



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

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OCTOBER 2014



2014 Motto

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

Zechariah 4:6

'സൈന്യത്താലല്ല ശക്തിയാലുമല്ല, എന്റെ ആത്മാവിനാലത്രേ,'...

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***CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY &
SERVICE OF INDUCTION
October 5, 2014 @ 4 PM***

Pilgrim

OCTOBER 2014

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Editorial

Clothe me, O Lord.....

Have you ever been in a situation that demands humility? Lack of self-effacement is a crucial issue that gnaws at our lives every now and then. Relationships are strained, and imbalance is created. To close the chasms formed by this situation, people should be clothed in humility, a noble virtue. Christians ought to have this nature in all circumstances. This might sound unreasonable and illogical at times. But as followers of Christ, we need to be transformed into this sublime attitude.

St. Paul exhorts us: *'In your relationship with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 2: 5) Jesus has shown us the way, and left us a sublime example. Philippians 2: 6 – 8 details how the eternal God, instead of holding on to His very nature, took upon Himself the very nature of a servant in flesh, and humbled Himself to the extent of death on the cross. Isaiah 42, 52 and 53 also talk about the suffering servant. Many people have misunderstood these passages or have tried to belittle the nature of Christ. It really needs a divine revelation and profound faith to grasp the divinity of Jesus Christ – the eternal love that flowed into our fleeting nature. It needs a lot of nerve to watch the eternal God being humble, meek and silent before Pilate. This attitude has earned Him a name above all names, *'every knee shall bow in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth....'* Humility is not a commonplace virtue. It can be achieved only through prayer and supplication. If we are able to value others better than ourselves, and be mindful of the interests of others, then we're blessed; and in course of time will become a blessing unto everyone around us.

The society we live in craves for all members to be garbed in humility. It is very difficult to crack this diamond, but it is very easy to look to 'the pioneer and perfecter of faith' for transforming us into His likeness. Let's give it a try....

Samuel Anselm Samuel
Editor

Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ,

I am pleased to greet all of you in the magnificent name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

These days we are experiencing a change in the weather, which is part of our life on this part of the planet. Summer is giving way to the fall season. Greenery is changing to multiple colors, which may appear awesome, but it signals the step to 'the fall'. Creation in its various processes teaches us many lessons. Life, constituted of varied experiences, may not be stable and consistent. But the Word of God affirms that "the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, and His mercies shall never come to an end". In this world of confusion and change, let us, in humility, constantly trust the ever present love of God that attracts all of us towards Him. Change is very positive and that should be from the better to the best in our relationship with God. The world cannot be constant, and it keeps on changing.

October is yet another enthusiastic period in our lives as it observes 'the thanksgiving'. Gratefulness is a highly positive virtue. Beyond the usage of "thank you", it should be a time to reflect the many ways God has led us in the past. Past is not to be forgotten, but lessons may be taken as to further our life in the present for the best in the future. With what have we come to this land? What all has the Almighty granted us in His abundant mercy? How were we equipped to face the daily initial struggles? How are we blessed at present? How better are we? We should be asking ourselves many more thoughtful questions as we prepare ourselves to observe the Thanksgiving.

We are celebrating the Harvest Festival on October 19, the third Sunday. . Deuteronomy 26 teaches us about the first fruits and the tithe. We are called to honor God, the Merciful Provider, with a portion of the blessings that we have received from Him. Remember, the sharing of our resources should be beneficial to the "Levites, the resident aliens, the orphans and the widows", those who are deprived of the abundant life we share. Keeping this fact in mind, pondering over and praying about it, let us submit the best that we have to the House of the Lord, which is the called community of believers. Let us wholeheartedly participate in this worship, and offer ourselves with our offerings that we may live for our Master, bearing fruits. As it is our practice, with a heart of gratitude, let us offer our one-day salary at this observation of Harvest festival. Not only the heads of the families, but all who have received a day's salary, however little or large it is, may offer. This year onwards, let me exhort all young people to personally offer one-day salary received from their part-time vacation jobs, if this was not practised earlier. Giving God the best will only add blessings to our lives, and that is the experience of many believers. May I humbly request every one of you not to feel compelled when church asks to share your resources. Consider the amount that we spend for our food (weekend restaurants), clothes and footwear (fashion trends), vehicles, cottages, hobbies and collections, trips, home furnishings and many more to be included. More than the amount, it is the attitude that God counts. II Corinthians 9:7 reminds us that "God loves a cheerful giver". With cheerfulness and thankfulness let us make our humble offering.

Choir Sunday will be observed on October 12, the second Sunday. The presence of choir in our worship is vital. They represent all of us, as believers are pilgrims who look at the cross of Christ, take their own crosses, and are washed by the blood of Jesus (red and white robes). Our Church Choir is fortunate that it is blessed with talents. I want to appreciate their commitment and support that they extend to the life of CSI Church, Toronto, on behalf of the congregation. God bless all their efforts.

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The Induction Service and The Celebration of New Ministry of the Vicar will take place on October 5 at 4:00 p.m. The Saffragan Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto and the Bishop of York-Credit Valley, Rt. Rev. Philip M Poole will bless the occasion by His Lordship's esteemed presence. We, the erstwhile Travancore-Cochin Anglican Diocese, were a part of this practice of the Anglican tradition till 1947. We have been continuing this relationship even after the formation of Madhya Kerala Diocese of the Church of South India. Our ministers (achens) who are posted in the Church of North India or to other Dioceses on deputation also undergo the same procedure. Basically, it is welcoming a minister to a fresh context and praying for God's blessings on his/her ministry there. It also helps us to remember the significance of the Ordained Ministry in the life of the Church. Kindly uphold the special service in your valuable prayers, and bless the occasion with your honorable presence and active participation. Thank you all for the heartfelt support extended to me and my family in our ministry here and the preparations being made for the Induction Service and Celebration of the New Ministry.

God bless and keep us as we continue to live for His glory.

Prayers and regards,

Siby Achen.



CSI CHURCH, TORONTO

You are cordially invited to
the Celebration of New Ministry
and the Induction

by the Bishop of York Credit Valley, Rt. Revd. Philip M. Poole

of

The Revd. George Jacob
as Vicar

on Sunday 5 October 2014 at 4.00 pm
in the CSI Church, Toronto

*The service will take place within the context of the eucharist.
Refreshments in the Church Basement Hall*

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October 05 17 th Sunday After Pentecost Service of Induction	Celebration Of New Ministry		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 6 :1- 8	English Service
	Psalm	122	Read by
	Epistle	1 Corinthians 12 :4-12	Executive Committee
	Gospel	John 21 :1-14	
October 12 18 th Sunday After Pentecost Choir Sunday	Worship: Praise and Adoration to the Almighty		
	Old Testament	Exodus 15: 1- 21	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	34	Read by
	Epistle	Revelation 19: 1-16	Choir Members
	Gospel	Luke 19: 36- 40	
October 19 19 th Sunday After Pentecost	Harvest Festival		
	Old Testament	1 Chronicles 29:10-20	English Service
	Psalm	65	Read by
	Epistle	2 Corinthians 9 :6-15	Abraham P. George & family
	Gospel	Luke 21 :1-4	
October 26 20 th Sunday After Pentecost	Reformation Sunday		
	Old Testament	2 Chronicles 34:8-21	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	46	Read by
	Epistle	Revelation 2 :1-7	Malayala Lokam Students
	Gospel	John 2:12-22	

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 I. Kurian & Susan Kurian
30	Varghese V. John & Liji Varghese John
31	Bishan Ghosh & Sheeba Levison Ghosh



Fasting Prayer

Our Monthly fasting prayer will be held on October 4, 2014 at 10.00 AM. All are invited.

Celebration of New Ministry

The Celebration of New Ministry and Induction of our Vicar Rev. George Jacob will be held on Sunday, October 5, 2014 at 4.00 PM. The Holy Communion service will be led by Bishop Rt. Rev. Philip M. Poole. You are all invited for this service.

Please note that there will be no morning worship service on October 5, 2014.

Youth Retreat

Our youth fellowship members will be attending a youth retreat from October 3 to 5, 2014 at Medeba Retreat centre in Haliburton, Ontario. Seventeen youth will be attending the retreat.

Thanks Giving and Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating our Thanksgiving and Harvest Festival on Sunday, October 19, 2014. As usual, after the Thanksgiving service we will be celebrating the Harvest Festival. We express our thanks to our Lord for all the blessing He has graciously bestowed on us during the past year. Let us express our thankfulness by giving our best during the celebration.

Hence we request you all to come with your offerings and praise God's Holy name, and thank Him for all His blessings.

It has been our practice to offer our "ONE DAY'S INCOME" as a thank offering. Each earning member is requested to offer his / her one-day's income.

Your whole -hearted cooperation is requested to make this Thanksgiving Day a great blessing.

Cottage prayer

Cottage prayer meeting for SHALOM Group (Scarborough area) will be held on Saturday, October 11 at Mr. & Mrs. Zac Santhosh Koshy's residence at 6.30 PM. All Area members are invited.

Cottage prayer meeting for JORDAN Group (Brampton Area) will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2014 at Mr. & Mrs. Joy Chemmanoor's residence at 6.30 PM. All area members are invited.

Choir Sunday

We will be observing October 12, 2014 as Choir Sunday. Our Choir members will be taking an active part in the worship service. All are invited.

Children's Sunday

We will be observing Sunday, November 2 as Children's Sunday. Our Sunday School Children will be taking an active part in the worship service.

Mission Sunday

Pilgrim

This year we had our Annual Missions Sunday on September 21, led by Rev. George Jacob, with active participation of the Missions committee members.

The message on 'Missions & its importance' was presented to us by Sarah John, a Campus for Christ Missionary from Power to Change, whom we support with our prayers & financial support.

Sarah John highlighted the importance of accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and the need for sharing His redeeming grace with those who do not know him. She also stressed that in addition to meeting the spiritual needs, we also have to provide to the best of our abilities the physical needs of those in need. The youth helped us praise the Lord with a special song.

Sarah John also gave a brief PowerPoint Presentation of the Missions' trip & her organization's activities in the University campus.

Rev. George Jacob presented her with our annual Missions Contribution for 2014. He also introduced the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes & presented 7 boxes to the children.

John Mathew



Pilgrim

Men's Sunday



The Cross and the Crown of Job

Rev. George M. John

Introduction

Are you worried or frustrated in life? Do you feel that you were misjudged or justice was not done in your case? Do you feel that the reaction of the world was contrary to your expectations?

Here is the story of a man who faced many types of unpleasant situations in his earthly career and was rejected and made outcaste by this world, but God finally vindicated him. Here is the story of this comedian Job who inspired many men and women in different walks of life through generations. He can still inspire many.

Tradition says that Job was a very rich man in the East, and was the personification of virtues (Job 1:1-5) and maintained exemplary moral and ethical standards, and thus he was the embodiment of the fruits of the Spirit. The story of Job depicts certain facts. Why do the righteous suffer? When the righteous suffer, why is God silent? Why does a loving God seemingly forsake His beloved at the time of trials? These are difficult questions to answer. God admits Job's uprightness and righteousness when He answers Satan saying, "there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil." (ch. 2:3) (KJV), In God's divine economy, there is suffering for the righteous in order to prove that God knows the situation of one who is suffering, and reveals Himself to mankind, and to comprehend God in deeper way when man's faculties are unable to comprehend God and His plans.

Job's Background

Job, according to the Bible, was from the land of Uz located near Edam (according to one tradition) and his social and economic status was exemplary. His confidence in the Almighty led to his own statement that his redeemer lives and after his skin has been destroyed he would see God (ch. 19:25-25). Job had ten sons and daughters and offered sacrifices to God so that they might not sin against God. He was blessed materially and the number of sheep, camels, cattle and donkeys bear testimony to this. He was a man of great wisdom, and moral strength was compatible with the Psalmist's dictum, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Ps. 111:10), The picture of his personality focuses his 'God-fearing' and submissive nature of God, his uniqueness as head of household, and his sound economic position unquestionably made him a great Easterner in the contemporary world.

God permits Satan to tempt Job

The Bible says that Satan has supernatural powers to oppress people, but God's power supersedes Satan's power. The fall of Adam and Eve and the beginning of the universality of sin started with the initiative of Satan (Gen.3). Job was prosperous in everything because of God's special protection and His plan (Job 1:9). Satan complains to God that he cannot do any harm to "the blameless and upright" because he is protected by a hedge around Job and his household (cf. Deut. 22:8). God permitted Satan to tempt Job and this is the beginning of the upheavals, calamities and trials. Subsequently, Job lost all he owned (1:13-22) and was victimized by Satan who is the prince of the power of the air (Jn. 12:31; Eph. 2:2). Job was also physically tortured (2:7,8) by Satan. Job's wife also urged Job to deny God (ch. 2:9) and to sin so

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that he may take his life and thus get relief from physical sufferings. The Bible records that the trials of Job are in full permission and knowledge of God, and he became an instrument in God's hand to test the sufferings of the righteous.

The Dialogues

Job's three friends Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar accuse (chs. 4-14, 15-21, 22-31) Job for his personal sin, but these friends or counsellors could not convince Job and his stand. Job expresses the wish to die (3:1-26) rather than to be tortured like this. God made use of Job to illustrate the frailty of man (14:1-6). Job was totally convinced that his three friends were very unkind and could not understand him. Elihu, the fourth counsellor, condemned Job (chs. 32-37) and indicated God's plan in disciplining Job through his sufferings. He also accused the other three counsellors for not doing their job well (32:3). The dialogue of Elihu prepared the way for the speeches (chs. 38-41) of God who judges and vindicates Job and asks Eliphaz to make sacrifices for the sins of Bildad and Zophar (42:7-8). All Job's counsellors took their cudgels and vehemently attacked Job, questioning his integrity and uncorrupted devotion to God. Although the criticisms of these counsellors added fuel to the fire in the case of Job, he was not susceptible to them and he believed his position was right.

God's acknowledgement of His omnipotence

Finally God appeared to Job in a whirlwind and acknowledges His omnipotence (chs. 38-41). God's speech cemented Job's faith in God and he was drawn to God more than ever in his earthly pilgrimage. The interrogations of God with their practical significance were an eye-opener to Job to know more about the Almighty. A God-fearing man like Job could understand the depth of God's speech (chs. 38-41) and this speech also helps a believer to fulfill his/ her 'high calling' wherever one is called to serve. Job's submission and admittance of God's power over the universe and in each individual's case, came with a statement that he has "heard God with his ears, and he has seen God with his eyes" (42:5).

Job prayed for his friends and God rewarded him with twice the previous possessions (42:10) and his humility and submission are examples for us.

(To be continued in the next issue)

The Executive Committee Members of the CSI Church, Toronto

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Secretary / People's Warden	Mr. Christy Abraham	Youth Fellowship Director	Mr. T. Mathew Chacko
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Joint Treasurer	Mr. Ajoy Lional	Trustees	Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel
Sunday School Director	Mrs. Elizabeth Verghis		Mrs. Annie Koshy

Thanksgiving & Harvest Festival - October 19, 2014



***“Praise the LORD!
O give thanks to the
LORD, for He is good;
for His steadfast love
endures for ever!”
Psalm 106:1***

***As you harvest your crops, bring the very best
of the first harvest to the house of the LORD your God ... Exodus 34:26***

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