons as instruments designed to kill are transformed into tools that are used in farming. They become instruments that support the ways of life. Some of our words, actions, attitudes and behaviours are so destructive. It should be changed. The church is a change agent in the world. It is our job as the church to show the world true peace. We can't be reduced to settling disputes like the rest of the world.

Reconciliation has long been recognized as a key element of a just and long-term peace. Reconciliation in Christianity has to do with the relationship between humankind and God, and on an inter-personal level. Reconciliation restores the relationship. Today's world is conflicted in all areas. Relations are being separated and dismantled. There is discrimination between the haves and have-nots. The gap between the powerful and the weak, the sacred and the secular, literate and illiterate, boss and slave are widening. In this context we are called to be the embodiment of reconciliation. Reconciliation is not the act of compromise or adjustments. But it is a goal to be achieved. Prophet Isaiah inspires us with wonderful metaphors regarding reconciliation. "Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain" (Is.4:4). There are mountains of hatred, grudge and ego in human minds. They should come down and perish.

This month we celebrate our harvest festival. The harvest celebration was one of the festivals God commanded the people through Moses to observe. It was also called the feast of weeks and it was united with the agricultural season of the Jews. The scripture says: "you shall keep the feast of unleavened bread and the feast of harvest, the first fruits of your labours, which you have sown in the field" (Exodus 23:15-19, Deuteronomy 16:9-12). The law additionally states that the people should not appear empty-handed but that "every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which He hath given thee." (Deuteronomy 16:16, 17)

Harvest time is to enjoy all that God has given you. *Thanks* mean nothing until you give back to God the gratitude due to Him. Offer thanks by singing to and about Him, praying to Him, giving all you have to Him including your talents, abilities, possessions and opportunities. I encourage all of you to offer your one day salary as thanksgiving and to donate things for auction and to actively participate in the auction.

Our church is in a transition period. Church is a family and all of us are brothers and sisters. We are bonded with the string of love and that cannot be broken. "What the church needs today is not more, or better machinery, not new organizations, or more novel methods; but men whom the Holy Spirit can use; men of prayer, men mighty in prayer".

May God bless you all  
Yours in Christ

Shajiachen

**COTTAGE PRAYER SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2011**

BETH-ZA-DA	CANCELLED	
SILOHOM	CANCELLED	
JORDAN	Mr.&Mrs.Joy chemmannur	Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> @ 6.30 pm
GILEAD	Mr. & Mrs. Sanju cherian	Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> @ 6.30 pm

**BIBLE STUDY**

Our next combined Bible Study will be held on October 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the service and social hour

**FASTING PRAYER**

The church will hold a fasting prayer at 10 AM on October 15, Saturday

**THANKSGIVING & HARVEST FESTIVAL**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.  
For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.  
(Psalm 100: 4,5)

The Thanksgiving and Harvest Festival of this year will be observed on  
October 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

Sunday School and Malayalam classes will be held as usual

<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>	<b>SUNDAY BIBLE READINGS</b>
<p>1 SAJAN ITTY</p> <p>2 JOSEPH MATHEWS (SHIBU)</p> <p>4 SIBY JACOB</p> <p>5 MATHEW JACOB (SANTHOSH)</p> <p>7 CHRISTY ABRAHAM</p> <p>8 SAMUEL ANSELM SAMUEL</p> <p>13 ISBEL SERA JOHNSON</p> <p>13 ABEL KONDOOR</p> <p>16 OMANA EAPEN</p> <p>16 GRACE ANN SAMUEL</p> <p>17 LINCY TITUS</p> <p>20 JOSHUA S. MOOTHEDOM</p> <p>20 ELIZABETH BENJAMIN</p> <p>21 GRACE ELSA GEORGE</p> <p>24 SUNITHA KONDOOR</p> <p>25 ROJ CHERIAN</p> <p>26 ANNAMMA SAMUEL (MOLLY)</p> <p>26 SHINI SAMUEL</p> <p>29 JADE DANIEL</p> <p>29 JOHN CHERIAN</p> <p>31 DANNY THOMAS</p>	<p><b>October 2      Peace and reconciliation</b></p> <p>1<sup>ST</sup> Lesson      Micah 4:1-8</p> <p>Psalm              85</p> <p>Second Lesson      II Corinthians 5:11-21</p> <p>Gospel              Matthew 10:34-42</p> <p><b>October 9      Solidarity with the mentally and physically challenged</b></p> <p>1<sup>ST</sup> Lesson      II Samuel 9:1-13</p> <p>Psalm              38</p> <p>Second Lesson      I Thessalonians 5:12-22</p> <p>Gospel:              Matthew 11:1-6</p> <p><b>October 16      Spirituality in the age of technology</b></p> <p>1<sup>ST</sup> Lesson      I Samuel 17:32-50</p> <p>Psalm              111</p> <p>Second Lesson      Philippians 3:1-16</p> <p>Gospel              Mark 10:17-31</p> <p><b>October 23      Harvest festival and Thanksgiving</b></p> <p>1<sup>ST</sup> Lesson      Deut.26:1-11</p> <p>Psalm              65</p> <p>Second Lesson      2 Cori. 9:6-15</p> <p>Gospel:              John6:26-35</p> <p><b>October 30      Re-discovering and re-living the faith</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> lesson              II Chronicles 34:8-21</p> <p>Psalm              112</p> <p>Second lesson      Jude 17-25</p> <p>Gospel              John 2:12-22</p>
<p><b>ANNIVERSARIES</b></p> <p>3 CHRISTY &amp; SHIRLEY ABRAHAM</p> <p>12 MICHAEL &amp; ANNIE CHACKO</p> <p>16 RENNIE &amp; PREETHA JOSEPH</p>	

## A Tisket - A Tasket God Has Filled My Blessing Basket

Julia Bettencourt

*"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." Hebrews 13:15*

Giving praise to the Lord is one of the best ways to express our thanks to God for His blessings and yet how many of us do it on a regular basis? Yes, we normally go through our routines of thanking God for our food before we eat, sometimes we even thank Him for the clothes we wear and praise Him for the sunshine. Around the Thanksgiving holiday we may even list out our blessings and reflect on what God has done, but to do we really *"offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually"* as our theme verse, Hebrews 13:15, states?

Continual doesn't just mean once a year or even once a day for that matter. It implies that it is repeated without interruption. David said in Psalm 34:1, *"...His praise shall continually be in my mouth."* He also said, *"At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments."* (Psalm 119:62)

When's the last time we found ourselves up at midnight thanking the Lord? Later on in that same psalm David says, *"Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments."* Do we stop seven times a day to praise God? Do we even stop once or twice to praise Him?

Now that we know that we need to praise God continually, how do we do it? If you think that all praising God involves is sitting in a small group in a quiet place, whispering quiet praise songs--think again! Praising God is an active thing.

The Bible says the following about praise. "shout for joy" (Ps. 32:11) "O clap your hands" (Ps. 47:1) "sing" (Ps. 47:6) "make a loud noise" (Ps. 98:4) "lift up your hands" (Ps. 134:2) "with the sound of trumpet" (Ps. 150:3) "upon the loud cymbals" (150:5) "make a joyful noise" (Ps. 98:4) "rejoice" (Ps. 98:4) "with harp" (Ps. 33:2) We are not to keep praising God to ourselves. We are to *"...make known his deeds among the people."* (Psalm 105:1) In other words if you receive a blessing--tell someone about it.

If we are going to develop a lifestyle of praise to God continually we need to put things in perspective. Realize who God is and we who are not. *"Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture."* (Psalm 100:3,4) We need to recognize that all of the things we find in our blessing basket come from above.

### 1. P Praise God because He is POWERFUL.

*"Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand."*  
Nehemiah 1:10

*"Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict."* Job 27:23

### 2. R Praise God because of His RIGHTEOUSNESS.

*"Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep: O LORD, thou*

*preservest man and beast." Psalm 36:6*

*"...for the LORD our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth..." Daniel 9:14*

**3. A Praise God because he is ABLE.**

*"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." Ephesians 3:20*

*"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8*

**4. I Praise God because He is INFINITE.**

*"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen." Romans 11:33-36*

**5. S Praise God because of His STRENGTH.**

*"God is my strength and power: And he maketh my way perfect." 2 Samuel 22:33*

*"The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved." Psalm 93:1*

**6. E Praise God because He is EVERLASTING.**

*"Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding." Isaiah 40:28*

*"...and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6*

**P-R-A-I-S-E!**

**So, are you praising God?**





ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL & THANKSGIVING

OCTOBER 23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY 2011

*COME..!!*

*BE BLESSED...!!!*