



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church Toronto

# Pilgrim

Volume 13 Issue 1

JANUARY 2013



## 2013 Motto

**We live by faith, not by sight.**

കാഴ്ചയാൽ അല്ല, വിശ്വാസത്താലത്രേ ഞങ്ങൾ നടക്കുന്നത്

*2 Corinthians 5:7*



***YOUTH SUNDAY ... JANUARY 20***

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# Pilgrim

**JANUARY 2013**

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*Editorial .....*

In His Time.....

Ultimately, we've made it! It's another New Year, and time for a list of new resolves. It also grasps the former year's list. We sometimes lament over the state of affairs. What makes New Year so special in our lives? It is a time of reflection, serenity, relief, and jubilation. New Year is usually the harbinger of hope and opulence.

As we retrospect, we sometimes like to believe that we've been orphaned. Our perceptions may not be ample to comprehend the extent of His mercy. *He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. (Ecclesiastes 3:11)* But when we lift our eyes of faith to the cross, grace overflows the fount, helping us to count the manifold blessings. This shall brighten not only our lives, but others' as well.

Besides the negation of providence, unfulfilled desires and lost resolutions pull us down. Our minds play villainous roles to drift us into depression. If we succumb to the deception of our minds, the New Year will bring only sorrows. We need to train ourselves into believing: *The unfailing love of the LORD never ends! By his mercies we have been kept from complete destruction. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each day. I say to myself, "The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!"(Lamentations 3:22-24)*

As we stand firm on the countless blessings, cling on to the promises, and look through the eyes of hope, the New Year shall certainly unfold its cornucopia. Let's live by faith, and bring forth fruits of love, peace, and joy.

Have a blessed 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!

Almighty God in His mercy has brought us safely to the doorway of 2013. Let us be thankful to our gracious father, for having provided all His goodness in abundance upon our parish, families and individuals each day of 2012. As we receive another year of life from God, let us prepare ourselves to make the New Year meaningful.

The motto we've opted for 2013 is "we live by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). Our life here in this world is a journey deep-rooted in faith and trust in our Lord. The path of today's journey might be visible to us whereas the ways we need to pass in the future are absolutely hidden. Faith is therefore the insight we attain, for our journey toward unseen tomorrows.

If we decide to walk by our sight, surely we are being materialistic. It results in great worry and we may not be satisfied in anything at any points. Apostle Paul challenges us to walk by faith, not by sight. This is a task of walking with both our eyes closed. But the more we move, the more confident we become. And it is the assurance of things we hope for, as per the word of God. Abraham was invited by God to go to an unseen land. Though he was a man who walked by sight, the divine invitation made him divert his goal. Abraham moved from his own plan to God's plan. Likewise, let us commence the New Year with a focus on God, and be the people of faith.

You may agree with me that the whole episode of yuletide was so meaningful to our parish. The house to house carolling, carol service and the Christmas day service were joyful occasions with richer participation of our people. I thank all who stretched their hands to make all events affectionate. Our choir deserves a great salute from us for their commitment in the Carol service.

Our youth and the Sunday school children need to be given much importance with regard to the life and ministry of the church this year. Since they are the future of the church, they need to be equipped spiritually for the service of the Lord. I thank our youth movement for all their participation and involvement in the various activities of our parish. I am so grateful to our Sunday school and the parents of Sunday school kids for their valid suggestions and support in rescheduling class time from the coming academic year.

Let me acknowledge the efforts of several members of our congregation, who keep the sanctuary and its premise neat and tidy, and make everything ready for services each week. May God bless your life, and I am sure your talents will be an achievement for 2013! I thank the executive committee and all the departments for their valuable services rendered for the smooth and peaceful functioning of our wonderful church last year.

May God bless you all.

Yours in Christ

Shajiachen

Dear Members,

I praise the Almighty God for the Blessed 2012 we had as a church. God has provided us with everything as a family, as we all worked together for His glory. God has been with us, and we prayed together as one close-knit family when we were beset with challenges.

If we look back, we have many things to be thankful for. We had an action packed year. God has also provided us with a beautiful church. The monthly, fasting prayer meetings helped us to pray for ourselves, our family, for other people's needs, and for our church needs. Our Achen's powerful messages on these occasions gave us strength to go forward. The donations received through monetary contributions and various items for our church and parsonage, showed our members' remarkable love for our Church. Their willingness to help is commendable. More over, through our Mission Fund, we were able to support missionaries and other charitable organizations during the year.

As a church, under the auspices of Men's Fellowship, Women's Fellowship, Youth Fellowship and Sunday School, we were able to conduct many church family get-togethers to relax, and to have fun from our busy schedules.

We successfully completed our Silver Jubilee celebration. We also conducted the Confirmation Service for our 13 children, who were blessed by our Bishop, Rt. Rev. Thomas K. Oommen. We had a great Family Retreat at our Church, when a powerful message was delivered by Bishop Johncy Itty. The majority of our members attended the Retreat. The church family picnic, campfire, and other activities at the retreat, helped our members reflect and participate in a time of sharing and fellowship. Our children had a good time at the VBS. We all enjoyed the Malayala Lokam Anniversary programs. How can we ever forget the Ona Sadya! Our youth members were able to start the Praise and Worship Services on 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays, which enriched our worship services. They also were able to hold a retreat at the Scott Mission Camp in Caledon. Our Thanksgiving and Harvest Festival was a huge success. Women's Fellowship conducted a Bible Quiz. We were able to go and spread the Christmas message to all our members' homes this year. We had a very good Carol Service, and many guests and friends were in attendance.

The volunteer help we received for many activities both inside and outside the Church is greatly appreciated.

I welcome all the new families who joined our congregation. Overall, we had a wonderful year in 2012. I strongly request everyone to attend the worship services on a regular basis, and render your continuous prayer and support through out the New Year. May God Almighty bless us all. Happy New Year!

Christy Abraham  
Secretary

<b>January 06</b> 2nd Sunday after Christmas	Proclamation of truth		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 56: 1 - 8	English Service
	Psalm	27: 1 - 6	Read by
	Epistle	Acts 17: 16 - 34	Mr. Suby Mathews & family
	Gospel	John 12: 20 - 26	
<b>January 13</b> 1st Sunday after Epiphany	Christian Commitment in Life		
	Old Testament	Proverbs 23: 22 - 35	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	37: 1 - 11	Read by
	Epistle	Galatians 5: 16 - 26	Mr. Shaji L. Moothedom & family
	Gospel	Mathew 21: 28 - 46	
<b>January 20</b> 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Youth Sunday	Youth: The sign of renewal and promise		
	Old Testament	Ecclesiastes 12: 1 - 8	English Service
	Psalm	103	Read by
	Epistle	1 Timothy 4: 6 - 16	Youth Members
	Gospel	Mathew 19: 16 - 30	
<b>January 27</b> 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Leprosy Sunday	Creation: From chaos to order		
	Old Testament	Genesis 1: 1 - 5, & 26 - 31	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	29: 1 - 11	Read by
	Epistle	Revelation 21: 1 - 7	Mr. Daniel Thomas & family
	Gospel	John 1: 1 - 13	

**BIRTHDAYS**

04	Ninu Ann Varghese	28	Suzane Sneha Joseph
05	Sonia Mathews	28	Ryan Mathews
09	Joy Abraham	29	Neha Chemmanoor
23	Abraham P. George	29	Megan Thomas
25	Reeni Philip	30	Selvarajan Thampy Puthenkulangara



**ANNIVERSARIES**

03	Santhosh Cherian & Jenny Varghese
05	Mathew Joseph & Mary Joseph
07	Jophy Philip & Smitha Victor Sam
13	Joy & Mini Chemmanoor
16	Sudeep & Sarah Oommen
21	Raj Hariharan & Sonijya Raj
21	Jacob P. John & Mary Jacob
26	Shibu Paul Pulikaparambil & Shiny Paul
27	Joseph Thomas & Raimole Joseph



### **Fasting Prayer**

Our Monthly fasting prayer will be held on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2013, Saturday at 10.00 AM in the church. All are invited.

### **Youth Bible Study**

A Bible study for our youth members has been arranged at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Abraham P. George on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2013 at 2.30 PM. All our youth members are requested to attend.

### **Youth Sunday**

Sunday, January 20, 2013 will be observed as Youth Sunday. Our youth members will be taking an active part in the worship service. All are invited.

### **Women's Fellowship**

There will be Women's Fellowship meeting on Sunday January 13 after the social hour. All members are requested to attend.

### **Bible Quiz ... Book of Philippians**

On Sunday February 3<sup>rd</sup>, a Bible Quiz on the book of Philippians will be conducted by the Women's Fellowship after the social hour. The whole congregation is encouraged to participate.

### **Sunday School and Malayala Lokam**

Sunday School and Malayala Lokam classes will be held as usual.

#### **From the Women's Fellowship Director**

*Susan Joseph*

Best wishes for a blessed, happy and prosperous New Year to one and all in our Church family, on behalf of the women's fellowship.

As we step forward in faith to face challenges in 2013, I am reminded of the faith of Queen Esther, and how her life is an example for us today.

Esther became the wife of King Ahasuerus of Persia around 475 BC. She was an orphan raised by her uncle Mordecai. Even though God is not mentioned in the book of Esther, a deep and abiding faith in God is evident in the lives of both Esther and her uncle. She was instrumental in saving the Jewish nation with the help of Mordecai. God placed Esther in a special place to fulfill His purpose of keeping the Jews safe from Haman's plot to destroy them. Wisdom and patience helped her in approaching the king to gain his favor for saving her people. Esther was a model daughter. While she was free to act as she chose, she carefully weighed Mordecai's advice. Mordecai is an example of a wise parent. He gave advice, and then let his grown-up child make up her own mind.



### Carol Service 2012

The CSI Church, Toronto's service of Lessons and Carols was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December at 6.00 pm at our church. It was a serene and beautiful night of music and meditation under the auspices of our Church Choir.

The service was a fusion of the traditional order of worship and innovative styles of presentation. It was beautifully orchestrated through music that spanned multiple centuries, and lessons that depicted a solemn visualization of the historic episodes of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus.

In addition to our own parish members, the church was packed with members from sister churches, friends and relatives. Colorful lights sparkled and lit the inside and outside of the sanctuary, with a gorgeously decorated twelve-foot-Christmas tree adorning the front of the sanctuary.

The service commenced at 6pm in darkness, symbolizing humanity's anticipation of 'the light of the world' that brings hope and guidance, with the vestry prayer "Come and See" arranged by Tom Fettke. This was followed by the candle lit procession to the traditional carol "Once in Royal David's City". For the next hour and a half, the choir under the direction of Daniel Thomas, performed a variety of carols in perfect harmony, including the classical Malayalam piece "Yesu Mahesan" in Shanmukhapriya ragam, composed by our own vicar Rev. Shaji M. Johnson.

The inaugural carols, "Prepare Ye" and "Ningal Kettoh" (Malayalam), spiritually prepared the congregation to receive the news of the new born king. The men in the choir proclaimed the good news to the world by singing a vibrant piece called "We've Got Good News to Tell". Under the direction of Suzane Sneha Thomas, the women performed a tranquil arrangement of "What Child is This" and the contemporary piece "Child of the Poor". The Youth and Sunday School Choirs also added zest to the saintly musical evening through renditions of the traditional carols "Away in a Manger" and "Go Tell it on the Mountain".

The instrumentation of the pipe organ, piano, violins, guitar and tabla made lovely accompaniment. The congregation spiritedly participated through responsive readings and singing traditional hymns such as "Angels We Have Heard on High" and "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night". The readings and music reflected the penitential solemnity of Advent and the joyful celebration of incarnation as each part fluidly moved from one to the next. Venerable Peter Fenty (the Archdeacon of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto) inspired the mass with his contextual, informative and thought provoking message.

The service concluded with the choir singing "Hallelujah to the New Born King", which was followed by the customary symbol of sharing the word through the lighting of candles and singing of "Silent night".

The evening continued with dinner and a time of fellowship, where Santa paid a visit and sent the kids into a tizzy—setting the mood for a joyous and wonderful Christmas.

We extend our sincere thanks to all who stretched their hands of support in making this evening a remarkable one. We wish you and your family a wonderful and joyous Christmas, and a blessed New Year!

## TO AN EAGLE.....

**O** mighty queen, thou ascend  
Kissing the blue, thy wings

Float a dream in the heavens  
Made perfect by the king of kings

Ways and paths so serene  
Lofty, yet sees the speck  
Strains and praises to Nazarene  
Who gave such sight to peck

Bold against the wind  
Carried to newer fields  
Air in his chariot pinned  
Her grace, firm from yields

High abode abounds in shrills  
Wide mouths tender, yet bold  
Cry for their day's fills  
Stoops a prey to their hold

Mercy of wind thy tutor  
Paradise lost, they cry and bother  
Soft, the tender wings falter  
Slip to kiss the flying mother

Oh fairest of the deep sky  
Thy ways and love perceived  
To soar, but never to sigh  
Safe in His mighty arms pierced

*Samuel Anselm Samuel*

*Never let a bad situation bring out the worst in you,  
Choose to stay positive and be the strong person that God  
created you to be .....!!*



**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
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Joint Treasurer	Mr. T. Mathew Chacko	Trustees	Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel
Sunday School Director	Mrs. Raimole Joseph		Mr. Benjamin Chacko

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2013 ... !!!**