



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

Volume 16 Issue 10

OCTOBER 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 സ്നേഹത്തോടെ ദൈവത്തോടു അറിയിക്കുകയത്രേ വേണ്ടതു.

**YOUTH SUNDAY
October 2**

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Pilgrim

OCTOBER 2016

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Editorial

Happy Thanksgiving....

“Thanks, I really appreciate it” – is a commonplace expression. People use it for various reasons. Some use it because they are really thankful for all the help and favours received. For some, it is just a figurative language, used as a courtesy. When one of them is from within, the other is just an ephemeral, outward expression. We are very keen on finding different reasons for thanking others. It gives us a sense of accomplishment, and makes us feel good. How often do we thank our redeemer?

“O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endures for ever.” (Psalm 136:1)

Psalm 136 lists three things the psalmist is thankful for: the awesome creation of Elohim – the wonders, heaven, sun, moon and stars; the awesome work of El Shaddai – the mighty hand that led the Israelites out of the bondage; and the awesome being of El Elyon – ever merciful, loving, and caring God. There has been a paradigm shift in our conception of thanksgiving. Present day thanksgiving shrinks itself to mere festivities, rather than the real spirit of feelings that should well up from our inmost beings. Moreover, thanksgiving has lost its real flavour – to many, it is no more the pouring of their hearts to the Holy One, but it all centers around a turkey, and is a time of reunion and bonding.

Our very existence, protection against evil, redemption, journey mercies, meeting our needs, our environment, our families, relatives and friends are just a few reasons that can trigger our inner self to fall prostrate before the God of all mercies and be thankful. Shall we not raise our voices and sing with the psalmist, *“I’ll praise thee; for I’m fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.”*

What are you thankful for?

Samuel Anselm Samuel
Editor

Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ,

May this letter find each of you with the enthusiasm of the fall season!

Reformation is key to Christian faith; particularly in our tradition. Reformation marks change, growth and the search of the basics. It is true that as life progresses, many ideas, practices and habits linger on to us. Perhaps we may accredit all those values for a while, and it is only later we find them making us stagnant, decayed and drifting away from the path we need to go. So it is important to yearn for reformation from time to time in our life, especially spiritually. As persons, as families, as congregations and as communities, we need to update and rejuvenate our vision of life so that our lives will take an orientation that enhances our spiritual being. Let us thank God for all leaders of reformation, who were bold enough to hold on to the basics of the Word and prayer rather than flow with the current of time. Let us reform ourselves by going back to the basics of the Bible and perseverant prayer, which should orient our life towards "Christ – head" – our goal of life according to Apostle Paul.

It is indeed a matter of great joy and gratitude that Church of South India has completed 70 years of pilgrimage. Let us thank God almighty for preserving and keeping our church all these years. Let us continue to uphold values of ecumenism and the spirit of Pentecost as we continue our faith journey by worship, witness and mission on the foundation of the Word of God.

Bicentenary projects are progressing and looking forward to the culmination in Madhya Kerala Diocese. The valedictory function will be held at Kottayam in November. Kindly pray for all the endeavors related to the Bicentenary projects and observations. Let us have grateful hearts as we remember the arrival of CMS Missionaries, who in turn changed the life of Kerala with the values of the Scripture. Let us also develop a missionary mind based on the Bible so that those who are acquainted with us will have the value of the Gospel in their life.

Thanksgiving and Harvest 2016 for our congregation was indeed a blessing. I thank all families who participated in offering and bidding. Also, I thank all who have openhandedly contributed from their income. The outcome of our understanding, fellowship and offering was marvelous. May God bless abundantly all who have offered generously for the cause of the Church. Thanks to Mr. Zac Santhosh Koshy for leading the auction, Samuel Anselm Samuel and Suja Sara Koshy for keeping the accounts and all Executive Committee members for making every arrangement.

Choir Sunday was observed meaningfully. I thank God for our Church Choir. May God bless abundantly the ministry of the Choir as they continue to sing praises and bring peace to those who attend the services. Thanks to Mr. Daniel Thomas, the Choir Director for leading the Choir.

The observation of Mission Sunday was fruitful. Let us continue to uphold Missions as we continue to worship. Mission should be the outcome of our worship. Kindly pray for the missionaries daily. Thanks to Mr. Joseph Thomas, the Missions Director for leading all the endeavors.

The Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box project is open. Kindly submit the pledge form and be a part of the great program which gives the light of the Gospel to the unreached through acts of kindness and gentleness. I encourage all families to participate. October 30 will be the last date to receive the donations towards this endeavor.

May God almighty bless you and keep all of you in His abundant mercy and grace.

Yours in His service,

Siby Achen.



BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|------------------------|
| 01 | Sajan Itty | 14 | Niranjan Byru |
| 02 | Joseph P. Mathews | 16 | Grace Ann Samuel |
| 04 | Siby Jacob | 18 | Omana Saramma Eapen |
| 06 | Fremita Fredrick | 20 | Joshua Shaji Moothedom |
| 07 | Christy Abraham | 20 | Meera Jacob |
| 08 | Samuel Anselm Samuel | 21 | Grace Elza George |
| 09 | Kenneth Kuruvilla | 21 | Aghil V. Aji |
| 11 | Maya Jacob | 22 | Jane Zaira Toms |
| 12 | Soni Byru | 24 | Sarah George |
| 13 | John Cheriyan Mathew | 25 | Sarah Oommen |
| 13 | Isabel Johnson | 25 | Susan Kurian |
| 14 | Reshma George | 26 | Shini Samuel |

ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|----|---------------------------------------------|
| 03 | Christy Abraham & Elizabeth Shirley Abraham |
| 10 | Jamal Masih & Kiran Masih |
| 24 | Philip Mathai & Diani Mathai |
| 30 | Vilayil I. Kurian & Susan Kurian |
| 30 | Varghese V. John & Liji Varghese John |
| 31 | Bishan Ghosh & Sheeba Levison Ghosh |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| October 02 20 th Sunday after Pentecost Youth Sunday | Youth with Christ in Action | | |
| | Old Testament | Daniel 1:1-17 | English Service |
| | Psalm | 98 | Read by |
| | Epistle | Acts 6:1-7 | Youth Fellowship |
| | Gospel | John 1:35-42 | |
| October 9 21 st Sunday after Pentecost | Disability: Care & Honour | | |
| | Old Testament | II Samuel 9:1-13 | Malayalam Service |
| | Psalm | 146 | Read by |
| | Epistle | Acts 9:32-35 | Shibu Paul & Family |
| | Gospel | Mark 3:1-6 | |
| October 16 22 nd Sunday after Pentecost | Priesthood of all Believers | | |
| | Old Testament | Isaiah 61:1-11 | English Service |
| | Psalm | 135:12-21 | Read by |
| | Epistle | I Peter 2:1-10 | Abraham P. George & Family |
| | Gospel | John 17:1-8 | |
| October 23 23 rd Sunday after Pentecost | Coming of the Lord & Judgement | | |
| | Old Testament | Genesis 19:14-25 | Malayalam Service |
| | Psalm | 94 | Read by |
| | Epistle | II Peter 3:1-10 | Raj Hariharan & Family |
| | Gospel | Matthew 25:31-46 | |
| October 30 24 th Sunday after Pentecost Reformation Sunday | Celebration of God's Sovereignty, Justice & Peace | | |
| | Old Testament | Exodus 7:1-7 | English Service |
| | Psalm | 89:1-18 | Read by |
| | Epistle | Romans 13:1-7 | The Youth Fellowship |
| | Gospel | John 18:33-38 | |



CHOIR SUNDAY



ONAM CELEBRATION





Monthly Fasting Prayer

Our monthly fasting prayer for October will be held on Saturday, October 1 at 10.00AM. All are invited.

Youth Sunday

We will be observing October 2 as Youth Sunday. Rev. Dr. Ninan Thomas will be our guest speaker. Youth Fellowship members will be leading the worship service.

Cottage Prayers

Cottage Prayer for **JORDAN** group will be held on Saturday, October 1 at Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Thomas's residence at 6.00 PM. All area members are invited.

Cottage Prayer for **SHALOM** Group will be held on Saturday, October 8 at Mr & Mrs. Mathew George's residence at 6.30 PM. All area members are invited

Cottage Prayer for **GILEAD** Group will be held on Saturday, October 22 at Mr & Mrs. Shibu Paul Pulikarambil's residence at 6.30 PM. All area members are invited

Cottage Prayer for **GILEAD** Group will be held on Saturday, October 29 at Mr & Mrs. Christy Abraham's residence at 6.30 PM. All area members are invited

At The Feet of Jesus

There will be a **AT THE FEET OF JESUS** prayer meeting on Friday, October 28 starting at 7.30 PM. All are invited to come and spent some time in prayer with the Almighty God at the Church.

Fruit cake by Women's Fellowship

Thanksgiving season is here and soon we will be thinking about Christmas celebrations. The Women's Fellowship is planning to make fruit cake as we did last year.

This year, we would like to take orders before we start so that everyone will receive the number of cakes that they would like to have. The recipe and the price will be the same as last year, \$15.00 per cake (approximately 500 gms each). The funds raised will be used for fulfilling our commitments as we did last year.

Place your orders by October 15, 2016..

Obituary

It is with deep sorrow we inform the sad demise of Mrs. Aleyamma Sunny, mother of Mrs. Simi K. Sunny. She was called to her eternal home on September 26, 2016. Funeral service was held in Kerala. Please remember Simi, Vinu, Abner and all the family members in your prayer. May God comfort and console all the dear ones.

THE LOVE OF A SHEPHERED.

By Mary Alexander

We read a story about an actor, who was also a well-known recitalist who entertained his audience every night. After his usual recital, he always ended with a recital of the 23rd Psalm.

One evening, a young man asked the actor if he could recite the 23rd psalm that night. Though he was surprised, he allowed him to do it. When he finished reciting, there was no usual applause, but through the silence one could see that there was not one eye in the audience that was not tearful. The actor asked the young man, "all the years I have recited the Psalm, I have never had such overwhelming response from the audience. What is your secret?" The man replied, "Sir you know the Psalm, but I know the Shepherd." (This story is told by the actor, and is recorded on www.walkinthelight.ca).

Do we know the Shepherd? "The Lord is my Shepherd" quotes David in the 23rd Psalm. Our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, is the real Shepherd. In Isaiah 40:11, we read that "He shall feed His flock like a Shepherd; He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young." A caring and compassionate God, who demonstrates His unconditional love through gentleness and manifold wisdom! He knows we are weak as the Sheep and the Lambs; therefore, when we are faced with temptations and troubles of this world, He carries us in His bosom and when we are too weak to walk, He protects us by walking with us gently and slowly. The Bible tells us that "His yoke is easy and His burden is Light" (Mathew 11:30), and He tells us to yoke up with Him always to learn from Him as well as release our burdens.

The job of a shepherd is an important one. It was so in the Old Testament times and still is in many countries today. Abel was a keeper of sheep and so was David. A shepherd is usually out in the pasture for many days at a time caring for his flock. He remembers them all by name and sheep recognize their master's voice. Sheep receives more attention in the Bible than any other animal.

Sheep is a wandering animal. The shepherd, therefore, has to keep constant watch over them to keep the flock together. He looks out for those who get sick or injured and takes care of their wounds, washes and bandages them and treats the sick with gentleness. Sheep is a gentle, but dumb animal. Therefore, the shepherd must not only be gentle, but wise to look out for wild animals and protect the sheep. It seems that the flock of sheep is really at the mercy of their master.

In Mathew 18:12-14, we see a Sovereign God who speaks of Himself as the Good Shepherd, who will leave the ninety- nine and search for the one that is lost. He will continue to search until He finds. Such is God's love and He proved His love, by sending His Divine Son to this world to find each one of us. There is no other love in the history of this world that is unconditional and eternal. Isaiah says again, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord has laid upon Him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all." Is. 53:6. Isn't this true of us all. Yes, we are 'wandering' people, we seek our own way and the Master keeps calling and calling until one day we hear the echo of our names, and turn around to fall into His outstretched arms. What a joy unspeakable, full of glory!

Do we know this Shepherd personally??

He is no ordinary Shepherd; He feeds us in green pastures, He fills us with His peace at the calm waters, with His word of comfort He restores our soul, and in the valley of the shadow of death, even there, He doesn't leave us but comforts us. When there are too many enemies around, even in the valley of despair, He is there preparing a meal for us. Our cup never dries up; it runs over because He fills it to overflowing with His own living water. Of course, his mercy and goodness never run dry either.

What a promise, we will live forever be with Him!

YES, HE IS A CARING AND LOVING SHEPHERD!!!!

Are we sharing our Shepherd's love to others? Are we outpouring the love that is poured into us so graciously? Remember the "woman at the well." She couldn't keep quiet once she received the living water. She ran into the city proclaiming the Messiah!

"What shall I render to God for all His benefits toward me? I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord...in the presence of all His people." Psalm 116: 12-14.

I wonder if we can make this decision today to 'show-off' our Shepherd and His love to the world around, so that they will also escape the shadow of the 'valley of death' and live in the house of the Lord forever. Praise be to God!

The following Poem I wrote many years ago when I realized the love of my Shepherd who called me to Himself, to be His very own.

THE SHEPHERD'S SEARCH

Over the meadows came a Shepherd's call
For a lost and weary sheep by its name;
The echo of His voice as a trumpet sound!
Will it end till His sheep came home?

His Master's voice, yes, the sheep was sure,
Yet did he behold his Master's pain?
Ignoring the call still echoing in the air,
Moved he forward where the grass was yet green.

Give up His sheep, no, never could the Shepherd
For dear to His heart He loved him so;
Searching the depths of every valley's end
In concern and love to the end followed He.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

Too far from home was the sheep gone astray
How could he return for lost he the way!
With fear in his heart trembling inside
Feeling alone for his Master he cried.

The echo of his name was earnest and clear,
He waited to hear as it approached near;
Turned he around to the outstretched arms
Of his dear Divine Master, taking him home.

*“Life without thankfulness is devoid of love and passion.
Hope without thankfulness is lacking in fine perception.
Faith without thankfulness lacks strength and fortitude.
Every virtue divorced from thankfulness is maimed and
limps along the spiritual road.”*

John Henry Jowett

MISSION SUNDAY



HARVEST FESTIVAL



The Executive Committee Members of the CSI Church, Toronto

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
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| Choir Director | Mr. Daniel Thomas | Social & Entertainment Director | Mr. Joshua Shaji Moothedom |

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Project – 2016

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box project is open for 2016. This year also, we as a congregation intend to participate in this noble venture. There are 3 options by which all the families could participate.

Donate CA\$ 25/ 30/ 35 towards any no: of boxes that you would like to present.

Pack with your family any no: of boxes that you would like as a family.

Take any no: of boxes to your friends/relatives and return them packed.

Sunday School Team will pack the Boxes with the help of the Youth Fellowship. Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes pledge forms are available with the Mission Committee Members. Kindly get a form and fill it up and return to the Mission Committee Members.