



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

Volume 15 Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2015



*Season of Lent:
February 18 - April 2*

2015 Motto

'Fear God, and keep his commandments; for that is the whole duty of everyone.'

'ദൈവത്തെ ഭയപ്പെട്ടു അവന്റെ കല്പനകളെ പ്രമാണിച്ചുകൊൾക;

അതാകുന്നു സകല മനുഷ്യർക്കും വേണ്ടുന്നതു'

Ecclesiastes 12:13

Episcopal Visit: February 1
Women's Fellowship Retreat: February 7
Ash Wednesday Service February 18

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Pilgrim

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Editorial

Boasting in the cross.....

It is very difficult to find someone who doesn't boast. People generally boast about their achievements, traditions, culture, family, place of birth, citizenship, class, caste, sect, etc. But people may not brag about infirmities. However, boasting gives people a profound satisfaction and a pleasant feeling. It prolongs the inner desire in man to continue in this world. The concept of boasting may be harmless. But the reason for boasting is what counts. St. Paul says, 'May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (*Galatians 6:14*)

St. Paul had too many reasons to boast. He could boast of his lineage, scholarship, influence, power, citizenship, abilities etc. Yet he counted all of that as rubbish. For Paul, knowing Christ was above everything else. The encounter, knowledge and experience Paul had with Christ made him realize that Christ was priceless. Paul boasted on the cross, accepting the honour it gave. The cross was once a symbol of shame. But now it stands as a symbol of love, light, grace and mercy.

Pondering over achievements and bragging about them may help us to prosper. But eternity may not hold that for us. Boasting can ascend to the summit, gain control over us and transform us. But we often fail to remember Thomas Gray's lines: 'The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power, and all that beauty and all that wealth e'er gave, awaits like the inevitable hour:- the paths of glory lead but to the grave.' If we can boast with Paul in the cross of our Lord Jesus, then the grave will open, and give us up to be clothed in immortality.

Those of us who are prone to boasting about transient things, can pray for a revelation in our lives. We need to learn how to consider others better than ourselves. When everyone is enticed by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and he/ she's able to boast about it, our world will transcend itself to the blessedness of His kingdom on earth.

Samuel Anselm Samuel
Editor

Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings to all in the magnificent name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We have completed one month in 2015, and it is time to review our New Year resolutions. Some may have been kept, some may not have been. But the whole point is to continue to strive in keeping to our resolutions despite our failures.

By the mid of this month, we are passing onto another ecclesiastical season, the great lent. This is an important season in our faith journey. Christian faith is founded upon the passion, crucifixion, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. In lent, we remember these phases of vicarious sufferings in our Lord's life. What is important is the need to understand the vitality of the suffering in our personal life. "What does the suffering of Jesus mean to me?" should be the thought that prevails in our minds in this Holy Season. The Season starts with Ash Wednesday on February 18. Ash represents repentance as per the Old Testament custom. Persons or communities repented of their grievous sins by placing themselves in dust and ashes in many instances in the Old Testament. It signifies humility and simplicity of human life before the Almighty. So it is significant that we pay attention to the season and make it meaningful. Let not the avoidance of any food or diet take the place of removal of the shortcomings, unpleasant to God, in this season. Let us prepare our hearts and minds so that we may be purified in our walks of life and be honorable vessels in the hands of our heavenly Master.

We are planning to hold our Annual General Body this month. I am pleased to invite all of you for the same. This is the time for selecting our Executive Members for 2015 and to plan for our Church's timely development. God has granted us resources in plenty and freely in this land, and we need to make use of it in full. We need to be responsible members of our church in our own capacities. Membership offers us privileges, and it imparts in us responsibilities too. We need to contribute ideas, and we need to accept new proposals for the timely growth of our Church. We need to respect the elder generation, and we need to accommodate the young generation so that the surroundings will see a lively Church in their midst, and the name of God will be glorified. With all humility let me insist all the members to participate in this meeting without fail.

I hope by this time you have contacted your prayer partners for 2015 (names found on the Promise Cards). If not, please do contact at the earliest. Try to exchange communications and pray for one another's need. I understand that some members still have not picked their Offertory Covers 2015, Directory 2015, Motto Card, "Our Daily Bread", Promise Cards, and Bible Reading Plan. Please pick your privileges and participate in the life of the Church in full, so that our walks will be blessed in 2015.

God bless us and keep us.

Prayers and regards,

Siby Achen.

BIRTHDAYS

02	Shaji Levison Moothedom	18	Rohan Raj
02	Rex P. R	19	Mariamamma Cherian
03	Santhosh Cherian	19	Mariamamma Thomas
03	P.J.Skariah	20	Abraham P. John
05	Suvin Oommen Alexander	20	Rishvi Narayan
06	Pranoy Narayan	20	Philip Z. Mathai
07	Sudeep Oommen	23	Jiby Jacob
10	Ryan John Varghese	24	Savannah Thomas
12	Aaron Fredrick Simon	24	Rinu John Mathew
15	Rahul John Oommen	25	Jinu Mary Jacob
16	Thomas C . Joseph	25	Joy Chemmanoor
16	Binu Sajan	26	Christine E. Joseph
18	Thomas Mathai	26	Asha Abraham



ANNIVERSARIES

- 02 Sajan Itty & Binu Sajan
- 09 Vinu Jacob & Simi K. Sunny



February 01 9 th Sunday before Easter	Goodness of Creation			
	Old Testament	Genesis	1 : 24 - 31	English Service
	Psalm	104 : 1 - 13		Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians	1 : 3 - 14	Regi Koshy & family
	Gospel	Matthew	6 : 9 - 13	
February 08 8 th Sunday before Easter	Healing Ministry Sunday			
	Old Testament	Job	42 : 1 - 12	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	6		Read by
	Epistle	2 Corinthians	12 : 1 - 10	Jophy Jacob Philip & family
	Gospel	John	5 : 1 - 9	
February 15 7 th Sunday before Easter	A Time of Reconciliation			
	Old Testament	Genesis	45 : 1 - 15	English Service
	Psalm	85		Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians	2 : 11 - 22	Philip Z. Mathai & family
	Gospel	John	2 : 11 - 22	
February 18 Ash Wednesday	Cross: A Call to Self Denial			
	Old Testament	Joel	2 : 12 - 20	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	32		Read by
	Epistle	Galatians	2 : 15 - 21	Christy Abraham & family
	Gospel	Luke	9 : 23 - 27	
February 22 6 th Sunday before Easter	Touching the Untouchable			
	Old Testament	2 Kings	5 : 1 - 10	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	10 : 1 - 12		Read by
	Epistle	Hebrews	13 : 8 - 17	Samuel Anselm Samuel & family
	Gospel	Matthew	8 : 1 - 4	

Sunday School Anniversary



(.....continued from January 2015 issue)

29th CSI Family & Youth Conference of North America

The 29th CSI family and youth conference of North America will be held from July 2 to July 5, 2015 at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Centre/Hyatt Regency, Buffalo, New York. The theme for this year's conference is "Breaking for the Broken One". The CSI deputy moderator and our bishop, Rt. Rev. Thomas K. Oommen, will be attending the conference.

For more information and conference rates, please go their web site www.csiconference2015.com. You will get a reduction of 25.00 USD per person if you register in February.

We encourage everyone to register for the family conference. Your co-operation will be greatly appreciated.



Episcopal Visit

We are happy to welcome bishop Rt. Rev. Philip M. Poole to our church. Bishop will be leading our worship service on Sunday, February 1. All are invited for this special Sunday.

Fasting Prayer

Our monthly fasting prayer will be held on February 7 at 10.00 am. All are invited.

Women's Fellowship Retreat

Women's Fellowship is conducting a retreat on Saturday, February 7 starting at 1.00 pm at the church. All women members are invited. For more information, please contact Women's Fellowship director, Mrs. Susan Joseph

Annual General Body meeting

Our annual general body meeting will be held on February 22 after the service. All members are invited.

Cottage Prayer

Cottage prayer for SHALOM group will be held on February 14 at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Jinoj Titus at 6.30 PM. All area members are invited to attend.

Cottage prayer for JORDAN group will be held on February 21 at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Santhosh Cherian at 6.30 PM. All area members are invited.

Cottage prayer for GILEAD group will be held on February 28 at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Thomas at 6.30 PM. All area members are invited.

Invitation for Baptism and Worship service on February 8

We will be conducting baptisms of Rapti and Riddhi, the daughters of Mr. Bishan Ghosh and Mrs. Sheeba L. Ghosh on Sunday, February 8. The first baptism will be held at 10.00 AM, and the second baptism during our worship service. The worship service starts at our usual worship time 11.00 AM.

Mr. & Mrs. Bishan Ghosh is inviting you all for the baptism service and for the lunch after the service.

Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday, February 18 - Ash Wednesday, holy communion service will be held at 7.30 PM. All are invited.

Lenten Prayer

Lenten prayer services are arranged on the following Wednesdays: February 25, March 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 7.30 PM at the Church. All are invited to attend these prayer meetings.

Thanks to all outgoing committee members

I take this opportunity to thank all the outgoing executive committee members and sub-committee members for their service to the church during the last year.

Committee



The Executive Committee Members of the CSI Church, Toronto

President	Rev. George Jacob	Men's Fellowship Director	Mr. Joseph Thomas
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




CSI CHURCH, TORONTO

Theme: Role of women for a better family and society

Time: 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Date: Saturday, February 7, 2015

Speaker: Mrs. Merlin Mathew
(Wife of Rev. Mathew Baby, Vicar, St. Mathew's Marthoma Church, Toronto)

COME AND BE BLESSED

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP RETREAT

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