



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church Toronto

Pilgrim

Volume 13 Issue 9

SEPTEMBER 2013



2013 Motto

We live by faith, not by sight

കാഴ്ചയാൽ അല്ല, വിശ്വാസത്താലത്രേ ഞങ്ങൾ നടക്കുന്നത്

2 Corinthians 5:7

**Men's Sunday & Onasadhya
September 8**

**Sunday School classes resume on
September 8, 10:15 AM**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Achen's message 3
- Celebrations 4
- Bible Portions 5
- Church News 7
- VBS 2013 8
- Youth 11

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Editorial

Being humble.....

Do you like to be at the top of the world? Do you like to inherit the earth? Fret no more; you can accomplish your dream if you become good imitators of Christ, who is the exemplar of humility. Christ came into this world to fulfil the will of His father. He took the fall because He considered each one of us above all. Philippians 2: 7 – 8 says, “He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in the appearance of a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on the cross!” The great I AM further displayed this when He washed the feet of His disciples.

Humility is often considered as the mark of weakness. Being fed by egoistic nature, everyone tries to cultivate and hold cultural and ethical values, but conveniently keeps away the humility part. It cannot be acquired from any school or store. It is the hallmark of a wise man/ woman who has received the heavenly wisdom. This Christian virtue allows people to consider others more significant than they are. Just as God rewarded Christ for the humility, the humble will be exalted, will be shown more grace, and will have 24/7 dedicated hotline access to Elohim. The word of God validates the promise of rewards for the humble.

Humility is the best prescription for the problems in our society. We can put on humility when we surrender to God’s will, rather than our own. The Christ like attitude towards serving others will certainly build us towards a meaningful life. Once we imbibe this heavenly gift, we can pass it on to the posterity. This will add value to our lives, and help us inherit the earth.

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 first Sunday of September is observed as Education Sunday as our students and teachers go back to schools and colleges after their holidays. Education is commonly defined as the process of learning and acquiring knowledge. According to Wikipedia, 'Any experience that has a formative effect on the way one thinks, feels, or acts may be considered educational'. Let me share a few biblical thoughts about education.

Education has no significance unless it relates a person to Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:26). Education can either expose Biblical truths and provide edification, or impart information about this world. The first priority of learning is to know God. "And this is eternal life that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." (John 17:3). One of the main aims of education is to help a person make wise decisions. In today's world we are possessed with enough data, but we are unable to make wise decisions based on those resources. Education ought to help us find suitable answers to our issues. Secular education provides help in such decision making. But Biblical education provides better assistance for two reasons. First, it motivates people to obey God's will in executing human affairs; second, it gives access to God's wisdom in knowing which decisions are to be made. "I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you..." (Ps. 32:8). I pray that the observation of Education Sunday will help us to open our eyes to perceive the truths in life.

Second Sunday of September will be observed as Men's Sunday. I would like to thank and appreciate the men in our church for their whole hearted support and involvement in all activities of our church. As a group of responsible brethren, we need to listen to the divine instruction in Hebrews 10: 19-25. In these verses the Bible is teaching us to perform several things: draw near with a true heart in the full assurance of faith (V22), hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (V23), provoke unto love and to good works (V24), not forsake the assembling of ourselves together (V25), and exhort one another (V25). So let us be faithful to the Lord by accomplishing these rules in our church life.

I appreciate our Sunday school Director and the staff for arranging VBS in the most attractive way this year. I thank the director, teachers, volunteers, parents and all those who rendered their silent service for the wonderful running of this church ministry for our kids.

I strongly appeal all the parents to kindly send their kids to the Sunday school as the classes resume on 8th of this month. Christian education is the basic requirement for a Christian child, and all our kids are to be benefitted by this enrichment.

May God bless you all.

Yours in His service
Shajiachen

BIRTHDAYS

01	Jacob M. John	13	Tessly Chungath
02	Sarah M. John	14	Rachel Cherian
07	Elizabeth Verghis	19	Rohit Mathew Oommen
07	Ancy Jacob	20	Rejikummar P. B
08	Priya Rachel Abraham	21	Mathew Chacko
08	Toby Jacob	22	Eva Bose
10	Jithin George	24	Annika Cherian
13	Shiny Paul	28	Elizabeth Mathai
13	Raj Hariharan	28	Suja Sara Koshy
13	John Mathew		



ANNIVERSARIES

10	Mathew Chacko & Meera Jacob
10	Selvarajan Thampy & Eva Bose
11	George Mathew & Siji Joseph
11	Prashanth Koshy & Sheena Koshy
16	Rennie Philip Joseph & Preetha
28	Aaron Fredrick & Mini Fredrick

September 01 15 th Sunday after Pentecost Education Sunday	Grow in the divine knowledge		
	Old Testament	Proverbs 2: 1-12	English Service
	Psalm	119: 33 - 40	Read by
	Epistle	James 3: 13 - 18	Teachers and Students
	Gospel	Matthew 7: 21 - 29	
September 08 16 th Sunday after Pentecost Men's Sunday	Ministry of the Laity: Priesthood of all believers		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 6: 1 - 8	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	36	Read by
	Epistle	Romans 12: 1 - 18	Men's Fellowship members
	Gospel	John 3: 1 - 8	
September 15 17 th Sunday after Pentecost	Social responsibility of the Church		
	Old Testament	Amos 2: 4 - 8	English Service
	Psalm	82	Read by
	Epistle	James 5: 1 - 6	Mr. Suby Mathews & family
	Gospel	Matthew 25: 31 - 46	
September 22 18 th Sunday after Pentecost	Christian character		
	Old Testament	1 Samuel 24: 1 - 15	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	15	Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians 6: 10 - 20	Mr. Daniel Thomas & family
	Gospel	Matthew 5: 13 - 16	
September 29 19 th Sunday after Pentecost	Michael and all Angels		
	Old Testament	2 Kings 6: 8 - 17	English Service
	Psalm	103: 17 - 22	Read by
	Epistle	Revelations 12: 7 - 12	Youth members
	Gospel	Matthew 18: 1 - 10	





Monthly Fasting Prayer

The fasting prayer for September will be held on Saturday, September 7 at 10.00 AM in the Church. All are invited.

Back to Sunday School

Sunday School classes will resume after the Summer break on Sunday, September 8 at 10:15 AM. All parents are requested to send their kids regularly for Sunday School.

Cottage Prayer

SHALOM Group

Cottage Prayer meeting for SHALOM Group (Scarborough, Whitby, RichmondHill, ThornHill area) will be held at Mr. Zac Santhosh Koshy's residence on Saturday, September 14 at 6.30 PM. All area members are invited.

JORDAN Group & GILEAD Group

Cottage Prayer meeting for JORDAN Group (Brampton area) and GILEAD Group (Mississauga, Toronto, Stratford, Milton, London area) will be held at 6:30 PM on Saturday, September 21 at Mr. T. Mathew Chacko's residence in Mississauga. Both area members are invited.

Men's Sunday and Onasadhya

We will be observing Sunday, September 8 as Men's Sunday. Our Men's fellowship members will be taking an active part in the worship service.

Onam is the biggest festival in Kerala. After the worship service our Men's fellowship members will be serving you all with a delicious, elaborate and grand meal. All are invited for the service and for the Onasadhya.

Youth Fellowship leading the Matins service

Our Youth fellowship members will be leading the September 29 Matins service. All are invited.

Books for Church library

This is a call for the donation of Christian books, CDs and DVDs for the church library. These resources will certainly help everyone to grow in the Lord.

If there are any such supplies that you can spare, please bring them to the church, and give to Achen, Christy Abraham or Dr. Nibu Varguise. The donated books etc. will be catalogued and maintained in the library, and put on circulation and in-house reading.

VBS 2013 — God's Backyard Bible Camp Under the Sun

Raimole Joseph

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Vacation Bible School of our church was held from August 22 - 25 at our church premises. God's Backyard Bible Camp was the theme for this year's VBS with 'Serve' being the theme word. The Bible verse chosen for this year's VBS was Mark 12: 30 which says, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all you strength.'

45 students attended the VBS and we had a wonderful team of volunteers and teachers to show these children how SERVING can be a way of life to become a perfect Christian. Day 1 started with a devotion session by our achen Rev. Shaji M Johnson for teachers and volunteers. The session for kids started at 10:00 AM with prayer by achen. The students were divided into 4 classes based on their ages. Pre School students were taught by Ms. Grace Ann Samuel, assisted by Ms. Megan Thomas and Mr. Jovin Mathew. Elementary students were taught by Ms. Sheethal Maria Thambi, assisted by Ms. Miriam Chacko. Pre teens were with Ms. Mira Jacob and the teen group was with Mr. Philip Mathai & Ms. Diani Mathai. All these days, children were engaged in a variety of activities like singing, crafts, and games.

Kids had wonderful singing sessions with our music team led by Diani, Sam, Chris George and Emily. Craft for this year was planned and coordinated by Christine Joseph, Ani chacko, Shini Samuel and Eva Bose. Games were organized by our youth team comprising Tom, Daniel, Akshay, Chris and Joshua.

During the 5 Bible sessions, the children learned how to serve family, neighbours, friends, community, and Lord Jesus. All the activities were based on these 5 topics, and we earnestly pray that the seeds planted in these young minds would be nurtured in the right way to bear fruits in abundance. We encourage all families to build on the foundations laid here, through family prayers and Bible readings at home

The success of VBS can be attributed to team effort. Many passionate volunteers worked tirelessly, many contributed generously, and above all many prayed continuously. Thank you all; we believe your riches in heaven are manifold.

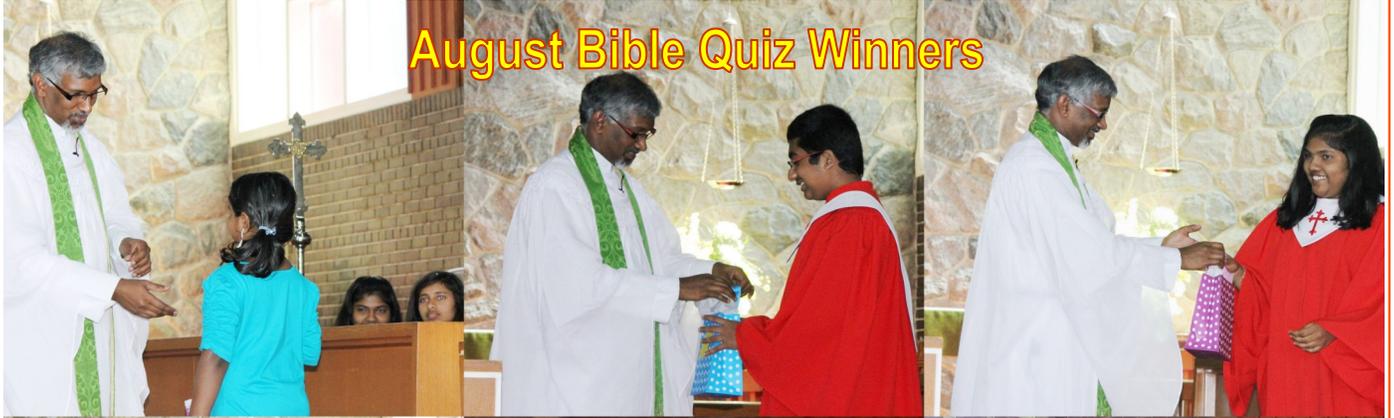
August 25, Sunday was observed as VBS Sunday. The students, teachers and volunteers took an active part in the worship service. Ms. Annie Mathew from Detroit Mar Thoma Church enlightened the kids with her interactive sermon, and prepared them for the alter call and dedication.

In the afternoon after the love feast, we had the final day program at the basement . Children showcased what they learned all those four days through skit and songs. Achen distributed certificates to students ,teachers and volunteers.

All praise, honor and glory be to the Lord Almighty for making this year's VBS — God's Backyard Bible Camp under the Sun, a blessing to the kids and the Church family.



August Bible Quiz Winners



Inter-Church Youth Meet up

Chris George

Praise the Lord! Last month, the youth had the privilege of spending time with five youth members from our sister church in Detroit, Michigan. They reached our church on Friday, August 23rd. We were all very excited to see Alan, Abe, Jerry, Sunil, and Santhosh. The next day, the youth met at church. Following an enjoyable barbeque lunch, we had a short meditation with Achen. Achen explained that as Christians, we must strive to live like Jesus. We should live a God-oriented life, humble ourselves before others, and defend ourselves from temptations with the Word of God. Afterwards, we headed to a nearby park where we spent some time outdoors in the favorable weather. It was all capped off with a delicious meal at Canyon Creek. It was a great way to end a fun-filled day. The Detroit youth attended our Sunday service the next day, and joined our youth in performing the hymn, "Channels Only".

As a youth group, this was our first inter-church youth event. I look forward to more experiences like this in the near future and I pray that God will continue to guide and strengthen our youth.



The Executive Committee Members of the CSI Church, Toronto

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