



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

Volume 13 Issue 7

JULY 2013



2013 Motto

We live by faith, not by sight.

കാഴ്ചയാൽ അല്ല, വിശ്വാസത്താലത്രേ ഞങ്ങൾ നടക്കുന്നത്

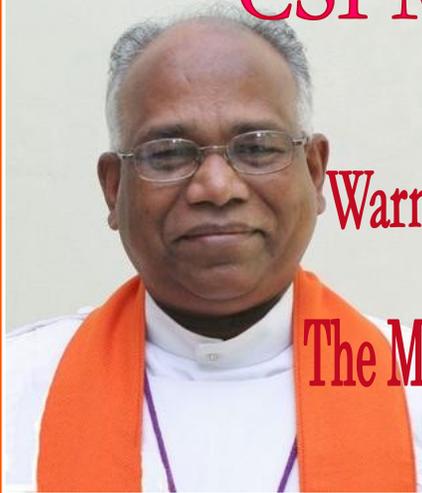
2 Corinthians 5:7

CSI Moderator's Visit

July 14, 2013

Warm Welcome to our Moderator

The Most Rev. Dr. G. Devakadasham



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Pilgrim

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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

Editorial

The power of the Spirit.....

Fear is one of the most powerful God given emotions that often takes control of our minds. It usually becomes insurmountable. When people fall a prey to this compelling master, they display negative results and forget to lead a life of power. II Timothy 1:7 says, "For God gave us not a spirit of fearfulness; but of power and love and discipline." The Spirit of God gives us the power to shrug off the negative side of fear, and leads us into the positive side- helping us to show veneration and awe towards our Lord.

People are prone to be the slaves of fear if the Spirit does not empower them. When people are concerned about their future, fear triggers negative results. Uncertainty, diseases, ignorance of the unknown, awareness of judgement, the knowledge of losing someone/ something- all are powerful reasons that stamp you as a loser. St. Paul, in his letter to Timothy exhorts him to come out of his pall of fear, and to be strong in his service to the Lord. God has given us this emotion to warn us of our way of life, to correct and lead us, to make us prepared for the life eternal, and to mould us into holy people sanctified for glorifying God. Awareness of this subtle truth shall certainly liberate each one of us.

The Holy Spirit removes the uncertainty of our lives and enables us to lead a bold, Christian life. The Spirit helps us to be better performers, fills us with the eternal love of God, and prepares us to be self-disciplined to lead a powerful life. If only you would let the Holy Spirit take over, you will experience the transition from a weak, useless being to a powerful, fearless personality.

Samuel Anselm Samuel

Editor

Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ,

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

'On the first day of the week we came together to break bread'. Acts 20: 7. These words reflect the worship habit of the Christians in the early church. Sunday is considered a very special day consecrated to the divine service and worship of the creator God. It is "the day the Lord has made" and its nature is purely sacred and joyful. Sunday is the day on which God acted determinedly to liberate the world from the oppression of sin and death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Sunday is also the very first day, on which God changed darkness and created the world.

Sunday worship is the time, when we give deep and sincere love and fear to the one who created us. It is an opportunity for the whole church to worship and learn God and celebrate the life that He has given us. But by neglecting Sunday worship we give up the regenerative powers that flow out of the liturgical gathering. As followers of Jesus, we have the responsibility to keep Sunday holy, and to attend the worship regularly with family.

Giving has an important place in the worship service. It is the expression of our sincere love to the God our creator, for the Lord's people, for the Lord's work and for the Lord's church. Apostle Paul reminds us that if you love the Lord, you know what to do in giving. We are called to love the Lord with our giving. God asks His children to worship Him with a tithe of their income. The tithe is 10% of your earnings. Your income may be big or small but the 10% is absolutely meant for your God. It should be truly given to Him. If you joyfully set apart the first 10% of your income and give that back to God, surely you are making a declaration that you are truly a steward of what He has entrusted. The practice of tithing reflects a regular reminder of your dependence on God. I urge all our dear parishioners to practice the God given instruction- tithing in our Christian life. Surely you will see the changes that happen in your life.

Vacation Bible School will happen in the closing week of July. As you all are aware, VBS introduces our kids to the creator God through the love of our saviour Jesus Christ. VBS strives to help the children reaffirm the faith they achieved through Christ in previous years. This year also, our church is providing a safe and sound environment where our kids can come and enjoy the mega celebration of the divine scripture. I urge parents to bring their kids to the VBS, and also encourage other children to be part of this celebration.

The worship service led by our youth was a major event in our church life. Our youth could proclaim that they love their church and God, and we the parents are confident that our children are surely journeying with us on the path of faith. I would like to appreciate and thank our dear youth members for their conviction and commitment revealed through the wonderful articulation of the worship service today.

July is packed with different events in our church, and I seek your wholehearted cooperation and involvement in all of them.

God bless you all!

Yours in His service

Shajiachen

Women' Sunday

Pilgrim



July 07 7th Sunday after Pentecost Stewardship Sunday	Stewardship: Christian giving		
	Old Testament	Exodus 36: 2 - 7	English Service
	Psalm	116: 12 - 19	Read by
	Epistle	2 Corinthians 9: 6 - 15	Mr. Sanju Cherian & family
	Gospel	Luke 21: 1 - 4	
July 14 8th Sunday after Pentecost CSI Moderator's Visit	Theological Education Sunday		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 18: 1 - 10	English Service
	Psalm	119: 89 - 104	Read by
	Epistle	1 Corinthians 1: 18 - 29	Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel & family
	Gospel	Mathew 13 :10 - 17	
July 21 9th Sunday after Pentecost	Pastoral Ministry		
	Old Testament	Exodus 3: 1 - 12	English Service
	Psalm	80: 1 - 7	Read by
	Epistle	2 Timothy 4: 1 - 5	Dr. Nibu Varguise & family
	Gospel	John 21: 15 - 19	
July 28 10th Sunday after Pentecost	Developing human resources		
	Old Testament	2 Samuel 8: 15 - 18	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	125	Read by
	Epistle	1 Corinthians 3: 10 - 15	Mr. Joseph Thomas & family
	Gospel	Mathew 11: 28 - 30	



BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| 03 | Monish John Abraham | 14 | Shibu Paul Pulikaparampil |
| 04 | Rejy Elizabeth | 14 | Philip Mathai |
| 04 | Siji Joseph | 15 | Sumin George |
| 04 | Preetha Reji Kumar | 16 | Mridul Mathew Kuruvilla |
| 05 | Mohan Philip | 18 | Nathan Abraham |
| 05 | Jovin Mathews | 19 | Aleyamma Jacob |
| 06 | Saurang P. Thampy | 23 | Christopher Johnson Moothedom |
| 07 | Ajay Lionel | 28 | Hannah Shaji |
| 11 | Anna Esther Samuel | 28 | Annie Koshy |
| 12 | Joshua George | 30 | Nithin Chemmanoor |
| 13 | Chacko Jacob | | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 01 | Prem Narayan & Reshma George |
| 02 | Vivek Joseph & Shruti Balakrishna |
| 03 | Philip Mathai & Elizabeth Mathai |
| 14 | Siby Jacob & Ancy Jacob |
| 15 | Regie Koshy & Annie Koshy |
| 16 | Daniel Thomas & Mariamma Thomas |
| 19 | Suby Mathews & Ruby Mariam Mathews |



Fasting Prayer

The monthly fasting prayer for July has been postponed to the second Saturday, 13th July at 10 AM. All are invited.

Youth Meeting & Bible Study

Youth fellowship meeting and Bible study will be held at 10:30 AM on Saturday, 6th July at Mr. Joy Abraham's residence in Stratford . All our youth members are requested to attend.

Visit by our Moderator, Bishop The Most Rev. Dr. G. Devakadasham

CSI Moderator, Most Rev. Dr. G. Devakadasham, Bishop of CSI Kanyakumari Diocese is visiting Toronto and will be leading our Worship service on Sunday, 14th July. All are invited for this service

Annual Picnic

Our Church annual picnic will be held on Saturday, July 27th at The Island Lake Conservation Area, 673067 Hurontario Street South, Orangeville L9W 2Y9. Our Picnic spot is Pavillion No. 2.

(Route map in page 11 and Pavillion location in page 12)

Picnic fee: Family \$25.00
 Single \$15.00

Admission fee to the Park

Adults \$5.00 each
Seniors (60+) \$3.00 each
Children age 6 to 12 \$3.00 each

Maximum charge per vehicle of up to 6 people: \$22.00

Please come and enjoy the day at the park. Your friends and relative are welcome.

St. Thomas Day Celebration

Kerala Christian Ecumenical Fellowship is holding St. Thomas day celebration at 6.00 PM on Saturday, 6th July at Don Bosco Catholic Secondary School in Etobicoke. All our members are invited for the celebration.

Half-yearly General body meeting

Our Half yearly General body meeting will be held on July 21st, 2013 after the service. All members are requested to attend.

Bible Quiz by Women's Fellowship

The next Bible quiz will be based on 1st and 2nd Thessalonians. Tentative date is Sunday, August 11.

Acceptable Chaos

Christopher Moothedom

Matthew 4:4 – Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. In Matthew chapter 4, we read that Jesus fasted for 40 days and wandered through the wilderness. Knowing that Jesus was hungry, the devil tempted him to turn the stone to bread. Theologians interpreted this in a different way: the devil was referring to Humankind by telling Jesus that Humankind wants only food, shelter, social acceptance, power etc., and that there is no need for Jesus to die for them on the cross and save them. That is when Jesus replied, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God”.

This is a fictional analogy created to help us understand the nature of things around us.....

Five families were put in a vast underground prison, where they multiplied. Their children were conditioned from an early age to rebuke the thought of escape. They were conditioned to believe that the outside world is dangerous and incompatible with their lifestyles, norms, and values. They were taught to believe that in the outside world there are wild animals who would maul them to death, and the only convenient place would be the prison they are living in. The guards also taught them to grow food in the prison, with limited sunlight; a guard named Azazel, taught them to build weapons and wage war. But one parent revealed to his child that they were put in prison. He even said that being oblivious to the abuses and tribulations was terrifying. The parent further told the child that pain, tribulation and slavery were unacceptable realities to him, and the guards were trying to blind people and normalize these realities among the inmates and their future generations. The child, overwhelmed by this truth, told his teacher who was a guard. The guard later executed the parent.

Years later, the guards aged and died, but their influence and wicked ideologies lived on. As the children grew up, they began to love being within the walls, within the darkness. Decades later, the prison population grew in numbers, and began to have governments of their own; the people began to claim territories within the prison. The elites of the prison knew how to grow food, and that information gave them leverage over the population. People who talked about the outside world would become ostracized and mocked at.

One day, a child heard some noise of children playing and birds chirping. The child kept digging a hole through the wall every day when no one was around. Six months later, he left the prison. Immediately, he began to feel guilty for leaving the prison, and going against the norms he was conditioned not to question. But at the same time, he could not help but marvel at the night sky, the vast space, the stars and the moon he had never seen. At dawn while it was still dark, he fell asleep, and a few minutes later he was woken up by a light. He panicked and did not know what to do. He took a look and saw the dark trees were actually green, and the sky and the moon were no longer visible. He had never seen light before, and so immediately, he went back to the prison. But he did not tell his parents or anyone else about his discovery. He went there again and saw people. He was curious about them, and began to analyze them from far. The farmers saw him and their dogs chased and cornered him. One of the farmers felt pity for the boy due to his extremely malnourished state, and invited him to a meal in his house. The boy ate like never before; he had never seen that much food in his life. When the farmers asked him where his home was, the boy pointed to the ground, where he came from. The farmer tried to communicate with the boy because their dialects sounded similar. Over the years, the dialects of the outside world and the prison evolved and changed although they spoke the same language once. The farmer's son gave the boy a bag of fruits and bread and asked him to come to him if he was ever hungry, and promised he would always provide. The boy went back to his prison home and shared the fruits and bread with his siblings and parents. His parents were astounded because they had never seen that much food altogether in

their entire life. And they had never seen some of the types of fruits. When the parents asked the boy where he got the food from, he told them the truth. He told his mother about the vast space, described to his parents how the sky was bright and how it hurt his eyes, how some creatures flew and made noises (birds), how there was a light (sunlight) which faded away after sometime, and how it became dark but with tiny bright spots (stars) and a giant yellow round thing (moon) in the sky. His parents disregarded this and rebuked him. They tried to convince him that the outside world was deceptive, and told him never to go there again. The boy felt guilty. He apologized to his parents for leaving to the outside world. His siblings described him as lucky for surviving the outside world. The monarch of the boy's prison "country" came to know about it and told the family to keep it a secret. Eventually, the boy decided to not to pursue his curiosity about the outside world, and became subjected and programmed to his world's prejudices, fears and norms.

Few months later, the farmer wanted to invite the boy again. He sent his son to find that boy and his family because he wanted to give them a part of his inheritance. The son and his dogs went searching for the boy and his family but could not find him, but instead found a giant pit. The farmer's son entered the prison, clothed in rags. News spread about a stranger entering the prison. The son's heart was burdened to see the people being oblivious to the outside world and the freedom it had to offer. He was shocked to see primitive instincts, fear, rage, segregation, and selfishness among them. But he realized that years ago, five members of his family were kidnapped by his evil servant and his men (guards). Their objective was to separate the father and his children. He realized that the lifespan of the people in the prison was extremely short due to poor conditions. He began to love these people so dearly that he decided to save them from their misery. A few months later, after observing the place around him, he began to tell few men about the things he knew, in their own norms and speech patterns. They became fascinated, and started telling everybody to be open-minded. He knew that his approach would make the people defensive and violent. Slowly, he began to draw people towards him. The elites of the prison world who controlled the food supply and social customs and values, wanted to get rid of him before he spread the truth which would unfold the veils that had been blinding these people for decades.

Many people were against him because he questioned the status-quo, and challenged their dangerous deceptive world views. His desire to open their eyes was perceived as a threat by many, especially the people with power. He knew that people would fight to defend their system because they were so hopelessly dependent on that system. The people with power wanted to turn people against him; eventually they killed the farmer's son. Some believed his words and escaped the prison, but many others stayed due to fear of being ostracized, fear of turning their family members against them, fear of being killed, and uncertainty. The ones who escaped were fascinated by what they saw, and being given the farmer's inheritance was beyond what they could ask for. For the very first time in their lives, they were experiencing "true" freedom.

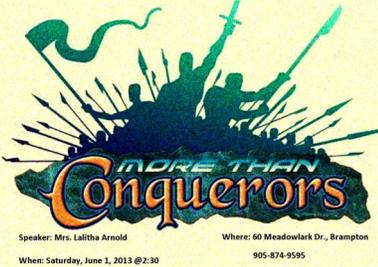
(Inspired by Plato's "Allegory of the Cave" and The New Testament)

Notes:

- ⇒ The prison world represents our world; the limitation, the prejudices, the fears that enslave us. The Elites represent the powers of darkness, people with power that manipulate us.
- ⇒ The farmer represents God, who so loved the world that he send His one and only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him, shall not perish but have ever lasting life.
- ⇒ The farmer's son represents, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who will come again in the clouds of heaven and take us to that New World.

"Come to the Lord and He will come to you"

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



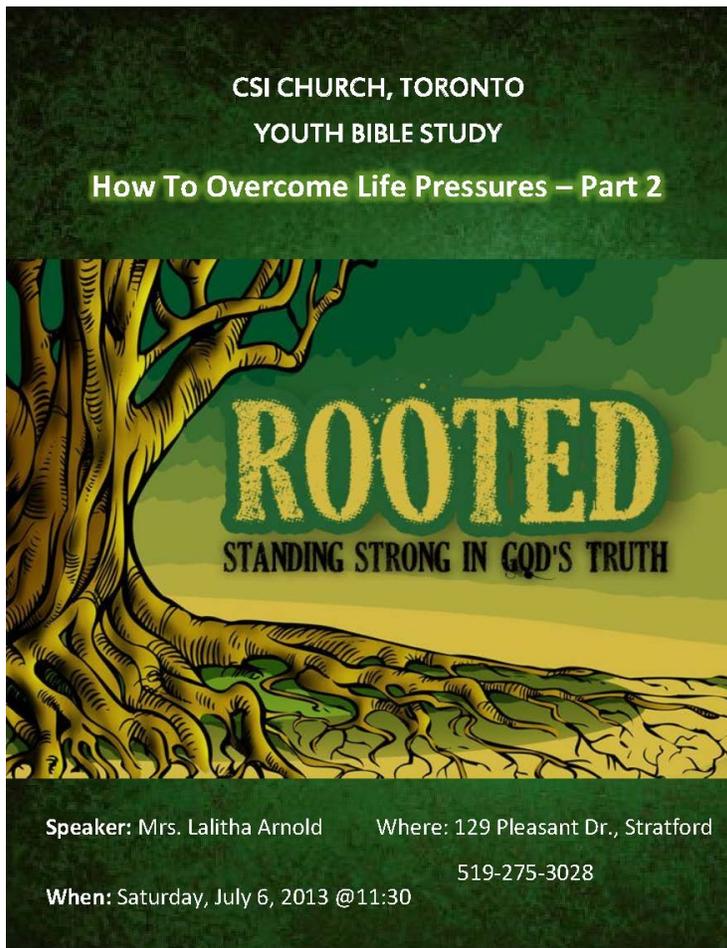
Speaker: Mrs. Lalitha Arnold Where: 60 Meadowlark Dr., Brampton
 When: Saturday, June 1, 2013 @2:30 905-874-9555

How to overcome life pressures – June 2013

Miriam Chacko

One of the main points that stood out to me in this month's youth meeting was how to daily deal with the pressures in high school. We live in a very sinful world, and it is hard to remain as a strong Christian in today's society. Pressures such as smoking, drinking, profanity, and making the right friendships are always before us. It is our duty as practicing believers to let our faith remain unshaken. Others will only know that you are a Christian by the way you behave. We are made in God's image; hence we should try our best to let others see Christ in us. As Romans 12:2 states, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

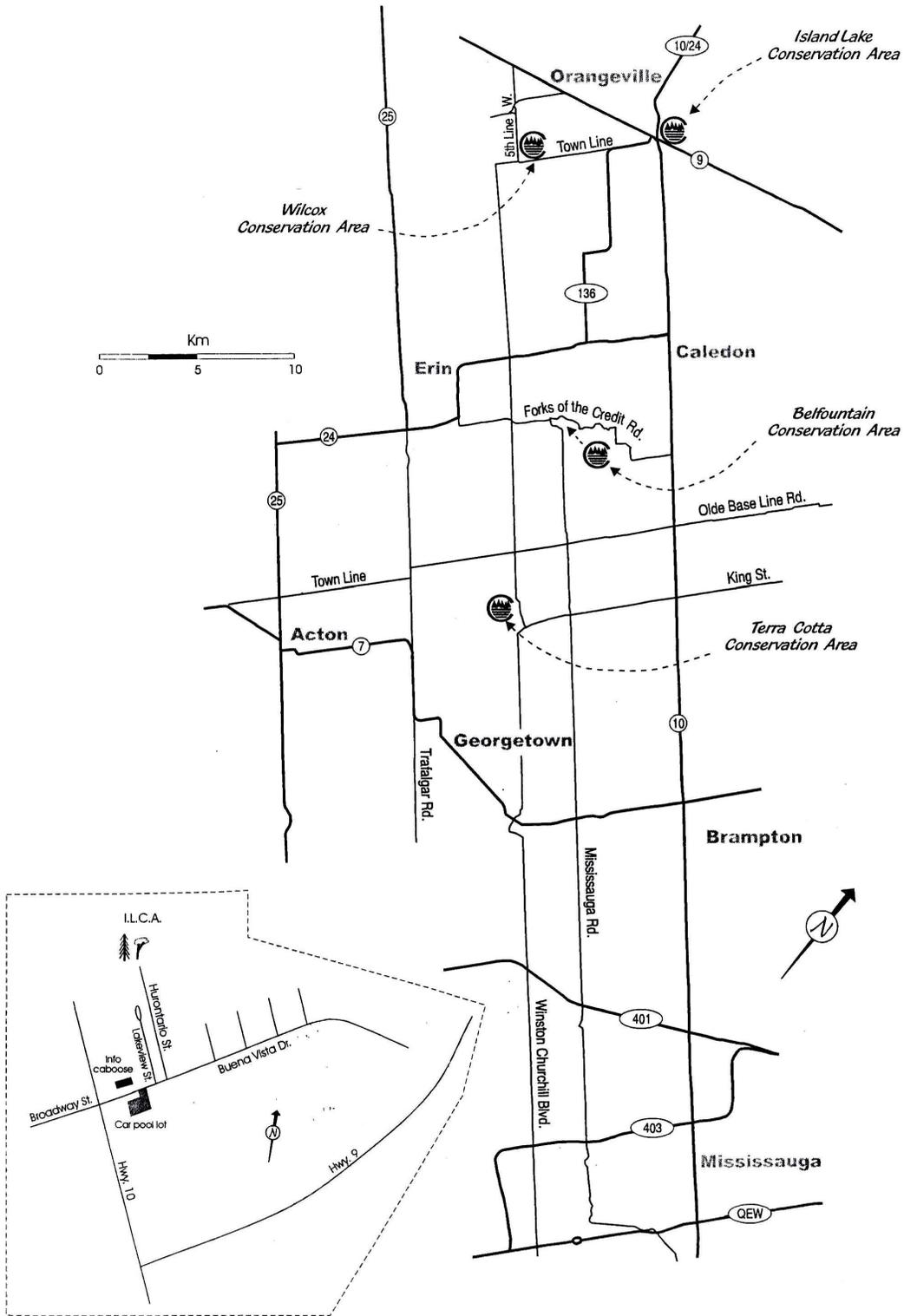
Youth Bible Study July 2013



CSI CHURCH, TORONTO
 YOUTH BIBLE STUDY
 How To Overcome Life Pressures – Part 2

Speaker: Mrs. Lalitha Arnold Where: 129 Pleasant Dr., Stratford
 When: Saturday, July 6, 2013 @11:30 519-275-3028

Island Lake Conservation Area
673067 Hurontario Street South,
Orangeville, L9W 2Y9



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Our Picnic spot Pavillion 2



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