

## MALAYALA LOKAM ANNUAL REPORT 2013

### CSI CHURCH, TORONTO

First and foremost, on behalf of Malayala Lokam, I would like to give all glory and praise to our Heavenly Father for His guidance through another blessed year. On April 14, 2013 the CSI Church, Toronto celebrated the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her Malayala Lokam class. The service of worship featured Malayala Lokam students and teachers taking an active part including the reading of lessons in Malayalam. Following the service, walking to the basement brought back nostalgic memories of Kerala. Sarees, thooku villaku, chellam, para were some of the artifacts used to adorn the basement and not surprisingly, it did exude an ambience of a typical ancient Kerala home.

As in the previous years, Malayala Lokam decided to raise money towards supporting Manakkala Higher Secondary School for the partially hearing, Adoor and V.H.S.S for the deaf, Tholassery, Thiruvalla. Vegetarian Thali was served at a cost of \$2.00 per head. The menu included Rice, Parippu Curry, Erisheru, Theeyal, Pacha Moru, Avial, Thoran, Pickle, Chips, Yoghurt, Sugar and Banana. We raised a little over \$600. Our success would not have been possible without the generous support of our congregation and our heart-felt thanks go out to each one of them.

To top it all, our boys gave an impressive presentation of "Villu Pattu", composed by our beloved Achen. This musical recitation traced the journey of CSI Church, Toronto since its inception, the workings of the various fellowships and the ministry of Malayala Lokam. Their impeccable dialogue delivery in Malayalam was a real treat! In addition, our girls presented a rhythmic group dance which embodied a fusion of classical and folk dance. It was also perfect way to showcase how art can be used for the glory of God. Last year, the students were divided into three classes: Beginner, Intermediate and an Adult/Young Adult class. The classes were thirty minutes in length, immediately following the church service. The program is scheduled for 3 semesters, each semester being a 3-month session: January-March, April-June, and September-November respectively. Perfect attendance and effective participation were the program's expectations.

The Beginner class, led by Mrs. Raimole Joseph completed the Lord's Prayer as well as the Swarangal. The Intermediate class was headed by Mrs. Shini Samuel and Mrs. Mariamma Thomas. Their primary emphasis was on reviewing the Malayalam letters while also focusing on conversational Malayalam as well as singing Malayalam hymns. The creation of the Adult/Young Adult class was the new feature of Malayala Lokam last year. This class, headed by Mrs. Mariamma Thomas, is geared towards equipping the adults/young adults of our church to communicate, read and understand the Bible and the liturgy in Malayalam. The teaching assistants, Jovin Abraham, Jefin Abraham, Mona Abraham, Priya Abraham and Grace Samuel played a vital role in the smooth running of the program.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Shaji Achen and Sangeeth Kochamma for their continued support and services. Special thanks to Samuel A. Samuel (Pilgrim) and Siby Jacob (Website) for communication. Lastly, I would also like to acknowledge the Executive committee and the congregation for their valuable advice and never-ending support.

I conclude the report with a deep sense of gratitude to God Almighty for all the blessings showered on Malayala Lokam since its formation. As we have celebrated nine years of teaching our children our mother tongue and our culture, may God continue to bless the efforts of the students, parents, and teachers, and continue to use them for His glory.

Mariamma Thomas  
Director, Malayala Lokam