



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

Volume 16 Issue 5

MAY 2016



30th Anniversary Special

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 സ്നേഹത്തോടെ ദൈവത്തോടു അറിയിക്കുകയത്രേ വേണ്ടൂ.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
Achen's message3
Profile4
Bible Portions5
Church News6,7
Celebrations8
Articles9,15
Malayalalokam10,11
Vicars12,13
Women's Sunday14

Annual Gospel Convention
May 6, 7 & 8

30th Church Anniversary
May 8, 10:00 am

Pilgrim

MAY 2016

EDITORIAL BOARD

Chief Editor

Rev. George Jacob

Editor

Samuel Anselm Samuel

Publication Team

Shini Samuel
Suja Sarah Koshy
Akshay Koshy
Chris George

Address

CSI Parsonage
1311 Kipling Avenue
Etobicoke M9B 3N7 ON
(416) 231- 1717

Articles/ Feedback

May be sent to
pilgrimcsi.to@gmail.com

Editorial

Plug in your life

Have you ever had a blackout? Ever felt disconnected from a power source and felt totally lost? The subway trains rely on the third rail for power. They run because they are on the rails. Power helps electrical appliances to perform the task they are designed to perform. Our lives can be powerless if we're not connected to the continuous, legitimate, ultimate power source.

"If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it'll be done for you." (John 15:7)

Jesus, the true vine is the source of power for its branches, the redeemed. When we remain in the vine, life flows continuously from the vine to each and every branch. So the branches have to be completely dependent on the vine for their sustenance. Jesus makes it very clear that apart from Him, we can do nothing. So if we get severed from the vine due to lack of replenishment, the individual branches are left to themselves without any vibrancy. When the branches remain in the vine, we won't take our own decisions, and try to be independent. Whatever we ask will be those approved or passed by the providence. Our prayers will get answered. Such prayers will always reflect God's will. Our self created prayers are bound to fail, because they are not ratified by the Holy Spirit. The flow of life into us will make us worthy to know God's will and to pray in the Spirit. The will of God will be exposed in our lives.

Let this year of revival bring an electrifying experience to each one of us. God bless.

Samuel Anselm Samuel

Editor

Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ,

May all of you be blessed in your walk with our Lord, who has conquered death and grave forever!

Psalm 146:1, 2 says

"Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long." (NRSV)

2016 May is a very important time in the life of the CSI Church, Toronto. On May 8th we will be completing 30 years of our worship and witness in this part of the world. We embraced this part of the world for our living, and the land has provided the best for us. It is sure the life in this land is a gift from the Almighty. It is marvelous in our eyes what our Lord has prepared for each of us and our generations. Yet there remains a mission in the name of our Lord that we should share the abundant life to our surroundings. The period has been termed as the Year of Revival. It is good to look back, thank God and seek His abundant grace and infinite mercy for our onward journey. So it is important that as we move forward, we remove the unwanted elements in our faith journey, lessen the burden and take the right amount of values in right proportions, so that our witness could be effective and impart life in abundance to our neighbors with whom we are in touch, wherever we are.

As the Vicar, I thank God almighty for all the Former Vicars, their families and their assiduous, prayerful, dedicated and proactive involvement in the growth of the life of the Church. Let us be grateful to God for their tears and prayers that made the Church today what it is. Let us uphold their ministry and life. We do need to be thankful for each and every lay member who has rendered committed services in various capacities to the functioning and growth of the Congregation. All the families who have joined the congregation over these years have contributed to the growth of our fellowship, and they are remembered with gratitude. Let us strive to be a meaningful witness unto our Saviour and Lord who has lifted up us from our state of being lifeless and stale.

Our Annual Gospel Convention – 2016 will be held from May 06 to 08. Prof. Koshy Thalakkal, veteran Christian Lyricist, Musician and Convention Speaker will bring us the Word of God. The theme will be "Lord, Revive us Again". I humbly remind each and every member of each family to pray, plan, prepare and participate in all the sessions of our Annual Gospel Convention - 2016. Let us all be revived in our spiritual journey.

This month we are preparing for three important observations in the Church Calendar – Ascension (May 05), Pentecost (May 15) and Trinity Sunday (May 22). All these observations should challenge us to be true disciples who follow Christ in our walks of life.

May 08th is observed as Mothers' Day. Motherhood is a call of God to nurture the generations with values and qualities that last. Let us gratefully and fondly remember the love and dedication of our Mothers. I request all mothers to examine your roles and keep the track with God in your call as mothers.

As a Diocese we mourn the loss of our former Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Sam Mathew. Thirumeni led the Diocese from 1993 to 2001. Thirumeni was known for his humility, concern for the flock, relation with other denominations and friendship with the people of other faith groups. Thirumeni was an ecologist, an ecumenist, and had written and edited many books. Even in retired life, Thirumeni was constantly engaged with varied activities. Thirumeni's passing to his heavenly abode was well prepared with full of hope, content and confidence of the presence of our heavenly Master. Let us continue to uphold kochamma and children in our prayers for their peace and comfort.

Mr. Mathew M Kuruvilla lost his sister in law at Chennai. Let us remember all family members as they mourn the loss. Heartfelt condolences to the family on behalf of the Congregation.

The North American CSI Family and Youth Conference and the Council will be held in Chicago from July 28 - 31. I urge all eligible members to give your full participation for the growth of our Church in North America.

May the good Lord continue to keep our Congregation in His grace and mercy so that we continue to be a source of life to all who are around us.

Yours in His service,

Siby Achen.

Annual Gospel Convention Main Speaker - Prof. Koshy Thalakkal



പ്രൊഫ.കോശി തലയ്ക്കൽ

മാവേലിക്കര ബിഷപ്പ് മുൻ കോളജ് മലയാള വിഭാഗം മേധാവിയായിരുന്നു.

നോവൽ, കവിത, ചെറുകഥ, ബാലസാഹിത്യം എന്നീ വിഭാഗങ്ങളിലായി പത്തിൽപരം ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളുടെ കർത്താവ്.

നന്മയല്ലാതൊന്നും ചെയ്തിടാത്തവൻ, ദൈവമേ നിനക്കു സ്തോത്രം പാടീടും, നിന്നിലാശ്വാസം കാണാൻ, നല്ലവനേ നൽകൂ കാട്ടി, എൻ പ്രിയനെ നിൻ പൊൻമുഖം കാണാൻ എന്നിക്കാശ, എന്റെ സഹായവും എന്റെ സങ്കേതവും നീ മാത്രമാണേശുവേ തുടങ്ങി നൂറ്റി അൻപതിൽ പരം പ്രശസ്ത ഗാനങ്ങൾ ക്രൈസ്തവ കൈരളിക്കു സമ്മാനിച്ച ആത്മസങ്കീർത്തനകാരൻ.

ക്രൈസ്തവ ഗാനരചനയ്ക്കുള്ള പ്രഥമ എം.ഇ.ചെറിയാൻ അവാർഡ്, ക്രൈസ്തവ സാഹിത്യ അക്കാദമി അവാർഡ്, സിഎസ്ഐ ദക്ഷിണ കേരള മഹായിടവകയുടെ മോശവൽസലം ശാസ്ത്രി യാർ പുരസ്കാരം, പ്രശാന്തയാമങ്ങൾ എന്ന ഗ്രന്ഥത്തിന് സിഎസ്ഐ മധ്യകേരള മഹായിടവകയുടെ സാഹിത്യ പുരസ്കാരം എന്നിവ ലഭിച്ചു.

മധ്യകേരള മഹായിടവക അത്മായ സന്ദേശം മാസികയുടെയും ഹോംലാൻഡ് മെസ്സേജ് മാസികയുടെയും പത്രാധിപരായിരുന്നു. സുവിശേഷ സംഗീത പ്രസ്ഥാനമായ ക്രിസ്റ്റ്യൻ മ്യൂസിക് അക്കാദമി (തിരുവനന്തപുരം) രക്ഷാധികാരി.

പ്രഗത്ഭ സുവിശേഷ പ്രഭാഷകൻ, സാംസ്കാരിക സാഹിത്യ പ്രഭാഷകൻ.

1996 മുതൽ അമേരിക്കയിൽ. ഇപ്പോൾ ഫിലഡൽഫിയയിൽ താമസം.

May 01 5 th Sunday after Easter	Mission with Christ's Spirit		
	Old Testament	II Kings 2: 9 -16	English Service
	Psalm	105:1 - 11	Read by
	Epistle	Acts 7: 54 - 60	V. I. Kurian & Family
	Gospel	Matthew 28:16 - 20	
May 08 6 th Sunday after Easter	Revival in Faith Journey		
	Old Testament	Nehemiah 2: 11 - 20	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	85	Read by
	Epistle	James 4: 1 - 10	The Executive Committee
	Gospel	Matthew 6: 30 - 34	
May 15 Pentecost Sunday	Come Holy Spirit, Set us Free		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 61: 1 - 11	English Service
	Psalm	Psalm 107: 31 - 43	Read by
	Epistle	Acts 2: 1 - 13	Aaron Frederick & Family
	Gospel	Luke 4:16 - 21	
May 22 Trinity Sunday	Trinity: Community of Love		
	Old Testament	Genesis 18:1 - 15	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	95	Read by
	Epistle	II Corinthians 13: 5 - 14	Aji V Mathews & Family
	Gospel	Mark 1: 1 - 11	
May 29 2 nd Sunday after Pentecost	Revelation of God in Worship		
	Old Testament	I Kings 8: 22 - 30	English Service
	Psalm	148	Read by
	Epistle	Revelation 14: 1 - 7	The Youth Fellowship
	Gospel	Mark 3: 1 - 6	

Convention



Pilgrim

CSI CHURCH, TORONTO

30 Years of worship & witness (1986 - 2016)

Year of Revival - 2016

Annual Gospel Convention - 2016

"Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?"

Psalm 85: 6 (NSRV)

Pray, Plan,
Prepare, Participate
& be Revived
in your walk with
Jesus Christ!

Theme: "LORD, REVIVE US AGAIN"

Speaker: Prof. Koshy Thalakkal

(Renowned Christian Malayalam Lyricist & Musician)



May 06	Friday	7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Convention
May 07	Saturday	2:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Sessions for Adults, Youth & Kids
May 07	Saturday	6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Convention
May 08	Sunday	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Holy Communion Service
May 08	Sunday	11:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Convention

*An early dinner will be served for the participants from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM on May 07, Saturday.
Offertory will be taken on Friday & Saturday Evening meetings.

For details contact: Rev. George Jacob (Vicar) 416-231-1717 or Mr. Christy Abraham (Secretary) 647-272-3351
Address: 1315, Kipling Ave, Etobicoke, ON M9B 3N7



Monthly Fasting Prayer

Due to Annual Gospel Convention, our monthly fasting prayer has been cancelled this month

CSI Church, Toronto 30th Anniversary

We are celebrating our 30th Church Anniversary on Sunday, May 8. Let us give thanks to God for the wonderful years He had given us to worship Him, and the personalities He used to establish this congregation. It is only through God's grace, mercy and blessing that we have come this far, and let us sing Halleluiah to the Lord and be blessed. May God continue to bless us.

Gospel Convention

We are holding our Annual Gospel Convention from May 6 to 8 in conjunction with our 30th Church Anniversary. Let us bear this in our prayers. Please come prayerfully with family and friends.

(More information on page 6)

Change in Worship time - 10.00 AM on May 8

On the final day of our Convention, Sunday, May 8, the Worship service will start at 10.00 AM. Please note this time change.

Cottage Prayer

Cottage Prayer for Jordan Group will be held on May 28, Saturday at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Joy Chemmanoor's at 6.30 PM. All area members are invited.

30th CSI Family and Youth Conference of North America

The CSI Council in North America is planning to host the 30th CSI Family and Youth Conference of North America in Chicago from July 28th to 31st, 2016. I request more attendance from our Church in this year's Family & Youth conference. Following are the rates for the Conference

4 Persons in a room each person pay US\$ 240.00

3 Persons in a room, each person pay US\$ 270.00

2 Persons in a room, each person pay US\$ 310.00

1 Person in a room pay US\$ 460.00

Children between the ages 3 to 12 pay US\$ 70.00 per child.

Please visit the web site www.csiconference2016.org and register for the conference before May 31st 2016 to receive the conference rates.

Seniors' Sunday

We will be observing June 5 as Seniors' Sunday. All are invited for this special Sunday.

Matins service.

We have Matins service on May 29, Sunday. Our Youth Fellowship members will be leading the worship service.



BIRTHDAYS

03	Annamma Chacko	22	Abhilash Raj
06	Elijah Johnson	23	Zac Santhosh Koshy
07	Smitha Victor Sam	25	Daisy Pothen
08	Andrew Paul	27	Jenny Cherian
09	Asha Joy	27	Preetha Joseph
09	Manasi Varghese George	27	Seethal Thamby
11	Swarup Itty	28	Sam George
18	Rapti Ghosh	29	Simi K. Sunny
20	Mini Fredrick	30	Ann Abraham
20	Preethamole R	31	Samuel Chacko

ANNIVERSARIES

09	Joy & Ann Abraham
10	Thomas Mathai & Nisha Thomas
18	Tim Eapen & Ninu Ann Varghese
21	Rev. George Jacob & Susan George
23	Shaji Levison Moothedom & Daisy Pothen
24	P. J Skariah & Annamma Skariah
26	John Mathew & Sheeba Thomas
28	Mathew Modayil Kuruvila & Elizabeth Kuruvila

30th Church Anniversary

Siby Jacob

The completion of thirty years is a great milestone for all people as well as organizations. I feel incredibly privileged to be part of the first generation that grew up in and was nurtured by the CSI Church, Toronto.

They say, "It takes a village to raise a child". For us, the church was that village, supporting and guiding our steps. In those days we learned that even though our mischief might pass unnoticed by our parents, it would definitely not escape the gaze of the dozen aunts or uncles who would be quick to correct us. Not out of real anger, mind you, but out of a sense of duty and concern. As children, we could not truly appreciate just how fortunate we were to be a part of this community. We loved singing songs in Sunday School but sometimes had a hard time sitting through classes and sermons as we were so excited to see our Church friends. The summers were always memorable with the church picnics and VBS sessions. To this day sometimes a random VBS chorus like "Champions for Jesus" will play from my memory unbidden. It was a time of joy, growth and learning which parallels the Church as a whole during that time.

I fondly remember my time in the youth group and the friendships and bonds that grew during that period. It was so important to know that we were part of a community which shared the same values and traditions so that we did not feel so isolated in our day-to-day life. Still, it is a challenging time which brings about a lot more questions than answers about ourselves and even our faith. During youth meetings, events and conferences those issues could be discussed with our peers without fear of judgement. The answers weren't always clear, but the process of discussion and how the Bible spoke to those issues was often the tonic needed. Struggle and debate are not only good but necessary in allowing us to figure out who we are and what we stand for. The church has also gone through a similar period of self-analysis and struggle for identity in an increasingly secular society.

I've had the honour of teaching Sunday school for quite a few years and the delight of witnessing my students grow up in the Church and even start teaching classes themselves. That passing of the torch is what allows the church to continue and adapt as everyone brings their own unique experiences and ideas to the table. I am also heartened by seeing the newest generation take their tiny steps in the footprints of those who came before. I know they will eventually carve their own path, but with guidance, we know that they will still head in the right direction.

Unfortunately the things most familiar are the easiest to take for granted but I am whole heartedly thankful to my parents and all the other founding members of this Church for their vision, sacrifice in establishing this spiritual village for generations to come.

When many people reach the ripe age of thirty they think they have figured most things out. At that point they might be settled in their careers, family life, social groups, etc. Three decades brings with it some of life's triumphs and tragedies and hopefully some wisdom that is harvested from it. Thirty years is not generally considered a time to change or do anything drastic, but the Gospel of Luke states that Jesus was "about 30 years of age" at the start of his ministry. It is truly remarkable that at an age when most people are just getting settled, Jesus was just getting started in a momentous task to actually change the world.

In thirty years, our Church has experienced many of things that we all experience over that many years — growth and learning, doubt and renewal, separation and resilience, loss but hope for the future. Thirty is definitely not the beginning of the end but can be the start of a new beginning.

Malayalalokam Anniversary- April 24





Our Vicars



Rev. George Jacob

2014 - Present



Rev. Shaji M. Johnson

2011 - 2014



Rev. Raju Jacob

2008 - 2011



Rev. T. J. John

2005 - 2008



Our Vicars

Vicars

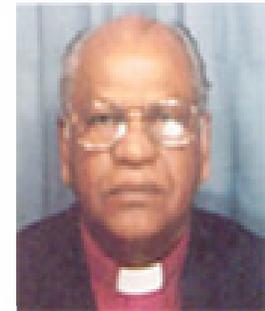
Rev. A. C. Cheriyan

2000 - 2005



Rt. Rev. K. Michael John

1994 - 2000



Rev. Shajan A. Idiculla

1991 - 1993



Rev. George M. John

1987 - 1989



Rev. Thomas Ninan

1986





Reflection on 30 Years

Priya Rachel Abraham

Praise God that our church has been blessed to see 30 years! As with life, we have seen many successes and experienced many obstacles as a church family, but God has brought us through them all. I wanted to take a moment to briefly reflect on my time and experience with our church throughout these last few decades.

I was born in 1988, only 2 years after our CSI Church, Toronto was officially formed, and as such, I have been blessed to experience our church throughout my entire life. Church and church activities were always a priority in my family, particularly because my parents were so involved in our church. Growing up as an only child, I always experienced the struggle of not having siblings to play, fight, or share personal thoughts with. However, through this congregation, I have met and continue to hold unbreakable relationships with the very same people I grew up with here. Whether it be through a long choir practice during carol service season or waiting for an executive committee meeting to be finished, we bonded together as friends who we could count on through good times and in bad. In addition, we have had several influential Ministers, and I will always cherish those “story times” during the service that Thirumeni Appachen (Late Bishop Rt. Rev. Michael John) used to tell us as kids. I had several Uncles, Aunties, Achachens and Chechis to look up to – whether it was Sibychachen pulling my ear to get back to his Sunday School class, or Phil and Rej being pillars of support and always encouraging me, I always knew I had another place to call home outside of school life.

In addition to all the familial love I have gained and experienced from our church, I also attribute the development and enjoyment of one of my strongest passions – music. It is definitely not out of my own merit that I have the ability to sing, but I firmly believe that God has blessed me with a talent for singing, and thus, it is my responsibility to use it to glorify His name. However, if that talent wasn’t developed and nurtured at church, I’m not sure if my love and experience with singing would have flourished as much as it has for me personally. Whether it was Daisy aunty or Kochumol aunty pinching me and telling me to sing louder when I was young, Susan aunty’s gentle and genuine encouragement, or Danichen uncle teaching us the discipline it takes to be part of a cohesive group, (which definitely wasn’t an easy task!), I have learned to love and appreciate all the efforts taken by them to make me the musical person that I am today. Currently, as a music teacher in the public education system, I constantly find myself applying the principles I learned in church to my own students. I may have not understood its value growing up, but now, I realize its impact that it has had on my personal and professional life.

Now, being one of the oldest youth members, I have a new family of children and youth that I see growing up in the church as I once did. Although I don’t have the exact same group of friends I grew up with, I feel a strong pull to help this new family succeed in whatever way I can, even with little acts of kindness, or sometimes even a little discipline (sorry!). This church did that for me and much more and it is my home, and therefore, it is my responsibility to give back. I’m so incredibly grateful and proud to be involved in their lives, and I hope that one day, they will appreciate and value their church experience as much as I have.

Despite my life journey taking me to different places for educational purposes, I have always felt an in-

(Continued on page 16)

The Executive Committee Members of the CSI Church, Toronto

President	Rev. George Jacob		
Vice-President / Rector's Warden	Mr. Abraham P. George	Women's Fellowship Director	Mrs. Susan Joseph
Secretary / People's Warden	Mr. Christy Abraham	Men's Fellowship Director	Dr. Nibu Varguise
Joint Secretary / Trustee	Mr. Rennie Philips Joseph	Sunday School Director	Mr. Philip Z. Mathai
Treasurer	Mrs. Sheeba L. Ghosh	Youth Fellowship Director	Mr. Sanju Cherian
Joint Treasurer / Trustee	Mr. Abhilash Raj	Mission Director	Mr. Joseph Thomas
Choir Director	Mr. Daniel Thomas	Social & Entertainment Director	Mr. Joshua Shaji Moothedom

(Continued from page 15)

credibly deep connection with our church. Recently, one of my friends asked me why I always felt the need to go back to my home church despite all the “options” out there. As I reflected, I first thought it was simply because of familiarity – I grew up here, my family is here, I know it works, I’m involved in activities, and I am comfortable here. However, as I continued to think deeper, I realized it was much more than that. This is where I learned to love God, our one and only Saviour who loved me, despite my mistakes and sin. He sent His son for me, and Jesus died on the cross...for me. This church, my church, is where I found God, and it is where I still continue to feel His presence and unconditional love.

Although I have only skimmed the surface of my experiences growing up in this congregation, I can truly say that it has been a blessing for me in times of good and bad. I was raised with the love and support of the families who were so instrumental in my upbringing, and whether it be through discipline or praise, I can honestly say that I have never found such love outside our church community. Growing up in this church, I have seen people come and go from our church for various reasons, but despite that, I hold strong to the belief that God will continue to take us in the direction He has planned for us. I pray that God will continue to bless us in the future years as we continue to grow in His love.