



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

# Pilgrim

Volume 14 Issue 9

SEPTEMBER 2014



## 2014 Motto

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

Zechariah 4:6

'സൈന്യത്താലല്ല ശക്തിയാലുമല്ല, എന്റെ ആത്മാവിനാലത്രേ,'...

*September 7*  
*Men's Sunday & Onasadhya*  
*September 21*  
*Missions' Sunday*

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# Pilgrim

**SEPTEMBER 2014**

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*Editorial .....*

*Guide me, O thou.....*

How well do we know God? Is God a myth or a reality? Is He the projection of our fancy? These questions have gained momentum and strength in today's world. Perhaps, the fear of God built on faith has eroded to accommodate a qualm and void in our lives. We like to perceive the omnipotent God according to our limited understanding, and try to contain Him in a technological grasp. There is a hefty price tag on our faith. There are myriad instances that make us stumble, and lose ourselves to the ways of the world. As we do battle, Jesus says, '*Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.*' (Mt. 11 : 6)

Man, though the crown of creation, is always prone to waver. John, the prophet, could recognize Jesus as He came to be baptised. Moreover, when John baptised Jesus, he witnessed the supernatural event of the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus, and the word of God speaking to him. John says, '*I have seen and testify that this is God's Chosen One.*' (Jn. 1 : 34) This powerful revelation could not fully satisfy him. The circumstances forced him to trigger a question at Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?' Probably, the deeds of Jesus shattered John's perceptions. John believed that with fire and winnowing fork, Jesus will bring down judgment on people. But John couldn't probably look into the grace of God that came down as flesh for regaining and restoring man. Jesus, meek as a lamb, taught, preached, healed, and did miracles. Jesus gave an indirect answer to John. He wanted John and everyone to realize that God's plan is unfathomable.

The transformation of thought that came upon John the Baptist, so powerful a prophet in the spirit and power of Elijah, is so mundane that it can grasp and pull down anyone. But those people who have the insight into the real personality of Jesus, His vision and mission, will be able to stand firm and not stumble. When doubts assail to shatter the beliefs in us, the word of God helps to reinstate our faith in Jesus. It also helps us to look around for the divine providence, and opens our hearts to believe in His infinite plan. Let this thought guide each one to that blessed nature!

Samuel Anselm Samuel

Editor

## Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ,

It is a privilege to greet all of you in the name of our Lord.

Since the formation of the Church of South India, September has been a very enthusiastic period in the life of the faith community, in view of the fact that we celebrate the birthday of our Church. It is the time when we all gratefully remember the 'Second Pentecost' in the history of Christianity. The Missionary Movements that had been serving in different parts of South India came together, and thought about the possibilities of becoming a united church solely based on the Word of God, more than the traditions. History records the fact that it took thirty years of fervent prayer and consultations for the inception of CSI. Different traditions including Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational came to the same platform and declared that they are one in the Lord. The high priestly prayer found in John 17 was the solid foundation of all the attempts made for the union. "...that they may all be one." (John 17 : 21) is the key verse of our church. St. George Anglican Cathedral in Chennai (erstwhile Madras) witnessed the opening service on September 27, 1947. Rt. Rev. C. K. Jacob, the Bishop of erstwhile Travancore-Cochin Diocese of the Anglican Church (now CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese), presided over the meeting. There began the journey of our fore-fathers and fore-mothers trusting in the Word of God in unison. The church union reminds us that the believers are one in the Lord, irrespective of the outward differences. Let us continue to uphold the unity that we have in the Lord. Let us be proud that we are part of the Second Pentecost (as historians term it) and continue to bear that legacy.

Mission is an important aspect of Christian life. All the blessings we receive from the Heavenly Master are not for any accumulation but for sharing. We need to understand the needs of those around us who are deprived of "life in abundance". We need to show Jesus Christ, the only one who can give abundant life, to those in need. As we observe one more Mission Sunday we need to remind this truth ourselves. Let us fruitfully share the blessings that we have, for the extension of His Kingdom.

All the programs of the church went very systematically during August. We experienced the blessing of God in each program. The picnic was a time to relax and share our happiness. The Annual Gospel Convention was an occasion to reflect upon our lives, based on the Word of God. The Vacation Bible School also helped our younger generation to learn about the love of God. The Executive Committee, the Church Choir and the Sunday School Team deserve appreciation. In all these, many came and stood behind-the-curtain, helped the programs with their multi-faceted talents, and made events joyful. Let me express gratitude to each of them. All the organizations of the church have put in their efforts in all these. Let us continue to keep up the spirit of unity. Let us work for the meaningful and fruitful existence of our Church in the days to come.

Teachers and Students are at the dawn of another academic year. It is the sincere prayer of the Church that all of you may find truth and gain wisdom in your attempts to teach and learn. Learning is gaining wisdom and not having information. Use the God-given faculties to build up a fruitful life in the service of the Almighty and humans. Learn from your failures, and do not ever be fast to say it is only by your merit. Count the favor of God upon your lives. God bless all.

Personally, I take this opportunity to thank each and every one for consoling us as we mourn the sudden and unexpected departure of my uncle (Mr. C. A. George, 74 years) to his heavenly abode on August 20.

May the good Lord guide us and strengthen us as we move on as a faith community to witness His love.

Prayers and regards,

Siby Achen.

**BIRTHDAYS**

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



**ANNIVERSARIES**

03	Jinoj Titus & Rajitha Jinoj
10	Mathew Chacko & Meera Jacob
10	Selvarajan Thampy & Eva Bose
11	George Mathew & Siji Joseph
16	Rennie Philip Joseph & Preetha
28	Aaron Fredrick & Mini Fredrick

Equipping the People of God			
<b>September 07</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost  <b>Men's Fellowship            Sunday</b>	Old Testament	Deuteronomy 6 : 1 - 17	<b>Malayalam Service</b>
	Psalm	119 : 89 - 104	Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians 4 : 7 - 16	Men's Fellowship
	Gospel	Matthew 7 : 24 - 29	
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper			
<b>September 14</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost	Old Testament	Genesis 14 : 17 - 24	<b>Malayalam Service</b>
	Psalm	104 : 14 - 30	Read by
	Epistle	I Corinthians 10 : 15 - 17	Women's Fellowship
	Gospel	Mark 14 : 12 - 26	
Social Responsibility of the Church			
<b>September 21</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost  <b>Mission Sunday</b>	Old Testament	Amos 2 : 4 - 8	<b>English Service</b>
	Psalm	82	Read by
	Epistle	James 5 : 1 - 6	Missions Committee
	Gospel	Matthew 25 : 31 - 46	
Unity in Witnessing			
<b>September 28</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost  <b>Remembrance of            CSI Formation</b>	Old Testament	Ezekiel 37 : 15 - 22	<b>English Service</b>
	Psalm	122	Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians 4 : 1 - 6	Shibu Paul Pulikaparambil & family
	Gospel	John 17 : 20 - 26	





## My first VBS experience in Canada

*Ryan John Varghese*

Until 2013, I went to CSI Church, Abu Dhabi, UAE, and attended the VBS there. After we moved to Canada in 2013, I've been attending CSI Church, Toronto. This is the first time I am attending a VBS in Canada. This year, the theme of VBS was "Where Kids Discover God's Love". The theme and the memory verses were taken from 1 Corinthians 13. The craft items were a treasure box and a magic sand bucket, which were related to the theme of the VBS. The stories which I studied were:

1. Jesus forgives Zacchaeus.
2. Jesus helps a young girl and a sick woman.
3. Jesus lives forever.

I had amazing teachers for VBS - Ajin aunty and Chris achachan on Friday and Nibu uncle on Saturday. The songs were wonderful and correlated with the theme.

Let me share with you the differences in my previous and new VBS experiences. Wherever we are, VBS presents us with an opportunity to study the Word of God in a fun-filled and memorable way. At VBS in Toronto, we get to decorate the hall according to the theme of the VBS. At VBS in Abu Dhabi, there is no decoration because they are renting a church for worship.

Here, we have crafts, activities and fun games depending on the theme of VBS. In the UAE, we just learn memory verses and songs, and do just one activity every day. VBS in Toronto has different and more activities compared to the VBS in Abu Dhabi. There, VBS is during the winter vacation. Here in Toronto, it is during the summer vacation.

VBS in Abu Dhabi is for 10 days, daily after noon from 4 PM to 7:30 PM. Here in Toronto, the VBS is for 2 full days ending with a concluding VBS program on the third day. Also, here, the VBS director is from the same church, where as in Abu Dhabi, the VBS director arrives from another church, probably from India. Here we learn only a few songs because of the two days' time. But in Abu Dhabi VBS, they learn a lot of songs from specially prepared song books.

The Altar-call Worship Service in Toronto is more blessed than the Altar-call Service in Abu Dhabi.

Thank God for giving me one more year to attend VBS with my friends, and to have a blessed and fun-filled time with God.

God bless you all.





### **Fasting Prayer**

The Monthly Fasting Prayer will be held at 9.30 AM on September 6. Please note this time change for this month. All are invited.

### **Men's Sunday and Onasadhya**

We will be observing September 7, 2014 as Men's Sunday. Men's Fellowship members will be taking an active part in the worship service. This will be followed by the celebration of ONAM with a delicious and grand meal served by our Men's fellowship members. All are encouraged to come in the traditional Kerala outfit. All are invited for the service and for the Onasadhya.

### **Cottage Prayer**

Cottage prayer meeting for JORDAN Group (Brampton Area) will be held at 6.30 PM on Saturday, September 20 at Mr. & Mrs. P. Mathew Verghis's residence. All area members are invited.

Cottage prayer for GILEAD Group (Mississauga Area) will be held at 6.30 PM on Saturday, September 27 at Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Cherian's residence. All area members are invited.

### **Special fund for the Projectors**

As per the General body's decision, a special fund for your donations towards buying projectors for the Church is created. As of now the budgeted amount is \$8000.00. If you wish, please contribute to this fund.

### **Sunday School Classes**

Our Sunday school classes will resume on Sunday, September 14, after the summer holidays. All the parents are requested to send their kids for Sunday School.

### **Missions Sunday**

We will be observing September 21 as Mission Sunday. Ms. Sarah John will be attending the worship service.

## IN HIS PRESENCE

Mary Alexander

In the O.T. times, God showed up to His people, and spoke directly to them in person. But in the N.T. time, Jesus opened the way to God, for us to enter into His presence. At His death, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; giving us the freedom to enter the throne of grace and be with our Father God. Though invisible, He is available to us, and awaits our presence and fellowship.

God's presence releases His supernatural powers, and this was evident on the day of Pentecost when God's power came down to those who waited in the upper room, in prayer. God's power will release His spiritual gifts and the gifts of the Fruit of the Spirit into us. In Jeremiah 29 : 13 we read, "...you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart." Therefore, waiting patiently and unhurriedly in humbleness before the Lord, fully focused on Him is what God desires of us. It is when we go on our knees before Him that we witness supernatural miracles.

There are many benefits we receive by being in the presence of the Lord.

### IN HIS PRESENCE WE WILL:

- \* Have fullness of joy
- \* Learn of Him and come to know Him as "Mary learned at the feet of Jesus."
- \* Become saturated in the Word of God.
- \* Become humble and submitted to the Holy Spirit
- \* Have our mind and spirit renewed by the Holy Spirit and transformed.
- \* Absorb His qualities and learn to love and forgive like Him.
- \* Receive power to live as powerful Christians.
- \* Grow in our faith.
- \* Bear fruit for Him.
- \* Become His true witnesses and see miracles of salvation.
- \* Receive protection and all provision we need.
- \* Thank Him and glorify Him as we wait in His presence.

Many will say they know about God, but only a few can say they know God. To know Him is to have a personal, intimate relationship with Him. To know Him is to open the temple of our hearts and invite Him to reside within us. We can know all about a person, and yet not know him/ her unless we spend time with him/ her. This is the same with God. When we spent time with Him we become close to Him and will be able to open our hearts to Him, for Him to abide.

In Revelation 3 : 20 we read, "*Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any man opens the door I will come into him and fellowship with him.*"

This verse is often used for inviting people to receive Christ into their heart and lives, but it is also written for us believers to open the doors of our hearts to Him so that He will come in and commune with us, and pour out into us more of Himself, more of His blessings, power, grace, strength, healing, and fill us with His love and forgiveness.

Ephesians 3 : 20 says, "*...He will give us exceedingly, abundantly more than we ask or think...*"

(Continued on page 11)

## ANNUAL GOSPEL CONVENTION 2014



(Continued from page 10)

Psalms 16 tells us, *“In His presence there is fullness of joy and at His right hand there are pleasures forever.”*

Therefore, His presence will not disappoint us. Our efforts will not be in vain. We will go out with more than with what we came in. We will be happier people, joyful, content, encouraged and peaceful, wanting to come again and receive more of Him. We will learn to trust Him as a friend, but even more, as our loving Father. We will be able to share our innermost secrets with Him. The Bible tells us *“He who sees us in secret will reward us openly.”* (Matthew 6 : 6)

No one else in the world can be a friend to us as God. He is willing to listen, to receive, to provide, to protect, and to save, understanding all our limitations. He is willing to forgive all our sins when we repent, never to remember them again, and bless us again and again and not condemn us. He will do miracles in our lives when we least expect, and meet all our needs, without expecting anything in return.

OH! WHAT A SAVIOR! (There is a hymn beginning with these words.)

May God bless us to use this God-given privilege to enter into His presence and LINGER in His presence, to know Him, love Him, and be blessed with all His blessings. Let us together glorify our Lord and Savior for who He is, and for all the blessings He has poured out in our lives.

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

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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. T. Mathew Chacko
Joint Secretary	Mr. Shibu Paul Pulikaparambil	Choir Director	Mr. Sanju Cherian
Treasurer	Mr. Joseph P. Mathews	Social & Recreational Director	Mr. Zac Santhosh Koshy
Joint Treasurer	Mr. Ajoy Lional	Trustees	Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel
Sunday School Director	Mrs. Elizabeth Verghis		Mrs. Annie Koshy



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