



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

Volume 18 Issue 8

AUGUST 2018



2018 Motto

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

1 Peter 1:16

'ഞാൻ വിശുദ്ധൻ ആകയാൽ നിങ്ങളും വിശുദ്ധരായിരിപ്പിൻ' എന്നു എഴുതിയിരിക്കുന്നുവല്ലോ.

Choir Get-together – August 11

VBS – August 23 - 26

At the Feet of Jesus – August 31

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Editorial

The Ultimate Shield...

How safe are you? What are the challenges that keep you on your toes? Do you have any ultimate protection? Protection plans are designed to help people deal with the unexpected or escape from some expected chaos. Security systems are designed to guarantee full protection. The houses we live in, shield us from all kinds of weather. While the protection is tangible, it's also fallible. The failures are usually attributed to loopholes or the inevitable hand of fate. Even the ozone layer, that acts as a shield to protect us from the harmful ultra-violet radiations of the sun, has been depleted. So, protection is a relative term. It may guard and save you, or it may inflict substantial damage.

We always expect a shield to protect everyone from dangers, risks and unpleasant experiences. But it may not be able to withstand the arrows of the enemy, external forces etc., and may be breached at any time. So, it is evident that we need a protective shield in our lives. *"Fear not, Abram, I am your shield: your reward shall be very great."* (Genesis 15:1) This shield is impermeable and can't be compromised at all. No hacker, agent or force will be able to infiltrate. Normally we look for branded ones in every purchase. This shield is a unique brand, and free – prepaid. It has also got millions of reviews. When we're able to assimilate this truth, we'll be able to join the psalmist and say – *"But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head."* (Psalm 3:3)

Blessed is the person who has made the living Lord his / her shield. It gives you a feeling of security, boosts your morale and strengthens you to face any trials, temptations or adverse situations. The shield helps you to put out the flaming darts of the evil one; it annihilates the power of the weapon and protects the person who holds it. When the living Lord is your shield, who can be against?

Let the Spirit of the Living Lord guide us all into that blessed life, guarded by the *Shield*.

Samuel Anselm Samuel
Editor

Achen's Message



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Bible is the foundation for Christian living. The Bible is the sacred book, or a collection of books, accepted by the Church as uniquely inspired by God. This book was preserved from generation to generation even though many kings and rulers tried to destroy its credibility. Many have put their life in danger to safe guard the Bible.

Bible is the spiritual food for Christians around the world. It is considered to be most read book in the world. According to the Guinness World Records, the Bible is the best-selling book of all time. Also, this book has endured the test of time and thus reveals God's promises through this scripture "*The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of God endures forever*" (Isaiah 40:8). The sixty-six books in the Bible are written by human hands by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Listen to God's commandment to Jeremiah - "*I put my Words into your mouth.*" (Jeremiah:1:9). He also spoke through the Psalms of King David. (Acts :1:16). He expressed Himself through Mosses (Mark:12:26) and other prophets (Luke:1:69-70).

The Bible is a record of the relationship between God and His people. The Biblical words are a collection of scriptures, divinely inspired- "*Everything in the scripture has been divinely inspired*" (2Timothy 3:16). We, the children of God must obey the Word of God, for it enlightens our paths. The Biblical words are Godly instructions to mankind for godly living. Please don't misunderstand it is a supernatural religious text.

The misconception about the Bible is that it is a religious book pertaining to a particular community. The truth about Bible is that it is an essence of life imbining spiritual, emotional and physical well-being in us through moral instructions.

To imbibe these moral instructions, we need to inculcate the daily habit of reading and meditating the Bible. This habit is possible only if we schedule our time daily for Bible Study. Through this habit, God expresses His will and His desires to us. Also, this habit will establish an intimate relationship with God who loves us.

So, let us decide to find time for Bible study.

May God Bless you by these words

Rev. Anish M. George Padickamannil



BIRTHDAYS

01	Michael Gajraj	13	Sam Daniel. P
01	Surya Joseph	15	Saurabh Itty
03	Suby Mathews	15	Jinoj Titus
07	Jacob Mathew Chemparathimoottil	18	Nibu Varguise
07	Trisha Cherian	22	Anu Mariamma Easo. K
08	Jonathan J. Verghis	23	Jubin Varghese George
09	Benjamin Chacko	28	Mathew Joseph
09	Annamma Skariah	29	Jophy Philip
10	Ajay Joseph		

ANNIVERSARIES

08	P. Mathew & Elizabeth Verghis
18	Jacob Cherian & Biby Esther Abraham
26	Benjamin Chacko & Ani Chacko
29	K.P. Alexander & Mary Alexander
31	Ajay Joseph & Surya Joseph

<p>August 5 Laity Sunday 11th Sunday after Pentecost</p>	Ministry of Laity		
	Old Testament	1 Samuel 25: 14-28	English Service
	Psalm	23	Read by
	Epistle	1 Thessalonians 4: 1-12	Shaji Levison & Family
	Gospel	Luke 10: 25-37	
<p>August 12 12th Sunday after Pentecost</p>	Dying and Rising Up with Christ		
	Old Testament	Genesis 7: 11-24	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	29	Read by
	Epistle	Romans 6:1-14	Suby Mathews & Family
	Gospel	John 12: 20-26	
<p>August 19 13th Sunday after Pentecost</p>	Sacrament of Holy Communion		
	Old Testament	2 Kings 4: 42-44	English Service
	Psalm	100	Read by
	Epistle	1 Corinthians 11: 23-30	Jacob Cherian & Family
	Gospel	John 6: 15-59	
<p>August 26 14th Sunday after Pentecost</p>	Plurality: Common Humanity and Faith Sharing		
	Old Testament	Jonah 4: 1-11	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	82	Read by
	Epistle	Acts 8: 26-40	Christy Abraham & Family
	Gospel	John 22: 1-14	

ECUMENICAL ST. THOMAS DAY





Monthly Fasting Prayer

Fasting prayer for the month will be held on Saturday, August 04, 2018 at 10:00 am in the sanctuary. Please come and be blessed.

Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship

The Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship will be held in the Sanctuary on every Wednesday from 10:00 AM till 12:00 noon. All are encouraged to participate.

Choir Get-together

Choir is planning their annual choir and family get-together on Saturday, August 11, 2018. It will be a time of fellowship for choir members and their families.

For more information, please contact Chris George, Director of choir.

Church Executive Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Church Executive Committee will be held at the church office on August 12, 2018 at 12:30 pm.

Onasadhya - August 19, 2018

Onam lunch will be served on August 19, 2018 during the social hour. All are invited for this special meal "Onasadhya"

Vacation Bible School (VBS) - August 23 - 26, 2018



We are having our Vacation Bible School (VBS) from Thursday to Sunday, August 23-26, 2018. This four-day event will take place at our church. The theme is "Rescued by Jesus". If you haven't registered your child yet for the event, please do so at the earliest to facilitate the smooth planning of VBS.

For more information, please contact Samuel Anslem Samuel, Director of Sunday school.

Cottage Prayer

Jordan area prayer will be at the residence of Christopher (Chris) and Rejini Gajraj on Friday, August 10, 2018 at 6:30 pm. Address: 79 Nuffield Street, Brampton, ON. L6S 5T7. Please plan to attend.

New Born

Pleased to announce that Sneha and Shawn Joseph are blessed with a baby boy, Pascal Thomas Monday Joseph. By the Grace of God, both the mother and the baby are doing well. Congratulations to the parents and the grandparents, Babu and Susan Joseph, Daniel and Mariamma Thomas. Thank you all for your support and prayers. All glory, praise and honor to His name.

At the Feet of Jesus - August 31, 2018

We are pleased to invite and encourage you with family and friends to participate and invoke blessings upon your life's spiritual journey, by sharing your time worshipping and witnessing our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Come prayerfully, acknowledge God's work in your life, witness unto Him and praise Him, intercede for various concerns of the Church and the world. Please be encouraged to invite your dear ones and friends. Let us be revived in our walk with Christ, our Redeemer!

Women's Fellowship - High Tea, September 2, 2018

Every summer, the Women's Fellowship has a summer sale . This year, we got a different concept of having High Tea. This will be held on Sunday, September 2, 2018 after the Holy Communion Service. The proceeds of this event will be used to support our ministries. We request everyone's participation to

(Continued on page 9)

THE JOURNEY TO ETERNITY

Shalini Mary George Enoch

1 Timothy 6:7 – “For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out”.

Recently, the world saw the death of 2 prominent people in February 2018. Yes, one was the world-famous preacher Billy Graham and the other was the famous Bollywood actress Sridevi. Pictures, videos went haywire all over the internet about the 2 people on different channels. As I flipped pictures and videos of the same, one picture made me stop. Someone had taken the time to merge 2 pictures of Sridevi. One fully decked up with clothing and jewelry, and the other - the picture of her body wrapped in white clothes ready for her cremation. No one can deny the fact of how Billy Graham, who left everything to follow Christ was laid to rest with great honor. On the other hand, we see this woman who went after the pleasures of the world, her beauty, her wealth, riches and Alas! What was her end? The two personalities, who walked different paths in life, had the same beginning - bringing nothing into this world and the same ending carrying nothing out. The verse above indicates the truth of any man living in this world, whether a believer in Christ or an unbeliever. Though the verse holds true for both, there is a difference in their destination- Billy Graham entered eternity with the Father in Heaven, which is very unlikely in the case of the actress Sridevi, though I cannot be the judge.

Eternity – The most important journey in the life of a Christian. Are we ready for that? Are we excited that one day we are going to see our Father in Heaven? The question today is how ready we are for this destination. How many of us can really see through the eyes of faith, the eternal life that our Father has kept for us in Heaven? Being Christians, we need to understand that our destination is heaven. To reach that eternal abode, there are many things that need to be done during our life in this world. A man of God once said that the BIBLE expands – **BASIC INFORMATION BEFORE LEAVING THE EARTH**. But unfortunately, instead of endeavoring in accomplishing those basic things, we run after the things of the world, which profit us nothing. Have we started carrying the things we need for this destination or are we still living in the flesh, loving the things of the world? This eternity is a reality, which our forefathers have seen as written in Hebrews 11, and can only be seen with the eyes of faith. We are so burdened with the things of this world that little do we think of this destination. The Bible tells us that there is liberty in Christ, and when the Son of Man sets you free, you are free indeed. Have you experienced this liberty? Once you achieve this liberty, truly nothing in this world will matter for you and your focus will change to eternity. Fear and anxiety will disappear, and we will truly experience our Father in Heaven carrying us each second of the day. Just as Paul says in Philippians 1:23 “.....I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far”;

The Book of 1 Samuel 12:20&21 is the advice that Samuel gives to the people of Israel:

Then Samuel said to the people, “Do not fear. You have done all this wickedness; yet do not turn aside from following the Lord but serve the Lord with all your heart. And do not turn aside; for then you would go after empty things which cannot profit or deliver, for they are nothing.”

Right from the beginning of creation, we see God always sending messages through prophets to love and serve Him. But unfortunately man has always fallen in this, despite the very, many warnings. We see it from Adam and Eve. They were enticed by the serpent to change their focus to the fruit which gave them worldly riches. So it has happened and it keeps on happening – the race after empty things

that profit nothing. Samuel warns the people of Israel not to turn aside from following the Lord, or else it's sure we would go after the empty things in this world. When this happens, our priority with the Father changes. Things that we give more importance for creep in, than those of God. And we always see how the Israelites started worshipping physical idols whenever they changed their focus. Though outwardly we may not be serving any idols like other religions, let's always be vigilant to check our hearts and see what we have placed above God in our lives. It can be anything like our own children or the love for food. As said in Mathew 10:37 *"He who loves father or mother than Me is not worthy of Me and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."*

The rat race of survival in the world today for a believer of Christ and an unbeliever does not seem to be any different. People are in a constant momentum to move on to better jobs, better life style, most improvised cars, selecting the wisest and smartest retirement savings and savings for children and so many more. It is very sad to see that the plight of a Christian is no different from that of a non-Christian. People run after securing the future with government jobs, the biggest houses, bank balances, the latest technologies in their houses, the magnificent furniture, dinner sets, dining tables, showcases, and the list is a lot more. No doubt we need a house to live, we need a car to move because these are all our basic needs and our Heavenly Father knows that we need. But **STOP** for a moment and think...Do these things even matter in eternity? Where is our focus?

Let's get more serious about this journey that is of prime importance. Let's focus on always nurturing our inner man with the Word of God. Then we won't miss the eternity with our Father in heaven, who is waiting for us with open arms. After all, **"We bring nothing into this world and we carry nothing out."**

(Continued from page 7)

make this a memorable experience.

Obituary

Bose Punnathra, (father of Eva Bose), went to be with the Lord at the age of 70, on Wednesday July 4, 2018. He passed away peacefully at his home in Kottayam, Kerala.

Please uphold Susan Bose (Eva's mother), Raj, Eva, Saurang, Vaiga and all the bereaved family members in your prayers.

Mr. M. C. Cherian, (Mullamotill, Kottayam) father of Preetha Philips, went to be with the Lord at the age of 82 on Sunday, July 29, 2018 at 11:00 pm (IST). He passed away peacefully at his home in Kottayam, Kerala.

Please uphold Preetha, Rennie, Ruth, Bryan and the bereaved family members in your prayers.

Upcoming Events

Choir Sunday September 16, 2018

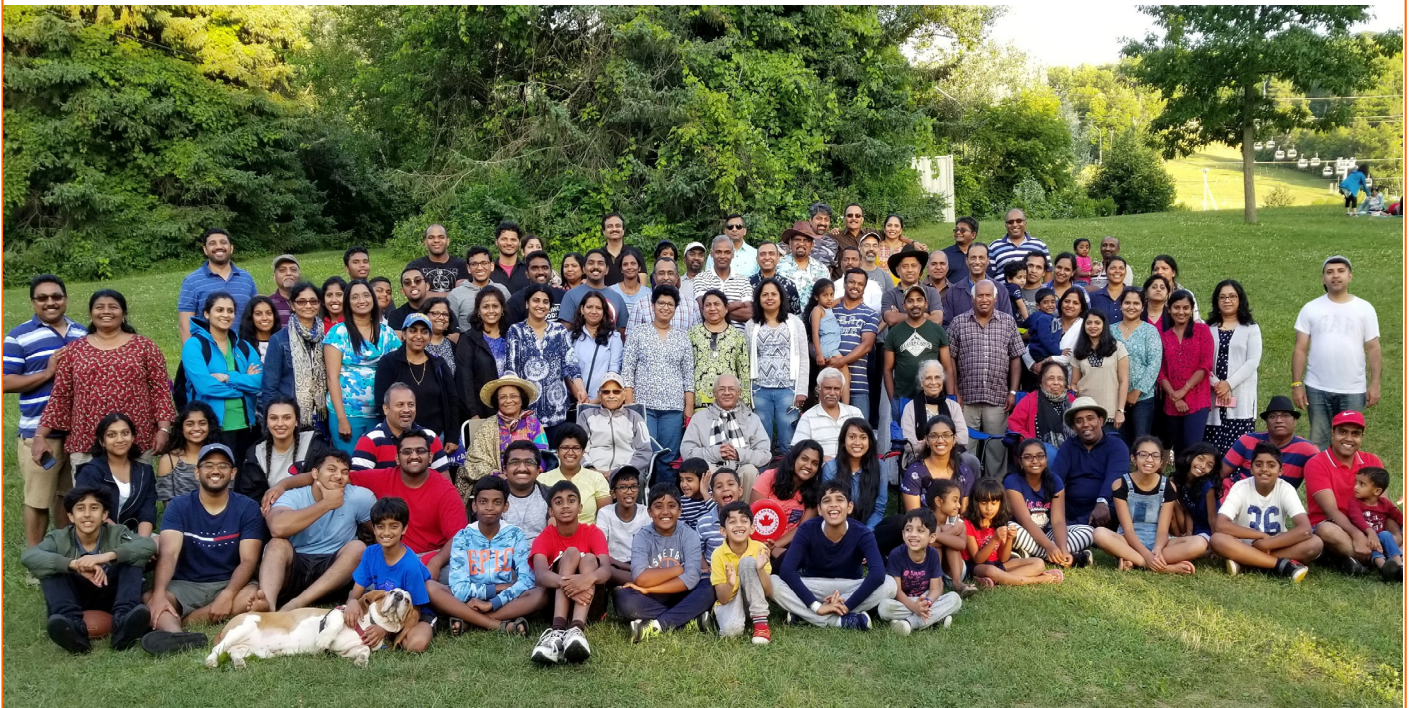
Men's Fellowship (MF) Retreat September 22, 2018

Annual Picnic

Pilgrim



Annual Picnic



CSI Youth Conference of North America 2018

Samuel Chacko

During the first weekend of July, the majority of our youth fellowship could attend and experience the first CSI Youth and Young Adults Conference in North America, and it was a blessing. A total of



fourteen youth were in attendance from our congregation, along with several other youth from congregations across North America such as Philadelphia, Houston and even Los Angeles. From our conversations as a group after this conference, it is safe to say this experience has truly been not only a blessing for all of us, but also an inspiration to spark change within our youth fellowship for the upcoming future. Through the guidance of God and our church, we hope to apply the lessons we have learned through this conference, towards our congregation in creating a solid Gospel-centered movement.

The theme of this youth and young adult conference for this year was titled, 'The Gospel in Everything' and centered around 1 Corinthians 2:2, which reads, "For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." [NIV] For us as Christians, we often become normalized towards the Gospel and expect our faith to coincide with our daily routine and lives. More and more, we strive to conform everything around us to fit our needs rather than conforming ourselves towards the cross. This year's conference analyzed what the Gospel truly means, and how we must be able to rearrange our entire lives to conform towards the Gospel, and what Jesus wants because we are now servants of God. Therefore, we learned that in order to truly serve and honour God, we must strive to find the "Gospel in Everything" and live with that purpose in mind.



The youth conference we attended could be divided into three main categories: worship, scriptural study and group discussion. These components are areas in which our youth group wishes to focus more time on, developing within the coming years. We'd like to hold more consistent Bible studies monthly and make sure we devote time towards discussions after each study. Moreover, we can establish a culture based on the Gospel and begin a Gospel-centered movement within each and every single one of us.

ANGLICAN CHURCH CRICKET FESTIVAL 2018

John Cheriyan Mathew

Anglican Church Cricket Festival (ACCF) is a one-day cricket series match which started last year. By the grace of God, this year also the organizing committee was able to plan an amazing day filled with fun. The tournament was on June 23rd 2018. The objective of this event is to engage the parishioners of local area churches and nurture and enrich the bonds between the church communities. The backbone of this tournament was the tireless conference calls and the discussions that has been done by the committee and the Anglican parishes. This years' ACCF was held at Credit Valley Sandalwood Park, Brampton. The tournament was planned to start at 9:00 am. But due to weather conditions, the event started off late. The tournament started with an amazing fellowship by the churches gathered for the tournament. The Anglican Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Jenny Andison, lead the fellowship. Mayor Linda Jeffery's presence added extra enjoyment to the fellowship. The fellowship ended by a promise that next years' ACCF will be grander than this year's. Followed by a couple of songs and prayer by the Bishop, the tournament kicked off. There were 9 teams altogether for the tournament. All the teams were Anglican parishes. St. Peter's were the winners of the tournament. They won all the matches they played in the tournament. They were the winners of the previous year tournament too. Our church had 4 matches, and we won in one match. Our team captain was Hans Thomas. We had practice sessions on Saturday mornings prior to the match. Hans Thomas played an important role in putting together the team and leading the team for the practices. The team is grateful to Daniel Thomas who helped maintain the score board for all the matches that we played. On the day of the tournament, we had an extraordinary ground support by Sanju Cherian, Varghese V John and Abraham George. The team is grateful for their support and cheer. The team also extend their gratitude to Sanju Cherian for providing the food for the day. The tournament was a great success. To preserve this vibrant fellowship, the organizers are planning to do same next year too. Let this gathering be a blessing and help us grow in unity with Jesus Christ.



Women's Fellowship Bible Quiz

Winners of Quiz #4 on the Gospel of Matthew 4-7, July 2018

First - Elsie Verghis, Shini Samuel, Suja Sara Koshy

Second - Susan Kurian

Third - Rajitha Jinoj

Answers for Quiz #4 in the next page.

Quiz # 5 Matthew Chapters 8 to 11

Instructions:

1. *May follow NIV or NRSV as reference*
2. *Answer the question with related Bible verse (eg ,Ans : xxxxxx chapter 1 versus 2)*
3. **Send the answers to elzygeorge@gmail.com.**

*Answers should reach us on or before **20 August 2018***

Questions - Quiz # 5 Matthew 8, 9, 10, 11

1. In Chapters 8-11, how many times do we read of faith as the reason for healing?
2. A verse that shows Jesus requesting the people to pray.
3. What was Matthew's profession?
4. What was the message that the disciples were asked to preach, and to whom was the message to be preached to?
5. Which are the cities that Jesus denounced?
6. "I will send my messenger ahead of you who will prepare your way before you." Who is this verse referring to?
7. At one instance Jesus says "such great faith", and yet at another time he says "you of little faith". Who is Jesus speaking to on these two occasions?
8. What are the other names by which Jesus was addressed by (apart from Jesus and Lord)
9. One of the people who Jesus healed was related to a disciple. Who was it?
10. "Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." Who is Jesus referring to in this verse?

Answers for Gospel of Matthew 4-7 - Bible Quiz #4

1. Jesus quoted the word of God saying "it is written" (Matthew 4:4,7,10)
2. Kingdoms are under Satan's dominion. "All this I will give you, if you bow down and worship me" (Matthew 4:8,9)
3. In Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali.(Matthew 4:13)
4. There are eight beatitudes. (Matthew 5:3-10)
5. Jesus came to fulfill the law and the prophets (Matthew 5:17)
6. "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you". "In everything do to others what you would have them do to you". (Matthew 5:44; 7:12)
7. "When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father" (spend time alone with God) .(Matthew 6:6). "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Persevere in prayer) (Matthew 7:7,8)
8. Yes, God supplies the needs of both the righteous and the unrighteous. "He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous". (Matthew 5:45)
9. God is concerned about the motives of our heart and warns of hypocrisy four times
 1. Giving to the needy (Matthew 6:2)
 2. In Prayer (Matthew 6:5)
 3. Fasting (Matthew 6:16)
 4. Judging others (Matthew 7:5)
10. Yes. Watch out for false prophets. "By their fruits you will recognize them". (Matthew 7:15; 7:16-19)
11. Jesus mentions (Matthew 6:26,28; 7:6;7:10; 7:15; 7:7:16):
 1. Birds (do not worry)
 2. Lilly (do not labor or spin)
 3. Dogs (not sacred)
 4. Pigs (do not know the value of things)
 5. Fish (edible)
 6. Snake (poisonous)
 7. Sheep (children of God)
 8. Wolves (Ferocious)
 9. Grapes and Figs
12. "But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, only a few find it". (Matthew 7:14)

The Executive Committee Members of the CSI Church, Toronto

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CSI Church, Toronto
Vacation Bible School 2018
Theme: Rescued By Jesus
August 23-26



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