



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

Volume 14 Issue 1

JANUARY 2014



2014 Motto

'Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit,' ...

Zechariah 4:6

'സൈന്യത്താലല്ല ശക്തിയാലുമല്ല, എന്റെ ആത്മാവിനാലത്രേ,'...

Happy New Year

January 19 Youth Sunday

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Pilgrim

Editorial

JANUARY 2014

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Happy New Year.....

What a glorious moment! We stepped into 2014. 'Wish you a blessed, prosperous and happy new year', is the talk of the day. People all over the world have been busy wishing one another, hoping to have a better year than the one they had. It is also the time we start working on our material or spiritual resolutions. Some of them are going to be realized, and yet some wait to be appended to the 2015 list. As we get along our resolutions, let's not forget Matthew 16:26 – 'What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?'

The purpose of our lives is to be found in the net of heaven, which is described in the parable of the net in Matthew 13:47-50. In order to be collected as good fish, outward appearance is not a criteria. The personal relationship that we have with our Lord, and the good deeds that we do out of the love of God, make us acceptable. But we should not be contented. The angels are going to throw away the bad fish. Compelled by the love of God, does it not grieve us to see our friends, relatives, near and dear ones thrown out? It increases our burden to see that they share the net with us. Since we live in the end of the age, tweaking our resolutions to Christian standards can help us accomplish the purpose of our lives.

This year's resolution may include – 'I need to become a good fish in the sight of the Lord, and I need to be a contributor to the increase of God's kingdom.' When we seek God's kingdom in His grace, everything will be added on. This thought should help us realize our limitations and inability. Greater accomplishments can be ours if we wait on the Spirit of God. Let's get ready to be renewed in strength, and to take off and soar like eagles in 2014.

Samuel Anselm Samuel
Editor

Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ,

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

Let me thank God Almighty for the past one year, in which He has spoken to us, guarded us and blessed us more than we could ever imagine. Great was the faithfulness of God for all of us individually, and as a whole. We are at the threshold of 2014, and we trust that God has brought us to the New Year with new plans for the year.

The motto chosen for the year is 'not by might nor by power, but by my spirit' (Zech. 4:6).

These words were the revelation of God to the Jews in Jerusalem who had returned from their captivity in Babylon. The exiles had the responsibility to rebuild the temple of God, but the work had been frozen and stopped. Prophet Zechariah confronted the people with their task to take on the process of the reconstruction of the temple. God wanted to rebuild the worship which was frozen and stopped. The returned captives were really poor and weak. They were really discouraged and harassed by their enemies. More over, mountains of hindrances were also there. But God encouraged and empowered His dear people to get in to their task by fully depending on the matchless power of His Holy Spirit.

In His ministry, we may face barriers and hindrances in different ways. Sometimes we may wonder why God brings His loving ones to face such mountains. These mountains are of course the opportunities for us to see the might and power of God. We need to exercise our faith, so that we will experience God's power transforming all those mountains to a plain. Don't depend on chariots and horses, and no king is saved with the size of his army. Let us fully depend on the transforming power of the mighty God as we pass through the days, weeks and months of the New Year.

I'm glad that the Association Agreement between our church and the Diocese of Toronto is in action. I consider this association as a golden opportunity of progress and growth of our parish for the years to come. I thank the Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Thomas K. Oommen Thirumeni for his direction, the church wardens and the executive committee for their coordination, and the general body of our parish for their continuous support in this regard.

January third Sunday will be observed as the Youth Sunday, and I request all the parents and parishioners to encourage and support the youth by their attendance and prayer. This is an occasion for the youth to be familiar with the liturgy, ministries and life of the church.

As we enter into the New Year, let us take the decision to walk along with God by actively participating in the activities of the church. Count the worship service as the most important task to be done by us. Worship service is not a religious activity, but it is the state of heart. We need your participation in all areas of church life. Let us join together to celebrate the New Year with our creator.

Wish you all a very blessed New Year!

May God bless you all.

Yours in Christ

Shajiachen

Bishop's Visit

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	God's Revelation to All		
January 05 2 nd Sunday after Christmas	Old Testament	Isaiah 60: 1 - 7	English Service
	Psalm	98	Read by
	Epistle	Hebrews 1: 1 - 12	Mr. Thomas Mathai & family
	Gospel	Matthew 8: 5 - 13	
	Honouring the Body as the Temple of God		
January 12 Temperance Sunday 1 st Sunday after Epiphany	Old Testament	Ecclesiastics 6: 1 - 12	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	1	Read by
	Epistle	1 Corinthians 3: 16 - 23	Mr. Sanju Cherian & family
	Gospel	Matthew 5: 21 - 30	
	Spirituality of the Youth in the Contemporary World		
January 19 Youth Sunday 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany	Old Testament	Genesis 41: 37 - 43	English Service
	Psalm	111	Read by
	Epistle	Philippians 3: 1 - 15	Youth Members
	Gospel	Matthew 19: 15 - 22	
	Participation in Nation Building		
January 26 Indian Republic Day 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	Old Testament	Nehemiah 2: 11 - 18	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	101	Read by
	Epistle	1 Peter 2: 13 - 17	Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel & family
	Gospel	Luke 3: 7 - 14	

Sunday School Sunday

Suja Sara Koshy

By the grace of God, we were able to celebrate World Sunday School Sunday on November 3, 2013. The theme of the day was *Ten Commandments*, that God with His own fingers wrote on tablets of stone for the Israelites to live by. The action song sung by the children clearly denoted the theme. The Spirit driven interactive message by Ms. Diani Mathai was intended for both children and adults alike. Thanks to all Sunday School teachers for coordinating the whole day arrangements. Special word of thanks to Achen for the constant prayer and guidance. Thanks to the Lord Almighty for His abundant mercy in entrusting us with these bundles of talents and potentials. Let us together be responsible workers, and bring them up for Him.





Fasting Prayer

Our monthly fasting prayer will be held on Saturday, January 4, 2014 at 10:00 AM at the Church. All are invited to this special time of meditation and prayer .

Youth Sunday

We will be observing Sunday, January 19, 2014 as Youth Sunday. Our youth members will be taking an active part in the worship service. All are invited for this special Sunday.

Sunday School

Sunday School will re-open on Sunday, January 12 with changed timing — during the worship service.

The Sunday School annual exam will be on Sunday, February 9, and the Anniversary and Talent show will be on Sunday, February 16. Please prepare your children for the exam, and prepare them for one item in the Talent show. All parents are requested to send their children for Sunday School.

Cottage Prayer

Cottage prayer for JORDAN group (Brampton area) will be held at 6:30 PM on Saturday, January 18 at the residence of Mr. Philip Mathai. All area members are invited.

From the Secretary's desk

Dear members,

Greetings to all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The year 2013 just passed. We thank God Almighty for keeping all of us under His Wings, giving us good health, and also for providing us with everything we needed.

I take this opportunity to thank all the parish members for giving me another opportunity to serve as the Church Secretary. I am confident that the Lord will continue to bless us as we move forward, united in His love.

I also take this time to thank all the Executive committee members of 2013 for their hard work and commitment. 2013 was a busy year with many activities: monthly fasting prayer, cottage prayers, youth retreat and monthly Bible study, gospel convention ,VBS, church picnic, Onam celebration, harvest festival, house to house carol, church carol service, episcopal visit etc.

Last year, the process of approving the Association Agreement with the Anglican Diocese of Toronto was completed. I would like to thank our Bishop Rt. Rev. Thomas K. Oommen, The Archbishop Rt. Rev. Colin R. Johnson of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, Area Bishop Rt. Rev. Philip M. Poole and our Vicar Rev. Shaji M. Johnson for their guidance and support in this process.

Our diocese, MKD is holding BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS - celebrating the 200th year of the advent of CMS missionaries in Kerala. As part of this celebration, the diocese has started several charitable projects including supporting many missionaries and mission fields. I request all our members' prayer and support in these celebrations.

I extend a warm welcome to all our new members. Once again I would like to thank all the Church members for their generous contribution and support. May God bless us all with good health and happiness.

I wish you all a Blessed, Healthy and a Prosperous New Year 2014!

Christy Abraham

Secretary

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|-----------------------------------|
| 04 | Ninu Ann Varghese | 25 | Reeni Philip |
| 05 | Sonia Mathews | 28 | Suzane Sneha Joseph |
| 09 | Joy Abraham | 28 | Ryan Mathews |
| 10 | Aezekiel Mathews | 29 | Neha Chemmanoor |
| 13 | Varghese V. John | 29 | Megan Thomas |
| 22 | Aji V. Mathews | 30 | Selvarajan Thampy Puthenkulangara |
| 23 | Abraham P. George | | |



ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----|--|
| 03 | Sanju Cherian & Seethal Thampy |
| 03 | Santhosh Cherian & Jenny Varghese |
| 05 | Mathew Joseph & Mary Joseph |
| 07 | Jophy Philip & Smitha Victor Sam |
| 11 | 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 |

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Carol Service



Youth Christmas Get Together

Rohan Raj

On December 28th, 2013, the CSI Church of Toronto Youth Group gathered at Emily Verghis' house in order to enjoy a fruitful day of Christmas celebrations. There was a delicious potluck, a fun Secret Santa, and a lot of great relaxing, catch-up time amongst the youth. But the most important part of the day was when Shabu uncle shared a very important message and video about the persecution of Christians all over the world. The 15 minute video showcased the dangerous situations faced by people worshipping Christ in North Korea, and the unjust treatments and severe punishments they have to face in their everyday lives. Needless to say, the Youth Group was very moved by this video, and it certainly gave us a brief insight into what it means to be a Christian in an anti-religious country. We learned that although we take our freedom to worship for granted, we should all feel blessed for the freedoms we enjoy in this country, especially our freedom to worship.





MADHYA KERALA DIOCESE BICENTENARY

CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese is celebrating the legacy of 200 years of the CMS Missionary Movement. The five-year long celebrations was officially inaugurated on October 23rd 2012 at Alleppey. CSI Moderator, all Church Heads of Kerala, Chief Minister of Kerala, Union Ministers, Rajyasabha Deputy Chairperson, State ministers and other political leaders attended the inaugural function.

BICENTENARY PROJECTS

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | Bicentenary Postal Stamp..2016 | 14 | Home to homeless, 12 per district |
| 2 | Norton Memorial at Alappuzha | 15 | Marriage help, costing 50 lacs |
| 3 | Historical Museum and library... | 16 | Biogas plants, 300 in number |
| 4 | History book | 17 | Dalit scholarship fund, 50 lacs |
| 5 | Video Documentation | 18 | Micro finance scheme, 25 groups, 1 lac each |
| 6 | Souvenir – 2016 | 19 | Rural medical service |
| 7 | Counseling and De-addiction centers | 20 | Property Development |
| 8 | Law College, Ettumanoor, Govt. sanction already in place, trying to commence operation this year itself | 21 | Bishop Moore Institute for the partially hearing, application submitted for affiliation to University of Kerala |
| 9 | G.M.M Nursing School, Mallappally | 22 | Mission Fields- target 10 |
| 10 | Women's college | 23 | 200 missionaries |
| 11 | Othara eco spirituality centre, Minor Seminary | 24 | Gospel teams, one of them already in place |
| 12 | Clergy Bhavan cum office complex | | |
| 13 | Village church, parsonages, school development | 25 | Tourism and Evangelism: Kodaicanal and Kumarakam already in operation. Three more places identified |

The total estimated amount required is ₹26.5 crores.

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



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