



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church Toronto

Pilgrim

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DECEMBER 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



*Merry Christmas...!!
Christmas Carol
Service on December 15
at 6 P.M*



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Pilgrim

DECEMBER 2012

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Editorial

A new dawn....

God, in His infinite wisdom, designed this wonderful world to be a transient abode for man. During our sojourn in this world, we're exposed to the dichotomy of life. We gradually realize that life is not a bed of roses, but a conglomeration of bliss and sorrow. Happiness and sadness are among the promised menu for all pilgrims. As we are getting closer to our destination, we ought to reflect on the trails we've trodden.

Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with morning, Psalm 30: 5(b). Sorrow, the embodiment of darkness is ephemeral. In fact, it foreshadows light or joy. The sun wipes out darkness by its powerful rays. As we grope along the dark earth, faith would guide us to the star of Bethlehem which points to the bright and morning star. The beams of love that emanate from the Son of God shall make our lives meaningful. It is a consolation that the pain we're in, shall not tarry but give way to happiness. Like the hornbill that awaits the first drop, let us look forward to receiving the abundance of light, peace and joy in this Christmas season.

The actions that we did in the past might have grieved the Spirit of God. Through repentance, the darkness within can be expelled and filled with His favor for a lifetime. Joy awaits the person who finishes this uphill journey. The rays should allure us toward eternal bliss.

Have a blessed Christmas and a bright New Year...

Samuel Anselm Samuel

Editor

Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ,

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

The church is moving into another ecclesiastical season of Advent. We, the people of God set apart this period as an important time of spiritual preparation for receiving Jesus, the saviour into our midst as Emmanuel. Advent is a time of quiet expectation. Also it is just the right time to prepare the way for Emmanuel. It is the time when we allow Him to be born in our own hearts. Two thousand years ago there was 'no room in the inn' for Christ to be born, but the pitiable cattle shed. But today, the world is turned into an arsenal inn where no single room is available for the saviour. Emmanuel is still in search of a place to get in. Let us confess that our hearts are like the manger with darkness, dirt and impurity. Invite Him in. He will transform this manger into a holy place of worship and adoration. May the observation of advent bring you the joy of anticipation and preparation.

Our house to house Christmas carolling ministry is in progress, and is uniting all our folks. I am sure that it is a genuine time for our church family to foster and empower our mutual relationships. The enthusiastic participation of our congregants is delightful and well appreciated. May the message we proclaim through our songs bring fruits to all families. I thank the coordinators, area coordinators, the singing group and all the families for their continuing support and favors.

Our Christmas carol service will be held on 15th of December. I request your deep prayers and full time participation for this solemn choral service. May I request you to invite your relatives, friends and neighbours to join us for the service of lessons and carols? I wish our choir all blessings to sing Gloria along with the heavenly angels.

I invite all our congregants to share the sweetness of fellowship by partaking all the special worship services to be conducted in the month of December. I anticipate your esteemed presence and involvement in Christmas, Watch night and New Year services respectively.

As we draw closer to the end of another year let me say along with the psalmist that "From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD's name is to be praised" (Psalm 113:3). Through these words, we are reminded by the psalmist to be thankful to God for His countless mercies and unending faithfulness each day. As a church we need to recollect the doings of God, our sustainer. Recollection leads us to admit and recognize what God has prepared for us. As we are at the closing stages of the year, just examine what has been our association with God. If the relationship was not so deep, let us turn unto Him for a new beginning. God will be good to us.

May God bless you all.

Yours in Christ

Shajiachen



World Sunday School Sunday

It was yet another day of celebration for the students, teachers and volunteers of our Sunday School as they joined the Sunday Schools across the world in celebrating the World Sunday School Sunday on November 4th. Sunday School was founded almost 200 years ago on the great principle of 'train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it' (Prov. 22:6). Our Sunday School has also been built on this great truth. The children took active roles in the worship service, and presented two beautiful songs under the power packed direction of Diani, with Emily and Akshay on instruments.

The sermon, based on the theme of the day *Christian Education: Growing in wisdom and stature*, highlighted the importance of the Word of God in helping everyone reach spiritual maturity and perfection as desired by our Lord. Dr. Nibu Varguise assisted Achen in the worship. God's love was manifested as our teachers and students supported each other in making this year's Sunday School Sunday celebration a memorable one.

Raimole Joseph



| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Celebrating the Good News | | |
| December 02 | Old Testament | Genesis 18: 1-15 | English Service |
| 1st Sunday in Advent | Psalm | 146 | Read by |
| | Epistle | Hebrews 2: 1-10 | Mr. Benjamin Chacko & family |
| | Gospel | Luke 1: 39-56 | |
| | Word of God: the light of the world | | |
| December 09 | Old Testament | Genesis 1:2-2:4 | Malayalam Service |
| Bible Sunday | Psalm | 119: 105-112 | Read by |
| 2nd Sunday in Advent | Epistle | Hebrews 4: 10-13 | Mr. Abraham P George & family |
| | Gospel | John 8: 12-20 | |
| | Deliverance from the bondage of sin | | |
| December 16 | Old Testament | Isaiah 40: 1-11 | English Service |
| 3rd Sunday in Advent | Psalm | 51 | Read by |
| | Epistle | Revelations 2:12-17 | Mr. Prashanth Koshy & family |
| | Gospel | Mark 1: 1-18 | |
| | Maranatha- Come Lord Jesus | | |
| December 23 | Old Testament | Jeremiah 23: 1-8 | Malayalam Service |
| 4th Sunday in Advent | Psalm | 96 | Read by |
| | Epistle | Revelations 22: 6-21 | Mr. Daniel Thomas & family |
| | Gospel | John 14: 8-14 | |
| | Celebrating the Grace and the truth | | |
| December 25 | Old Testament | Micah 5: 2-4 | English Service |
| Christmas | Psalm | 19 | Read by |
| | Epistle | 1Timothy 1: 14-17 | Committee |
| | Gospel | John 1: 1-14 | |





Bible Portions



| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Warmth and love in the family | | |
| December 30 1st Sunday after Christmas | Old Testament | Genesis 27: 1-29 | Malayalam Service |
| | Psalm | 127 | Read by |
| | Epistle | 1 John 2:7-17 | Joy Chemannoor & Family |
| | Gospel | Luke 15: 11-32 | |
| | The Lord is our help and redeemer | | |
| December 31 Watch night Service | Old Testament | Isaiah 55: 6-13 | Malayalam Service |
| | Psalm | 121 | Read by |
| | Epistle | 2 Corinthians 13: 5-13 | Committee |
| | Gospel | John 12: 35-36 | |
| | Preparing for the coming of the Lord | | |
| January 01 New Year: Day of the covenant | Old Testament | Genesis 12: 1-17 | English Service |
| | Psalm | 20 | Read by |
| | Epistle | 2 Corinthians 5: 1-10 | Committee |
| | Gospel | John 20: 26-31 | |

What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.....

Agnes M. Pharo



House to House Carol

House to house carols, which began last month is progressing with great enthusiasm and active participation of the church members. We are visiting the houses in Scarborough area on Saturday, December 1 and Sunday, December 2. All are requested to participate.

This year's house to house carols will end on Sunday, December 09. After the worship service the final carol for the year 2012 will be held at the Parsonage. All are invited.

Praise God for making the house to house carolling a blessed and successful event for our church.

Church Christmas Carol Service

Our church carol service will be held at 6 PM on Saturday, December 15th 2012 in our Church. This will be a special time of Christmas lessons and heavenly carols. Please mark this date in your calendar and invite your friends and relatives to be part of this wonderful evening.

December 25, Christmas Service

There will be a special Christmas Service at 11 AM on Tuesday, 25th December.

Watch Night Service

This year's watch night service will begin at 11.00 PM on Monday, December 31, 2012. After the watch night service, there will be New Year Communion service at 12 AM.

Operation Christmas Child

As usual, our Sunday School took part in the Operation Christmas child. We could collect 28 Gift boxes as part of the Operation Christmas Child Program. The boxes, along with \$225, were deposited at the collection centre. Thanks to everyone for the participation.

Membership Fee

Our church financial year end is fast approaching. Those who haven't paid the membership fee please pay the amount as soon as possible. Membership fee is \$100 for family and \$50 for single.

Please settle your Harvest festival amount and other dues too before December 31st, 2012.

Fasting Prayer and Cottage Prayer

The monthly fasting prayer and cottage prayers are cancelled due to house to house carol and other programs in the Church.

Obituary

With deep grief we inform the sad demise of Sosamma Joseph (86), mother of our parish member Mr. Mathew Joseph (Kunju). She had been ailing for a while and was called to eternity on the morning of November 23rd. The funeral was held at Mooledam, Kottayam. Please keep the grieving family in your prayers.





BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 01 | Rebecca Thomas | 12 | Navin Abraham |
| 02 | Sanju Cherian | 17 | Noel Chungath |
| 03 | Aaron Chungath | 20 | Elizabeth Shirley Abraham |
| 04 | Sangeeth Shaji | 21 | George Philip |
| 05 | Maria Gajraj | 24 | Rhea Grace Varguise |
| 06 | Anaya Sara Cherian | 28 | Daniel Koshy |
| 07 | Daniel Thomas | 29 | Rennie Philip Joseph |
| 12 | Joana Grace Varguise | 31 | P. Mathew Verghis |



ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 17 | Abhilash Raj & Smitha |
| 18 | Reji Johnson & Milly |
| 29 | Samuel Anselm Samuel & Shini |
| 29 | Balaji Kuruvilla & Rebecca Thomas |

*Remember, if Christ isn't found in your heart,
you won't find it under the tree.....*

Charlotte Carpenter



Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritans Purse, bringing joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world, through gift-filled shoe boxes and the message of God's unconditional love. To date, Operation Christmas Child has collected and distributed over 94 million shoe box gifts worldwide. Each shoe box gift filled with hygienic items, school supplies, toys, and candy, is given to children regardless of gender, race, religion, or age.

As usual, our Sunday School kids shared their joy of Christmas through this loving gesture of filling shoe boxes. We deposited 28 boxes at the collection centre. As our children participate in these humanitarian causes, they are being equipped to show the world outside, how great is the gift of Baby Jesus. Along with the boxes we could donate \$225 for the same. Sincere thanks to each and everyone for the participation. Special thanks to Achen for helping with the collection and the delivery of boxes at the right time.



New king is born.....

Jewels dazzle around
Gifts fill my heart
Lights fill the air
Songs of joy go around

Snowflakes dance in the air
Diamonds fill the ground
The fog covers my eyes
The light illumines the face

Hands shiver
And legs shake
Snowballs hit my face
Kids playing in glee

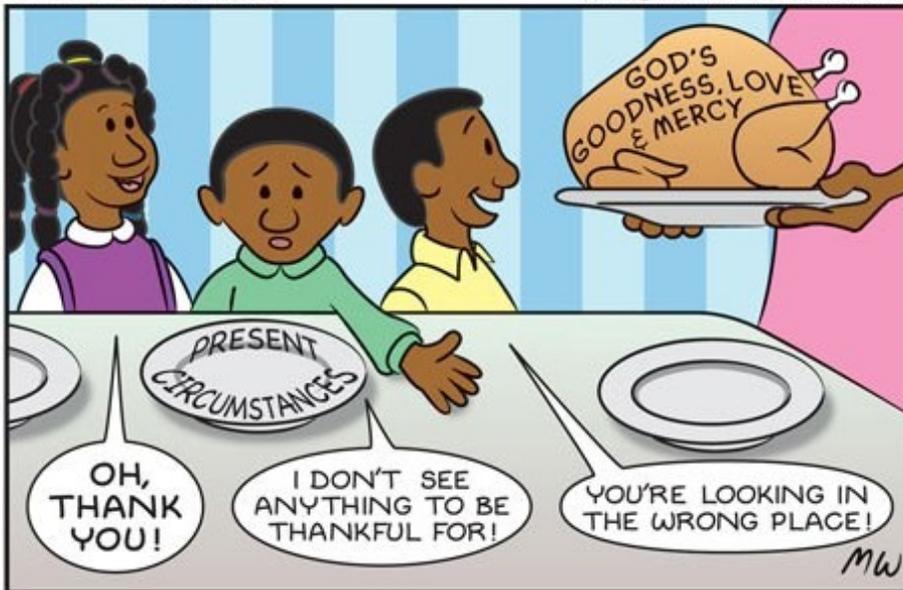
The star leads me
To the path of the kings
The shepherds join me
Precious gifts they bring

The smile he brings
Fills the crib, and soon
Animals with angels dance
New king is born today.

Anna Esther Samuel

GIVE THANKS

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.
— PSALM 106:1 NIV

<http://www.joyfultoons.com/>

Ecumenical Christmas Program

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my SONG will I PRAISE him. (Psalm 28:7)

It was truly a wonderful experience to take part in the Toronto Kerala Christian Ecumenical Christmas Program held at John Cabot Catholic Secondary School in Mississauga on Saturday, November 17, 2012. Voices from ten different choirs were raised in communal praise and joy about the birth of our Lord and Saviour. It was truly a blessing and testimony to the faith of our community. The packed hall was the result of the strong participation from many members of our sister Kerala Christian churches.

26 members of our church choir participated, under the dedicated and experienced guidance of Mr. Daniel Thomas. "Hallelujah to the Newborn King", an A Capella arrangement for Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass voices by Bob Mackenzie was the piece presented. This unaccompanied arrangement was an ideal choice to follow after the blessed message from His Eminence Mar Tithus Yeldho (Archbishop of the Malankara Archdiocese of the Syrian Orthodox Church in North America).

Our Youth Choir under the exuberant leadership of Suzanne Thomas, performed "Go Tell it on the Mountain" in such a way that the audience snapped their fingers and tapped their toes along with them. The Youth Choir truly gave an outstanding performance.

As our Carol Service quickly approaches, let us keep our beloved Achen, our church leaders, choir and members of our congregation in prayer.

May God continue to bless us all!

Annie Koshy





Committee



The Executive Committee Members of the CSI Church, Toronto

| | | | |
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| Sunday School Director | Mrs. Raimole Joseph | | Mr. Benjamin Chacko |



WHERE? CSI Church, Toronto
 WHEN? December 15, 2012 at 6:00 PM
 LOCATION? 1315 Kipling Ave, Toronto, M9B 3N7
 PHONE 416 231 1717



www.csichurchtoronto.org



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