



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

Volume 16 Issue 1

JANUARY 2016



Happy New Year 2016...

2016 Motto

'Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.'

Philippians 4:6

ഒന്നിനെക്കുറിച്ചും വിചാരപ്പെടരുത്; എല്ലാറ്റിലും പ്രാർത്ഥനയാലും അപേക്ഷയാലും നിങ്ങളുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ സ്തോത്രത്തോടെ ദൈവത്തോടു അറിയിക്കുകയത്രേ വേണ്ടതു.

January 9
Women's Fellowship Retreat
January 29
At the Feet of Jesus

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Editorial

The Flight.....

What a busy life we have! We usually don't have time to reflect on our successes and failures, achievements and limitations. Many of us never bother to run an analysis. In fact, we fail to realize that we are the beneficiaries of the divine providence and care. The pits and valleys we trod, the mountains we climbed, the rugged path we took – all points to one thing. We're on the threshold of a dual door. One door closes, the other opens.

*The parting year so often bears
Some comfort likes and prick dislikes
The intense push of blooming smiles
And crushing pull of trickling tears*

*But then the threshold opes a morn
And step aboard to realms untrod
It calls for trust and plea so broad
For Christ will not let you forlorn.*

Another year, with all its complexities and glitter, is passing by. We're getting ready to disembark the 2015 flight and board the 2016. We may not know the realms it would take us. But we need to make sure that we commune with the pilot at the control. The primary resolution for 2016 can be

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16)

The knowledge of our limitations and the amazing grace shall enable us to rest on His promises, and rejoice. The challenges we faced in 2015 should motivate us to pray continually and to give thanks in all circumstances. This will definitely make our lives meaningful and victorious. Our motto for 2016 also focusses on the necessity of prayer and thanksgiving in our lives.

May the good Lord help us realize the necessity of fervent prayer, and guide us into the manifold riches of His grace.

Wish you all a wonderful, prosperous and blessed New Year.

Samuel Anselm Samuel

Editor

Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ,

With a grateful heart full of praises, I am pleased to greet you all in the New Year!

2015 was full of news and events all around the world, and it is solely the amazing grace of the Almighty that has kept us thus far. Let us be thankful and continue to live for God. With lots of expectations and aspirations, let us walk into 2016, holding our Lord's hand. Moreover, it is the time of decision making in our lives in relation to our faith, vocation, family life and personal life. May the Holy Spirit minister to us in the process of our decision making so that we may never fail in our decisions.

I am happy to introduce the Motto 2016 for our congregation. It reads ***“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”*** (Philippians 4:6 – NRSV) Though worry is seemingly common in human life, overcoming it is surely possible. Jesus asks: ‘what good it is there if anyone worries?’ (Matthew 6:25-34) Worry is not a solution, but it aggravates the real problem. We are required to thankfully communicate with God the situations of our life, and there starts the melting of the severity of the problems in our lives. 2016 will be the year for developing prayer habit in our lives, based on the verse.

In 2016, we are completing the 200th anniversary of the advent of missionaries to our mother land. It is because of them, we are who we are. At this juncture, the question is ‘who is available to go to the place God wants, and to bring about transformation in the name of Christ? Can we develop a “Missionary Attitude” towards those who are lost? Let us thankfully remember the sacrifice of all missionaries and set for ourselves a missionary life.

In January, we observe the “Church Unity” which reminds us that all believers, irrespective of the traditions and practices, who are redeemed by the blood of the Lord are one. It is important that we develop a sense of unity among the believers in order to be effective witnesses for our Saviour.

We had a blessed Christmas carol. I would like to thank Mr. Daniel Thomas, our Choir Director, for selecting the songs, training the choir and making the Carol happen most meaningfully. All members dedicated their time sacrificially amidst their busy schedule of life. The instrumentalists gave their best by practising and making the harmony possible. May the Lord Almighty continue to bless and strengthen our Choir for His glory and purposes. The Sunday School team presented a beautiful song. I thank and congratulate the Director, Mrs. Diani Mathai, all teachers, all parents and especially all children for their performance. May their talents be spent to glorify the name of our Lord and Saviour.

It is my sincere prayer that 2016 be peaceful in our lives. May the Lord almighty bless each one of you and strengthen you in the New Year. Let us decide to walk with “Immanuel” moment by moment so that our lives will be found meaningful and fruitful in the sight of our heavenly Master.

I wish you all a very blessed 2016. May the Lord bless us and keep us.

Yours in His Service,

Siby Achen.

From the Secretary's desk....

Dear Members,

I praise the Almighty God for another blessed year we had as a Church. God is great, and has provided us with everything we needed as a church family.

When we look back, we have many things to be thankful for.

By the grace of God, we had a good year with many activities. Every month, we started with a monthly fasting prayer, and continued with cottage prayers, Bible studies, 'At the Feet of Jesus' Prayer fellowships, a Gospel Convention, the Episcopal Visit and Confirmation service, VBS, Church Picnic, Onam Celebration, Family Night, Harvest festival, Carol service, area caroling etc. These activities encouraged us to pray for ourselves, our families, for other people's needs, and for our Church needs, as well as enjoying fellowship with one another.

Last year, we had a powerful speaker, Mr. Anson Thomas, leading our Gospel Convention. His message and his outreach programs in Toronto motivated our members to share the love of Christ with others. Under the leadership of our Achen, Rev. George Jacob, Mr. K.P. Alexander and Mrs. Mary Alexander, we were able to start an Outreach Program in our church neighborhood and in downtown Toronto, spreading the Word of God.

Our Church is supporting many Charity Missions, including those under *Bicentenary Celebrations* of our Madhya Kerala Diocese, which is celebrating the 200th year of the advent of CMS missionaries in Kerala. The Bicentenary closing celebrations will be held this year. As part of this celebration, the diocese has started several charitable projects, and our church also contributed a substantial amount towards these projects. We will continue to support mission work, and are planning to support more mission work activities in the New year.

I take this opportunity to thank our Siby Achen and Kochamma for all their leadership. In addition, I thank all the Executive Committee members of 2015 for their coordinated work and commitment. Moreover, our thanks to all the members for their whole hearted support and generous donations. May our Good God bless us all with good health and happiness.

I wish you all a Blessed, Healthy and Prosperous New Year 2016.

Christy Abraham

January 03 2 nd Sunday after Christmas	Revelation for Salvation		
	Old Testament	Exodus 3: 1-14	English Service
	Psalm	27	Read by
	Epistle	Acts 16: 6-10	Joseph K. David & family
	Gospel	John 12: 20-32	
January 10 1 st Sunday after Epiphany	Be Holy		
	Old Testament	Deuteronomy 7: 1-11	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	5	Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians 5: 18-20	Shibu Paul Pulikaparambil & family
	Gospel	John 17: 13-17	
January 17 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany	One Body and One Baptism		
	Old Testament	Amos 9: 5-12	English Service
	Psalm	115	Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians 4: 1-6	P. Mathew Verghis & family
	Gospel	Matthew 16: 13-20	
January 24 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany Ecumenical Sunday	United in Love		
	Old Testament	Deuteronomy 4: 1-10	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	30	Read by
	Epistle	Galatians 4: 1-7	Christy Abraham & family
	Gospel	John 15: 11-17	
January 31 8 th Sunday before Easter	The Corruption of Creation		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 5: 1-13	English Service
	Psalm	8	Read by
	Epistle	Galatians 1: 5-10	Youth Members
	Gospel	Luke 10: 13-16	



BIRTHDAYS

04	Ninu Ann Varghese	23	Abraham P. George
05	Sonia Mathews	25	Reeni Philip
09	Joy Abraham	28	Suzane Sneha Joseph
10	Aezekiel Mathews	28	Ryan Mathews
10	Riddhi Ghosh	29	Neha Chemmanoor
13	Varghese V. John	29	Megan Thomas
22	Aji V. Mathews	30	Selvarajan Thampy Puthenkulangara

ANNIVERSARIES

- 03 Sanju Cherian & Seethal Thamby
- 03 Manoj Joseph Kurien & Asha Joy
- 03 Santosh Cherian & Jenny Varghese
- 05 Mathew Joseph & Mary Joseph
- 07 Jophy Philip & Smitha Victor Sam
- 11 Joy & Mini Chemmanoor
- 16 Sudeep & Sarah Oommen
- 21 Raj Hariharan & Sonijya Raj
- 21 Jacob P. John & Mary Jacob
- 26 Shibu Paul Pulikaparambil & Shiny Paul
- 27 Joseph Thomas & Raimole Joseph



Fasting Prayer

Our monthly fasting prayer will be held on January 2, 2016 at 10.00 AM at the Church. All are invited.

Women's Fellowship Retreat

Our Women's Fellowship is planning a retreat on Saturday, January 9 from 1 PM to 4 PM.

All Women members are requested to attend.

Bible Study Class

There will be Bible Study at 7.30 PM every Thursday at the parsonage.

The next Bible class will be on Thursday, January 7. All are invited.

Prayer Fellowship--At the Feet of Jesus - January 29, 2016.

You are all invited for the "At the Feet of Jesus"-- Prayer fellowship meeting on Friday, January 29 starting at 7.30 pm till midnight.

As usual, you can come any time between 7:30 pm and 12:00 am and spend some time in prayer with our Almighty God.

All our members are encouraged to come and participate in this fellowship.

Matins Service

Our Youth fellowship members will be leading our matins service on January 31, 2016. All are invited.



Sunday School Anniversary



Youth: Year in Review

Chris George

Praise the Lord! 2015 was a blessed year for the youth. It was filled with fun, laughter, strengthening of faith, and spiritual growth. With Sanju Achachen as our leader and Achen as our spiritual guide, the youth have grown closer together not only as friends, but as brothers and sisters in faith. The youth took part in a variety of activities and events, including the park cleanup, annual CSI Church conference, Christmas carol service and much more. Personally, I feel one of the highlights of 2015 was when the youth were given the privilege to hear the inspirational testimony and life of Anson Thomas during the annual convention held at our church. We also had the opportunity to put



our faith in practice, alongside Anson, in outreach events held in Downtown Toronto and at the Pan Am Centre during the Pan Am games held in July. The convention was followed by the VBS, in which the youth were actively involved both as teachers and volunteers. By the grace of God, we also had our first combined youth meeting with members of the CSI Christ Church. Led with praise and worship, and followed by group discussion and prayer, the meeting was an absolute blessing for all who attended. Our youth look forward to continuing our combined fellowship in the future.

During December, the youth kept themselves busy through various events. Early in the month, the youth held a get together at my house. The evening was filled with food, fun, and games as we all celebrated the Christmas season. We also exchanged gifts as part of our "Secret Santa" and reflected on the blessings we received throughout the year. All who attended enjoyed. Some of our youth also visited our



dear Achenkunju uncle and Daisy aunty during the holidays. We enjoyed each other's company as we shared stories and laughs all throughout the evening. It was a reminder of the importance of the elders in our lives as leaders, mentors, and role models. Besides the fun and games, the youth also took an initiative to give back to the community by donating used winter clothing to Salvation Army centres in Downtown Toronto. Headed by Jovin Mathew, jackets, sweaters, gloves, hats, and scarves were collected and successfully distributed by the youth, alongside Achen. Finally, ending off the year, the youth held a get together with youth members of the CSI Christ Church. It was great turnout from both churches as all the youth appreciated the opportunity to spend time with each other. Thanks to Megan and family for hosting the event.



As we look back at the past year, we can see how much we, the youth, have grown together as a group. With the new year, we hope to build on our success in 2015. We have our sights set high, and plan to seize every opportunity the new year brings. In keeping with our youth mission, we aim to "believe in Jesus Christ, grow in relationship with Him, learn to serve and go share Christ to the world." Special thanks to Sam achachen for coordinating the combined youth meetings and for leading the youth choir practices alongside Priya chechi. Thanks to all who have supported us throughout the past year including Sanju achachen, Achen, parents of the youth, and members of the congregation. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.



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. Abraham P. George	Women's Fellowship Director	Mrs. Susan Joseph
Secretary / People's Warden	Mr. Christy Abraham	Youth Fellowship Director	Mr. Sanju Cherian
Joint Secretary	Mr. Varghese V. John	Choir Director	Mr. Daniel Thomas
Treasurer	Mr. Ajoy Lional	Social & Recreational Director	Mr. Benjamin Chacko
Joint Treasurer	Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel	Trustees	Mrs. Annie Koshy
Sunday School Director	Mrs. Diani Mathai		Mr. Joy Chemmanoor

Women's Fellowship — Christmas Fruit Cake Sale



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