



പിള്ളിരിം (തീർത്ഥാടകൻ)



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

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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
വിളിക്കപ്പെടുവാൻ പിതാവു നമുക്കു എത്ര വലിയ
സ്നേഹം നൽകിയിരിക്കുന്നു; 1 യോഹന്നാൻ 3:1



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

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Vice President:	Mr. George Samuel
Secretary:	Mr. Roy Abraham
Jt. Secretary:	Miss Gisha Oommen
Treasurer:	Mr. Joseph P. Mathew
Jt. Treasurer:	Mr. Sanju Cherian

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Choir:	Mr. Isaac Mathews
Sunday school:	Mrs. Susan Thomas
Social Activities:	Mr. John Cherian
Men's Fellowship:	Mr. Cherian Varghese
Women's Fellowship:	Mrs. Sajany Koshie
Youth Fellowship:	Mr. Ron Abraham
Auditor:	Mr. Philip Mathai
Trustees:	Mr. Koshy Oommen
	Mr. Benjamin Chacko
Youth Leaders:	Biju & Meera Jacob

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Dearly beloved in Christ,

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

In September we observe Women's Sunday. On this day, as a church we honor women and acknowledge their dignity and talents in various measures. This special Sunday celebration in our Church provides opportunities for our women to accomplish their calling to share in the Great Commission Christ gave to His church. It encourages women to improve their potential and participation in the mission of the Church. Women's Sunday also enables women to establish and strengthen their relationship with Jesus Christ, develop in godly maturity, leadership skills and share the message of Jesus Christ with the world.

In both the Old and New Testaments, women were used by God in spreading the gospel. Jesus did not disrespect women or ignore them, but treated them with much respect. He accepted them and made them part of His Godly missions.

The Church is the body of Christ and all parts of the body perform different functions, but all parts are equal and important to the whole. Just as the foot performs a different function from the eyes, both are required for the body to be complete. Likewise both men and women are required to be essentials in the functioning of the church. Let us all stand together to uphold the dignity of women in our church and society. May God empower and enhance all women in all their responsibilities in the expansion of the kingdom of God.

Our students and teachers are entering into a new academic year. All of them are preparing to attain knowledge through education. The word "education derives from the Latin word *educare*, meaning "to educate" or "to train". This Latin word is remotely derived from two other Latin words, *e* and *duco*. Taken together, these words mean: "I lead out of". Education therefore, means a "leading out" - leading something out of a person. It is, for this reason, the process of encouraging the development of God-given inherent gifts and the knowledge which the Lord has given to each person.

The first step of education is to have one's eyes opened and be turned from darkness to light. In the Indian religious context the teacher is being given the meaningful term `GURU`. *Gu* means darkness and *Ru* means the remover of that darkness. A true Guru removes darkness (*Maya* or worldly desires) from the minds of his or her student and shows them the way to peace and sanctity their conscious mind. "The highest function of education is to bring about an integrated individual who is capable of dealing with life as a whole." (Jiddu Krishnamurti). The process of education also compels one person to be the embodiment of virtues in the context of darkness and evil. I wish all students and teachers in our parish a meaningful academic year.

I congratulate all the leaders, teachers, volunteers, parents and donors of VBS for its marvellous performance.

May God bless you all

Yours in Christ

Shajiachen

COTTAGE PRAYER SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2011

BETH-ZA-DA	CANCELLED	
SILOHAM	CANCELLED	
JORDAN	Mr. & Mrs. Prashanth Koshy	Sat. Sept. 17 th . @ 6:30 pm
GILEAD	Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Fredrick	Sat. Sept. 24 th . @ 6:30 pm

BIBLE STUDY

Our next combined Bible Study will be held on the third Sunday of September. Achen will be leading the study on the book of Genesis. In preparation please read Chapters 1-11.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes will commence from September after the worship service. For further details please contact Achen

MENS FELLOWSHIP FOOD DRIVE

The Food Drive initiated by the Men's Fellowship is open for contributions. Please bring any non perishable food item. The food basket is kept at the back of the church. The food collected will be given to the Food Bank.

WOMEN'S SUNDAY

We will be celebrating Sunday September 4th. as Women's Sunday. Women Fellowship members will take an active part in the worship service. The message will be given by Mrs. Usha Chandy from Bangalore.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND MALAYALAM CLASSES

Sunday school and Malayalam classes will resume in September after the summer holidays.

CALLED TO ETERNITY

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing on of Mrs. Esther Oommen, wife of Mr. Tharian Oommen a former member of our church and the elder brother of Mr. Koshy Oommen and Mrs. Aleyama Jacob. Mrs. Esther Oommen is the sister of Mr. Varghese Jacob (Rajuchayan). Mrs. Esther Oommen passed away on August 28th. at 3:00 pm at the Scarborough General Hospital.

Please uphold the bereaving families in our prayers and may God give them comfort during this time of sorrow.

BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Jacob Mathew John |
| 2 | Sarah Mariam John |
| 4 | Ruby Aleyamma Roy |
| 7 | Elizabeth Verghis |
| 7 | Ancy Jacob |
| 8 | Priya Abraham |
| 8 | Toby Jacob |
| 8 | Aleyamma Chandy |
| 11 | John Chandy |
| 13 | John Mathew |
| 13 | Shiny Shibu |
| 13 | Raj Hariharan |
| 14 | Rachel Cherian |
| 15 | Akshay Mathews |
| 16 | Betty Kanjirappallil |
| 21 | Michael Chacko |
| 21 | Mark Puthiampadavil |
| 24 | Vishal Koshy Oommen |
| 27 | Anju Thomas |
| 28 | Suja Sara Koshy |
| 28 | Elizabeth Mathai |
| 29 | Lalji John |
| 29 | Josh Benjamin |
| 30 | Susan Koshie |
| 30 | Anand Jesudas |
|
 | |
| Anniversaries | |
| 6 | Jes Victor Daniel & Jessy |
| 10 | Joseph Thomas & Susan |
| 10 | T. Mathew Chacko & Meera Jacob |
| 11 | Prasanth Koshy & Sheena Mathew |
| 11 | Renjith George & Pushpa Mariam |
| 12 | George Samuel & Viji |
| 16 | Rennie Philips & Preetha |
| 28 | Aaron Fredrick & Mini Fredrick |

BIBLE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2011

Sept. 4th. **WOMEN'S SUNDAY.** Jesus empowers Women (Eng.)
 1st. Lesson: Esther 7: 1-10
 Psalm: Luke 1: 46-55
 2nd. Lesson: 2 Timothy 1: 1-15
 Gospel: Luke 13: 10-17
 Read by: Women's Fellowship Members

Sept 11th. - Church's Ministry of Education (Ma)
 1st. Lesson: Proverbs 8: 1-12
 Psalm: 119: 97-104
 2nd Lesson: Acts 8: 26-38
 Gospel: Mark 1: 21-28
 Read by: Mr. & Mrs. Abraham P. George & family

Sept. 18. The Gospel and Religious Pluralism (Eng.)
 1st. Lesson: Isaiah 45: 1-8
 Psalm: 67
 2nd lesson: Acts 17: 16-31
 Gospel: Matthew 15: 21-28
 Read by: Mr. & Mrs. George Samuel & family

Sept. 25th. Accepting the Aged (Ma)
 1st. Lesson: Isaiah 40: 21-31
 Psalm: 139: 1-18
 2nd. Lesson: 1 Timothy 5: 1-10
 Gospel: Luke 2: 25-38
 Read by: Mr. & Mrs. Wincy John & family

PEW USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER

Sept. 4th.
 Women's Fellowship members

Sept. 11th.
 Meljo Varghese & Ranjan Koshie

Sept. 18th.
 Abraham Philip & Jean Varghese

Sept. 25th.
 Mathew Chacko & Meljo Varghese

10 Reasons Why Church Going Is Important for Family Life

By Ngozi Nwoke

"I don't want to go to church!" screams a little boy. "I don't feel like going to church", says a parent. You must have heard or said one of these sentences many times or at least twice. This calls for a reflection on the benefits of church going for family life.

An understanding of these benefits will change our perspective and attitude towards making the trip to church, no matter the distance or how we feel at that time.

The benefits:

1. Obedience to God

God commanded us in Hebrews 10:25, not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. This is for our own good so that we will not be swept away by the things of the world. So, as a family we obey God by going to Church.

2. Fellowship

When families go to church together, they interact with other families and learn from one another. What was a challenge in one family life will be easily solved by learning how another solved it. The bible says in Proverbs 27:17, "As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend". (NLT)

3. Family Life molding

Church going is crucial and plays a major part in molding our family life. The teachings mold our individual characters which we manifest in the family. My family is built on love, honesty, integrity, openness, faithfulness, discipline and trust because individually we have these molded in us through the teachings we get from church.

4. Service

As a car needs to go in for service so also families need to go to church to be serviced. We learn more about God and how to live a victorious Christian life as a family. Many questions in our minds are answered and solutions to problems are

given as we listen to the man of God preaching. We are also ministered to through the songs, testimonies, prayers, etc.

Furthermore, we are given opportunities to serve God in the church as a family through service units like choir, ushering team, etc. All these help to cement and maintain the joy we have in our family life

5. Networking

Many Christians wonder how they are to socialize. Going to church gives the platform to do that. You meet and get to know new people who love God like you. Some of these people may have some things in common with your family. These may generate a relationship that will be beneficial to both families, financially or otherwise.

6. Avoidance of trouble

We have kept away from trouble because we chose to be in church when there was service in church. The people who would have put us into trouble did not find us available for outings that would have ruined our family life.

7. Choice of company

Going to church enables you to choose the right company to keep. Children make friends with people that love God and will never lead them astray. Children who go to church and participate fully with their hearts tend to overcome peer pressure more.

8. Choice of spouse

When you go to church, you have the opportunity to meet and marry a God fearing person. The marriage foundation will be solid because both of you are on the same spiritual platform which is needed for a successful family life

9. Peace

Families who go to church enjoy peace at home. Jesus, the prince of peace who we fellowship with in church, follows us home to continue the fellowship there. The word of God in us individually produces peace in us which ultimately reflects in our relationship with one another

10. Channel for salvation

Most importantly, church going

gives people the opportunity to change and give their lives to Christ Jesus. God wants people to come to church no matter what they may have done. The word of God we hear constantly produces the faith to be saved. And if any member of the family is yet to give his or her life to Jesus, continued church going will eventually help the person(s) to be saved.

Many families are going through a lot of challenges that are tearing them apart. Going to church consistently and participating fully will solve that problem. The wisdom for solving family issues is always delivered in church. Is there anything that can stop one from going to church now?

What other benefit can your family derive from church going?

Ngozi Nwoke is a teacher and a counselor. A product and distributor of love. She has a passion to teach people how to enjoy God's love and fellowship for more fulfilling life.

Article Source: FaithWriters.com
<http://www.faithwriters.com> and [FaithReaders.com](http://www.faithreaders.com)
<http://www.faithreaders.com>

Letter received from Mr. Shibu Mathew from the Utraula Mission Field in Uttar Pradesh.

My dear supporters and prayer partners of the Toronto CSI Church

Loving greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

I am so happy to know that you and the Church pray for us and our ministry every Sunday. I am so sorry that I couldn't send you the field information regularly. I know that you are just blindly praying for our ministry. I think you know that we are staying in a place where there are no proper electricity or internet cafes. We have a 15 hour power cut.

During the months of May and June, we were out of station for some program and for our annual leave in Kerala. On our return we moved to another location due to the dust and the problems it caused our son Sam. During this hot summer we were without electricity for a week, and many nights we could not get proper sleep. But through your prayers and God's love we were able to overcome these difficulties.

I am writing this using my mobile. If it is God's will I will be getting a loan of Rs. 20000 from the Indian Evangelical Mission to buy a laptop which will help me to communicate with you more often.

By God's grace, on July 8th. We started a hostel project for the children of our believers who reside in an interior village where there are no schools. This year we have taken 8 children to stay in the hostel. IEM missionary Mr. Timothy from Manipal became our first warden. Our vision is to make the second generation strong in faith and use them for God's glory within their own people.

On July 22nd. three people received the Lord as their Savior and were baptized. If it is God's will another person will be baptized in Utraula.

I will send you pictures of the children in the hostel and baptism later. Please pray for this ministry and continue to support us. Once again I am sorry for not sending the prayer points regularly and thank you once again for your prayer support.

Yours in His ministry

Shibu Mathew, Sija, Sam and Sarah

A Children's Story

Bamboo

Once upon a time, in the heart of the Western Kingdom, lay a beautiful garden. And there, in the cool of the day, the Master of the garden went for a walk. Of all the denizens of the garden, the most beautiful and most beloved was gracious and noble Bamboo. Year after year, Bamboo grew yet more noble and gracious, conscious of his Master's love and watchful delight, but modest and gentle withal. And often when the wind came to revel in the garden, Bamboo would cast aside his grave stateliness, to dance and play right merrily, tossing and swaying and leaping and bowing in joyous abandon, leading the Great Dance of the garden, which most delighted the Master's heart.

Now, once upon a day, the Master himself drew near to contemplate his Bamboo with eyes of curious expectancy. And Bamboo, in a passion of adoration, bowed his great head to the ground in loving greeting.

The Master spoke: "Bamboo, Bamboo, I would use you."

Bamboo flung his head to the sky in utter delight. The day of days had come, the day for which he had been made, the day to which he had been growing hour by hour, the day in which he would find his completion and his destiny.

His voice came low: "Master, I'm ready. Use me as Thou wilt."

"Bamboo," – The Master's voice was grave -- "I would have to take you and cut you down!"

A trembling of great horror shook Bamboo..."Cut ...me... down? Me. who thou, Master, has made the most beautiful in all thy Garden...cut me down! Ah, not that. Not that. Use me for the joy, use me for the glory, oh master, but cut me not down!"

Beloved Bamboo,"—The Master's voice grew graver still—"If I cut you not down, I cannot use you."

The garden grew still. Wind held his breath. Bamboo slowly bent his proud and

glorious head. There was a whisper:

"Master, if thou cannot use me other than to cut me down. Then do thy will and cut".

"Bamboo, beloved Bamboo, I would cut your leaves and branches from you also".

"Master, spare me. Cut me down and lay my beauty in the dust; but would thou also take from me, my leaves and branches too?"

"Bamboo, if I cut them not away, I cannot use you."

The Sun hid his face. A listening butterfly glided fearfully away. And Bamboo shivered in terrible expectancy, whispering low: "Master, cut away"

"Bamboo, Bamboo, I would yet... split you in two and cut out your heart, for if I cut not so, I cannot use you."

Then Bamboo bowed to the ground: "Master, Master... then cut and split."

So did the Master of the garden. He took Bamboo...

and cut him down...

and hacked off his branches...

and stripped off his leaves...

and split him in two...

and cut out his heart.

And lifting him gently carried him to where there was a spring of fresh sparkling water in the midst of his dry fields. Then putting one end of the broken Bamboo in the spring and the other end into the water channel in His field, the Master laid down gently his beloved Bamboo... And the spring sang welcome, and the clear sparkling waters raced joyously down the channel of bamboo's torn body into the waiting fields. Then the rice was planted, and the days went by, and the shoots grew and the harvest came.

In that day Bamboo, once so glorious in his stately beauty, was yet more glorious in his brokenness and humility. For in his beauty he was life abundant, but in his brokenness he became a channel of abundant life to his Master's world.

Author Unknown