



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

Volume 17 Issue 2

FEBRUARY 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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Achen's message....	3
CSI Moderator.....	4
Bible Portions.....	5
Celebrations.....	6
Church News	7
Tribute.....	8
Sunday School.....	10
Area Bishop	11

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY FEBRUARY 26

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Editorial

Collect your points

Have you ever had the *top of the world* feeling in your life? Do you consider your possessions to be priceless? How much do you love those possessions? Man, is by nature a demanding being. There is not one thing that surpasses the eyes of this noble creation. Though formed in the image of God, man doesn't always reflect the goodness of God. Everyone tries to think of himself / herself as the perfect benefactor of the created resources. Yet, desire drives people into doing whatever it takes to achieve their dreams.

When dreams become a reality, the hardships become sweeter and goals become laurels on people's hats. Some may want to present an array of their achievements. They might speak volumes of the difficulties they went through to earn those accomplishments. But Solomon, the wisest king in Israel's history says that they are just vanity that glitter in our eyes for some time, and later lose its lustre quickly. But what remains is the biggest achievement and treasure – the relationship with Jesus Christ.

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. (Philippians 3:7)

The knowledge that Christ is the greatest possession in our lives is sometimes overwhelming. Some people hoard their possessions, and yet others, turn out to be philanthropists. Bill Gates, the richest person, also donates money to charity. What can we, who are not on par with Bill Gates do? We still have enough resources to give away. Possessing Christ is the greatest thing in life, and sharing Christ is a mega event that wins souls. It certainly does add treasure for the life after. Peter's words, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." (Acts 3:6) revealed the glory of God and added value to Peter's life.

So, when our lives become meaningful, the vanity of this world shall disappear. The right spirit within us shall fill us with everlasting treasures galore.

Samuel Anselm Samuel
Editor

Achen's Message



Greetings to all of you in the name of our Lord!

May grace and peace abound in our life as we continue to journey through the year.

We are in the season between Epiphany and the great lent in the month of February. We need to know about and observe Ecclesial seasons as they take us to the life of our Saviour in a cycle – from the Annunciation to the Ascension. The whole idea of the seasons in Almanac is to be united with our Lord in our faith journey. So let us be close to Christ as we journey forward in our faith.

Mr. Philip Cherayath Mathai, who was very close to our congregation, was called to eternity. As the Treasurer of the CSI Church, Toronto, he was a faithful steward of the resources entrusted to him. The silent presence which was so strong had a great impact on all those who came to be in acquaintance with him. The congregation gratefully remembers his contributions in the growth of our Congregation and conveys heartfelt condolences to the mourning family members.

Our Diocesan Bishop, the Most Reverend Thomas K Oommen Thirumeni was elected as the Moderator of the Church of South India at the Synod Session held at Kottayam. It is indeed a matter of gratitude to God. As a Congregation under the Madhya Kerala Diocese, this is a joyous moment for all of us. This is for the first time that, one of our Diocesan Bishops is ever becoming the Moderator of the Church of South India. Also it adds to our joy the fact that the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby has appointed our Moderator and Diocesan Bishop as one of the Primates. A Primate holds serious responsibilities in relation to the faith journey of the Church. It is a rare privilege in the History of the Church of South India and our Diocese. Let us whole heartedly support and continually remember Thirumeni's ministry in our prayers.

As a Designated Ministry under the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, we were able to give our prayerful presence at the Service of the New Ministry of our new Area Bishop the Right Reverend Jennifer Ann Anderson. Thank you all who have taken time to be there at the St. Matthews, Islington. I consider it a great privilege and honour that our Choir was specially invited to present an anthem for the service. A special word of gratitude to our Choir Director, Mr. Daniel Thomas and all members as they did their best. It is beyond any doubt that the gathered faithful accepted the anthem as meaningful and apt to the occasion. I am happy to convey the message that I received numerous comments in appreciation of our Church Choir. Let us continue to uphold our Suffragan Bishop in our prayers.

I humbly request every member to register for the 31st CSI North American Family and Youth Annual Conference. The Registration kick off, the launch of the website and the publication of the special News page on the Conference are over. Thanks to the efforts of the General Convener, respective Conveners and members of the Sub – Committees. I take this opportunity to urge all of you to set apart time to pray for the Conference, that it should turn as an opportunity to learn and know about God and the Church. Prayer may be repetitive but never ever futile. Let us believe and work hard in every aspect and find our efforts to be meaningful and fruitful in the Lord.

Mr. Toms Jacob lost his grandfather. Our heartfelt condolences to the family. May the Risen Christ grant them eternal peace.

With all humility I request and remind all of you to use the Daily Bible Reading Guide, Through the Bible in a Year, Our Daily Bread and Prayer Partner Card effectively this year. May the Word aid us to live with the Lord, and let our lives be fruitful before the Lord.

Yours in His Service,

Siby Achen.

**BISHOP RT. REV. THOMAS K OOMMEN:
THE NEW MODERATOR OF THE CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA & THE FIRST
PRIMATE IN ANGLICAN COMMUNION FROM MADHYA KERALA DIOCESE**

Our Bishop and the Deputy Moderator of CSI, The Most Rev. Thomas Kanjirappallil Oommen was elected to the Office of the Moderator of the Church of South India on the first day of the 35th session of the Synod of the Church of South India held at the CSI Retreat Centre, Kottayam, Kerala from January 14 to 17, 2017.

This election remains historic since it is for the first time that a Bishop from the Madhya Kerala Diocese is elected as a Moderator. Bishop Thomas K Oommen is the 11th Bishop in the lineage of the Travancore – Cochin Anglican Diocese and the 7th Bishop in CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese. The Moderator is one among the four officials of the CSI Synod and is the chief pastoral supervisor over the 24 Dioceses spread throughout in five states – Kerala, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh – of South India and Sri Lanka. The Moderator is privileged to represent CSI in all gatherings of its ecumenical partners in India and abroad.



The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby has appointed our Moderator and Diocesan Bishop as one of the Primates in the Anglican Communion. Primates in the Anglican Communion hold serious responsibilities as they engage in ministries and responsibilities that will take forward the journey of the Church according to times and contexts. The Anglican Communion website informs us that: “The use of the title PRIMATE in the context of meetings of the Anglican Communion denotes the chief archbishop or bishop of a province of the Anglican Episcopal family of churches. The Primates' Meeting was established in 1978 by Archbishop Donald Coggan (101st Archbishop of Canterbury) as an opportunity for “leisurely thought, prayer and deep consultation” and has met regularly since.”

As the new election and appointment bring honour and privilege to our Diocese, it also increases our responsibility to remember the ministry of our beloved Thirumeni in our prayers. May our Lord strengthen Thirumeni in his ministry as the chief shepherd of the Church of South India. May the Church of South India increase in its witness and mission. Let the Church continue to give hope and joy to the world presenting the life and light of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, under the pastoral leadership and guidance of our Thirumeni.

February 05 5 th Sunday after Epiphany	Christ: The Rhythm of Life		
	Old Testament	Exodus 15:1-21	English Service
	Psalm	149	Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians 5:15-21	Abraham P John & Family
	Gospel	Luke 8:26-39	
February 12 9 th Sunday before Easter	Sabbath as the Culmination of Creation		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 65: 17- 25	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	8	Read by
	Epistle	Hebrews 4: 2- 13	Ajoy Lional & Family
	Gospel	Mark 2: 23- 28	
February 19 8 th Sunday before Easter	Fall as the Violation of the Purpose of Creation		
	Old Testament	Genesis 6: 1-13	English Service
	Psalm	32	Read by
	Epistle	Romans 7: 14- 25	P. Matthew Verghis & Family
	Gospel	Mathew 7: 15- 23	
February 26 7 th Sunday before Easter	Lent: A Time of Transformation		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 44: 21- 28	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	6	Read by
	Epistle	Romans 11: 13-24	Joseph K David & Family
	Gospel	John 2: 1-11	



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	23	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
14	Benjamin Ninan & Sneha John



Condolence

The members of the CSI Church, Toronto express their deepest condolences to Mrs. Elizabeth Mathai and family at the passing away of one of our founding member of the Church Mr. Philip Mathai (Achenkunju) on January 25, 2017. We remember with gratitude all his valuable service to our Church. May the Almighty God comfort Daisy, Rejini, Phil, Chris, Diani, Maria, Matthew, Michael and Daniel.

Please remember this family in your prayers.

Our Bishop Rt. Rev. Thomas K. Oommen-- CSI Moderator

We are happy and proud to report that our Bishop Rt. Rev. Thomas K. Oommen was elected as Church of South India's Moderator at the CSI Synod meeting last month. He has also been nominated and given the Office of the Primate of the Anglican Church. Congratulations to our Bishop from our Congregation. Please remember our Bishop in your prayers.

Annual General Body meeting

Our Church Annual General Body Meeting will be held on February 26, 2017 after the service.

All our members are invited.

Cottage Prayer

Cottage Prayer for Jordan Group will be held at 6.30 pm on Saturday, February 18, 2017 at the residence Mr & Mrs. Varghese V. John in Brampton . All area members are invited for the prayer meeting.

31st CSI Family and Youth Conference 2017

The CSI Family and Youth Conference Committee is requesting all our members to register for the upcoming family and youth Conference to be held from July 6th to 9th in Toronto. All our members' co-operation will be greatly appreciated.

Ash Wednesday

March 1, 2017 is Ash Wednesday. There will be special Holy Communion worship service at 7.30 PM at the Church. All are invited.

Condolence

The Members of the CSI Church, Toronto express their deepest condolences to Mrs. Elizabeth Shirley Abraham and family at the passing away of her sister Mrs. Betty Kurien on February 2, 2017 in Kerala. May the Almighty God comfort Shirley, Christy, Priya and all the bereaved family members at this difficult time.

A Tribute



*Mr. Philip Cherayathu Mathai
(Achenkunju)*

July 14, 1937 to January 25, 2017

Philip C. Mathai (Achenkunju) July 14, 1937 – January 25, 2017 was a man of great integrity. He was humble, patient, loving and had a gentle personality. He was a living testimony of God's grace and love. Even with his busy life, he always found time to help his family, his extended family, friends, and even people he met for the first time – all qualities that have been passed on to his wonderful children. His loving personality was very contagious.

Achayan was a simple and honest man, 'a man of few words'. He never engaged in negative conversation of anything or any person, but was a powerful testimony to many. His love and dedication for his brother Thankachayan and family knew no bounds.

He was very active in his church life. His great enthusiasm in getting the CSI Church formed was inspirational. Achenkunju was very respectful to our vicars, and he was always very concerned about their well-being. He would spend countless hours working for the Church, and held many positions, such as church secretary, auditor, and treasurer. His honesty and sincerity kept him as the treasurer of the church for over 20 years. Achenkunju was meticulous, and very particular with our church funds. He would not allow a single penny to be spent carelessly on wasteful things. He was a man of principle and was very humorous. In one of the meetings there was a discussion about contributions in kind or in cash, so one of the members said, 'it is OK to contribute anything in kind to the church and we issue tax receipt for the value of the contribution?' He said, 'NO'. When asked why it was not possible, he said, "would you accept if it were a gun?"

He was a strong supporter of Sunday School and believed that it played an important role in mentoring

children in their faith walk with the Lord and helping them live a life of submission and obedience. His own children are good examples of that. Even after their marriages, they have been very much involved with the Church and Sunday School. Achenkunjuchayan beat all odds and survived a critical health issue three years ago, when doctors said he only had a few hours to live. On that day, medical science had to take the backseat. God himself intervened and he lived to see his children's children.

In addition, we all know that spiritual life was very important to Achenkunju. Even when his life became challenging, he was always in prayer with his Almighty God. Knowing how dedicated he was to his church life, Daisy always brought him to church on a regular basis when he was able, as was his desire. He was an encouragement to every member of the church. When he attended the service after his first hospitalization, despite how much his body had gone through, he was insistent that he received the Holy Communion at the altar. So, Daisy helped him as he walked all the way from the back of the church, to the altar. Everyone had tears in their eyes, and we truly saw God's miraculous work.

We have lost a brother, a friend, a faithful member, and one of the founding members of our church. In John 11:25, Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die". It is comforting to note that he is with the Lord, rejoicing. Let this be our motivation to live and serve the Lord each day of our lives. May the hope of resurrection give peace and comfort to the family, and confidence to face tomorrow. Achenkunju's loyalty, dedication and his valuable services to CSI Church, Toronto will never be forgotten.

(Compiled from the eulogies presented by Mr. Christy Abraham, Mr. Daniel Thomas and Mr. Abraham P. George at the visitation and funeral service of Mr. Philip C. Mathai)



**REV. CANON JENNIFER ANN ANDISON
NEW SUFFRAGON BISHOP FOR YORK CREDIT VALLEY AREA,
ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF TORONTO**

It was a new beginning for the York Credit Valley Area of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto to have a new Suffragan Bishop from Saturday, January 07, 2017, when the Rev. Canon Jennifer Ann Andison was consecrated as a Bishop to the College of Bishops of the Diocese. The new Bishop succeeds The Rt. Rev. Philip M. Poole who retired on September 30, 2016, who still remains a well-wisher of our Congregation.

The Vicar of the CSI Church, Toronto was privileged to attend one session of the Synod meeting, the Electoral Synod and the Ordination of the Newly Elected Bishops to the Sacred Order of Bishops at the Parish of St. Paul, Bloor Street. The Service of New Ministry for Bishop the Rt. Rev. Jennifer Ann Andison was held at St. Matthews, Islington at 2:30 PM on Sunday, January 22, 2017. We as a congregation could participate in the Service of New Ministry and it was a great privilege for our Choir to be officially invited by the Rev. Philip Hobson, the M. C. of the Service presided over by the Archbishop The Most Rev. Colin R Johnson. Our Choir presented the anthem "Faith to Carry on" which invited much appreciation in terms of presentation, music and the words. The Rev. Philip Hobson appreciated the Choir Director, the pianist and all choir members saying, "... the anthem struck the right note after the Archbishop's sermon and was so beautifully sung by the Choir. I really appreciate all that they contributed to this memorable service." Thanks to our Choir Director, Daniel Thomas for the timely and thoughtful anthem, all the members and the pianist Emily Verghis for taking time off their busy schedule to honour the invitation.



We as a congregation of the Madhya Kerala Diocese which bears the legacy of the Church Missionary Society under the Anglican Church, is again privileged to have the granddaughter of one of the CMS Missionaries as our Bishop. Bishop Jenny's grandparents worked in Pakistan as Medical Doctors with the CMS. They had challenging and tough time in Ministry there in Pakistan at that point of time in history. Moreover it was in India that Bishop Jenny felt the burden and meaningfulness to live for her Savior wholly. Bishop Jenny has been to Chennai, the head quarters of the Church of South India and other cities in India.

As a Designated Ministry under the Diocese of Toronto, let us continue to uphold our new Area Bishop in our daily prayers so that the ministry by the bishop will continue to be blessed for the Church and the World at large. May the new pastoral leadership of Bishop Jennifer Ann Andison lead us closer to the greater light.

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



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