



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

Volume 21 Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2021



Season of Lent .. February 17 - April 3

2021 Motto

“Prepare to meet your God”

“നിന്റെ ദൈവത്തെ എതിരേല്പാൻ ഒരുങ്ങിക്കൊൾക”

Amos 4:12b

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Achen's message.... 3
- MKD Bishop..... 4
- Church News 6
- Bible Portions..... 7
- Celebrations 8
- Sunday School..... 9

Episcopal Visit - February 07, 4 pm

Annual General Body Meeting
-February 28

Pilgrim

FEBRUARY 2021

EDITORIAL BOARD

Chief Editor

Rev. Anish M. George

Editor

Samuel Anselm Samuel

Publication Team

Shini Samuel
Suja Sarah Koshy
Chris George

Address

CSI Parsonage
1311 Kipling Avenue
Etobicoke M9B 3N8 ON
(416) 231- 1717

Articles/ Feedback
May be sent to
pilgrimcsi.to@gmail.com

Editorial

Pass it on...

Have you ever believed in the story of evolution? Do you think it feeds your scientific, inquisitive, curious, and all-inclusive minds? The dark forces have tried their best to mould and brainwash the minds of many people using tangible data. Man has gained so much knowledge and could make humanoids, and yet is fighting to grapple with and contain COVID-19. Man has advanced to the extent of creating a regenerated heart. Yet we do not consider the wisdom of God who created man from earth. We fail to recognize this infinite wisdom. Many people still like to believe that man evolved by his own merit. Those who are insensible cannot comprehend the existence of the triune God.

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.” (1Corinthians 1:25)

The wisdom of the world came to a standstill when the virgin gave birth to a child. It was further brought low when Christ died on the cross, rose again and ascended to heaven. It was shattered when the Holy Spirit was poured out. When the disciples preached Christ crucified, and God in His infinite mercy and wisdom offered salvation through Jesus Christ, people who believed themselves to be philosophers thought it was folly. Many scholars and lovers of wisdom fail to comprehend the loving grace that God showers on man. *“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:18)* It is high time we understand our limitations and rely on God’s wisdom. That is the key to eternal happiness. Don’t we not hear the voice of the Lord, “Where are you?” Throw away all the wisdom you think you gained, count them as rubbish, and yield to the infinite wisdom of God. If you have already received this knowledge, pass it on!

Samuel Anselm Samuel
Editor

Achen's Message



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Isaiah 6 begins with the year Uzziah died. Why is his name and death details mentioned? Who is Uzziah? Study 2 Chronicles, chapters 25 and 26.

He ruled for 52 years. After David, Israel returned to its former glory in those years. He was probably a stronger ruler than David. His military strength was over three million. All the surrounding nations feared him. He invaded the cities of the Philistines, destroyed them, and built a new city for the Jews. Seeing the need of the people, he built towers in the desert. The Jews have always had the greatest shortage of water. But he built wells to fix it. Cultivation was started to make the people prosperous.

Isaiah became anxious at the death of King Uzziah because if a powerful king dies, other nations may attack them. The absence of such a wealthy and glorious king will ensnare Israel. Here God is giving a great revelation. He saw God sitting on a throne high and exalted. God's clothing filled the temple. What does it mean? It does not matter who the king is. It matters who appoints the king. It is actually God who sits on the throne. God is always with us through thick and thin. With God, we can overcome every difficulty. Our friends, facilities, power, and wealth will not help us. But God is always faithful. Believe in him. Trust in him.

Our New Year service was an entirely different experience. We attended our service through social media. We started our New Year with three days of retreat. It was led by Rev. San Ninan, CSI Church Valley cottage USA, Rev. Sunil Mathew and Rev. Dr. Bhanu Samuel. It was a blessing for all of us.

Madhya Kerala Diocesan Bishop's consecration was held on January 18th. Rt Rev Dr. Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian is the new Bishop. Please pray for the new Bishop.

As you know, Rt. Rev. Jenny Andison is going to step down from her position as the area Bishop. She will serve as the Rector of St. Paul's Anglican Church. Her leadership has been very helpful, and has brought us blessings. So we are planning to give a farewell to her on February 7th at 4 pm. She will attend our service on that day. Please plan to attend virtually.

February 28th is our Annual General Body. This is an election year. So those who are willing to serve the church as a board member may request me for the nomination form. Only the members on the published voters' list are eligible for nominations. The duly completed form must be received by email on or before February 18, 2021. However, if no nomination forms are received, the nominations will be accepted from the floor during the General Body. This year, the Annual General Body will be held virtually. Please attend it without fail, because it is our right to think about the development of our church.

May God bless you all

Rev Anish M George Padickamannil

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The Rt. Rev. Dr. Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian
Bishop, CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese



The Right Reverend Doctor Malayail Sabu Koshy Cherian

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Malayail Sabu Koshy Cherian has been consecrated as the New Bishop of the CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Sabu K Cherian, who was ordained as a deacon of the CSI in 1988 and a presbyter in 1989, is 59 years old and now is chosen to lead the Madhya Kerala Diocese as the Bishop in the coming eight years. He started his ministry as a missionary in the Andhra Mission (currently Telangana Mission) where his wife Dr. Mrs. Jessy Sara Koshy joined him in the mission work as a missionary doctor. The Right Reverend Doctor Sabu K Cherian is blessed with two sons; Mr. Siby Cherian Koshy who is married to Ms. Roopa Esther Philip and settled in Ireland and Dr. Sam John Koshy who is currently pursuing his post-graduation in Chennai.

During the secular education, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Sabu K Cherian earned BSc in Mathematics, PGDCA, B.Ed, and MA in Sociology. Later he received his Bachelor of Divinity (BD) from UBS, Pune and Doctor of Ministry from New York Theological Seminary.

He is known for his ecumenical convictions. He was the Member, Kerala Council of Churches, founding President, Ecumenical Fellowship in Kumplampoika, Vice President, Bible Society Kerala Auxiliary, Vice President, Ecumenical Fellowship Kottayam, President, Union Christian Fellowship in Mavelikara, Vice President, Ecumenical Clergy Fellowship Thiruvalla, Member, Christian Medical College Governing Council Vellore, Member, Nilackal Ecumenical Trust, Nilackal and President, Ecumenical Fellowship in Mooledom.





New YouTube Channel Link – CSI Church, Toronto

Please note below the CSI Church, Toronto – YouTube Channel Link for Sunday Worship Service

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCF6C8AxfhNgMAVqQBvcMmww/live>

On-line Giving (Interac e-Transfer)

Please make your offering through on-line giving at csichurchtoronto@outlook.com

Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship

The Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship will take place on every Thursday from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the Church Sanctuary. Please join the fellowship through Virtual Worship

Bible Study – “The Coming of Jesus Christ”



The Bible study will take place on every Wednesday from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The Bible Study provides an in-depth learning on the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. It also provides an opportunity for members to connect with and understand each other while continuing to build personal relationship with God. Anish Achen will be leading the Bible studies. Please plan to attend the Bible study through **Virtual fellowship**.

Board Meeting

The board has decided to meet online every Sunday at 8:00 pm during the restriction period of COVID-19.

Episcopal Visit – February 07, 2021 at 4:00 PM

The Bishop of York-Credit Valley, The Right Reverend Jenny Andison will lead the divine worship service on Sunday, February 07, 2021 at 4:00 PM. Please join the online worship through Virtual Worship

***** Please note that we will not be having our regular Sunday worship in the morning *****

Annual General Body Meeting – February 28, 2021

Annual General Body Meeting will be held on February 28, 2021 immediately after the divine worship service. Please plan to attend this very important online meeting of our church through GoTo Meet.

Sunday School Anniversary & Talent Show – March 07, 2021

Sunday School Anniversary & Talent Show will be held on March 07, 2021 immediately after the divine worship service. For more information, please contact Mrs. Rejini Gajraj, Director of Sunday School.

Cottage Prayer

Shalom area prayer will be held on Saturday, February 06, 2021 at 7:30 pm. The prayer meeting is hosted by Zac Santhosh and Suja Sara Koshy. Please join the virtual fellowship.

Jordan area prayer will be held on Saturday, February 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm. The prayer meeting is hosted by David and Jessy Thomas. Please join the virtual fellowship.

Gilead area prayer will be held on Saturday, February 20, 2021 at 7:30 pm. The prayer meeting is hosted by Oommen & Mariamma Cherian. Please join the virtual fellowship.

If you wish to be included in the parish e-mail list to receive special notices, please send an e-mail to the Secretary at torcsichurch@gmail.com



February 07 8 th Sunday before Easter	The Fallenness of Creation		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 40: 21-31	English Service
	Psalm	147	Read by
	Epistle	1 Corinthians 9: 16-23	Church Committee
	Gospel	Mark 1: 29-39	
February 14 7 th Sunday before Easter	Lent: A Time of Reconciliation		
	Old Testament	Genesis 45: 1-15	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	85	Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians 2: 11-22	Manoj Joseph Kurien & Family
	Gospel	John 2: 1-11	
February 17 Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm	Cross: A Call to Self-Denial		
	Old Testament	Joel 2: 12-20	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	32	Read by
	Epistle	Galatians 2: 15-21	
	Gospel	Luke 9: 23-27	
February 21 1 st Sunday in Lent	Touching the "Untouchable"		
	Old Testament	2 Kings 5: 1-10	English Service
	Psalm	10: 1-12	Read by
	Epistle	Hebrews 13: 8-17	Joseph Mathews & Family
	Gospel	Matthew 8: 1-4	
February 28 5 th Sunday before Easter	Life Saving Faith		
	Old Testament	2 Kings 4: 1-7	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	72	Read by
	Epistle	Acts 5: 12-16	Joy Chemmannoor & Family
	Gospel	Luke 5: 17-26	



BIRTHDAYS

01	Aldrin Pramod	16	Thomas C. Joseph
02	Shaji Levison Moothedom	16	Binu Sajan
02	Rex P. R	18	Thomas Mathai
03	Santhosh Cherian	18	Rohan Raj
03	P.J. Skariah	19	Mariamamma Cherian
05	Suvin Oommen Alexander	19	Mariamamma Thomas
05	Samuel James	20	Rishvi Narayan
05	Anil Raj Daniel	20	Philip Z. Mathai
06	Pranoy Narayan	22	Ajeo Mathew C. Mathew
06	Nathan Rijo Cherian	23	Jiby Jacob
07	Sudeep Oommen	23	Savannah Thomas
08	Syama Prasad	23	Rejoys John
08	Jaden Thomas Geogy	24	Rinu John Mathew
09	Reuben David Johns	25	Jinu Mary Jacob
10	Ryan John Varghese	25	Joy Chemmanoor
10	Aleena Minu Jithin	26	Christine E. Joseph
12	Aaron Fredrick Simon	26	Asha Abraham
15	Rahul John Oommen		

ANNIVERSARIES

02	Sajan Itty & Binu Sajan
09	Vinu Jacob & Simi K. Sunny
12	Bino Oommen Samuel & Sherin Leya Oommen
14	Benjamin Ninan & Sneha John

Report after reading Gospel of Matthew

Aezekiel Aji

The Gospel of Matthew is a marvellous book written by Matthew the tax collector. Matthew was a disciple of Jesus Christ, and it seems his goal was to paint Jesus as the messiah when writing this gospel. Several quotations and references scattered throughout the book help connect Jesus with the old testament. Matthew compares Jesus to the prophecies foretold by the prophets. After reading the Gospel of Matthew, it is difficult to deny that Christ is the son of God. Throughout the book, Jesus gives many teachings. Some are taught in simple quotes, others in grand speeches, and some in complicated parables. Some lessons require research and context, while others are easy to understand off the bat.

One lesson that stood out to me was the warning of those who pretend to be godly. "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves." (Matthew 7:15). There are numerous occasions throughout the gospel where this theme occurs. It is especially prominent when Jesus talks about or interacts with the Pharisees. The Pharisees pretended to know God, but they were greedy and self-absorbed. They were hypocrites. The Pharisees preyed on those with weak roots and led them astray. In this book, we learn not to fall a victim to those in sheep's clothing, but instead to keep our faith rooted in the Bible.

Another common and compelling teaching I found valuable was to have faith. "For truly I tell you, if you have the faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you." (Matthew 17:20). We see what happens to those that doubt Jesus many times in the gospel. Even his disciples had doubts. When Jesus called Peter to walk on water, his weak faith and doubt caused him to sink. Jesus's disciples weren't able to heal others because of their little faith. However, we also see what happens when people believe in Jesus. The blind has seen, the muted have talked, those with leprosy were healed, and the paralyzed have walked. Even those who have never looked to God before were saved because they had faith in Jesus.

Another lesson taught in the Gospel of Matthew is to not run after earthly possessions. Instead, be content with what you have and give whenever you can. "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come and follow me." (Matthew 19:21). When doing this, you mustn't boast your good deeds to the public like the Pharisees. God rewards those who give in secret and without selfish intentions. He rewards those who are humble and put others first.

The Gospel of Matthew was an intriguing read. It included various themes and tones. Sometimes it was confusing and shocking, while other times it was simple and composed. I learned many lessons from this book and am looking forward to applying them to my daily life.

The Executive Committee Members of the CSI Church, Toronto

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Secretary / People's Warden	Mr. Daniel Thomas	Women's Fellowship Director	Mrs. Preetha Philips
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