



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

# Pilgrim

Volume 23 Issue 6

JUNE 2023



### 2023 Motto

**“A new command I give you: Love one another as I have loved you”**

നിങ്ങൾ തമ്മിൽ തമ്മിൽ സ്നേഹിക്കണം എന്നു പുതിയൊരു കല്പന ഞാൻ നിങ്ങൾക്ക് തരുന്നു

*John 13:34*

**37th Annual Convention, June 2-4**

**Happy Fathers' Day, June 18**

**Spring Clean-up, June 24**

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# Pilgrim

**JUNE 2023**

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## Editorial

The good fruits.

We all listen to countless sermons and lessons every year, and yet some of us struggle with spiritual growth. Have we grown more in the Lord today as compared to where we were a few years ago? Do we know the Word better, or respond to challenges in life differently now than we did earlier? Maybe the more pertinent question is whether we want to grow spiritually?!

In a recent message on the Holy Spirit, our Achen reminded us of the fruits of the Spirit, and what our role and response must be. When we view the nine fruits of the Spirit it can seem lofty and unattainable, but this is where we need to be intentional about following Christ, and His grace will teach us to become more like Him. John lived this way and the clarity of his intention and existence is stated in John 3:30, "He must increase; I must decrease".

Is that what we want for our lives? If yes, how do we achieve that? My thought is that Jesus sees the intention of every heart and if we truly desire to follow Him, He will give us the grace to do that. Mahatma Gandhi is known to have stated, "I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ." While everyone may have their opinion about this phrase and its relevance, I'm sure that we can all agree that it is true that on many levels we are nothing like what Christ intended us to be.

So perhaps a good place to start is with the fruits of the Spirit and asking the Lord to teach us to have more love for others, more joy and peace in our hearts, and to practice patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. After all, if these are traits that the Lord wanted Christians to have then surely that is something to aspire for. In fact how different our churches and congregations would be today if all Christians strived to pursue these life-changing fruits of character.

With the church's annual gospel convention coming up let us try to approach it with a mindset focussed on spiritual growth, determined to take away at least one thing to change about ourselves or apply in our lives.

Reshma George

Editor

## Achen's Message



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

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

We live in a beautiful ecological environment, but many a time, we fail to retain its beauty and value in our day-to-day life. As we enter into the month of June which focusses on the environment, let us remember that the earth belongs to God, and we as humans were created to be stewards of the world God created and we were put in charge of preserving it. Humans and all other creations are inter-related and interdependent, but as humans we have all the freedom, but also the responsibility to ensure the welfare of everything that surrounds us; both living and non-living things. We are asked to be caretakers of nature not exploiters of it. God gave humans a three-fold responsibility, "to till, to subdue and to keep" that which was founded in Genesis' account of creation. The prophetic book of Isaiah (Isaiah: 11:6-8) shows the vision of God that, all beings (creation) should coexist in perfect harmony and unity.

In this age of consumerism we have forgotten our responsibilities and we use earth's resources for our selfish motives. We as Christians, must fight against eco-injustice. Our mission should be based on the theme of reconciliation and the three fold relationships in proper manner, i.e. the relationship between God and humankind, the relationship between God and creation, and relationship between humankind and creation. Through this model, our understanding of Christian mission as building a new community of God should be our response to the present environmental crisis. To maintain creation, human participation of responsible love and justice is necessary. Human participation is also needed to keep the Earth fertile and productive (Genesis 2:5, 3:17-19). All distortions of creation, compounded by human violence, disobedience and greed, will have to be redeemed in Christ (Romans 8:13-28). The final vision of a new heaven and a new Earth (Revelations. 21:1-4) is accomplished by God and human beings together.

We have to re-think how can we worship the creator God when creation is being exploited? As a church and community of believers we can heed some practical things in our daily lives; to respect all things that God created whether weak or strong, to be a preserver, not to be a destroyer, to plant more trees and plants, to use natural resources carefully and preserve them. Let our worship bring us closer to nature and our concern with nature make us aware to treat the environment as our neighbor and to love it as we love ourselves.

May God bless you all!

Yours in Christ

Binu achen



### Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship

The Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship will take place on every Thursday from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon in the Church Sanctuary. Please join the fellowship through **Virtual Worship**.

### Bible Study – “Book of Hebrews”



The Bible study will take place on **every Thursday from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm**. The Bible Study provides an in-depth learning on the book of Hebrews. It also provides an opportunity for members to connect with and understand each other while continuing to build personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. Binu Achen will be leading the Bible study. Please plan to attend the Bible study through **Zoom**.

### 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

This year’s convention will be held on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 (Online) at 7pm - Rev. Viji Varghese Eapen will be the speaker

June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (In-person) at 10am - Rev. Binu Philip will be the speaker.

### Men’s Fellowship Fishing

The annual men’s fellowship fishing event will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at Waterlily Retreats, Roseneath, ON.

### Spring Cleaning

The spring cleaning is scheduled for June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 10:00am in the church premises. All members are requested to actively participate in this event.

### Board Meeting

An in-person meeting of the board will be held on Sunday, June 11, 2023, at 12:00 pm.

### Cottage Prayer Meetings

- **Jordan** area prayer will be held on **Friday, June 23rd, 2023, at 7:30 PM**. This **in-person** prayer meeting will take place at the residence of Mr. Jithin Thomas and Mrs. Elizabeth Ninan.
- **Gilead** area prayer will be held on **Saturday, June 24th, 2023, at 6:30 PM**. This **in-person** prayer meeting will take place at the residence of Mr. Abhilash Raj and Mrs. Smitha Abhilash.
- **Shalom** area prayer—No area prayer for the month of June.

If you wish to be included in the parish e-mail list to receive special notices, please send your e-mail ID to the Secretary at [secretary@csichurchtoronto.org](mailto:secretary@csichurchtoronto.org)

<b>04 June 2023</b> <b>Trinity Sunday</b>	<b>We believe in the Triune God</b>		
	Old Testament	Ezekiel 1:4-28	<b>English Service</b>
	Psalm	98	Read by
	Epistle	2 Cori 13:11-14	<b>Board Members</b>
	Gospel	Matthew 28:16 -20	
<b>11 June 2023</b> <b>Environmental Sunday</b>	<b>Creation Groans for Liberation</b>		
	Old Testament	Ezekiel 36:24- 36	<b>Malayalam Service</b>
	Psalm	29	Read by
	Epistle	Romans 8: 18- 25	<b>Zac Santhosh Koshy &amp; Family</b>
	Gospel	John 20: 19-23	
<b>18 June 2023</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>Worship : Celebration of Peoples' Faith</b>		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 6: 1-8	<b>English Service</b>
	Psalm	148	Read by
	Epistle	Revelation 4:1-11	<b>Christopher Gajraj &amp; Family</b>
	Gospel	John 4:16-26	
<b>25 June 2023</b> <b>Fourth Sunday After Pentecost</b>	<b>Discipleship as Testimony</b>		
	Old Testament	2 Kings 2:1-15	<b>Malayalam Service</b>
	Psalm	119: 33- 48	Read by
	Epistle	Titus 2: 1-15	<b>Varghese John &amp; family</b>
	Gospel	John 3: 22- 30	





**BIRTHDAYS**

01	Leonard Fredrick	19	Serah Ann Littin
01	Jefin Mathews	20	Gabriel Abraham Jijo
02	Oommen Cherian	20	Bejosh Mathew
05	Sarah Titus	21	Noah Jacob
06	Neethuraj Taji	21	Liji John
06	Pearl Shirin Samson	21	Tianna Lelia
07	Tinu John Kulangara	21	Sandeep Mathew Varghese
07	Aaron Thomas Ninan	21	Ayrah Ann Littin
08	Abraham G. Joy	21	Roshan Mathews
10	Elizabeth Pothen	24	Daniel Philip Varughese
11	Mary Joseph	20	Mini Fredrick
11	Norah Kurien	27	Christopher Gajraj
15	Rejini Gajraj	27	Ida Elizabeth George
15	Eva Mariam George	28	Shawn Cherian
15	Ajin Annie Varghese	29	Mithul Nimmy Manuel
17	Smitha Rency		
17	Elizabeth Thomas		
19	Akshay Koshy		
19	Sheeba. R Thomas		
19	Alex Oommen		
19	Jayden Chacko Jacob		



### ANNIVERSARIES

- 05 Zachariah Philip & Elizabeth Philip
- 07 Joseph P. Mathews & Sonia Mathews
- 10 Santhosh Zac Koshy & Suja Sara Koshy
- 12 Robin George & Preethy Saramma Abraham
- 20 Lazar Sajan & Sharon John
- 21 Christopher Gajraj & Rejini Gajaraj
- 28 Mathew George & Susan Mathew
- 30 Betson Abraham Mathew & Anjali Ann Dominic
- 30 Rajiv Abraham & Sonia Joseph (Dr.)

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

<b>President</b>	Rev. Binu Philip		
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<b>Women's Fellowship Director</b>	Mrs. Binssy Mathew	<b>Youth Fellowship Director</b>	Mr. John Cheriyan Mathew
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