



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church Toronto

# Pilgrim

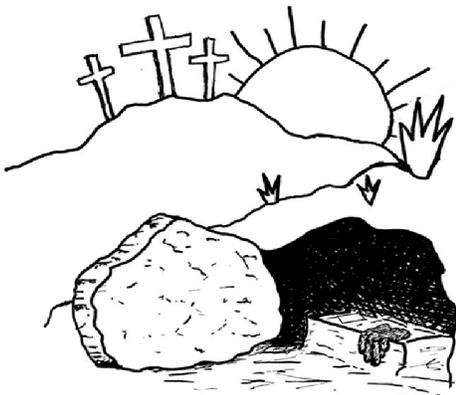
Volume 12 Issue 4

APRIL 2012



## 2012 Motto

*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.* Isaiah 43: 19



*He is not here; for He's risen*  
[Matthew 28:6]

Special Services on  
Maundy Thursday,  
Good Friday  
&  
Easter

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# Pilgrim

**APRIL 2012**

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## *Editorial*

The season of lent has taken us to Easter, the celebration of the triumphant resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Easter is the declaration of our faith that Jesus has conquered death and is alive for evermore. It is also the affirmation of the hope that one day we shall all leave the perishable, earthly bodies and be clothed in ethereal, imperishable; transforming ourselves to vessels of praise.

Traditionally, during Easter, eggs are used to mark the jubilation of the rebirth of nature in the spring, a reminder of the breaking of the grave that held the body of Christ. When people do partake in the festivities following Easter, they indirectly, but explicitly declare the fact that Christ has risen. The vault couldn't contain the risen Lord. Though there are many arguments that doubt the genuineness of this event, heaven smiles at the transitory reasoning faculty of man that doubts the very shadow of a person. The Bible says, 'The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.' (Matthew 28:5-6) This has been validated by Christ's appearing to Mary Magdalene and the disciples; and showing them the wounds on his body. The power of His resurrection has been so tremendous that, many people still experience it.

The stories in the air are the result of baseless claims made by some people who are biased in their views. The *disguise story* cannot hold ground on account of the visuals people had during the post- resurrection period. The marks of the wounds speak! The *theft story* has lost ground to the disciples' apprehension of being exposed. They regained strength only on the day of anointing. They lacked guts! The story of *feigning death* is built on a shaky ground. Having lost much blood and strength, how could Jesus escape from the sealed vault? Impossible! All these point to the fact that the risen Lord, whom Saul encountered on his way to Damascus, still demands entry into our lives. The Son of man whom John encountered at Patmos says, "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.' (Rev. 1: 17-18)

As we step into the celebration, the Alpha and Omega expects each one of us to experience Him in a special way, whether it is through an encounter or visitation. This Easter can add a double blessing: earthly and spiritual, to the winding path of a believer.

Samuel Anselm Samuel

Editor

## Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ,

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

As Christians we have two great celebrations: Christmas and Easter! If incarnation of God is the reason of celebration of Christmas, the empty tomb is the basis of celebration of Easter. Easter is the celebration of victory of goodness over the forces of evil. The experience of Easter eradicates darkness which surrounds our lives; devastates fears and takes out our loneliness. So Easter is the true celebration of life.

Easter is counted not simply as a commemoration of events that occurred at one time in the past - instead, it is regarded as an existing symbol of the very nature of Christianity. We receive life in abundance through Christ and this process is a continuous one. Easter is not just providing hope for today, but hope beyond death. The resurrection of Jesus shows that death isn't the last chapter of life. There is life even after the death. Jesus conquered death through his resurrection. In John 11:25-26, Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." As believers in Jesus, we don't have to fear death. We know that the best is yet to come as we surrender to Christ, our Lord.

God has a plan for every person in the world and it starts with surrendering our lives to the leadership of God's Son Jesus. Easter doesn't have to end on Easter Sunday for us. The same hope we feel on Easter, can be experienced each day as we trust Jesus. Easter fills up hope and courage in us and equips us for the mission of evangelization.

As parish, we had a quite meaningful time during this Lenten season. The devotions we held in our church on Wednesdays were consecrated occasions for contemplation, reflection and prayer. I ask your valued presence and active involvement in all the special services to be conducted during the Holy week. May the messages from the cross inspire us and make us channels of blessings and divine peace.

The Etobikoke- Humberwest area Clericus meeting was held in our church last month. Bishop Poole and eighteen pastors attended this meeting. I thank the executive committee for making necessary arrangements for the smooth running of this fellowship.

I wish 'Malayala Lokam' all the very best as they prepare for the Malayala Lokam Sunday and the anniversary celebrations on the first Sunday of April. The Language school of our church is a great favor towards our new generation in the process of learning our mother tongue. Malayalam is the sweet language which connects our people to our own roots and gives us the sense of community belonging. When our roots are strong we don't need to fear being blown away by any wind. I hope 'Malayala Lokam' will be a valuable resource of understanding our race, community and culture.

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*(Continued from page 3)*

The monthly praise and worship under the auspices of our Men's Fellowship is certainly a significant foot-step in the spiritual run of the parish. This is also a time to revive and refresh our lives in a hectic world. I urge you all to find some time to spend together in praise, prayer and meditations.

**I wish you all Happy and Joyous Easter!**

May God bless you all  
Yours in Christ  
Shajiachen

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### Why Missions? A Biblical perspective!

*Missions Committee*

The Bible says:-

**Matthew 18:5** And whosoever shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

**Matthew 25:40** And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

**Matthew 28:19** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

**James 1:27** Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

#### ***Missionaries in the Bible***

**John 1:6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

**John 4:** 28 The woman then left her water pot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, 29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? 30 Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

**Mark 1:40** ¶And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. 41 And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean. 44 And saith unto him, See thou say nothing to

*(Continued on page 9)*

|   |   |                         |                                      |
|---|---|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>April 1</b><br><br>Palm Sunday                           | Jesus the sign of peace                     |                         |                                      |
|   | Old Testament                               | Zechariah 9: 9-12       | Malayalam Service                    |
|   | Psalm                                       | 24                      | Read by                              |
|   | Epistle                                     | Ephesians 2:11-22       | Malayala Lokam students              |
|   | Gospel                                      | John 12:12-19           |                                      |
| <b>April 5</b><br><br>Maundy Thursday                       | Eucharist: Celebration of fellowship        |                         |                                      |
|   | Old Testament                               | Exodus 12:1-14          | English Service                      |
|   | Psalm                                       | 116                     | Read by                              |
|   | Epistle                                     | 1 Corinthians 11: 23-34 | Mr. Benjamin Chacko & family         |
|   | Gospel                                      | Mathew 26:20-30         |                                      |
| <b>April 6</b><br><br>Good Friday:<br>The day of redemption | Revelation of the power of God's Salvation  |                         |                                      |
|   | Old Testament                               | Genesis 22:1-14         | Malayalam Service                    |
|   | Psalm                                       | 22                      | Read by                              |
|   | Epistle                                     | 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25  | Mr. Prashanth T. Koshy & family      |
|   | Gospel                                      | Mathew 27: 27-56        |                                      |
| <b>April 8</b><br><br>Easter                                | Christ's resurrection : Celebration of hope |                         |                                      |
|   | Old Testament                               | Ezekiel 37: 1-14        | Malayalam Service                    |
|   | Psalm                                       | 16                      | Read by                              |
|   | Epistle                                     | 1 Corinthians 15: 1-20  | Mr. & Mrs. Santhosh Zac Koshy        |
|   | Gospel                                      | Luke 24: 1-12           |                                      |
| <b>April 15</b><br><br>First Sunday after Easter            | Encounter with the risen Christ             |                         |                                      |
|   | Old Testament                               | Job 19: 1-29            | English Service                      |
|   | Psalm                                       | 48                      | Read by                              |
|   | Epistle                                     | Acts 9: 1-19            | Mr. Shaji Levison Moothedom & Family |
|   | Gospel                                      | Luke 24: 13-35          |                                      |

**BIRTHDAYS**

|    |                         |    |                |
|----|-------------------------|----|----------------|
| 04 | Mathew Modayil Kuruvila | 17 | Jacob Cherian  |
| 05 | Gregory Chungath        | 20 | Tim Eapen      |
| 11 | Miriam Chacko           | 21 | Mini George    |
| 12 | Regie Koshy             | 21 | Nisha Thomas   |
| 16 | Ruth Philip Joseph      | 22 | Abraham Chacko |



**ANNIVERSARIES**

07 Rev. Shaji M. Johnson & Sangeeth Shaji

**Bible Portions**

*(Continued from page 5)*

|   |               | Experience of the risen Lord |   |
|---|---------------|------------------------------|---|
| <b>April 22</b><br><br>Second Sunday after Easter | Old Testament | Job 5: 8-19                  | <b>Malayalam Service</b><br><br>Read by<br><br>Mr. & Mrs Jophy Jacob Philip |
|   | Psalm         | 93                           |   |
|   | Epistle       | Revelation 1:4-8             |   |
|   | Gospel        | John 21: 1-14                |   |
|   |               | Witnessing the risen Lord    |   |
| <b>April 29</b><br><br>Third Sunday after Easter  | Old Testament | Daniel 12: 1-13              | <b>Malayalam Service</b><br><br>Read by<br><br>Mr. Thomas Mathai & family   |
|   | Psalm         | 23                           |   |
|   | Epistle       | Acts 2: 22-36                |   |
|   | Gospel        | John 20: 1-18                |   |



### **Palm Sunday & Malayala lokam Anniversary**

April 1, Palm Sunday worship service will be in Malayalam. Students and teachers from Malayala Lokam will be leading the Palm Sunday Service

After the Service, Malayala Lokam will be celebrating the 7th Anniversary. This will be held at the basement.

### **Maundy Thursday**

Holy Communion Service will be held at 7:30 PM on Maundy Thursday, the 5th of April. All are invited. There will be no prayer meeting on Wednesday.

### **Good Friday**

Good Friday special service will start at 11 AM on April 6, Friday.

### **Prayer meeting at Parsonage**

This month both cottage prayer groups will meet together and hold a prayer meeting at our parsonage in Brampton on April 7, 2012 at 6:30 PM. All members are invited.

### **Easter Sunday**

Special Easter service will be held on April 8, Sunday.

Our Silver Jubilee Committee is planning to take the Church Family picture on April 8, Easter Sunday immediately after the worship service. All our members are requested to be present on Easter Sunday.

### **Church Family get-together**

The Church family get-together for this month will be held on Friday, April 20th starting at 7:00 PM at the Church basement. It will be an evening of fun and frolic, laughter and liveliness.

Please come with your loved ones and enjoy the special time of fun, games and entertainment.

### **Confirmation class**

Confirmation class will be held as usual.

For more pictures and news coverage, please visit: <http://csichurchtoronto.org>

## Ashabhavan News

I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

(Psalm 16:8)

Our hearts are filled with immense gratitude to our Lord for His abundant providence. We'd like to admit that all our accomplishments are due to the priceless prayer support that we received from everyone.

Every month, Eucharist is offered at St. Monica's Chapel by Rev. Varghese Philip. We've also set apart a special time every week for Bible study. Staff meetings are held every Monday and cooking class every Thursday.

We celebrated Onam on September 5, 2011, which included *Onasadya* and games. We're glad that Mrs. Elizabeth Kuruvila, the North Kerala Diocese Bishop's wife and Dr. Elizabeth Daniel, the East Kerala Diocese Bishop's wife, took part in the *Onasadya* along with the Women's Fellowship Committee members.

Rev. K. C. Abraham and Dr. Molly Abraham, the administrators of Lisa Home, Bangaluru, a home for the physically and mentally challenged, visited us on September 16<sup>th</sup> 2011. During the visit, they inquired about the status of our programs and even purchased some of our products.

Rev. Lijo George Oommen and 46 Women's Fellowship members from Puthuval CSI Church called on us on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011. They spent some productive time with us in prayer and gained deep insight into the functioning of Ashabhavan.

We held our annual meeting at the CSI Retreat Centre, Kottayam on November 26, 2011. We were able to sell delicacies and decoration items. The meeting was inaugurated by Sr. Shobha, the Editor of *Mother*. The first sale was done by Rt. Rev. Thomas K. Oommen, Bishop Madhya Kerala Diocese. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who relentlessly worked and cooperated for the success of the meeting.

We need to take up the added responsibility of recognizing rare talents and bringing them to limelight. We do request your continued help and support in all the activities of Ashabhavan.

*(Originally written by Anu Ninan and published in 'The Family Friend', December 2011 edition; translated by Samuel Anselm Samuel)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

any man: but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them. 45 But he went out, and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter, insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places: and they came to him from every quarter.

**Mark 6:7** And Jesus called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

**Acts of the Apostles 2:5** And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. 9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, 10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

What we the followers of Christ can do:

### **Give**

8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. 9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. 10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. 11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. 12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts. Malachi 3:8-12

### **Act**

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matt 28:19-20

### **Pray**

Pray ye therefore to the Lord of harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. Matt 9:38.

Jesus watches over the treasury, knows our motives, looks at the heart, and knows if we do it for him or to be seen by others.

**Mark 12:41** And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treas-

*(Continued on page 12)*

## Titanic

*Suja Sarah Koshy*

Are you wondering what the Titanic has to do with this edition of Pilgrim? Well as a matter of fact on the 10th of April, a century back, in 1912 the Titanic was born, launched and was all set for her maiden trip across the North Atlantic Ocean from Southampton, England to New York City. I am not taking this opportunity or space to explain the beauty, comforts, riches or luxury of this world renowned ship. We have read books, watched movies & documentaries and probably even studied lessons in school of this great luxury liner. However I was reading some material about the Titanic and deliberately pondering for more than just a short while last week and the Holy Spirit revealed various truths comparable to our own lives. And I would like to share this with you.

A hundred years back!! The Titanic, in those days was the epitome of beauty, wealth, luxury, comfort & extravagance. Her passengers included some of the world's wealthiest people of that era. And she boasted of having an on-board gymnasium, swimming pool, libraries, high-class restaurants and opulent cabins, advanced safety features & a powerful wireless telegraph system. Yet the sinking of the Titanic is considered one of the deadliest peacetime maritime disasters in history. Alas what the Titanic plunged into was, nothing short of a tragedy! Some issues got me thinking: Why did she not have enough life boats on board to accommodate all the passengers? It is also said that the Titanic received a series of warnings from other ships of the drifting ice. Why did they not heed to the warnings? Didn't everything about the Titanic appear excellent and well done? All this set me thinking, reasoning & debating. Was it pride? Arrogance? Over confidence?

I began reflecting on how close this seemed to Christian life. We are so concerned about all things exterior: that perfect body, hair & clothes, that designer bag and shoes, that poised talk, that chic & elegant look, the pretense of self confidence, dignified and composed at all times. Have we considered our inner man? The Apostle Paul talks about the inner man on several occasions because that's what Christ is seeking – the inner man without blemish. Our outer man is going to crumble someday not far off. The outer man was made of dust and will return to dust, however the inner man, the spirit, the breath that God blew into our nostrils, the breath of life, and the spirit must return to Him. Are we preparing our inner man to meet with the Lord, our creator? Are we heeding the counsel that is preached? Are we receptive to the end time warnings from the word of God? Are we alert and sensitive to the tender voice of the Holy Spirit? Let us make a conscious effort to nurture our inner man. The Apostle Paul prayed earnestly that we may recog-

nize the need to prosper our inner man – it is recorded in The Bible in Eph 3:14-19 14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,[c] 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

I pray that we make a conscious effort to ensure that our lives do not represent the Titanic which symbolizes outward beauty and total disaster, but rather our lives be an aroma, a fragrance that is pleasing & acceptable to Christ.

### Souvenir

The Silver Jubilee Souvenir Committee is planning to publish a souvenir, and is requesting a full page advertisement (e.g. family photo, best wishes/best compliments or In Loving Memory of loved ones, etc.) from each family.

Everyone's co-operation is greatly appreciated. Advertisements may be handed over to Sudeep Oommen, Reji Johnson, Suja Sarah Koshy or Jophy Jacob Philip.

*The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake.....*

*Basil C. Hume*

### Springtime

*Anna Esther Samuel*

**I**t's springtime  
The time to enjoy!  
Earth is green  
Filled with chirps!

The rivers sing....  
The flowers dance....  
The birds fly....  
The bees hum....

The flowers with fresh honey,  
Call the bees and flies  
The spider is hidden;  
A poor butterfly is caught!

There is a dew drop  
In every plant;  
There is joy  
In every animal

So come, let us all enjoy  
The beautiful spring!

**The Executive Committee Members of the CSI Church, Toronto**

|                                  |                       |                                |                          |
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ury: and many that were rich cast in much. 42 And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. 43 And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: 44 For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

**Matthew 6:**1 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. 2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 3 But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: 4 That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

*Happy Easter..!*

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