

CSI Church, Toronto

Silver Jubilee Souvenir



*The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy."*

Psalm 126:3



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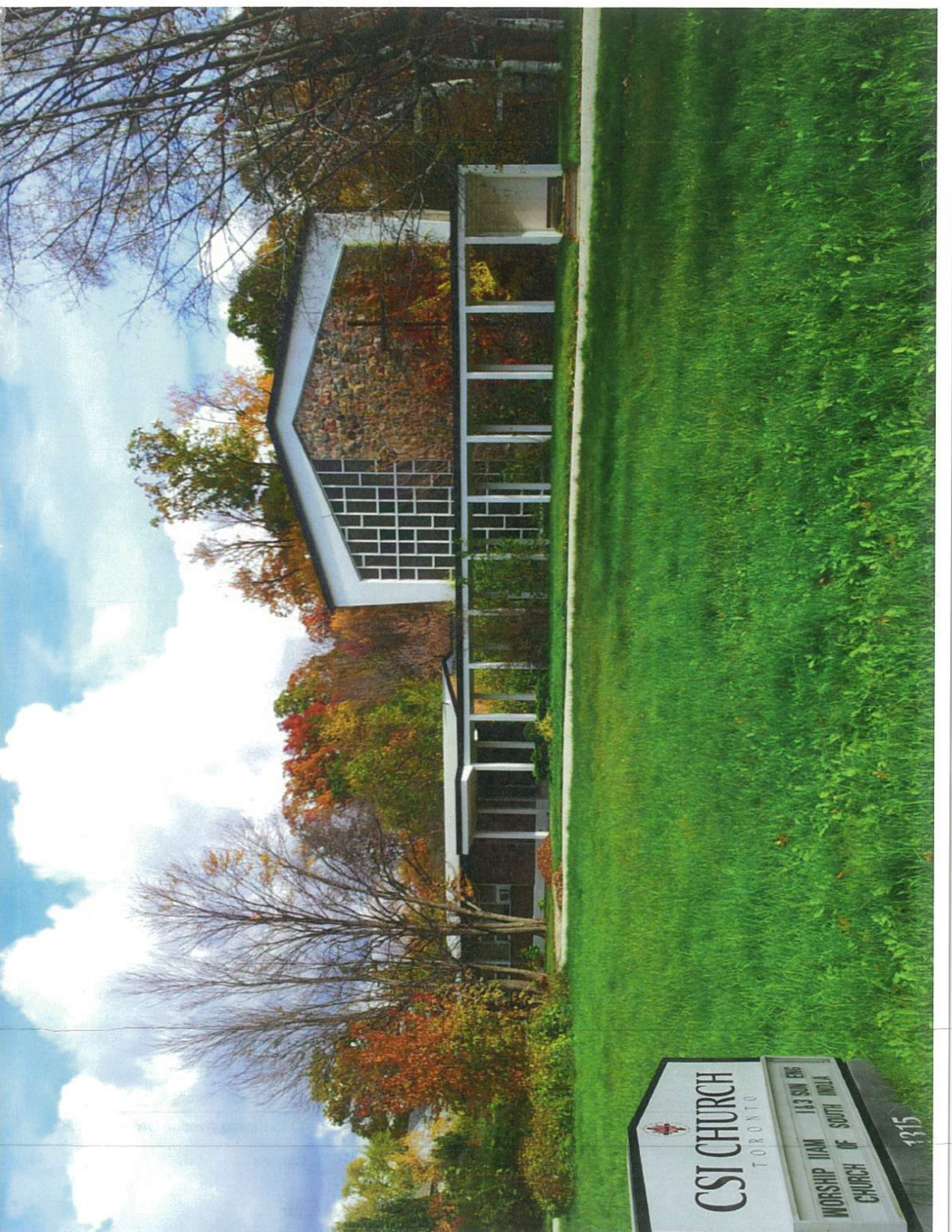
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CSI Church, Toronto,

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Jophy Jacob Philip

Canada

From the desk of the General Convener



The Church of South India is the second largest Protestant Church in India and the first ecumenical church in the world. It is a united church – a union of the Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian and the Congregational churches. The founding fathers of the church did not intend this to be another denomination, but rather a movement to unite all Christians in India.

At present, the Church of South India has 15 thousand congregations and 22 dioceses in South India and Jaffna (Sri Lanka). Each diocese is under the spiritual guidance and administration of a Bishop. The Moderator who is the head of the Synod (Governing body) is elected from the Bishops for a term of two years.

The first worship service of CSI Church, Toronto was held on May 11, 1986 at the Wycliffe College Chapel, Toronto conducted by Reverend Thomas Ninan, a priest of the Madhya Kerala diocese, Kerala, India. Immigrants in Canada who hail from South India, particularly from Kerala, strongly felt the need of a worship place with people that shared linguistic and cultural heritage.

CSI Church, Toronto has grown to be a congregation that has been involved in outreach programs and has developed vibrant children, youth, men, women, language, prayer and music ministries, in addition to its regular Sunday Holy Communion services alternately in Malayalam and English.

Since its humble beginning in 1986, God has blessed the church abundantly. The current place of worship was a great blessing endowed to the church during the silver jubilee year, with a beautiful sanctuary, centrally located with a spacious parish house and parking facility. It is the hope that God will continue to bless and lead the church with His Holy Spirit.

The Silver Jubilee Committee was formed on January 03, 2010 with Reverend Raju Jacob as the President, Daniel Thomas as the General Convener, and 9 sub-committee conveners to plan and lead the 71 member Silver Jubilee Committee.

The first committee meeting was held at St. David's Anglican Church on January 16, 2010 at 2:30pm. The meeting opened with a prayer by Reverend Raju Jacob, followed by a dedication of the committee members. The motto of the silver jubilee "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy" Psalm 126:3 was chosen and celebratory events, the souvenir, the history book and 25 community projects were identified as tasks to be completed over the following 12 to 18 months in honour of the church's milestone.

The festivities began with the Silver Jubilee Inaugural Celebration. The ceremony was held at St. Wilfrid's Anglican Church on May 15, 2010. The thanksgiving service was led by Right Reverend Thomas Samuel (Bishop - Diocese of Madhya Kerala, Church of South India), Right Reverend M. Philip Poole (Suffragan Bishop - Diocese of Toronto, Anglican Church of Canada), and Reverend Raju Jacob (Vicar - CSI Church, Toronto). The service was inaugurated by "Lighting the Lamp", an ancient Kerala tradition. The lamp was lit by the bishops and the invited guests, Very Reverend Lazarus Ramban OIC Cor Episcopa (Vicar - St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Mississauga), Reverend Thomas Ninan (Founder - CSI Church, Toronto),

Reverend George M. John (First Vicar - CSI Church, Toronto), Reverend A. Abraham (Vicar - The Canadian Mar Thoma Church, Markham), Reverend K. P. Cherian (Vicar - St. Mary's Syrian Orthodox Church, Toronto), Reverend James Cherickel (Vicar - St. Thomas the Apostle Mission, Toronto), Reverend Andrew P. Federle (Vicar - St. David's Anglican Church, North York), Reverend Canon Jim Garland (Former Vicar - St. David's Anglican Church, North York), Reverend Dr. Thomas George (Vicar - St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Toronto and President - The Kerala Christian Ecumenical Fellowship, Toronto), Reverend Alex P. John, (Vicar - St. Mathew's Mar Thoma Church, Brampton), Reverend Ravi Kalison (Vicar - Anglican Church of Canada, Toronto), Reverend Prince Mookkanottil (Vicar - St. George Syriac Orthodox Church, Toronto), and Reverend K. G. Philipose (Visiting Vicar - St. Thomas Syrian Orthodox Church, Toronto).

The plans for the Silver Jubilee celebrations were unveiled by General Convener, after which the projects were launched by the Project Convener with the first donation presented to Faith Works, Anglican. The first memento was also released at this time by the Souvenir Convener.

The festivities continued on into the evening with "Yathra" (Journey), a musical play depicting the journey of Christianity and the CSI tradition from its origins in Jerusalem to Kerala and then to Toronto. Thanks to the program leaders for their leadership, and to all those who participated, the 106 person production was a memorable night!

Thanks to the mission team, the next event on the calendar was the showing of the movie titled "End of Spear" on May 23, 2010. The movie was an inspiring depiction of the mission work from other parts of the world.

"Destined to worship", a program led by the youth of the church followed. The program was held at First United Church on July 31, 2011 at 6:30pm. The evening consisted of youthful worship through a celebration of the arts. Performances were done by the CSI Youth, the CSI Youth Choir, and P.R.A.Y. (from St. Mathew's Marthoma Church). Funds raised from the event were given to Childcare Ministry, Madhya Kerala diocese, Kerala. Thanks to the program leaders and all the participants, the night was a success. The Silver Jubilee convention was held from September 10 to 12, 2010 at St. David's Anglican Church, Toronto. Renowned preacher and youngest son of Valia Kunjappy Upadeshi, Mr. George Koshy from Bangalore was the speaker for the convention. His God given messages were a great blessing for the church and the community. Many spoke on how they were refreshed and spiritually uplifted after the three day convention. A silver Jubilee convention song book was created and printed by the prayer team in honour of this event.

House to house caroling brought an early start to the Christmas season. The church visited almost 100 families, collected approximately \$11,000 and rode a school bus to carol "out of town". Thanks to the coordinators, it was an unforgettable experience!

The celebrations continued with a Christmas Cantata entitled "City of Lights". It was attended by over 400 people at Don Bosco Secondary School on December 11, 2010. The musical play was based on Isaiah 9:2, "*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light*". Reverend Dr. Christopher Jacob Kurien (District Minister of the United Methodist Church, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference) said the opening prayer and The Venerable Peter DeCourcy Fenty (Archdeacon of York and Executive Assistant to the Bishop of Toronto) delivered the Christmas message. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of those who participated, the production was enjoyed by those who attended.

The long term initiative of the 25 projects in development, charity, education, health and mission has been a continuous process. A budget of \$140,000 was approved for the silver jubilee programs and pro-

jects. Thanks to all the sponsors and those who helped secure supporters. The church has currently received more than fifty percent of the aforementioned amount.

At this time, I would like to thank Archbishop Colin R. Johnson, Bishop Thomas Samuel, Bishop Thomas K Oommen, and Bishop M. Philip Poole for their continued support and guidance. A thank you to Rajuachen and Kochamma and Shajiachen and Kochamma for their prayer and support, the Prayer Convener: Dr. Nibu Varguise, Project Convener: Thomas Mathai, Program Convener: Abraham P George, Public Realitions Convener: Christy Abraham, Souvenir Conveners: Prashanth Koshy and Joy Chemmanoor, Finance Convener: Samuel A Samuel, Hospitality Convener: Chris Gajraj, Missions Convener: John Mathew and their respective committee members and the members of the CSI Church, Toronto. In addition, I like to extend a special "Thank You" to Priya Abraham for the cover page design, Joy Chemmanoor, Samuel A Samuel, Mariamma Thomas and Shawn Joseph for their commitment and dedication in getting the Souvenir and History book completed. I would also like to recognize all the sponsors for their valuable contributions.

The Silver Jubilee has been a success due to the efforts of many. The work in implementing projects, securing sponsors, developing souvenirs/mementos, arranging accommodation for guests, refreshments during functions, controlling traffic and parking, taking care of our guests, keeping accurate accounts, mounting productions, and organizing programs has demonstrated your dedication. Cheers! Let's all continue to work together as one team, as we look forward to our next milestone – The Golden Jubilee!

Blessings!

Daniel Thomas
General Convener



Silver Jubilee Convenors



Souvenir Committee



Church of South India

THE SYNOD SECRETARIAT

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15 June, 2012

To

Mr. Daniel Thomas
General Convener, Silver Jubilee Committee
C. S. I. Church, Toronto
15 Masters Green Crescent
Brampton, Ontario L7A 3K3.



Dear Mr. Daniel Thomas,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

It is gratifying to note that the C. S. I. Church, Toronto, is celebrating its Silver Jubilee on 30 June 2012. God has been faithful to the entire Church of South India and the worshipping community scattered across the world. In this context of globalization, our people move around the world seeking quality education and better life prospects. The Diaspora C. S. I. community, like the first century Church, is witnessing to the power of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. It's worth noting that in the situation of changing world context, our people are witnessing the Indian cultural spirituality. C. S. I. is the sign of union of not only denominations, but of the community and humanity. Jesus Christ came to free us and to unite us. To free us from all kinds of bondage and to unite us as a one saved community. I emphasize that the members of the Church of South India living in any part of the world will testify to this by their acts of worship, outreach and committed service to the vocation to which they are called.

As the C. S. I. Church, Toronto, is celebrating its silver jubilee, I call upon the members to rededicate for realizing a closer fellowship among the faithful and express the leavening effect in the community.

I wish God's blessings for the silver jubilee celebrations!

Yours sincerely

Moderator, C.S.I.
Bishop in Kanyakumari

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



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of the Diocese of Toronto
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June 2012

The Clergy and People of the CSI Church, Toronto

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

It is a pleasure to offer greetings as you conclude the celebrations for your Silver Jubilee. For twenty-five years, the Church of South India has had an important ministry and presence in Toronto and we give thanks to God for the witness that you have given.

How well I remember my visit to the Church of South India last year and the incredible warmth of our reception there! We were overwhelmed by the welcome and hospitality from all of the different churches. We were so impressed by the schools and the ministry that is happening in them, and also the richness of the engagement in improving the lives of those in the community, particularly the handicapped. These qualities that we experienced in India are alive and well in the CSI Church in Toronto also. We rejoice to have you here among us in the Diocese of Toronto.

May your celebrations reflect the joy of the indwelling Holy Spirit as you mark 25 years of a life of devotion, of faith and fellowship in witness to the love of God in Christ Jesus.

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.



CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA
Madhya Kerala Diocese



Rt. Rev. Thomas K. Oommen
Bishop

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Fax: 0091-481-256-6536
E-mail: csimkdbishopoffice@yahoo.com



Message

I am glad to learn that the CSI Church Toronto is celebrating the Silver Jubilee of its existence as a worshipping community this year. From its inception, this committed congregation has been giving generous support to the diocese to accomplish various projects, spiritual and social. It is only an appropriate act to publish a Souvenir to mark the auspicious occasion.

The Church is expected to live its life by serving the society and it is a matter of contentment that Toronto church has been a symbol of Christian witness and ministry over many years.

May the Almighty bless the fellowship more for an effective and fruitful ministry in the diaspora with renewed commitment in the days to come. God bless the endeavour.

Kottayam,
17.05.2012.


†**Rt. Rev. Thomas K. Oommen**
Bishop.





Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada



The Right Reverend M. Philip Poole
Area Bishop of York-Credit Valley

The Incorporated Synod
of the Diocese of Toronto

135 Adelaide Street East,
Toronto, ON M5C 1L8
Telephone: 416-363-6021
Toll-free: 1-800-668-8932
Fax: 416-363-3683

June 30, 2012

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA (CSI), TORONTO
1315 Kipling Ave.
Toronto, ON M9B 3N7
Canada

Dear CSI Toronto

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The College of Bishops of the Diocese of Toronto join the clergy and people of York-Credit Valley in congratulating you on the successful conclusion of your silver jubilee.

It hardly seems possible that only a year ago I attended the launch of your 25th anniversary year with the extraordinary music and superb retelling of your history. I have often spoken of the play which traced the spread of the Good News of Jesus Christ by Thomas in India to the chapel of Wycliffe College and now to your Kipling location.

Anniversaries are excellent times for parishes to reflect on the past and to honour the men and women on whose shoulders you now stand. I hope that you have had a chance to recall and thank those who have given you this great legacy.

Now, as you draw to a close this chapter in the book of CSI Toronto's live, you turn the page on the next chapter and it is blank.

In twenty years from now, what will those pages say? Will they speak of a church which was bold in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ? Will we read of a group of Christians who reached out to the unemployed, the lonely, the lost and the least of society and made a difference in their lives in Jesus Name? Will those pages reflect a church which was welcoming, with God engaging worship, a deepening spirituality and a passionate disciple of Jesus Christ?

You have a great future in front of you, filled with the promises of God.

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

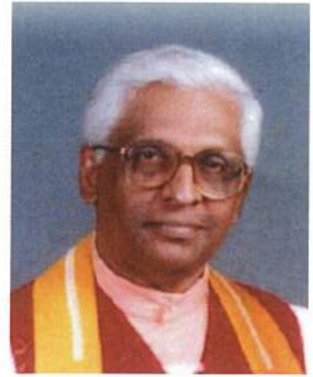
Yours in Christ,

The Right Reverend Philip Poole
Suffragan Bishop, Diocese of Toronto
York-Credit Valley Area

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.



Right Revd. Thomas Samuel Kanjirappallil Walel,
Bishop Emeritus CSI Tholaserry Thiruvalla
Kerala, India 689101



GO FORWARD IN FAITH

I am so happy to join with everyone in Madhya Kerala Diocese, Kottayam in wishing you a happy 25th anniversary of the CSI Toronto Malayalam Congregation, Canada. I wish I were there to take part in the silver jubilee celebrations. This is a historic moment to remember. I feel a sense of awe and gratitude for the Malayalee pioneers whose dedication, hope, and struggles created this community of faith. Over the years you have grown into a fully established Malayalam Congregation in Canada. The Diocese of Madhya Kerala is very proud of you. I am also happy that I could be of some help to you in your growth. The church belongs to God and you are there to serve God.

I am so happy that, of late, you could take an important decision to join with the Anglican Episcopal Diocese of Toronto. The Madhya Kerala Diocese and our Diocesan administration have fully endorsed this step. The Memorandum of Understanding signed by Madhya Kerala Diocese and the Diocese of Toronto was a great step forward. We are indeed grateful to Archbishop Johnson and Bishop Poole for their kind support and loving leadership. The Diocese of Toronto is a great mission oriented Diocese and to be part of that Diocese is indeed a privilege and honour. The story of the Toronto CSI Malayalam congregation is the story of the faith and dedication of the members of the congregation.

As you are celebrating the Silver Jubilee of the Congregation, it is my prayer that you will always be alive in your faith and witness in the years to come.

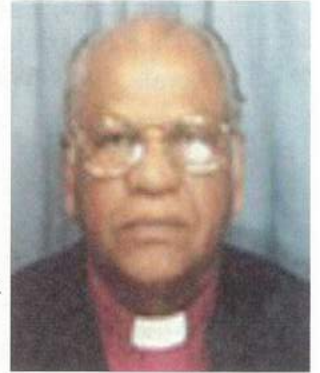
Blessings,

Right Revd. Thomas Samuel
Bishop Emeritus CSI
Thiruvalla 689101
thirumanassu@gmail.com



Telephone: 04822-219193
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Rt. Rev. K. Michael John
C. S. I. Bishop (Rtd.)
Prasanth Nivas, Melukavumattom P. O.,
Kerala State, India- 686 652



I am delighted to know that the CSI congregation in Toronto, Canada is celebrating the silver Jubilee of the formation. I remember with gratitude to God and also am thankful to that congregation for inviting me to serve them as their pastor for a few months, till they got a new pastor from Kerala. I gladly accepted their invitation and went there with my wife. Though we went to Toronto for a few months, the congregation was kind enough to ask me to continue for a year. I am thankful to the CSI congregation that they were willing to accept our services for seven years. We both remember with joy and thankfulness for their love and co-operation in our pastoral ministry.

May I add a few things a foreign congregation of the CSI church should keep in their church life.

The spirit of fellowship and desire to worship God should be maintained by all those who go abroad from their mother country. The CSI congregation in Canada has kept that spirit very well.

The spirit of unity and willingness to help each other, especially where there is sorrow or special events of joy. I am glad to put on record that the CSI congregation in Canada has shown that spirit very well.

Willingness to share the love of God exhibited through His Son Jesus Christ must be kept alive always. I am glad to put on record the financial help the CSI congregation in Canada has given in the part for Gospel work in India and also the contribution they have given to charitable institutions. A big amount of money was given to the "Vishranthi Nilayam" at Melukavu run by a few CSI people.

Once again I wish all the best for the CSI congregation in Canada. May God Almighty continue to bless that congregation to grow not only in member but in spiritual matters also.

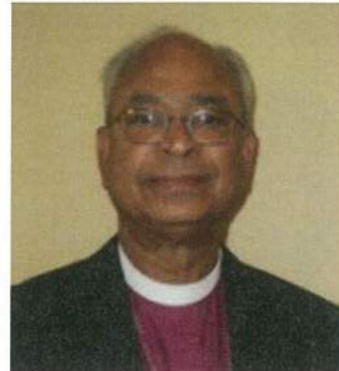
God Bless you all.

The Right Rev. Dr. A. George Ninan

Retired Bishop, Church of North India

1F Church Lane
Valley Cottage

N.Y. 10989



June 16, 2012

Dear Rev. Shaji M. Johnson Achen
& Members of the CSI Church, Toronto,

I am delighted to know that you had a very good and blessed year of celebration of your silver jubilee and that you will have the closing ceremony end of this month. As I had written to you at the beginning of the yearlong celebration, I have had a very close relationship with your Congregation for over a decade. It was my privilege to visit you on several occasions, conduct confirmation services and also perform marriages. I have always enjoyed your fellowship and was happy to see your enthusiasm and vibrancy.

I understand that you are developing a unique relationship with the Anglican Church in Canada. The Church of South India and the Church of North India are deeply indebted to the Anglican Communion for the preaching of the Gospel of Christ in India and forming a Province of the Anglican Communion in our land. The Kerala Dioceses of the CSI are mainly products of the work of the missionaries of Anglican Churches, while thankfully recognizing the work of missions of Congregational Churches as well. So The CSI Congregation in Toronto, like other CSI Congregations in North America, has a unique mission to help the North American churches to develop an ecumenical vision, which is yet to take place here. This will be possible only if the CSI churches become close to the churches here and share in the task of mission. Like salt and leaven, the Kerala churches should be able to permeate the local scene and influence from within the life and mission of the churches here. But to do that they have to come out of the salt shakers and be part of the context. This is a challenge before the churches of Kerala background and it will help the young people and make the churches relevant and meaningful in a fast changing world.

I congratulate you for the steps you have taken in this direction and I am sure your initiative will become a pattern for the scattered North American CSI congregations in the future. I wish you all blessings as you begin another phase of your journey as people of God.

Blessings

+George Ninan



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE



I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone celebrating the 25th anniversary of CSI Church, Toronto.

Over the course of the past twenty-five years, this place of worship has served as a gathering place for individuals and families, united in their faith and in their commitment to the community. This anniversary offers parishioners a chance to reaffirm their deeply held spiritual beliefs and to reflect upon the events that have shaped their church's history.

Please accept my best wishes for peace and happiness, now and in the future.

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.

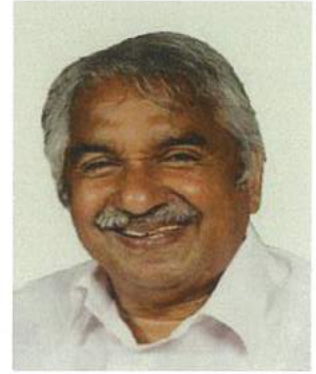
OTTAWA
2012



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OOMMEN CHANDY
CHIEF MINISTER
KERALA



18/05/2012

Message

I am delighted to learn that *CSI Church, Toronto* is bringing out a Souvenir as part of its Silver Jubilee celebration. My warm felicitations to all associated with the Church.

I believe that the Church, through its interventions in the society would build solid foundations of brotherhood, illuminate the path of righteousness and spread the fragrance of sublime happiness.

I wish all success for the activities of the Church.

OOMMEN CHANDY

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Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario



June 30, 2012

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am pleased to extend warm greetings to everyone celebrating the 25th anniversary of the founding of CSI Church, Toronto.

This milestone is an ideal opportunity to reflect on the crucial role the church has played, and continues to play, in the spiritual life of its members and the community it serves.

It is also a time to pay tribute to the strength of faith and the dedication of those who have worshipped at CSI Church, Toronto over the past quarter-century.

As you mark this special occasion, please accept my best wishes.

Dalton McGuinty
Premier



K. M. MANI
 MINISTER FOR FINANCE, LAW & HOUSING
 GOVERNMENT OF KERALA



സിൽവർ ജൂബിലി
 ആഘോഷിക്കുന്ന
 സി.എസ്.ഐ.ചർച്ച്
 റെറ്റിറോന്റോക്ക്
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കെ.എം. മാണി

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Mayor Rob Ford



A Message from the Mayor

It is my pleasure to extend greetings and congratulations to the CSI Church, Toronto on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

Places of worship remain an integral part of our communities, providing solace and inspiration to many. This anniversary celebration is not only a tribute to the unwavering faith of the CSI Church, Toronto congregation, but also a celebration of an enduring Church family and community.

The anniversary of this silver jubilee is a cause for celebration, a time to reflect on many accomplishments and an opportunity to look with hope to a future of new possibilities.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, please accept my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for continued success.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Ford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mayor Rob Ford
City of Toronto

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



Joe Daniel

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Don Valley East

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416 443 0623

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the Silver Jubilee Closing Ceremony 2012 organized by CSI Church, Toronto.

By hosting tonight's event to commemorate the silver jubilee as a year long celebration through many outstanding projects and endeavours within our community, CSI Church is making an enormous contribution to the welfare and the spirit of our nation in a myriad of ways.

"For the past 25 years, the CSI community has been able to praise and worship the Lord in Toronto. God has showered his blessings and sustained the congregation in every aspect. As a result, the church joins the Psalmist in saying 'The lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.'"

As we celebrate tonight our cultures in a shared framework of citizenship and our resolve to serve the community, I would like to commend all of you for being part of this spectacular gathering. In particular, I would like to thank the CSI Church for their leadership and dedication.

Please accept my best wishes for a joyous celebration!

Yours truly,

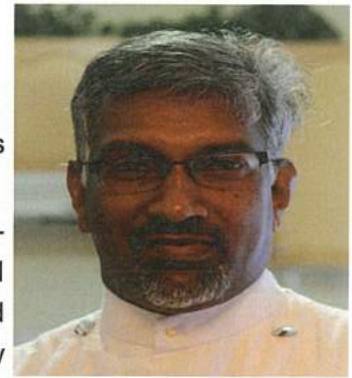
Joe Daniel
Member of Parliament
Don Valley East

From the Vicar.....

Dear all,

I greet you all in the precious and mighty name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

Our church, CSI Church Toronto, as a faithful worshipping community is completing a very significant era in its pilgrimage at this juncture. Along with you I praise God Almighty for all what He has been to our church during this period of time. Under His mighty wings we were safe and as a church family we bow our heads down in gratitude before our master.



The very concept of "Jubilee" originates from the Old Testament in the Holy Bible. All kinds of debts were to be paid back or cancelled in the seventh year so that nobody was overburdened with any liability. Having been motivated by this divine theory, our parish was in a run to create appropriate projects and programmes to gratify the needs of the deprived and underprivileged in our society. Our people have been supporting all these missions without any reservation.

Jubilee in the Scripture is all about putting relations and associations right, personal, and social. Of course, this wisdom has inspired us a lot in celebrating our Silver jubilee properly. Our effort was to make jubilee in the true sense of the word, which means a time of thanksgiving and praise and a time of change and re-dedication. Let us therefore continue to make this occasion to renew our lives and rededicate our families so that we may become right channels of grace to God's people.

On this occasion I remember all the respectable priests and Bishops who ministered in our congregation in the past. I also admit with gratitude the efforts of pioneers who have contributed in various ways for the good of the parish. I pray to God to bless all of them and their generations with abundance of grace from above.

I congratulate the Silver Jubilee committee, the executive committee and all the organizations in our church for their dedication and untiring services to make this event an outstanding one. May God bless you all and make you more effective channels of His blessings.

Year of jubilee is surely designed for jubilation. But we as a church were passing through a real hard time. We have passed through trials and bitter circumstances. But never were we alone. God was there with us. I do acknowledge that these hardships have made us stronger, more faithful and devoted! I am grateful to you all for not being led astray and for having stood faithfully, accomplishing the work of God. Abraham left his home and family keeping God's guarantee of creating a new nation through his generations. God told Abraham "lift up your eyes" and showed him the new territories. Like that our church is opened up to new boundaries. It is a new life that awaits us in future, as we journey ahead.

We need to take vow to arise as an honest and lively spiritual union, bearing witness to God's love and spreading the fragrance of spirituality in the society where we live. Bishop Lesslie Newbigin has stated that "the pertinent question is not how big the church is, but how influential is it to the society". Let us join our hands together and move forward.

Let the grace of God be revealed to us even more!

May God bless us all

Yours in Him

Rev. Shaji M. Johnson

Vicar



CSI CHRIST CHURCH
(Diocese of Madhya Kerala)
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Rev. Raju Jacob
Vicar

Rev. Sumod C. Cherian
Asst. Vicar



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

I am delighted to greet you all as you bring out this souvenir to mark the valedictory celebrations of the Silver Jubilee of CSI Church Toronto, which has been a worshipping and witnessing community for the past twenty five years.

The Diaspora from the Madhya Kerala Diocese, the erstwhile Anglican Diocese of Travancore and Cochin and other dioceses gathered in various parts of the world and witnessed as a Christian community. The CSI Church Toronto has been a symbol of Christian service and Mission and lit the torch of the gospel in the GTA.

The Jubilee year like this is an opportunity to remember with utmost gratitude what the Lord has done in our lives as individuals and as a community of Jesus Christ. Let me also remember with joy all those who had sacrificially labored towards the spiritual and material progress of this church. It is also a time to move forward with confidence and renewed vision in the context of new challenges that is awaiting us in the future.

I am so glad to know that CSI Church in Toronto is ecumenical in outlook and moving towards bringing novel dimension in its vision and ministry to the church and world at large. I pray that God will bless you richly as you enter into the new era in the life of the CSI Church Toronto.

With love,

Rev. Raju Jacob

10.06.2012



ST. PAUL'S C.S.I. CHURCH
NALUNNAKKAL
(Diocese of Madhya Kerala)
Kannanchira, Vakathanam, Kottayam – 686 538
Phone: 0481-2464180



The Editor
C.S.I Church Jubilee Souvenir
Toronto

It is my great privilege and gladness to write greetings to you, the C.S.I Church Toronto, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, at the time of your Silver Jubilee celebration. I wish all blessings to all the members of the church.

I remember with thanks the days we spent joyously at Toronto from 13th March 2005 to 4th June 2008.

The excellent love and care we received cannot be expressed in words. Our Lord has been faithful in honoring our service for Him in your country.

The very first day itself we recognized your joy and enthusiasm.

I appreciate the discipline, punctuality and dedication of the church choir, which lift it to the status of heavenly singers. Nowadays in many places, worship is characterized by lifeless singing. But your performance is exemplary.

As you celebrate your jubilee, renew your soul everyday and commit your life to the kingdom of God.

May God be with you,

With peace,
Rev. T.J. John BSc, B.D



Greetings in Jesus' name.

We consider it a privilege and God's plan to be partners for the progress of the gospel at C.S.I. Church, Toronto.

We remember with gratitude the fellowship we had with the Church members, during our stay between October 2000 and February 2005. It was an encouragement to see the cooperation and active involvement of the various departments such as Sunday School, Youth Fellowship, Women's Fellowship, and the Choir in the total functioning of the Church. The participation and active involvement in the Ecumenical union comprising other Malayalee Congregations were a boost to the pilgrim church. We thoroughly enjoyed the carol rounds and the carol services during the Christmas season. The Choir deserves a special comment.

Storytelling for the Sunday school children during the divine service, a unique feature of Toronto CSI church, was a novel experience in my ministry. I prepared each story well in advance before each Sunday. Some of the stories I used in Toronto were published in Malayalam by the C.S.S Bookshops under the title "Viswasa Vazhikal" and all the printed copies were sold out within six months of publication.

We pray that the C.S.I Church, Toronto will grow stronger and richer in Spirit in years to come. May God's blessings be showered during the Silver Jubilee Celebrations and there after.

Yours in Christ
Rev A. C. Cheriyan &
Elizabeth (Maji).

Alamala, Kottoor P.O
Kaviyoor, Tiruvalla
Phone 0469-2694098
26-1-2011



To
CSI Church Toronto

My dear Friends,

I am happy to know that C.S.I Church, Toronto is celebrating its Silver Jubilee. I deem it as a great privilege to write a few words in this Jubilee Souvenir. First of all I greet you all in the precious name of our Lord. With a thankful heart and sweet memories I remember the time spent at Toronto Parish.

As a student of Wycliffe College I had to attend the college as a full time student and at the same time I could serve the parish over there for two years. I consider it as a great privilege to be the first Vicar of Toronto Parish from Madhya Kerala Diocese. With a heart of gratefulness I remember the support and prayer extended to me and to my family while we were there and especially when I was sick

I still remember all the pioneer members of our parish who worked hard to establish a congregation there. Our worship services, Sunday school classes, Choir programmes, yearly picnics, Cottage prayer meetings and all other programmes helped the Congregation to strengthen in both spiritual and physical. I believe that the CSI Church Toronto have grown as one of the big Malayalam Congregations in North America.

Once again I congratulate all the members of our parish during this Jubilee Year and I wish you all the best. May God help you all to carry out the Jubilee programmes and projects in a fitting manner.

Yours lovingly
Rev. Dr. Shajan A. Idiculla



Dear Members of the CSI Church Toronto,

Christian greetings!

I am very glad to know about the publication of a SOUVENIR in connection with the 25th Anniversary of the C.S.I. Church, Toronto, Canada. The primary purpose of the formation of the C.S.I. Church, Toronto, was to unite the C.S.I. families for worship and connect them with their mother Church in India. The Canadian Government's Green Paper on Immigration in the 1960s accelerated the flow of immigrants from various parts of the world to Canada which brought about changes in their outlook & changed their economic status to new heights. Of course, newcomers to this country face many challenges, but they need prayer & patience to confront the several challenges. We are in the midst of diverse, complex situations & problems. We are traumatized not only by physical tsunamis but by spiritual tsunamis which destroy the centrality of the Christian faith and its applications. On many occasions humanity is deaf to the voice of God and blind to the landscape which God intends for mankind. What is the result? Many are shattered and have no communion with the Creator of this universe. Man's intelligence cannot always solve the problems of this world. Man's co-operation and obedience with God's design is the answer to solve the problems of this universe.

I would like to draw your attention to the following three-fold approach. First, we are called to build Christ-centered families which are real assets and where Christian values are not diluted but become effective in the world. The members of the C.S.I. Church, Toronto, have a gigantic task in molding Christian families in the midst of modernization and contextual ethics which destroy the very foundations of the outlook of Christian families. Since we are the watchmen of families, we should have a vision for our families to be Christ-centered families in the midst of the unending challenges in our day-to-day life. By all means, a family is a mini Church which should reflect the meaning of Christian families.

Second, the members of this Congregation should have a sense of purpose for this gathering. According to tradition it was St. Thomas the Apostle who brought Christianity to India. His mission emphasizes witnessing and proclamation of the good news. It reminds us of our great responsibility in carrying out his mission to the ends of the earth. The members of the above Congregation should not be spectators but active participants in conveying the message of his advent to India. Tunnel vision is insufficient in this regard. Christian missions should be a priority in every ethnic Church.

Third, the above Church should take leadership in alleviating the problems of this world by having a global worldview along with solving the problems pertaining to the missionary tasks of the Indian Church since the C.S.I. Church is part of the global Church in its wider landscape. The Church is not a club of the rich since its composition brings people from many walks of life, including the voiceless segments of society and the downtrodden. Moreover, it should participate in erasing the suffering and hardships of its own vicinity along with the suffering of the masses in India.

The C.S.I. Church, Toronto, has a dynamic role in the new millennium since it is the servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. In a nutshell, it has to orchestrate its high calling in the changing situations of our time locally, nationally and globally. It should not insulate itself from the problems confronted by the present-day world, but should participate in erasing the sufferings and problems of humanity. Every member of this Eucharistic community should practice Christian giving which is an inseparable part of Christian witness and obedience. The Church has to fulfill its prophetic role in the midst of complex situations of our time. May God bless the different activities of this worshipping community in the days ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Rev. George M. John
200 Olive Ave.
Toronto , ON



Church of South India

Congregation of Great Lakes
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

35526 Townley Dr, Sterling Heights, MI 48312



To

The Rev. Shaji M. Johnson
Vicar
C S I. Church, Toronto, Canada.

Respected Achen and members of the congregation

Greetings in the name of our Redeemer and Sustainer, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ is making a church to display his glory- a communion of saints to enjoy him forever. The old hymn expresses it well: "From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride; and with his blood he bought her, and for her life he died". In fellowship with Christ, members of his body are also members of one another. All Christians have a mystical union with every other believer. All of us belong to the same family of faith and bear one other's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

We are glad to know that the C S I church Toronto is completing 25 years of her spiritual journey, a pilgrimage to fulfill the ethics of the kingdom of God and is called out from the world to serve the Lord. The beauty of our lives is our participation in the proclamation of gospel to all creation. With new passage of our lives we receive new revelations of God's love. It's our hope and prayer that, we may continue in this pilgrimage until that final day in constant union with the One whom we have longed for since we took our first breath.

On behalf of the Congregation of Great Lakes, Detroit I extend our warmest wishes to Rev. Shaji M. Johnson (vicar) and the members of the congregation on completion of the silver jubilee. Congratulations on all your work and I wish you best wishes in all future endeavors.

May God grant His grace through the Church and bless the celebrations.

In Christ,

Rev. Jacob P. Devasia
Presbyter in-charge

May 10, 2012



THE CANADIAN MAR THOMA CHURCH TORONTO

313 MAIN STREET MARKHAM NORTH, MARKHAM, ONTARIO, CANADA L3P 1Z2

Rev. Dr. P. L. John Panicker
Vicar, The Canadian Mar Thoma Church
50 Wales Avenue, Markham, Ontario L3P 2C5

13th June, 2012

Message

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I am exceedingly happy to learn that the CSI church, Toronto is releasing a souvenir in connection with its Silver Jubilee Celebrations. I acknowledge the able leadership of Rev. Shaji M Johnson, the present Vicar and the Parish Committee members. God has planted us here in this part of the world to worship him by the power of God's Spirit and continue the mission of Jesus Christ, who is the first missionary, God sent into this world to do His mission.

As the Parish members celebrates its Jubilee, on behalf of the Canadian Mar Thoma Church, I wish and pray that the coming years will be blessed moments for the church to uphold its ideals and extend the mission that our Lord and Saviour entrusted to the members with a clear vision.

May God bless you all.

Sincerely in Christ,
Rev. Dr. P. L. John Panicker



St. Mathew's Mar Thoma Church, Toronto

9238 Regional Road 25, Milton, Ontario, L9T 2X7

Greetings to all in the name of our lord and savior Jesus Christ,

It is indeed my pleasure and privilege to greet you through this souvenir published in connection with the silver jubilee celebrations of the CSI Church, Toronto. This celebration is the excellent opportunity to express the joy and opens an avenue to the Diaspora community to meet each other, to worship together, to share the experience and to proclaim their identity as a faithful community in a land where materialistic and commercial values dominates in every walks of life.



CSI Church marks its silver jubilee celebrations in to the history of Canadian Christian community and let it be an occasion of fostering ecumenical bonds, values of our faith and the renewal of our commitment in discipleship. We should reflect and display our lord and savior through our deeds and that makes our lives more precious in the presence of God. Also this is the right time to take up new challenges, explore new possibilities and to be faithful to our calling as a worshipping community.

On behalf of the Mar Thoma Church and the members of St. Mathew's Mar Thoma Parish, Toronto, I wish and pray that the Almighty lord will reward your hard work and make this jubilee celebration a great blessing.

Wish you all the very best!

With Prayerful regards,

Rev. Varghese K Abraham (Abeyachen)



**ST. THOMAS ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH
TORONTO**

I am delighted to know that the C.S.I. Church, Toronto is celebrating its Silver Jubilee and publishing a Souvenir to commemorate the event. The warm fellowship the Church has with our Malayalee congregations of Toronto and neighboring cities has been inspirational.

The St. Thomas Orthodox Syrian Church, Toronto, has had valuable occasions of close contact with the members and ministers of the C.S.I. congregation. We, the members of the St. Thomas Orthodox Church, offer you our best wishes, prayers and continued fellowship

Rev. Dr. Parackel K. Mathew
Vicar



St. Gregorios Orthodox Church of Toronto

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Rev. Fr. Shaji M. Johnson
The Vicar,
CSI Church, Toronto
1315 Kipling Ave
Etobicoke, ON M9B 3N7

June 12, 2012

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On behalf of the St. Gregorios Church of Toronto, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to you and all members of your congregation on the occasion of the 25th silver Jubilee anniversary celebrations, for all the accomplishments God has done through your parish.

Jubilee is the time to offer our humble appreciation and gratitude to the almighty God for all the blessings He has showered upon us. It is the time to express our sincere thanks to the founding fathers and mothers whose sweat and toil have resulted in the success story of your congregation.

Our prayer and wish is that the Lord who bestowed His mercy and kindness to you in the past will continue to bless you in the days to come. "May He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

Congratulations and Blessings!

Rev. Dr. Fr. Thomas George,
Vicar,
St. Gregorios Orthodox Church of Toronto.



St. Thomas Syro Malabar Mission
Toronto Canada

St. Thomas Syro Malabar Mission

1737 Lawrence Ave East, Toronto, ON, M1R 2X7
Tel: 416-701-9996 Fax: 416-751-2662
office@stthomasmission.org
Website: www.stthomasmission.org

June 11, 2012

Rev. Shaji M. Johnson
Vicar, CSI Church Toronto
1315 Kipling Ave
Etobicoke
M9B 3N7

Dear Rev Johnson:

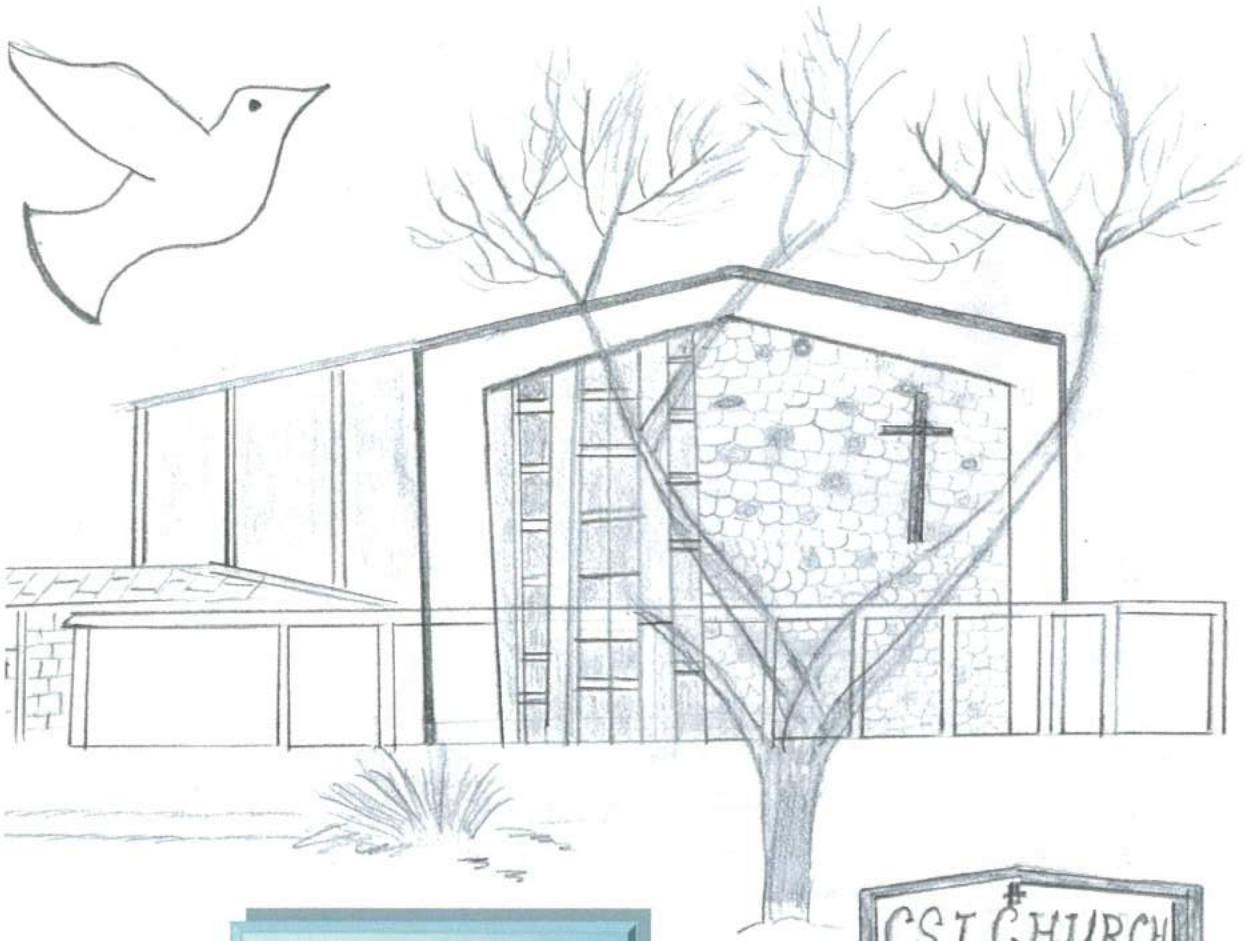
It is my great pleasure to extend congratulations to you and all of the parishioners of the Toronto CSI Church as you celebrate your Silver Jubilee. I also would like to wish you all the best in the publishing of your Souvenir to mark the end of the jubilee celebrations.

May God bless you in this moment of thanksgiving, and be with you as you continue on the journey of spreading the Word of God's salvation.

On behalf of all of the parishioners of St Thomas Syro Malabar Mission, I want wish you all success in the anniversary celebrations. I pray that your church continue to grow and flourish, and that many more are brought into God's love through your efforts.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Antony Thundathil
Pastor, St Thomas Syro Malabar Mission



നമ്മുടെ ദേവാലയം



നൂറ്റാണ്ടുകൾക്കും ഊതുകൾക്കും ഇപ്പുറം എൻ ദേവാലയത്തെ ഞാൻ ഓർക്കുന്നു എന്നും നമ്മുടെ മനസ്സിൽ തന്ത്രികൾ മീട്ടുന്ന പൊൻവിണയാണ് നമ്മുടെ ദേവാലയം തോരാത്ത മഴ പോലെ തിരാത്ത സൗരഭ്യം വിതരുന്ന പൂക്കൾ പോലെ നിലനിൽക്കുന്ന ദേവാലയം മർത്യർക്ക് വെളിച്ചമേകുന്ന സുന്ദരിയാം നമ്മുടെ ദേവാലയം. ഈ രജതജൂബിലിയിൽ എൻ മനസ്സിൻ അടിത്തട്ടിൽ നിന്നും ആയിരം ആശംസകൾ നേരുന്നു ഞാൻ

മിനി ചെമ്മന്നൂർ



Our Achen & family

Rev. Shaji M. Johnson, Sangeeth Kochamma & Hannah mol

PEACE ON EARTH

World so dark
Blood everywhere
Can't even think
What is there!



Light falls on my face
It burns a lot
I get up to see
What is there!

The smell of blood
Fills my mind
I cry so loud
But hear no answer!

The light shines bright at once
A dove descends from the sky
The people start to get up
I cried aloud Peace on earth!

That day onwards
And for the rest of life
We were told we'll live with
The Lord God Almighty!

Anna Esther Samuel

OUR GOD

A little baby boy was born
Kings and Sheppard came
To see the new born king
He will reign over the earth
He grew up
And led a normal life
He lived the holy way
And brought death to life

He blessed little children
Adults received their bounty
Miracles made Him famed
And Peter walked on water

He loved everyone
And preached new life
He came to His own
And they received Him not

He died on the cross
And washed our sins away
He went up to heaven
To make a place for us

The end is here
He is coming back for us
So let's get ready, for
The end is near!

Anna Esther Samuel

A CHORUS



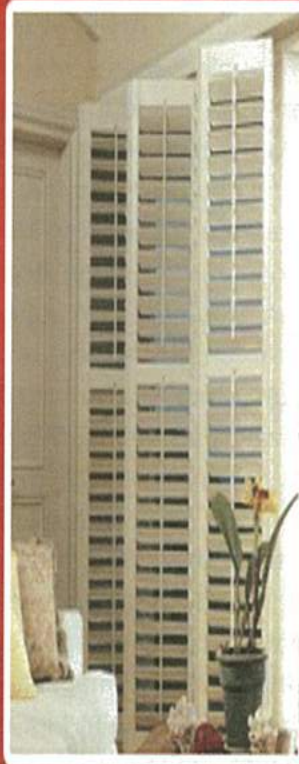
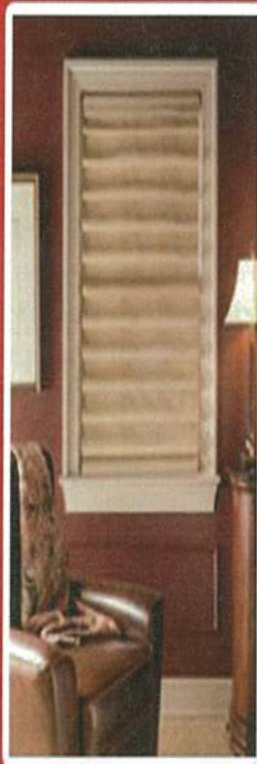
Make me a sanctuary for You to abide
Make me a holy place to worship You alone,
Give me a pure heart sinless to be
In likeness of Jesus forever to be.

Give me the ear to hear whenever You speak
Give me the heart to believe all You say
Help me, dear Lord, to draw closer to You
And trust in Your ways, higher than mine.

Mary Alexander

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Aryeh and Johan



Once in a vibrant town named Mineh, which was flourishing with trade and businesses, lived two best friends named Aryeh and Johan. Both were young men looking for work. Aryeh was a selfish, arrogant, lethargic and wicked young man who spent his days drinking and gambling with his other friends. Johan, on the contrary was a selfless, God-fearing and loving person. Aryeh was hired as an accountant by an old couple to monitor their finances. As their business grew, they wanted to hire one more accountant; and Aryeh introduced his best friend Johan, who was soon hired. As years passed by, the couple became old and faced deteriorating health issues. Johan helped them in every way when they needed assistance. He also took care of the servants and even the neighbours. Wealth or wage did not mean much to him; but the valuable and loving relationships. He was more concerned about other's well-being than his own. The old couple who was touched by Johan's love and concern, decided to divide their wealth and give eighty percent to Johan and just twenty percent to Aryeh. Though Aryeh's share was huge, he was furious. As he felt he deserved more, he had an argument with Johan demanding half of his share. Johan eventually agreed. Hearing the loud Aryeh, the couple and their neighbours rushed to Johan's assistance and the old man asked Johan not to give his share, as Aryeh did not deserve it. Being annoyed, Aryeh stormed off. Realizing that if something violent happened to Johan everyone would suspect him, he went to a Black magician, and asked him to inflict Johan with a terminal disease. And the Dark Magician was paid with silver and gold by Aryeh. Extremely satisfied, the Sorcerer called upon the abyss and summoned a demon and sent it to Johan. Sometime later the demon returned. The puzzled magician, not knowing what went wrong, summoned an even more powerful demon and sent it. And this demon also returned. Now the magician who was frustrated sent the Devil, Lucifer. The devil also returned. The magician unleashed all his anger on the Devil. The devil paralyzed the magician's tongue and took him near Johan and touched his eyes. What the magician saw was that the innocent Johan was surrounded by a circle of fire and on his left, right and above him were thousand upon thousands of angels guarding him with flaming swords, and each of them glowing like a thousand suns. The shocked magician fell to the ground and died immediately of a heart attack. The devil fled, and the disease that was to strike Johan, struck Aryeh. A decade later, while Aryeh was on his death bed, he sent a letter to Johan expressing his remorse and praising his lifestyle which was inspired by his belief in God. As Johan and his family came to see Aryeh with gifts and delicious treats, Johan was told that Aryeh passed away a while ago. Aryeh's servant told Johan that his final words were about Johan –'A higher power is concerned about the well-being of those who are selflessly concerned about others.'.

Paul, Benji (2005) Personal conversation with Christopher Moothedom, 20th October



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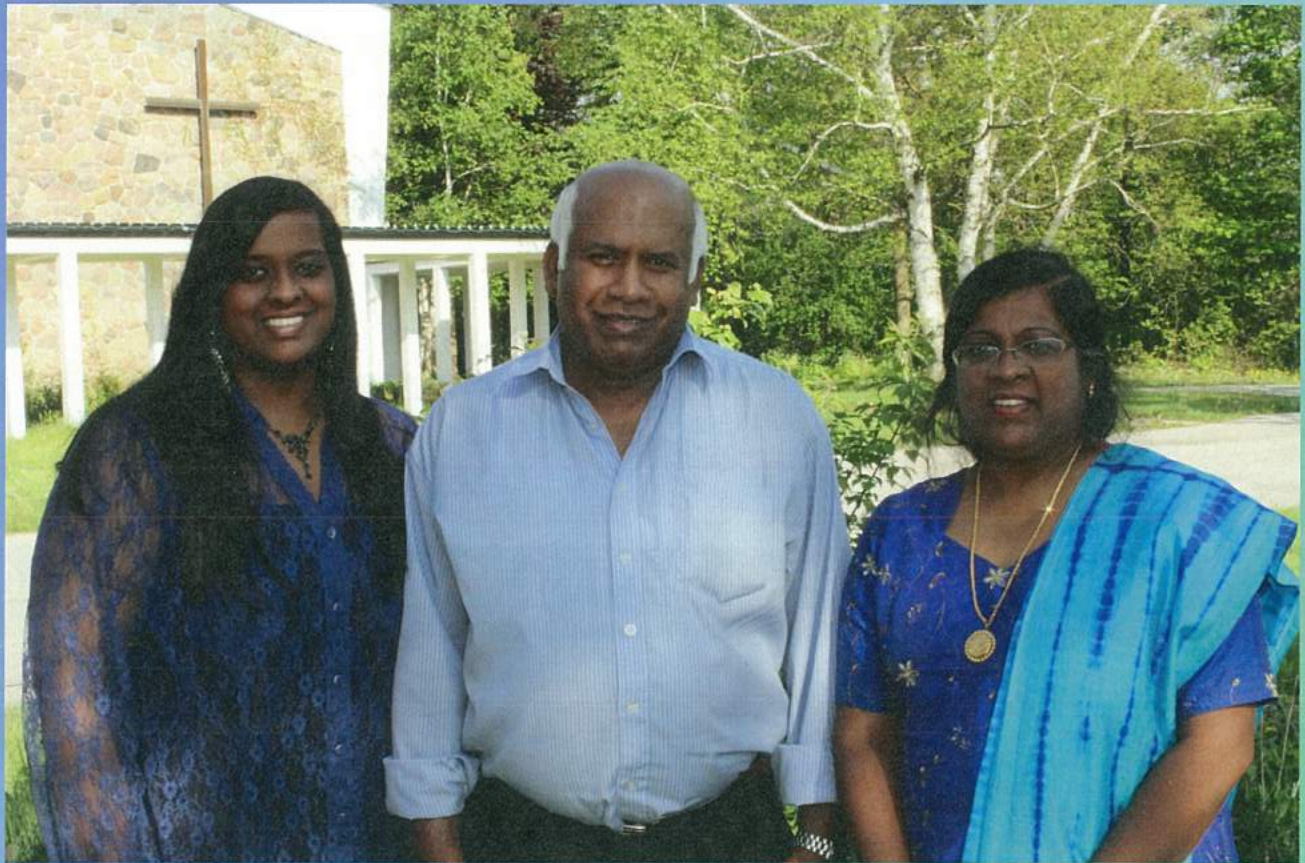
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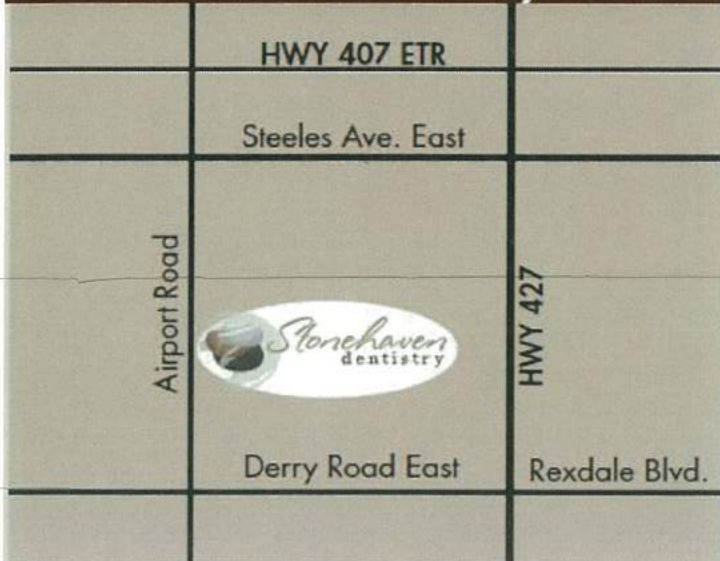
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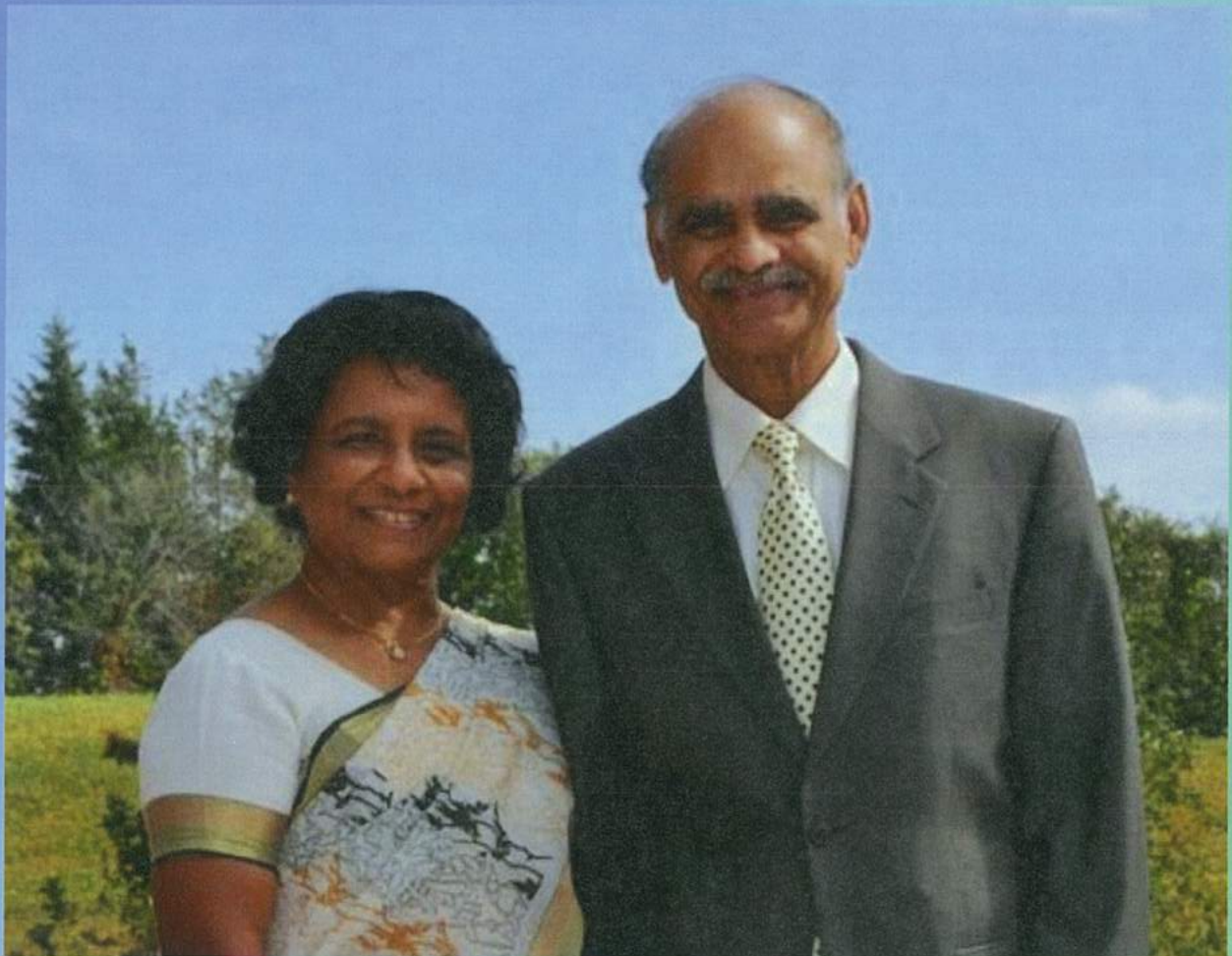
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BOOK OF PROVERBS IN OUR DAILY LIFE



The book of Proverbs was written by King of Solomon, known to be a very wise king of Israel. He was one of the men who asked God for wisdom and it was granted to him. As the book of James says *James 1:5* ⁵ *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.* Even you and I can ask God for wisdom and receive from Him this blessing. It is known that Solomon had written several compositions and proverbs and other compilations only few of which are found in the book of Proverbs. I wonder, did Solomon apply all the wisdom in his life just as he had written/spoken about? Was he a doer or a talker? Did he walk the talk? Probably not. However we must remember that most of the people that teach us life's lessons are probably people who fell several times before gaining understanding and wisdom. We need to have a teachable spirit, we need to be trainable. There needs to be someone in our life who can tell us NO or STOP and we will obey.

The book of Proverbs has 31 chapters that can be meditated on every day of the month. Though the book of Psalms speaks about our relationship to God & gives us a glimpse, a perspective of God, the book of Proverbs instructs us about our relationship with others: friends, family, strangers, neighbors, coworkers. It teaches us about handling money, using our words in the right way and speaks about morality. I have noticed that every verse contains depth of value and great levels of interpretation. It is applicable to people in all walks of life – the old and the young alike, man and woman alike, the lazy and the hardworking alike. In terms of money it teaches how to profit and how not to, in terms of our tongue it teaches us to restrain our words and avoid arguments & speak God's word of truth into our lives, it teaches us to live a moral life being accountable to our family and to God. It gives us a perspective on the end of the wicked and the favor over the righteous. It is almost everything that this fast and quick paced world teaches us not to do!

I encourage each one of us to meditate on this book along with our daily devotion and delve into the depths of its meaning so that the truth may pierce our hearts. And we can hear the voice of God speaking to us and the Holy Spirit teaching us. There is probably something God wants to teach us this day and everyday of our life in this walk with Him. Let us make a choice to listen to His voice. By the instructions in this book may God help us to live life to its fullest just by being teachable by Him and obedient to Him.

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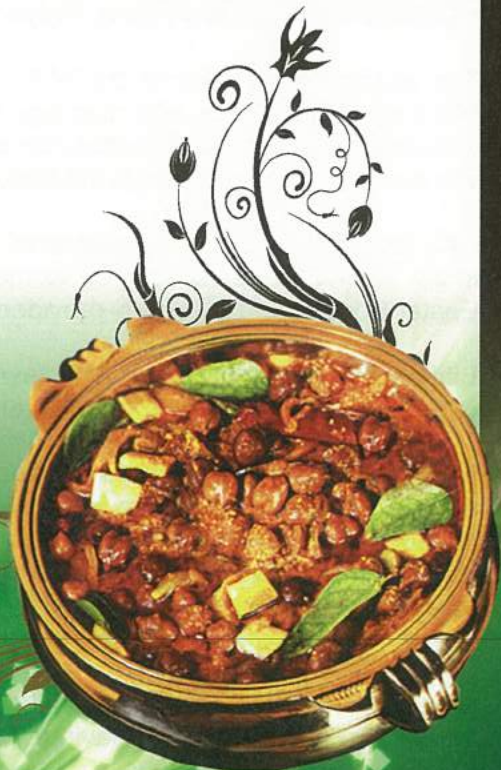


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Women's Fellowship

Records indicate that the first meeting of the Women's Fellowship (WF) of C.S.I. church, Toronto took place on March 5, 1989. Bible study and prayer are the main objectives of the women's Fellowship. It is an opportunity to have Christian fellowship together and discuss and share experiences which may benefit each other.



The following people have served as Women's Fellowship directors in the C.S.I. Church.

Mrs. Mary Alexander
Mrs. Daisy Mathai
Mrs Annie Chacko
Mrs. Leila Phillip
Mrs. Ponnamma Thomas
Mrs. Elizabeth Phillip
Mrs, Molly Abraham, Kanjirappallil
Mrs. Betty Kanjirappallil
Mrs. Sajani Koshie
Mrs. Ani Chacko
Mrs. Susan Joseph

We are thankful for the services rendered by these individuals and the congregation at large in supporting the activities of the Women's Fellowship.

Women's Fellowship meetings were scheduled to be conducted once a month. The basic format for the meetings consisted of a Hymn, Prayer, Bible study, discussion and intercessory prayers.

The charitable activities of the W F in the early years included sponsoring Children at Bethel Ashram & helping needy families with marriage expenses. In the last few years we have been contributing towards Christmas lunch for all at Bethel Ashram.

We have contributed towards the building of Asha Bhavan and participated in supporting its activities.

One Sunday every year is celebrated as Women's Sunday, during which women members take lead roles in the service. Special song by women was an important part of this service. Lunch for Good Friday and Easter Sunday is traditionally provided by the women's Fellowship.

Bible quiz organized in the past few years by the Women's Fellowship has given the members of the church an opportunity to learn and study scripture. This is very well received by the congregation.

Members actively participated in all aspects of the church life. Fasting prayer and Bible studies, used to be conducted twice a year were well attended by the members. Presently fasting prayers are scheduled to be conducted on the first Saturday every month. Members help the priest to set the Lord's Table for the Sunday worship. Also they volunteer to organize the social hour every Sunday after the church service. Women's fellowship takes turns with other church groups in organizing Social Evenings.

May the Almighty God strengthen the women's fellowship to unite members in prayer, in witnessing, and in the service of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Susan Joseph
Women's Fellowship director, 2011-2012

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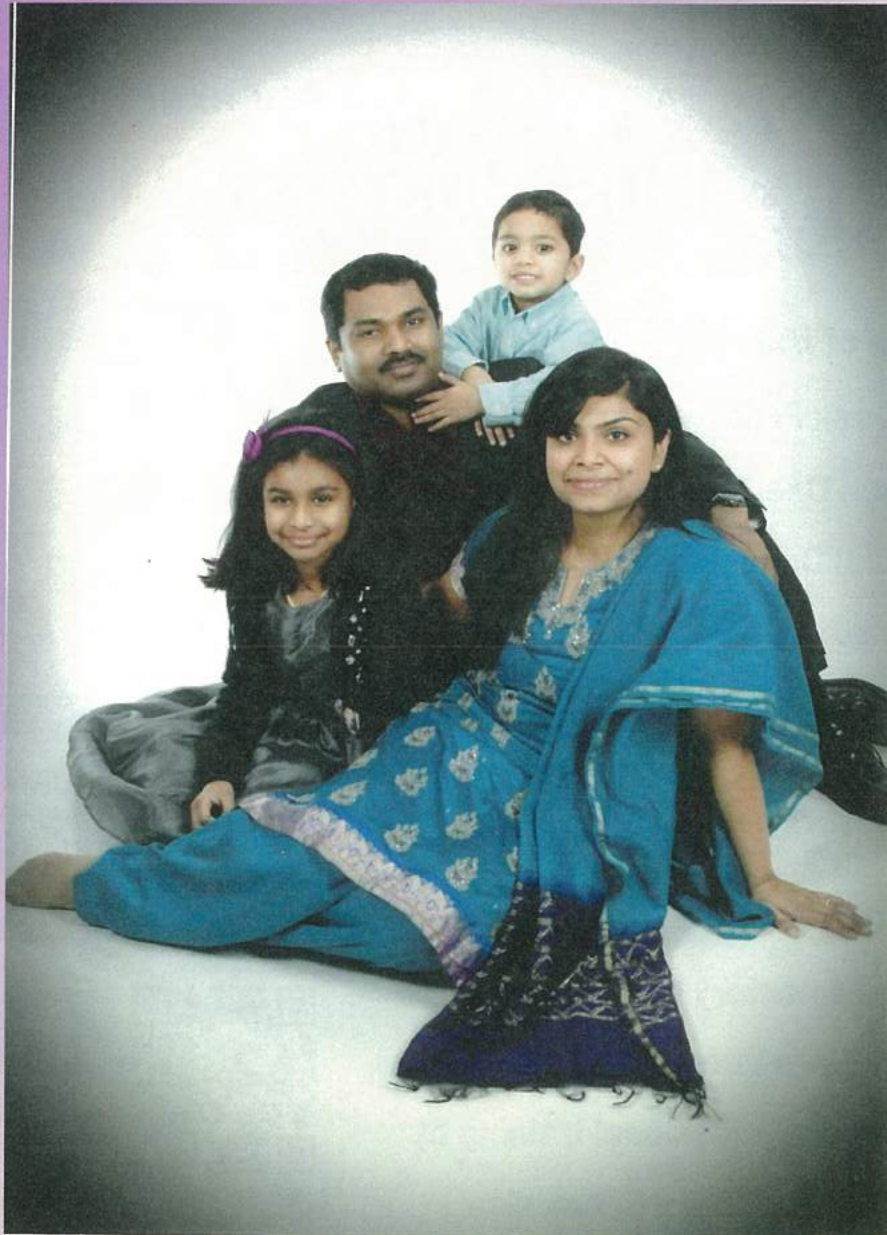
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“It’s my grand daughter’s wedding in a month and I have not thought of any gift for her yet” pondered the little woman. Of course her grand daughter would eventually inherit her property but that was not on her mind this day. She had brought her grand daughter up most of her growing years, owing to the busy schedule of her parents. She felt it was her duty and responsibility to endow a meaningful gift for her son’s daughter who was soon going to be a wife. The elderly lady had streaks of silver in her hair now and the lines on her face showed she aged gracefully. The lady quietly paced to and fro across the room. She was in the process of cleaning her “memory room” – that was what she called this little room.

This room had several boxes that stored many of her prized possessions like her bridal tiara, the letters her husband had written to her, the cards he had sent her on her birthday and their anniversary, and finally the telegram from the army base where he was stationed, that he had succumbed to a bullet wound. She blinked the tears away and heaved a sigh. Her hands sifted through pictures of her son when he was a baby, her diaries over the last fifty years and an old camera that her husband had gifted her. She dug her hand deep into the box and sensed a familiar touch, she bent forward and gripped it firmly. It was her Bible, the Bible that she had used for some thirty odd years. She had been reluctant to move on to her new Bible, but had she used it for a day more, it would have crumbled and would have had to be rendered useless. She opened the familiar, worn Bible with trembling fingers, and as she moved through the pages carefully, it seemed as though she were moving through her journey of life. She had got this Bible from the church during her wedding and it had become her constant companion and support over the years. She had read through this Bible several times, made notes in it and marked the promises and the visions the Lord had given her. Many a time, the pages of this Bible had been soaked in her tears; when she became a widow, when she had to bring up her son all by herself, when she faced times of tests and temptations and periods of trial and pain. Often had she flung herself on her knees and threw her arms around this Bible. It gave her encouragement to live the day fully and move on to the next. It helped her rise up against all odds, in spite of falling several times. It reminded her of her duties as a wife and a mother and more importantly a child of God. As she flipped from page to page she saw a carefully folded letter in it. She opened it and read through it. It was a letter her grandmother had sent her at the time when she had been betrothed and pledged in marriage.

Suddenly she realized this would be the best gift she could offer her grand daughter for her approaching wedding. This Bible and the letter in it. She would gift her granddaughter the same letter her grandmother wrote her. The truths in the Bible and its principles hold good in any place and for any generation. Thus the letter read:

Dearest one,

Grandma is proud that today you are no more the little girl who held my fingers and walked through the lush green fields and moors, past the still streams, chatting with every creature on the way. Oh how much I love you my girl! I still remember your eyes brighten, with the tales I would narrate to you. The psalms that I taught you and you would recite back to me, the hours you would lay curled up on my lap and extract stories from me till we fell asleep together in each others embrace, these are still so fresh in my otherwise dwindling memory. Now you have grown into such a beautiful princess that any man would be proud to be called your husband. Please

(Continued on page 58)

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(Continued from page 55)

remember what grandma is writing to you today so that it will go well with you all the days of your life.

Remember you are entering a new and beautiful phase of life, you will leave every familiar face and surroundings and go to a strange land with new people around. Learn to love your new family just as you would your own. A husband is the head of both the wife and the household. It cannot be the other way round, it will only end in trouble because it was never meant to be thus. Submit to your husband and be humble in all your doings, and take care never to disrespect him in any manner. Do not consider humility to be a weakness, in fact it is great strength under great control. Let your speech towards each other be full of grace and seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer one another (Col 4:6). At every juncture of life you will be faced with challenges and choices to be made. The right choice can be made only with wisdom from above. For this I encourage you to pray to Almighty for wisdom so you may make the right choices and live the model Christian life. Read and meditate on Proverbs chapter 31; it tells you the characteristics of a virtuous wife, a woman who fears the Lord. Her husband has full faith in her and can entrust her with the life and growth of the household. She lends to the needy and has a compassionate heart. Yet she is strong within and can withstand the day of hardship because she is longsuffering and endures. A woman actually makes a world of difference in her family. She is the backbone of the house hold and the link between members of the family. Her wise choices cause good to happen in the household. She is the one who prepares her family for their citizenship in heaven.

I hear these days of women voicing their opinions and talking about women's liberation. I don't understand. What do these women want to be liberated from? Their families? Their responsibilities? Forgive me my child, I may not have the broad minded attitude and thoughts of the present day woman, but I know that during my days and the days of past, love and joy bubbled in homes even though the table was not laden with food. Love and relationships were considered pure and holy. Families were large and money was not so available. Our days started and ended with hymns and prayers. Each one worked together towards the good of the home, without expecting anything in return. Somehow I should say, it worked well, and I am confident that if you hold on to the Word of the Lord and His promises and live a life pleasing to the Lord, your family will arise and call you "Blessed"

Let me conclude by blessing you my dear child, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow you all the days of your life, and you shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (Psalms 23:6)

Your loving Grandma

She read the letter again, her eyes brimming with tears, and absorbed the entire message like her grandma was just speaking to her. Memories of her past flashed through her mind her childhood so carefree and cheerful, her stress free schooling , life with her grandmother, so grounded by discipline and principles.

She took the Bible and slipped the letter dated more than a century back in it and decided this would be the legacy she would leave for her grand daughter. With a smile on her face and gratitude in her heart she said a solemn prayer and retired to bed.

Suja Sarah Koshy



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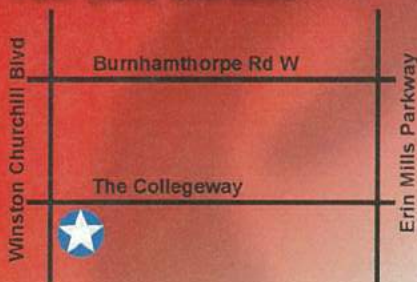
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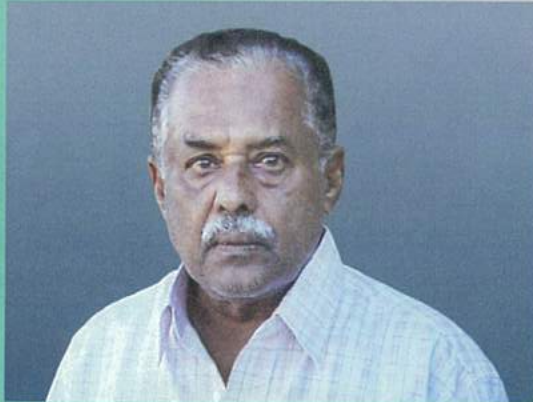
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Christine





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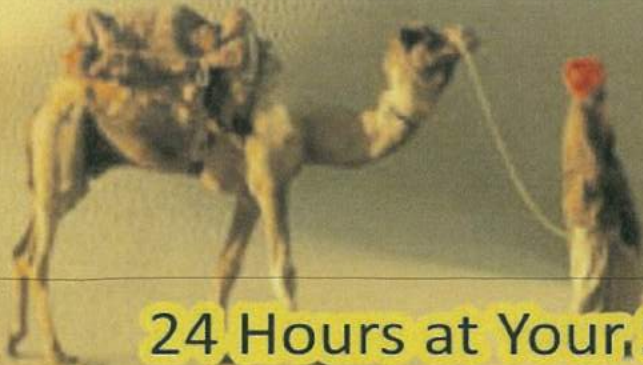
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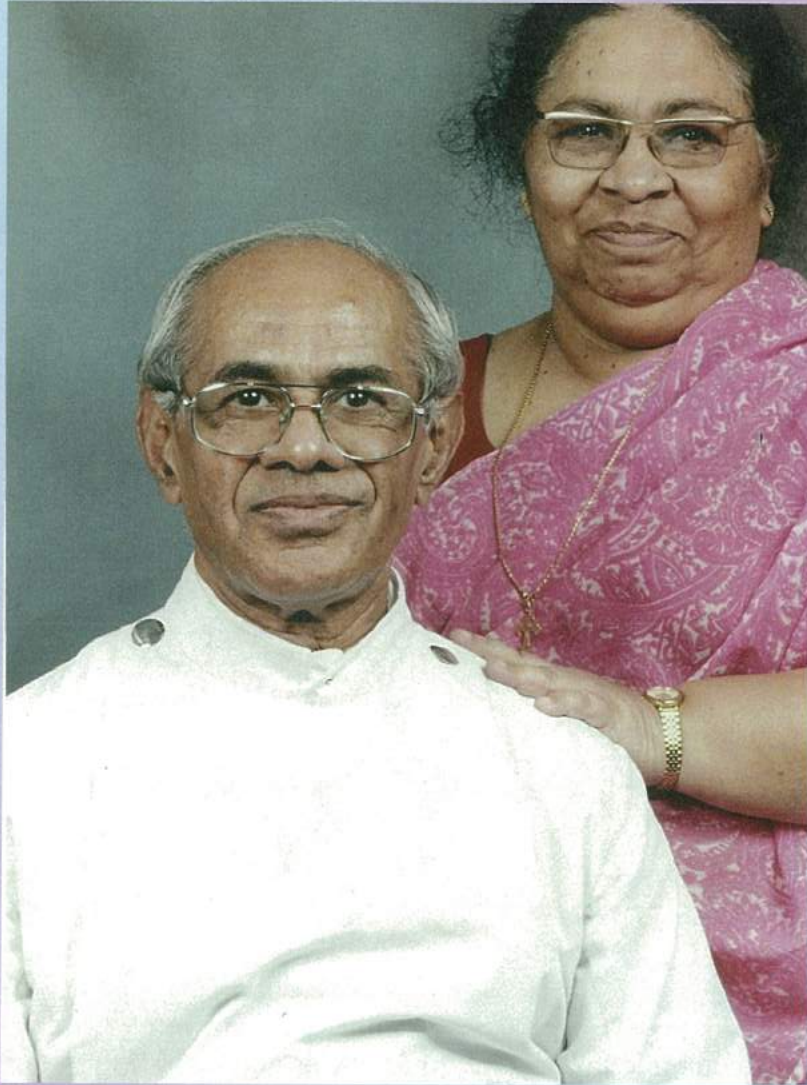
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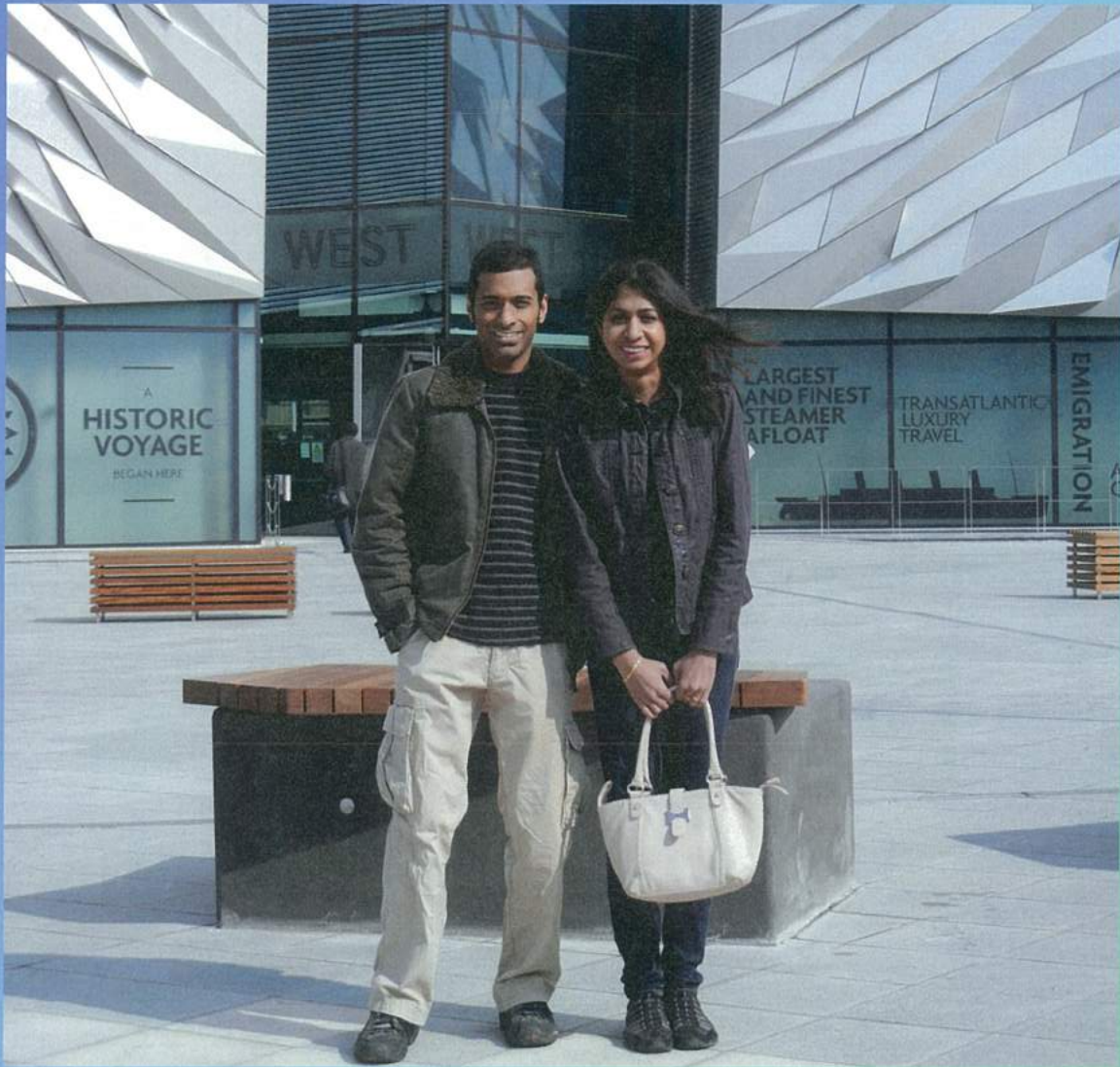
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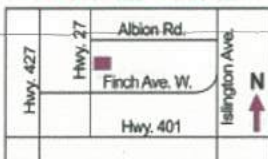


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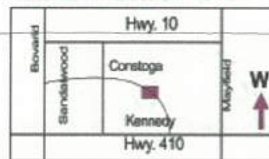


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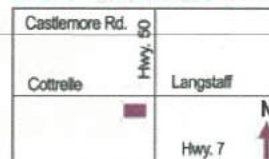
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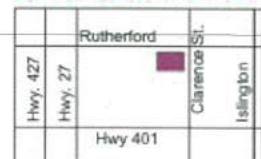
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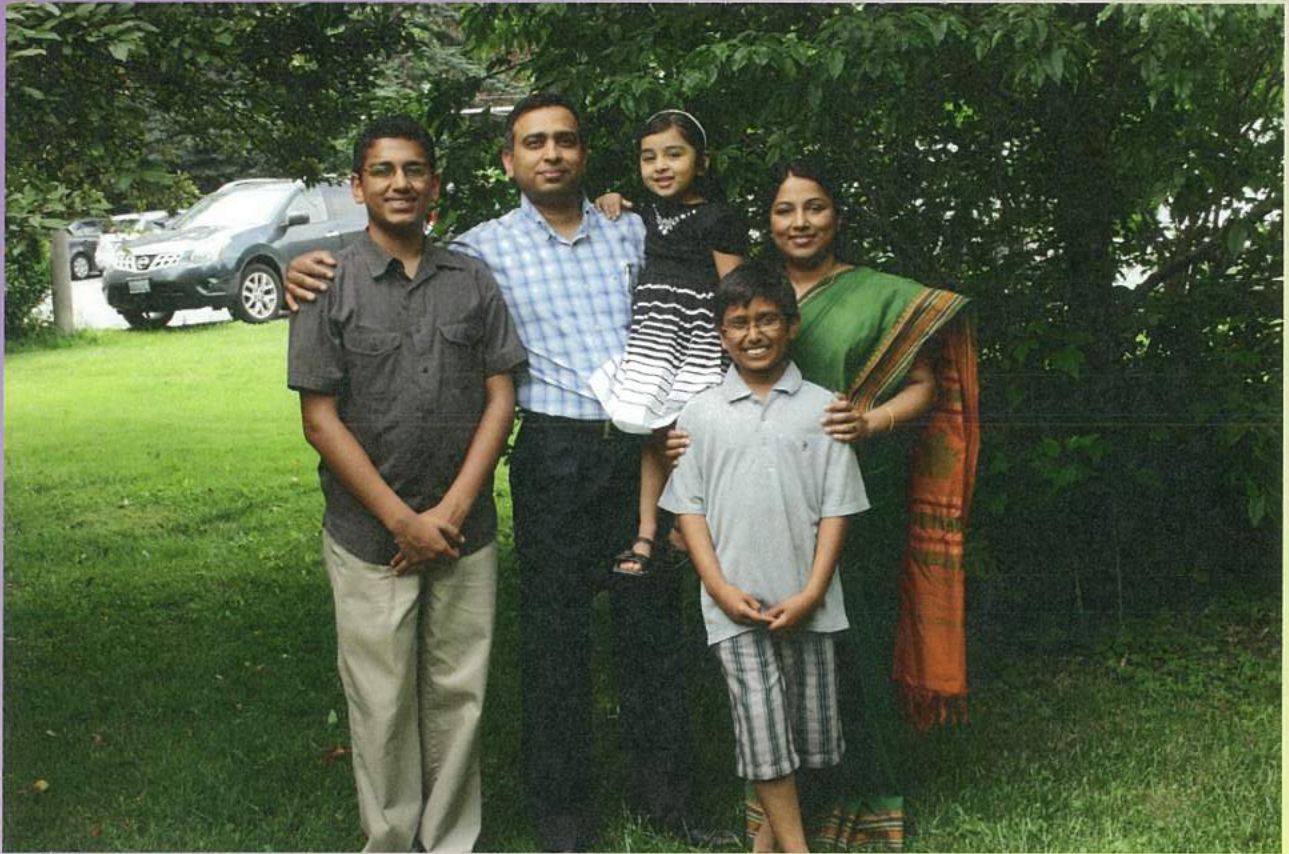
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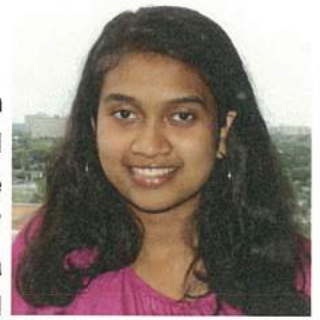


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MY WALK WITH CHRIST

Walking with Christ our Savior can be rough. The road we take while walking with Christ can be the one with lots of speed breakers. There can be lot of ups and downs. He never said there will be no rain and thunder in our Christian life. It is quite challenging not only to me, but to all the teenagers and adults. But the great 'I am' will lead us through. Growing as a Christian teenager is not so easy. But my Lord is a great God. He is my healer, my redeemer and my best friend. He has always helped me when I asked Him. I have committed my life to Him. So He has always taken care of me. If we trust in Him and commit our life to Him, He will take care of us. God never said that a walk with Him will be smooth, but He told that "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Corinthians 12:9).



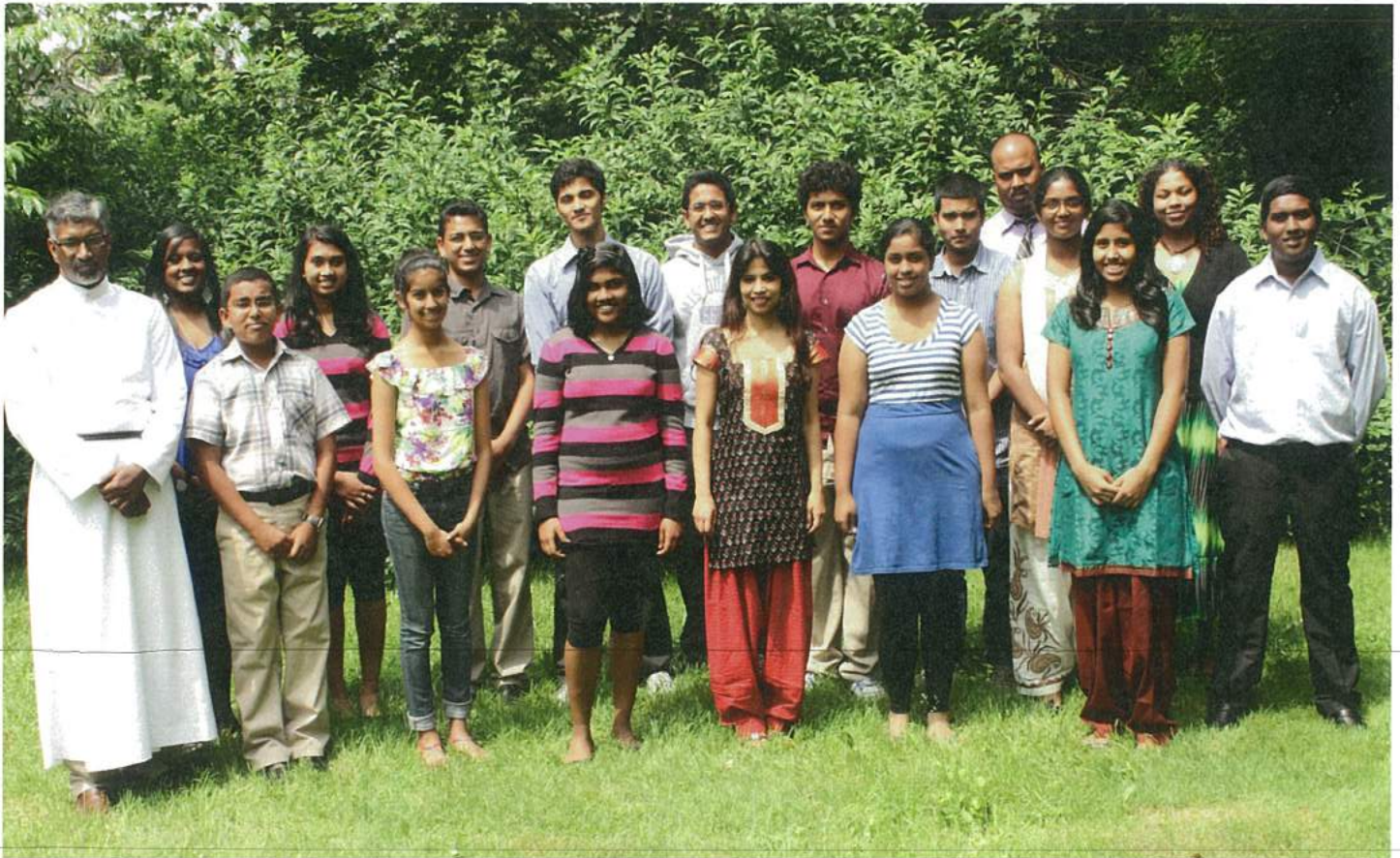
When we look around, how many people can you see actually following Christ? In a group of 10 people are there at least 2 people? Well I think, no. In my class when I turn around and look I can see only 3 or 4 students who actually believe in God. Others are either non-believers or they believe in other "gods"! Why is this happening? Why is our faith so low? Well, we are just like the lost sheep. We desire worldly things more than heavenly pleasure. We delight ourselves in this materialistic world. We have gone so blind; we cannot see that our God is a God who fulfills all our needs. We don't thank Him enough for His blessings. I think we don't thank Him at all. Again and again we continue to be the lost sheep. When I say lost sheep, it is like we are the lost ones and our shepherd will come to save us. Yes, with no doubt I can say that He will come. What if the lost sheep is so much attracted to the worldly pleasures? Will our Savior still force us to be with Him? Yes, he will, but are we willing to hear His sweet voice again and again and go with Him? Take the rough path? Well many of us don't. Even though we go to church, we still might be the lost sheep. Our shepherd comes to find us every day but are we willing to go with Him, leaving behind the earthly desires and pleasures? We need to ask ourselves this question. I myself have gone astray many times not recognizing my shepherd's call. Because it is not easy to let ourselves free from the bond that holds us. And being a teenager, it is not so simple. I have walked through the valley of darkness but my Lord has never departed from me. He has taken me up by His hand. Every time I fall, every time I am chased by the lion He saves me. He doesn't do this just for me, but for all of us. He is a shepherd who leaves all the 99 sheep and goes out to find the lost sheep.

For a teenager there are so many distractions. There can be a lot of temptations and peer pressure to do things that are not right. But it is our choice to follow our shepherd or to be with the evil of this world. We may feel like we are the only ones who are different. Do not be disheartened or think it as strange, because that is who we are. We are called to be different, if we hear the Shepherd's call. Not many of us, but just a few. We are the ones who are chosen to make the difference. Wherever we are it is our responsibility to make this difference also in others life. It's hard to mend others, but trying will help. We are all the sheep of His pasture (Psalm 100:3). And our Lord wants us to find the lost sheep and bring them to Him. So it also becomes our duty to not just follow Him but also to find the lost sheep and bring them closer to the shepherd. The world may offer us with everything we can be happy with. But that happiness will not last long. Leading a life with Christ can be hard, but He tells us, He is our Shepherd and we shall not want. His grace is sufficient for us. God will take care of us if we submit ourselves to Him. We need to say, Lord here is my life, take and use it and lead me. He is a great God who hears and answers our prayer. Trust in Him, believe, have faith in Him and love Him and He will do the rest. We can one day be with Him in heaven. Praise the Lord!!

Grace Ann Samuel



Church Committee



Youth

SANCTUARY





122
121
66
127
453 415

16
15

CHURCH FAMILY



Sunday School



Malayalalokam



Men's Fellowship



Women's Fellowship

From The Music Stand



My heartfelt greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is a great privilege for me to represent the CSI Church, Toronto Choir which has successfully transformed itself over the past 25 years to not only become the central pillar of worship within the congregation but

also to become one of the finest Malayalee Church Choir's in Toronto. As a new comer myself, having joined this congregation just under 3 years ago, it is a daunting task to summarize the activities of the Choir for the past two and half decades into a single page and do justice to the many directors who came before me. Instead, I will attempt to highlight few characterises that I have witnessed firsthand, which I strongly believe has been the fruits of a well watered tree.

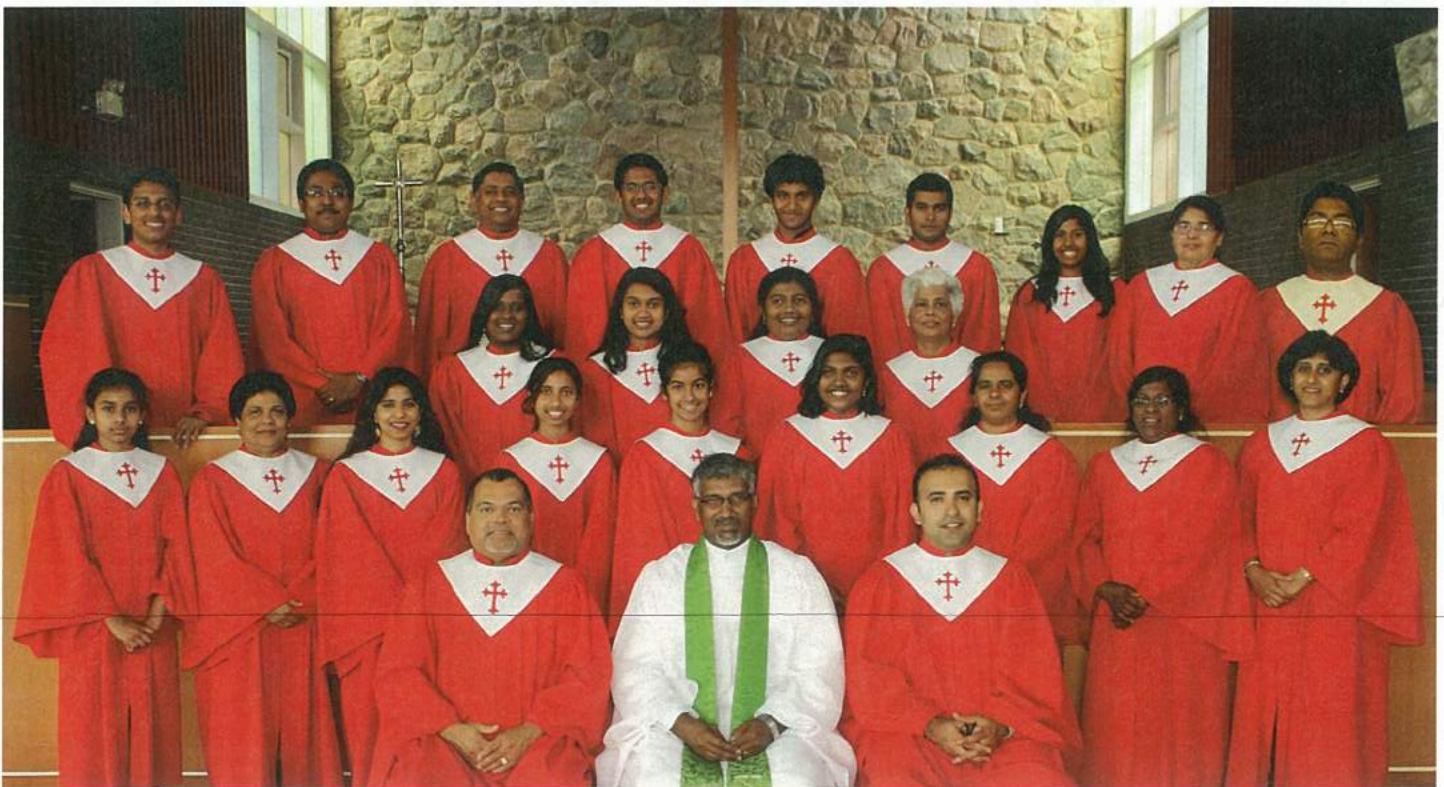
The main responsibility of the Choir is to lead the ministry of regular Sunday Services. In addition, the choir presents special performances celebrating important events of the church such as Christmas Carol's, Cantata's, Choir Festival's etc to name a few. While all these may sound similar to what other Choir's do, what makes this Choir special is that it does it as a "Family". Apart from the regular responsibilities of a Choir, one of the major objectives of this group is to cultivate certain core values within its members from a very early age through the world of Music. Every new member is provided with the rules of being in the ministry of singing in the Church Choir. They are trained for three months after which they are dedicated and presented the Choir gown by the Priest. The Choir Master is the head of the Family. The four parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor & Bass) are representative of the branches of a Family tree. The Choir is always in search of young talents who are encouraged to start as a Soprano, gradually moving to other parts as the need arises. They learn to be punctual for practices. "10 to 10" used to be the arrival time for Sunday morning services. As catchy as it sounds, the message was loud and clear. Those that cannot make it in time are required to inform in advance thereby inculcating in them a sense of responsibility and discipline. Leads are indentified for each part and they help their team on the way. New members are initially seated beside leads for them to learn with the hope that they will reciprocate one day. Youngsters are also given responsibilities such as coordinating communications, arranging numbers on the Hymn Board every Sunday etc. Those that are proficient in instruments are groomed as back up Organists and Guitarists. Ultimately the members learn to be accountable for their Music, to care and share and above all to help others. Through all this they learn more about themselves and each other. They learn that Music is a harmony of parts and it sounds best in unison; very similar to a family setting where it is important for everyone to do their part to remain happy and successful. When all is said and done, parents can be rest assured that their children's time is well spent.

It all started small 25 years ago with a group of ardent music enthusiasts congregating at the house of a supporter and well wisher Mr. Babu Joseph for practise sessions. His daughter Mrs. Sheila Joseph played the Piano for numerous years. Everyone who was associated with the Church encouraged the Choir along the way. A special mention for the support and well wishes of Bishop Michael John during the formative years is befitting. At the heights of it there were close to 45 members. Many have come and gone with the number currently settling at 25, but the seniors have ensured to keep the true Family spirit going. There has been countless Carols, Competitions and Stage Performances along the way,

however two are worth a mention. The Christmas Cantata "City of Lights" performed in 1997 was the first of its kind organized by a Malayalee Church especially with limited resources. It was a welcome change from the stereotypical programs and paved the way for many more to come. The Musical Evening "Arise! - Celebrate Life With A Summer Concert For Charity" conducted in 2009 at the Don Bosco School in coordination with three other Malayalee Church's witnessed a packed house, thanks to its unique theme and the message. By God's grace the Choir continues to enlighten the hearts and minds of many.

We all know that music is an integral part of the order of worship at CSI Church's worldwide. As some say - If you are a CSI member, you are "expected" to sing - no questions asked! However, it has by no means been an easy task to build and nurture such a wonderful group of Choristers. It has been the result of hard work and dedication of all the member families involved along with the Directors, the Pianists, coupled with the able leadership of the Choir Master Mr. Daniel Thomas (Danichen as he is generally called). Thanks to all the Bishops and the Achen's for their prayers and support. As we all know the church is the House of God and a place of worship, prayer and meditation. I would like to thank the Anglican Diocese for their support and for the wonderful church we now congregate in. We hope and pray that our voices will continue to reverberate within the walls of the church and rejuvenate the minds and souls of all our members for many more years to come. Above all, our dear God Almighty has shown the way through our High's and Low's and we are for-ever indebted to him for keeping us as a Family. God Bless!

Sanju Cherian
Choir Director



Church Choir



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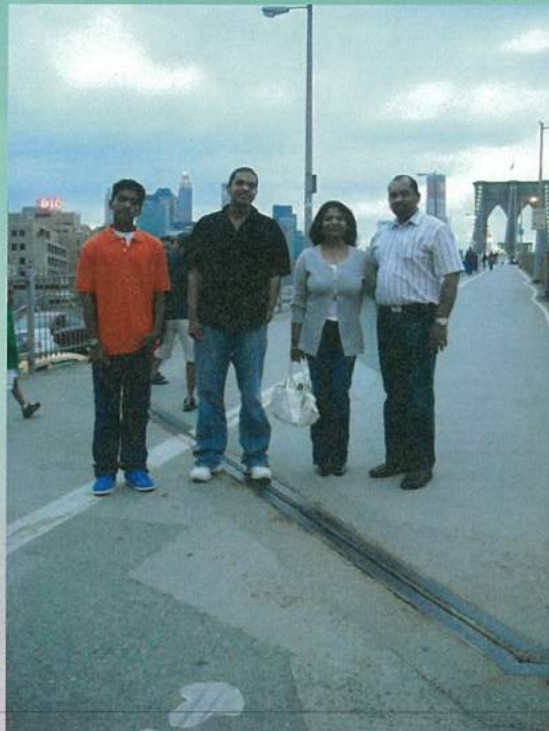


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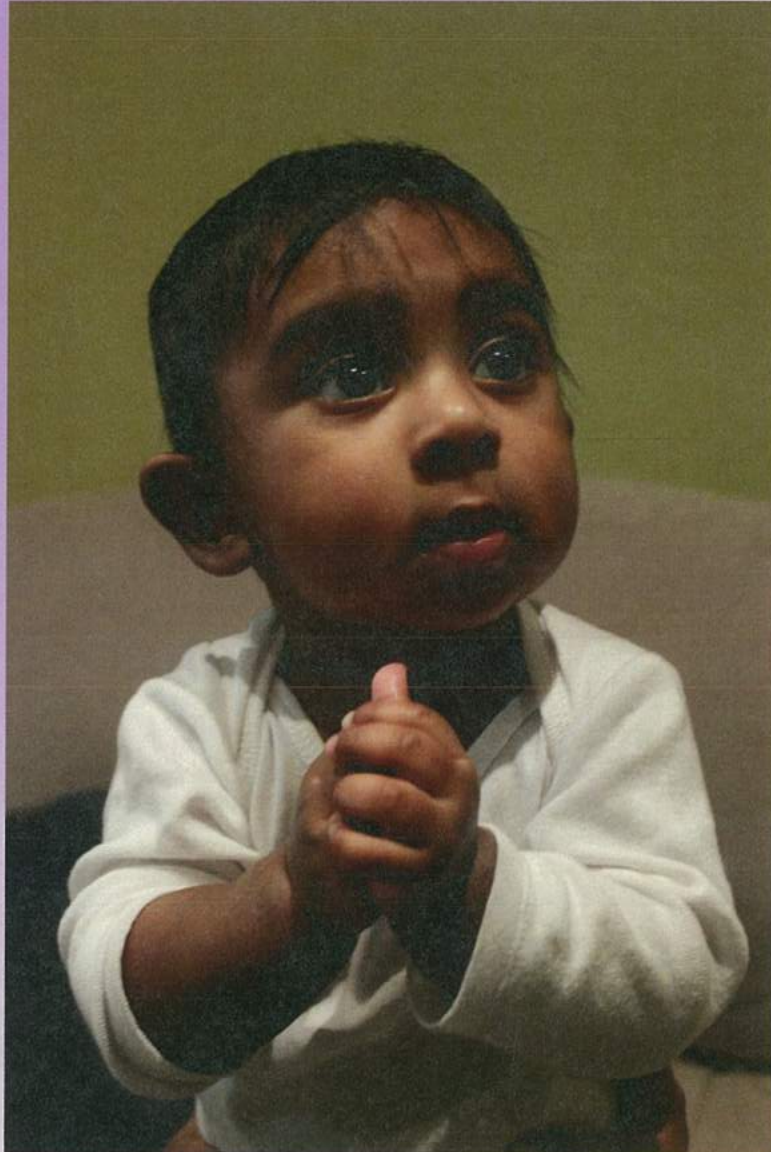
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THE MARCH OF FAITH

Faith, a boon that has helped man live and proceed toward eternity, has lost its flavor. Faith is the quality in a person that enables him to accept and comprehend both the usual and unusual. The Holy Bible (NIV) says '-faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.'(Heb. 11.1)

Collins English Dictionary defines faith as 'a strong or unshakeable belief in something, especially without proof or evidence.' Faith has been the foundation that led humanity to a life of quality. The transience of this world and the fleeting nature of time have added fuel to the display of faith. Faith, the very corner stone of the success of individuals, families, societies and religions has been drained and rendered desolate. It is overwhelming to note that faith seems to have undergone a paradigm shift over the vast expanse of time.

The expression *Cogito ergo sum* put forward by René Descartes translated 'I think, therefore I am' can be considered as an embodiment of individual faith. Having faith in oneself will certainly thrust a person to the extent of successful living. Though faith is a rarity, people who believed in the inscape have become great personalities. But it is noteworthy that they have all been influenced by someone. Moses didn't have faith in himself. When he believed in the promise, he gained confidence. Peter didn't believe initially in his ability. He became a fisher of men after he believed that he could walk on water. Fed by the great teacher Rabban Gamaliel I, Saul believed in himself which gave rise to arrogance. That brought him to Damascus to have a confrontation with the *Alpha and Omega*. (Rev. 1.8) David believed in himself which took him to felling Goliath. All these illustrations prove the presence of the invisible hand of God. He guides each and every person to victory.

Belief in oneself gives power to each one to focus on the *author and perfecter of our faith- Jesus*. (Heb. 12.2) When the belief in ourselves gives way to dependence on the supremacy of Christ, we become *more than conquerors*. (Rom. 8.37) We find a great array of people who displayed faith when they succumbed to the authority of Jesus. The Canaanite woman who believed that only Jesus could save her dying child displayed great faith. The people who went to Jesus firmly believed that He could do the impossible. If faith can open sepulcher and bring out Lazarus, it can raise everyone. As we travel the stretch of time, we find many people who have put their ardent faith in Lord Jesus and in His redemption. But the faith has become very shallow or has totally disappeared. The lord of this world has succeeded in removing the remaining little faith. People who once said and believed 'The Lord is my shepherd' are now doubtful. The scientific advancement and many petty theories hold a great effect on the beliefs of people. It got sidelined based on the comfort given by science and technology. *Jesus, the name which is above every name*, (Phil. 2.9) is now used in a similar manner as OMG, holy cow, holy smoke etc. It has been rendered materialistic by people and society. 'When the son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?' (Luke 18. 8) is a very pertinent question at this point. People are too full of cares and are time bound. They don't have a little time to cast their burdens on Christ. What a shame! As Wordsworth says in his 'Lines Written in Early Spring', *and much it grieved my heart to think what man has made of man!*

The materialistic outlook of man has had a strong influence on the solemn sacrament of marriage which was instituted by God. People who used to have the wisdom to understand the sanctity and benign nature of marriage, seems to have lost it to science and technology. Husband and wife relationship was built on faith, backed by the word of God. That was a reflection of the spiritual faith between man and God. Gradually, as seasons changed, man lost faith, being open to new and strange ideas. God given wisdom ceased working and he turned himself to oddities and tried to validate his actions through his own established rules. These also crept into the church. The exposition was too great that many followed the broad path of spouse-spouse faith which ultimately turned into a *Modus Vivendi*. Many found comfort in the

(Continued on page 94)

FRIENDSHIP

A world without friends is lonely
A world without friends is full of despair
Friends come in all shapes and sizes
Sometimes its simply unfair

Someone you count on when problems appear
Someone you really trust
Someone you want to always keep near
Someone you dont need to adjust

Its better to give than to receive
Its better to comfort than to be comforted
A helping hand and a listening ear
Is a friendship without fear

For looking past our differences
For all the time we spent
For all the good times, and the bad
Thank you, thank you, my friend



Megan Thomas

(Continued from page 93)

world of partnership triggered by worldly standards, prior to the married life. Faith in self or the partner or God is now a priceless commodity which has gone out of stocks. Intimacy has received an alien status that questions the essence of faith in relation to man and God. It seems that the prince of this world has blacked out the tinge of faith people had. People are timed and are moving like automatons in a world of machines which decide their destinies.

The estranged family relationships coupled with the temporal outlook have driven man to doldrums, creating a drain of values in human society. The lack of faith wouldn't help them to accept leaders, and this gave rise to instability. Most of the nations are a prey to this. Religion, the only solace has washed her hands off as a result of being abandoned. This led man to do a massive treasure hunt-'Faith, where are you?' Dejected, people withdrew and became followers and lovers of fate. The transition from faith to fate has been carefully planned and executed by the master craftsman Satan, the prince of darkness.

Though man who was faithful to the creator believed in the divine providence, he alienated himself from the path of faith and travelled a long way off. It seems to be an end game. The present concept of faith is more materialistic and ephemeral than being spiritual and enduring. So man frantically tries to lodge his *faith* on a variety of secular elements in nature. In this mad rush, he ought to be astounded by the message- *homo fuge*. We need to flee from the wrath of God and run into the ever open loving arms of God. Instead of accepting the supreme sacrifice at the cross of Calvary, people are busy in reasoning out the very existence of God. Noah could be an example for anyone who wants to make a difference. Abraham's faith, which surpasses human understanding, is indeed exemplary. Faith has been all forlorn and pushed aside to shape her own destiny. If man were to detour, he'd certainly intercept the lost faith and set his feet on the abundant grace of Lord Jesus Christ, thereby regaining the paradise. The present scenario could be changed and heaven on earth established through redefining faith and following it doggedly in our march toward eternity.

Samuel Anselm Samuel

A vertical decorative panel on the left side of the card. It features a golden statue of Justice holding a scale and a sword, standing on a pedestal. Below the statue is a stack of colorful papers and a wooden gavel resting on an open book.

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ടൊറന്റോ സി. എസ്. ഐ സഭയും മലയാള ലോകവും

മലയാളം നമ്മുടെ മാതൃഭാഷ. നമ്മെ നിറഞ്ഞ മധുരവുമായി മലയാളി മനസ്സ് സമ്പുഷ്ടമാക്കുന്ന മലയാളഭാഷ നമ്മുടെ വികാരമാണ്. ഒപ്പം ആവേശവും. വിശാല ലോകത്തിൽ എവിടെ ജീവിച്ചാലും മലയാളിക്ക് അഭിമാനത്തിന്റെ ആത്മഹർഷം ഒരുക്കുന്ന നമ്മുടെ മനോഹര ഭാഷയെ തലമുറകൾക്ക് പകർന്നു നൽകുന്ന ജീവിത ദൗത്യം നാം തുടരുന്നു, ഏഴുവർഷങ്ങളായി, മലയാളലോകം എന്ന നമ്മുടെ സഭയിലെ മാതൃഭാഷാ പഠന പദ്ധതിയിലൂടെ.

2005 ഏപ്രിൽ 3 നു ആണ് മലയാളലോകം ക്ലാസ്സുകൾ ആരംഭിച്ചത്. ഇതിലൂടെ നമ്മുടെ മാതൃഭാഷ പഠിക്കുന്നതിനും നമ്മുടെ സംസ്കാരം വളർത്തിയെടുക്കുന്നതിനും ഈ പ്രസ്ഥാനം സഹായിച്ചു വരുന്നു. ആത്മാർത്ഥതയും സമർപ്പണവും ഉള്ള ഒരുപറ്റം അദ്ധ്യാപകരും, അദ്ധ്യാപന സഹായികളും, ഭാഷാ സ്നേഹികളായ പഠിതാക്കളും, അവരെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുന്ന സഭാജനങ്ങളുമാണ് മലയാള ലോകത്തിന്റെ കരുത്ത്.

വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെ ഭാഷാപരിചയത്തിന്റെ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിലാണ് ക്ലാസ്സുകളായി തിരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്. ബിഗിനർ, ഇൻറർമീഡിയറ്റ്, സീനിയർ എന്നിങ്ങനെ ആയിരുന്നു ക്ലാസ്സുകൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നത്. നിലവിൽ ബിഗിനർ ഇൻറർമീഡിയറ്റ് എന്നീ രണ്ടു ക്ലാസ്സുകൾ പ്രവർത്തിച്ചു വരുന്നു. ഞായർ ആരാധനയ്ക്ക് ശേഷം മുപ്പതു മിനിറ്റ് ദൈർഘ്യമുള്ള ക്ലാസ്സുകൾ നടത്തി വരുന്നു. ജനുവരി മുതൽ മാർച്ച് വരെയും ഏപ്രിൽ മുതൽ ജൂൺ വരെയും സെപ്തംബർ മുതൽ നവംബർ വരെയും മൂന്നു സെമസ്റ്ററുകളായി ക്ലാസ്സുകൾ ക്രമീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെ ഹാജരും ഫലപ്രദമായ പങ്കാളിത്തവുമാണ് ഈ പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിലൂടെ വിഭാവനം ചെയ്യപ്പെടുന്നത്. മലയാള ലോകത്തിലൂടെ വളരെ നല്ല ഫലങ്ങളാണ് നാം ലക്ഷ്യമിടുന്നത്. അക്ഷരപഠനം, വായന, എഴുത്ത്, ഉച്ചാരണം എന്നിവയാണ് ആദ്യ ഘട്ടം ലക്ഷ്യമാക്കുന്നത്. ആശയ വിനിമയവും മലയാള ആരാധനയിലെ സമ്പൂർണ്ണ പങ്കാളിത്തവും വിശാല ലക്ഷ്യമാണ്.

മലയാളലോകത്തിന്റെ ആഭിമുഖ്യത്തിൽ പ്രത്യേക ആഘോഷങ്ങളും കാര്യ പരിപാടികളും നടത്തപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ട്. വാർഷികഘോഷങ്ങൾ ഏഴുവർഷങ്ങളിലും ഭംഗിയായി നടത്തി. മലയാളഞായർ ആചരണവും പ്രാധാന്യത്തോടെ നാം ഏറ്റെടുത്തു നടത്തി. കുട്ടികളുടെ നൈസർഗികമായ കഴിവുകൾ വികസിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിന് കലാവേദികൾ ഒരുക്കുവാനും കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതോടൊപ്പം ഭാഷ പഠനത്തിനു ഊന്നൽ കൊടുക്കുവാൻ നിരവധി പദ്ധതികൾ ആവിഷ്കരിച്ച് നടപ്പിലാക്കുന്നു. “ഞാനും എന്റെ മലയാള നാടും ഞാനും എന്റെ കുടുംബവും” എന്നിവ ഉദാഹരണങ്ങളാണ്.

ആഘോഷ പരിപാടികളുടെ ഭാഗമായി വിഭവ സമൃദ്ധമായ കേരളീയ ഭക്ഷണം നാം ഒരുക്കി വരുന്നു. ഇതിലൂടെ സമാഹരിക്കുന്ന തുക മദ്ധ്യകേരള മഹായിടവകയിൽ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്ന മണക്കാലാ ഭാഗിക ശ്രവണ വിദ്യാലയത്തിനും തിരുവല്ലാ ബധിര വിദ്യാലയത്തിനും സംഭാവനയായി നൽകി വരുന്നു.

പിന്നിട്ട ഏഴു വർഷങ്ങളിൽ മാതൃഭാഷയുടെ മാധുര്യവും സംസ്കൃതിയും നാം തലമുറകൾക്ക് പകർന്നു കൊടുത്തു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണ്. മലയാളത്തിന്റെ നമ്മെ ഹൃദയങ്ങളിൽ നിറച്ച് തിരക്കേറിയ നമ്മുടെ ജീവിതത്തെ മലയാള സംസ്കാരത്തോട് ബന്ധിപ്പിച്ച് നിർത്താനുള്ള എളിയ ശ്രമങ്ങളാണ് മലയാള ലോകത്തിലൂടെ ഇതുവരെയും നമ്മൾ നിർവഹിച്ചു വന്നത്. അത് ധാരാളം പേർക്ക് പ്രയോജനകരമായി തീരുന്നതിൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് ചാരിതാർത്ഥ്യം ഉണ്ട്. ഈ ശ്രമങ്ങൾ ഇനിയും തുടരണം. മലയാളത്തിന്റെ ചാരൂത നിരവധി പേരിലേക്ക് എത്തണം. അതാണ് നമ്മുടെ പ്രതീക്ഷ. നമുക്ക് ഒരുമിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കാം. ദൈവം അതിനു സഹായിക്കട്ടെ.



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WILLIAM CAREY: GOD'S GIFT TO INDIA



Introduction

William Carey, 'the Father of Modern Missions' and leader of 'The Second Reformation,' held to the slogan, "Expect great things from God and attempt great things for Him". He carved his name in the history of the Christian Church as a pioneer in several missionary activities of the church in the 19th century – "The Great Century." His life was a synonym of dedication and hard work and thus he made an indelible print on the mission of the church in the modern era as a missiologist, prophet, linguist, Bible translator, social reformer, naturalist and a great friend of humanity. Historians call him the best-known missionary of the 19th century and he commands honour as the greatest impulse of Protestant missionary work from the British Isles

Carey as a prophet

Carey, a remarkable man of a remarkable time, is revered as one of the greatest benefactors of modern India and he left no stone untouched to fulfill his vision for India. Christian missionary activities brought awakening in the Indian sub-continent in the 19th century and Carey had a significant role in this Renaissance. Thinkers call him 'the forerunner' of Indian Renaissance when India faced a transition in its cultural and religious milieu. Carey diagnosed the problems of India and knew the age-old chains fettering India's progress and so his mission was to try to diversify its multipurpose projects for the well-being and advancement of the people of India. These were all expressions of his genuine love & concern for the mission field for which he felt destined to serve. The mission of Carey unfolded an awakened India and the far-sighted contributions of this missionary statesman took place at a time when India faced the decay of knowledge. Carey took his cudgels against oppression, discrimination based on color, race, caste, and creed, including slaves of the British colonial system and he is heralded as the Friend of India. While writing to a friend in England, he held the view that India was one of the finest countries of the world and the state of agriculture and horticulture was degraded and primitive. Under the patronage of Lady Hastings the Agri-Horticultural Society was formed in 1820 and Carey became its founding secretary. The oldest botanical garden, which was established in 1827 at Alipur in Bengal, is a standing monument to the far-sightedness of this servant of God.

Carey as a Bible translator

Carey bought a press in 1798 and with the help of oriental scholars, he translated the Bible into 40 languages and dialects. His Bible translation was known as 'translation industry' and was a Herculean task which he rendered not only for the people of India but for south east Asia in general. For this extraordinary service for the spread of the gospel, one could term him the genius in Bible translation in the history of the universal church and so far no other person has ever undertaken the gigantic work of the Serampore Mission. It has been observed that, "... the Bible remains the only book with an unbeaten record of publications in the largest number of Indian languages." C. Arangaden, a former Translation Secretary of the Bible Society of India, notes that the Indian sub-continent witnessed "an effusion of gifts in a rising tide of Bible translation which Carey and many others were to draw out from the deep." Bible translation in Indian languages presented the message of Christ in lingua franca; for example, it opened the way for N. V. Tilak, a Marathi Brahmin, in embracing Christianity. He had a special vision in the proclamation of the gospel through Bible translation and India owes a great deal to him in this endeavour. Bible translation was the first priority in Carey's missionary outreach and thus he knew the value of imparting the Word of God. Having grasped the social problems of India, the Serampore Mission believed that Bible was the antidote to social evils. It is reported that in the first eighteen centuries of the Christian Church, the Bible was translated into thirty languages, but in the first third of the nineteenth century, it was doubled because of the work of Carey and his associates. The Serampore College Carey Library contains Bibles in 27 oriental languages published from Serampore between 1801-1832. The Bible Soci-

(Continued on page 103)

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(Continued from page 101)

ety of India should be proud of Carey's pioneering work in the area of Bible translation; certainly it was unparalleled in the history of the Bible translation. The British and Foreign Bible Society was founded in 1804 and it supported the work of Carey.

Carey's contribution to language, literature and education

Carey was a linguist and demonstrated a capacity in learning the languages of India. He was a man who made a difference in this realm; for example, he learned languages such as Bengali, Oriya, Marathi, Assamese, Punjabi and Kannada, in addition to Sanskrit. During his early days in England, he learned Greek, Latin, Hebrew, German and Italian, and wrote grammar in Bengali, Marathi, Sanskrit, Punjabi, and Karnataka. He composed a version of the Bengali Grammar, besides his own versions of The Dialogues, The Ramayana and Mahabharatha. Fort William College, Calcutta, was the brainchild of Lord Wellesley, then the Governor-General of India. Carey was appointed professor of Sanskrit, Bengali, Marathi and the principal beneficiaries of this College were British civilians. While serving this College, he drew Indian linguistic scholars to Calcutta and ushered new beginnings in Indian literature, thus setting the expansion of Indian languages and literature. Carey and his associates argued vigorously for the development of Indian languages and this has been substantiated by Rabindra Nath Tagore, the Nobel laureate, who said, "Carey was the pioneer of revived interests in the vernaculars of India." In several ways Carey became an instrument in the opening of the stores of Indian literature to Europe, and he generated new impulses into the linguistic renaissance in the Indian scene becoming a morning star in opening India's literary treasures to Europe. His influence resulted in the establishment of a well-equipped library with teaching-aids for languages. He is credited with the name 'the inaugurator of modern Bengali prose.'

Carey's contribution to science and technology

Carey came to India with a mission to serve the people of India; he tried to combine spirituality with his daily life on this planet. In 1808 he presented a paper to the Asiatic Society on the state of Agriculture in the District of Dinajpur which "was the first public attempt of agriculture reform." It is the Serampore garden designed by Carey which became a source of many plants and it was said that "Carey had the uncanny knowledge of a practical field-botanist." The Serampore College taught 'Eastern Literature and Western Science' and with a view to augment scientific studies, a renowned scientist from Edinburgh University, by the name of John Mack, joined Carey in 1821. Carey was a keen student of botany and created a collection of 3200 species. He was elected to the Linnean Society of London in 1823, to the Geological Society of London and to the Horticultural Society of London. By 1800 he had purchased a wooden press and with the help of Pachnan Karmarkar and his son-in-law, Manohar, produced tapes in the more than forty languages into which the Bible had been translated. He was also instrumental in the establishment of a paper mill and for that purpose a steam engine was brought from England. Thus the Serampore Mission produced a paper-making mill, which was unique in Asia. The printing press had its own immeasurable contributions in the area of secular literature and it had positive results in all walks of life. Carey's unconscious efforts into the realm of botanical studies made contributions and also brought light into the field of epistemology was were originally recorded in the classical texts of Ayurveda.

Carey's contribution to social reforms

Carey's life and mission revealed that he was a visionary missionary. Providence brought Carey and his team for God's revelation to the people of India. India was not ready for change as India's social structures were very rigid and the country was reluctant to absorb changes in a society which was unparalleled in world history. Hinduism does not acknowledge God as the creator of this world, and according to Hindu philosophy creation is an illusion or *Maya*. According to Carey, human life is very precious and that is why he took his cudgels against widow burning, infanticide and other cruel systems of the day. His early hardships in Bengal drilled him as a missionary statesman for the universal Church of God. He and his family were treated as outcasts at the time of the death of their son and it was a hard lesson for them. The gospel of Christ underscored the values of equality, brotherhood, human dignity, sacrifice, service and social justice. Carey in his early days in England was strongly opposed to the slave trade and the elements of racism involved in it and like Christ, he became a champion of the cause of the downtrodden and a voice of the voiceless.

(Continued on page 109)

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(Continued from page 103)

The Hindu Law places the role of a woman in a subordinate position and the woman's role was very submissive in ancient Indian society. Carey witnessed the sight of widow burning on April 1st, 1799 and in 1804 He submitted a report to the Government of India. It fell on deaf ears, but *sati* was officially outlawed by Lord William Bentick in 1829. The burning of lepers was another major concern for Carey which resulted in the establishment oldest leprosy hospital in India. Infanticide, another cruel practice of the day, was another concern for Carey. According to this ritual, the firstborn was thrown into the holy rivers as a fulfillment of their vows; if the children were devoured by hungry crocodiles, the goddesses were pleased. Child marriage was very common; according to a census in Bengal in the last century there were 10,000 widows below the age of 4 and 50,000 between the ages 5 and 9 in Calcutta and its suburbs. He understood that the 'pen is mightier than the sword,' so he echoed his voice against the social evils of the day in two papers: **Samachar Darpan** and **The Friend of India**. His contributions to social reforms synchronized with preaching and practicing the gospel. Carey held the view that the gospel is the greatest antidote to social evils and not only for saving souls. As such, he became a champion of Bible translation because the Bible, the spoken word of God, needed to be available in their own languages.

Conclusion

Carey saw the Indian society and responded sympathetically to the sighs and groans of humanity for deliverance from the powers of evil and he esteemed the value of education 'as a gift for the illumination of the mind.' He was bold to face the challenges of the multi-religious and multi-ethnic situation of the Indian society and it is said that "the generation of missionaries from England may have been less sensitive than Carey to the Hindu and Muslim religions and less aware of Indian culture." He studied the anatomy of the Indian scenario and was convinced that the gospel was the only force which could liberate India from its shackles. When churches are keenly studying the art or science of missiology, they can recapture the vision he left with the universal church in its application of the strategies of mission. Calcutta and its vicinity had a rare opportunity to be served by a galaxy of world-renowned missionaries like Alexander Duff, Reginald Heber (the second Bishop of Calcutta), Mother Theresa and others. Carey had a group of dignitaries to his mission complex, including Lady Bentick; he always rode on the hard track and it is mentioned that he never visited his native England. At his death-bed, Dr. Wilson, the bishop of Calcutta, met him for his blessings; his spirit left on June 9, 1834 and his funeral drew people from all religious groups and many dignitaries attended, including the Viceroy of India.

It is said that 'What Livingston meant to Africa, Carey meant to India.' The legacy Carey left with the missionary map of the world is inspiring generation after generation and the superiority of his work commands commendations like this, "In the whole history of the Church no nobler man has ever given himself to the service of the Redeemer. His 'challenge, commitment and service' is reflected in the minds of those who follow the slogan, "Not to be served, but to serve." He had a 5am-11pm schedule although the modern work schedule is 10am -5pm. His contributions are unparalleled in the history of Christianity. He gave 'the jolt to the Protestant churches' when they desperately needed it and blazed an open way for missionaries regardless of their denominational affiliations in the days ahead. His story is a combination of tragedies and triumphs; being an illegal immigrant to British India he faced setbacks from his own family and he transcended unspeakable adversities into everlasting joy and thus he demonstrated his loyalty and obedience to his Master. Carey reflected God's plan for him to the world and let us reflect ourselves as mirrors of God during our pilgrimage on this planet.

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കടലിനക്കരെ ഒരു സ്നേഹകുടുംബം

റവ. ടി. ജെ. ജോൺ

സി. എസ്. ഐ ചർച്ച് ട്രാൻസ്ഫറിനെപ്പറ്റി പറയുമ്പോൾ മനസ്സിൽ ഓടിയെത്തുന്നത് കടലിനക്കരെ ഒരു സ്നേഹ കുടുംബം എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. പരസ്പരം ഐക്യത്തിൽ സന്തോഷത്തോടും സമാധാനത്തോടും ദൈവാശ്രയത്തോടും കൂടി ദൈവത്തെ ആരാധിക്കുന്ന ഒരു സമൂഹം. ഇരുപത്തിയഞ്ച് വർഷം മുൻപ് കാനഡയിലെ മഞ്ഞു നിറഞ്ഞു നിൽക്കുന്ന പ്രദേശത്ത് സി.എസ്.ഐ മദ്ധ്യകേരള മഹായിടവകയിലെ ഒരു പറ്റം സഹോദരങ്ങൾ രൂപം നൽകിയ സഭ ഇന്ന് നോർത്ത് അമേരിക്കയിലെതന്നെ ഏറ്റവും വലിയ സഭയായ് വളർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. രജത ജൂബിലി ആഘോഷിക്കുന്ന സി. എസ്. ഐ സഭയ്ക്ക് എല്ലാ ഭാവുകങ്ങളും ആശംസിക്കുന്നു. ഓരോ ദിവസവും ഓരോ നിമിഷവും സഭ ആത്മീയമായും ഭൗതികമായും വളരട്ടെ എന്നാഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു, പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു.

2005 മാർച്ച് മാസം 13നു രാത്രി 12 മണിക്കാണ് ഞാനും ഭാര്യ ഓമന ജോണും മകൾ ജനിൻ ഏലിയാമ്മ ജോണും കാനഡയിലെ പിയെഴ്സൻ ഇൻറർനാഷണൽ എയർപോർട്ടിൽ എത്തിച്ചേർന്നത്. വളരെ ദീർഘദൂരയാത്രയുടെ ക്ഷീണവും ഉറക്കില്ലായ്മയും വിമാനയാത്രയുടെ ഭയവും പുതിയ രാജ്യത്ത് പ്രവേശിച്ചതിലുള്ള ആകാംക്ഷയുമെല്ലാം ഞങ്ങളുടെ മുഖത്തു പ്രകടമായിരുന്നു. വിമാനത്തിലുള്ള എല്ലാവരും പുറത്തിറങ്ങിയിട്ടും ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് മാത്രം പുറത്തു വരാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞില്ല. എന്റെ വിസയുടെയും വർക്ക് പെർമിറ്റിന്റെയും രേഖകൾ കമ്പ്യൂട്ടറിൽ വ്യക്തമല്ല. ഏകദേശം ഒരുമണിക്കൂർ കഴിഞ്ഞ് പേപ്പർ എല്ലാം ശരിയാക്കി ഇമിഗ്രേഷൻ ഓഫീസറുടെ സോറിയും ഏറ്റുവാങ്ങി ഞങ്ങൾ പുറത്തു വരുമ്പോൾ കാത്തിരുന്നു കാത്തിരുന്നു സങ്കടവും ആകാംക്ഷയും എല്ലാം കൂടി കലർന്ന മുഖത്ത് സ്നേഹമാർന്ന പുഞ്ചിരിയുമായി ഇടവകയിലെ കമ്മറ്റി അംഗങ്ങൾ കാത്തു നിൽക്കുന്നു. കുപ്പായം ഇട്ടു ഒരച്ചൻ വിമാനത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടെന്നുള്ള ആശ്വാസം അവരെ സന്തോഷിപ്പിച്ചിരുന്നു. ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് തണുപ്പ് ഏൽക്കാതിരിക്കാൻ കരുതിക്കൊണ്ട് വന്ന ജാക്കറ്റുകൾ സൈന് അറിയാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ വളരെ അധികം കരുതിയിരുന്നു. ഞങ്ങൾ മൂന്നുപേരും അണിഞ്ഞ് ബ്രാംപ്ടണിലെ സി. എസ്. ഐ പാഴ്സനെജിലെക്ക് വാഹനങ്ങൾ കൂരിച്ചു. നേരത്തെ പോയി പാഴ്സനെജ് തുറക്കാൻ അതിവേഗം കാർ ഓടിച്ച സെക്രട്ടറിയെ പോലീസ് പിടിച്ചെന്നും പിന്നീട് ശിക്ഷ കൊടുക്കാതെ പറഞ്ഞു വിട്ടെന്നും അറിഞ്ഞത് ആദ്യ ദിവസം തന്നെ വളരെ രസാവഹമായിരുന്നു. തുടർന്ന് പാഴ്സനെജിൽ പാലുകാച്ചും ഭക്ഷണവും എല്ലാം വളരെ വളരെ കേമമായിരുന്നു. കൂടാതെ ക്ഷീണിച്ചുവന്ന ഞങ്ങളുടെ കുടുംബ ഫോട്ടോ രാത്രിയിൽ എടുത്തത് കൌതുകമുണർത്തി.

കാനഡയിലെ ആരാധനാലയം ലോറൻസ് അവന്യൂവിലെ സേന്റ് ഡേവിഡ്സ് ആംഗ്ലിക്കൻ ചർച്ച് ആയിരുന്നു. വളരെ വർഷങ്ങൾ അവിടെയാണ് സി. എസ്. ഐ ആരാധന നടന്നത്. ആദ്യദിവസത്തെ ആരാധന ഇന്നും മായാതെ മനസ്സിൽ നിൽക്കുന്നു. ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് പ്രസംഗിക്കണം. പക്ഷെ ആദ്യത്തെ ആരാധന മലയാളത്തിൽ ആകാം എന്ന് തീരുമാനിച്ചതിനാൽ മലയാളത്തിൽ ആരാധനയും പ്രസംഗവും നടത്തി. പക്ഷെ ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് പറയാതെ പറഞ്ഞില്ലല്ലോ. ഒരു വിധത്തിൽ ആമുഖം പറഞ്ഞു. അന്ന് ഹോശന്നാ ഞായർ ആയതിനാൽ ഒരു triumphant എൻട്രി ആയി ജനം വ്യാഖ്യാനിച്ചു. യേശുവിന്റെ യെരൂശലൈമിലുള്ള വിജയപ്രവേശനം ആണല്ലോ ഹോശന്ന.

മൂന്നു ദിവസം കഴിഞ്ഞ് ഒരു വീട്ടിൽ ചെന്നപ്പോൾ പറഞ്ഞു മലയാളവും ഇംഗ്ലീഷും കൂട്ടിക്കലർത്തിയ അച്ചന്റെ പ്രസംഗം triumphant entry ആയിരുന്നു എന്ന് കേട്ടു. എന്നാൽ

crucifixion ഉം അതിന്റെ ഭാഗമായി പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചോണം. അല്പം ചമ്മൽ തോന്നി. എന്നിട്ടും വളരെ താല്പര്യത്തോടെ ഞാൻ ആ വാക്കുകൾ കേട്ടു. എന്നാൽ ആനന്ദത്തോടും നന്ദിയോടും പറയട്ടെ crucifixion നടന്നില്ല. പക്ഷേ ദേവാലയത്തിലെ മദ്ബഹായിലെ ഫ്ലവർ സ്റ്റാന്റിൽ തലയിടിച്ച് ഒരു ആംബുലൻസിൽ എന്നെ ആശുപത്രിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുപോയത് വേണമെങ്കിൽ crucifixion ആയി വ്യാഖ്യാനിക്കാം എന്ന് മാത്രം.

മൂന്നു വർഷവും മൂന്നു മാസവും കാനഡയിൽ ജീവിച്ചത് ഏറ്റവും സന്തോഷകരമായിരുന്നു. ആദ്യ നാളുകളിൽ ഇംഗ്ലീഷിൽ പ്രസംഗിക്കാൻ വിഷമിച്ച എനിക്ക് ഭാഷ ഒരു ഹരമായ് മാറി. യുവജനങ്ങളുടെ ഹൃദയത്തിൽ നിന്നുള്ള സ്നേഹവാക്കുകൾ, സഹോദരങ്ങളുടെ കരുതൽ, കമ്മറ്റിയുടെ കൂട്ടായ്മ, തുടർച്ചയായുള്ള ഭവന സന്ദർശനം, എക്യുമെനിക്കൽ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ, ഇതര സഭകളിലെ പട്ടക്കാരുടെ സഹകരണം, തുടർച്ചയായുള്ള യാത്രകൾ, അമേരിക്കൻ പര്യടനങ്ങൾ, കൺവൻഷനുകൾ, റിട്ടീററുകൾ എല്ലാം യാത്രയുടെ താളവും താളക്കൊഴുപ്പുമായിരുന്നു. ഗായക സംഘത്തിന്റെ പാശ്ചാത്യ രൂപി എന്നിങ്ങും ഇഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടു.

സഭയിലെ ഗായക സംഘം കാനഡയിലെ ഇതര സഭകൾക്ക് ഒരു വെല്ലുവിളി ആയിരുന്നു. ഭവന സന്ദർശനവും വാഹന യാത്രയും മനസ്സിൽ ഇന്നും മായാതെ നിൽക്കുന്നു.

സാമ്പത്തിക രംഗത്ത് സഭ വളർന്നതിനൊപ്പം ഞങ്ങളെയും കരുതുവാൻ സഭ ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചിരുന്നു. കാർ ഡ്രൈവിംഗ് ഇപ്പോഴും മറ്റുള്ളവരോട് പറയുമ്പോൾ അവർ അമ്പരക്കുന്നു. ഓരോ ഭവനം സന്ദർശിക്കുമ്പോഴും ലഭിക്കുന്ന ആമിത്യം നിർവചനീയമാണ്. മൂന്ന് വർഷത്തെ ശുശ്രൂഷയ്ക്ക് ശേഷം നാട്ടിൽ എത്തുമ്പോൾ ഒരു പിടി ഓർമ്മകളും ഒരായിരം സ്നേഹ വാക്കുകളും ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് നിക്ഷേപമായി ലഭിച്ചു.

ദൈവം സഭയെ തന്റെ കരങ്ങളിൽ വഹിക്കട്ടെ.



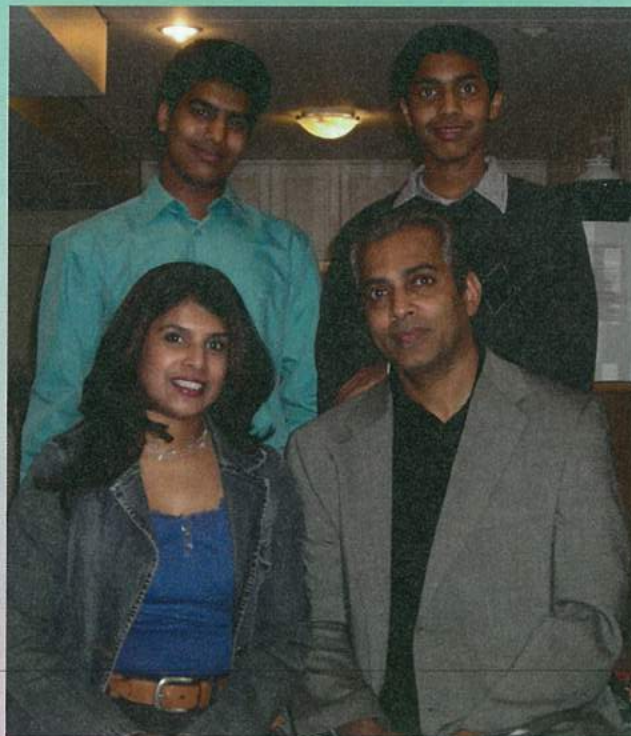
In loving memory of K. Koshy (Joy)



Forever in our hearts,

Alice Koshy
Sheela Philip and family
Regi Koshy and family
John Koshy and family

Best Compliments from



Regi, Annie, Akshay and Daniel Koshy

With Best Compliments



Zac Santhosh Koshy & family

With Best Compliments

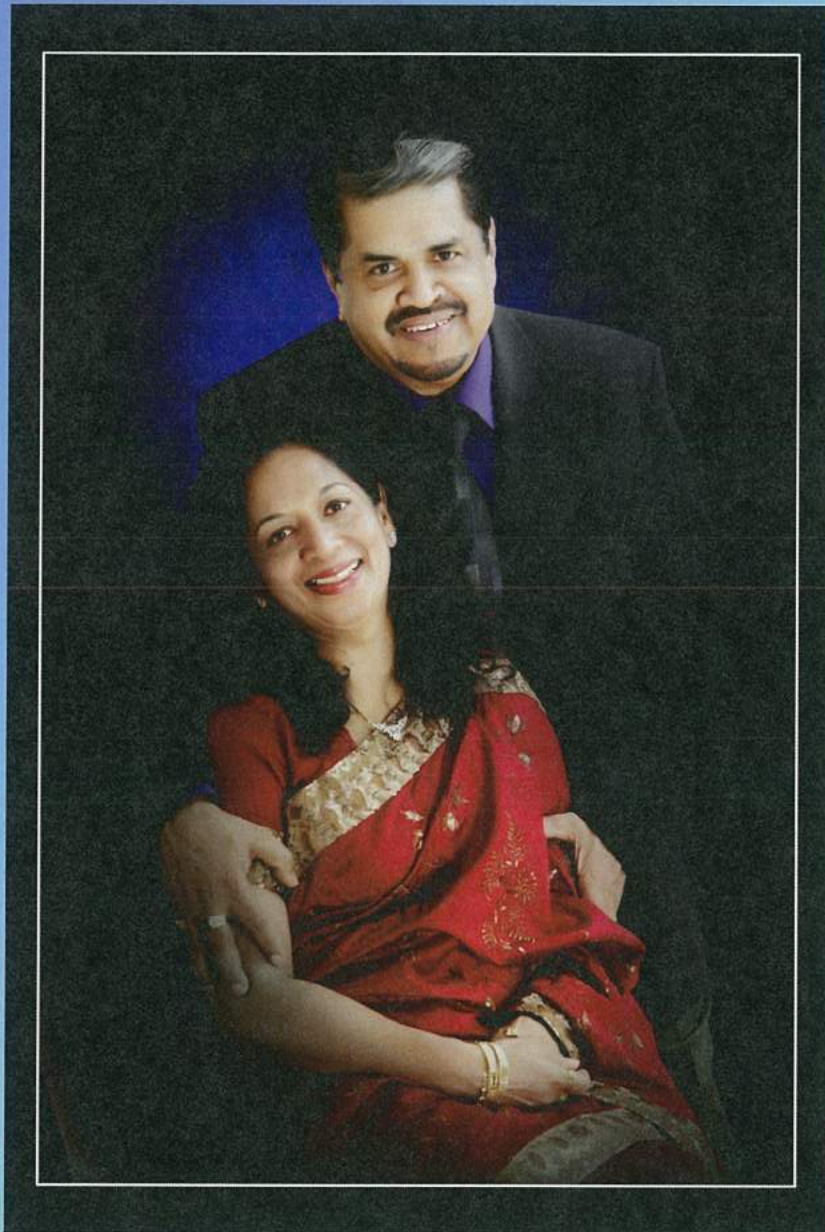


*Vilayil Kurian & Susan
Mississauga*

Best Compliments
from

*Jacob Kingson
Juby Kingson
Habel*

The Best Compliments From



Balaji & Family

Best Compliments
from

Prashanth Koshy
Sheena Mathew
Joshua & Johnathan

Best Compliments from



Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.
They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.

Philip & Diani Mathai

Best Compliments from



I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation

Philip Mathai
Elizabeth Mathai

Best Compliments
from

*Joseph Mathews & Sonia
Thankamma
Sidhant
Ryan*

Best Compliments from



We're fools whether we dance or not, so we might as well dance.

*Thomas Mathai
Nisha Thomas
Megan & Savannah*

In Loving Memory of

Saramma Mathew

Best Compliments
from

John Mathew

Sheeba R. Thomas

Jacob & Sarah

Best Compliments from



What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.
I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

Samuel Anselm Samuel

Shini Samuel

Grace & Anna

Best Compliments
from

Mathew Kuruvila & family

MY INTERPRETAION OF THE APOSTLES CREED



The Apostle's Creed states " I believe in God the father almighty, creator of heaven and earth", which means our god is the father almighty the only strong God as the word almighty means "having complete power", for saving us from evil and danger. The apostles Creed says the "Creator of heaven and earth", which means that he is the one that created the universe and everything in it, through the abilities and powers of humans.

The apostle's creed states "I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary", which means that we should believe in Jesus Christ, God's son as he is the father of us and the father of Christ, which is empowered by the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ was presented to the world through the Virgin Mary, controlled by God. In the apostles creed it is written "Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and was buried, on the third day he descended to the dead", which means that Jesus Christ, suffered for us under Pontius Pilate, took the pain, crucified for us for the Redemption of Sins, was buried and descended into hell, to experience the fullness of suffering. It is written in the Apostles Creed " on the third day he rose, he ascended into heaven, he seated at the right hand of the father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead" which means that he rose again to show his victory from death, sin and the saving of Christianity. He ascended into heaven to return to his father's right hand to become a King of the Universe, and Christianity, to rule the world from the Father's right hand.

It is written in the Apostles Creed "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, The communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection, of the body and the life Everlasting", which means that you believe in the Holy Spirit, which is God, worshipping God at Church, having a time of praise, contributing your skills for the use of God, make every effort and fellowship to keep the unity of the Sprit through the church. As Christian believers we share one Lord, one body, one purpose, one father, one spirit, one faith, one Baptism, and one Love. For, the people that believe in God, they shall receive eternal life.

Nithin Chemmanoor

Best Compliments from

Shaji Levison Moothedom

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Smitha Victor Sam

TOTAL FORGIVENESS

[HOW TO FORGIVE, FORGET, AND BE HEALED]

Forgiveness is a process of giving up all resentments and ceasing to remember all offenses. Forgiveness is to grant pardon and to give up all claim on account of an offense or debt. (Oxford dictionary).

However, it is not natural for most of us to overflow with mercy and forgive one another. Instead we become defensive and try to protect ourselves from being hurt. Corrie Ten Boom, a prisoner in the Nazi Concentration camp during the holocaust said, "Forgiveness is to set a prisoner free, and to realize the prisoner was you."

Lack of forgiveness can build up in us many deep emotions such as anger, frustration, resentment and even hatred. In our own eyes these may seem to be genuine feelings, but what are these emotions in God's eyes? God sees them as sin and we know that sin separates us from God. Not only that these will disrupt and hinder our spiritual growth but also harm our physical bodies, even causing many illnesses.

Forgiveness originates in God and He has implanted this attribute within us. The Bible tells us that "*If you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their sins your Father will not forgive your sins.*" Mathew 6:14-15.

Forgiveness is a daily need and we need to exercise it daily since there are always reasons to become hurt. When God forgives us, He wipes us clean as though we have not sinned at all. Forgiveness happens in our hearts and is displayed in our behavior through the love of Christ. Therefore, as God does not remember our sins anymore, it is our obedience and obligation to God to forget what others have said or done, and wipe away the hurt which often result in grudge.

As much as we need daily forgiveness for our own sins, we need to daily forgive those who sin against us. Therefore we pray in The Lord's Prayer, "*Father, forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.*" There are two great principles inherent in the above line and they are, Admitting to God that we have sinned against Him and we need His forgiveness. Admitting to God that we are hurt but willing to forgive others. If we follow these two principles we will be in peace and will be able to continue our walk with God in a healthy spiritual and physical state.

We must be set free from the power of unforgiving to the freedom of forgiveness and we must set others free as well. The result is, stronger and healthy relationships with others, glory and honor to God, and healing of mind, body and soul.

Forgiving others may be a humbling and humiliating experience, but by doing so we are setting examples of the love and forgiveness of Christ. Seeking forgiveness from God and to forgive others come from a contrite heart that is deeply sorry. There is no room for pride or self-pity if we want God's kingdom and His will to rule our hearts.

We must also realize that all sin against us is not intentional. When people say or do something wrong to us they may not have any intention to hurt our feelings. Therefore, it is important to clear the situation immediately with them. The more we forgive, the more it will become a habit. We will learn to ignore feelings and maintain healthy relationships.

In the Bible we read the story of Joseph who was deeply hurt by his brothers, he was lied against and im-

(Continued on page 134)

(Continued from page 133)

prisoned. Yet Joseph feared God and remained faithful to Him. He totally forgave everyone and especially his brothers. He stated,

"God has sent me ahead of you ...to save your lives by a great deliverance. So it was not you who sent me here, but God." Genesis 45:7-8. Total forgiveness is the greatest weapon to defeat the enemy and bring honor to God. When we love and forgive those who offend us, the devil will leave not only from us but also from those who have offended us.

When we forgive others we must also forget what they said or did, which might be harder to do. And yet there are many ways to overcome.

R.T. Kendall, a Baptist Minister, in his book on "The Lord's Prayer" gives the following steps:

Release them to God and pray for them.

Stop talking about what they have done.

Do not wait till they say "sorry" to forgive them.

Do not make them feel threatened, guilty, or reveal their darkest secrets.

Keep on forgiving until we forget. Love them and show it in actions.

As we see God's plan in Joseph's life, we may also see God's plan in our lives when we remain obedient to Him in forgiving others. Therefore, let us not be entangled in the sin of unforgiving, but endure each moment to run the race in God's strength totally forgiving others and bringing glory to our Father in heaven.

Ref. from, R.T. Kendall, "The Lord's Prayer", Chosen books, Grand rapids, MI. 2010.

Mary Alexander

Best Compliments from

Jiby Jacob

Best Wishes
from



Shibu Paul Pulikaparambil
Shiny Mathew
&
Andrew Mon

Best Compliments
from

Selvarajan T. Puthenkulangara

Eva Rose

Saurang & Vaiga

SILVER JUBILEE WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Find the given church related words from the puzzle. Words are hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally, both forward and backward.



Shini Samuel

M S I T P A B Y G S B C E L U U B W A O I T P U Y H K A G R
M F C E W I N B Y A X T O O O G C N K N P S R R B S B S N C
M A L A Y A L A L O K A M N H O O F T X O D O G C I N G I X
F A M I L Y B G B R M Q L J F W H E Z U L T C N R L I D V Y
J U B I L E E H R V V I Y M T I R C T M R I E O O G H A I K
P I H S R O W W F I H Y M N I C R H S E Y N S M S N W J G C
M G T V Z T N G V H M I M D E G I M F Y D Q S R S E G B S U
S F X I C H E G O C E A I S G N H F A F A X I E T R A L K U
A L A R E K A Y H D A M S N D A O T A T Q D O S U S I C N M
T P E L R X O M G T H I I I S P S J Y Z I O N U N E W N A G
A S O F I H S V Z T O T A O R E C E S S I O N U R R L E H H
X Q I H C T D U U N S B I B L E X G L X D M N K S V Z M T M
V Q J R S F A O G A K E Q Q J F X T N N W O H Y R I E O O A
W Z U E A I Y N F C A O V G K Y A U X P A C Z O A C Y W E L
P H I W F H B M Y B N T P L E D L W S E Q O O C Y E O D K A
C F Q W Z Q C F Q O C R E E L V M Z C B T N Q W T S O W T Y
X T J J D H J U I O A G C P G H T O Y P T G Z N K A M B I A
N O J J M K H T E I V F S W I L B W P G Z R T Q V U J L Q L
L C H E X B C O S O K D W R M X Y S A R L E S Z T Z F E D A
L F Z W S I G E L E E T T I M M O C R B X G I W G S G S G M
A S H M D E R G O Y M Y B S L Y R J I F S A R I P L E S C M
R X C E R E C C S U S E J W U R M H S C L T H M O S S I V E
N E N H V A H O Z D M P Y E E R O B H N T I C R T D Z N R N
A E S L O I E M I W N W I D A X P S B O R O Y A M B A G A P
B R I C L I L H K D N L U R V W Z T R H T N S T B H W F B M
A S E D X Z R B N X P L R T I L B O T V K V Q Y B X I I X U
A R R C V K H P B W N F H A R T N D W Q C L L N W H V C E H
A E F D A R M E N G X U E V V T G I X F E L L O W S H I P W
N O N N Y E S D L X Z D L J O I Z C T I V O R X D S M Z X R
A Q J F V C P R E Y A R P L W L R U Z X A Z D P Q Z R M S W

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1st Happy Birthday Tianna



"The LORD Bless Thee, And Keep Thee: The LORD Make His Face Shine upon Thee, And Be Gracious Unto Thee: The LORD Lift Up His Countenance upon Thee, And Give Thee Peace."
Numbers 6:24-26

A Year's gone by, how time has flown! God has blessed us with you. Our special daughter! Happy 1st Birthday Tianna!! with love from mamma, appa, grand parents and rest of the family and friends.

Abhilash Raj & Smitha

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Aaron Frederick Simon

Mini Frederick

Fremita, Christina & Leonard

My Musings



Is it too much to wish for peace on earth? I'm no John Lennon but I sincerely wish for a Nutopia where people abide happily and peacefully. I know that this is a far-fetched dream and it's next to impossible to achieve it. But what's the harm in hoping and wishing and dreaming. For what is life without hope?

On a Sunday morning, peace chimes along with the church bells. All we hear are words that echo this thought of peace. "Peace be with you", "The peace of God which passeth all understanding", "Go in peace" and the like. Does peace on our lips translate into peace in our hearts? When we go back home and lay down to sleep, does sleep evade us because of the lack of peace in our hearts?

I often wonder what it is that causes us to hold on to the belief that what "I" think is right. Is it our "ego" or our fear of being wrong? I don't know the answer but I know for sure that most of us have a mechanistic need for certainty.....a need to know that 'we' are always right and entitled and therefore 'they' must be wrong and not entitled. Actually is there a "them" or is it an ever-evolving "us"? If "ego" stands for "expelling God out" of the situation, then I believe that most of our problems must be attributed to the ego.

At my workplace when I'm faced with a problem, my first reaction is to throw in the towel and flee or to dig in my heels and fight. I wish I had the strength to lay down my ego, adopt the values and humility preached by Jesus and sit across a table and resolve my issues in an amicable way. Now my rational mind is looking for an example in our christian context....Who in our own illustrious history has shown the other cheek when faced with a problem? The only face that comes to mind is that of a devout Hindu who followed Christ's teachings to the T.....Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. The message of peace by Christ has been inspirational to Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King and Desmond Tutu to name a few. My prayer is that I get an iota of that quality to go forward in life.

All the sermons, songs and stories tell us that peace must come from within each one of us before it can touch us. We pass this message on to our children. But do we model the skills of peacemaking and conflict resolution through our everyday actions? If we don't, then our words are empty. Our children, the next generation are watching us. What is it that they are learning in this day and age of social networking? Are we inadvertently telling them that no matter who they step on in the rat race, they need to be first? Are we teaching them that when money speaks the grammar becomes silent? That when faced with a problem, its either my way or the highway? In the quest to be better than others, to be always right, we create the "other" and build walls around us....walls that lock us in so much that we cannot even think and see the vulnerabilities of people around us.

Why can't we build bridges instead of walls.....bridges of tolerance, compassion and inclusion? We have fought thoughtlessly throughout human history arguing about caste, colour, creed, culture, customs and calibre. Let's put a stop to this. Our children need to see us work together to build a better community and thereby a better world. I'm sure that if each one of us are mindful of what we say and do and follow.....I mean actually follow..... the teachings of Christ, we could abide happily. I hope someday there will be peace on earth.

Nisha Thomas

Best Compliments
from

P.J. Skariah
Annamma Skariah

Best Compliments from

*P Matthew Verghis
Elizabeth Verghis
Marilyn, Emily & Jonathan*

Best Compliments from



Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet, praise Him with the psaltry and harp

Daniel Thomas (Danichen)

Mariamamma Thomas (Kochumol)

Best Compliments from



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

Ponnamma Thomas

Best Compliments
from

Mohan Philip
Reeni, Vivek & Anup

Best Compliments
from

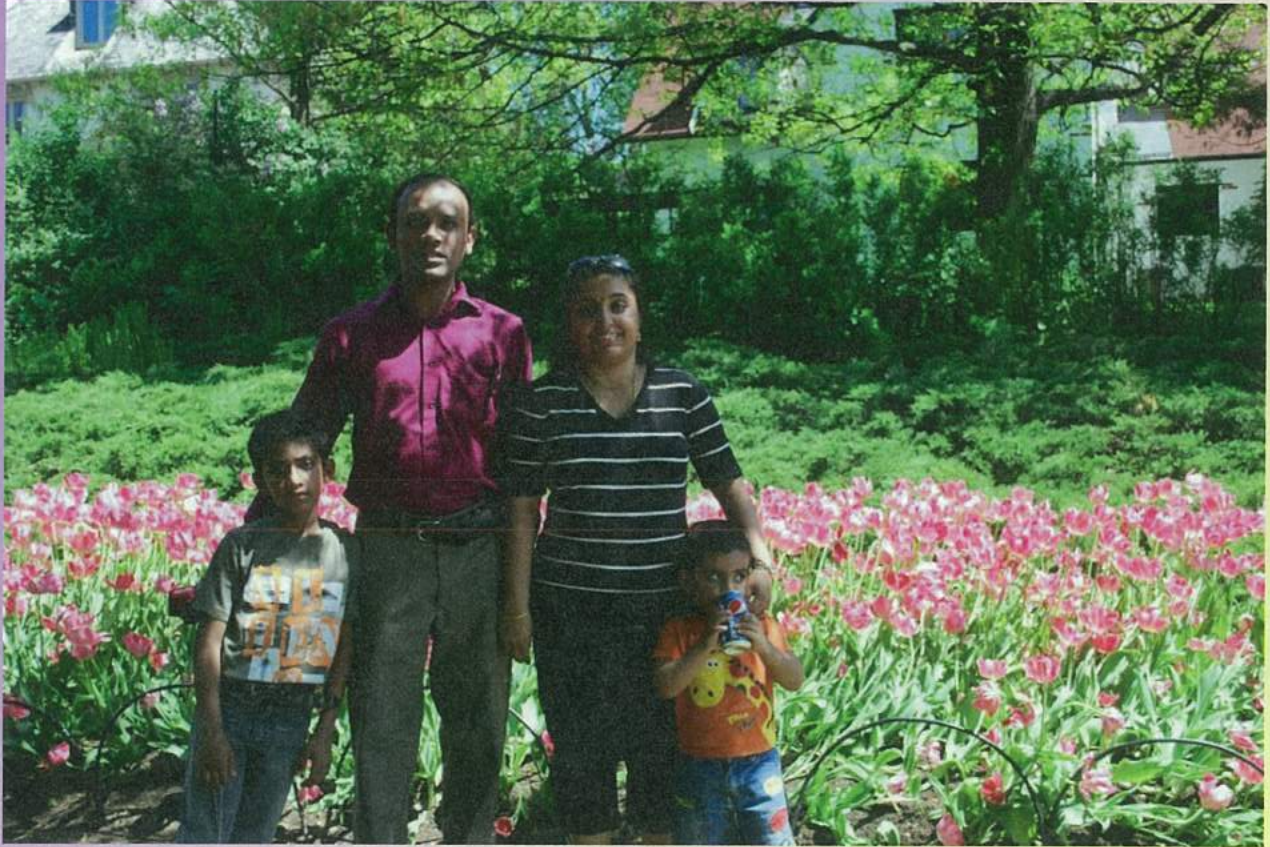
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CSI Youth Report 2011

A Youth ministry is a Christian ministry that instructs and discipless youths in
what it means to be a Christian
how to mature as a Christian
how to encourage others to claim Jesus as their Savior.

It is achieved through teaching, relationship building and mentoring. The youth are an integral part of nearly every church's ministry programming, and youth ministries continue to have a profound impact on the societies in which they exist.

This year has been an especially challenging year which the loss of a good portion of our youth members. With prayers and support, our fellowship will still flourish to become the future of our church.

The youth consists of 10-15 members. The ages between the members varies from members that are in school to the ones in college.

Youth Meeting Format

Youth Meetings were typically held on the 3rd Saturday of each month. The meeting is normally held in Church and sometimes changed when willing parents want to be involved by hosting a meeting. Meeting details were announced in the church two weeks leading up to the meeting (when possible) as well as sent via email to all Youth members and Achen.

The meeting agenda allows each Youth Meeting to have a defined structure and aided in the main goals of these meetings which are to allow each member to grow spiritually through bible study, and strengthen the entire group to help the church and our community.

Agenda:

Opening Prayer	Prayer
Praise and worship	Announcements
Bible study with discussion/ activities/	Refreshments/Social time
Achen's final words	

Recently the youth members decided to have the meeting on the 3rd Sunday of the month after the social hour. This would allow for members unable to come on Saturday to be able to attend youth meetings.

Events that took place in 2011:

Youth Choir

The church Youth Choir has performed many spiritually uplifting and dynamic songs on various occasions throughout the year. My special thanks to Ms. Mona Abraham and Santhosh Jacob for their leadership with the Youth Choir.

VBS

The Youth assisted in the annual VBS from August 23 – 25th 2011. Under the direction of Sunday School director, Mrs. Susan Thomas, the Youth helped in creating a successful event, teaching the lessons to the students, and in directing the VBS activities.

On behalf of the Youth I would like to thank Achen and Kochamma for their continued support and guidance in all Youth events. I would also like to thank the members of the Executive Committee and all the parents for their commitment and for providing valuable ideas and suggestions, which have helped the youth group

(Continued on page 159)



Best Compliments
from

Nibu Varguise
Ajin Annie Varghese
Rhea & Joana

God will finish what he began



Failure. I do not want it. But I cannot totally avoid it either. Sometimes I fail because I am unprepared. Sometimes I fail because I over-reach. And at times, I have failed without really knowing why. The good news is God did not give up on any of His faithful followers during their failures- Moses, David, Peter or Paul. Neither has he given up on me! Recently I had taken the Medical College Admission Test for which I had thoroughly prepared. However, when the results were declared I was disappointed that I had narrowly missed the required score. Now there's an example of a failure! I thought I prepared for the test to the best of my capabilities and had done well on it. But no, it became a broken dream. Although I am aware that my God is bigger than any torn, shredded dreams I never really have had a positive attitude towards failing. But today, I believe the Holy Spirit is enabling me to have a positive outlook on my failures (probably because everyday seems a challenge to me). Now whenever reminders of my unfulfilled plans come to mind, I reassure myself by believing that it's either because God's timing is different from mine OR Because God's plans are different from mine It is impossible for anyone from our church family to miss out on Raju Achen periodically emphasizing that God's timetable is different from ours. He acts when the time is right- His time. I understand that sometimes victory is delayed because God is setting the circumstances in order; circumstances that will set us into the right place at the right time and for the right reason. So while I let God work in His time, I am going to concentrate on working harder on my broken dreams. I'm ardently praying that one day God speaks these words to me, "Now you are ready to do it right, Mona; now you are ready to let Me work through you. Here's what you've been waiting for." Till then I will continue to take hope.

On the other hand, many years down the lane if my plans are STILL unfulfilled then I will take it as God having a different plan for me. While I do not know my future with certainty, God knows my future and plans accordingly. Paul would have been the perfect theologian to preach Christ to the Jews and Peter, the fisherman would have been a better advocate among the Gentiles. But God had it exactly different for them (Galatians 2:7). My mother often reminds me that if it is not in His will, no matter how hard I try I will never be able to achieve my dreams. Our culture, education, physic, experience and money cannot become the answer to our needs and desires. Only God can, because He knows everything. My point being, I am definite that I will be granted a new dream which will more than fulfill the hole the old dream was meant to fill. With all my heart I thank God for giving me the wisdom to appreciate the failures in my life, something I could not do a year back. I shall end by sharing the words of a stanza from one of my favourite songs, "Here I Am" by Downhere which goes:

When setbacks and failures, and upset plans, Test my faith and leave me with empty hands,
Are You not the closest when it's hardest to stand? I know that You will finish what You began.

Mona Abraham

(From 'Pilgrim' archives)

Best Compliments
from

Alex Oommen

Susan Alex

The Word of God



"For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you." I Peter 1:24, 25

Just like all my contemporaries, I was driven by 'why, what and how' questions. I questioned the authenticity of the Word of God. But my quest was not one of unfaith, but a faithful one. I prayed as the Psalmist prayed in Psalm 119:18 and the truth was revealed to me.

I wanted to know the profound effect of the Word of God on Man. When I was working in Kuwait (an officially Islamic country), which had recently started being unofficially tolerant towards Christians, I spent most of my free time reading the Word of God. The Bible would be left open on my table while attending to my clients (mostly Muslims). But no one had objected to it being there. In fact some parents, who accompanied their children, felt more confident in my treatment. Now these incidents set me thinking, 'what is it in the Word of God which is powerful enough to transcend time and hold sway over the populace?'

My search led me to the answer which could be summarised in the words of Jim Downing, a Bible scholar and teacher; *"The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of Salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you and comfort to cheer you."*

In the Old Testament itself, the words, 'God spoke', the 'Word of the Lord', the 'Lord commanded' appears nearly 2405 times. Prophet Isaiah's mouth was made pure with a live coal from the altar. Then he was commanded to speak the word of God. I then understood the words in 2 Timothy 3:16, 17. God gave His Word to save us. God used His word to create the universe and He uses the Word to control the Universe (Psalm 33:6; 107:20; 119:89; 147:15-18). But the most important fact here is that the Scriptures are all inspired by God.

My next question was about John 1:14, where John says, 'the word became flesh'. Some theologians believe that Christ appears in several places in the Old Testament, thus proving who He is. He had come to do God's bidding in all those occasions. Now why should the Son of God come down to earth as human, and be tested by the desires of the flesh? Hebrew 1:1, 2 says *'In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.'* This cleared my doubts- **Jesus Christ is the perfect incarnation of our Father in heaven.** Jesus tells Philip, 'whoever has seen me has seen the Father....' John 14:9. When we follow Jesus, His teachings and His commandments, we follow the Word of God. Jeremiah 29:11 comforts us: 'For I know the plans I have for you', declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you'.

When we accept Jesus as our saviour, we are given the Holy Spirit who leads us in our walk with our Father in Heaven. Just like prophet Elijah who heard the voice of the Lord as a small still whisper, Our Lord

(Continued on page 159)

Best Compliments from



Ajoy Lional
Reju Elizabeth
Ashley Ajoy

After Christmas, What Next?

A father was boxing up the Christmas decorations and ornaments on Boxing Day. His 4 year old daughter began to cry. "Why are you crying Amy?" asked the father. "Because you're boxing up baby Jesus!" replied the daughter. This little girl's concern impacted my heart and set me thinking. Is this what we do with our Lord Jesus after Christmas? During the Christmas season, we have our Christmas services, cantatas, carols, and Christmas get togethers to keep our focus on Immanuel-God with us. After Christmas, our mindset changes drastically. We go to school or work, come home to household chores or homework, and do many different things in between. We end up having no time for Christ and instead, box Him up. We only remember Christ on Sundays when we unpack Jesus and focus on Him for that one day. Soon enough, we forget about Christ for the rest of the week.



I have been spending quite a lot of time, thinking about the little girl's response. I have determined that I too, do not want to box up Jesus. In fact, I think I will move the nativity scene to a shelf in my bedroom all year long. I am definitely giving Jesus, my Lord and Saviour, pre-eminence in my life. I will set aside a definite time to read and meditate on the Word of God and to journal my thoughts on it. Praise God, communication lines between God and me, are open all day and night! – So I can talk to him whenever and for whatever reason. No doubt, 2012 will be an exciting year for me, for I will be celebrating Christmas every day of the year! Would you join me? After all, Christmas is not an event, not a happening, but a Person, and He is Jesus, the Almighty God. He of course, can never be boxed up!

By Chris George

(From 'Pilgrim' archives)

(Continued from page 153)

to grow and blossom.

Entrusting responsibilities to our youth and encouraging them to speak their mind will mould them into individuals that can approach the external world with great confidence.

Blessings,

Mathew Chacko

Youth Director

(Continued from page 157)

will be whispering to us in various ways. It may be a *Rhema*, when we read the word of God, or maybe exhortations through our brethren in Christ, or maybe sermons/ teachings through our Achen . All we need to do is to be attentive to the voice of the Lord. We need to tune our hearts through prayer and fasting to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Samuel was called three times by the Lord, but he did not understand that it is the Lord who had called him. Samuel had to be enlightened by Eli to listen to the voice of the Lord, but our Saviour Jesus has already enlightened us, we just have to listen.

Dr Nibu Varguise

(From 'Pilgrim' archives)

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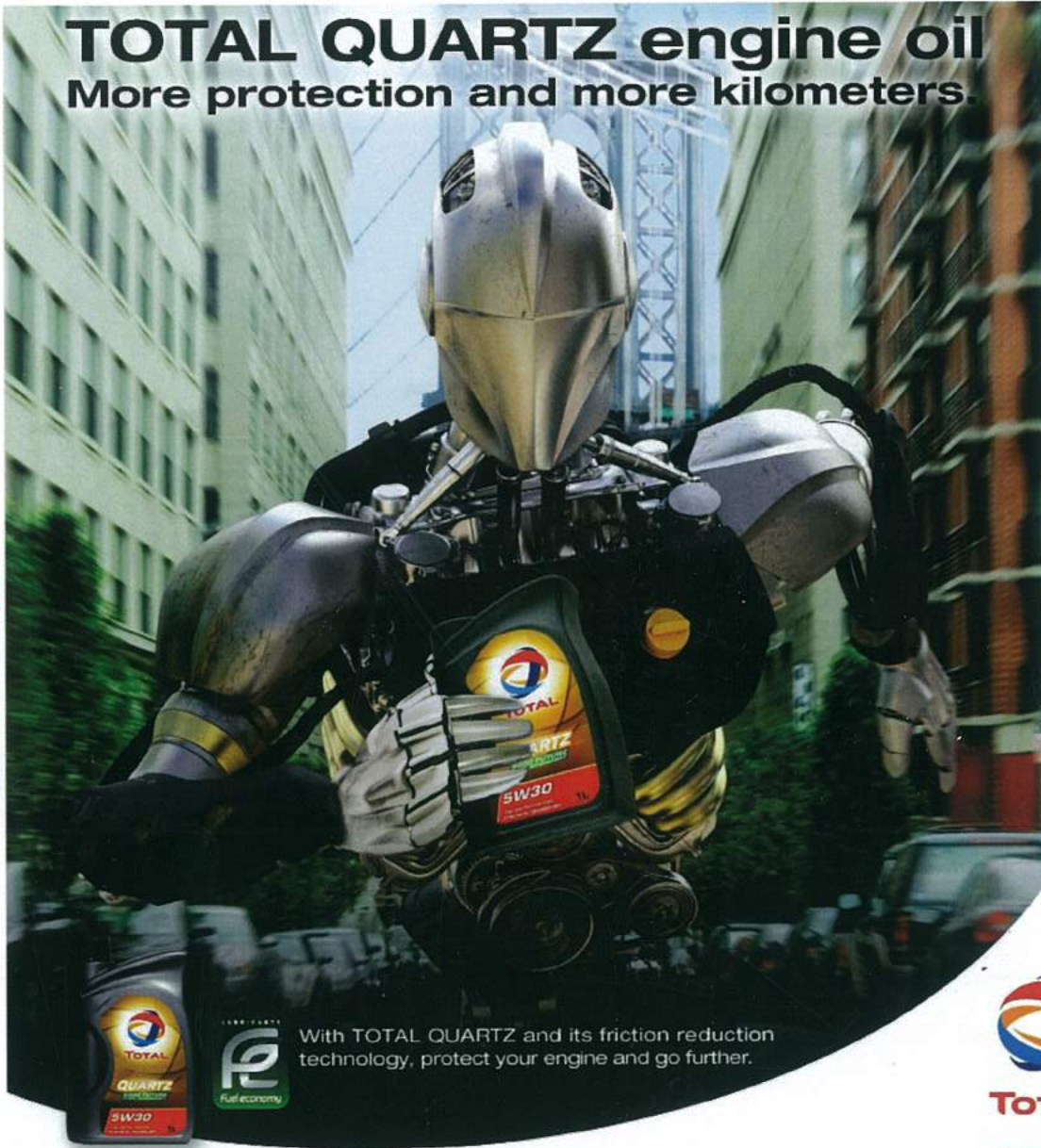
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