



CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA

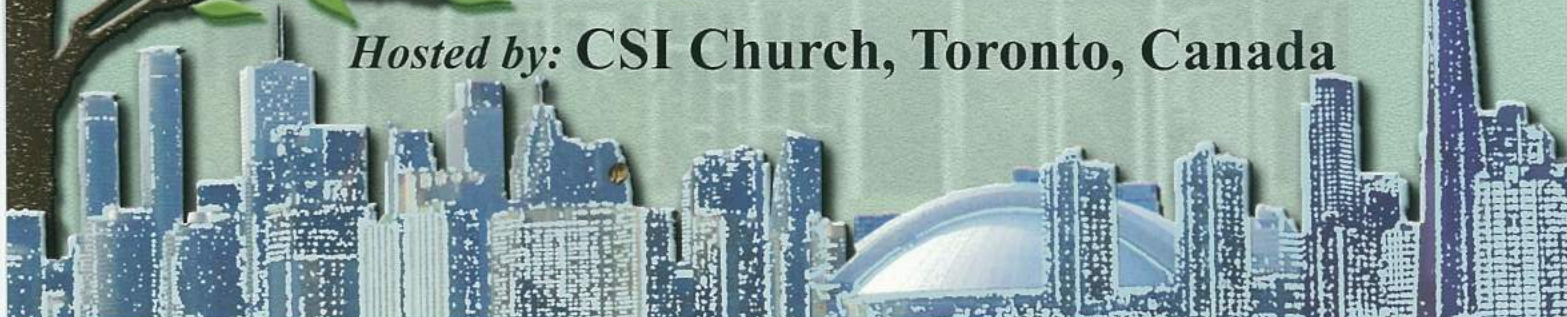
31st

Family & Youth Conference North America - July 6 to 9, 2017



*Celebrating Life in its
Abundance & Fruitfulness*

Hosted by: CSI Church, Toronto, Canada



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CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA

Madhya Kerala Diocese

CSI Bishop's Office, Cathedral Road, Kottayam - 686 001, Kerala State, India



Most Rev. Thomas K. Oommen

CSI Moderator & Bishop

Message

I am delighted to send my warm greetings to you as you gather together to celebrate the 31st CSI Family and Youth Conference of North America which is scheduled to be held at Hilton Toronto/ Markham Suites, Conference Centre, Toronto, from 2017 July 6-9. I am extremely happy that the North American Family and Youth Conference successfully completed its rich legacy of 3 decades and entering into its journey in the 4th decade.

The Church of South India (CSI) is the hope of the 45 lakhs people in India. CSI is a unique church which symbolizes the diverse nature of our country with equality and fraternity through experiencing the abundant life in Christ. The Council of North America is a symbol of CSI's diversity and legacy. I am happy to celebrate with you as you mark this significant milestone of the church. It is going to be another mega-event in the life and ministry of our North American congregations. I am sure this year we will have a good gathering of parents, youths and children.

The theme selected for this year conference '*Life in its Abundance & Fruitfulness*' is absolutely a relevant theme to the present context. We are living in a context in which the life negating forces are prevalent. Life is one of John's characteristic concepts and he uses the term 36 times in his writings. John depicts that the truth is that life is not found in pleasure, performance, possessions, positions, or pursuits but it is found in the person of Jesus Christ. By this he affirms that Jesus is the giver of life and author of life. The abundance of life which results through Christ's coming is contrasted with the spiritual wants and death which he came to remove. This life is through him given to human beings abundantly, overflowing through him and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Gal.5:22 give us the picture of the fruits of the Holy Spirit which should be inevitably visible in a person having abundant life.

Jesus came as well to inspire and encourage us in this world of war and turmoil with his encouraging words and deeds and provided a clear model for all of us to follow. As Disciples of Christ we are not part of any religion rather we are followers of Christ's Model. He came to give us rest and rejuvenation from the cares and stresses of daily living and asked us to do the same for the needy. It is our duty to be channels of God's love and care and provide the life in its abundance and fruitfulness.

I hope and pray that all the deliberations and decisions coming out from this conference be meaningful to our faith journey. May the time of Family and Youth Conference be a fruitful and meaningful one to take up new responsibilities in order to carry out God's mission. I request all of you to continue this conference to experience the life in Christ with abundance and fruitfulness.

I wish the organizers of the Conference- the CSI Church in Toronto, the vicar Rev. George Jacob, all the Committee members and all the members of the Congregation all success and prayers.

Kottayam,
06-06-2017



†Most. Rev. Thomas K.Oommen
CSI Moderator &
Bishop in Madhya Kerala Diocese

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The Most Reverend
COLIN R. JOHNSON
Archbishop of Toronto
and Metropolitan of Ontario



July 2017



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The Clergy and People attending the 31st CSI Family And Youth Conference

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Welcome! It is a joy to have you here in Toronto for this North American Conference of the Church of South India, focusing on the importance of ministry both for and with Families and Youth.

At the heart of every family is Life, and the theme of your gathering “Celebrating Life in its Abundance and Fruitfulness” joyfully reminds us of that. I trust that your time together will encourage you with its witness and example to the power of our life-giving God: the One who created and gave Life, the One who shared in our human life, and the One who breathes new life into the world in our day-to-day existence, empowering us to live for God and for each other.

It is a delight to have you present in our midst, and I pray that your time together is fruitful and holy. On behalf of the entire Diocese, I warmly welcome you to Toronto.

My prayers are with you all.
Yours faithfully,



The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson
Archbishop of Toronto

MISSION: To worship God and proclaim Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and to embody—in word and action—God’s reconciling love, justice, compassion and liberation—through which knowledge of God’s reign is extended.



Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church

Apostolic See of St. Thomas

DR. JOSEPH MAR THOMA METROPOLITAN

Poolatheen, Tiruvalla P.O.,
Pathanamthitta Dist., Kerala - 689 101, India



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

I am very happy to learn that CSI parishes in Canada is celebrating their 31st North American Family and Youth Camp and it is going to be hosted by the CSI Church Toronto.


Jesus said, I came that you may have life and that in abundance. Your theme reflects the same reality. We are created by the Own image of God (*imago Dei*). Image of God is being reflected with the power of imagination creativity and possibility to re-recreate the God given environments; in doing that we will have life in abundance.

Adam & Eve were created in the image of God as male and female. The entire environment is given to them "to dress it and keep it" (Gen.2:15: KJV). God expects the human to be the co-creators in organizing it for our need but without greed. Therefore, we have to dress this environment and keep it more beautiful, healthy. Faithful stewardship is demanded by God.

What we are doing now? Several conferences are being done all over the world on the topic climatic change. After the several meetings these proceedings remain on the shelves for our future generation to make use of it as a resource for research. God has given the environment for us to make and to keep this planet as habitable for human beings. Let us walk our faith and be faithful to God and to the entire creation.

10.06.2017




Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan

Ph: 0469-2630313, 2602626 (O), 2601210 (P), Mob: 9447370700, 9961963090, E-mail: metropolitan@marthoma.in





CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA
DIOCESE OF COCHIN
(Formerly CSI North Kerala Diocese)



Rt. Rev. B.N. Fenn B.A., B.D., Th.M., Princeton (D.Min-NYTS)
Bishop

C.S.I. Diocesan Office
P.B. No. 104, Shoranur - 679 121
Kerala State, South India

BP/267/2017

The Rev. George Jacob
Vicar & Conference President
CSI Family & Youth Conference
CSI Church, Toronto



Dear Achan,

Greetings to you in the blessed name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

I'm extremely glad to be informed about the 31st Annual CSI North American Family and Youth Conference to be held from 6th to 9th July, 2017. I hope these gatherings provide an opportunity for the members of the Church, in North America, to come together and share their sufferings and joy with one another and grow in the fellowship of Christ.

The experience of being part of the conference back in 1998 when I served as the Vicar of the New Jersey CSI congregation, always brings back to me warm memories. The fellowship and the conference provides to the congregation from various parts of North America is an exemplary model to Congregations in different part of the world.

"Celebrating life in its abundance and Fruitfulness", the theme selected for the Conference, is of immense importance in the current times, where the world is ruled by leaders who propagate hatred and dislike. It is significant as Christians to understand our life's beauty, cherishing it as a blessing from above, and sharing the joy and happiness with people around us.

I pray that the Lord Almighty showers his blessings upon all those who are involved with the Conference, and may it be a blessing to the Church and the Society as a whole.

With prayerful regards,

Yours in Christ,

† **The Rt. Rev. B. N. Fenn**
Bishop in Cochin Diocese

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Message

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is, when brothers dwell together in unity" Ps. 133:1

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

I take it as a great honour to greet you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in this special occasion of North American Family Conference.

Every year we come together, for what? We should ask? I think, there should be 3 aims

1. For fellowship

We know that nobody exists in this world without the fellowship of others. Today we have so many types of communications, but unfortunately we are losing communication with God and each other. But this coming together will enrich our fellowship with God and with each other.

2. Keep CSI Identity

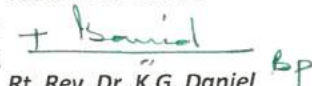
CSI is a great church. Where ever we are, we should not forget this. So, it is a great festival of the CSI identity. We are meeting in a time when CSI is celebrating its 70th anniversary. Let this be a fitting jubilee celebration of CSI.

3. Encourage for Mission

Church is usually called as "called in to go out" or to "send out". CSI is a missionary church. All the members of CSI in North America should remember that, each of you were 'sent out' by God, to where ever you are now. I wish and pray that this conference will rekindle the 'mission of God' in our lives and in the life of our congregations.

I wish all God's blessings during this Conference.

Yours in His Service


Rt. Rev. Dr. K.G. Daniel
Bishop





CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA
DIOCESE OF MALABAR

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Royce Manoj Victor, Ph.d
Bishop



Dear brothers and sister in Christ,

Greetings from the CSI Diocese of Malabar.

I am happy to learn from your letter that the CSI North American Council is bringing out a souvenir on the occasion of 31st Annual CSI North American Family and Youth Conference, which will be held at Toronto, Canada from 06-09 July 2017.

At the outset, let me congratulate you for your choice of the theme for deliberation in the conference. The theme dwells on some powerful words that hinges around life, i.e., **celebration, abundance and fruitfulness**. It takes significance especially in our global context when the three taken in its face value seemingly are in the possession of a minority, and for the majority it is a farce. And this scarcely shudder us, the Church as if it is the natural course of life. So the theme is a call for us to reflect its Biblical musing and have it confront us so as to awaken us to see its meanderings in our individualistic consumerist culture.

Abundance is a word that Jesus offers as characteristic of life to all who come to him (John 10:10). This offer of Jesus is in a context of Jesus as the true shepherd as against the false shepherds. The life that Jesus offers is one that nourishes, equips and strengthens as against the others who steals and destroys. Therefore, abundant life is something that enlighten and enlist in us all that is bestowed by the Creator and just as 'life begets life,' the life flowing out through us also enables others to lead a fulfilling life.

The aspect of Fruitfulness or the nine fruits of the Spirit (Gal.5:22, 23) also has a communitarian aspect. The passage teaches that the freedom or life in the Spirit is living for the sake of others: 'to serve one another in love' (Gal.5:13 b). Taken together, the aspect of Abundance and Fruitfulness are attributes that are not inward looking but clearly other oriented. The communitarian meaning offers hope to the hopeless and alienated. It then sets the tone for Celebration of Life for all that life is worth for: A celebration that results from unearthing the diversities and the possibilities all around, thus of admiring the pluralities of expression hidden in humanity.

May the LORD bless the CSI Churches in North America as you reflect on the theme **Celebrating Life in its Abundance and Fruitfulness**, during the Annual Family and Youth Conference this year.

Yours in His service,

Rt. Rev. Dr. Royce Manoj Victor
Bishop in Diocese of Malabar

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Rt. Rev. A. DHARMARAJ RASALAM
Bishop

L.M.S. Compound
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 033
INDIA



Words of Blessing

Greetings in the matchless name of our Lord!

I am glad to note that the CSI Church Toronto is hosting the 31st Annual CSI Family and Youth Conference of North America. I am sure that this would be an experience of great joy for all the CSI families in Canada in particular and in the United States in general. The gathering of the Diaspora Communities to affirm the values of our families and our cultural roots is very important in our quest for meaningful identity in contexts of uprootedness into which several of our young people are drawn into given the global scenario of disowning that we see around us.

The theme chosen is a very relevant one reflecting the need of the times in which we live. One of the greatest casualties of modernity is life in its abundance. The dance of death is seen all around us. Life affirming values of the gospel are being sidelined in every walk of life. Even when the scriptures are used it is invariably for profit and gain. In the resultant barrenness our generations are becoming fruitless. What better theme can we think of other than "Celebrating Life in its abundance and fruitfulness" I would like to appreciate all the stalwarts of the CSI in North America whose relentless efforts have sustained this gathering for three decades. May I also wish the organizers and participants of the Conference this year God's choicest blessings. The united and uniting witness of the CSI is still in a journey and as we celebrate seventy years of the miracle called the CSI we continue to pray for greater unity and closer fellowship wherever God has placed us. God bless you all.

Wishes and prayers,




Bishop Dharmaraj Rasalam

The Right Reverend Jenny Andison
Area Bishop of York-Credit Valley



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Message from the Right Reverend Jenny Andison, Bishop Suffragan of Toronto

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

On behalf of the Most Reverend Colin Johnson, Archbishop of Toronto, and the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, it is my honour and delight to welcome you to the 31st CSI Family and Youth Conference of North America. The success of this conference is to the credit of so very many people who have worked in planning and organizing both the conference program and supporting social arrangements. In particular, I would like to express my gratitude to the people and clergy of the Church of South India (CSI), Toronto for serving as the host church on this important occasion of spiritual growth and family fellowship.

The theme for this year's conference is 'Celebrating LIFE in its Abundance and Fruitfulness' and the program promises to be one that will enrich the lives of not only adults and older families, but also young families and the children and the youth of this church community. Children and youth are not just the church of the future, they are the church of the present. As we seek to form youth and children into fully committed followers of Jesus Christ, there is no more important place to focus our energies than the family. The family is where the next generation first encounters the abundance of joy that is knowing Christ Jesus.

I am delighted that the Most Reverend Thomas Oommen is here to lead this conference as we continue to grow in our commitment to the discipleship of all people. I'd like to thank him and the other conference leaders and speakers for their commitment in bringing their expertise to this gathering, and I would like to thank you for your faithfulness to participating in the wider fellowship of the Church. Throughout this conference, I pray that you are challenged and engaged in the best possible way as we work together to help shape the future to which God calls us.

Peace,

The Right Reverend Jenny Andison
Area Bishop of York-Credit Valley
Bishop Suffragan of Toronto

MISSION: To worship God and proclaim Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and to embody—in word and action—God's reconciling love, justice, compassion and liberation—through which knowledge of God's reign is extended.

DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE

Mar Thoma Church

Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos

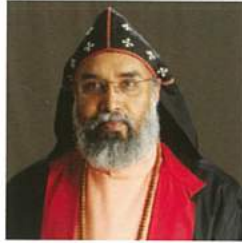
Diocesan Bishop

Rev. Denny Philip

Bishop's/Diocesan Secretary

Mr. Philip Thomas

Diocesan Treasurer



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Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Greetings from the Sinai Mar Thoma Center, New York.

I am happy to learn that a Souvenir is being published to commemorate the 31st Annual CSI North American Family and Youth Conference hosted by the CSI Church, Toronto. I congratulate the office bearers and the conference committee for their hard labor. Every conference is an occasion for coming together in fellowship, enriching relationships, grow together spiritually and be equipped to engage in the mission of our Lord in the life situation he has placed us.

The Church is called to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ who has come to the world that the world may experience everlasting life, a life in its fullness and abundance. Our existence as Church becomes relevant only when we are able to present to the world this message through our life. I wish and pray that the study and mediation on the theme "Celebrating Life in Its Abundance and Fruitfulness" in the conference will be instrumental in communicating a message of hope and healing to the wounded world.

I wish the conference all success.

Yours in Christ's Ministry,

Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos.





APOSTOLIC EXARCHATE FOR THE SYRO-MALABAR CATHOLICS IN CANADA

For The Glory of God

June 21, 2017



Prayerful greetings and warm wishes from the Apostolic Exarchate for the Syro-Malabar Catholics in Canada!

It is with immense joy and thanks to God I understand that the CSI Church, Toronto in Canada, is hosting the 31st Annual CSI North American Family and Youth Conference.

What one sows at youth, one reaps at old age. We can never emphasize enough the importance of forming the youth as an integral part of all our church ministries. It is up to us to envisage everything in such a way that the youth become the bulwark of tomorrow's Church and society in Canada. Our best youth comes from best family. Hence the relevance of this Family and Youth Conference is beyond words.

The decision to publish a souvenir to make this event memorable is praiseworthy. I wholeheartedly congratulate Rev. George Jacob, the Vicar, the Souvenir committee members and all those who have actively involved in the publication of this souvenir.

I wish and pray that the 31st Annual CSI North American Family and Youth Conference be a beacon of faith and hope for all our fellow immigrants in Canada.

I hope everyone will take the full results of this conference and the souvenir.

Invoking God's abundant blessings on each one of you

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Bishop Jose Kalluvilil
Apostolic Exarch of the Syro-Malabar Catholics in Canada

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The Northeast American Diocese of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

2158 ROUTE 106 • MUTTONTOWN • NEW YORK 11791



By the Grace of God,
Zachariah Mar Nicholovos,
Diocesan Metropolitan

OL No. 20/2017

June 9, 2017

Blessings to the participants of the 31st CSI Family & Youth Conference of North America !

Dearly beloved,

We convey our prayers, and joy at the publication of a souvenir in connection with the 31st Family & Youth Conference of the Church of South India in North America.

It is our sincere prayer and hope that the Family & Youth Conference will be an immense blessing. May your meditations upon the theme "Celebrating Life in its abundance and fruitfulness" offer a dynamic opportunity for spiritual rejuvenation.

We also take this opportunity to recognize the hard work of the Family & Youth Conference Committee, who have been working tirelessly for the past year in planning this conference. May the Lord bless you for your dedicated service.

May the blessings and mercies of God Almighty be showered upon us.

Yours in our Lord,

Zachariah Nicholovos, Metropolitan



MALANKARA ARCHDIOCESE

of the Syrian Orthodox Church in North America

(Under the Holy Apostolic Throne of Antioch and All the East)

Archbishop Mor Titus Yeldho
Patriarchal Vicar



L45/17
June 10, 2017

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly". John 10:10

Blessings in our Lord Jesus Christ to the participants of the 31st CSI Family and Youth Conference – 2017 in Toronto, Canada.

Dearly beloved,

We are happy learn that the CSI church in Toronto is hosting the 31st annual CSI North American Family & Youth Conference from July 6 to 9, 2017 and that you are releasing a souvenir to mark the occasion.

We are happy that you have chosen the theme "Celebrating Life in its abundance and fruitfulness". Life is the gift of God. If we live with God, we will able to bear good fruits in our life. We read in the gospel of John "Abide in me..... and you will bear much fruit; for without me you can do nothing" (John 15: 4,5). Only a life with Jesus can produce good fruits which will shine before others, so that they will glorify our Father in heaven.

In the present age of secular-humanism, it is the responsibility of the Christian churches to witness our Lord courageously, to fight for the social justice upholding the Christian values and to remain as a corrective force in the society around us. We appreciate you all for your commitment in the church activities and in preserving the great values of India. Surely, the gathering which is taking place in July will foster the fellowship among the families and local congregations in North America.

We wish you all success to the Annual Conference and to the Souvenir that is published in this connection. May the Grace of God be with you.

+ Titus Yeldho, Archbishop



MALANKARA SYRIAN KNANAYA ARCHDIOCESE

(UNDER THE HOLY APOSTOLIC SEE OF ANTIOCH AND ALL THE EAST)

ARCHBISHOP SILVANOS AYUB
METROPOLITAN OF AMERICA, CANADA & EUROPE REGION



7 MARTINO WAY
POMONA
NEW YORK -10970

No. SA11/17

Blessings to the Vicar & Conference President of the CSI Church, Toronto, Canada

Dearly beloved in Christ,

We are very happy to know that you are celebrating the 31st CSI Family and Youth Conference of North America on July 6 to 9, 2017 at Toronto. We convey our hearty congratulations and prayerful felicitations to all the members of this Conference. May your celebrations reflect the joy of the indwelling Holy Spirit as you mark 31 years of a life of devotion, of faith and fellowship in witness to the love of God in Christ Jesus.

A Family and Youth Conference is above all the year of Christ, who brings life and grace to humanity. This is a historic moment to remember, a pilgrimage to fulfil the ethics of the Kingdom of God. We feel a sense of awe and gratitude for all the members whose dedication, hope and struggles created this Conference.

On this occasion, we would like to extend our warmest wishes to Rev. George Jacob. Our special thanks to all committee members for their relentless efforts towards the publication of the souvenir.

May the grace, love, joy and hope of the Gospel dwell richly among you.



Archbishop Silvanos Ayub
Metropolitan of America,
Canada & Europe

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'Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ'

It is a matter of great pride to pen a few lines as Vice President of the council of CSI Churches in North America.

Conference Theme-Celebrating Life in its Abundance and Fruitfulness

I am glad that CSI Church of Toronto has chosen a very relevant theme this year because the Questions about the life and understanding about the Celebration of Life is a matter to be discussed deeply.

The abundant life that Jesus promised has nothing to do with collecting more stuff. It has everything to do with being right with God through faith in Christ and having the hope of eternity spent in His presence.

As we gather together to celebrate and to renew our commitment to one another and God through prayer, worship, fellowship and learning. Let us encourage each other to look to the future together seeking God's will, to continue our calling.

May God make this conference a meaningful one which helps us to do an introspection about our life.

Thank You

Rev.Varkey Thomas

Vice-President -Council



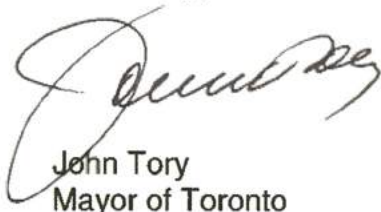
Message from the Mayor

It gives me great pleasure to extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone attending the 31st CSI Family and Youth Conference of North America.

As Canada's largest city and the fourth largest in North America, Toronto is a global centre for business, finance, arts and culture and is dedicated to being a model of sustainable development. I welcome everyone to our city and encourage you to enjoy Toronto at this time of year and learn about our vibrant neighbourhoods.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, please accept my best wishes for an informative and enjoyable event.

Yours truly,



John Tory
Mayor of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
100 QUEEN STREET WEST, TORONTO, ONTARIO M5H 2N2



FROM THE OFFICE OF
DR. HELENA JACZEK, MPP
Oak Ridges-Markham

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, it is my privilege to welcome you to the 31st Church of South India Family and Youth Conference of North America 2017.

I understand the theme of this year's conference is "Celebrating LIFE in its Abundance and Fruitfulness". This year, as we mark the 150th anniversary of Ontario, we join you as you rejoice in the wonderful life here. Your conference supports this celebration through its excellent program, including a talent night, a choir fest and the children's programming.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the many generous sponsors and the event organizers and volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure this event was a success.

Congratulations to the Church of South India for hosting this wonderful event. I hope everyone has a fulfilling weekend.

Sincerely,

Dr. Helena Jaczek, MPP
Oak Ridges-Markham



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FROM THE DESK OF THE VICAR AND CONFERENCE PRESIDENT.....



Greetings to you in the name of our blessed Saviour!

It is indeed a joy that we own our memories through a Souvenir. Memories provide us the fuel and zeal to move on with courage. Memories pave the way for gratitude and fortitude. We need to pronounce our experiences with which our Lord has been faithful to us in our spiritual journey with Him. The expressions that we give to our experiences become the souvenir of our memories. The Word of the Lord affirms us to be grateful to God in our walk of life and to proclaim His love and mercy for His creation.

As we gather in Toronto for sharing our experiences and to learn about “Celebrating Life in its Abundance and Fruitfulness”, it is vital that our worship, prayers, learning, discussions, activities and fellowship during the Conference may bring fresh insights about the possibilities of our life in North America, as a migrant community. The world around us is changing drastically. As followers of Christ and propagators of the Gospel, how are we going to face the challenge of affirming our position and adapt ourselves to the new situations that the world compels us? The question is pertinent and to be taken seriously as we face statements, policies, pressures, tendencies which are anti-life from different corners of life. We need to equip ourselves and our generations on the foundation of the Word of God and be under the shadow of God’s grace. Embracing the WORD and leaving our comfort zones for the sake of LIFE needs to be reiterated in our life, which is solely a gift from God.

The apostles and missionaries having been prompted by the Holy Spirit and disciplined by the fruit of the Spirit, left their comfort zones and propagated abundant life by the Gospel. They grew in Christ daily and decreased in themselves. No wonder, their presence in strange lands had a tremendous impact on the social situations. Cultures and customs around the world had a fresh breathing upon their efforts and dedication wherever they set their beautiful feet. The apostles and missionaries celebrated their life by discipline, obedience and dedication. Jesus invites us to lose our life and produce fruits which will remain eternally. Let us strive to make our life fruitful in His sight.

Let the gathering of us as the members of the Missionary Church encourage us all to be participants in spreading of the Abundant Life that we find in Christ. Let us dedicate ourselves as co-workers with Christ in taking Life to the lifeless situations. Let us bear the yoke of obedience with Christ and endeavor for His kingdom on earth so that we inherit eternal life with our Lord, who is the author of our faith and who makes it perfect. Let that be the memory of this Conference and the Souvenir that we own.

May the Lord of Peace keep us in His grace.

Yours in His service,

The Rev. George Jacob,

Vicar, CSI Church, Toronto.

FROM THE DESK OF THE GENERAL CONVENER



With abundant gratitude, I welcome all of you to the 31st CSI family and youth conference of North America. We are thankful to God Almighty and honoured as we host the CSI family and youth conference of North America for the second time after over 20 years.

The theme for the conference is "LIFE", celebrating LIFE in its abundance and fruitfulness as seen in John 10:10 and Galatians 5:22-23. With such busy lives and various challenges, we look to explore the question, "how do we enjoy our God given life in its abundance and fruitfulness?".

We are very fortunate to have vibrant leaders and speakers for the conference this year to delve into this topic. The Most Reverend Thomas K Oommen the Moderator of the Church of South India, the Reverend Dr. James B. Lemler the Rector of Christ Church Greenwich and nationally known consultant and conference leader, Mr. Jacob E Mathew an accomplished musician, worship leader and bible teacher, Mr. Philip Z Mathai a well known member of the CSI Church Toronto for his dedication to young children, Dr. Susan Thomas President of the Women's Fellowship in the CSI Madhya Kerala diocese, Reverend Robin Eipe Mathew the Vicar of the Seaford CSI congregation in New York, and Dr. Sara George from Atlanta.

As you enjoy a spiritually sizzling summer in Toronto with five-star accommodation, I hope you will partake in a few highlights of the conference this year - a city tour, a silent auction with art created by CSI members, a talent night, a 100 plus voices conference mass choir, volleyball and basketball tournaments at the Pan Am Centre, and international cuisine including our traditional "kappa and fish curry". The conference will also conclude with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist accompanied by beautiful choral music in our traditional church setting.

Our enthusiastic parishioners and the vibrant conference teams' solid efforts made this conference a reality. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge each convener and their team for their incredible contributions. Thank you to all for your support, prayers, compliments, articles and advertisements.

We hope that this gathering of CSI families of North America in Toronto will be a LIFE changing experience and an enjoyable time together, complete with memories of Christian fellowship and renewed friendship.

Blessings!

Daniel Thomas

General Convener

My Journey with the CSI Church, Toronto



I will tell of the LORD'S unfailing love; I Praise Him for all He has done for us. He has richly blessed the people of Israel because of His mercy and constant love.
- Isaiah 63:7

I praise and thank God Almighty for enabling and providing us an opportunity to host the 31st CSI Family & Youth Conference in our multicultural City of Toronto. This is a special year for us because our church is also celebrating its 31st Anniversary, and Canada is celebrating its 150th year!

Our Vicar, Rev. George Jacob, and all the members of the CSI Church, Toronto heartily welcome our conference leaders: the CSI Moderator & Bishop of Madhya Kerala Diocese - the Most Rev. Thomas K. Oommen, Rev. Dr. James B. Lemler, Rev. Robin Ipe, Jacob E. Jacob, and Philip Z. Mathai. We also welcome all clergy members and delegates from the CSI Congregations in the USA and Canada for this blessed Conference of the CSI members in North America. Words cannot express our gratitude to you for accepting our invitation, and taking part in this event. May you all have good health and happiness, and enjoy the time you have in our great City of Toronto!

My journey with the CSI Church, Toronto began from our humble beginnings in 1986. I was really fortunate and happy to join the faithful members of our CSI Malayalee community, as we came together to worship the Lord in this part of the world, our home away from home. We started our worship service at the Wycliffe College, Toronto under the leadership of Rev. Thomas Ninan. Our founding members worked tirelessly to organize the church, prepare a Constitution, and attain an official Registration from Revenue Canada in 1986. We also received our affiliation with the Madhya Kerala Diocese. Our first official Church Service was held on May 11th, 1986, at the Wycliffe College, Toronto.

Under the leadership of Rev. George M. John, one of our members who was ordained in 1987, our church began to flourish and we began to have worship services more frequently. In 1994, under the leadership of late Rt. Rev. Michael John (Thirumeni), we were able to host the 8th CSI Family & Youth Conference. It was at this time that we initiated a relationship with the Toronto Anglican Diocese, and were able to rent St. David's Anglican Church till 2010 to conduct our regular worship services. Our membership grew very quickly, and Thirumeni assisted us in maintaining and developing a firm base for our church to move forward and grow.

In 2009 during the Episcopal Visit, Bishop Rt. Rev. Thomas Samuel encouraged us to prepare our congregation to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our church. Bishop Samuel met with the Suffragan Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, Rt. Rev. Philip M. Poole, and discussed the possibility of acquiring a church building for our consistent use. By God's grace, we were able to get this amazing worship facility, with a beautiful sanctuary and a parsonage attached to it, located in a Central community of Toronto. Our first service at our new home was held on January 16th, 2011. We are truly grateful to the Toronto Arch Bishop, Rt. Rev. Colin Johnson, Bishop Rt. Rev. Philip M. Poole, and Bishop Rt. Rev. Thomas Samuel for their tremendous support in making our dream a reality. In 2011, as a faithful worshipping community, we completed another very significant milestone in its journey, and celebrated our Silver Jubilee. We had a year-long celebration with various programs, along with 25 Silver Jubilee projects within our community and abroad, through our Madhya Kerala Diocese.

We are extremely grateful to our Moderator & Bishop Rt. Rev. Thomas K. Oommen for his continued support and prayers for our church. May God Almighty bless Thirumeni and Kochamma abundantly to

(Continued on page 24)

spread the gospel in God's magnificent vineyard.

God provided us with great pastoral care throughout all these years. We thankfully acknowledge the faithful and vibrant services rendered by Rev. Thomas Ninan, Rev. George M. John, Rev. Shajan Iduculla, late Rt. Rev. Michael John, Rev. A.C. Cherian, Rev. T.J. John, Rev. Raju Jacob, Rev. Shaji M. Johnson and our current Vicar, Rev. George Jacob, and their respective families. May God Bless them abundantly in their ministry.

As a church, we have faced many challenges over the years, but the good Lord kept us under his wings with His comfort and protection. I strongly believe that God has a purpose for each one of our lives, and He continues to reveal His wisdom in times of trial, while graciously granting us peace. As a church family, we are continuing to grow spiritually together, and we know that with God, all things are possible.

Looking back to my younger days, I was born and raised in a small town called Mundiappally, in Kerala. I watched my parents, grandparents and relatives getting involved in church activities and fellowships. They displayed strong faith and trust in God, even when they went through trials and tribulations. Church life was so important in their daily lives, and that influenced me to also become very much involved in our church activities. When I left Kerala in the mid 70's, I was not sure whether I would be able to attend CSI services or participate in church activities as I used to in my home parish, Mundiappally. But God had a plan for me. I was in the Middle East for a few years and then came to Ottawa, Canada in the early 80's, and there after He brought me to Toronto and to our church. God has been so good to my family and I through the years. Our Church is a major part of my family, and I am so proud to say that we are members of the CSI Church, Toronto, and to be a part of this great community. I have met a lot of incredible people over the years, and have also had the privilege to serve in the executive committee for many years. I thank God Almighty for this wonderful opportunity. I consider CSI Church, Toronto, my home away from home.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Achen, Rev. George Jacob, General Convenor, Mr. Daniel Thomas, all the Conference Convenors, Sub-committee members, and all our members, young and old, for working diligently for the great success of this conference. I thank God Almighty for the marvellous ways He has blessed our church, and for His guidance throughout our journey. I pray that he continues to bless us as we continue to grow spiritually in Him. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever.

God Bless us all.

Christy Abraham

Secretary, CSI Church, Toronto

Conference Committee

President / Vicar

Reverend George Jacob

General Convener

Daniel Thomas

Convener - Prayer & Liturgy

K P Alexander

Committee Members

Aji V Mathews

Alex Oommen

Iduculla V Kurien

Mary Alexander

Selvakumari Daniel

Subi Mathews

Convener - Souvenir

Joy Chemmanoor

Committee Members

Samuel Anselm Samuel (Editor)

Biby E Abraham

Christopher Moothedom

Shini Samuel

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Convener - Children's Programs

Phil Z Mathai

Committee Members

Ancy Jacob

Diani Mathai

Eva Bose

Jenny Cherian

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Jacob Cherian

Preetha Annie Philips

Reshma M George

Sneha John Ninan

Convener - Finance

Ajoy Lionel

Committee Members

Abhilash Raj

Joseph P Mathews

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Shaji Levison Moothedom

Committee Members

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Daisy Pothan

Elizabeth Mathai

Elizabeth Shirley Abraham

Jovin Mathew

Prem Narayan

Shibu Paul P

Susan Joseph

Convener - Talent & Inauguration

Sanju Ben Cherian

Committee Members

Jeena Joseph

Mini George

Nisha Thomas

Sajan Itty

Smitha Abhilash

Sudeep Oommen

Surya Ajay

Zac S Koshy

Convener - Registration

Christy Abraham

Committee Members

Elizabeth Verghis

Jinoj Titus

Joshua Moothedom

Mary Jacob

Santhosh Cherian

Suja Sara Koshy

Convener - Music Ministry

Priya Abraham

Committee Members

Anna Esther Samuel

Babu M Joseph

Emily Verghis

Jefin Mathews

Miriam Chacko

Mona Abraham

Rapti Ghosh

Convener - Programs

Abraham P George

Committee Members

Ani Chacko
John Cheriyan Mathew
Jophy Jacob Philip
Sheethal Thampi
Susan Alex
Susan George

Convener - Youth Programs

Samuel Chacko

Committee Members

Chris George
Daniel Koshy
Grace Samuel
Jinu Jacob
Jonathan Verghese
Navin Abraham
Nithin Chemmanoor

Convener - First Aid

Dr Nibu Verguise

Committee Members

Dr. Ajin Annie Varghese
Elsy George
Dr. Joseph K David
Liji Varghese
Mini Fredrick
Sam Daniel

Convener - Conference Website

Varghese V John

Committee Members

Benny Winston
Bryan Joe Philips
Chris Gajraj
Manoj Kurien
Mariamma Thomas
Ruth Mary Philips
Siby Jacob
Tim Eapen

From the Desk of the Souvenir Convener,



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!!!

I'm extremely happy and pleased to publish our Souvenir for the 31st North American Family and Youth Conference. It's a great pleasure to be the Convener of the Souvenir Committee.

An appropriate Souvenir is the result of many hard-working hands, that worked behind to make it a success. Our Souvenir is a reflection of different articles and advertisements. This years Souvenir has been a result of great teamwork. A lot of effort, time and patience has gone into creating this unique souvenir by all the team members of the Souvenir Subcommittee. I am really thankful for those who contributed towards the souvenir.

Regards

Joy Chemmanoor

Souvenir Convener

LEADERS OF THE CONFERENCE



Rev. Dr. James B Lemler



Rev. Robin Eipe Mathew



Most Rev. Thomas K. Oommen



Jacob E. Jacob (Roy)



Phil Z. Mathai

THEME SONG

Verse 1

You breathed life in to us
All creation filled with your life
Yet we chose to leave you
Still you sought to grant us your life

You breathed life in to us
All creation filled with your life
Yet we chose to leave you
But, you yearned to restore our life

Pre-Chorus

You are Creator, Redeemer and King
You are always with us
By your love, I'm set free

Chorus

You showed me your love, through the life
that you gave
(I've found) I've found abundant life in you
You showed me your love, through the life
that you gave
(I'll share) I'll share your love, trusting in you

Verse 2

You sent your son, Jesus
Humbly, laid His life for our sin
Conquered death, victorious
Trampled Satan, sin, and darkness

You sent your son, Jesus
Humbly, laid His life for our sin
Conquered death, victorious
Broke the chains, and freed us from sin

Pre-Chorus

Chorus

Verse 3

Living each day, in you
Grateful for the love that saved us
Trusting in the Spirit,
We will spread the Gospel of life

Living each day, in you
Grateful for the love that saved us
Trusting in the Spirit,
We will follow the path of truth

Pre-Chorus

Chorus

ജീവൻ ദൈവികദാനം
കനിവായ് നൽകിയ ദാനം
ഉണരാൻ ഉയരാൻ
ഉലകിൽ നിറയാൻ
അണിയണിയായി
നിരന്നിടുവിൻ
ജനമേ ഒരുമനമായ്
ഇനിനാം പുിയസുതരായ്

യേശുവിലൂടെ ജീവന്റെ നിർച്ചാൽ
പാനം ചെയ്തിടുക
ശൂന്യത യൊഴിഞ്ഞിടുമേ
ജീവന്റെ സമൃദ്ധി വരും
ഉണരാൻ ഉയരാൻ

ആത്മ ഫലങ്ങൾ നിറയണമേറെ
ജീവിത പാതകളിൽ
അനുഗ്രഹ ദായകമായ്
ജീവിതം മാറിടേണം
ഉണരാൻ ഉയരാൻ

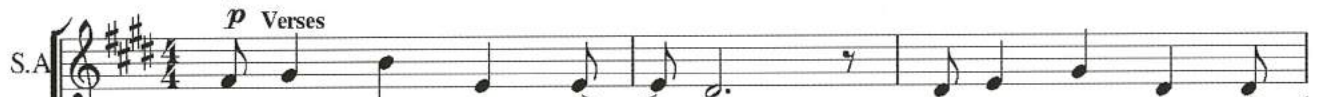
Abundant Life In You

Lyrics by: REV. GEORGE JACOB

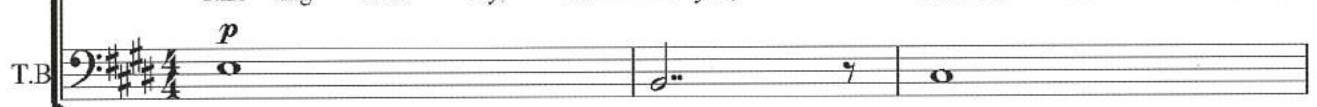
Music by: CSI CHURCH, TORONTO - YOUTH

Lively ♩ = 140


p Verses

S.A. 

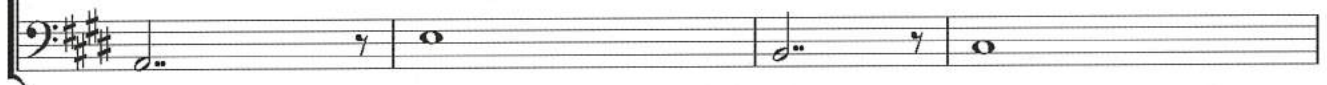
1. You breathed life in to us, All cre - a - tion filled.
 2. You sent your son, Je - sus, Hum-bly, laid His life.
 3. Li - ving each day, in you, Grate-ful for the love.

T.B. 

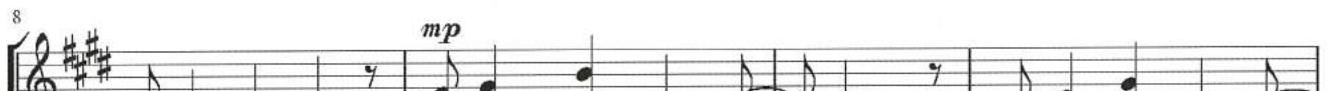
Ooo - - - Ooo - - - Ooo - - -

4 


— with your life. Yet we chose to leave you, Still you sought to grant.
 — for our sin. Con- quered death, vic - to - rious, Trampled Sa - tan, sin.
 — that saved us. Trus- ting in the Spi - rit, We will spread the Go -




Ooo - - - Ooo - - - Ooo - - - Ooo - - -

8 


— us your life. You breathed life in to us, All cre - a - tion filled.
 — and dark-ness. You sent your son, Je - sus, Hum-bly, laid His life.
 - spel of life. Li-ving each day, in you, Grate-ful for the love.

mp 

Ooo.

12 

— with your life. Yet we chose to leave you, But, you
 — for our sin. Con- quered death, vic - to - rious, Broke the
 — that saved us. Trus- ting in the Spi - rit, We will



15

f Pre-Chorus

yeafned to re - store our life. You are Cre - a - tor, Re -
 chains, and freed us from sin.
 fo - llow the path of truth.

19

deemer and King. You are al - ways with us, By your love, I'm set free.

25

ff Chorus

You showed me your love, through the life that you gave.
 You showed me your love, through the life that you gave.

I've
I'll

29

I've found a - bun - dant life in you. I'll share your love, tru - sting in you.

found share you. you.

ജീവൻ ദൈവിക ദാനം

Music and Lyrics by: REV. SHAJI M. JOHNSON
 Harmonized by: CSI CHURCH, TORONTO - YOUTH

Lively ♩ = 120

ജീ - വൻ ദൈവിക ദാനം, ക - നിവായ്നൽ - കിയ ദാനം. ജീ - വൻ ദൈവിക

ദാനം. ദാനം.

ദാനം, ക - നിവായ്നൽ - കിയ ദാനം. ഉണരാം, ഉയരാം. ഉലകിൽ

അ - ണിയ - ണിയായി നി - ര - നി - ടു - വിൻ, അ - ണിയ - ണിയായി

നി - ര - യാൻ.

നി - ര - നി - ടു - വിൻ, ജ - ന - മേ ഒ - തമ - ന മായ്, ഇ - നി - നാം പ്ലി - യ - സു - ത രായ്.

ജീ - വൻ ദൈവിക ദാനം, ക - നിവായ്നൽ - കിയ ദാനം.

Fine Third Time **Interlude 8**

8

33 Verses

1. യേശുവില്പിണ്ഡം
 2. ആത്മഹൃദയങ്ങൾ

ജീവന്റെനിർമ്മാൽ
 നിറയണമേറേ

യേശുവില്പിണ്ഡം
 ആത്മഹൃദയങ്ങൾ

ജീവന്റെനിർമ്മാൽ
 നിറയണമേറേ

37

യേശുവില്പിണ്ഡം
 ആത്മഹൃദയങ്ങൾ

ജീവന്റെനിർമ്മാൽ
 നിറയണമേറേ

പാനാചെയ്തിട്ടു ക.
 ജീവിതപാതകളിൽ.

41

യേശുവില്പിണ്ഡം
 ആത്മഹൃദയങ്ങൾ

ജീവന്റെനിർമ്മാൽ
 നിറയണമേറേ

പാനാചെയ്തിട്ടു ക.
 ജീവിതപാതകളിൽ.

45

D.S.

ശുന്യതയൊഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടു മേ,
 അനുഗ്രഹദായകമായ്

ജീവന്റെസമൃദ്ധിവരം
 ജീവിതമാറിടേണം.

ആ - - - ആ - ആ - ആ - ആ - ആ

Jeevan Daivika Daanam

Music and Lyrics by: REV. SHAJI M. JOHNSON
Harmonized by: CSI CHURCH, TORONTO - YOUTH

Lively ♩ = 120

Musical notation for the first system (measures 1-5). The piece is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: Jee - van Dai - vi - ka Daa nam, — Ka - ni - vaay Nal - ki - ya Daa - nam, — Jee - van Dai - vi - ka Daa nam, — Daa nam, —

Musical notation for the second system (measures 6-11). The piece is in 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: Daa nam, — Ka - ni - vaay Nal - ki - ya Daa - nam, — U - na - raan, — U - ya - raan, — U - la - kil, —

6 % Chorus

Musical notation for the third system (measures 12-16). The piece is in 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: A - ni - ya - ni yaay Ni - ra - nni - du - vin, A - ni - ya - ni yaay Ni - ra - nni - du - vin, Ni - ra - yaan, —

12

Musical notation for the fourth system (measures 17-21). The piece is in 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: Ja - name O - rum - na - maay, I - ni - naam Pri - ya - su - tha - raay, Jee - van Dai - vi - ka Daa nam, —

17

23 *Fine Third Time* **Interlude 8** **Verses**

Ka-ni vaay Nal - ki-ya Daa-nam. ...

8

1. Ye shu-vi-lu - ndu
2..Athma pha la - ngal

Ye-shu-vi-lu - ndu
Ath-ma pha la - ngal

35

Je - va-nte Neer - chaal
Nira - ya-na-me - re

Ye - shu-vi-lu - ndu
Ath - ma pha-la - ngal

Jee - va-nte Neer-chaal
Nira - ya-na-me - re

Je - va-nte Neer-chaal
Nira - ya-na-me - re

39

Paa-nam Chey - thi-du ka.
Jee-vitha Paa - tha-ka lil.

Ye - shu-vi-lu - ndu
Ath - ma pha-la - ngal

Jee - va-nte Neer-chaal
Nira - ya-na-me - re

Paa - nam Chey - thi-du
Jee - vitha Paa - tha-ka

44 D.S.

ka.
lil,

Shoo - nya-tha-yo-zhi-nji-du me.
Anu - gra-ha-da - a - ya-ka maay, ...

Jee - va-nte Sa-mri-dhi Va rum.
Jee - vi-tham Ma - a - ri - de nam.

Aaa - Aaa - Aaa - Aaa - Aaa



Conference Convenors



Souvenir Committee



Prayer & Liturgy Committee



Public Relations Committee



Talent & Inauguration Committee



Finance Committee



Registration Committee



Children's Program Committee



Music Ministry Committee



Program Committee



First Aid Committee



Conference Website Committee



Youth Programs Committee



Hospitality Committee

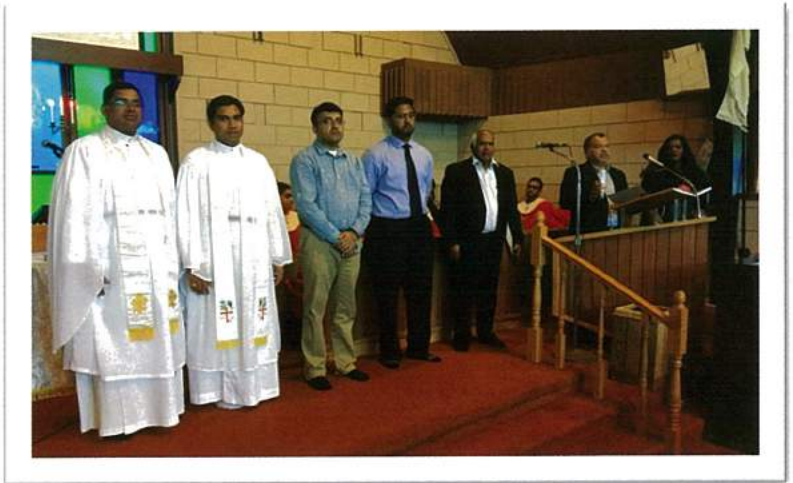


Church Family

CSI Church, Toronto. Canada

Affiliated with the Madhya Kerala Diocese

REGISTRATION KICK-OFF



**BISHOP THOMAS K OOMMEN:
THE MODERATOR OF THE CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA &
THE PRIMATE IN ANGLICAN COMMUNION FROM INDIA**



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

The election remains historic since it is for the first time that a Bishop from the Madhya Kerala Diocese is elected as the 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 gathering of its ecumenical partners in India and abroad.

The new office of the Bishop as the Moderator brings more privilege to Madhya Kerala Diocese as the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby has appointed our Moderator and Diocesan Bishop as one of the Primate in the Anglican Communion. Primate 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 explains 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.”*

The new election and appointment bring honour and privilege to Madhya Kerala Diocese, it also increases the responsibility to remember the ministry of our beloved Moderator Thirumeni in our prayers.

May our Lord strengthen Thirumeni in His Lordship’s ministry as the current chief shepherd of the Church of South India. May the Church of South India increase in its witness and mission.

Let the Church in this age 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 the Most Rev. Thomas K Oommen, our Moderator.



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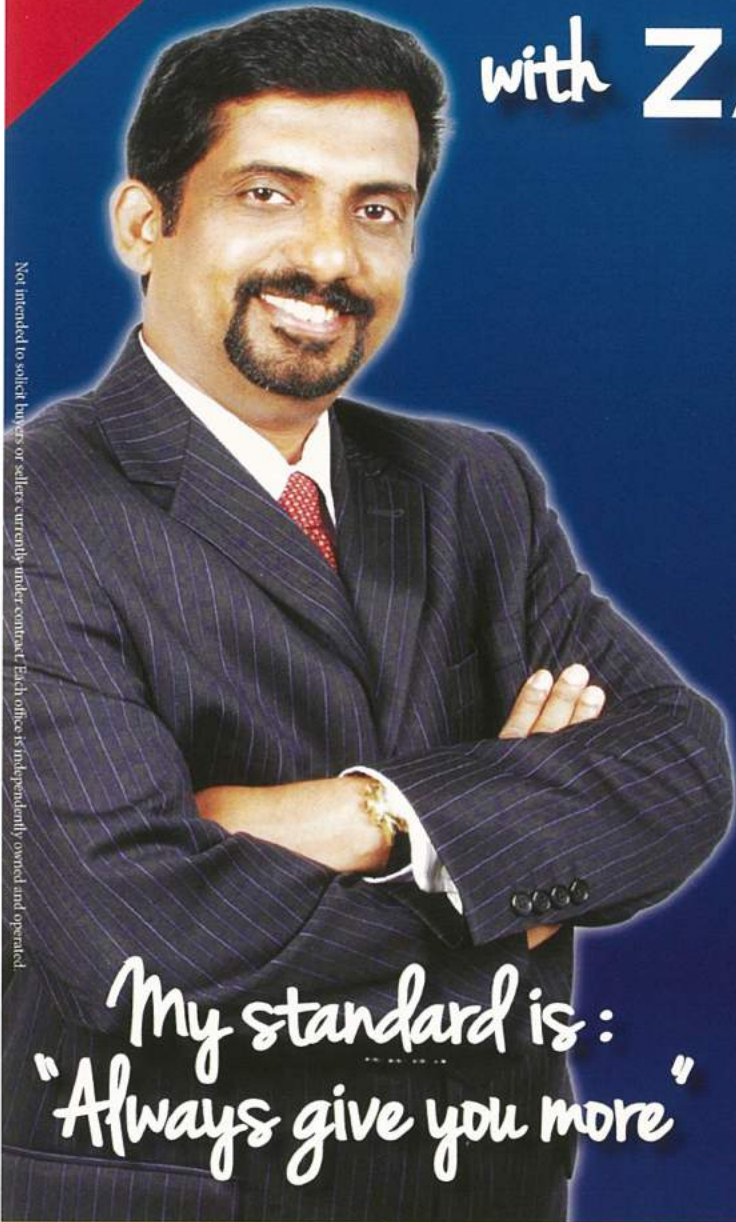


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Life is beautiful! It's a glorious, unique entity that adds colour to the gloomy, quiet array of known worlds. Life parades a plethora of microscopic to gigantic organisms clothed in all splendour. This spectrum of magnificent colours makes the living to stand in awe at the one who created it. What a craftsmanship, precision and creativity! The gift of life gives man an edge to other living beings as he was created in the image of this exquisite craftsman. But the quality of life sets the boundaries between individuals. Some people grope in the foyers of existence whereas some enjoy life in its abundance. Life becomes meaningful when we celebrate it in its abundance and fruitfulness.



What is this life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare. – says William Henry Davies in his poem Leisure. The mechanical, monotonous life lacks lustre, and it negates the idea of celebrating it. The true colours of this life with happiness, gloom, sadness, and a variety of emotions deter us from enjoying the cornucopia granted through the self sacrifice of the lamb – the awesome creator. Often, we're too busy or reluctant to partake the banquet of plenty. The lustre and intellectual boom have clouded our reasoning powers. Many people are forced into believing that life is but a dream and nothing good comes out of it. Contrary to this dystopia, the true picture of the abundance from the author of life can be a reality if we let the outward experience of salvation possess us, by making it a personal encounter.

The concept of abundance can mislead people, and many have already questioned the very existence of it, in the light of their limited understanding. Some think that salvation is a password that opens the magical door to the luxuries of life. The luxuries include the desires of hearts and the glories and wonders this world can offer. This common notion of the bed of roses is the direct result of some odd teachings of the world. The word of God is clear about this – it urges a Christian to deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Jesus. *Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.* – (Matthew 16:24 NRSV) John 10:10 says, *"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."* (NRSV) The abundance of this world is usually at loggerheads with the abundance of life in Jesus Christ. That's why Paul considered everything as a loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus. The true Christian life takes its sustenance from the lamb of God, and it in turn gives life in abundance.

Abundance of life gives way to fruitfulness. A tree that is all green and loaded with many fruits depicts the abundance of life. The display of the fruits of the Spirit – love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control is a clear sign of the abundant life in our Saviour. It's hard to find people who showcase all the fruits. That explains the scarcity of abundance in the lives of people who claim to follow Christ. The wisdom of this world has marred the minds of many and made them strike a deal with the world at large to the extent it appears to be the norm. This unconventional erosion of the values of life has become the foundation of thought process in the academic world as well. This in fact, drains the abundance in the posterity, converting everyone to robots who lack the gifts of the Spirit. This is a very grave situation that poses the question – man, where art thou? It becomes highly appropriate at this juncture to lament with William Wordsworth, "What man has made of man?"

Life is the embodiment of love and mercy. The fruits of the Spirit shall help everyone to live in abundance, and the abundance of life promised through the love of Jesus shall guide everyone to the Spirit-filled life. Celebrating this life shall then be a reality. If only this world woke up to that heaven of abundance and fruitfulness! I sincerely wish that this conference helps each one to move one step closer to celebrating life in its abundance and fruitfulness.

God Bless

Samuel Anselm Samuel

Editor

എന്നിലുള്ള മതവും വിശ്വാസവും



ദൈവം മനുഷ്യനെ സൃഷ്ടിച്ചു, മനുഷ്യൻ മതങ്ങളെ സൃഷ്ടിച്ചു എന്നല്ലോ ചൊല്ല് . മതങ്ങൾ മനുഷ്യരിൽ വെറും ആചാരങ്ങൾ മാത്രമാണ്, അന്തമായ വിശ്വാസം എന്ന് തന്നെ പറയാം. കാലാകാലങ്ങളിൽ ലോകമെമ്പാടും മതത്തിൽ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നവരാണ് മനുഷ്യർ. അത് തലമുറ തലമുറയായി ആചരിച്ചുവരുന്നു. കുടുംബങ്ങളുടെ നിലനിൽപ്പിനായി, സ്ഥാനമാണങ്ങൾക്കായി തലമുറകൾ മത വിശ്വാസങ്ങൾ പിന്തുടരുന്നു. എന്തിന നല്ല ഒരു കുടുംബത്തിൽ പിറക്കണമെങ്കിൽ തന്റെ മതം ഉന്നയിച്ചു പറയുന്നു. അവരവരുടെ സഭയെ പുകഴ്ത്തി പറയുന്നവരാണ് നമ്മൾ മലയാളികൾ. ഞാൻ ഒരു യാക്കോബായ കുടുംബത്തിൽ നിന്നും വന്നവനാണ്, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ മാർത്തോമ്മാ കുടുംബത്തിൽ നിന്നും വന്നവളാണ്, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ബ്രാഹ്മിണനാണ് എന്നൊക്കെ. ഈ നൂറ്റാണ്ടിൽ ഇത്തരം വിശ്വാസങ്ങൾ ആചരിക്കുന്നു എന്നുള്ളത് വളരെ ദുഃഖകരമായ ഒരു സത്യമാണ്. മതങ്ങളും സഭകളും കോട്ടകൾ ആണ്. ഇന്നത്ത മത വിഭ്രാന്തയിൽ ഏർപ്പെട്ട അധികാരികളും, പ്രാർത്ഥനാലയങ്ങളും വെറും ആദായത്തിനും, , അഴിമതിക്കും, അധികാരത്തിനും, സ്വജനപക്ഷഭത്തിനും മറ്റുമായി വഴിമാറികൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു.

മതം അത് നമ്മുടെ വിശ്വാസമാണ്. മതങ്ങളിൽ ആചരിക്കുന്നതിൽ തെറ്റില്ല മറച്ചു മതങ്ങളെ ചൊല്ലി ലോകമെമ്പാടും നടക്കുന്ന തർക്കങ്ങളും, വൈരാഗ്യവും, ക്രൂരക്രൂത്യങ്ങളും ഇപ്പോഴും നിലനിൽക്കുന്നു എന്നത് വാസ്തവമാണ്. മതങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ട് എന്ത് ഗുണം എന്ന് പലപ്പോഴും ചിന്തിക്കാതിരുന്നിട്ടില്ല.

മതത്തിൽ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നതിലും ഉപരിയായി നല്ല ഒരു മനുഷ്യൻ ആകുന്നതാണ് ദൈവികം . ദൈവത്തിന്റെ സൃഷ്ടിയാണ് മനുഷ്യൻ. മനുഷ്യന്റെ മനസ്സാണ് ദൈവം. മനുഷ്യൻ നല്ല ഒരു മനസ്സിന്റെ ഉടമയാവുക എന്നതായിരിക്കണം അടിസ്ഥാനം. നല്ല കാര്യങ്ങൾ ചിന്തിക്കുക, നല്ല പ്രവർത്തി ചെയ്യുക, നല്ല കാര്യങ്ങൾ സംസാരിക്കുക, മറ്റുള്ളവർക്കുവിഷമം വരാത്ത കാര്യങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യുക, മറ്റുള്ളവരെ വിരോധി ആകുന്ന കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ഇടപെടാതെ ഇരിക്കുക, മറ്റുള്ളവർക്കു സന്തോഷം ഉള്ള കാര്യങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യുക.

MIND SOUL AND BODY ARE CONNECTED. നല്ല പ്രവർത്തി ചെയ്യാൽ മനസ്സും ശരീരവും നന്നാകും. മനസ്സിന്റെ POWER അഥവാ ശക്തി അതീവമാണ്. MINDFULNESS---മനസ്സിൽ BLIND SPOTS ഇടകൊടുക്കരുത്. എല്ലായിപ്പോഴും പല പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിൽ ഏർപ്പെട്ടിരുന്നാൽ ദുർചിന്തകളിൽ നിന്ന് മനസ്സിനെ അകറ്റാൻ സാധിക്കും. SUPER CHARGE YOUR METABOLISM എന്ന് പറയുംപോലെ SUPER CHARGE YOUR MIND WITH FRUIT-FULLNESS. നല്ല ഫലം കായ്ക്കുന്ന ഒരു നല്ല FRUIT ആയി മനസ്സിനെ രൂപാന്തരപ്പെടുത്തണം. കുട്ടികൾക്ക് ബിരുദം നേടിയെടുക്കുന്നതിന് മുൻപായി അവൻ ഒരു നല്ല മനുഷ്യനായി ബിരുദം നേടാൻ അവനെ പടുപ്പിക്കണം.

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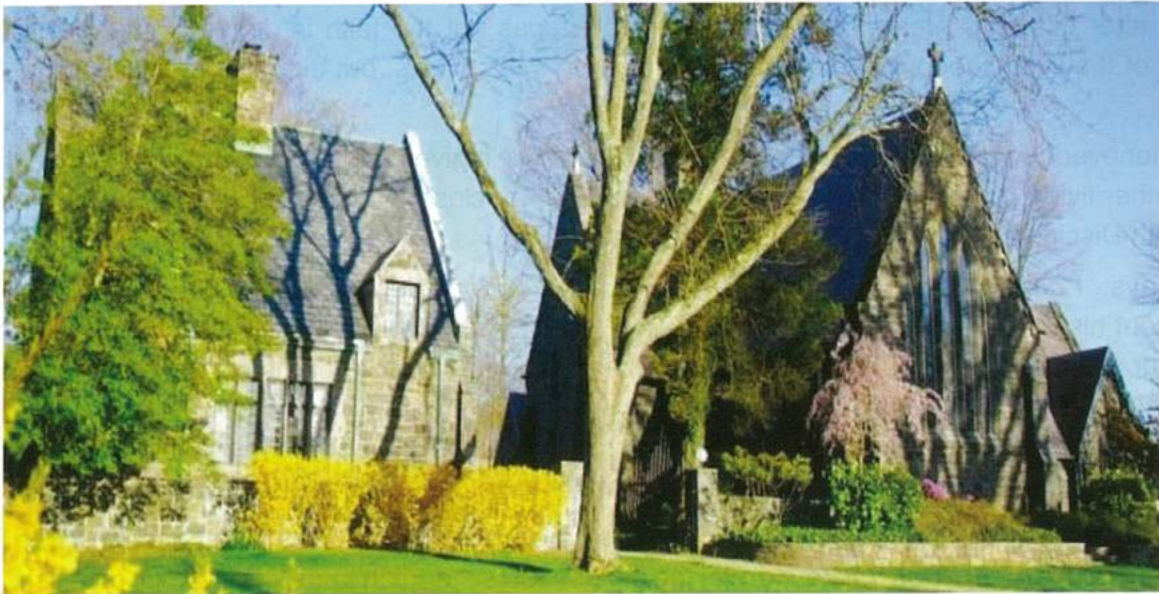
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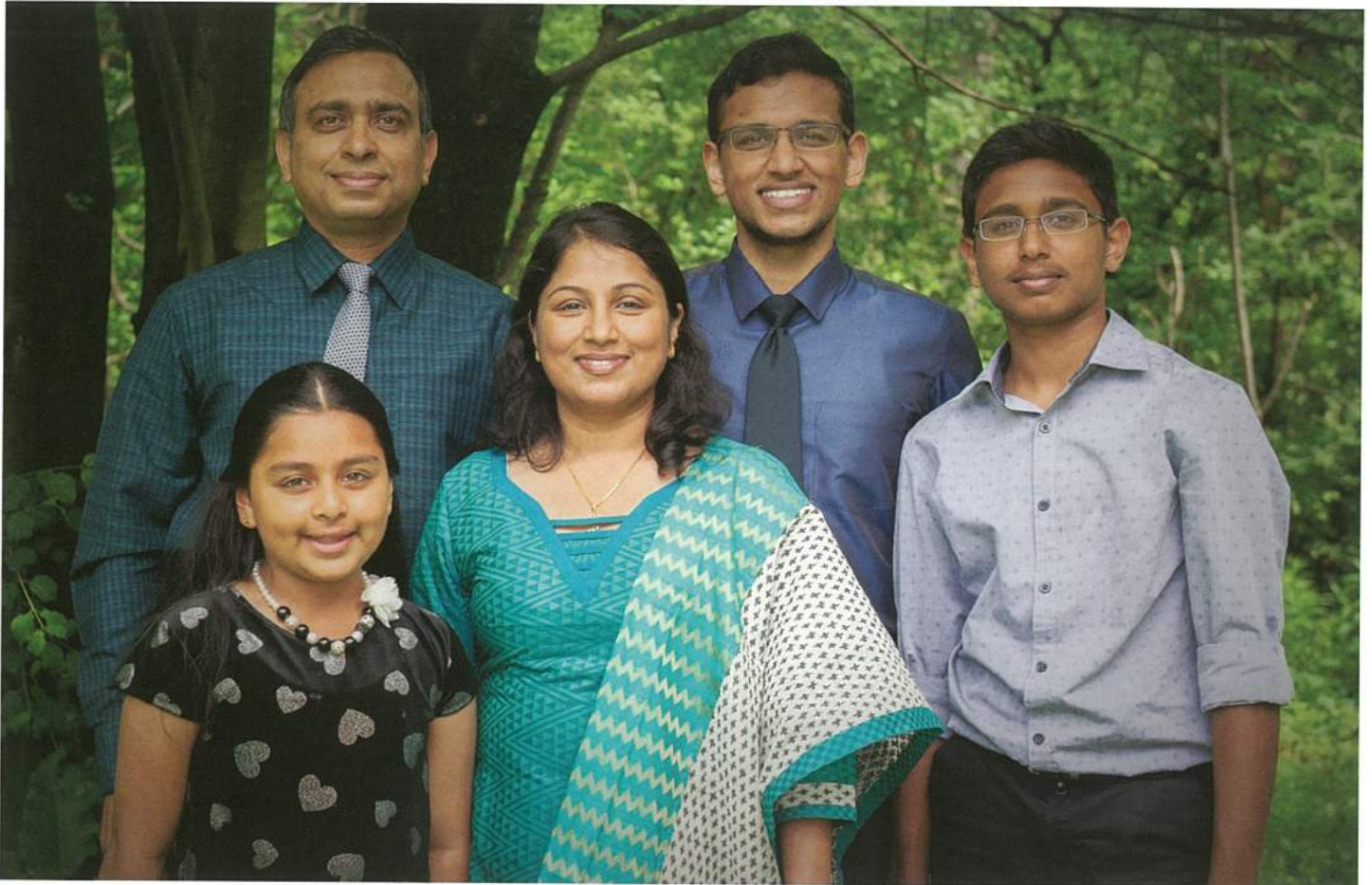
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The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23

In Loving Memory of



Mr. Raju Eapen

Safe in the arms of Jesus, but forever in our hearts

Omana S. Eapen

Dr. Reena Eapen John, Prof. Sajeer John, David Eapen John

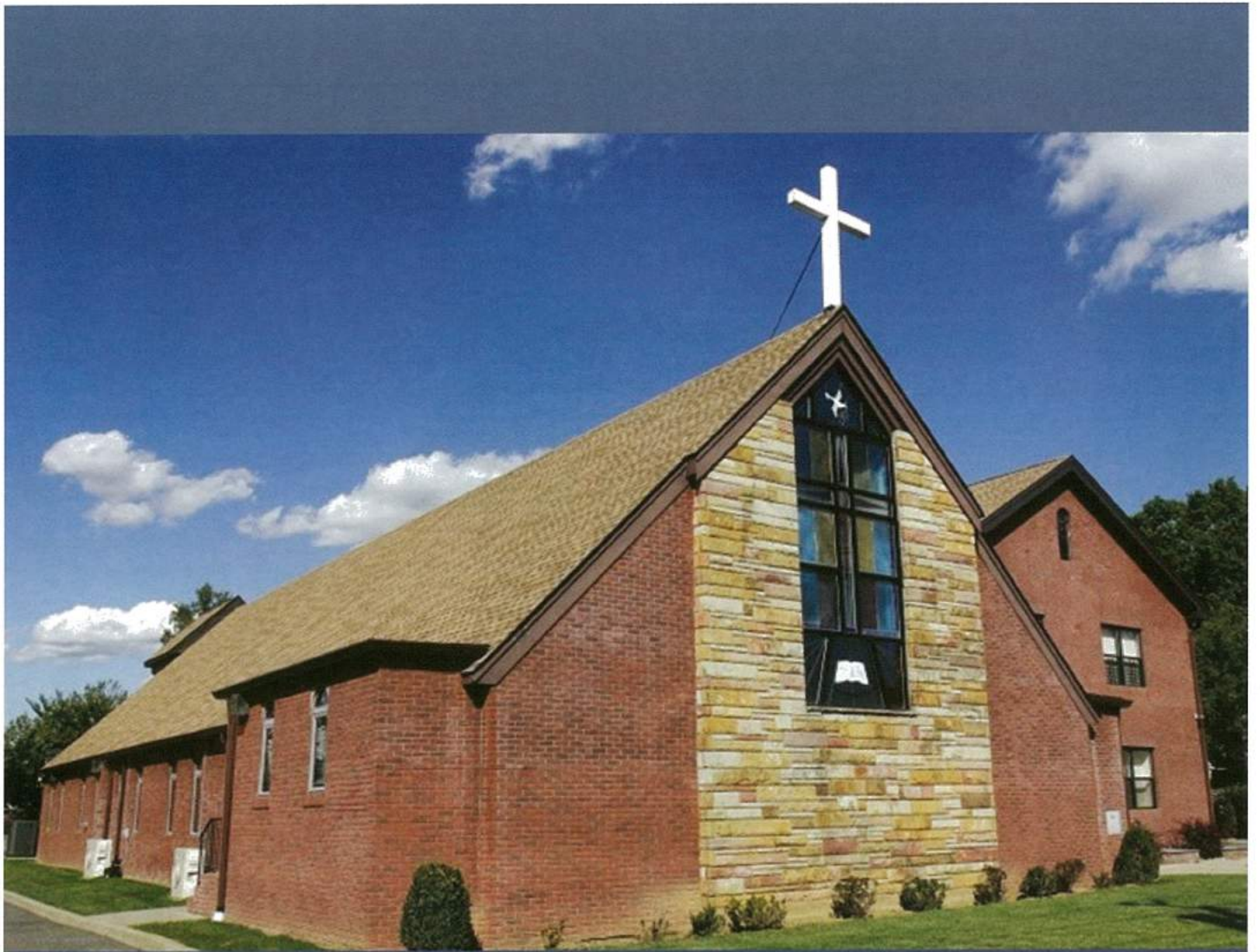
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"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10: 10 King James Version)

Receive Life

Great is the love of God toward us that He offers us life- His own dear Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus saith, "I am ... the life" (John 14:6). We, who are of natural birth and descent, when we receive Him, are born of God (John 1:12, 13); born with new life, the life of Christ. This life will quicken the virtues- faith, hope and love in us, by which we can live a wholesome Christian life: walking by faith, loving God and others and hoping to enter the eternal kingdom of God. Today many a Christian is told to evangelise rather than to show Christ's abundant life and fruitfulness in them. It may be possible to evangelise without faith, but impossible to show Christ. Faith in Jesus Christ and works must go hand in hand. "Faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone" (James 2:17). One without the other is dead indeed. "When the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8).

Bear Fruit

Jesus saith, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the Vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:4, 5). How shall we abide in Him? We are made branches of the Vine, when baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; we must remain in the Vine until we become one with Him; so that faith can grow and mature to bear luscious fruit. Jesus has made it clear that no man can bear fruit on his own. He cursed the fig tree that had no fruit in it; He saw it as one without faith (Mark 11:14, 22). This makes it clear that without faith there can be no fruit.

Once baptised with water, we must look for the fruit of baptism in us, which is the work of the triune God: the Father reconciling us to Himself by drawing us to His Son and regenerating us by the Holy Spirit. It is God who brings us to repentance and faith. Jesus saith, "This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent" (John 6:29). When God works, He will bring us to perfect belief. Many churches in the west do not baptise children born within Christian households; this deprives them of a covenantal identity with Christ and of the work of God in their lives. The fruit of water baptism is the life of Christ in us; the fruit of His life in us is quickened faith; the fruit of such faith is baptism with the Holy Spirit which seals the covenant. A moment to rejoice!

The evidence of baptism with the Holy Spirit is the appearance of fruit on the branch: the fruit of the Spirit- love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22). These are essences of the one Fruit, which is the Spirit of Christ. "Against such things [the Spirit] there is no law" (v 23). When Jesus returns will He find Fruit?

Celebrate Christ

When fruit appears on the branches, it is time to celebrate and rejoice over the fruitfulness of His life. He who has not faith will rejoice over his own works and material abundance. Let every Christian know and preserve the hard truth that Jesus gave His life on the cross, for the salvation of all mankind, so that we might receive His life, bear Fruit and celebrate Christ!

Linda Sigamony



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IN THE NAME OF GOOD CROSS!
I have witnessed the world, July 1985

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA
"BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW" Rev. 21:5

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Church of South India
Sixth Annual Family & Youth Conference
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THEY TRY ALL MAY BE ONE
CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA

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Wheaton, IL
July 16-19, 1992

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Act 1:8

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Family & Youth Conference 1993
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July 8-11, 1993

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Theme: Reflecting Christ in our Personal Lives, in our Homes, in the Church, and in the World.

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Church of South India
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CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA

INAUGURATION
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CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA
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THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE
CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA

Eleventh Family & Youth Conference
Elizabethtown College,
Elizabethtown Pennsylvania
July 31st - Aug. 3rd, 1997

Church of St. Paul's and Resurrection
Wood-Ridge, NJ

"...you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."
John 8:32

THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE
CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA

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"FREEDOM IN CHRIST"

JULY 23 - 26, 1998
MARIST COLLEGE, POUCHKEEPSIE, NY

Church of South India
13th Annual
Family & Youth Conference

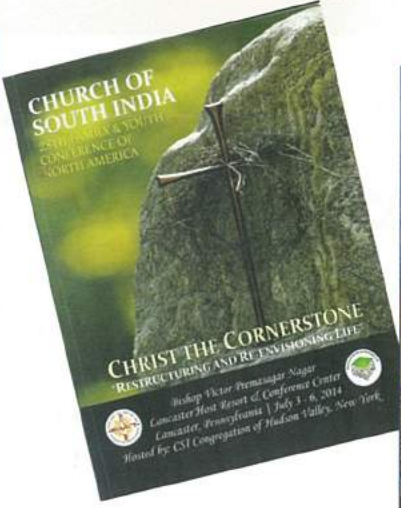
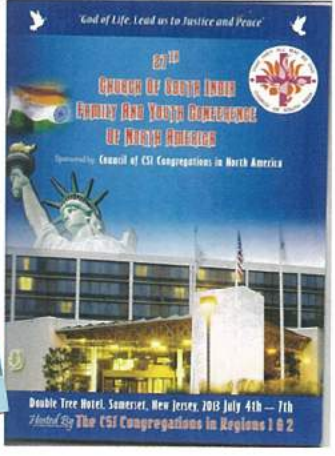
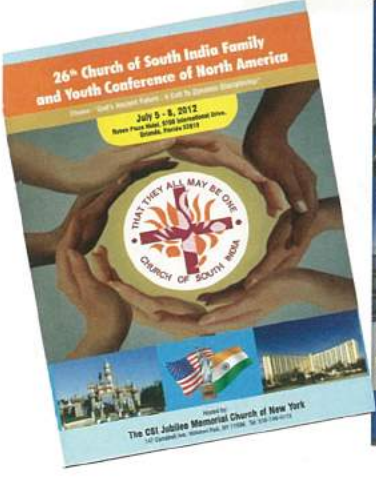
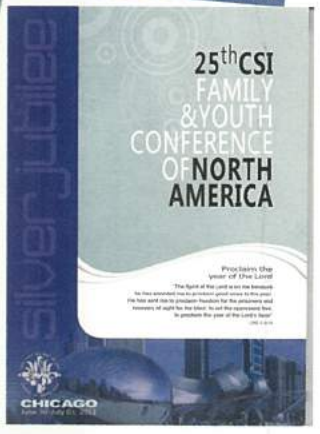
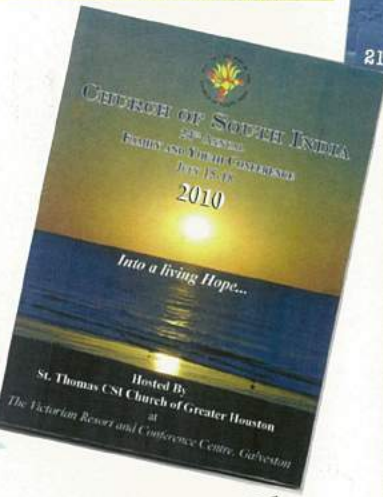
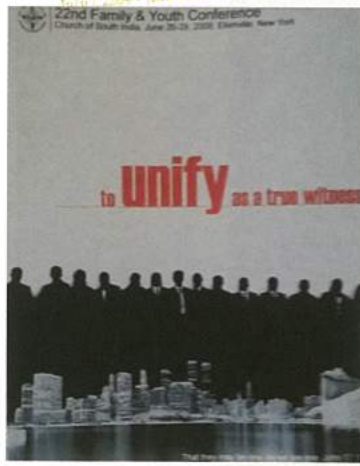
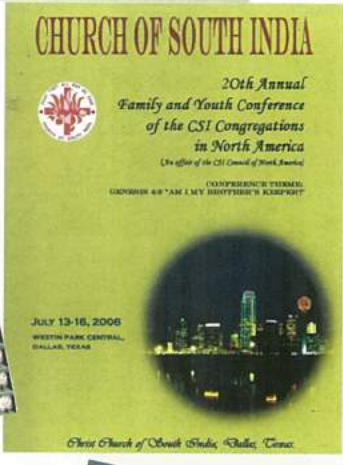
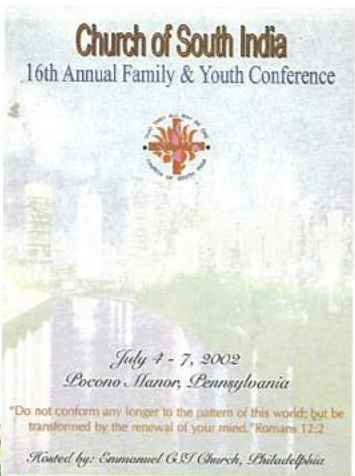
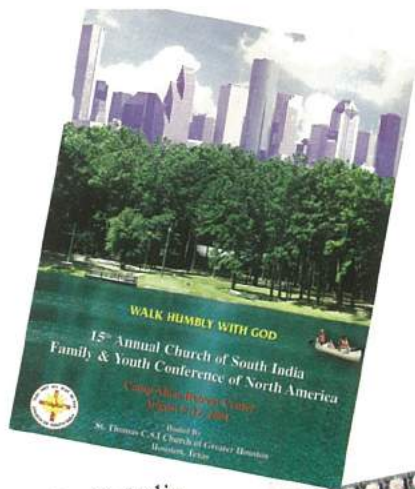
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Hosted by
CSI Council of North America
Regions 4 & 5
Hyatt Regency Hotel - Lisle, Illinois
July 22-25, 1999

MILLENNIUM CSI CONFERENCE
August 10-13, 2000
Grand Resort Hotel & Convention Center
Babylon, Tennessee

Cross: A Symbol of Hope for the New Millennium

Hosted by
CSI Council of North America
Regions 4 & 5
The C.S.I. Jubilee Memorial Church of Great Point





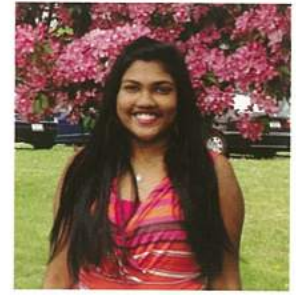
*Best Compliments from
Samuel Anselm Samuel (Sony)
Shini, Grace & Anna
CSI Church, Toronto*

Fly Away

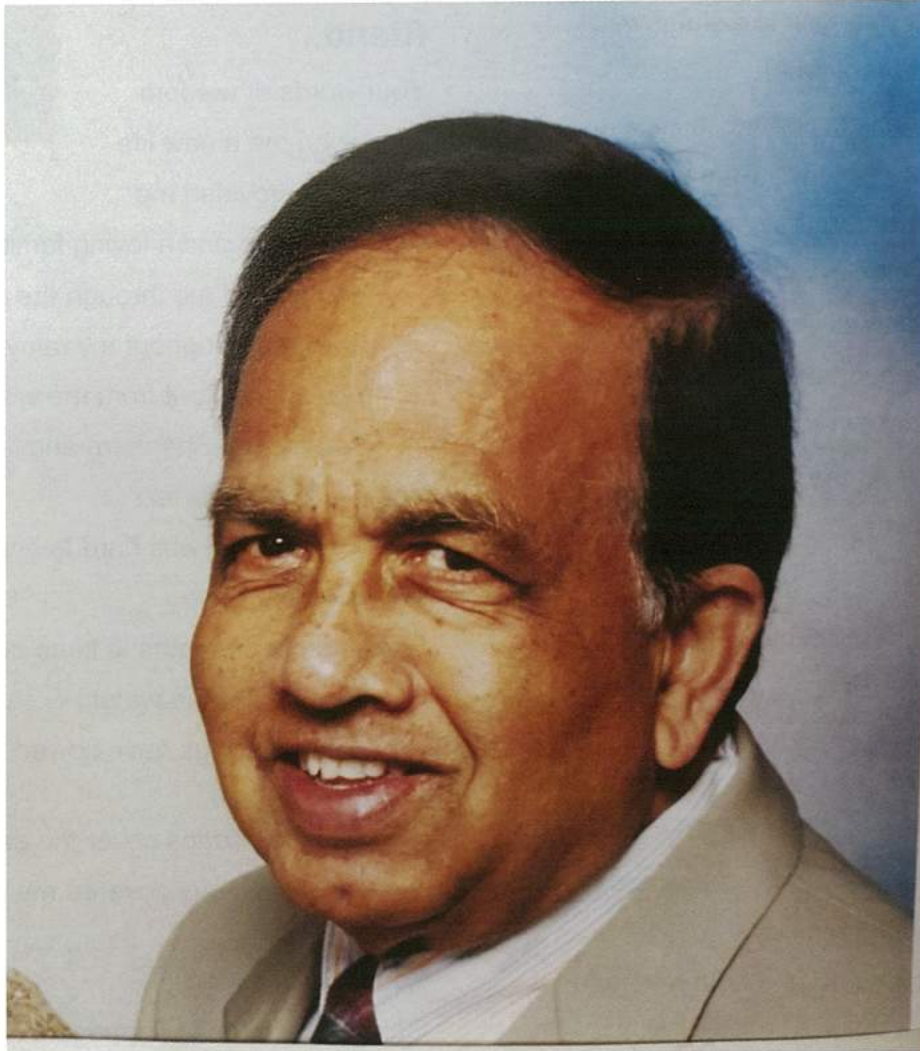
When the world seems crashing
And everything seems pointless
Temptations hover over you like shadows
Call upon the Lord – help me!
 Hearts are filled with confusion
 People are walking away from you
 Still reaching out for a ray of hope
 To shine through the darkness
Temptation can be small voices
Drawing you to the ends of the earth
It can be a small deed or thought
To turn you away from the Lord
 It is never too late
 Turn to the Lord
 Call on him to help you
 And weep and pray
In the wilderness
Lord, you were tempted
But you the son of God never turned away
Satan tried, but it was written – you would rise!
 When temptation hover over me
 Help me to stand firm and hold my head
 Lifting my hands high and say “ENOUGH”
 I am his servant, covered by the blood of
 Jesus Christ
When you feel worried
When you feel scared
Cast your burdens on the lord
For he has defeated and won!
 Through his unfailing love
 Shown upon the rugged cross
 He stands before anything like a wall
 And he will love and protect you always.
Make me be more like you
Your word is a lamp unto my feet
And light unto my path
I know you will never forsake me

My father, my friend..

Your words of wisdom
Has given me a new life
You have provided me
With blessings and a loving family
 You guided me through the dark
 Shining throughout my rainy day
 You sort me out from the wilderness
 You are my Shepherd and light
You are my comforter
When everything was hard to accept
You gave me hope
Showing me the paths to keep going
 Like the flowing water
 Your blessings have flowed throughout my
 life
 Like the oceans cover the earth
 Lord, you have covered me with your abund-
 ant love
You called me back
Guiding me into the light again
You made me soar the highest obstacles
And told me to rest in your loving arms
 You are my friend
 My hiding place from the world
 You are my teacher
 Teaching me to share, love and care
I will always run back to you
Casting all my worries on you
Enjoying each bit of my life with you
Because I know you will never forsake me



Anna Esther Samuel



In Loving Memory of
"Uppy" (Philip C. Mathai)
July 14th, 1937 – January 25th, 2017

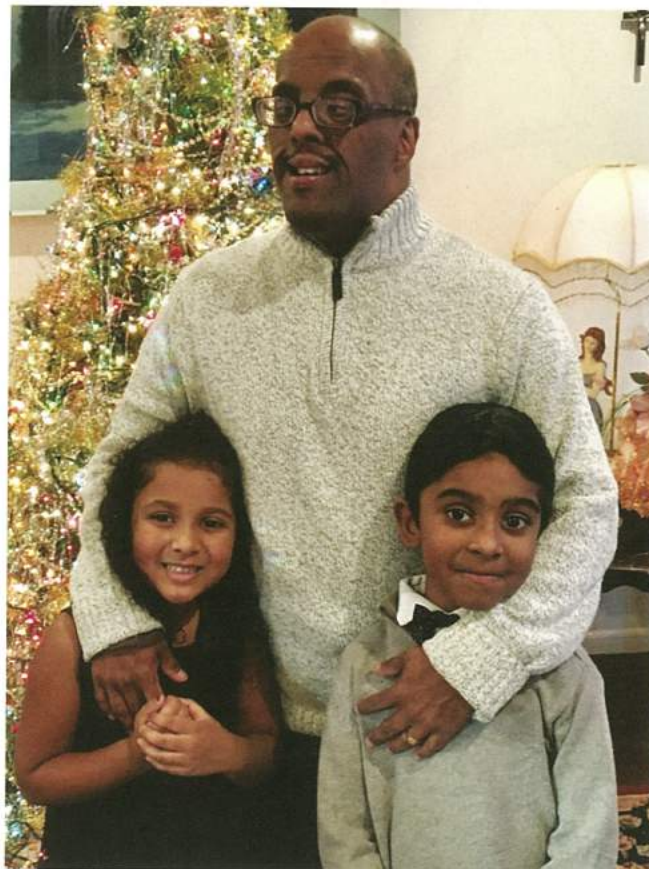
"I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour"

Habakkuk 3:18

In Loving Memory of Pulimoottil Varghese Jacob



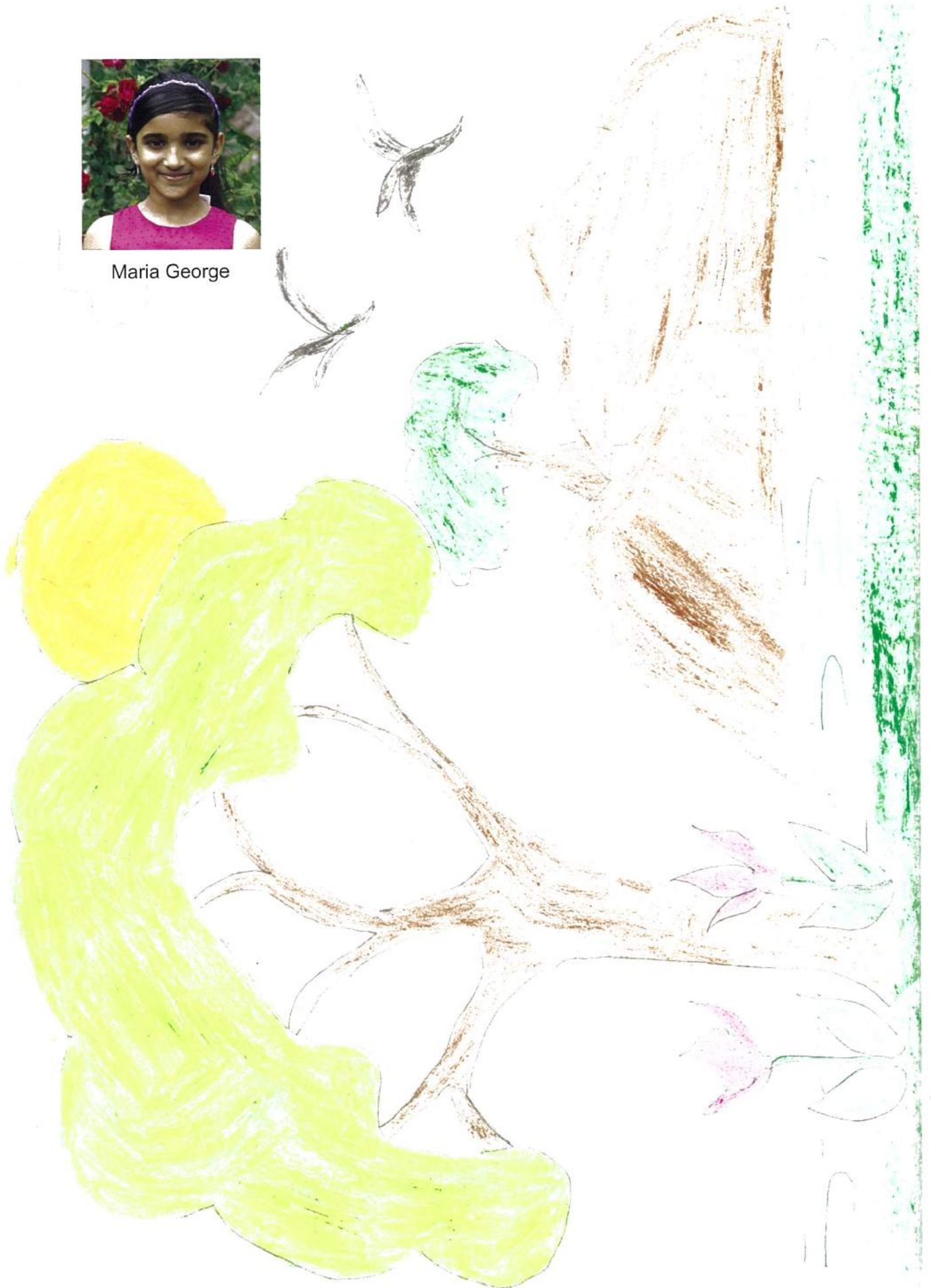
With Compliments from the Jacob Family



Kunjumol, Toby, Siby, Ancy, Noah & Maya



Maria George



Living Life in its Abundance and Fruitfulness



It is very common that we live our life daily, and we term it as our routine. We do so many things and perform our responsibilities. We sometimes fail to think about the beauty of life.

But it is very important and useful that we think, understand and enjoy life and make our life to the fullest. Just sharing some thoughts for regaining fruitfulness in our life which are vital elements in our spiritual journey.

Role of a Home: It is said that “A house is built by hands and a home by hearts. Beyond the structures, home is a place where hearts are involved and life is evolved. In the context of busy schedules and peer pressures from work place, school, business whatsoever, we fail to enjoy our life in the context of a home or a family. Togetherness is very vital in the progression of a family life. A meal daily together, a time of prayer daily together, a time of vacation together - all contribute to the stability and growth of a family. God is the power that established family life and it is the greatest gift of God to humanity. In a context of anti – Bible teachings about family concept that is becoming popular and powerful, it is important and urgent that we go back to the foundations of the Bible for a fruitful family life.

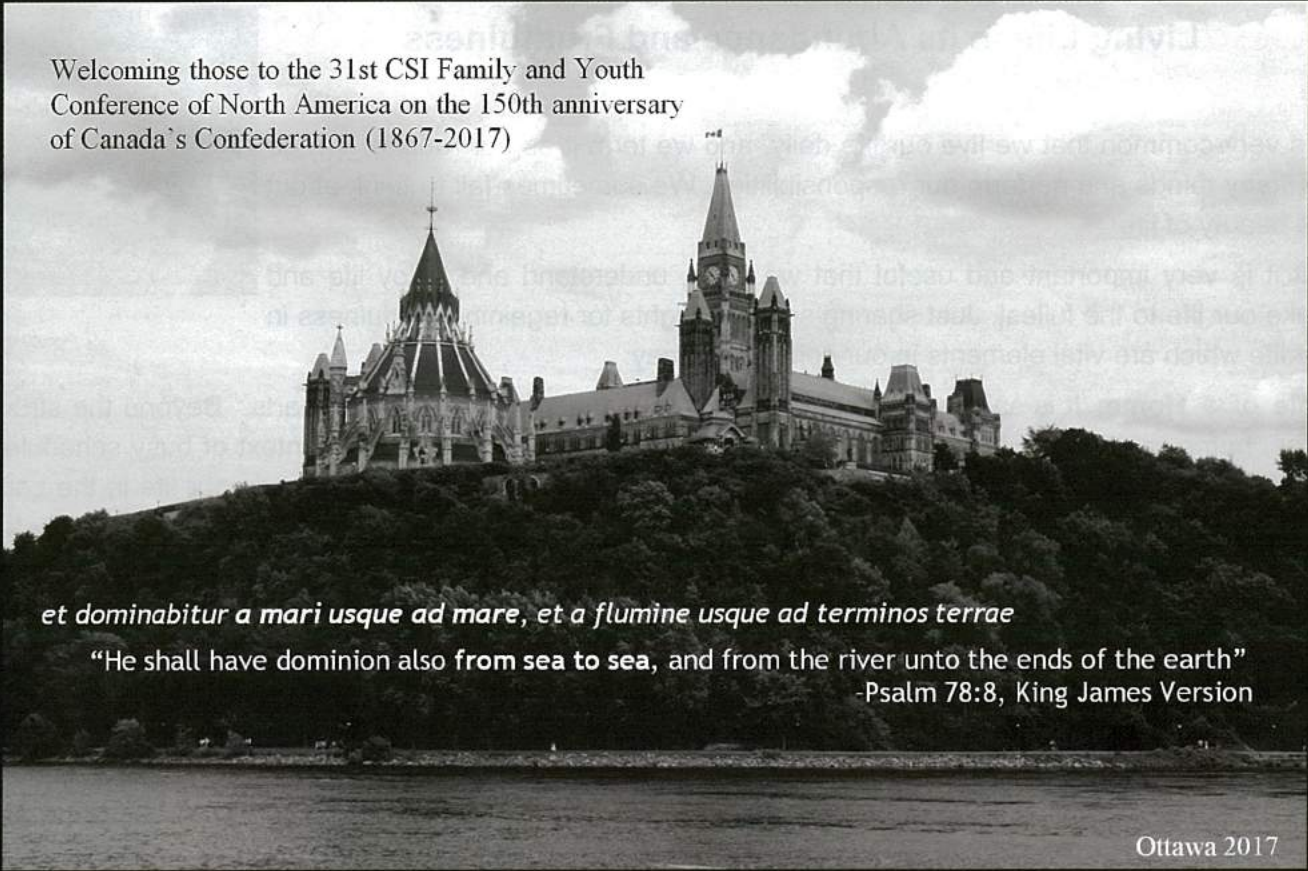
Personal Relationship with God: In our faith journey it is very important that we maintain a close relationship with God. When all the members of a family stand for personal relationship with God, that family will indeed become a basic unit of heaven on earth. Our parents’ God should be our God and our God should be the God for our generations. We should be experiencing His power and presence in our life daily and we should be taking these lessons to our generations. That should be our testimony.

Meditation of the Word of God: The Word of God plays an important role in the life of a Christian. It is the guideline and the map for the direction of our life. But we are called to carefully examine the scripture trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit, who is the perfect Bible teacher for our life. Let the reading of the Word of God have a serious place in our daily schedule so that we follow the steps shown by Christ, wherever we are in our daily life. The habit of reading the Bible makes us contented and it will give a spirit of gratitude in our joys and fortitude in our days of sorrow. Let us teach our generations this simple exercise which will keep them fit in the context of peer pressure and stress.

Prayer: Prayer is simply the communication with our creator. “Do I have always remind God what He should do in my life?” is a serious question that we may have. The habit of prayer shows that as His creation, we totally rely on the power and guidance of God in our life. Prayer is communication. Communication is vital for our life. Physical communication that we do has more relevance and life. Prayer is that physical communication with God trusting in His promises and relying on His power in His presence. It should be the habit that we form in our life, which should be so natural and inevitable like our breath and food. Training our generations for the communication with God has its importance. Never forsake the habit of prayer in our life.

Fasting: Fasting has become a neglected discipline in the life of Christian homes. Christ says: “When you fast” and not “if you fast”, which is to be noted. Fasting is to be a regular discipline in the life of all followers of Jesus. Fasting is a discipline which is to be understood not as “abstinence from food”, but a time to be spent more closer to God, not only for special needs but regularly for the disciplining of our spiritual life. It is a time, which shows our closeness to God and our dependence on God, which proves our priority for God, who is Almighty and our creator.

(Continued on page 82)



Welcoming those to the 31st CSI Family and Youth
Conference of North America on the 150th anniversary
of Canada's Confederation (1867-2017)

et dominabitur a mari usque ad mare, et a flumine usque ad terminos terrae

“He shall have dominion also **from sea to sea**, and from the river unto the ends of the earth”
- Psalm 78:8, King James Version

Ottawa 2017

(Continued from page 81)

Giving: We are created by God in His image and are entrusted with stewardship of His creation. All the resources that are gifted to us in His benevolence are the gifts to be shared. The time, talents, wealth and all that we possess are a gift from God and we are called and appointed by God to share all that we have for the glory of God's name in our midst and by our sharing we are inviting people around us to come to the experience of eternal life. The foundation of our giving should be the Gospel; which is the good news that Jesus Christ gave His life for gaining us eternal life.

Worship: The Bible clearly says to worship the Lord – give worthiness to the Lord – on all possible occasions, even as a family in our family prayer time. We as followers of Christ are called to worship the Lord, our God with all our being. The hearing of the Word of God and the observance of the Sacrament in our life should edify us for a meaningful and purposeful life. Jesus has promised that giving preference to God will enable us to receive preference for us in eternity.

Partnership in Mission: The term mission quickly gives us the notion of evangelization and social upliftment. Gospel has brought about changes wherever it was welcomed. We need to be partners in Mission especially as people following a great legacy of mission and Gospel.

Let us live life to the fullest so that it may be found meaningful and worthy in the sight of our Heavenly Master. As we continue our journey, let our life be more effective so that it may bring good results and memorable influences for our generations.

Mrs. Susan George

Best Compliments

to

31st Family & Youth Conference of North America 2017,

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA

from

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of

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Organizational Design: The Need for a Well-Defined Mission

This paper was written for a graduate course titled "Nonprofits, Co-operatives and the Social Economy" at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto.

In the following essay *Church of South India* will be referred to as the overarching structure (religious denomination) and *CSI Church, Toronto* will be used to refer to its affiliate congregation in Toronto.

History of the Organization

The Church of South India began in 1947 with the amalgamation of five congregations—the Anglican, Methodist, Congregational, Presbyterian, and Reformed Churches. Today the organization stands as the largest protestant church in India with four million members and fifteen thousand congregations in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu (Church of South India, 2010).

CSI Church, Toronto materialized in 1986 as the Malayalee community in the greater Toronto area grew. As more people with ancestral roots from Kerala migrated to Toronto, the number of people who previously held membership with the Church of South India also increased. This prompted the notion that a space for people who shared this particular doctrine was required (as until this point members attended local Anglican churches or other Malayalee congregations of different denominations in Toronto). After 25 years, it now stands as a leader in the Kerala Christian community in Toronto and has established itself as a fully functioning church with multiple ministries (CSI Church, Toronto, 2012).

Primary Services

The church's primary service is to provide worship services in Malayalam using the Church of South India's liturgy (CSI Church, Toronto, 2012). It is a place where those who possess ancestry from Kerala can come and experience religious ceremonies in their ancestral language and celebrate the culture.

However, due to the nature of the organization, it functions as more than a religious organization. Being affiliated with a specific group of immigrants to Canada, the church also works as an integration tool for newcomers. When newcomers contact the church, the church arranges supports for those newcomers by connecting them with other immigrants who have gone through a similar experience of joining Canadian society. Members range from those who recently immigrated to those who immigrated over 40 years ago. With this knowledge, members help newcomers find their place in Canadian society by advising them on things such as how to find work, integrate children in school/extra-curricular activities, and navigate resources (CSI Church, Toronto, 2012).

The organization also functions as a place to preserve ancestral customs. For example, in 2005, the church began a language program to satisfy the request of those wanting to fully participate in services conducted in Malayalam (CSI Church, Toronto, 2012). The program was created to teach those who desired to read, write and speak Malayalam. Participants in the past have ranged from children born in Canada to adults who never learned the language because they lived and/or grew up outside the state of Kerala.

Human and Financial Resources

The church is fully funded by its members and functions as a registered charitable organization with the Canada Revenue Agency. Revenue in its last year amounted to approximately \$150 000 and its expenditures were about \$135 000 (Annual Report, 2012). However, through the daily operations and the annual report one can conclude, like in most non-profits, its greatest asset is not its finances but its members.

The church operates solely on volunteer support with exception to the vicar who is its one paid staff member. Its various committees, programs, and events require numerous hours to execute and it is all accomplished through voluntary support. If the church were to take into account some measures of social accounting, it would see the enormous asset its members were. The choir, for example, made up of approximately 30 members meet for rehearsal and participate in the service for approximately 3 hours a

week. If the organization were to calculate the contributions of the choir at minimum wage over a year it would amount to \$47 970 ($30 \times 3 \times 10.25 \times 52 = 47\,970$). This number portrays a conservative amount considering the members of the choir have varying level of expertise and most members put in more hours than stated here; nevertheless, it highlights the significance of volunteer support within the organization. Each ministry within the church require similar levels of commitment by its membership, thus it can be concluded, time stand as the strongest resource of the organization.

Governance

CSI Church, Toronto is governed by a board (which they call the Executive Committee) consisting of 14 members. The board is elected by the members of the congregation once a year at the annual general meeting. They are responsible for overseeing the day to day activities of the church and facilitating and/or coordinating the events throughout the year. Its affiliation with a diocese in Kerala, India, means in addition to the congregation, it is also held accountable to that diocese and to the Moderator (the head of the Church of South India). It is currently in the process of also developing an association agreement with the Anglican Church of Canada, which will mean the church will also have explicit obligations to that body as well.

The board follows a “Results-Based” model where the focus is to create a vision and produce results (Quarter et al., 2009, p. 221). The vicar functions as the head and/or overseer, while the board works to connect the activities of the organization to the community. The board works to set direction, monitor progress, and report results to the general body.

As Quarter et al. state, “[w]hile members may choose not to participate in the governance, they are entitled to and often they exercise this entitlement when they are displeased with decisions undertaken by the organization...Therefore governance in member-focused associations is very challenging in that the board and management must be in tune with members’ aspirations, even the aspirations of those members who limit their participation to using the services.” (Quarter et al., 2009, p.232)

With a responsibility to the entire collective these representatives work to balance the activities of the church with the desires of all parishioners. The complexity of this task has been evident a few times over the life-span of the organization when members (who seem to be absent) suddenly appear for general meetings to advocate or advance an idea they feel is important or neglected. It is in these moments contradictions between the multiple priorities start to be apparent and the importance of a clear and precise mission for the organization becomes evident.

Organizational Design

“Organizations suffer if their design does not support their mission and strategy” (Armstrong, 2013). This statement emphasizes the importance of developing a clear understanding of the mission as it highlights the way in which design, mission and strategy all work as equally essential components to the success of an organization.

With an ambiguous vision, members perceive what they believe to be most important as the priority of the organization (although it may not be the case). Clarifying the objectives of the organization mitigate some of the issues that arise from misunderstanding and help focus the organization to create solutions in union with the actual desires of its memberships. As stated, with an accurate understanding of the mission, a well-thought out strategy can be constructed to create a design that will build a solid foundation to ensure longevity to the organization.

Perspectives (Multiple Priorities)

As a Christian organization within a predominately non-Christian country that functions as a substantial

contributor to social programming in India, the Church of South India states the commitment of the church as:

“Being the largest Protestant church in India, the CSI celebrates her life with Indian culture and spirituality and she also raises her voice for the voiceless on matters of justice, peace and integrity of creation. Sharing the love of Jesus Christ with the people of India through proclamation of the good news of Jesus; responding to human need through institutional and emergency relief work; through community development projects and skill training programmes for the marginalized and disadvantaged sections of the people and programmes for the integrity of creation.” (Church of South India website, 2010)

These priorities of Indian culture, doctrine/theology, and social objectives that the Church of South India uphold are the same goals the CSI Church, Toronto implicitly sets out for itself. However, CSI Church, Toronto has experienced difficulty in reconciling the three goals due to the lack of definition around its mission and priorities.

Although many members feel a sense that all three components are necessary (and do not exclusively prescribe to one) members differ on how they balance the priorities in their mind and such is where varying perspectives emerge. Those who perceive Indian culture to be the priority of the church primarily view the organization as an ethnocultural association and/or social club. Although, they acknowledge the need for activities related to theology and social objectives they often do not place their support behind activities that place more emphasis on doctrine or social objectives outside the Indian community.

On the contrary, those who believe theology is at the core of the organization sometimes fail to see the need for cultural and/or social activities. These members believe the spiritual experience of the individual is priority and therefore consider the main goal of the organization to nurture that experience within the members and others outside of the organization as well. Following this trail, many who believe this to be the most important, try to bring in practices from denominations that place great importance on evangelical doctrine.

Thirdly, those who deem social objectives to be at the core of the church’s practice once again find it difficult to see the need for excessive Indian cultural and/or theological pursuits. They believe the organization can achieve its goals within its current theological frame and should focus its efforts on developing a social consciousness amongst its members and participating in community development initiatives instead.

The lack of delineation around these priorities and the way in which they should interact have begun to show considerable signs of stagnation and stress within the organization. In its 25th year, the organization underwent a significant adjustment as many of its members left due to a difference of opinion in priorities. The exodus of that membership group naturally redefined certain objectives of the organization and consequently ignited commentary and/or discussion amongst members and leadership regarding the objectives of the association. Nevertheless, a formal in-depth and detailed conversation around the mission and its vision is still yet to occur. If the institution would like to move forward and grow in any profound way it must, as Armstrong stated, develop a mission so that its organizational design can match its mission and strategy (Armstrong, 2013).

The Board (The Election Process)

“When designing the right kind of board, member-focused associations need ‘to face the challenge of the integration of values with value, and vice versa’” (Quarter et al., 2009, p. 231; Mal and Vézina, 2004, p. 132). If the board must incorporate the values of the organization, the organization must find candidates who respect the values of the organization and possess the skill set to realize the mission. The selection of board members, thus, stands to be a vital component in the strategy of the association.

(Continued on page 90)

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The selection process of its board is one area CSI Church, Toronto's procedure fails to meet its potential in design. As mentioned earlier, the members of the board are elected at the annual general meeting and nominations for the positions are allowed to be submitted up to two weeks before the annual meeting. On occasion, nominations will be submitted prior to the meeting, however, most often nominations are taken from the floor.

When nominations are taken from floor, implicitly and/or explicitly, preferential treatment is given to certain voices over others. Those who feel more comfortable in the space tend to be more vocal in meetings and consequently able to further their agendas more easily. With the climate being such that most people feel embarrassed to express their interest in taking up a position, most people wait to be nominated by others. The culture of the organization in conjunction with dominant voices, therefore, makes it difficult to ensure those who are passionate about the mission and those with new perspectives enter the arena.

If the three "Key Success Factors" of a good board are as Armstrong states—"the board must shape direction for the non-profit through its vision, mission, strategy and policies; ensure that leadership, resources and finances support mission; [and] monitor performance and take corrective action promptly (Armstrong, 2013)—the selection of board members should be one that is given considerable attention bearing in mind the grave responsibility they assume.

Current board structure allocates six positions to represent specific populations within the association. Those elected to these positions are expected to be the group's voice in the church's decision making process, as well as, plan, co-ordinate and manage activities for their respected group. By selecting a person at random at the meeting, groups cannot ensure a person that shares the vision and/or possesses the skill set to fulfil its mission is elected.

Last minute nominations from the floor pose multiple problems. A rash election cannot ensure an equitable and balanced representation of the body is elected. As Quarter et al. state, "an organization's design choice that is out of sync with its environment, its mission, and its strategy will make it difficult to be effective. As well it is important to distinguish between *effectiveness* and *efficiency*...[e]ffectiveness means 'doing the right thing,' while efficiency means 'doing things right'" (Quarter et al., 2009, p.218). While choosing a board in such a manner may mean an efficient board is elected it does not necessarily mean an effective one is.

Conclusion

As an organization with a congenial history and robust set of resources this organization has the potential to be a unique agent in Canada's social economy. However, in order to become an organization that is profound in the landscape it wishes to affect, it must meticulously examine and scrutinize its purpose, establish a clear cut mission, and generate a vision for the future. It must remove ambiguity to help focus its actions and allow for greater transparency in its operations. At the moment, the church is at a loss of what its vision is for the future other than to be in existence. It must change this by realizing why and how it should exist so it can fine-tune, regulate and correct its process if it would like to ensure longevity and meaning in its life span.

Additional Resources:

Armstrong, A. (2013). Good Design and Governance. Toronto: OISE Lecture.

Church of South India (2010). Website: <http://www.csisynod.com/>

CSI Church, Toronto (2012). Annual Report 2012-2013. Toronto: CSI Church, Toronto.

CSI Church, Toronto (2012). Website: <http://csichurchtoronto.org/>

Suzane Thomas, April 9, 2013



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Evangelism began with Jesus and continued with His disciples. The Bible tells us in Mt.9:36 that, “when Jesus saw the multitudes He was moved with compassion because they were weary and were scattered like sheep having no Shepherd.” Then He said to them, “**The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest.**” (Mt.9:37-38). Then He sent the twelve disciples into the harvest; He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and...disease.” (Mt.10:1). He instructed them to go into the ‘neighborhood’, to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (Mt.10:16). He directed them to preach that “The kingdom of heaven is at hand”. They were told not to take heavy bags or money. Jesus also assured them that what they needed to speak will be given to them, “...for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.” (Mt.10:19-20). There are many truths in the above instructions which we need to follow for effective evangelism.

- It was to the believers of the time that Jesus gave the instructions.
- They were not to neglect their own people, the house of Israel.
- They were to preach (warn them) that “the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”
- They were not to carry heavy bags or extra items, (*‘which may make them tired’*),
- They were endowed with power and were assured of the presence of the Father, and the message they were to speak.

How do these apply to the ministry of Evangelism today?

Firstly, **God calls all the believers of today** to follow the command of Jesus. (Mt.28:19). “Go...and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...” Then He promised, “Lo I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Evangelism is not to be stagnant, but moving to all generations. In today’s world we see many Evangelists carrying the torch and delivering the message of the gospel. I believe Christ’s heart grieves over the ‘lost sheep’ of this world. He fulfilled the plan of Redemption, but who will declare Him and His love which took Him to the cross of Calvary? Who will give the rest of the world an opportunity to know Him and be redeemed by Him to spend eternity with the Shepherd.

Why the believers are called?

- The believers have Christ in their hearts and the power of the Holy Spirit who resides in them, who guides, teaches, convicts sinners and converts their souls.
- The believers have **the tools** they need such as,
- **The seed** (the Word of God), **the weapons** of warfare such as **prayer, the Word and the boldness**, through the power from God’s Holy Spirit.
- Above all, they have the assurance that “**they can do all things through Christ who strengthens them.**” (Phil. 4:13) and the promise, “Lo I am with you always.”

So, friends, “**WE ARE EQUIPPED!**” The three important requirements for evangelism are: **ABILITY, OPPORTUNITY** and **AVAILABILITY**. The first two are God’s provisions. The third is our offering. Along with availability, we must also be willing to step out with the gospel. We must lean on to Christ’s strength and speak His Word with boldness and perseverance. God promised to go before Joshua wherever he went. (Joshua 1:9). As Joshua stepped into the waters of Jordan and saw the miracle of the Jordan river parting before them, we also will see miracles of salvation as we take our first step.

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(Continued from page 94)

MY CALLING. In 1987 I was called by God to do evangelism in my neighborhood. I had no know-how then, but I was willing. Four years later, my husband, Philip, also joined me and we began an outreach ministry in Toronto in 1992 which spread to other cities. Today, after 30 years we are still fulfilling God's command in sharing the faith. After a few years God gave us another Word, "You shall still bear fruit in your old age." (Psalm 92:14). This is what God is doing with us now.

Recently, we had the privilege of doing Evangelism Training for two groups at New Jersey and New York. It was indeed powerful and fruitful. Many among the groups have already begun the journey in evangelism. Two to three years ago we began an Evangelism Outreach Ministry at the CSI church in Toronto where we attend. It was the result of the prayers of a few dedicated and motivated women of the church who were zealous to share the gospel. We had the support of the Leadership of the church and inspiration from an Evangelist, Anson Thomas. Philip and I gave the training, we as a group spent time in prayer and on the few occasions we stepped out, we witnessed 40 salvations in two summers. In the winter we focused on prayer for the unsaved and for the outreach ministry. Prayer of agreement among believers moves the hand and heart of God to do miracles. Make prayer a focus to witness miracles of salvation.

Recently, by God's grace and through the direction of the Holy Spirit, I have published a book on Evangelism titled, GO and TELL. It will equip the reader with Biblically based principles that will guide as a tool in sharing the gospel with power and boldness, ruling out all fears. It is available on Amazon.com, amazon.ca, through us at lilly656@hotmail.com and at the conference. Be encouraged to follow the Master's footsteps to reach the "Spiritually lost sheep" of the World.

Mary Alexander

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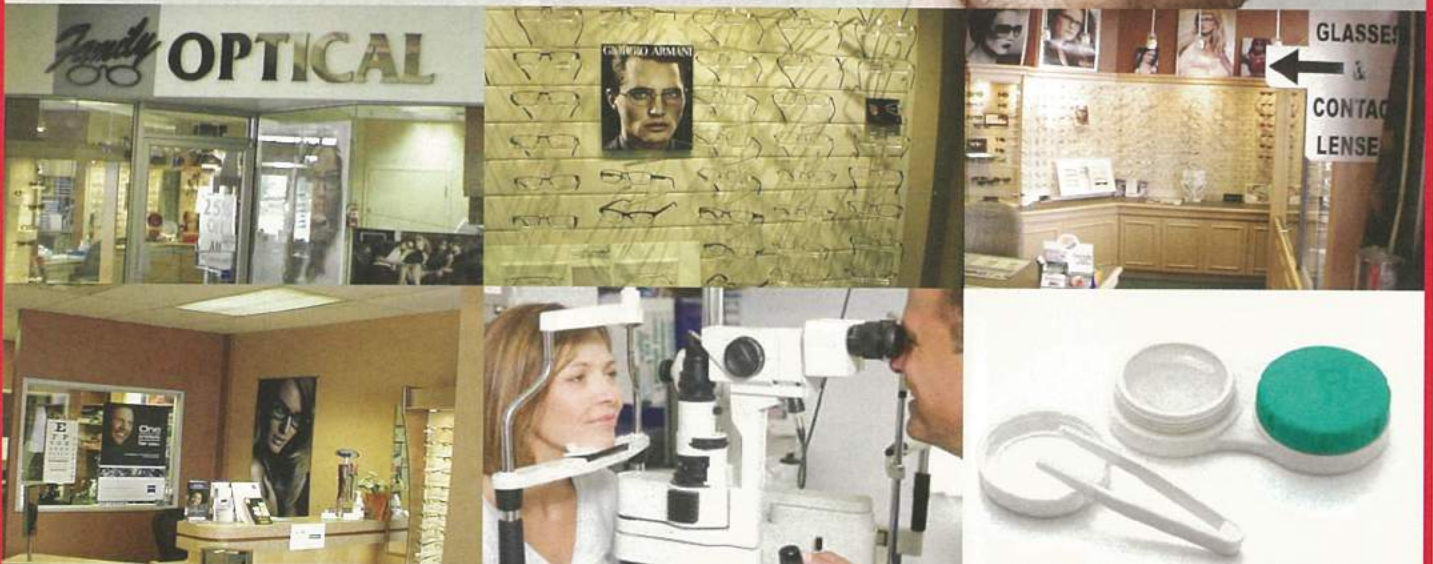
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MAY I BOAST IN NOTHING BUT THE CROSS..... Galatians 6:14

I stand honored to deliver this message to all the readers.

I strongly believe in giving for all the little and great things that HE has done, is doing and going to do in my life. But we find it very difficult to give thanks when we face a troubled situation in our lives. Let me tell you a story.....



This is a story of a Christian man whose material richness is in the upper strata of the society. His power and influence being so profound that anyone entering his house in his absence detects an alarm at the police station. Living in all the wellness and the richness of life, it so happens we tend to realize less the grace given by GOD. It so happened that there was a sudden onset of sickness in his life and the crab of cancer caught him. It grabbed him so bad that they needed to remove his jaw bone and all the muscles around it which made him loose his speech by 75%. Frustrated with his life he fixed an appointment with one of the highest officials of Christian faith complaining about one question, "Why me?" Smiling at the rich man's curiosity, the Man of Faith said "My son, you have wealth that is numbered in the rich strata of the society, you have enjoyed all the pleasures with the money you have; but when you pass a poor man's house, have you ever thought, Why me?"

It so happens in life that we blame GOD the whole while when we go through tragic times but we tend to 'Thank HIM' less when we so abound with blessings seen and unseen!

The Bible says in 1 Thes. 5:18 "In everything give thanks....." It states to give thanks to the LORD not FOR everything but IN everything. Our thankfulness to GOD should not be for our health, family, and job alone - it can change; it should also include the sacrifice of JESUS, our salvation and the gift of Life - which stays unchanged.

Let's give 'Thanks to the LORD' for all the things that can change in our lives and all the things that remain unchanged with time; for once the 'changed things' withers, the prayers in the 'unchanged things' are what makes us true Christians.

Stay blessed!

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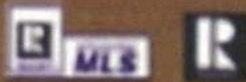
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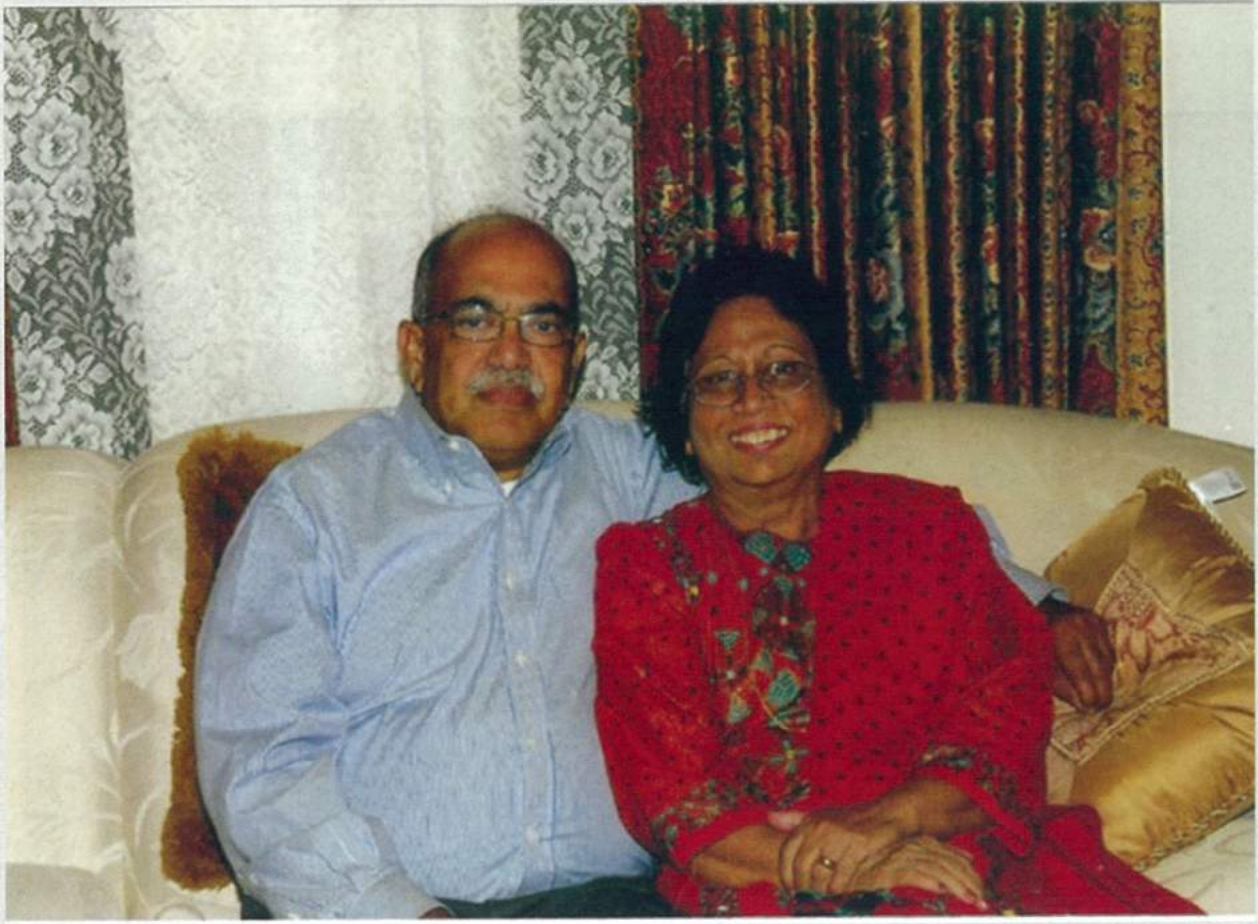
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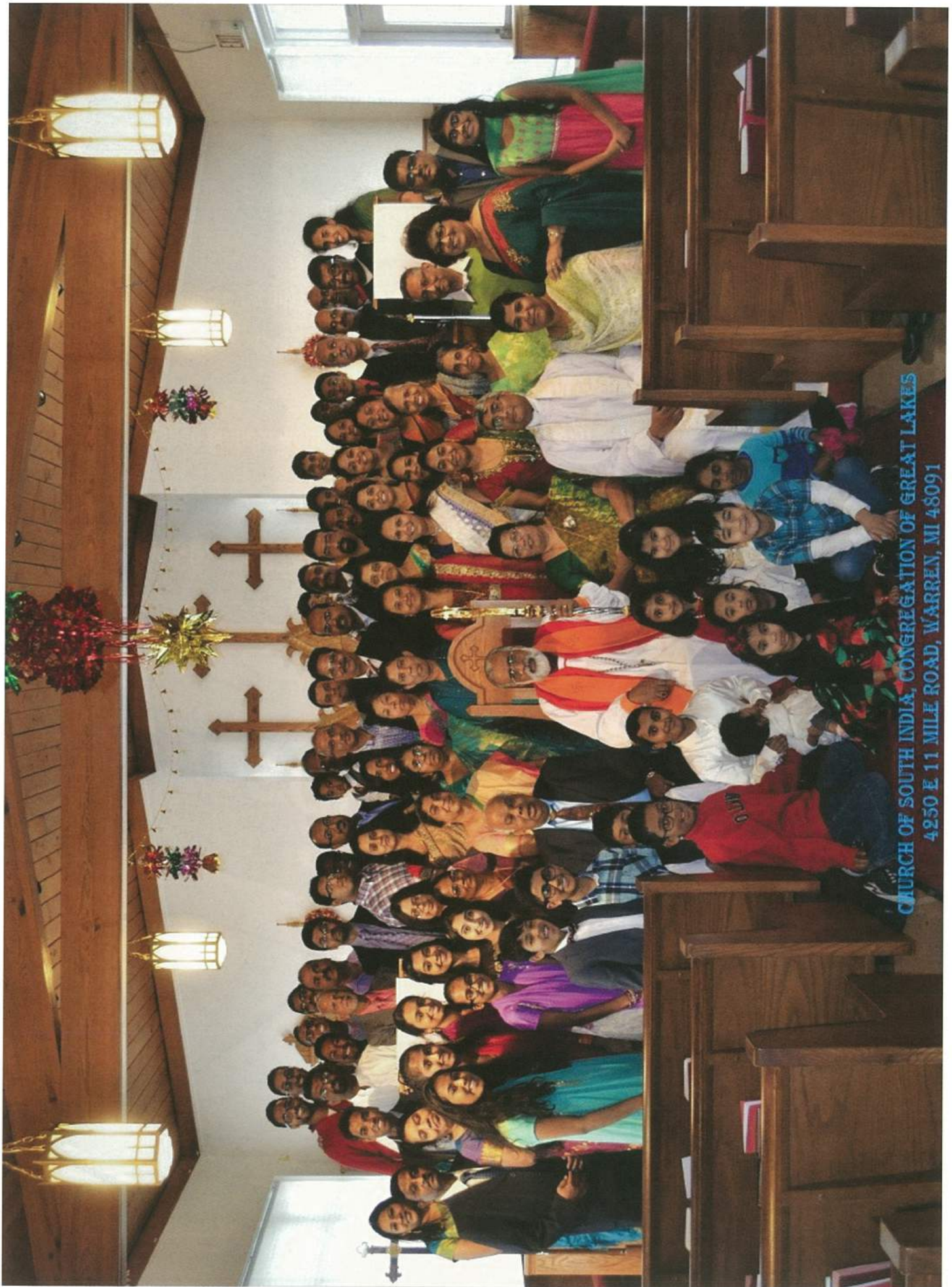
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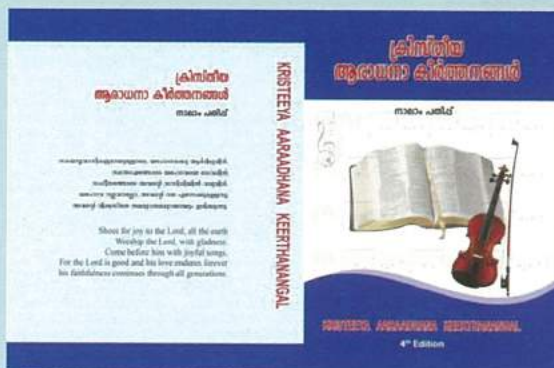
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He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust." (Psalm 91:1, 2)

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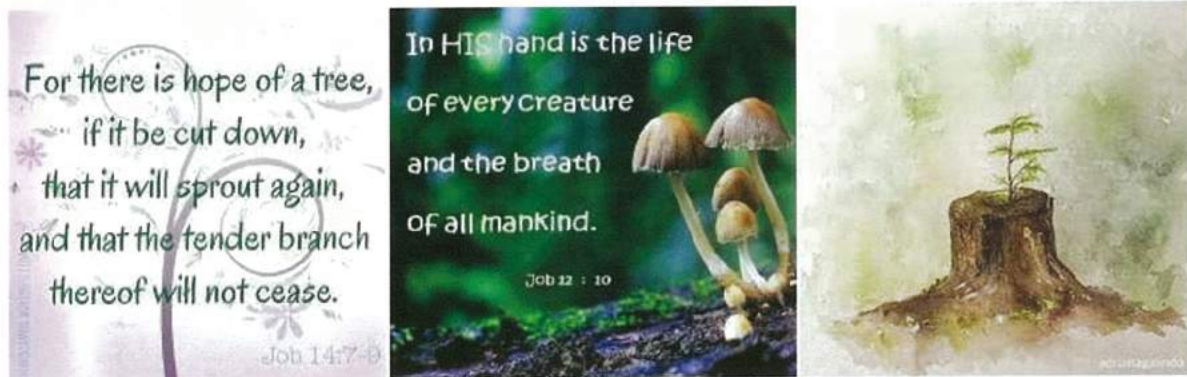


Life in its Abundance and Fruitfulness of a Cut Down Tree

The Rev. Dr. Paul Rajan, Vicar, Immanuel CSI Church, Elizabeth, NJ
President, InterChristian Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ

Job 14:7-9

⁷ For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. ⁸ Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground; ⁹ Yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant.



Fruits and fruitfulness is a concept connected to tree, that too a living tree. This year for our conference, we have chosen to meditate upon the title 'Celebrating LIFE in its Abundance and Fruitfulness' in a devotional context. (John 10:10 & Galatians 5:22,23)

While I am writing this devotional article as on May 18, 2017 I am serving as Vicar of Immanuel CSI Church in Elizabeth, NJ. I started to help this congregation from first of January this year after having completed nearly 9 months of service with Hudson Valley CSI Congregation. My entry as vicar in CSI Churches started with the death of a pioneer of Christ CSI Church, Tappan, NY. Last three weeks in a row we in our Elizabeth CSI Church had to acknowledge the death of the extended family members of our congregants. It is at this juncture I was asked by the 2017 CSI Conference Souvenir Committee Convener Mr. Joy Chemmanoor through our Church Secretary Mr. Mathew Cherian to contribute an article. After having meditated the theme for a week in the context of the current Church Ministry, I am led by the Lord to write this devotional article "Life in its Abundance and Fruitfulness of a Cut Down Tree".

All our lives are cut down trees and what we have and who we are today is the sprouts on the cut down trees. I invite you to read the article till the end as the Lord has a word of hope for you, no matter whatever may be your life situation. Please read it carefully and identify that particular word of hope meant for you in your life context.

Created Tree

Having tree as an image for life, all our life is created by God for a purpose without doubt, as the tree is created to bear fruit. God prophesied through Isaiah

"everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." (Isaiah 43:7).

The purpose is ultimately to bring glory to God through our life. God will use His called people and chosen people and lift them up high so that He will get the glory. There is a relationship established in this purpose, and in this mutual relationship we give the glory to

God and He receives the glory and further enables us to go higher. Since God created the man in His image (Genesis 1:26) we cannot fulfill the purpose of God in our life without God in our life. Creator of our life has power over it and His say is final unless we willfully disobey the voice of God speaking through our own inner man.

I realized the purpose of God in my life at the train track at the age of 14 when I was about to commit suicide. God miraculously touched me and brought me out of the then experience of tree cut-off. Since then I experience the joy of salvation and peace of God in my life. I sense a driving force to do something or other for God and for His Church, His people in most creative ways. Life is led by an inspiration and vision towards accomplishment of a particular mission. God likes us to fruitful (John 15:1-16) is only as we bear fruit that the Lord is glorified (v.8).

Cut Down Tree

Every human being life after Adam and eve is the image of the cut down tree. The experience of being cut down in life is having to come to a hopeless situation and dead end in life issues. The suicide rate among the younger generation is alarmingly increasing around the world. This is simply because of the original man disobeyed God,

"but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." (Genesis 2:17).

As you read this article where are you in your life, what is your hope and what is the source of hope. Job in the old testament had a different experience in the light of his faith and in the midst of such losses. If you are in such a situation of hopelessness regarding health, finance, relationships, marriage, future, jobs

etc, the terminated process of life, cut off tree will sprout again. (Job 14:7). Because, Job says

"Yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant" (Job 14:9). When Jesus says *"The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire" (Mathew 3:10)*

He is referring to later punishment as Job says, not to truly cut the tree that the human die here prematurely.

"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea". (Habakkuk 2:14).

The scent of water is the knowledge that Lord Jesus is the Savior and will Redeem His Children.

I was invited to USA in the year 2008 by a non-Bible believing Seminary to do my Masters and Doctorate but its administrators once after my masters employed me and used me to recruit my contacts out of my influence and then deceived me and my family. Our second son was 40 days old when we were laid off without proper INS records. It was a total cut off experience. Our insurance and income was cut off. The Seminary did not maintain the records with labor and INS departments. We had to look at some food pantry for survival. But as I am writing this article we have confirmed our partnership with another evangelical seminary to start a Christ centered theological seminary called InterChristian Theological Seminary. ***This is nothing but the cut down tree is sprouting again.***

Consecrated Tree

All this is because the tree called Jesus was cut off on my behalf us according to the prophecy of Isaiah.

"For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished". (Isiah 53:8)

Your hope in Christ will not be in vain because "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed" (I Peter 2:24). Lord Jesus consecrated His life and gave His life for our sins on the cross. "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith". (I Corinthians 15:14). By giving His life to us He restores the original plan of God's creation to be fruitful.

Continuing Tree

So the hope is renewed and the purpose of God is reinforced, the life continues by Grace that Lord Jesus gives having it earned on the cross and we experience it by faith.

"Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. (2 Peter 1:2-3).

We are invited to experience the grace and live a godly life as Peter says. May God's grace be abundance in your life particularly in the area of

your need, weakness and sickness. May there be breakthrough for you as there be sprout in the cut off tree. This is the life that Jesus talks about in John 10:10

Celebrating Tree

When the cut off tree gets life again, this means Lord Jesus takes over our life in its entirety in His hand and creates us again to do the good work for the people around us. The true Christian life is a recreated life by Jesus Christ.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them". Ephesians 2:10 (KJV).

What was kept in store by God when He created the mankind originally is restored to the believers of our Lord Jesus Christ. Do you believe that Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven you and has given you a new life? If so, it is time to involve in the ministry of the Church and mission of the World. We are given gifts and talents to be fruitful, useful reflecting godly character.

Job says in Job 12:10 *"In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind"*. So we are admonished by Job to handover all our life affairs and efforts in His hand that He will bless us double portion as He did for Job *"the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before"* Job 42:10. May the Lord continue to bless you, your family and congregation in a special way during this conference and beyond.

The Rev. Dr. Paul G. Rajan
CEO, InterChristian Initiatives

116 Village Blvd, Suite 200, Princeton, NJ 08540

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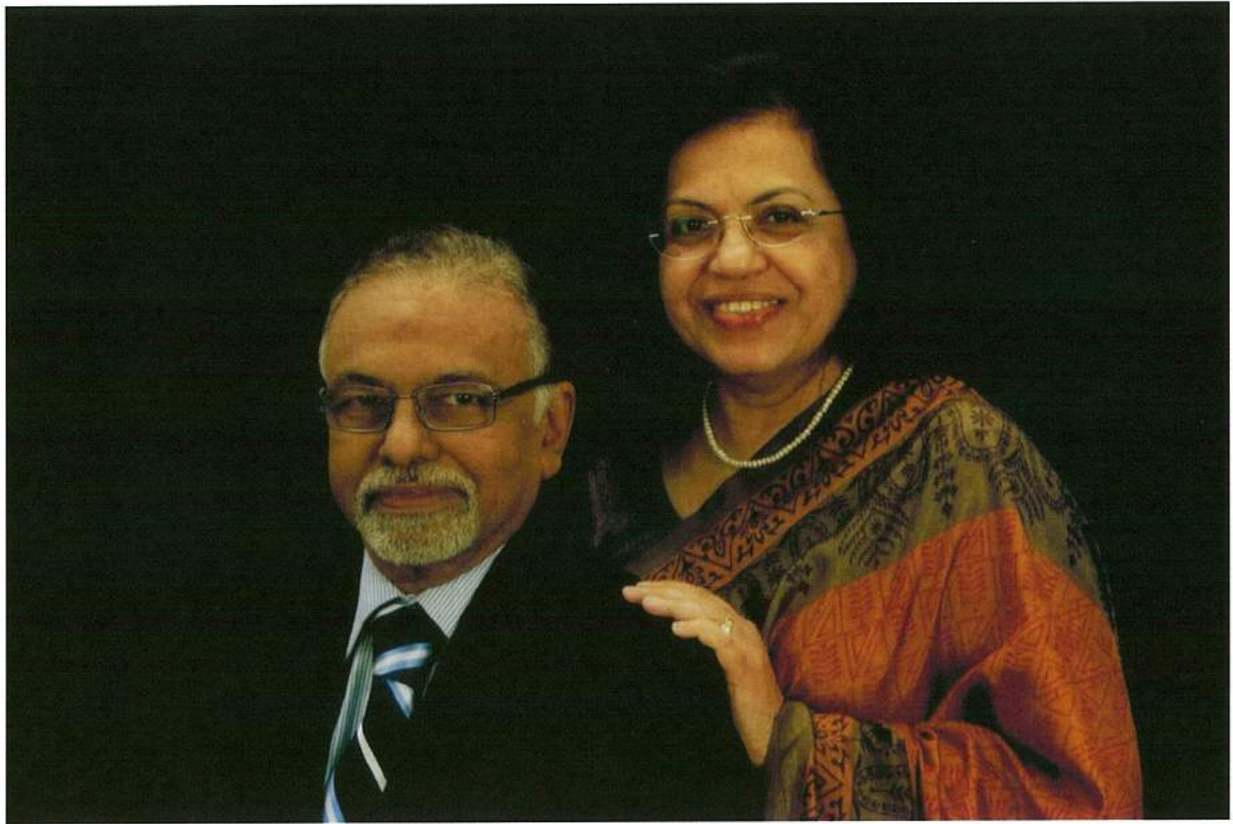




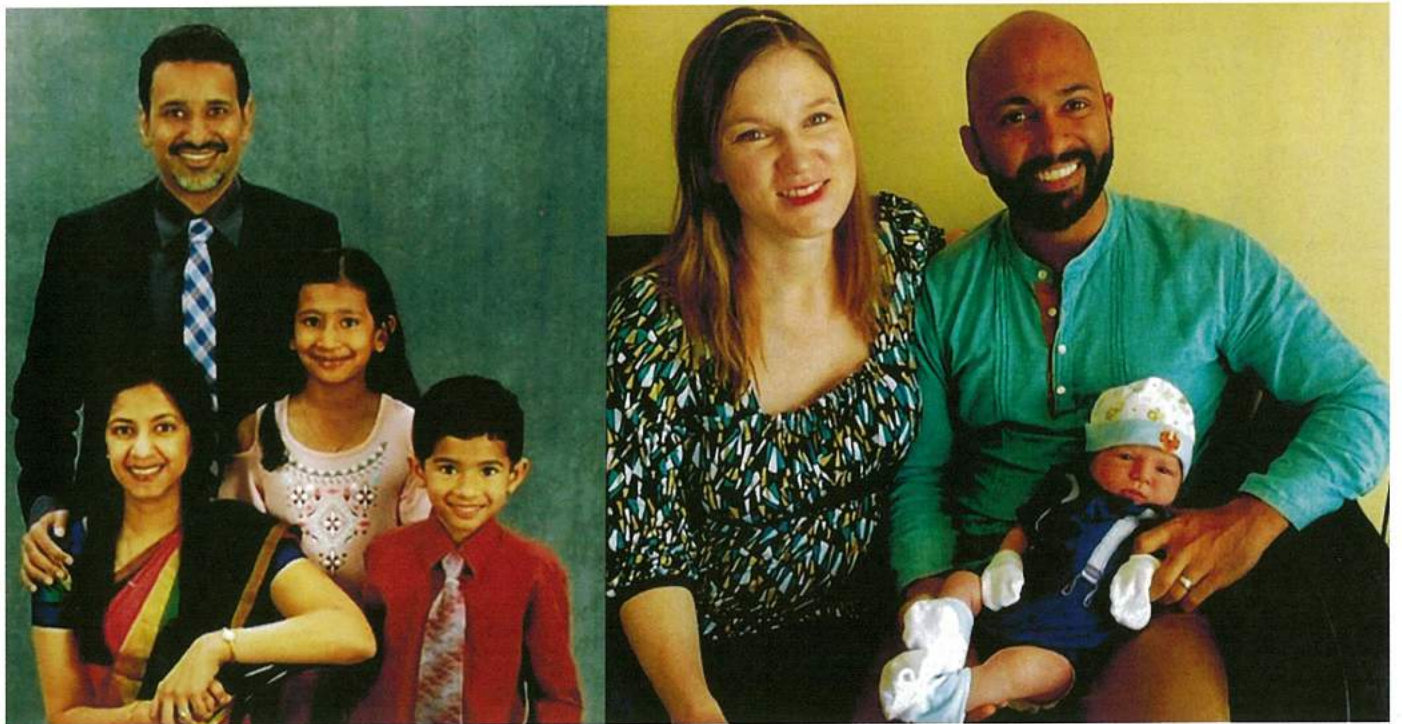
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Zad, Ruth, Baby Marcus

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My Uppy

Uppy, Uppy, Uppy is what I like to say.
What is an Uppy you ask me today?

Uppacha in my language means grandpa,
But I like to say Uppy.

Since I was born, Uppy always took care of
me,

Driving me to school and letting me run free.

Then one day my Uppy got so sick and sad,

The ambulance came and they said it was real-
ly bad.

The nurses and doctors all gave up hope

They said that could not cope.

This made me sad, I cried every night,

But I prayed to my Jesus with all my might.

God heard our prayers and our cries,
He helped my Uppy to open up his eyes.

Now my Uppy is at home with me,
God filled my heart with lots of glee.

Maria Gajraj – Written in 2014



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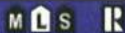


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GOD'S WORD AND ANATOMY



If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices. Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a member of it.

Instead, We will speak the truth in love. We will grow up in to Christ in every way. He is the head. He makes the whole body grow and build its self up in love. Under the control of Christ, each part of the body does its work. It supports the other parts. In that way, the body is joined and held together.

HEAD

But I would have you know, that the **Head** of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the **Head** of Christ is God.

HAIR

But the very **Hairs** of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

NOSE

Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his **Nostrils** the breath of life; and man became a living being.

EYES

Keep me as the apple of the **Eye**; Hide me in the shadow of Your wings

LIPS

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our **Lips**, giving thanks to his name.

MOUTH

Let the words of my **Mouth**, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

TEETH

Your **Teeth** are like a flock of shorn sheep which have come up from the washing, Every one of which bears twins, and none is barren among them.

TONGUE

A wholesome **Tongue** is a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

NECK

Hear your father's teaching, my son, and do not turn away from your mother's teaching, for they are a glory to your head and a chain of beauty around your **Neck**.

HANDS

Jesus took them up in his arms, put his **Hands** upon them, and blessed them.

SHOULDER

Surely I would take it upon my **Shoulder**, and bind it as a crown to me.

(Continued on page 143)

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(Continued from page 142)

FEET

Your word is a lamp to my **Feet** and a light to my path.

Reference bible versus:

1 Corinthians 12:26,27

Ephesians 4:15,16

1 Corinthians 11:3

Luke 12:7

Genesis 2:7

Psalms 17:8

Hebrews 13:15

Psalms 19:14

Song of Solomon 4:2

Proverbs 15:4

Proverbs 1:8,9

Mark 10:16

Job 31:36

Psalms 119:105

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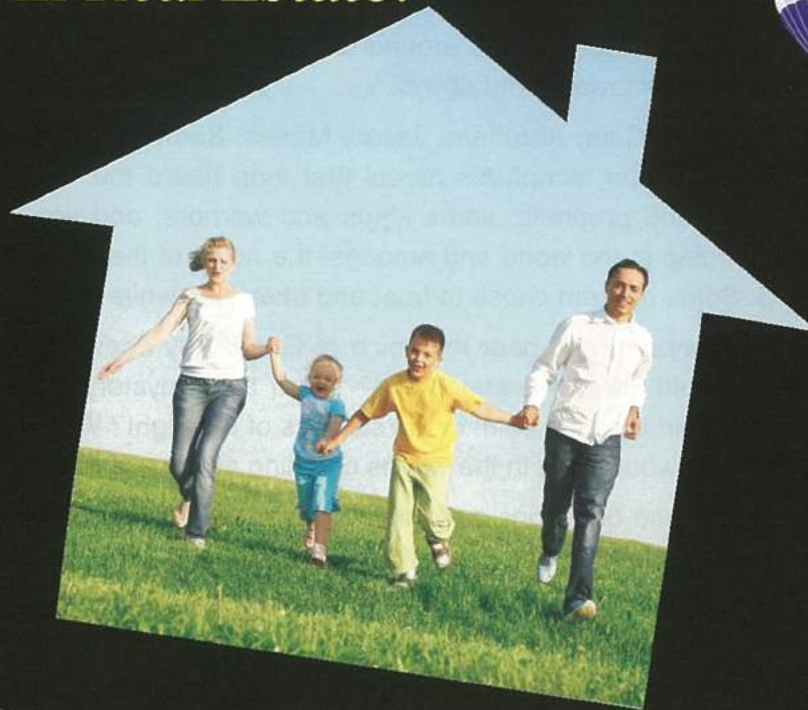


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The Voice of God



The voice of God thundered at a time when man had not yet been created. When God said, "Let there be light", no man was around to hear it. Yet nature sensed and still senses the voice of its creator and obeys.

Beginning with Adam & Eve, Cain, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Samuel and all the way to several generations later, scriptures reveal that men heard the voice of God. Some were priests and prophets, some kings and warriors, and some very ordinary men and women. But in spite of being in the world and amongst the noise of the world, they still heard the heavenly voice of the Lord. Some of them chose to trust and obey Him while others chose not to.

Ever wondered why it is important to hear the voice of God? Why does the scripture ask us to be still and know Him? What would His voice sound like? Will it be a mystery forever? Would it be like the voice of the thunder or would it be the calm in the stillness of the night? Would it be heard in the rustling of the leaves in the wind or would it be in the waves crashing at the ocean side?

I didn't get an answer to these questions over night. I constantly pondered and meditated over several scriptures on how I could recognise the voice of God and why it is so important to hear and recognise His voice. I believe if the great and mighty men of God heard His voice and obeyed it, how much more I? In addition to being obedient to His word and the scriptures, there is another key factor which I thought is worth mentioning.

John 10:2-6 says...

But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them. Christ clearly sets an example of sheep hearing the voice of its shepherd. A lowly animal like the sheep hears its name being called and recognises its Master and trusts Him enough to follow Him. Whether its destiny is to the green pastures, the shearing shed or the slaughter home, they quietly follow Him in faith without doubting or questioning. Our life on the earth can be full of trials and tribulations which makes it necessary for us to be faithful to our Master till the very end.

On that glorious day, when the trumpets shall sound and when Christ returns to take us home, to the place He promised, where He has prepared several rooms. On that victorious day, He will call us by our name. What a shame if we won't be able to recognise His voice and the name He calls us by. On hearing that voice we must be able to shrug off our earthly bodies so that our souls would ascend to spend eternity with Him.

Just like any other relationship, the depth of our relationship with the Father will determine our recognition of His voice in our life. The more time you spend with Him, the more you hear His voice and you begin to realise who He is in your life. But sadly the converse is also true, as we detach ourselves from Him, His voice becomes distant and withdrawn with each passing day until one day we neither hear it nor recognise it at all.

Let us not then display ignorance, because ignorance has a price to pay. And it may prove costly, as costly as our souls for which Christ shed his blood and died. For the scriptures say what profit is it if a man gains the whole world but loses his soul?

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Shall we then take time to be holy, to spend time in His presence, hear His voice and recognise it at the final trumpet call!

1Thess 4:16-17

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

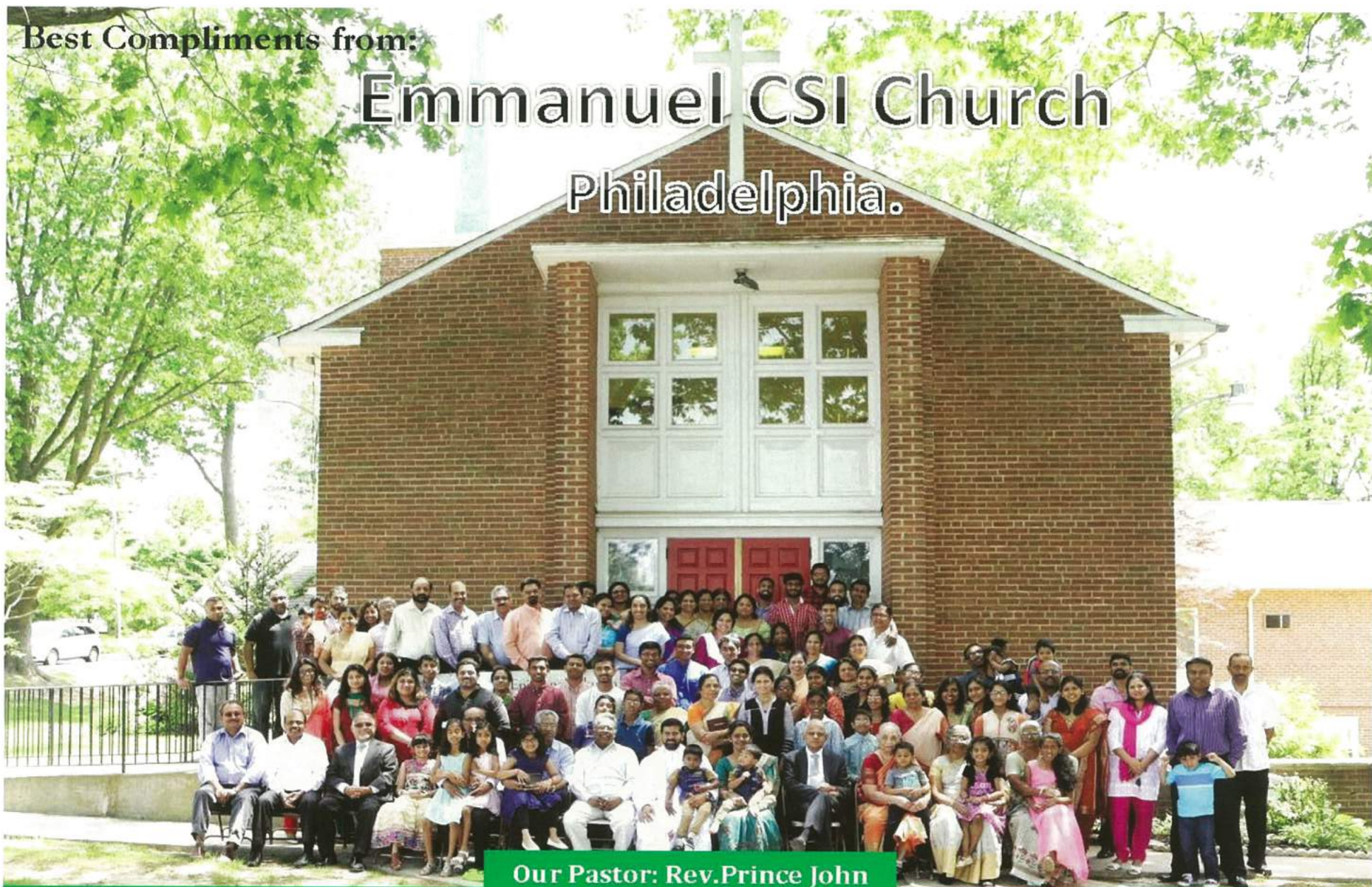
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mine believes that he would get the best parking spot even in the worst parking lots where normally one has to wait for a long time. But he claims that any time he approaches a parking lot, a spot would miraculously appear before him. I tried that a few times myself and sometimes, you get scared by the result. You can try that yourself but you should not be a wee bit doubtful.

A sports celebrity once said that that the words from the bible gave him extra energy at a time when he was so tired and almost defeated. Then he said these words aloud in faith. "But those who wait on the LORD, Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31). He renewed his vigor and confidence immediately and won the game. The secret lies in the fact that when you say these words, you need to blindly believe it and then it becomes a reality soon.

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. (Mark 11:24). Visualize that you received something and its yours. Visualization has a key role in the manifestation of things. Bible says " Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (Philippians 4:8). When you think of something, we often visualize it. So visualize positive things of beauty, of purity and of lovely nature so that you get those things of beauty and purity. In the words of the great philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson: Man is what he thinks all day long. It is quite true.

When you believe, believe only in positive results. Fear is a big enemy to all positive results. If you fear something strongly, it may happen to you and therefore, believe strongly in God and good endings. "For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me. (Job 3:25). A classic example can be seen in our common life. It happens to students who fear a lot about examinations. Though they are well prepared, just because they are scared of exams, they forget everything at the time of exam but soon afterwards regains everything in memory.

There are people who believe that bible teachings are only good for the spiritual life. They think that when you need healings, or when you need financial help, or when you need help with anything related to our day to day life, you cannot expect any help from God. Probably they might not have read the story of Jabez. "Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request. These people again prove that the Bible is right because bible says "According to your faith be it unto you."(Mathew 9:29). If you believe that, then that is what you going to get. If you believe God will provide you, then, you will receive it for sure. So believe in yourself, believe in God and believe in all good things, and then your life will be changed for the best.

Sajan Itty

Wisdom from Women

Ruth's Defining Moment

The story of Ruth begins with a famine in Israel. An Israelite named Elimelech and his wife Naomi decided to journey with their two sons to the country of Moab, where living there was better and food was plentiful. The two sons married Moabite women. Then tragically, first the husband and then Naomi's sons died. She was left with only her daughter-in-laws, both Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth.

The two women loved Naomi dearly. When Naomi told them she was returning to Israel, they both wanted to follow her. Naomi discouraged them, explaining their prospects of remarriage would be bleak in Israel. The choice to return to their Moabite family, gods, and culture was the defining moment for Orpah and Ruth. Orpah decided to return home, but Ruth decided to accompany Naomi to Israel, a foreign land to her. This was to become her defining moment. Before Ruth made her life changing decision, she must have witnessed a depth of faith in Naomi's God and a strength that was missing from her own life and the lives around her. She possibly also was looking for it.

Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you: for where you go I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge, your people shall be my people and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die and there I will be buried. Thus may the Lord do to me and worse if anything but death parts you and me". (Ruth 1: 16-17)

These are the two most famous and beautiful verses in all of the Scripture. This statement of Ruth contains an amazing confession of love and faith. Israel was not Ruth's country. It was not as fertile and productive as Moab, and had no security and family except for an aging widow and her relatives with very little love expected from Israelites.

Did she make a bad choice? When we live in the world of materialism, where money, popularity and power are the power of the reigning gods, how does it compare with what we see in a sacrificial life lived for God?

Ruth understood that she was faced with the question Jesus would later ask, "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mark 8:36-37)

Some of the most admirable people are those who lived simpler life styles. The God of Naomi was a personal God who desired a personal relationship with Ruth. His will, character and purposes had been revealed and they were holy and righteous. He was the only God of Hebrews and even for Moabites. Ruth chose this Hebrew woman and her God, in spite of Naomi being poor. Ruth saw an unshakeable faith in Naomi and in her God.

The Bible is full of defining moments both good and bad. Real people in real life situations just like us. From their examples, we can learn how to prepare for our own defining moments.

Are you nearing a fork in the road, a point where you will be forced make a no-turning back decision? Here are 4 lessons to help you prepare for it:

- **Be Sure to look beneath the superficial. All that glitters is not gold**
- **Be willing to trade creature comforts for a higher purpose.**
- **Choose the right role models in life to mirror in your own.**

(Continued on page 158)

Of Pain and Healing

A split second pass out
Or loss of memory
Unexpected fall.
Consciousness regained,
Lying on snow
Seeing in horror
Foot turned sideways
Feeling a ton of weight
Broken leg indeed.

The hour of truth,
A sudden wave of pain,
Intolerable like a
Metal of flame.

Breaking the heart
Screaming in pain,
Calling names
God help Me!
Some one, anyone,
please Help!

Heard only by the one
My better half herself,
That moment she became
My saving ANGEL.

Ride on ambulance,
Stay in a Hospital,
The Surgery, the rehab
A whole lot of things.

The road to recovery,
The experience of pain
In Human life,
PAIN of rejection
PAIN of suffering
PAIN of death Pain,
Pain everywhere,
Not a soul to Heal!

The lesson I learned -
From the valley of

The Shadow of Death,
The one who suffered
And bled to death
Without a broken bone,
Will heal and resurrect us,
To salvation, by a touch
Of his nailed HANDS.



*Dr. Titus George,
Church Of St: Paul's &
Resurrection,*

(Continued from page 157)

•Choose wisely in learning which bridge to cross or burn.

God bless you and give you wisdom and knowledge to make the defining moment in your lives without turning back.

“Where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God my God”. Ruth 1:16

Saramma Jacob
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The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation: Justification by Faith

Martin Luther, who began the Protestant Reformation in 1517, once said “Justification is the article upon which the Church stands or falls.” As heirs to the Reformation—in its Anglican, Presbyterian, Congregationalist, and Wesleyan streams—the second-generation of the Church of South India in America must understand what Luther meant, and how it can fuel the ecumenism and mission of the C.S.I. in 21st century America.

“Justification” is an idea rooted in the Old Testament: It is God’s declaration that someone is in right relationship with Him. In the Old Testament, God chose the nation of Israel to be his vessels of salvation for the world, and gave them the Law so that they would remain “justified,” or righteous in His sight.

By the 1st century AD, the Jews were the faithful remnant of Israel who believed that deliverance for the world would come through them. The Law continued to be obeyed, as the means by which the Jewish people demarcated who was inside God’s family, to be used for His holy purposes, and who was outside His family.

However, the New Testament church proclaimed that Jesus Christ is the Jewish Messiah who unexpectedly fulfilled all of God’s promises and established God’s Kingdom by dying and rising again. The Gospel is the apostolic announcement that the crucified and risen Jesus Christ is king of the world, and that all who turn to Him will be delivered from destruction.

Accordingly, anyone who submits to Jesus’ Lordship—regardless of caste, color, or ethnic tribe—will be joined to Him and inherit His rule, glory, and mission. This would fulfill the words of Isaiah 56:6-7, “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” This raises a question though: What does this mean for Israel and the Law?

In Galatians 3:18, Paul answers this question by referring to Abraham as someone who was declared righteous by faith, because he trusted in God’s promise that all nations would be blessed through him and his offspring. Paul is careful to say this was God’s purpose all along: To have a people who related to Him on the basis of faith and trust, not by keeping the Law.

So why have the Law at all? Paul in Galatians 3:19-29 very tightly packs the following argument—

The promise to Abraham came long before the Law was given to Israel at Sinai.

God always intended the Law to play a role as a temporary guardian.

As such, the Law had both a negative and positive role.

The negative role was to highlight and magnify Israel’s sin, showing that even a holy people set apart for God would fail to serve His purposes without new hearts.

This does not make the Law evil—the Law is good!—but it had the effect of clearly showing that Israel was guilty and worthy of condemnation, just like every other people.

The positive role of the Law was to be a moral tutor which, despite Israel’s sin, kept together a faithful remnant until it could be whittled down to Abraham’s Seed, Jesus Christ.

Jesus fulfilled the Law in His life, work, and person. He was the faithful Israelite who truly loved God and neighbor.

Jesus died to take the curse of Israel’s failure on to Himself, and He is free from the hold of sin, death, and the devil.

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Anyone who holds on to the faithfulness of Jesus has “clothed themselves with Christ.”

Because we are now found in Jesus, we become heirs to the promise of Abraham—the multi-ethnic people of God through whom God is repairing the world.

Paul wrote the letter to the Galatians because certain Jewish Christians were teaching that new ethnic groups that converted to Christianity must follow the Law, including male circumcision. To Paul, this would contradict the Gospel—it would make it seem like Jesus didn’t fulfill God’s promise or deal with our sins. In turn, this would constrain the new freedom given to us in Jesus’ Spirit, and would limit the inheritance of God’s promise to one ethnicity.

This is why Paul was so angry at Peter’s hypocrisy in Antioch in Galatians 2:

But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood self-condemned; for until certain people came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But after they came, he drew back and kept himself separate for fear of the circumcision faction. And the other Jews joined him in this hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not acting consistently with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?”

“We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

“But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews find ourselves also among the sinners, doesn’t that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a lawbreaker.

“For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

Paul is convinced that no one can be declared righteous by keeping the Law; the story of Israel itself shows that. Instead, the only way to be declared righteous is on the basis of the work and person of Jesus.

As he says, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.” In Romans 6:3-4 he says much the same thing, “Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized in his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism in to death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

At the heart of Paul’s Gospel is this idea: That when people trust in Jesus, what is true of Him becomes true of them. His death becomes their death, and His resurrection and new life becomes their resurrection and new life. Paul is clear that we belong to Jesus’ New Covenant family, not because we keep the Law, but because Christ has died and risen for us, and because we have been united to Him.

This has huge implications for 1) who can be included in God’s family, and 2) what it means to live as God’s family.

First, an understanding of justification by faith should humble us and open our hearts to friends and neighbors from different backgrounds. Our cosmic worth is not based on our bank accounts, credit

scores, Facebook likes, school grades, or career success. It is based solely on the faithfulness of the Messiah, who loved us and gave Himself for us. In Christ, we are already loved, and we inherit a beautiful weight of glory.

Because our justification is based on Christ's work, not on ourselves, we have no cause to look down upon anyone else. Whether they are male or female; whether they are Pentecostal, Baptist, Orthodox, or Catholic; whether they are Black, White, East Asian, South Asian, or Latino; whether they are rich or poor; whether they are wise or fools; no matter what sins anyone is struggling with—there is nothing within us, of our own power, that makes us superior. We have been justified by Christ's faithfulness, and so we can reach out in freedom to love our neighbors with a truly ecumenical spirit. This is at the heart of the C.S.I. story.

Second, we must understand that understanding justification by faith means that we are also given Christ' Spirit. Christ gave Himself up for us out of love for us. What does it mean to have His Spirit? It means that we must give ourselves up out of love for our neighbors.

Paul points in this direction in Galatians 5:13-14, when he writes:

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

The Law is good—the command to love God with our entire being, and to love our neighbor as ourselves, is good. But the Law did not give in itself the power to obey the Law. Our flesh desires our own security, advancement, and status, and these desires are in conflict with the Law.

The Good News is not only that Jesus fulfilled the Law on our behalf, but that He lives in us through the Spirit. This forms us into a new kind of human being—one able to properly image God in the world again. And this God is a God who pours out His Love, at sacrificial cost and pain to himself. This must be our mission in North America, as heirs of the Reformation.

Bryan T. Mathew

St. Thomas CSI Church, Houston



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Examine your ways



In today's fast paced life, do we ever have time to examine ourselves?

We just do not seem to have enough time even to complete the tasks we assign ourselves. We take on too many activities. Surely, technology has helped us to multi task and do much more than what we were able to 50- 60 years back. . We all race from one activity to the other, many times trying to fill in the gaps between one activity and the other as though that gap seems abnormal. Social media and screens are always at our beck and call to fill every empty minute that can be gleaned in between. But at what cost? We know there is an increase in the prevalence of addiction, depression and anxiety attacks. So also an increase in heart attacks, cancer and diabetes. A lot of this comes from a lack of perspective about what is most important in life.

Have we lost the ability to be still and quiet?

The Bible clearly says 'Be still and know that I am God'...Psalm 46:10

By being still, we are forced to reflect on the meaning of our actions and reflect rather than react. If practiced and repeated regularly, it allows us to be aware of our God and also be self aware.

Self awareness is a conscious understanding of ourselves and knowing why we say and do certain things. It is being able to understand from where our attitudes and beliefs, our passions and prejudices come from.

Examine your contribution to your family members whether productive or unproductive. Look at your interactions and reactions, what feeling do you have, what thoughts and what behaviors?

What about the relationships at work, colleagues and bosses, what impact do your actions have on others? How do they see you?

Are you able to show Christ and His love through your life, your actions, or your reactions.

What are your motives? Is it self centered or do you care for the other person and are you willing to enter into the other person's world and feel their joy or pain?

What is your contribution to society and your community? Are you willing to get your hands dirty to rescue another or do you keep away from the mess and dirt so as not to soil your clothes in so doing.

Sometimes asking these questions are daunting because we don't like discovering ourselves and our flaws. And we may be afraid of acknowledging even to ourselves what our weaknesses and sins are. None of us want to feel worse about ourselves than we have to. Guilt is a very uncomfortable emotion. This brings us to the next and critically related matter – our self worth.

What do we base our self worth on? Are we measuring ourselves with the standards of this world? Are we covering up who we really are under the façade of the glamour and glitter of a materialistic world?

The good news is that we aren't on this journey of self discovery alone.

The psalmist says ' Search me O God and know my heart, try me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me and lead me into life everlasting'...Psalm 139:23,24.

Yes, know yourself and be true to yourself. Let the Master know your weaknesses, take your weaknesses to HIM and He will heal you and build you. A Christian's self worth comes from the knowledge that he /she is loved by the King of the Universe. So it doesn't matter what a neighbor, co-worker or the world thinks.

Sometimes we may have to go deeper into our childhood to understand these biases to analyze our reactions and behaviors to certain situations. When we examine ourselves objectively and honestly, we

(Continued on page 165)



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(Continued from page 164)

will be able to see our hidden selves. In so doing, with God's love and healing we are able to correct and change our negative reactions to bring about a positive outcome. A change cannot come about until and unless we see a need for change, a change to promote growth and progress. This positive behavior and change in attitude has a ripple effect. It is like a sweet fragrance that touches everyone around it-bringing a pleasant feeling to all who are around this sweet smell.

We as Christians should be like this sweet smelling rose that brings about a change in the society we are living in. We can bring about a change by first changing ourselves which can only be a result of deep meditation and self awareness. Give yourself time to reflect on your life and relationship to the King of the Universe.

Ask God to show you the areas of change that need to be brought about. While this may seem less pressing or urgent compared to your next task or activity, it is an everlasting investment with rich rewards.

Let us therefore put away all pride and pretences and come before the cross in total abandonment and feel HIS presence.

Think of what is keeping you away from having an intimate relationship with Jesus. Is it our attitudes or hidden secrets?

Pour it out and JESUS will receive you just as you are.

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Oh My Jesus Christ

Oh my Jesus Christ, listen to my prayers
Cause I need you now, all through my life
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You are the true love of my life
Help me to keep my faith, in the testing time of life
Be with you always, with every passing day
You are the way. You are the light
You are the true love of my life
Give me wisdom oh lord, to know the essence of life
Be grateful for the things, which you gave in my life
You are the way. You are the light
You are the guide of my life.

Joseph P. Mathews

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The Church Of South India (CSI) A Mission Church: In The Context Of North American Life And Life Style

The Church of South India (CSI) is the second largest church in India and is considered successor to the Anglican Church. Formed in India in September 27, 1947, there are several institutions and organizations being run under the able management of the CSI Church. All through the breadth and length of India we see schools, colleges, hospitals, training institutes, seminaries etc. run by the church and many of us are blessed to be recipients of the education and goodness imparted by these institutions. In addition to this, missions and evangelism is a major responsibility undertaken by the church.



When the light of the gospel shines in dark places, there is worship of the true God in spirit and truth. Several positive changes occur over a period of time. Lives are saved, churches are formed, schools come along, education systems bring order and discipline, the awareness of good versus evil and right versus wrong start tingling the sub conscience of man. Service minded people arise, they set up clinics, hospitals and other institutions for the benefit of the masses and gradually light fills the dark places and the area becomes illuminated with the truth of the gospel. This is what the missionaries did for several parts of Kerala and India as a whole. We shouldn't forget the benefits that we enjoy as a result of their suffering, dedication and struggles several decades ago, when technology was not developed, roads and vehicles were far and few, medical facilities were next to none. India cannot forget the missionaries that proved to be the backbone in building large and reputed institutions and paved the way to bring forth great minds, educated leaders and politicians, teachers, doctors, lawyers, nurses, engineers or simply great men and women.

Fortunately, or unfortunately life brought about diverse opportunities and many of us decided to move out of our home countries and explore the expansiveness of the globe and this brought many of us to North America – the great west! Soaring towers, large and comfortable homes, clean surroundings, spans of lush green fields and ravines, clean air and water, broad & well interconnected roadways, efficient transport networks, safe places, great healthcare systems, sophisticated and automated systems in all walks of life, convenience and comfort at our finger tips.

In the midst of it all, have we forgotten our role as part of the church? Missions plays a large and integral part in the life of every CSI member. We read and hear of the endless suffering of Christians and missionaries in India and other parts of the world. What is our responsibility when it comes to missions and mission work? Can we decide to spend part of a vacation at a mission field in India? To participate in the day to day activities, to walk together, to pray together and to pool in resources and have an awareness of the needs of those around us? Shall we learn to give our time, talents and treasures liberally for the work of the missions?

The CSI Church has undertaken several mission fields and supports missionaries all over India. There is no need to look elsewhere. You can support them through your church/ diocese and these donations are tax deductible. Supporting a missionary in backward areas in India per month will not cost more than a meal we have as a family in a restaurant. What is the condition of poorer churches (Upasabhas) in India? Most of them are in a pathetic situation. We can support the construction and renovation of these churches, schools etc. Every CSI Church in North America should prayerfully form a Missions Committee so they can collect the funds and channel the resources responsibly. North American CSI Churches should teach & preach to the members regarding the importance and promotion of Mission Work.

Finally let us not forget that we are responsible members of the church and my prayer is that we stand united in mission work to empower, encourage, facilitate, develop and support people and resources for our Lord's great commission to go forth into the world and preach the gospel to all the earth.

Zac Santhosh Koshy
Puthuchira Medayil, Toronto

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the people of India for His redemptive work and to demonstrate accessibility to the Kingdom of God. The gigantic task of the church demands corporate action with regard to the needy situations of India, especially in alleviating the moral, physical and political decay of the Indian society. William Carey, 'the Father of modern missions' and 'the author of the second Reformation,' maintained that the blind and superstitious beliefs, polygamy, child marriage, the burning of widows, the exposure of the sick and the old to cruel conditions, the burning of lepers, and the throwing of children to the holy rivers to please gods and goddesses were to be rectified by the antidote of the gospel. Missiologists like J. Verkuyl hold the view that Carey was the cornerstone of modern missiology;⁶ the Serampore mission is a model for the entire world for His redemptive work on this planet. The recapture of Carey's vision has to be maintained for the triumph of the gospel of Christ in India. The church's task in the Indian sub-continent is a herculean one because of the intense and complex problems confronted by contemporary Indian society. The pluralistic situation of India demands the active presence of the church in every sphere of its realm in the Indian sub-continent. The dual approach of the church is significant because both salvation and humanization are interrelated in the redemptive work of God in the Indian situation.

The C.S.I. is an emblem of the Suffering Servant -- Messiah

The church in independent India carries the mantle of the crucified Christ as a reconciling tool between God and fallen man in the Indian situation. The suffering Servant of God – Messiah, volunteered Himself for the deliverance of fallen humanity; similarly, the C.S.I. has to be God's suffering arm in the multi-ethnic and multi-religious milieu of the Indian situation. The suffering mission of the church can bring investment in the Kingdom of God; the suffering church can bring rejuvenation and hope for the Indian society. The church's suffering is a compensation paid for the fallen world; the suffering of the church can bring hope and victory. The cross of Christ still inspires the faithful; there is no crown without the cross. The church is still the hope for the needy world – the down-trodden, the weak, socially depressed, the marginalised, the tribals and so on. In any situation, the dignity of an individual is very important; the C.S.I. should monitor its missionary strategy in this regard. The C.S.I. should explore new avenues to the slum dwellers, homeless, tribals, unemployed, Adivasis, Harijans, orphans and to people at the verge of devastation and misery and marginal situation; the church has to become the voice of the voiceless. The C.S.I. look for new 'Mother Therasas' to search for the unwanted and the destitute, even in the midst of so many forms of social evils.

The exodus of the people from rural to urban areas reminds us the oversight and responsibilities of the church in the new situations. Since the mobility of population is unpredictable, the Dioceses should encourage and find provision for worshipping places for the linguistic groups or other itinerant groups within the boundary of the Diocese; an atmosphere of mutual understanding should be explored. The population explosion in India has vital needs in cities and towns and the C.S.I. can explore new avenues to serve India with its needy situations in an admirable way. As we have seen earlier, the population explosion in India gives rise to the many grave concerns that the nation cannot support or nurture its alarming population explosion. The eradication of illiteracy, primary health concerns, nutritional problems, tribal and caste problems should be addressed and efforts should be made to alleviate the sufferings of human beings. Christian institutions can still play an exemplary role as models in the secular world to serve God and the nation in a broad perspective. Monoethnic and/or monolingual situations have been changed in the cities of India and this reality is very significant in south India.

The C.S.I. the light and the salt of the world

Jesus Christ in His earthly ministry coined these two metaphors to signify the role of His disciples or lis-

teners; at present the C.S.I. has the same parallelism in executing its role to the wider world around it. In the annals of history the church's presence has brought light and hope to the dark situations of the world around it since Jesus said, "I am the light of the world" (St. Jn.

8:12). The Church is a mirror which reflects the light of Jesus to the darkened areas of this planet; that light has to be continuously reflected. Similarly, pointing to the disciples Jesus said,

'You are the salt of the world' (Matt.5:13). This metaphor tells the preserving quality of the principles of the Christian faith; again, because of the leavening phenomenon of the salt it is keeping things from impurity and decay. The destructive effect of the materialistic world cannot spoil the whole matter. A little leaven leavens the whole lump (Gal.5:9); this can be compared with the work of the Christian community around it. Christian education should be popularized at all levels of the C.S.I. since the Bible is the primary guide for anybody's spiritual growth; the knowledge of the Bible should be popularized in the total life of the C.S.I.

The C.S.I. as the watchman for South India

The C.S.I. has been endowed with immense power to serve the people of India; it is a called-out community to serve the multiethnic milieu of South India – it should sense the pulse of Indian society and should carry on its mission strategies for the advancement of the gospel. Vast mission fields, innumerable institutions as vehicles permeate the gospel, unlimited openings for service, western missionary links, trained manpower are coincided with the mission of the C.S.I. in the long run. The C.S.I. should reach the unreached spots of South India which is her God-given treasure to gear its missionary outreach to evolve its missionary strategy for the future. The C.S.I. can generate immense power to serve the people of India. The transfer of power to the nationals since its inauguration also reminds the responsibilities of the members of the church. The C.S.I. is the watchman (cf. Gen.4:9; Ezek. 3:17ff, 33:7ff) for South India; the institutions of the C.S.I. are an arm of God to the wider world in which it has been called to serve. The relevance of the church's presence is more unavoidable in all realms of the Indian society than in any other situation because it always tries to answer the question, "Where is your brother?" The demand for Christian missions and services is more crucial in the present time than any other decade when India is concerned with its complex problems. The presence of the mission of Jesus ignites and radiates others; so the relevance of the gospel brings hope and harmony to the areas where sporadic or volatile situations exist.

The mission of the C.S.I. in the new millennium

The church has to face the new millennium with a new message of Christ to face its challenges. Since the church mirrors the divine plan of God, it cannot be idle in the Indian society when political and social changes are taking place at a rapid rate. According to statistics, one fifth of the global population is in India, (again nearly eighty percent of the world's population is in South East Asia); this recalls the spiritual, material or physical needs of the Indian society. The church in India should have its koinonia (fellowship) to fulfill its diakonia (service) when it is commissioned to execute its high calling when the church is the servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. Mr. A. B. Vajpai, the former Prime Minister of India, announced that 2000 A.D. is the year of the Lord Jesus Christ. What are the contributions and the new resolutions of the Christian community to serve the people of India? Let the C.S.I. look to Jesus, listen to His voice, do His will as we have surpassed the 69 years and confront the new millennium to fulfill the meaning of true discipleship and to fulfill the slogan 'the church as the servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.'

St. Thomas, one of the disciples of Jesus Christ, volunteered himself to take the good news to that Hin-

du country; this reflects obedience and commitment. History reveals that St. Thomas Christians were not a missionary or propagating community; they had not shown any genuine interest to demonstrate the mystery of the gospel in the previous centuries. The entry of western missionary societies to the Indian soil was not because of the compulsion from India; their advent to the Indian subcontinent is a symbol of sacrifice and thus to impart the love of Jesus to others. The C.S.I. is a pilgrim church⁷ where the pilgrimage is not yet complete. The unity within the C.S.I. should be explored further. Mark Gibbard, a member of the Order of St. John the Evangelist, England, stated in the mid-sixties, 'Unity Is Not Enough.' The chronology of the C.S.I. has turned seven decades since its inauguration; mobilizing of all the Diocese and all of its departments, the C.S.I. should prove its dynamism to the land and to the people which is called to serve because it is an obligation with regard to India. Let the C.S.I. continue this commitment and obedience. At present that paradigm is still recalling our Christian responsibilities to India. The C.S.I. has been commissioned to serve the people of this vast mission field; the existence of the C.S.I. has been to acknowledge and to impart His eternal purpose to the people of India. The Church in India cannot be a bystander but it should be a participant to reflect God's agape (unconditional love) in the new millennium. The Christian church should evolve its own timetable in the new millennium.

Endnotes

- 1 *Out of the seven volumes of the Christian Church, K. S. Latourette has devoted three volumes to the 19th century and he calls it "The Great Century."*
- 2 *V. S. Azariah was the first bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Dornakal; Bishop Azariah was consecrated at St. Paul's Cathedral, Calcutta on December 31st 1912 when R. S. Copleston was the Metropolitan of India, stationed at Calcutta.*
- 3 *This view has been held by several scholars in the West.*
- 4 *Stephen Neill, a former bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Tirunelveli, coined this term.*
- 5 *The international gatherings of the Anglican bishops convened by the Archbishop of Canterbury every ten years. It was originally called by Archbishop Longley in 1867. The Lambeth Conference of 1998 was presided by Archbishop George Carey who invited several C.S.I. Bishops, including Bishop Sam Mathew of the Madhya Kerala Diocese.*
- 6 *Verkuyl, J. Contemporary Missions: An Introduction, (Grand Rapids, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1978), p.179.*
- 7 *Prof. Marcus Ward, a former Professor of U. T. College, Bangalore coined this term; he has produced a book entitled, The Pilgrim Church.*

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