



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

# Pilgrim

Volume 13 Issue 10

OCTOBER 2013



### 2013 Motto

We live by faith, not by sight.

കാഴ്ചയാൽ അല്ല, വിശ്വാസത്താലത്രേ ഞങ്ങൾ നടക്കുന്നത്

2 Corinthians 5:7



**Thanksgiving & Harvest Festival  
October 20**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Achen's message..... 3
- Men's Sunday..... 4
- Bible Portions ..... 5
- Celebrations ..... 6
- Church News ..... 7
- Onasadhya ..... 9
- Youth ..... 10
- Family Seminar ..... 11

# Pilgrim

**OCTOBER 2013**

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*Editorial .....*

Thanksgiving.....

Ever kept a record of the manifold blessings we received? Probably, we'll be able to showcase the 'didn't receive' list. But it is still a wonder – the blessings' list weighs more!

How fortunate are we in knowing and experiencing the love of God in Christ Jesus! If His sacrifice is the greatest thing that ever happened in human history, His high-priestly prayer is the sweetest of all. He prayed for our unity and for keeping us safe from the evil one. He also prayed that we be sanctified and blessed with abundant grace. As we ponder over the fruit of this prayer, we're alarmed at the plight of our existence. How united are we in this world? Diversity is often attributed to thoughts, actions and beliefs. If we believe in diversity than in unity, we fail to understand the Holy Trinity. Jesus explained that He and The Father Almighty are one, and in perfect harmony. Where are we heading to? It is high time to rethink..... And yet, the unfathomable love of God covers us. It is only quite appropriate that we give thanks for the favors received. There is every need to thank our parents, children, elders and all Good Samaritans who have offered their unstinting support.

The instance of 10 lepers being healed by Jesus gives us a platform to examine the response of our hearts to blessings received. We can remain unmoved as if it were our right to receive, just like the 9 lepers who went away healed. They didn't show gratitude for the grace received. The one who came back to show his thankful heart, gained a personal relationship/ fellowship with Jesus.

*Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well." (Luke 17:17-19, NIV)*

It is our bounden duty to thank the Lord for all the benefits, blessings, protection and abundant grace. Had it been a day to day thing, rather than a single day in a year! May your hearts be kindled to offer thanks to others and to the Lord.

Samuel Anselm Samuel  
Editor

## Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ,

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

The festival of harvest is one of the significant festivals listed in the church almanac. The Harvest Festival was one of the major festivals that God asked His people to observe. This festival was also known as the feast of weeks, and it was associated with the great farming season of the Jews. In the book of Exodus 23: 15-19, we read as follows: *“Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread; No one is to appear before me empty-handed. Celebrate the Festival of Harvest with the first fruits of the crops you sow in your field. Celebrate the Festival of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in your crops from the field. Bring the best of the first fruits of your soil to the house of the LORD your God”*. These verses are the actual basis of our celebration of this festival. God expects three things from us: an offering, because “no one is to appear before me empty-handed”, the first fruits of our effort, and the best. Keeping these expectations of God in mind, we are asked to celebrate the harvest festival this year. As this festival is the memorial of the goodness of God, it is to be celebrated with thankfulness and rejoicing.

I humbly request my parishioners to look into their lives honestly, and try to find out the abundance of goodness they have received from the creator for the last one year. Kindly prepare for this year's Harvest Festival, and bring the best for the glory of God. Let us all join together to make this year's harvest festival rich and meaningful.

First Sunday of this month is observed as the Choir Sunday. Our choir will lead the worship service on this special day. As a consecrated group of people, the choristers bear big responsibility in organising the worship service. The choir pilots the whole congregation to the worship, and makes the congregation sing for the glory of God. They adorn the Holy worship service through music, and dedicate their lives to create unity in diversity through divine singing. I thank God for the meritorious service of our choir in our church, and pray that God may bless them for a more efficient ministry in the future.

We all know that prayer has a great space in church life. Though we had several occasions to gather together as congregation, we spent only a little time for prayer. The Holy Bible reveals that prayer is connected with receiving the power of God. Also prayer is an important part of battling the forces of evil. Seven days make one week. But seven days without prayer make one weak. As a church we have so many concerns to bring before God in prayer. I call the church to prepare for a whole day fasting prayer on 26<sup>th</sup> of this month. All are requested to gather with their prayer requests.

I again strongly appeal to all the parents to kindly equip and send their loving kids to the Sunday school regularly. Our children need constant spiritual nourishment as they grow. The Christian education provided in our church through the Sunday School is the basic requirement for a Christian child, and they are to be benefitted by this.

God bless you all!

Yours in His service

Shajiachen

Men's Sunday

Pilgrim



<b>October 06</b>  20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Choir Sunday		
	Old Testament	Exodus 15: 1 - 21	English Service
	Psalm	122	Read by
	Epistle	Revelation 19: 1 - 16	Choir Members
	Gospel	Luke 19: 36 - 40	
<b>October 13</b>  21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Care of physically and mentally challenged		
	Old Testament	2 Samuel 9: 1 - 13	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	34	Read by
	Epistle	2 Corinthians 12: 7 - 10	Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel & family
	Gospel	Luke 14: 15 - 24	
<b>October 20</b>  22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Thanksgiving & Harvest Festival		
	Old Testament	Deuteronomy 26: 1 - 11	English Service
	Psalm	65	Read by
	Epistle	2 Corinthians: 9: 6 - 15	Committee Members
	Gospel	Luke 21: 1 - 4	
<b>October 27</b>  23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Celebration of God's sovereignty, justice and peace		
	Old Testament	Jeremiah 23: 5 - 8	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	109: 21 - 31	Read by
	Epistle	Philippians 2: 1 - 11	Mr. Aji Mathews & family
	Gospel	Luke 10: 17 - 24	

**BIRTHDAYS**

- |    |                      |    |                        |
|----|----------------------|----|------------------------|
| 01 | Sajan Itty           | 16 | Grace Ann Samuel       |
| 02 | Joseph P. Mathews    | 18 | Omana Saramma Eapen    |
| 04 | Siby Jacob           | 20 | Joshua Shaji Moothedom |
| 06 | Fremita Fredrick     | 20 | Meera Jacob            |
| 07 | Christy Abraham      | 21 | Grace Elza George      |
| 08 | Samuel Anselm Samuel | 21 | Aghil Mathews          |
| 09 | Kenneth Kuruvilla    | 24 | Sarah George           |
| 11 | Maya Jacob           | 25 | Sarah Oommen           |
| 13 | Isabel Johnson       | 25 | Susan Kurian           |
| 14 | Reshma George        | 26 | Shini Samuel           |



**ANNIVERSARIES**

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 03 | Christy & Shirley Abraham              |
| 24 | Philip Mathai & Diani Mathai           |
| 30 | Vilayil Idikkula Kurian & Susan Kurian |
| 30 | Varghese V. John & Liji Varghese John  |



### **Family Seminar**

A family seminar is arranged on Saturday, October 5 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the church.

Fr. Ephrem Nariculam (*Professor of Theology*) will lead the seminar. All are invited.

### **Choir Sunday**

Sunday, October 6 will be observed as Choir Sunday. Our Choir members will be taking an active part in the worship service. All are invited for this special service.

### **THANKSGIVING AND HARVEST FESTIVAL**

*"Honor the Lord from your wealth, and from the first fruits of all your produce; so your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine."* Proverbs 3: 9 - 10

Our Annual Thanksgiving and Harvest festival will be held on Sunday, October 20, 2013. As usual after the Thanksgiving service, we will be celebrating the Harvest festival. It is a time to express our thankfulness to our Lord for the bountiful blessings He has bestowed on us during the past year, despite our innumerable shortcomings. We should express our thanks to God by giving Him our best.

It is our practice to offer to the Almighty our ONE DAY'S INCOME. Each earning member in the family is expected to offer his or her one-day's income to God as a token of thanks.

Please bring in suitable items for the Harvest festival. These items will be auctioned after the worship service. Your whole hearted co-operation is requested to make this Thanksgiving Day a great blessing.

### **Special Fasting Prayer**

There will be a special one day fasting prayer in the Church on Saturday, October 26 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Even if you are not able to attend the whole time, please come and spare sometime to attend the prayer.

### **Obituary**

Three of our members' dear ones have been called to their eternal home last month.

Mr. Joseph Pallasseril (76), father of Mrs. Siji Joseph was called to his eternal home on September 5 in Kerala. Please remember Siji, George and all family members in your prayers.

Mrs. Aleyamma George (89), mother of Mrs. Susan Joseph was called to her eternal home on September 11 around 9:00 PM in Kerala. Funeral service was held on Friday. Please remember Susan, Babu and all family members in your prayers.

Mrs. Lilly Oommen (86), mother of Mr. Alex (Viji) Oommen was called to her eternal home. Funeral service was held at CSI Christ Church, Mavelikara. Please remember Viji, Sumol and all the family members in your prayers.

May God comfort and console all the family members.

### **Memorial Prayer**

A memorial prayer meeting of Mrs. Aleyamma George, mother Mrs. Susan Joseph, has been arranged at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Babu Joseph Modayil on Saturday October 12 at 5:30 PM. All our members are invited for the memorial prayer.



Gratitude is a constant attitude of thankfulness and appreciation for life as it unfolds. Living in the moment, we are open to the abundance around us and within us. We express appreciation freely. We contemplate the richness of our life. In life's trials, we seek to understand, to accept, to learn. Gratitude is a continual celebration of life

.....author unknown



# Pilgrim

OnaSadhya



Matins Service on September 29





## Family Seminar

ROLE OF LAITY IN BUILDING UP PARISH COMMUNITY

*Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have; God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind". Hebrews 13:16*

### VENUE:

CSI Church, Toronto, 1315 Kipling Avenue, Etobicoke, Ontario

### DATE & TIME:

5th October 2013 9.30 AM - 12.30 PM

### RESOURCE PERSON:

#### Fr. Ephrem Nariculam

Professor of Systematic Theology, St. Augustine's Seminary, Scarborough and Toronto School of Theology, (University of Toronto)



### SEMINAR TOPICS:

- ◆ Theological and sociological dimensions of parish community in the light of teachings of the New Testament
- ◆ Inevitable role of parishioners in the building up of parish community as People of God.
- ◆ Ministry to family as the backbone in parish animation.

**Come and be challenged !!**

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

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Sunday School Director	Mrs. Raimole Joseph		Mr. Benjamin Chacko

**In everything give thanks;  
 for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.  
 1 Thessalonians 5:18**

*Happy Thanksgiving*