



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

Volume 18 Issue 1

JANUARY 2018



Happy New Year!

2018 Motto

...for it is written, 'you shall be holy, for I am holy.'

1 Peter 1:16

'ഞാൻ വിശുദ്ധൻ ആകയാൽ നിങ്ങളും വിശുദ്ധരായിരിക്കണം' എന്നു എഴുതിയിരിക്കുന്നുവല്ലോ.



Episcopal Visit January 28
Warm Welcome to
Bishop Rt. Rev. Jenny Andison

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JANUARY 2018

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Editorial

Soar like eagles...

It's yet another year! 2018! Amidst the festivities and celebrations of welcoming 2018, have you thought about some resolutions? Have you pondered over your accomplishments and pitfalls of 2017? Most people fall into this category and then wish each other a happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year. It perhaps is a time of jubilation, but it can necessarily be a time of retrospection when we count the innumerable blessings that have been showered on us unconditionally.

Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits — who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. (Psalm 103: 1-5)

January and February were not in the early Roman calendar. December was the 10th and final month, and people used to celebrate New Year in March. January 1st was named the first day of the year by Julius Caesar around 46BC. Later, it was accepted by many cultures and nations. As days and dates can be changed at any point of time, January 1st, per se, mustn't have any bearing on us. I don't think there is anyone who hasn't received blessings from above. The question is whether we realize those blessings and acknowledge them. Every day of the year can be utilized for that, so that people won't be unhappy about what was not accomplished, and wouldn't be counting the chickens. Rather, they would thank God for His abundant mercy and blessings.

Let this new year help us realize the hand of God in everything that has happened in our lives. Then as the psalmist says, we will be renewed in strength. But we need to wait on the Lord every moment for this to be a reality. *But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31).* Let each day of this new year be a blessing!

Samuel Anselm Samuel
Editor



Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ,

Blessed be the name of the Lord who was faithful to keep us in our life's journey all through the past year. For everyone there were ups and downs. But the Lord preserved us in our life's journey. Glory and praise be to the triune God alone for His marvelous guidance in our lives.

As we begin our journey for the New Year, it is important that we begin to take steps with our Heavenly Master. I am happy to present the Motto for 2018. It says:

"...for it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy'." – 1 Peter 1:16

Holiness in life is sometimes considered as quite unreachable and not essential. But the Word clearly says that our heavenly father is interested in our holiness (1 Thessalonians 4:3) and that only qualifies us to see Him (Hebrews 12:14). So, holiness is expected of a believer. Holiness is clasping the hands of our Lord and walking closely with Him, having conversations with Him, getting guidance from Him and proceeding according to His plans. God is faithful to take us through the storms and stillness of our life. We are expected to soar like an eagle in our spiritual understanding and ways of life.

January 6th is the "Epiphany". It is the occasion on which we remember the fact that Jesus Christ has come into the world for every nation and people. Still now, Christ waits to make His presence known to all people irrespective of any condition of life. He is the Messiah for everyone.

Rt. Rev. Jennifer Ann Andison, the Suffragan Metropolitan and the Area Bishop of York Credit Valley is visiting us on January 28. May I humbly request all families to be present on that Sunday of episcopal visit for the Divine Service. We need to honour our ecclesial authorities. It will be an occasion to express our sincere gratitude to the Anglican Diocese of Toronto by our full participation in the Service. The Holy Communion Service will be in English. Kindly make yourself available at the right time.

We had a blessed Christmas Carol Service. The efforts of Mr. Daniel Thomas, our Choir Director, in the selecting the songs according to a theme and training the choir is appreciable. All members of the choir dedicated their time sacrificially amidst their busy schedule of life. The instrumentalists gave their best by making the harmony possible. May the Lord Almighty continue to bless and strengthen our Choir for His glory and purposes. Thanks to everyone who made the Carol happen meaningfully.

Thanks to Mr. Hans Thomas, the Youth Director, for the encouragement given and Ms. Priya Abraham for training the Youth Choir as they could reverberate the joy of our Saviour's birth meaningfully during the Carol Service.

Thanks to Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel, the Sunday School Director, for co-ordinating the participation of Sunday School Children in the Carol with the Church Choir. It was evident that the songs sung by the children touched so many hearts. The Congregation is proud of our kids as they could render the song beautifully with discipline. Thanks also to Ms. Priya Abraham and Ms. Anna Esther Samuel who taught the kids the songs.

Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel and Mr. Rennie Philips Joseph lost their first cousins and Mrs. Reshma Maria George lost her uncle. May the God of peace comfort all of them and the dear ones in the abounding grace from the Almighty.

(Continued on page 4)

Message

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(Continued from page 3)

We will be starting our Bible Study Series on every Friday from second week of January. All are welcome.

Please receive and make use of the 'Motto Card', 'Daily Bible Reading Guide', 'Through the Bible in a Year' and 'Family Prayer & Promise Card' for 2018.

It is my sincere prayer that 2018 may be joyous and blessed for all members. The Lord almighty bless each one of our members. Let us deliberately decide to be Holy (separated for God's cause in our life) so that we may be found worthy to see God in His glory and enter into the fullness promised to all those who finish their race faithfully.

With prayerful regards and wishes,
Siby Achen.



*Darkness deepens darkness,
Light delivers light!
In the depth of our being we live in
communion with God!*

*It's Christmas!
May your heart be light throughout the
New Year!*

The Most Rev. Thomas K. Oommen
Moderator, Church of South India
&
Bishop in Madhya Kerala Diocese

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<p>January 7</p> <p>1st Sunday after Epiphany</p>	Live Worthy of Your Calling		
	Old Testament	Proverbs 20:1-11	English Service
	Psalm	14	Read by
	Epistle	Romans 6:12-21	Nittu M Jacob & Family
	Gospel	Matthew 7:16-23	
<p>January 14</p> <p>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</p>	One Lord, One Baptism		
	Old Testament	Numbers 11:23-30	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	23	Read by
	Epistle	I Corinthians 10:1-4	Suby Mathews & Family
	Gospel	John 10:7-18	
<p>January 21</p> <p>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</p>	Unity for Justice and Peace		
	Old Testament	Ezekiel 37:15-28	English Service
	Psalm	4	Read by
	Epistle	Philippians 4:8-20	Shibu Paul P & Family
	Gospel	Matthew 5:21-26	
<p>January 28</p> <p>4th Sunday after Epiphany</p>	The Goodness of Creation		
	Old Testament	Genesis 1:24-31	English Service
	Psalm	104: 1-12	Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians 1:3-14	Executive Committee
	Gospel	Matthew 6:9-13	



BIRTHDAYS

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

ANNIVERSARIES

02	Nittu Mathew Jacob & Anu Mariamma
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



Monthly Fasting Prayer

Our Monthly Fasting Prayer for January 2018 will be held at 10.00 am on January 6. All are invited.

Sunday School Examination

Our Sunday School Examination will be held on January 21, 2018. Parents of the Sunday School children, please take a note of this date.

Episcopal Visit

Rt. Rev. Jennifer Ann Andison, the Suffragan Metropolitan and the Area Bishop of York Credit Valley is visiting our Church on January 28 and leading our worship service. This is Bishop's first visit to our Church. I request all our members to be present for the special worship service and in the welcome function.

Thanks

I take this opportunity to thank our Siby Achen for his guidance, executive committee members, and each and every member, young and old, for their cooperation and participation in all the functions in the Church, during the year 2017. The high light of last year was the Family Conference. By the grace of God, we were able to host the 31st CSI Family and Youth conference of North America. I praise and thank God for the success of the conference.

I wish you all a Happy, Blessed and Prosperous New Year. May the Almighty God bless us all in 2018. Once again thank you all for your support to the church during 2017.

Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship

The weekly Intercessory Prayer will be held every Wednesday at the Sanctuary from 10 AM to 12 PM. All are welcome

Bible Study Series

There will be Bible study every Friday at the Parsonage from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM. All are welcome.

Letters of appreciations received from CSI congregations of North America

"Dr James Lemler's sessions were inspirational and we learned a lot from his wisdom. The young couples' session was fun and thought-provoking; although, we would have loved to have one more session just to cement what we learned and to build further relationships.

Our daughter truly enjoyed the Children's Session. The lessons from God's word, the craft sessions, the singing and of course, the highlight - the Animal Show, which was a treat to both young and old!"

CSI Church of Greater NY, New York, USA

"The 2017 CSI family conference was a real exciting and rejuvenating experience for many of us. It was executed in a well-balanced manner providing ample opportunities for people of various tastes. It contained enough spiritual components, mixed with entertaining programs and sports activities.

The presence and involvement of youth and young families added excitement and strength to the entire program. Overall, the manner in which you conducted the entire conference raised the bar to a different level!"

CSI Church, Houston, Texas, USA

"We had an excellent feel about the event. Right from the registration desk, until the end of the conference, all the programs were conducted in a well-organized manner. The preparation and planning behind each and every session was clearly evident.

The accommodation, the catering as well as the entertainment part, everything maintained high standards, leaving no room for any complaint whatsoever."

CSI Church, Edmonton, Canada

"First, I like to congratulate the General Convener Mr. Daniel Thomas who has coordinated and executed every aspect of the conference and made it very colorful for all of us to witness and glorify Almighty God." I like to congratulate Achen for his leadership and all the members of CSI Church, Toronto for their unity displayed throughout the conference especially on talent show"

CSI Church, Elizabeth, NJ, USA

"Having been my first conference, I was amazed of how much I learned from the experience itself. I had the chance to meet so many youths, which really expanded my outreach of the CSI Youth in America. In addition to creating many new friendships, I received a lot of advice and knowledge from the speakers, advice I still apply into my life today. After this conference, I cannot wait to attend the upcoming one!"

CSI Church, Detroit, Michigan, USA

"We just want to let you all know that the 31st CSI family conference was a great time of fellowship and could feel God's presence all through the conference. Everything was coordinated well and the programs ran smoothly all weekend.

As a family, we enjoyed the stay at the beautiful Hilton hotel and the food was awesome.

Personally I felt moved by the words of the speaker for the adult session and I'm grateful to those who put this conference together."

CSI Church, Seaford, New York, USA

"The songs were all very good and spiritually uplifting. We enjoyed the fellowship of the CSI members from various CSI churches and it was like a big family get-together.

The venue was excellent and very relaxing and friendly atmosphere. We really enjoyed the Malayalee food. Thank you for giving us the St. Paul's CSI Church of Ahamdi, Kuwait members a chance to sing and to share our testimony of God's amazing grace.

Congratulations for the "Job very well done."

CSI Church, Dallas, Texas, USA

“A lot of manpower was visible in every area of the conference including reception, wonderful lodging-- Hilton Markham Suites, Talent show, wonderful Church Choir which I admired the most.”

Overall, all the credits should go to the congregation of CSI Church, Toronto who stood behind the leaders in unity to support and be the partakers of each and every aspect of the conference. So, keep up the unity.“

CSI Church, Elizabeth, NJ, USA

“I thoroughly enjoyed the 31st Annual CSI Conference. We were very impressed with your congregation. All the hard work that each of you put into this conference shown through all the well thought out programs.”

CSI Church, Huston, Texas, USA

“The specific highlights of the program that we thought were outstanding:

1. Achen & Kochamma- We were impressed with their leadership skills.
2. The organized programs
3. The youth leaders who led the programs for the conference.
4. The Five Star Hotel accommodations
5. The Food (especially the late night snacks provided)
6. The outstanding choir
7. The large attendance at this conference. (It was good meeting old and new friends)
8. The unity that was displayed between the two CSI Canada Churches.
9. The convener of the conference, Daniel Thomas”

CSI Church, Huston, Texas, USA

“The youth group attracted our special attention. You have a vibrant youth group and their commitment to the Lord and their sense of unity were commendable.

They are your strength and hope for the future of the congregation. Their musical talent was very much admired by all those were present at the conference.

You all have every reason to be happy and proud, having run such a great event of the CSI, representing the whole of North America.”

CSI Church, Edmonton, Canada

“We thoroughly enjoyed the delicious food (especially the Kerala meals). It was also very thoughtful of you to arrange snacks after the evening sessions.

The opening ceremony, Talent Night and the Choir Festival were amazing - we applaud the dedication and hard work that went into putting up such spectacular events. May God continue to bless all of you as you bear witness to our Lord who called us to serve Him..

This was one of the best conferences we attended.

Thank you for the memories that we will cherish for a long time”

CSI Church, Seaford, New York, USA

“The CSI family and Youth conference 2017 was an unforgettable experience. This event gave us the opportunity to meet many members in the growing body of the CSI diocese. Many of the activities hosted during this conference focused on refreshing ourselves and strengthening our faith. All of the events were coordinated in such a way that all groups young, youth and adult could engage and participate. Every leader did a great job holding their respective roles keeping this event running smoothly. It truly was an honor and a privilege to perform during the choir fest, talent night and in the Mass Choir”

CSI Congregation of Great Lakes MI, USA

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX



ECUMENICAL CAROL





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	Mr. Santhosh Cherian
Joint Secretary / Trustee	Mr. Rennie Philips Joseph	Sunday School Director	Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel
Treasurer	Mrs. Sheeba L. Ghosh	Youth Fellowship Director	Mr. Hans Thomas Varghese
Joint Treasurer / Trustee	Mr. Abhilash Raj	Mission Director	Mr. Sanju Cherian
Choir Director	Mr. Daniel Thomas	Social & Entertainment Director	Mrs. Susan Kurian



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