



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

Volume 14 Issue 11

NOVEMBER 2014



2014 Motto

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

Zechariah 4:6

'സൈന്യത്താലല്ല ശക്തിയാലുമല്ല, എന്റെ ആത്മാവിനാലത്രേ,'...

November 2 - World Sunday School Day

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Editorial

I have a dream

Many people dream of a cosy life and strive relentlessly for gaining it. They earnestly look forward to being in the safety of a well-guarded family. They crave for someone who can guide and lead them through the perils and tsunamis of life. Sometimes we're so selfish that we fail to think of our fellow beings. Our saviour, Jesus Christ stands in direct contrast to our wisdom and emotions.

John 10: 16 says, 'I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.' This concerned saviour portrays the agape love of God. Our visions and minds have been clouded by the divisions propounded by earthly wisdom. This have led people to think about options and possibilities of having many ways to the realization of their dreams. So people engage themselves in baseless arguments, rather than thinking about their present and future. The word of God clearly talks about just one gate. Most of us know that it's not very hard to get an entrance ticket. It is encouraging to know that there is abundance of life in this sheep pen, and there is a Good Shepherd who guards it. The thoughts that come to destroy the abundance and safety of this pen are thieves. The security that we enjoy is not human or man-made, but the never failing love of the Redeemer, who lays down His life for the sheep.

Those of us who partake in this family business should be compelled by the love of our Lord to invite other people to the abundance we enjoy. We should share the concern of our saviour, and wholeheartedly welcome everyone to the dream that we enjoy in faith. Like to be His ambassador? Want to help others dream?

I'll cross the stream... I have a dream.....

Samuel Anselm Samuel

Editor

Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings to all the members in the precious name of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The first two days of November are observed as All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day as we think of all the saints and souls. These two thoughts are very vital in our Christian walk of life.

Saints are those who have walked and are walking the Godly way of life, in the track the Holy Scripture has set for us. As years are passing by, the focus is being changed from God to world, from sharing to accumulation, even blessings. Saints are not just the part of history. We, the present generation are also called to be saints who seriously take the path the Scripture has set. Shall we make Jesus as our life model and be transformed to saints? Saint means "the separated". We are separated for God's purposes in this life. Let us allow the Almighty God to examine all of us and approve us as the Saints of the day.

As humans, we are blessed to have our physical bodies, mental faculties and souls to be in contact with our Creator. The three are part of the same personality. One should be functioning in relation to another. If the three are considered three, then we lack integrity within ourselves, and we are immediately in need of the healing from our Heavenly Parent. If Souls are disregarded, it can bring serious consequences, as to losing even our life, irrespective of our 'outward religious expressions'. Let us feed the soul with the Word of God so that it shall be set aright with the purposes of God for us.

First Sunday in November is observed as Sunday School Sunday. Christian Education is a very serious discipline and training that we and our generations need to undergo. Christian virtues and experiences are not acquired by a day or even a year. It is a training where we get to know the Scripture and Christian values in detail, corporately and collectively. It is well said that a commitment by the age of 14 could remain lifelong; otherwise, it will be difficult to keep up the commitment. How many of us are serious with our Christian commitments for us and for our generations? Of the 52 Sundays in a year, how many Sundays and hours do we spend to teach the Word of God to our children? It is also the responsibility of the parents to ensure that our children will learn the Word of God at the right time. Most of us sacrifice our time and energy to make our children get acquainted with music, painting, craft, sports, games, daily school lessons and so on, so that they could add on to their credit for their future. There is nothing bad about those attempts. What if they lose their whole life with the worldly credits and not have heavenly credentials? Let us not blame the constraints, but examine the possibilities for our children learning the Bible effectively. Let us take Sunday School very seriously so that our generations won't be lost. Amidst all the challenges, our Sunday School team is taking a lot of efforts to keep the track. On behalf of the congregation I appreciate the Sunday School team for their dedication and efforts.

Mrs. Ponnamma Sosa Thomas, our dear Ammachy, was called to eternal home by our Master on October 18, 2014. She was a beloved mother to all of us. Being courageous and having kept the faith, she could pass on from one stage to the other in her life by trusting her heavenly parent. The congregation conveys heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members. We thank the Almighty for her life.

As Malayalees, we are proud to be on another Kerala Day on November 1, 2014. We should be thankful to God for allowing our fore-fathers and fore-mothers to live in a freshly formed State (province) in India. The virtues and values taught by our native state is rich, and the legacy in its right sense is worth living.

We are to start our house to house caroling this month. It is a time to visit our members and spread the good news that Christ is the best gift that we could ever have. I expect participation from each and every

(Continued on page 4)



BIRTHDAYS

03	Ani Chacko	20	Biby Esther Abraham
04	Christina Fredrick	26	Milly Johnson
08	Vivek Joseph	26	Prem Narayan
09	Nikhil Joseph	27	Mary Jacob
13	Reji Johnson	27	Leanne Chacko
14	Ashley Ajoy	29	Matthew Gajraj
15	Elizabeth Kuruvilla	29	Sonijya Raj
16	Balaji Kuruvilla	30	Smitha Titus
18	Jared Chacko	30	Susan Mathew
19	Chris George		

ANNIVERSARIES

25 Nibu & Ajin Annie Varguise

(Continued from page 3)

member to visit all homes without any priorities and preferences. Consider this as a time of fellowship, so that our relationships will grow stronger and deeper.

Our auction for the Harvest Festival will be on the third Sunday of this month. Once again, I request your earnest participation in all endeavors related to this. With cheerfulness and gratitude, let us give our church the very best so that God's name alone is praised above all.

At the end of the month we are passing on to a very important time in the Almanac, which is the Advent Season. As a church, we will be pondering on the "coming again" of our Lord. It should be a time to prepare ourselves and await the Lord's coming. As individuals and families, we should be examining our keenness and preparedness for His coming.

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

Prayers and regards,

Siby Achen.

November 02 8 th Sunday before Christmas	Sunday School Sunday			
	Old Testament	Deuteronomy	6 : 4 - 9	English Service
	Psalm	127		Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians	6 : 1 - 4	Sunday School Students
	Gospel	Luke	2 : 40 - 52	
November 09 7 th Sunday before Christmas	C C I -Unity Sunday			
	Old Testament	Micah	6 : 1 - 8	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	106 :1-12		Read by
	Epistle	2 Corinthians	4 : 7 - 15	Joseph Thomas & family
	Gospel	Mark	4 : 26 - 29	
November 16 6 th Sunday before Christmas Harvest Festival	Girl Child Sunday			
	Old Testament	Exodus	2 : 1 - 10	English Service
	Psalm	45		Read by
	Epistle	Acts	1 : 12 - 17	Reji Johnson & family
	Gospel	Mark	5 : 35 - 43	
November 23 5 th Sunday before Christmas	Festival Of Christ The King			
	Old Testament	Zechariah	2 : 10 - 13	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	47		Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians	1 : 3 - 10	Daniel Thomas & family
	Gospel	Luke	1 : 26 - 38	
November 30 4 th Sunday before Christmas	Joyful Expectation Of Christ's Coming			
	Old Testament	Jeremiah	33 : 10 - 16	English Service
	Psalm	68 :11-20		Read by
	Epistle	1 Thessalonians	3 : 6 - 13	Youth Members
	Gospel	Luke	1 : 39 - 45	

Induction

Pilgrim





Fasting Prayer

Our Monthly fasting prayer will be held on November 1, 2014 at 10.00 AM. All are invited.

Children's Sunday

We will be observing Sunday, November 2, 2014 as Christian Education Sunday. Mr. Rob Lukings, Provincial Director of Child Evangelism Fellowship Ontario will be sharing from the Word of God. Sunday school children and teachers will be helping with various parts of the Service. Please support our children' ministry with your prayers and presence on this Sunday.

Harvest Festival

Our Church Harvest Festival is rescheduled for Sunday, November 16 after the service. Please bring minimum 2 suitable items for the Harvest.

House to House Carol singing

We are planning to start this year's house to house caroling on November 8 from Hamilton, visiting Brantford, Stratford, London Area. All are invited to join the caroling. This is an opportunity for all of us to visit our members' houses together with our Achen, singing Christmas carols and having fellowship. Mr. Joseph P. Mathew and Mrs. Elizabeth Verghis, along with our cottage prayer leaders, will coordinate this year's caroling.

The tentative schedule for House to House Carol Singing. (Starts at 9.15 AM)

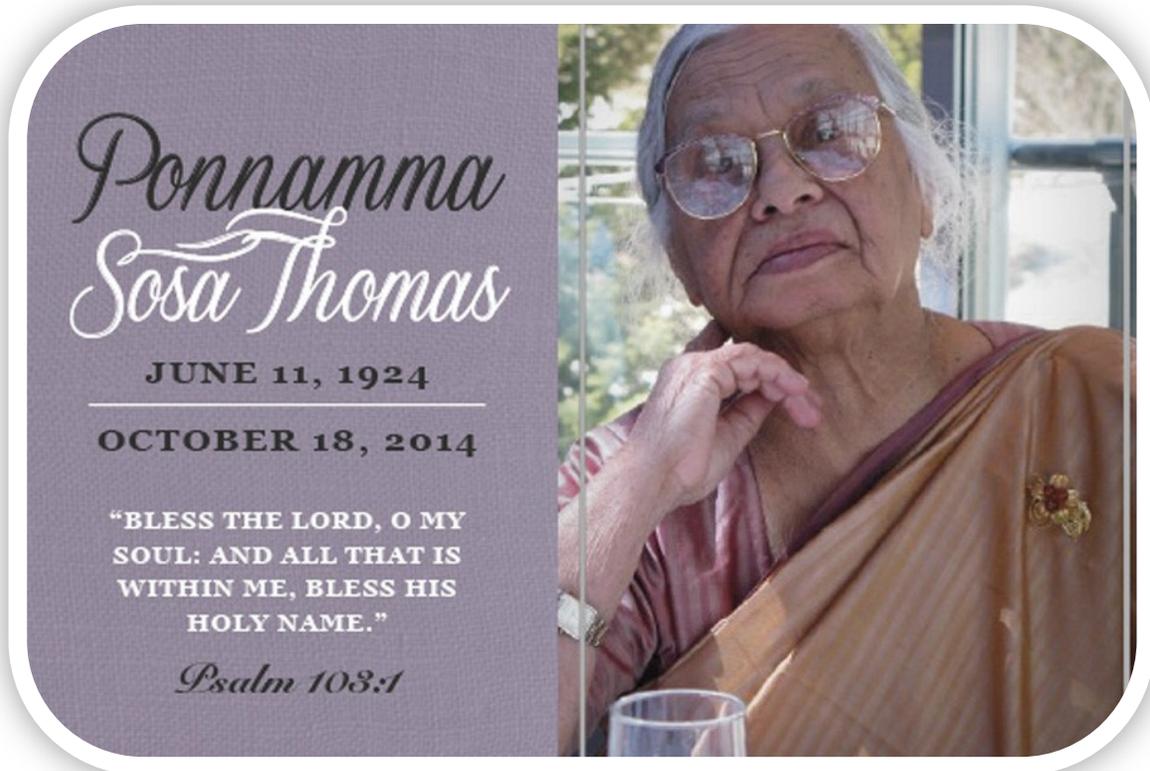
November 8, Saturday	Hamilton, Brantford, Stratford, London
November 22, Saturday	Brampton
November 23, Sunday	Brampton (after the service)
November 29, Saturday	Scarborough, Whitby
November 30, Sunday	Markham, Toronto, Richmond Hill (after the service)
December 6, Saturday	Mississauga (in the afternoon)
December 7, Sunday	Toronto, Etobicoke, Parsonage (after the service)

Kerala Christian Ecumenical fellowship Christmas Carol service

This year's Kerala Christian Ecumenical fellowship Christmas Carol service will be held on Saturday, November 15 at 5.30 PM. Our Achen, Rev. George Jacob will be giving the Christmas Message. The venue for the service is St. Francis Xavier Secondary School, 50 Bristol Road West, Mississauga, L5R 3K3. All our Church members are encouraged to attend.

Membership fee and other dues

Those who haven't paid the membership fee and other dues, please remit the amount as soon as possible. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.



Mrs. Ponnamma Sosa Thomas (June 11, 1924 – October 18, 2014) was a woman whose love and zeal for the Lord was unmatched. A prayerful woman always after the heart of the Lord. She was truly the matriarch of CSI Church, Toronto. She had a motherly affection to all of us, and we all called her Ammachy. She provided us strength when times were tough, counsel when we needed guidance, love and encouragement when we were down.

Ammachy had a beaming grace and a contagious and courageous smile. She was at a call away to give everyone her warm hands and heart, whenever they needed that comfort and strength. Ammachy would always stop us, pull us aside and enquire what's happening in our lives, and provide some words of encouragement. The life experiences that she had shared on different occasions indicate that her life was centred on Christ. The love and concern she had for others in the Church family was enormous. We all have experienced a warm handshake, an affectionate hug or kiss from Ammachy on many occasions. She was a people's person. She enjoyed being with everyone.

She was the bright light of our Church, and the church was very proud to have a member like Ammachy. She was actively involved with the Women's Fellowship ministry, and had served as the Director in the past. We had many opportunities to listen to messages from Ammachy on different occasions such as Good Friday, Women's Sundays etc. She never missed an opportunity to attend our meetings. She always extended a helping hand with her generous donations to the various projects of the church. She lived her life by the verse "it is more blessed to give than to receive". An empty cushion sits on the spot

where she used to sit. Now that she's left for heavenly abode, a spot in our heart lies empty too. Ammachy used to come to our church almost every Sunday and partake the Holy Communion. It was only recently, that she was not able to come regularly due to health reasons. October 12 was the last Sunday she worshipped with us, and attended our social hour fellowship. Her life was indeed a testimony of God's faithfulness and goodness. Her eagerness in attending the Sunday services is a great example that we should strive to follow. The fact that she always welcomed people of God, irrespective of their affiliation is admirable.

Ammachy lead a true Christian life. The Bible was the guide for her Christian faith and conduct. She had great faith and trust in the Lord. We know that she passed on to the next phase of life very peacefully. We believe that she received the reconciliation that God has promised us in Jesus Christ. We read in John 3:36, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life". John 5:24 says, "Whoever hears my word, and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life." We give thanks to God Almighty for her blessed life. She was a great soul.

Ammachy was an amazing person and she had an incredible life. She was mentally and emotionally strong, and was a courageous woman. God was so good to her over the years, and she could celebrate her 90th birthday in June 2014. Her departure is a great loss for all of us. It is encouraging to note that she was very well prepared. Let us take comfort in believing that she is in a better place where there is no sorrow and sickness. This time of loss gives us an opportunity to reflect on our own lives. Let us emulate the good examples that she demonstrated in her life. Let us continue to lead our lives according to the Word of God so that one day we will be joining her in the presence of God to continually worship and glorify Him. May the good Lord console and strengthen her family to move forward, with so many great memories and values, as they continue her legacy. CSI Church, Toronto will never forget Ammachy, and her graceful smile, will always be in our hearts.

(Compiled from the eulogies presented by Mr. Christy Abraham, Mrs. Elizabeth Verghis, Mrs. Susan Joseph and Mr. Mathew Chacko at the visitation and funeral service of Mrs. Ponnamma Sosa Thomas.)

The Cross and the Crown of Job

Rev. George M. John

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?

(Continued from October 2014 issue)

Lessons from Job's trials: Lifesaver for a Christian

The undeserving sufferings of Job illustrates the sufferings of a true believer who continues his earthly pilgrimage having the hope in eternity and God's final reward to His faithful. The example of Job is a classic one to be followed, and an eye-opener for every believer.

The life and mission of Job reveals that suffering is part of Christian life. There is no evidence in the Bible that Christian life is a bed of roses (2 Cor. 4:8) but it is a bed of thorns. The story of Job discloses that a Christian has to take up the cross of Christ as it is His plan to follow the footprints of the Master.

The book of Job reveals the undividable faith of Job in God, (Job 19:25-26; 42:5) that strongly cemented his relationship with the Almighty. Christian growth is based on one's faith in God, and Job's experience bore testimony to this cardinal idea.

It is evident from the story of Job that the majority opinion of the forces of this world are not incompatible with the plan of God. The counsellors of Job like Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar and Elihu expressed their personal opinion about the sufferings of Job and at times their accusations brought a sense of insecure feeling in Job. But, when we come to Job 42:7, God accuses all the counsellors and asks them to make sacrifice for their own sins. What does this mean? In God's divine judgment, the opinion of this world has very little significance. Certainly the criterion of God's judgment is different from that of man.

Job was a man who had shown incredible dependence on God and his motto was "never give up" until the full revelation of the Almighty is understood. Although Job's life was a saga of different types of crosses, he had never forsaken his total dependence on God who is the final judge of every human being. His life bears testimony to that "it is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes" (Ps. 118:8-9). In the complex and hard situations of our time, the life and mission of Job is a comforting one, and thus one can truly follow the footsteps of Job.

From experience, we understand that man's mental horizons are beyond the plans of God whose faithfulness is until the end, and one can rely on His divine promises. Job was rewarded by God twice what he lost earlier, and he knew that God could give manna in the wilderness. Thus he realized that a prosperous life can be started from scratch.

The life of Job pictures the life from death to resurrection. The contemporary world of Jesus thought that the life and mission of Jesus came to a close with his crucifixion and death on the cross; but on the other hand, crucifixion was the beginning of a series of great things that happened in the history to prove the greatness and the fullness of God's incarnation in Jesus Christ, and what we understand is that there is no resurrection without crucifixion.

The story of Job shows that there are valleys and hills in a believer's life and these ups and downs are inevitable factors in designing a person. The experience of Job proves the fact that "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes" (Ps. 119:71; Is. 38:17).

The book of Job illustrates that man is the principal medium by which He reveals himself in history, and thus man becomes God's mirror as in the case of Job. What we learn is that God uses certain individuals like Job for His divine revelation to mankind. In every age the Christian community is the mirror by which He can reflect His image to the wider human community.

The life of Job portrays that the destiny of man is controlled and governed by God, and although man enjoys his free will which expresses his freedom of choice and action, he is ultimately controlled by God and His divine plan. Man is, in total, not free, and his existence on earth is controlled by God.

The comedy of Job depicts that God is a God who rewards every human being according his righteousness and

mercy and He is not anybody's debtor. The latter end of Job (Job 42:12) was more glorious than the former days. St. Paul also comforts the Corinthian Church on the same way by saying that the difficulties of this world outweighs them when we anticipate the coming glory in eternity (2 Cor. 4:17). The Christian community is a community of expectations. God's divine manifestation through the story of Job foreshadows the glorious days of the Christian community's latter days.

The book of Job is a mystery and is a record of God's confrontation with man. The authenticity of the Bible is a mystery, and the book of Job sets out the example that it is inscrutable to comprehend the mysterious acts of God and His purpose in His confrontation with mankind.

The experience of Job pictures that a Christian is a fool for Christ's sake in the sight of the world, and its norms and wisdom of this world is foolishness in the sight of God, and he has chosen the foolish and weak things to confound the wise (1 Cor. 1:27). The book of Job is a torch that the Christian community should continue its mission to the wider human community in the annals of history in spite of its temporary setbacks. The Christian community is called out to continue its high calling in the milieu of its diversified ministry to the challenging and demanding situations of our time.

The book of Job is a practical guide and a scale to sustain and balance our relationship and attitude to the following areas: (1) Pastors/shepherds and the sheep (Congregation); (2) Parents and children where both of them can learn from each other and follow the Biblical guideline in the nurture of a family; (3) a husband and wife who can build a Christian home when God-given norms of Christian homes are neglected by the modern norms of a family with a new moral code; (4) employers and employees who are in opposite poles and have divergent opinions; (5) and the approach of Christian workers in environments where Christian guidelines are not practiced.

Conclusion

The story of Job is a guideline for a believer to continue his/ her earthly pilgrimage as he/she is retarded by the storms, hurricanes, bewilderments, aloofness, misunderstandings, etc. of this world.

The God in the book of Job reveals to mankind that He has His own time and phase in dealing with the situations of humankind, and His silence does not mean that His absence over the Lordship of nature. The story of Job illustrates God's ultimate success and the defeat of Satan, and thus God's sovereignty is established. The story of Job is a classic example of the sufferings of the innocent, and portrays that God allows the righteous to suffer, which culminates in God's act of rewarding the righteous. Job's story illustrates that God is a God who treats each individual separately. The mechanism behind the story of Job is that each individual (believer) is accountable to God and nobody is free from God's judgement and divine act in history. The patience of Job is a reflection of his great wisdom which unties the fetters of Satan which led to his own dethronement. God's omnipotence superseded the power of Satan in the case of Job and his fortunes. The book of Job reminds us of God's supernatural power of the universe, the celestial and terrestrial objects.

The most important aspect of the story of Job is that God is a God who reckons one's integrity and devotion to Him. He rewards one's faithfulness and loyalty to Him in spite of one's earthly journey through a narrow path as in the case of Joseph and Daniel in the Old Testament. By all means, the story of Job enables one to get divine counselling when a Christian is going through trials or sufferings. God helped Job to attain spiritual maturity through his sufferings. In each generation, God's children need this type of spiritual and maturing growth as He expects from His chosen ones. God's intervention and divine judgement obliterated all demerits on the part of the righteous Job, and the book of Job remains as a great classic of comedy and proves that God is going to reward those who do justice (Eccl. 8:12). Job, who was a synonym of patience, had a firsthand knowledge of God. When Job took different types of crosses and submitted to Him, he was duly crowned by Him as an expression of His justice and mercy. Thus Job, the cross-bearer became the crowned-patriarch, who radiates God's images in every generation in the midst of darkness with hope and redemption to every believer.

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