



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church Toronto

# Pilgrim

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JUNE 2012



**Episcopal Visit– June 27 to July 2**

### 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

### June 30– Silver Jubilee Closing Ceremony



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Achen's message.....	3
Bible Portions.....	4
Episcopal .....	5
Parsonage .....	6
Church News .....	7
Celebrations.....	8

# Pilgrim

**JUNE 2012**

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*Editorial*

*When tsunamis or tumults pour in.....*

Problems, the part and parcel of our lives, can control our emotions and intellect. The way we respond to these problems determines the extent of its impact. Martin Luther King Jr. says, 'the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.' The solution to overcome problems is just a yard away.

In John 6: 16-21, we are shown an illustration of how man responds to problems. The disciples of Jesus were on a boat bound for Capernaum. Great winds blew and the sea became violent. The boat got tossed by the waves. The disciples were dismayed. Though they feared the worst to happen, they were not ready to lose heart; and they moved further in that torrent. They never anticipated a meeting with Jesus. But they were petrified to see an apparition. They least expected Jesus at that place, in that hour, walking on water. Jesus, knowing their palpitations, said, 'It's I', a reverberation of 'I'm that I'm'.

God is always at hand. But we need eyes to see him and ears to hear. The moment we do, and invite Him, like the disciples of Christ into our problems, the boat is washed up. We find that the problems have disappeared. But it is true that many people resign themselves to the theory of fatalism. They try to believe that neither they nor God can affect their lives. Nevertheless, it is good to know that the one who has called us is faithful. Apparently, the eyes and ears will vouch for the safe ending.

Praying for the continuous inflow of abundant grace, can help us see and hear our Lord Jesus. As we think about the problems and hard times we had, we'll be stunned by the knowledge of the ever present divine providence. Had we kept our eyes and ears open, we would have reached the shore safely. We need to revamp our lives and attitudes in order to taste and see that the Lord is good.

Samuel Anselm Samuel  
Editor

## Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ,

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

We observe first Sunday of June as Women's Sunday. Women, on that day, under the auspice of the Women's Fellowship, will take principal roles and dynamically participate in the Holy worship service. As congregation, we are bound to respect their dignity and vocation and admit their capabilities and spiritual gifts. Women have been an essential and fundamental part of the ongoing ministry of the Church of God since its beginning. The ministry of prayer was practised by the New Testament women of faith, in a number of contexts. (Acts\_1:14, Acts 12:12, 1 Timothy 5:5). They used their financial resources wisely to support the ministry. Hospitality is another ministry in which some women seem to flourish. Elder women are called upon to instruct the younger women in areas of womanly expertise. Older women have both hands-on experience and accumulated wisdom in these areas which made them the most qualified people to teach these things to younger women. This is a valuable and ever-present opportunity for mature Christian women.

We see that the majority of ministries in this New Testament time are assigned to both men and women of faith. The ministries, for example, the gifts of the Spirit, prayer, witnessing, good works, service, music, administrative roles, and many more, are of great significance to the New Testament church. Women are encouraged to accept their responsibility as women of God who will offer themselves as living sacrifices, acceptable and pleasing to God, and be devoted to one another in love. They ought to honor one another, serve God and their church with zeal, keep their spiritual fervor filled with joy and hope, be patient in affliction and faithful in prayer, share with God's people who are in need, and practice hospitality. May God bless all the women of our church enabling them celebrate their lives and ministry in meaningful ways.

We are in the process of preparations for the closing ceremony of our church Silver Jubilee celebrations. Let us take this time to thank our God for His endless mercy and blessings showered upon our church for twenty five years. The year of jubilee is surely designed for jubilation. Though our church passed through a real hard time, we never were alone. God was with us. I acknowledge that these hardships have made us stronger, more faithful and devoted! I am grateful to you all for having not gone astray but faithfully stood accomplishing the work of God. Abraham left his home and family keeping God's guarantee of creating a new nation through his generations. God told Abraham 'lift up your eyes' and showed him the new territories. Likewise, our church has opened up new horizons. It is the new life that awaits us, as we journey ahead. Let the grace of God be revealed to us even more!

I request you to pray for the confirmation service to be held on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Thirteen candidates are preparing to be confirmed. Parents of these confirmation students are taking a major role in arrangements for that day. Bishop Thomas K. Oommen Thirumeni and Kochamma are arriving here on 27<sup>th</sup> of this

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Bible Portions



(Continued from page 3)

month. This is Thirumeni's first Episcopal visit to Canada. I seek your active participation and whole hearted involvement in the final programme of Silver Jubilee and the Confirmation Service.

May God bless you all

Yours in Christ

Shajiachen

<b>June 03</b>  Women's Sunday	Remembering and celebrating women's ministry		
	Old Testament	1 Samuel 1:1-29	English Service
	New Testament	Luke 1:46-55	Read by
	Epistle	Acts of Apostles 16: 11-15	Women's Fellowship members
	Gospel	Mark 15: 37-47	
<b>June 10</b>  Second Sunday after Pentecost	Environment Sunday; Creation proclaims God's glory		
	Old Testament	Proverbs 8: 22-31	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	8	Read by
	Epistle	Revelation 2: 1-8	Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel & family
	Gospel	Luke 8: 22-25	
<b>June 17</b>  Third Sunday after Pentecost	Challenges to Christian spirituality		
	Old Testament	1 Kings 21: 1-29	English Service
	Psalm	53	Read by
	Epistle	Acts of Apostles 8: 9-24	Mr. Siby Jacob & family
	Gospel	Luke 12: 13-21	
<b>June 24</b>  Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	Christian response to globalization		
	Old Testament	Daniel 3: 1-18	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	67	Read by
	Epistle	Revelation 21: 22-27	Mr. Daniel Thomas & family
	Gospel	Luke 6: 20-31	

### **Welcome to Our Bishop Rt. Rev. Thomas K. Oommen**

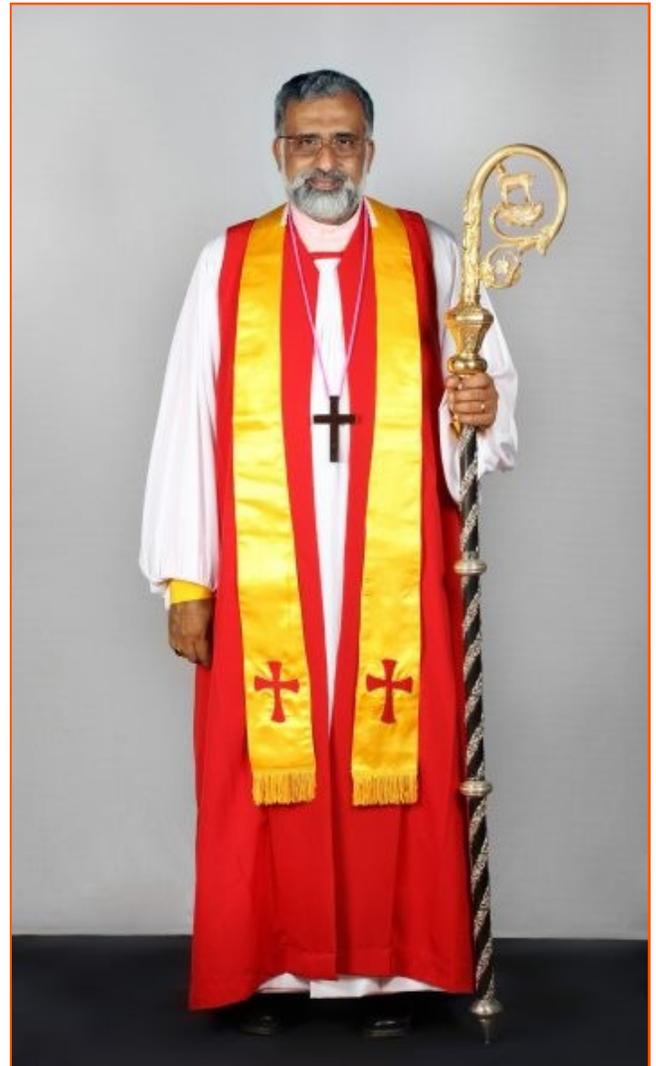
Rt. Rev. Thomas Kanjirappallil Oommen was consecrated and installed as the Bishop of the Madhya Kerala Diocese of the Church of South India at the CSI Holy Trinity Cathedral Kottayam on 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2011. He has become the 12th Bishop of the Diocese since its inception in 1879 as the Anglican diocese of Travancore and Cochin. He succeeds Bishop Thomas Samuel.

Born to Thalavadi Kanjirappallil late K. C. Oommen and Mariamma in 1953 Nov 29, Rev. Oommen gained his theological degree from the Senate of Serampur University and postgraduate degree from Pune Union Biblical Seminary and had his further studies in New York Theological Seminary under Norman Gotwald.

He was one of the most dynamic and powerful pastors in The Diocese of Madhya Kerala. As a pastor and missionary he has shown his good organization in the entire realms of ministry. The true zeal for spreading gospel through setting up new churches, the courage to work in very adverse environments of labour populated areas, slums and even fanatic war groups, experiences with international organizations like Bible Society, home organizations like Kerala council of Churches, liquor prohibition, Communion of churches reflects the splendour of his life and ministry.

He served the Church as the Finance Board secretary, the Pastoral Board secretary of the Diocese, CSI Synod Executive Committee Member, and Synod Theological Committee member.

Bishop Oomen's focus is to provide a clean administration for the Church and he affirms that the need of the hour is to bring back the ethos of the missionaries who had a holistic approach to their work. Regarding the issues concerning faith, the Diocese would work together with the Church and the Communion of Churches.



Bishop Thomas K. Oommen is married to Dr. Susan Thomas- a social worker cum theological trainer. Their son, Sony Oommen Thomas, is a human resources professional and daughter, Santeena Thomas, a teacher. Asha and Dr. Jeen are children-in-laws. Santeena and Dr. Jeen are rendering their lives and service as missionaries in Andhra Pradesh. The Toronto CSI Church welcomes Bishop Thomas K. Oommen to our fellowship.

Parsonage

Pilgrim

Blessing of the parsonage at Kipling May 27, 2012





### **Fasting Prayer**

Our Monthly fasting prayer will be held on Saturday, 2nd June from 10 AM to 1 PM in the church. All are invited.

### **Women's Sunday**

Sunday, June 3rd will be observed as Women's Sunday. Our Women's fellowship members will be taking active part in the worship service. All are invited.

### **Cottage Prayers**

Cottage prayer for SHALOM group (Scarborough, Richmond Hill, Whitby, Markham) will be held on June 9th 2012 at Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Anselm Samuel's residence at 6.30 PM. All area members are invited.

Cottage prayer for JORDAN group (Brampton area) will be held on June 16, Saturday at Mr. & Mrs. Sanju Cherian's residence at 6:30 PM. All area members are invited.

Cottage prayer for GILEAD group (Mississauga, Toronto, Stratford, London area) will be held on Saturday, June 23rd at 6:30 PM at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Abhilash Raj. All area members are invited.

### **Praise and Worship Service**

Our youth members will be leading the Praise and Worship on 1st and 5th Sundays.

### **Achen's New Phone Number**

Our Achen's new phone number is 416-231-1717. Cell phone number remains the same.

### **Episcopal Visit**

Our church is getting ready to welcome our Bishop Rt. Rev. Thomas K. Oommen and Kochamma at the end of this month. Details will be announced in the church. This is Thirumeni's and Kochamma's first visit to our Church.

### **Silver Jubilee Closing Function**

Our Church Silver Jubilee closing function will be held on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2012 with the thanksgiving service and public meeting at 4.00 pm. Chief Guest Bishop Rt. Rev. Thomas K. Oommen together with Rt. Rev. Colin Robert Johnson Archbishop of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto and Diocesan Suffragan Bishop Rt. Rev. Philip M. Poole and ministers from sister churches will be attending and leading the service. Please mark this date and attend this function.

### **Confirmation Service**

Our Church will be conducting the Confirmation service on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 at 11.00 AM. Our Bishop Rt. Rev. Thomas K. Oommen will be leading the service. There are 13 candidates for Confirmation. Please remember them in your prayers.

### **Church Annual Picnic**

Our Church annual picnic is scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup> Saturday. Please mark this date in your calendar and plan to attend this fun-filled day. Details will be announced later.

## Committee



### 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



## Celebrations

### BIRTHDAYS

01	Leonard Fredrick	02	Oommen Cherian
11	Ponnamma Thomas	11	Mary Joseph
15	Ajin Annie Varguise	15	Rejini Gajraj
19	Akshay Koshy	19	Sheeba R. Thomas
21	Tianna Lelia	21	Noah Jacob
27	Christopher Gajraj	28	Shawn Cherian

### ANNIVERSARIES

03	Sanju Cherian & Seethal Thamby
07	Joseph P. Mathews & Sonia Mathews
16	Daniel Thomas & Mariamma Thomas
21	Christopher Gajraj & Rejini Gajraj

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