



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church Toronto

# Pilgrim

Volume 13 Issue 6

JUNE 2013



### 2013 Motto

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

കാഴ്ചയാൽ അല്ല, വിശ്വാസത്താലത്രേ ഞങ്ങൾ നടക്കുന്നത്

*2 Corinthians 5:7*



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Achen's message .... 3
- Church project ..... 4
- Bible portions ..... 5
- Special Sundays ..... 6
- Church news ..... 7
- Celebrations ..... 8
- Convention ..... 9
- Youth ..... 10

# Pilgrim

**JUNE 2013**

EDITORIAL BOARD

**Chief Editor**

Rev. Shaji M. Johnson

**Editor**

Samuel Anselm Samuel

**Publication Team**

Shini Samuel

Suja Sarah Koshy

Annie Koshy

Abraham P. George

Samuel Chacko

**Address**

CSI Parsonage

1311 Kipling Avenue

Etobicoke M9B 3N7 ON

(416) 231- 1717

Articles/ Feedback

May be sent to

[pilgrimcsi.to@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimcsi.to@gmail.com)

*Editorial .....*

Peace like a river.....

'Peace begins with a smile', said Mother Teresa. It is like an ever flowing river, cleansing everything in its path. People need peace to tide over the societal and personal challenges. Mahatma Gandhi said, 'each one has to find his peace from within'. But it is very hard to find this peace. Psalm 29:11 says, 'The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord blesses His people with peace. Peace blesses us with a calm state of mind, removes anxiety, and helps us to live in harmony.

Peace, though the shibboleth in the world of politics, empowers us to enjoy a serene mind. People try different means to befriend this unique state of mind. Little do they realize that the peace offered by the world is fleeting and doesn't reflect or serve the state of heaven on earth. Man is unable to hold this peace for long. But the Prince of Peace is ever gracious to offer the everlasting peace that passeth all human understanding. This peace makes us stronger to face the realities boldly and to enjoy the unusual calm that is graciously granted by our Lord. God gives us power even to demand peace from everything that pesters us.

Peace can be fully enjoyed only amidst a raging storm. If we feel cornered and disappointed, not knowing what to do, let us not forget the fact that the captain of our ships is with us. We just need to believe that not only the forces of nature like storm and sea obey Him, but every power seen or unseen is also at His command.

When we enjoy the peace from the Lord, it will undoubtedly overflow into our families, churches, and societies. But the Lord of this world is desperately trying hard to annihilate this peace by all means. It is very important that we do not fall a prey to his crafts. Rather, through prayer and supplication, let us enjoy the cornucopia of peace, and let it flow like a river.

*Shalom Aleichem !!*

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 early Jewish Rabbis used to say that "God never formed woman out of the head, for fear that she should become proud; nor out of the eye, lest she should lust; nor out of the ear in case she should be curious; nor out of the heart, lest she should be jealous; nor out of the hand, lest she should be covetous; nor out of the foot, lest she should be a busybody; but out of the rib, which was always covered". This saying indicates the meekness of a woman. The divine picture of a woman, given in the Bible is remarkable. The story in the book of Genesis gives us the impression that Eve, at the end of the busy creative week of God, was a crystal in Jehovah's handiwork'.

Readers of the Bible are sure to meet with many great and noble women figures in the Old and New Testaments. We are also aware that these women had made critical and crucial contributions for the extension of the kingdom of Christ on earth. Some of them were actively involved in prayer (Acts 1:14), some had done excellent works and deeds in charity (Acts 9:36), some were able to show hospitality (Acts 12:12; 16:14; 1 Tim. 5:10), a few of them were engaged in teaching the word (Acts 18:26), and a great number was accomplishing various other commendable tasks.

Women are called to have a wonderful privilege of ministering on behalf of God, here in the world. They need to be women of purpose, prayer and programme. They also need to know who we are in Christ, they need to grow up as leaders, they need to do something by giving their talents, treasure and time for the glory of God, and they need to realize that they are greatly respected in God's kingdom. They can strengthen their families and be God's hands in the world. As our women observe the third Sunday as Women's Sunday, may God grant them wisdom and courage to step forward with a vision.

Our parish life was really enriched with a cluster of special occasions last month. The 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary and thanksgiving service of our parish, the three-day Annual Gospel convention, and the senior Sunday celebrations were truly blessed times for all the members of our church. The gospel convention was a real time to achieve spiritual power and revival. The biblical devotions led by Rev. C.M. Varghese, were highly spiritual, and I believe those who attended the convention would have been blessed with the word of God. I would like to thank and appreciate you all for your enthusiastic involvement given in all these events.

Our youth had a meaningful time in Scott mission camp centre as they met for the youth retreat and camp on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May. I congratulate the youth members and thank the office bearers for supporting our youngsters in finding out the proper way to the future.

I again appeal to the parents of Sunday school children to kindly send their kids to the Sunday school classes regularly. Our kids have to attain the proper measure of Christian education as they grow up to the God-given future in a secular world. So it is the responsibility of each parent to make certain that children are surely being benefitted by the spiritual teachings offered by our parish. I seek your whole-hearted cooperation. It'll be a blessing for your children. May God bless you all.

Yours in Christ

Shajiachen

DIOCESE OF MADHYA KERALA  
ST. PAUL'S C.S.I CHURCH

PAZHAVANGADI, RANNY – 689 673

PATHANAMTHITTA DIST.

Vicar: Rev. Shubin Varghese

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2013

To  
The Secretary  
CSI Malayalam Congregation

Toronto

Respected Sir,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ!

At the outset, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for granting a sum of rupees 5 lakhs towards the construction of a new church building at Poozhikunnu (St. Mark's CSI), the outstation of St. Paul's CSI Church, Ranny. Here, the process of clearing the land by taking away the sand is complete. So it is all set for commencing the construction. Our bishop Rt. Rev. Thomas K Oommen laid the foundation stone on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2013. We assure you that we will update the progress of the construction.

The early estimate for the completion of the building was Rs. 9, 25000. But as of now it is quite difficult to complete the construction within the proposed amount due to the inevitable hike of price for materials. It will definitely go beyond 13 lakhs. Hence, we have been desperately trying to further identify sources of finance for the fulfillment of the project at the earliest. Your contribution will definitely help us to boldly start the construction as early as possible. We pray that the good Lord, the source of all wealth, would bless your congregation according to his riches as you have willfully contributed for the extension of the Lord's Kingdom. Convey our prayerful regards and wishes to everyone over there.



With love and prayers

Rev. Shubin Varghese

Vicar

<b>Knowledge of God is true Wisdom</b>			
<b>June 02</b>  2nd Sunday after Pentecost	Old Testament	Proverbs 3: 1-18	<b>English Service</b>
	Psalm	111	Read by
	Epistle	James 1: 5-8; 16-18	Mr. Regie Koshy & family
	Gospel	Mathew 18: 1-6	
<b>Protection of God's Creation</b>			
<b>June 09</b>  <b>Environment Sunday</b>  3rd Sunday after Pentecost	Old Testament	Genesis 8: 15-22	<b>Malayalam Service</b>
	Psalm	33: 1-12	Read by
	Epistle	Romans 8: 18-25	Mr. & Mrs. Zac Santhosh Koshy
	Gospel	Mathew 6: 25-34	
<b>Jesus Empowers Women</b>			
<b>June 16</b>  <b>Women's Sunday</b>  4th Sunday after Pentecost	Old Testament	Esther 7: 1-10	<b>English Service</b>
	Psalm	148	Read by
	Epistle	2 Timothy 1: 1-5	Women's Fellowship Members
	Gospel	Luke 13: 10-17	
<b>Witness through Suffering</b>			
<b>June 23</b>  5th Sunday after Pentecost	Old Testament	Isaiah 15: 15-21	<b>Malayalam Service</b>
	Psalm	13	Read by
	Epistle	1 Peter 4: 12-19	Mr. & Mrs. Jophy Jacob Philip
	Gospel	John 18: 1-11	
<b>Community in God's kingdom</b>			
<b>June 30</b>  6th Sunday after Pentecost	Old Testament	Micah 6: 6-8	<b>English Service</b>
	Psalm	99	Read by
	Epistle	1 Peter 2: 9-10	Youth Fellowship Members
	Gospel	Luke 6: 27-36	





### Youth Fellowship Bible study

Youth fellowship meeting and Bible study will be held at 2:30 PM on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> June at Mr. Christy Abraham's residence. All our youth members are requested to attend.

### Monthly Fasting Prayer

Fasting prayer for the month of June will be held at 10.00 AM on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> June at the Church. All are invited.

### Bible Quiz

The Women's fellowship is conducting a Bible Quiz on the book of Colossians on Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The whole congregation is encouraged to participate.

### Cottage Prayers

Cottage prayer for SHALOM group (Scarborough, Whitby, Richmond Hill, Thorn Hill area) will be held at Mr. Mathew George's residence at 6.30 PM on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> June. All area members are invited.

Cottage prayer for JORDAN group (Brampton area) will be held at 6.30 PM on Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> at the residence of Mr. Raj Hariharan. All area members are invited.

Cottage prayer for GILEAD group (Mississauga, Toronto, Stratford, Milton, London area) will be held at Mr. Joseph Thomas's residence on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6.30 PM. All area members are invited.

### Women's Sunday

We will be observing Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup> as Women's Sunday. The Women's fellowship members will be leading the worship service. All are invited.

### Youth Fellowship leading the Matins service

Our Youth fellowship members will be leading the Matins service on Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. All are invited.

CSI CHURCH, TORONTO YOUTH BIBLE STUDY  
**How To Overcome Life Pressures – Part 1**

Speaker: Mrs. Lalitha Arnold  
Where: 60 Meadowlark Dr., Brampton  
When: Saturday, June 1, 2013 @2:30  
905-874-9595

**BIRTHDAYS**

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



**ANNIVERSARIES**

- |    |                                   |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 07 | Joseph P. Mathews & Sonia Mathews |
| 21 | Christopher & Rejini Gajraj       |
| 28 | Mathew George & Susan George      |

*Worship is giving God the best that He has given you. Be careful what you do with the best you have. Whenever you get a blessing from God, give it back to Him as a love gift. Take time to meditate before God and offer the blessing back to Him in a deliberate act of worship.....*

*Oswald Chambers*

Church Annual Gospel Convention, in conjunction with our Church's 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, was held from May 10 to May 12, 2013. Renowned convention speaker, pastoral counselor and spiritual leader, Rev. C. M. Varghese from Marthoma church was the guest speaker.



## ANNUAL GOSPEL CONVENTION

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I'm with you always, to the very end of the age.

*Matthew 28:19-20*

## Youth Retreat: Getting Serious With God

*Priya Abraham*

First off, I praise and thank God for allowing us to have a wonderful retreat. On May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, we were able to conduct our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth Retreat at the Scott Mission Camp in Caledon. We assembled and began our first session at around 8:30 pm, with Praise & Worship led by Diani and Sam. The theme song we learned was called “Jesus At The Centre”, and is about Jesus being the centre of our lives, from beginning to the end, and that nothing else matters.

The theme selected for this year was “Getting Serious With God”, and our speaker was Mr. Roy Wahab, a high school teacher and a great man of faith. On Friday night, we discussed the theme of sanctification as a state of being, and how we need to be living our lives differently because we have been pulled out of something ugly, and have been given a different purpose to fulfill. Roy illustrated this idea with a beautiful story of two brothers, Chad & Ryan. In the short video we watched regarding their story, Chad had a problem with his liver and desperately needed a liver transplant. Luckily, his brother Ryan was a perfect match, and Ryan, without a shadow of a doubt, gave his brother a portion of his liver. Ryan was a very healthy man, but unfortunately after a few days, Ryan passed away. That relationship between Chad and Ryan can be a metaphorical relationship between ourselves and Jesus; and for this reason, we are sanctified and set apart.

After our wonderful session Friday night, we ate pizza and had a beautiful campfire. We sang songs, roasted marshmallows, made s'mores, and simply shared in each other's company. Since we had to climb to the top of a hill, the view was breathtaking by the fireside, and with a crystal clear sky, we were able to see hundreds of glowing stars. After we returned from the campfire, we had free time. Many of us played games, talked, watched the sunrise, etc.

Saturday morning began with a delicious breakfast consisting of food such as pancakes, cereal, eggs and fruit. We then began the second and final session with Praise & Worship. Roy began explaining lessons we can learn from a tea bag, and he demonstrated what happens when you put a tea bag in hot water. When we put a tea bag in hot water, the tea takes form, bringing out its flavour. He compared the hot water to difficult circumstances (e.g. trials, people), and these difficult circumstances help bring out the 'flavour' in us. When bad things happen, we always tend to blame God, but instead, Roy advised us that we need to give thanks to God for the 'hot water' because it comes from God – He's using it to shape us and bring out our 'flavours'. Roy reminded us that God gives us tests to show us what is in our hearts, and if we are displeased with the outcome, we need to ask God to change our hearts. After the message, we broke off into small groups and came up with a short presentation of what we learned for the sessions – there were songs, raps, and stories that were shared. After the session, we were free to go outside and play games. Many played football, basketball, volleyball, and just enjoyed the outdoors. While we were relaxing, there was a busy team, headed by Shabu Uncle, preparing some delicious barbeque for us. It was great! After lunch, we had the opportunity to go canoeing at the retreat centre, which was really a thrilling experience for all of us.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our Achen for his constant prayer and support, and our youth director, Shabu Uncle, for his excellent leadership. Special thanks to Shini aunty and Moni aunty for the help provided at the retreat. Also, I would like to thank Phil and Diani for arranging the facility, and Sam for coordinating the retreat. Thanks to all the youth members who participated. Last but not least, my sincere thanks to all the parents for the support and prayers.

This retreat was nothing short of amazing. Needless to say, we were blessed beyond words. We had such a great time enjoying the camp environment, the weather, and each other's company. A special thanks to Roy and his family for sharing their time with us – we were truly enriched by their presence, and for Roy's messages. Experiences such as these help us grow closer to God, and also help us bond together as a youth group...I can't wait for the next retreat!

# Pilgrim

## Youth Retreat



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

President	Rev. Shaji M. Johnson	Men's Fellowship Director	Mr. Zac Santhosh Koshy
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	Mr. Abraham P. George
Joint Secretary	Mr. Christopher Gajraj	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 final tribute to Rt. Rev. Michael John**



For Private Circulation Only

Published by CSI Church, Toronto, 1315 Kipling Avenue M9B 3N7, ON. All rights reserved