



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

# Pilgrim

Volume 26 Issue 9

SEPTEMBER 2026



## 2026 Motto

"Thus far the Lord has helped us" - I Samuel 7:12(b)

“ഇത്രത്തോളം യഹോവ നമ്മെ സഹായിച്ചു” I ശമുവേൽ 7: 12 (b)

**Sep 11-13: Annual Gospel Convention**

**Sep 12: Badminton Tournament**

## CONTENTS

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| Achen's Message..... | 3  |
| Church News.....     | 4  |
| Bible Portions ..... | 7  |
| Celebrations.....    | 9  |
| Gallery.....         | 11 |

# Pilgrim

**SEPTEMBER 2026**

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**Editorial**

**Christ-like Humility**

The most striking characteristic of Christ is His humility. Philippians 2:1-8 clearly shows that Jesus did not come to be served, but instead took the form of a servant, entered human frailty, and became obedient even to death on a cross. Two images reveal Christ-like humility: the towel and the cross, and these are not merely symbolic, but they are actual acts done by our Lord. In washing the disciples' feet, He performed work associated with the lowest servant, and at the cross, He carried obedience and self-less love to their costly conclusion.

Humility is often mistaken for timidity and can appear almost self-defeating in today's self-centered world that tells us that greatness is proved by rising above others. Yet the gospel presents a Lord who kneels not because He lacked worth, but because love chose to stoop. Christian humility is therefore unique in two aspects – it is not passive and it is the freedom to stop making the self the centre because Christ has become the centre.

The question then is - as Christ's ambassadors what do we associate being Christ-like to? Many of us may identify this as being our church attendance, knowledge of the Bible, our charitable giving, acts of service, etc., and while these are valuable, we may be far from being Christ-like if we do not learn to walk in His example of humility. To model Christ is to trust that we lose nothing by serving, listening, repenting, or yielding. Our dignity does not depend on being first; it rests in belonging to Him. Christian humility is the strength to descend in love because we are secure in the abundant grace of God.

So may we reach receive grace, be able to seek forgiveness quickly, give thanks freely, and respond to others' needs before us. May we consciously practice this in our homes and workplaces and also teach our children to do the same as they return to the classroom for a new school year. In this way may we be known for our humility just as Christ was.

Reshma George  
Editor

## Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

According to the church calendar, we are celebrating Choir Sunday and Senior Citizens' Sunday this month.

Music plays a key role in worship in most religions, especially Christianity. Songs are used to introduce certain themes and to provide spiritual enrichment in praise and worship to God. Participation in the choir is an outlet for self-expression as a soloist, director, or accompanist; a means by which members can put their musical talents and training to good use and the important service of God and the church. I thank God for the glorious ministry of our church choir, choirmaster, and organists. May God help them continue this ministry through music.

We are familiar with the famous opening line of Shakespeare's play 'Twelfth Night' highlighting the virtues of song, "If music be the food of love, play on." Indeed, music can be the food of love, including God's love in Christ. We are called to sing of God's love in our lives. When the church becomes a singing community, the language of music engages human hearts. Christian music always carries a message. Let us continually sing the message of God's love so that we can communicate the Gospel and theology in depth through music and help restore the rhythm of life for our brothers and sisters.

We have been called to live as children of God's kingdom. Paul asks his spiritual son Timothy to build healthy relationships in the church by treating elders with respect (1 Timothy 5:1–2). By maintaining a healthy relationship with God, we can build healthy relationships with everyone at home, in the church, and in society. Elders are our guides and the backbone of the family. However, a major challenge is the generation gap between younger and older generations, both within families and in the church arising from differing ideas and perspectives that may not be readily accepted or understood by both parties. It is understood that old age is like a second childhood in human life, we should care for our elders as we care for a small child. We must accept, respect, and protect older people and appreciate their good deeds. Let us receive the blessings of our elders and follow their advice.

September 27 marks the anniversary of the Church of South India, which is the second-largest Christian denomination in India, after the Catholic Church. The formation of the Church of South India is also known as the "Second Pentecost." The CSI Church reflects the remarkable people's movement that took place on Indian soil in 1947. The church upholds the belief that all are one despite differences in language, tradition, and culture—a heritage of which we should be proud. We mark the occasion by devoting time to learning the Word of God.

Finally, our annual gospel convention will be held from September 11 to 13, and I request your prayers and participation at this special event.

May God bless you all.

Yours in God's Service  
Sooraj Achen



### **Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship**

The Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship will take place every Thursday from 10:00am to 12:00 noon in the church sanctuary. Please join the fellowship through the church Zoom line.

### **Satellite Church Worship Services**

- CSI Holy Emmanuel Church, London: Worship will be held on September, 6 at 4.30pm at St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Church, 397 Springbank Drive, London, ON N6J 1G7.
- CSI Church, Ottawa: Worship will be held on September 26 at 10.00am at St. Mark's Anglican Church, 1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa On K2C 1X6.

### **Badminton Competition**

The Men's Fellowship will be conducting a Badminton Competition on September 12, 2026, at the Royal Badminton Club, Mayfield, Brampton, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For further details regarding the competition, or for sponsorship, or donations, please contact Rev. Sooraj Thomas, Vicar, or Febin Varkey Mathews, Men's Fellowship Director.

### **Annual Gospel Convention**

The Annual Gospel Convention will be held on September 11 and 12, 2026, starting at 7:30 p.m., and on Sunday, September 13, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. We are blessed to have Rev. Nebu K. Varghese, Associate Vicar of St. Mathew's Mar Thoma Church, Milton, as the guest speaker. All members, families, and friends are warmly invited to prayerfully participate and be blessed by the worship, fellowship, and reflection on God's Word through these special meetings. For more information, please contact Rev. Sooraj Thomas, Vicar, or Abraham K. Varghese, Secretary.

### **Monthly Board of Directors Meeting**

The monthly Board Meeting will be held on September 13, 2026, immediately after the social hour.

### **Monthly Prayer - CSI North American Congregation**

The Council of CSI Congregations in North America is holding their 10 Monthly Prayer night on September 17, 2026 at 9.00pm. Rev Sooraj Thomas, Vicar, will be the speaker. Please see the flyer for more information.

### **KCEF Bible Quiz Competition**

The Bible Quiz will be held on September 19, 2026 at 2.00pm at St. Gregorios Orthodox Church of Toronto, 6890 Professional Ct, Mississauga, ON L4V 1X6. For more information, please contact Rev. Sooraj Thomas, Vicar, or Abraham K. Varghese, Secretary.

### **KCEF Basketball Tournament**

This event will be held on September 26, 2026 at 8.30am at Six Park Athletic Centre, Vaughan. For more information, please contact Rev. Sooraj Thomas, Vicar, or Abraham K. Varghese, Secretary.



### Cottage Prayer Meetings:

- **Gilead Area Prayer:** This prayer meeting will be hosted by Ashwin Joe and Ajisha George on Sunday, September 20, 2026, at 5:30p.m., at their residence (45 Charleswood Crescent, Hannon, Hamilton, ON L0R 1P0).
- **Jordan Area Prayer:** This area prayer will be hosted by Raj Hariharan and Sonijya Raj on Saturday, September 19, 2026 at 6.30pm at their residence (16133 Innis Lake Rd, Caledon East, ON L7C 4G4).
- **Shalom Area Prayer:** No prayer meeting has been scheduled

THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE  
CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA

THE COUNCIL OF CSI CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

# 10<sup>TH</sup> MONTHLY PRAYER NIGHT

*"Call to Me, and I will answer you,  
and show you great and mighty things,  
which you do not know."  
Jeremiah 33:3*

LED BY  
**CSI CHURCH, TORONTO**

THURSDAY  
**SEPT 17**  
2026

9:00 PM EST/  
8:00 PM CT

SPECIAL MESSAGE:  
**REV. SOORAJ PAULOSE THOMAS**  
*Presbyter, CSI Church, Toronto*

ZOOM ID: 770 595 6287 | PASSCODE: CSI2026

ORGANIZED BY TEAM EVANGELISTS



**CSI CHURCH  
TORONTO**



# ANNUAL CONVENTION 2026

*"Thus far the Lord has helped us."*

*1 Samuel 7:12(6)*



**SPEAKER**

**Rev. Nebu K Varghese**

*Associate Vicar*

*St. Mathew's Mar Thoma Church, Milton*



**DATES**

**11 & 12**  
SEPTEMBER 2026  
7:30 PM

**13**  
SEPTEMBER 2026  
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM



**VENUE**

**CSI CHURCH, TORONTO**  
1315 Kipling Avenue  
Etobicoke, ON

*For further details contact:*

Rev. Sooraj Paulose Thomas  
+1 (647) 994-8238

Church Secretary  
+1 (647) 886-3465



|                                                                          |                                                   |                     |                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>September 6, 2026</b><br><b>Education Sunday: Teachers' Day</b>       | <b>Education: Shaping Minds Changing Lives</b>    |                     |                                                         |
|                                                                          | Old Testament                                     | Isaiah 50:4-7       | <b>English Service</b>                                  |
|                                                                          | Psalm                                             | 119:9-16            | Read by                                                 |
|                                                                          | Epistle                                           | Titus 2:1-10        | Samuel Anselm Samuel<br>Beena Annet Hans<br>Alex Oommen |
|                                                                          | Gospel                                            | Luke 5:1-11         |                                                         |
| <b>September 13, 2026</b><br><b>15<sup>th</sup> Week after Pentecost</b> | <b>Pluralism: Faith and Friendship</b>            |                     |                                                         |
|                                                                          | Old Testament                                     | Jeremiah 29:1-7     | <b>Malayalam Service</b>                                |
|                                                                          | Psalm                                             | 37:1-24             | Read by                                                 |
|                                                                          | Epistle                                           | Romans 12:9-18      | Selvarajan Thampy<br>Puthenkulangara & Family           |
|                                                                          | Gospel                                            | Luke 11:5-10        |                                                         |
| <b>September 20, 2026</b><br><b>Senior Citizen's Sunday</b>              | <b>Purposeful Living: The Best is Yet to Come</b> |                     |                                                         |
|                                                                          | Old Testament                                     | Joshua 14:6-13      | <b>English Service</b>                                  |
|                                                                          | Psalm                                             | 16                  | Read by                                                 |
|                                                                          | Epistle                                           | Philippians 3:12-16 | Rennie Philips Joseph & Family                          |
|                                                                          | Gospel                                            | John 21:18-23       |                                                         |
| <b>September 27, 2026</b><br><b>Choir Sunday</b>                         | <b>Song of Restoration</b>                        |                     |                                                         |
|                                                                          | Old Testament                                     | Isaiah 61:1-10      | <b>Malayalam Service</b>                                |
|                                                                          | Psalm                                             | 51                  | Read by                                                 |
|                                                                          | Epistle                                           | Revelation 21:1-5   | Choir Members                                           |
|                                                                          | Gospel                                            | Mark 8:22-25        |                                                         |



| <b>October 4, 2026<br/>18th Week after<br/>Pentecost</b> | <b>Youth: Called to Restore, Committed to Renew</b> |                        |                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|                                                          | Old Testament                                       | Jeremiah 1:7-10, 17-19 | <b>English Service</b> |
|                                                          | Psalm                                               | 80                     |                        |
|                                                          | Epistle                                             | II Corinthians 13:5-11 |                        |
|                                                          | Gospel                                              | John 14:12-20          |                        |

**BIRTHDAYS**

|   |                                |    |                               |
|---|--------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Jacob. M John                  | 8  | Sheron Peter Thomas           |
| 1 | Levia Grace                    | 10 | Jithin George                 |
| 1 | Bijoy Bhutia                   | 12 | Allan Roy                     |
| 1 | Anu Roshan Thomas              | 13 | Raj Hariharan                 |
| 2 | Sarah. M John                  | 13 | Varghese John                 |
| 2 | Neena Kuruvila                 | 13 | John Mathew                   |
| 2 | Seena Reji                     | 13 | Shiny Shibu                   |
| 2 | Ashwin Joe Varghese            | 13 | Sravan Kumar Onteru           |
| 4 | Roshan Peter                   | 14 | Rachel Cherian                |
| 5 | Jezlyn Maria George            | 15 | Venerable K. Sam Thomas       |
| 5 | Jomel Varghese                 | 16 | Jomy Philip                   |
| 5 | Jaydon Chris John              | 17 | Mithul Binny Itty             |
| 6 | Meera Bose Sailen Bose Regulas | 18 | Hancy Sudhakaran              |
| 7 | Ancy Jacob                     | 19 | Rohit Mathew Oommen           |
| 7 | Felix Abraham Varghese         | 19 | Thejus John                   |
| 7 | Elizabeth Verghis              | 19 | Rachel Grace Joshua Moothedom |
| 8 | Toby Jacob                     | 19 | Aby Kattil John               |
| 8 | Jain Daniel                    | 20 | Akshay Alex Cherian           |
| 8 | Priya Rachel Abraham           | 20 | Aiden Ashwin Varghese         |
| 8 | Calvin Jacob                   | 20 | John Zac Mathew               |



**BIRTHDAYS**

|    |                          |    |                     |
|----|--------------------------|----|---------------------|
| 21 | David Meshach            | 25 | Anju Anna Jacob     |
| 21 | Aiswarya Francie Challat | 27 | Alen Paul           |
| 22 | Eva Bose                 | 28 | Suja Sara Koshy     |
| 23 | Aleesha Shan             | 28 | Smitha Baby Thomas  |
| 24 | Annika Cherian           | 28 | Elizabeth Mathai    |
| 24 | Sophy Aji Mathews        | 29 | Reebu Mariam Jeffin |
| 24 | Noah Solomon Govada      | 29 | Jeny Jean Mathew    |
| 24 | Mathews Joel George      | 30 | Richu Koshy Thomas  |

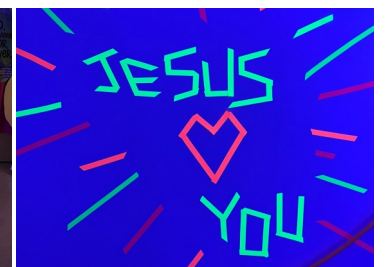
**ANNIVERSARIES**

|    |                                                          |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 3  | Jinoj Titus & Rajitha Jinoj                              |
| 10 | Selvarajan Thampy Puthenkulangara & Eva Bose             |
| 11 | John Cheriyan Mathew & Vismaya Mary Villees              |
| 11 | George Mathew & Siji Joseph                              |
| 11 | Bejosh Mathew & Hazel Soman                              |
| 12 | Alen Paul & Raina Achu Roy                               |
| 12 | Justin Tom Mathew & Shreya Elsa Regi                     |
| 16 | Rennie Philips Joseph & Preetha Anie Philips             |
| 20 | Sravan Kumar Onteru & Anitha Gabbeta Onteru              |
| 20 | Zuben Jacob Parakal & Steffy Karerakkattil Sunny Rapheal |
| 22 | Manu Varghese George & Moncy Manu                        |
| 24 | Mridul Mathew Kuruvilla & Mary Mridul Mathew             |
| 28 | Aaron Fredrick Simon B & Mini Fredrick                   |

### VBS 2026







### Church Picnic









**The Executive Committee Members of CSI Church, Toronto**

|                                           |                            |                                    |                          |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>President</b>                          | Rev. Sooraj Paulose Thomas |                                    |                          |
| <b>Vice-President / Rector's Warden</b>   | Mr. Santhosh Cherian       | <b>Secretary / People's Warden</b> | Mr. Abraham K Varghese   |
| <b>Joint Secretary / Trustee</b>          | Mr. Joby Paul Mathew       | <b>Treasurer</b>                   | Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel |
| <b>Joint Treasurer / Trustee</b>          | Mr. Shijo Perumannoor John | <b>Sunday School Director</b>      | Mrs. Ani Chacko          |
| <b>Choir Director</b>                     | Mr. Jefin Mathews          | <b>Men's Fellowship Director</b>   | Mr. Febin Varkey Mathews |
| <b>Women's Fellowship Director</b>        | Mrs. Asha Susan Joy        | <b>Youth Fellowship Director</b>   | Mr. Joshua George        |
| <b>Mission Director</b>                   | Mr. Joshua Moothedom       | <b>Public Relations Director</b>   | Mr. Calvin Jacob         |
| <b>Social &amp; Recreational Director</b> | Mr. Ashley Jeji George     | <b>Malayala Lokam Director</b>     | Mrs. Stephamol S.S       |

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

- Church related general enquiries: [vicar@csichurchtoronto.org](mailto:vicar@csichurchtoronto.org) | [secretary@csichurchtoronto.org](mailto:secretary@csichurchtoronto.org)
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- If you wish to be included in the parish e-mail list to receive special notices, please e-mail the Secretary at [secretary@csichurchtoronto.org](mailto:secretary@csichurchtoronto.org)

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