



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church Toronto

Pilgrim

Volume 12 Issue 3

MARCH 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

The
Season
of
Lent



Malayala
Lokam
Anniversary
on April 1

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Pilgrim

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Editorial



Lenten thoughts....

The life in this chaotic world beset with problems is in sharp contrast to the heavenly calm in the Garden of Eden. Though we lost that paradise, the Lord of Hosts opened us the way to regain it, through the supreme sacrifice of His son Jesus Christ. The season of lent unfolds the chances of introspection to determine our positions in the onward journey towards eternity. It is a time to revisit our strengths and weaknesses, using the Word of God as a touchstone.

During lent, many people try to shut themselves from every pleasure, look sober and declare that they are carrying their crosses. Some do it for fashion and yet others do for the sake of it. We need to know that the Lord sees our hearts. 1 Samuel 16:7 says, "God sees not as men sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

When we remember the suffering that Christ went through for our redemption, we'll be humbled before His unfathomable, encompassing love. Then the parallel lines in our lives shall lose their power and converge at the feet of the second Adam who left us an example. When we abstain from something that has been our weakness for quite long and pass through the stage of suffering, we come to realize how weak our flesh is; and how the Holy Spirit can transform us into conquerors.

Usually people are lost due to a myriad of teachings that make valid arguments for themselves. The Word of God and the Holy Spirit should guide you into the right decision of self-denial, enabling you to stay alert, ever shining for the glory of God.

Samuel Anselm Samuel

Editor

Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ,

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

The Church is passing through the meaningful period of Lent. For us, it is the time to be spent at the shadow of Jesus' cross in prayer and contemplation. Humanity is in a lost and perishing condition due to sin and want of righteousness. God the loving father has chosen them to salvation, God the Son has redeemed them, and God the Spirit sanctifies them.

We need the realization that our life is the precious gift from God and it should be retained purified and cleansed in all aspects. As sinful human beings we are not able to make ourselves pure. But it is achievable only through the shed blood of our saviour Jesus Christ. So with faith, prayer and modest submission we have to place our lives before the cross to make us spotless before God.

We as parish, families and individuals are required to experience Lent as a time of renewal and rebirth. Let us all look to the cross and learn important practical lessons about our Christian life. May God bless us to experience a fruitful Lent.

I would like to thank and appreciate all our parish members for making our annual general body meeting splendid and exemplary. I hope the unanimous decisions we have taken will make the future of our church luminous. As we step into a new chapter in our church life this year, it is certainly a great blessing for us and for our generations. I congratulate the newly elected executive committee and other committee members to the various offices for the year. All of them are dynamic and well dedicated in their service. I pray that wisdom from above, vision and strength be granted, enabling them to serve our wonderful church. May God continue to richly bless them in the leadership they provide to our parish. May the Light of Christ glow their hearts, mind and path as they start to render their duties. I also thank the interim executive committee for all the good and great work they did for our parish over the last couple of months.

I thank our Women's Fellowship for their enthusiasm; commitment and hard work which made the family get together a lovely event. These kinds of meetings foster genuine fellowship in church life.

Our Sunday school celebrated its anniversary in a befitting way. I thank the director, teachers, students and volunteers for making it a joyous time for all who attended. Sunday school moulds a child to know God properly and guides the child to come to a closer relationship with God. We are going to start the new academic year with a novel syllabus and the children will obtain adequate time to learn. Our Sunday school staff are trying their best to provide spiritual nourishment to our kids and I request parents to make sure that their children are benefited from our Sunday school.

May God bless you all

Yours in Christ

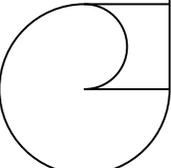
Shajiachen



A Note of Encouragement from the Carr family, Calgary

From: Carr Family
To: CSI Church <pilgrimcsi.to@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 16, 2012 at 12:29 AM
Subject: A note of encouragement

I am sending you this brief note of encouragement because you have encouraged me. I grew up in Etobicoke and attended the Church of St. Wilfrid. In 1980 I moved to Calgary and I have lived here since then. My Mother and my Stepfather continued to live at 77 Thorncrest Road, so I would visit them and attend Church with them. In 2006 my wife, our 3 children and I attended St. Wilfrid's at Christmas. In 2007 my Stepsister and my Mother both passed away within 3 weeks of each other. I gave the eulogies for them at St. Wilfrid's. I was very sad to hear that the Church was closing its doors. I was in Toronto last Friday (February 10) and drove down Kipling Avenue to visit my Stepfather. I wondered if St. Wilfrid's had been torn down and turned into houses. My heart leaped with joy when I saw your sign outside the building. Another congregation arising in the Church building that I called home for so many years? Truly, God is good. I am now back in Calgary and searched the internet to learn more about your Church and it was such a delight to see pictures of services taking place in the building once again. I hope I may have the opportunity to worship with you on another trip to Toronto. For now, though, my prayers and thoughts are with you. Be much encouraged, for you have blessed my heart. Let me know how I can pray for you.



In Him,
Philip E. Carr
Calgary, AB

March 04 Fifth Sunday before Easter	Celebrating reconciliation with God and creation		
	Old Testament	1 Genesis 33: 1-17	English Service
	Psalm	34	Read by
	Epistle	Romans 5: 1-11	Mr. Benjamin Chacko & family
	Gospel	Luke 19: 1-10	
March 11 Fourth Sunday before Easter	Christ and the marginalized		
	Old Testament	Exodus 3: 7-18	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	54	Read by
	Epistle	James 5: 1-11	Mr. Sanju Cherian & family
	Gospel	Luke 5: 12-16	
March 18 Third Sunday before Easter	Christ forgives sins		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 1: 10-20	English Service
	Psalm	103: 1-14	Read by
	Epistle	1 John 1: 5– 2: 2	Mr. Christopher Gajraj & family
	Gospel	Mark 2: 1-12	
March 25 Second Sunday before Easter	Gospel breaks barriers and builds bridges		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 45: 1-8	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	47	
	Epistle	Galatians 2: 11-21	Mr. Daniel Thomas & family
	Gospel	Mathew 15: 21-28	

Celebrations



Pilgrim

BIRTHDAYS

02	Thankamma Mathew	20	Mathew George
03	Abigail Cherian	21	Varghese Jacob
03	Raimole Joseph	22	Elzy George
05	Joseph Thomas	25	Marilyn M. Verghis
07	Prashanth Koshy	25	Emily A. Verghis
11	Sidhant Mathews	27	Bryan Philip Joseph
13	Vivek Philip	28	Mona Anna Abraham
18	Vaiga Thampy	31	Shruti Balakrishna
20	Vilayil Idikula Kurian		

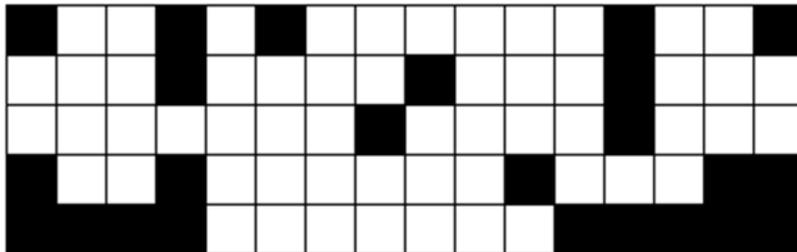


ANNIVERSARIES

11 Oommen Cherian & Mariamma Cherian

A fallen phrase puzzle

Find the verse with *fasting* from the book of Daniel



L R N

S O P E A D W N O D H

L N D A T U E G E A A N

T H E I R S Y R I G H T O D

P I E A F O D T I R T D N D I M

A fallen phrase puzzle shows the spaces for a statement or phrase. The letters are directly below the column in which they will fit, but jumbled within the column.

[Hint: Daniel 9:3]



Church News

Fasting Prayer

Our Monthly fasting prayer will be held from 10 AM to 1 PM on March 3, Saturday at the Church.

Sunday School

Sunday School classes will resume on March 11, Sunday. Please contact Mrs. Raimole Joseph for more information.

Cottage prayer meeting

Cottage prayer for Scarborough, Richmond Hill, and Markham Whitby area will be held on March 10, Saturday at Mr. & Mrs. Santhosh Zac Koshy's residence at 6:30 PM. All area members are requested to attend.

Palm Sunday and 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 Anniversary function will be held at the basement.

Prayer Meeting during Lenten Period

During the Lenten Period we will have prayer meeting on every Wednesday (Feb 29, March 7, March 14, March 21 and March 28) at the Church from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM. This will be a special time for prayer and meditation. All are invited.

Praise and Worship Service

A Praise and Worship service will be held on Friday, March 23 from 7:30 PM at the Church. All are invited.

Confirmation class

Confirmation class will be held as usual.

For more pictures and news coverage, please visit: www.torontocsi.org



Sunday School Anniversary

Mrs. Raimole Joseph



The Anniversary of the Sunday School was celebrated on February 12th, Sunday after the worship service. The meeting was presided over by our Vicar Rev. Shaji M Johnson. It opened with a prayer by Mr. Siby Jacob followed by a Bible reading by Mrs. Suja Sara Koshy. The report presented by the Sunday School Director Mrs. Raimole Joseph walked everyone through the year's activities. The senior students presented a skit titled, 'Who built the wall of Jericho?' The conversation presented in the skit initiated the thought towards mending their ways according to the word of God.

Later in the program, students presented their individual talents. It was their way of expressing gratitude to their wonderful Creator and Master. Parents who trained their kids, specially the junior ones deserve appreciation. In his address to the students, Achen exhorted them to continue to be productive and effective Christians in their student life. Achen awarded the students for their commendable performance in the Annual Exam. The yearlong commitment of the teachers in this service was also acknowledged.

Thanks to Diani and Phil for their spirited and lively anchoring of the whole program. The program concluded with the Vote of Thanks by Mrs. Ajin Varghese and prayer and benediction by Achen.





The Lord's work

Sometimes after the morning service at their church, the pastor and his eleven year old son would go out into their town and hand out Gospel flyers. This particular Sunday afternoon it was pouring down rain. The boy bundled up in his warmest and driest clothes and said: "I'm ready."

His Pastor Dad asked: "Ready for what?" The boy said: "To do the Lords work!" Dad responds: "Son, it's pouring down rain." The boy gives his Dad a surprised look, saying: "But Dad, You played Golf yesterday in the rain?" Dad said: "Son, I'm not going out in this weather!" So the boy went alone.

This eleven year old boy walked the streets of the town going door to door and handing everybody he met in the street a Gospel flyer. After two hours of walking in the rain, he was soaking wet and down to his last flyer. He stopped on a corner and looked for someone to hand the flyer to, but the streets were empty.

He turned toward a house he saw and went up to the front door and rang the door bell. But nobody answered. He rang it again and again, but still no one answered. Finally the boy turned to leave, but something stopped him. Again, he turned to the door and rang the bell and knocked louder on the door. He rang again, and this time the door slowly opened. Standing in the doorway was an elderly lady. She softly asked, "What can I do for you son?"

The boy said, "Ma'am, I'm sorry if I disturbed you, but I just wanted to tell you that Jesus Loves you, and I came to give you this." He handed her his last flyer, and went home.

Well the following Sunday morning in church, Pastor Dad was in the pulpit. As the service began, he asked, "Does anybody have a testimony?"

Slowly, in the back row of the church, an elderly lady stood to her feet. She said, "I've been alone for many years and I have no family or friends to visit me. Rainy days are particularly hard.

Last Sunday I decided this would be my last. I was already standing up on the chair, with a rope around my neck and ready to step off. Then, the door bell rang; I waited a moment for them to leave. Instead of leaving they just kept ringing the bell and knocking. I opened the door and there stood a little boy soaked from head to toe.

He handed me a flyer and told me Jesus loves me. I took the flyer and went back inside to finish what I had started. But first, I had to see what this little boy had come out in the rain to give me. Nobody has knocked on my door in years, but this little angel did. Instead of taking my life, I gave it to Jesus. So this morning I got up and walked across the street to the church here. "



The Executive Committee Members of the CSI Church, Toronto

President	Rev. Shaji M. Johnson	Men's Fellowship Director	Mr. Abraham P. George
Vice-President / Rector's Warden	Mr. Daniel Thomas	Women's Fellowship Director	Mrs. Susan Joseph
Secretary / People's Warden	Mr. Christy Abraham	Youth Fellowship Director	Dr. Nibu Varguise
Joint Secretary	Mr. Thomas Mathai	Choir Director	Mr. Sanju Cherian
Treasurer	Mr. Joseph P. Mathews	Social & Recreational Director	Mr. Joy Chemmanoor
Joint Treasurer	Mr. T. Mathew Chacko	Trustees	Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel
Sunday School Director	Mrs. Raimole Joseph		Mr. Benjamin Chacko

A RAINY DAY

Anna Esther Samuel

Cold winds blew so hard
 Dark clouds covered the sky
 A silver drop so cold
 Fell on my doleful face.

Heavens poured down
 A sparrow shivered in this torrent
 At my window all alone
 And drenched my pretty face.

Thoughts in me twisted
 As hours went by
 And lo! The rain stopped
 A calm baby after the cry.

Rain drops gave a golden ray
 As sun came out of his den
 The finch shook the water away
 Flew away smiling and twittering.

The puddles took the entire clod
 Leaves looked hale and bright
 My thoughts washed clean
 Ready for the glorious sunshine.

