



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

Volume 23 Issue 9

SEPTEMBER 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

Onam Lunch – September 10
Choir Sunday – September 17

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Pilgrim

SEPTEMBER 2023

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Editorial

Fruitfulness!

It is interesting that our church almanac recognizes students and seniors in the month of September. While this may seem like a contrast, it offers the important perspective that good character and values are moulded as we progress through the stages of student life into adulthood, and that fruitfulness is key quality to develop and sustain. The Bible seems to suggest this connection by reminding parents that if we, "Train up a child in the way he should go: when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). In similar vein, renowned poet William Wordsworth wrote that, "The child is the father of the man" (in his 1802 poem "My Heart Leaps Up"). This can be both an encouraging and an alarming thought.

As parents we all want our children to be successful and we invest much time and effort in planning academic pathways for them. There is nothing wrong with that as such, but it is estimated that over 50% of the jobs of the future haven't been invented yet. This should be a sobering thought for us parents to not think of ourselves as career development experts! Perhaps we should be more concerned for the development of spiritual character and godly values in our wards especially as we live in a time where behavioural patterns, particularly around aspects of gender and family are being rapidly redefined in society. Today children of all ages in all levels of education are more exposed to the nuances of these shifts in society than most adults are even aware of. Nothing in today's societal norms, educational system or work culture is aimed at preserving Christian values or Biblical truths about a loving, all-knowing and almighty God. The world does not focus on fruitfulness or on striving to do one's best, but rather on outsmarting everyone else! These are gaps we as parents can fill by encouraging our children that doing their best is enough, and reminding them about the goodness of God and His promises for His people.

While the pathway to a successful career may be straight for some and windy for others, it is important to remember that whatever the Lord leads us to do at any given time is never wasted, and there will be a time somewhere in our life where we find its use. So whatever our stage of life today it is important to trust that God's ways and plans for us are higher and better than anything we can plan or do for ourselves. We should always focus on the long term and on being fruitful in all stages of life. After all, our Lord is a God for our entire lifetime as we are reminded in Isaiah 46:4.

Hoping that the months ahead offer opportunities for a fresh start and new experiences in God's grace for our students and seniors alike.

Reshma George
Editor

Achen's Message



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we step into a new month, we are filled with renewed expectations and goals. Let us begin by praising and thanking God for His abundant mercies bestowed upon us in the past.

Our children are ready to embark on a new academic year after a splendid summer vacation. I extend my heartfelt wishes and prayers for a blessed academic journey for all our young learners. May this year be a fruitful and enlightening one, where they not only acquire knowledge but also grow in wisdom and character.

We will observe the third Sunday in September as Choir Sunday. I extend my gratitude to God for the remarkable choir of the CSI Church, Toronto. The role of a choir member is truly exceptional, demanding dedication and commitment. The melodious harmony from the choir during worship symbolizes the unity and concord within our congregation. Through their harmonious voices, the choir guides our congregation into a deeper state of worship, enabling us to experience the presence of God profoundly. Their presence not only uplifts the congregation but also encourages the celebrants. May our gracious God continue to shower abundant blessings upon our choir, enabling them to fulfill their ministry effectively.

The month of September holds significant importance for members of the Church of South India, as we are reminded of a momentous occasion in the history of the Church of South India; i.e. the Formation Day on September 27th. This day marks the convergence of various denominations and sects into the unified body that we proudly call the Church of South India. Reflecting on this historical milestone, we recognize the significance of unity amid diversity. Just as the early Church was formed with a diverse array of individuals from different backgrounds, the Church of South India emerged as a testament to the power of unity. The diverse strands of culture and tradition were woven together to form an Indian Church. In a world often divided by differences, we are called to preserve and nurture this legacy of love and unity—a legacy that stands as a beacon of hope and an example of Christ's transformative power.

In the coming days, two significant events are planned for our church; first, our Family Night on October 20th and second, the Harvest Festival on November 5th. While Family Night promises an evening of fellowship and bonding for the church family, the Harvest Festival offers us an opportunity to express our gratitude for the bountiful blessings God has bestowed upon us. These two events are platforms for us to come together as a community to celebrate our shared faith, and create lasting memories.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit continue to abide with each one of you, guiding our steps and enriching our journey of faith.

In His Service,

Binu Achen



Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship

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

Women's Fellowship Fundraiser: Women's Fellowship will host a food sale event on September 3rd, 2023 after the worship service.

Onam Lunch will be served at the basement on September 10th, 2023 after the worship service.

KCEF Bible Quiz Competition: The 2023 Bible Quiz Competition will be held on September 16th, at St Gregorios Orthodox Church of Toronto, Mississauga.

Board Meeting:

An in-person meeting of the board will be held on September 17th, 2023, at 12:00 pm.

Cottage Prayer Meetings:

- **Jordan** area prayer will be held on **Friday**, September 29th, 2023 at 7:30 PM. This **online** prayer meeting will be hosted by Mr. Shijo P. John and Mrs. Dona Varghese.
- **Gilead** area prayer will be held on **Saturday**, September 16th, 2023, at 7:00 PM. This **online** prayer meeting will be hosted by Mr. Vinod Maliyekal and Mrs. Binssy Mathew
- **Shalom** area prayer will be held on **Sunday**, September 17th, 2023, at 6:30 PM. This **in-person** prayer meeting will be held at the residence of Mr. Rinu John Mathew and Mrs. Anju Anna Jacob.

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

03 Sept 2023 Education Sunday	Education : A Channel of Liberation		
	Old Testament	Proverbs 8: 1-12	English Service
	Psalm	119: 97 - 104	Read by
	Epistle	Acts 8:26-38	Teachers
	Gospel	Mark 6:34 -44	
10 Sept 2023 15th Sunday after Pentecost	Christian Response to Poverty		
	Old Testament	Amos 8:4-7	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	145	Read by
	Epistle	James 2:1-7	Selvarajan Thampy Puthenkulangara & family
	Gospel	Luke 16:19-31	
17 Sept 2023 Choir Sunday	Proclamation: Through Songs, Through Life		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 52:7-14	English Service
	Psalm	105: 1 - 8	Read by
	Epistle	Romans 10: 14-21	Choir Members
	Gospel	Luke 1:46-55	
24 Sept 2023 17th Sunday After Pentecost	Senior Citizen's Sunday: Fruitfulness of the Elderly		
	Old Testament	Genesis 17:1-8	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	92	Read by
	Epistle	Philemon 8-22	Senior Citizens
	Gospel	Matthew 7: 13-20	



BIRTHDAYS

01	Jacob. M John	15	Venerable K. Sam Thomas
01	Levia Grace	17	Mithul Binny Itty
01	Bijoy Bhutia	18	Hancy Sudhakaran
01	Anu Roshan Thomas	19	Rohit Oommen
02	Sarah. M John	19	Thejus John
02	Ashwin Joe Varghese	19	Karen George
05	Jezlyn Maria George	20	Reji Kumar P.B
07	Ancy Jacob	20	Akshay Alex Cherian
07	Felix Abraham Varghese	20	Aiden Ashwin Varghese
07	Elizabeth Verghis	21	T. Mathew Chacko
08	Jain Daniel	21	David Meshach
08	Priya Rachel Abraham	21	Aiswarya Francie Challat
08	Calvin Jacob	22	Eva Bose
10	Jithin George	22	Alen Jacob Mathew
11	Judie Austin	23	Aleesha Shan
13	Raj Hariharan	24	Annika Cherian
13	Varghese John	24	Sophy Aji Mathews
13	John Mathew	24	Noah Solomon Govada
13	Shiny Shibu	24	Kaitlyn Claire Austin
13	Sravan Onteru	25	Anju Anna Jacob
14	Rachel Cherian	27	Alen Paul



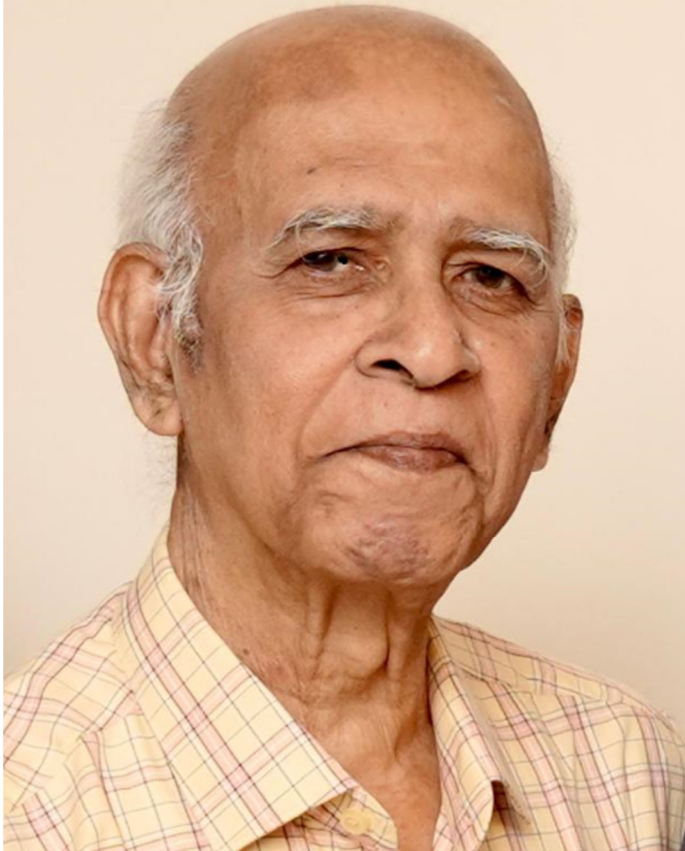
BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|---------------------|
| 28 | Suja Sara Koshy | 29 | Reebu Mariam Jeffin |
| 28 | Smitha Baby Thomas | 30 | Richu Koshy Thomas |
| 28 | Elizabeth Mathai | | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----|--|
| 02 | Jubin Varghese George & Manasi Varghese George |
| 03 | Jinoj Titus & Rajitha Jinoj |
| 10 | T. Mathew Chacko & Meera Jacob |
| 10 | Selvarajan Thampy Puthenkulangara & Eva Bose |
| 11 | John Cheriyam Mathew & Vismaya Mary Villees |
| 11 | George Mathew & Siji Joseph |
| 11 | Bejosh Mathew & Hazel Soman |
| 13 | Joel Wesly Samuel & Rabina Leethiyal |
| 16 | Rennie Philips Joseph & Preetha Anie Philips |
| 22 | Manu Varghese George & Moncy Manu |
| 23 | Jeevan Fenn Varughese & Sarah Titus |
| 24 | Mridul Mathew Kuruvilla & Mary Mridul Mathew |
| 28 | Aaron Fredrick Simon B & Mini Fredrick |

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid - John 14:27



Memorial Prayer Invitation
September 30, 4pm
Venue: CSI Church, Toronto

Celebrating the life of
C.C. Cheriankunju (Sunny)

December 8, 1947 to July 9, 2023
Sr. Joint Director Rtd,
Dept. Of Economics & Statistics, Govt. Of Kerala

Forever in our memories
Susamma Jacob, Sanju Cherian, Cindya Cherian
Mammen Jacob, Allen, Shawn, Johann, Liam
& Family members

"Let us spread love and compassion to all"
- Kaniyamkulam Family



Church VBS 2023: A Recap of the Babylon - Daniel's Courage in Captivity Theme

Introduction: Church VBS 2023, held on August 17th, 18th, and 19th, brought together a vibrant community of young learners to the church premises. The event aimed to provide children with a meaningful and engaging experience centered around the theme "Babylon - Daniel's Courage in Captivity." With a dedicated team of teachers, student teachers, volunteers, and colorful daily activities, the VBS successfully conveyed important lessons while fostering a sense of togetherness among the participants.

Attendance and Staff: The event attracted a total of 53 enthusiastic kids, eager to explore the captivating world of the Babylonian era. The educational aspects were managed by a committed group of 9 teachers, supplemented by 3 student teachers who lent their support and fresh perspectives. In addition to the teaching staff, the VBS was fortunate to have the assistance of approximately 10 volunteers each day who demonstrated their dedication by taking time off from their regular commitments to contribute to this event.

Daily Themes and Activities: Each day of the VBS was designated with a distinct color theme, enhancing the immersive experience for the children. Thursday featured a cheerful yellow theme, followed by a passionate red theme on Friday, and a calming blue theme on Saturday. The thematic colors not only added an element of fun but also helped the children connect with the overarching lessons. Each day was structured around two engaging lessons, highlighting Daniel's resilience and bravery during his time in captivity. These lessons were further reinforced by a daily memory verse, fostering a sense of connection to the biblical narrative. Art and craft activities were seamlessly integrated into the curriculum, allowing the kids to express their creativity and enhance their understanding of the teachings.

Special Activities and Closing Ceremony: The organizers ensured that the VBS experience was holistic and enjoyable. On the last day, a sense of excitement was ignited by water balloons and a thrilling water slide in the final session, providing a refreshing way to conclude the event. The culmination of the VBS was marked by a certificate ceremony where each child was acknowledged for their participation. Prizes were distributed to commend exceptional engagement, ensuring that every child felt valued and encouraged.

Church VBS 2023, with its "Babylon - Daniel's Courage in Captivity" theme, succeeded in providing an enriching and memorable experience for the young attendees. Through well-structured lessons, engaging activities, and the unwavering support of teachers, student teachers, and volunteers, the event showcased the power of unity and community in imparting valuable life lessons within a faith-based context. The vibrant and dynamic atmosphere created during these three days will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on the participants, fostering growth and understanding in their spiritual journey.

Beena Annet Thomas
Sunday School Director

VBS 2023





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

President	Rev. Binu Philip		
Vice-President / Rector's Warden	Mr. Zac Santhosh Koshy	Secretary / People's Warden	Mr. Abraham K Varghese
Joint Secretary / Trustee	Mr. Joby Mathew	Treasurer	Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel
Joint Treasurer / Trustee	Mr. Shijo Perumannoor John	Sunday School Director	Mrs. Beena Annet Hans Thomas
Choir Director	Mr. Chris George	Men's Fellowship Director	Mr. Varghese V John
Women's Fellowship Director	Mrs. Binssy Mathew	Youth Fellowship Director	Mr. John Cheriyan Mathew
Mission Director	Mr. Christopher Moothedom	Public Relations Director	Mr. Rijo George Cherian
Social & Recreational Director	Mr. Jacob P. John	Malayala Lokam Director	Mrs. Eva Bose