



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

Volume 17 Issue 1

JANUARY 2017



2017 Motto

**You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.**

Psalm 16:11

ജീവന്റെ വഴി നീ എനിക്കു കാണിച്ചുതരും; നിന്റെ സന്നിധിയിൽ സന്തോഷപരിപൂർണ്ണതയും
നിന്റെ വലത്തുഭാഗത്തു എന്നും പ്രമോദങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടു.

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Editorial

God is good.....

How has your travel been? Are you exhausted? Everyone has been on a tiresome, occasionally cumbersome, continuous journey, enjoying both happiness and sadness, success and failure since his or her birth. A few may have experienced the abundance of replenishment throughout; yet many may have experienced bitterness and anxiety. As we stand on the threshold of 2017, it is perfectly alright to look back at our accomplishments and pitfalls, and look forward to a blessed morrow.

God is good!

The jingling bells of Christmas gone
And new decision list is rung
Of dreams that swept the mind so long
With hope of better morrow done.
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.
Some dreams may pass in silence mood
And tempt to try another path
Feels pressed to give up zones too smooth
The path is lit for God is good!

(Samuel Anselm Samuel)

The word of God reinforces the guidance of the great Shepherd as a promise for the days to come. *Surely goodness and loving kindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I'll dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.* (Psalm 23:6) This adds to the 2017 motto: it is the good Shepherd that shows the path of life, leading us to the bliss of God's magnificent presence.

Resolutions normally find place on the pallet that holds the New Year. We mix and match, add and discard the decisions every year. Some of them work, some don't. Some don't work probably because we are too much tempted to hold on to our comfort zones. Or we feel the lack of strength to realize those bold resolutions. The blessed assurance of the presence of Immanuel, who holds tomorrow, should encourage everyone in their journey towards eternity. God is faithful. But the question is, are we? Our dreams can come true only through a close walk with the Lord.

Wish you a blessed, prosperous and happy New Year!

Samuel Anselm Samuel
Editor

Achen's Message



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am pleased to greet all of you in the New Year with a heart full of praise and thanksgiving!

It is beyond any doubt that we were kept in the grace of God during the past year. The world witnessed so many events in 2016. Almighty was faithful to protect and guide us in our days of joys and sorrows. Let us, with a grateful heart and determination welcome 2017 trusting God's promises and providence in our life.

The Motto for 2017 is:

"You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

(Psalm 16:11 - NRSV)

In our daily life we come across so many paths, literally and figuratively. We always want to try the best way that takes us to the destination without any delay and discomfort. It is only natural that we rely on sign boards so that we avoid mistakes. The psalmist in Psalm 16 agrees that God is the one who shows him the path of life. The eagerness of the psalmist to reach for God's presence in order to enjoy the fullness of joy and real happiness is evident in his words. As we are at the cross roads at the beginning of yet another year, the Holy Spirit wants us to make the best decision that we take the path of life and conduct our affairs according to His will.

I would like to thank Mr. Daniel Thomas, our Choir Director, for selecting the songs, training the choir and for making the Carol happen most meaningfully. All members of the choir 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.

Thanks to Mr. Sanju Cherian for the encouragement given to, and Miss Priya Abraham for training the Youth Choir as they could reverberate the joy of our Savior's birth meaningfully during the Carol Service.

Thanks to Mr. Phil Mathai and Diani Mathai for the song by the Sunday School Children as the medley could take us effectively to the happiness that the Saviour could offer us.

Mr. Sajan Itty and Mrs. Elizabeth Verghis along with their family members bereave the passing away of their beloved mothers. Our heartfelt condolences to them and their family members. May the risen Christ render them peace that passes all understanding.

As a Congregation, all of us are invited by the Anglican Diocese to the Bishops' Consecration at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Bloor Street on Saturday, January 7, 2017. I encourage all of you to prayerfully attend the Consecration Service as we receive our New Area Bishop through this Consecration – Bishop Jenny Andison. This will be an occasion to know the Church and participate in an historical event of the Church. All families are invited and humbly requested to witness the Ceremony at St. Paul's Bloor.

The Biennial Synod of the Church of South India will be hosted by the Madhya Kerala Diocese at Kottayam from January 14 to 17, 2017. The Synod will be electing the new office bearers for the Church

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of South India for 2017 - 2019. As our Diocese is holding the Synod, I request you to strongly support and earnestly pray for the Synod.

The Valedictory Function of the Bicentenary Observations went well at Kottayam in November. I am pleased to note that two of our members – Mr. V. I. Kurian and Mrs. Elizabeth Verghis – could represent the CSI members in Canada for the function. Sincere gratitude to them for taking time to represent us for the Ceremony at Kottayam.

It is my sincere prayer that 2017 may be joyous for all of you. May the Lord almighty bless each one of you in the New Year. Please receive and make use of the Motto Card, Bible Reading Plan, Bible in a Year Plan and Family Prayer Partner Plan in 2017. Let us deliberately decide to walk in the path of LIFE so that our life be found meaningful and fruitful in the sight of our heavenly Master.

Wish you all a very blessed 2017.

Yours in His Service,

Siby Achen.

From the Secretary's desk....

Dear all,

I greet you all in the name our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Wish you all a happy, healthy and a peaceful New Year, 2017. Let us step up with hope and confidence in the New year 2017. We had a very busy 2016 at the Church with many activities and events. As your Secretary, I praise God, and would like to thank each and every one for your co-operation and assistance in all our programs in 2016. Without your support and prayers, this wouldn't have been possible. I extend a warm welcome to all the new members to our Church.

Bishop Rt. Rev. Philip M. Poole retired from his official duties in 2016. On June 12, we had a farewell meeting to say thank you and good bye to our dear Bishop for all his leadership and service to our church.

In 2016, we accepted the request from the CSI Deputy Moderator and our Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Thomas K. Oommen, to host the 2017 CSI Family and Youth Conference of North America. The planning and arrangements for the upcoming family conference from July 6 to 9, 2017 is progressing. We are requesting all our member's co-operation and active participation in hosting this conference.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to our Siby Achen and Kochamma, and all the Executive Committee members, for their support during the year 2016.

May the Almighty bless us all.

Thank you.

Christy Abraham
Secretary

January 01 Covenant Service New Year	The Way of Life		
	Old Testament	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	English Service
	Psalm	16	Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians 5:15-21	Executive Committee Members
	Gospel	John 14: 1-7	
January 08 1 st Sunday after Epiphany	Honouring the Body as Temple of God		
	Old Testament	Ecclesiastes 6:1-12	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	1	Read by
	Epistle	I Corinthians 3:16-23	Sanju Cherian & family
	Gospel	Matthew 5:21-30	
January 15 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany	Called to Unity		
	Old Testament	Ezekiel 37:15-23	English Service
	Psalm	133	Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians 4:1-6	Benjamin Chacko & family
	Gospel	John 15:1-12	
January 22 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	Unity in Faith and Action		
	Old Testament	Joshua 3:9-17	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	53	Read by
	Epistle	Acts 9:20-25	Abraham P George & family
	Gospel	Mark 1:21-34	
January 29 4 th Sunday after Epiphany	True Piety		
	Old Testament	Micah 6:1-8	English Service
	Psalm	42	Read by
	Epistle	James 1:19-27	Youth Members
	Gospel	Matthew 6:1-8	



BIRTHDAYS

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

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

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Carol Service

CAROL SERVICE 2016



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

CHURCH NEWS



Registration for the CSI Family & Youth Conference 2017

As you all know, the time for the upcoming CSI Family and Youth Conference of North America is fast approaching. All our members are requested to start the registration process of your family by filling the registration form and paying at least a minimum of one attendee's fee by the end of February 2017. The rest can be paid later. Your co-operation in this matter will be greatly appreciated. For more information, please contact the Registration Convenor, Mr. Christy Abraham

Cottage Prayer

Cottage Prayer for JORDAN Group will be held on Saturday January 21, 2017 at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Sudeep Oommen's residence at 6.30 pm. All area members are invited.

Condolences

The members of the CSI Church, Toronto express their deepest condolences to Mr. Sajan Itty and family at the passing away of his mother Mrs. Lilly I. Jacob on December 2, 2016. May the Almighty God comfort Sajan Binu, Swarup Saurabh and all the bereaved family members at this difficult time. Please remember them in your prayers and pray that May God Almighty give them comfort at this difficult time.

The members of the CSI Church, Toronto express their deepest condolences to Rev. K. J. Chacko Achen, Mrs. Elizabeth Verghis, Mr. P. Matthew Verghis, Miss. Marilyn Verghis, Miss. Emily Verghis and Mr. Jonathan Verghis and all the bereaved family members in the passing away of Mrs. Leelamma Chacko (Kochamma) on December 24, 2016. At this time we remember Kochamma's loving and humble presence with us few years back while Achen and Kochamma were here. Please remember all the bereaved family members in your prayers and pray that May God Almighty give them comfort at this difficult time

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