

# Tidings

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF CSI CHRIST CHURCH, TRIVANDRUM

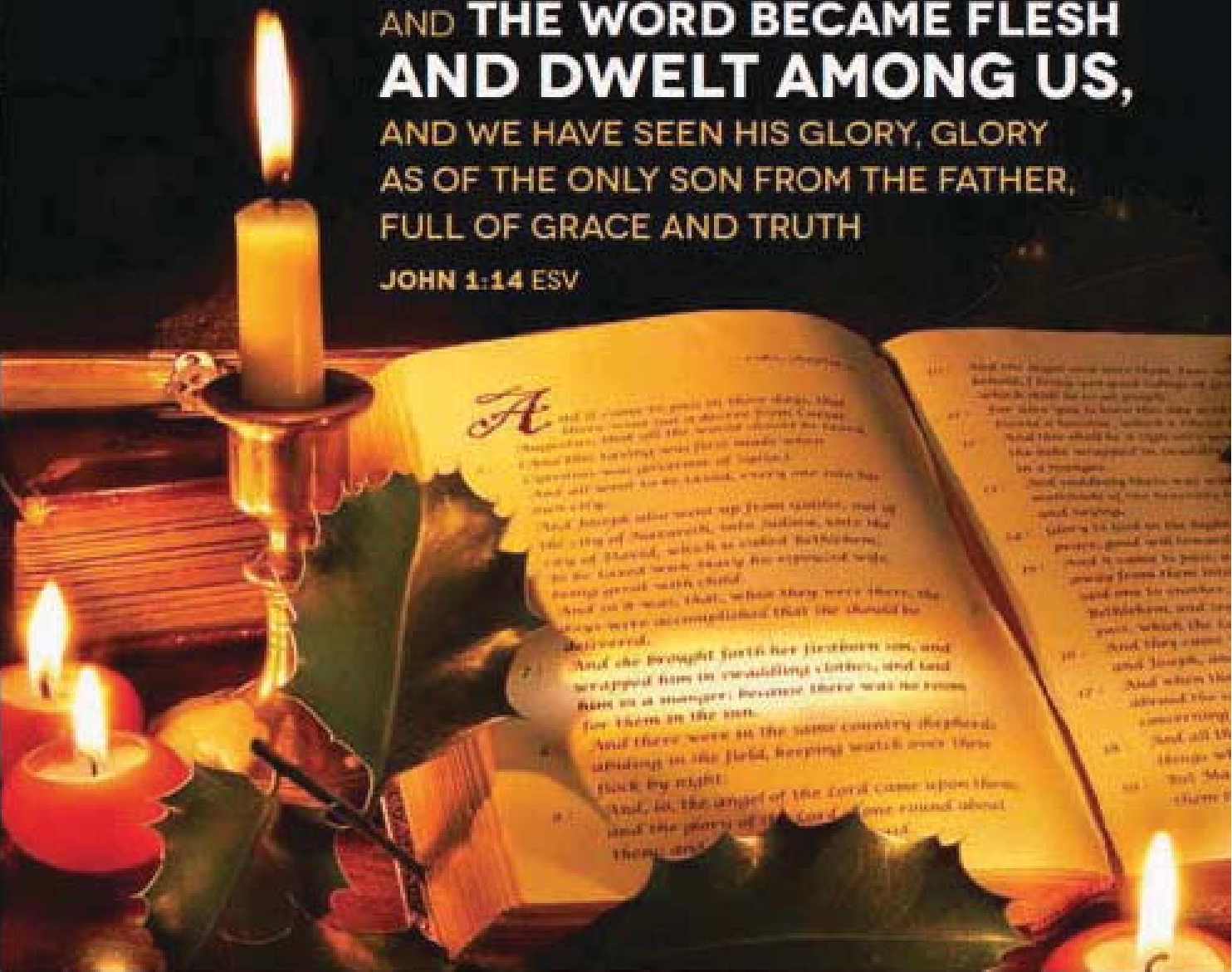
Vol: 6

December 2014

No: 12

**AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH  
AND DWELT AMONG US,  
AND WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY, GLORY  
AS OF THE ONLY SON FROM THE FATHER,  
FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH**

**JOHN 1:14 ESV**



## MOTTO - 2014

**"எனது குடும்பம் நன்கு நிற்கும்"** Proverbs 12:7

**"The family of the godly stands firm"** Proverbs 12:7

**"நீதிமாத்மகளுடைய வீடு நனைந்திருக்கும்"** தீர்மானிப்புகள் 12:7

## Vicar



**Rev. Sumod. C. Cherian**  
Christ Church Parsonage  
DBRA-61, Near Devaswom  
Board Jn, Nanthencode,  
Trivandrum-695 003  
Mobile : 94471 76033  
Telephone : 2316033  
vicar@csichristchurch.org

## Asst. Vicar



**Rev. Saji Cherian Mammen**  
Christ Church Parsonage  
PRA/248, Parottukonam  
Nalanchira,  
Trivandrum-695 015  
Mobile : 9447006033  
asst.vicar@csichristchurch.org

## Church Wardens

Mr. John Kurien 9847175080  
Prof. K.V. Thomas 8547247910

## Church Secretary

Mrs. Omana Abraham 9745692727

## Lay Treasurer

Mr. A.J. Thomas 9447020738

## Internal Auditor

Mr. Abraham Mathew 9847181820

## Church Committee Members

Mr. George Ninan 8289909503  
Mr. Godwin Mathew 9895332868  
Mr. Hezekiel V.S. 9447071185  
Mr. M.M. John (Munduparambil) 9544689029  
Mr. Joshy Mathew 9809788681  
Mrs. Laila Jacob 9446018091  
Mr. Luke P.K. 9495880774  
Mr. Mesfin Zachariah Abraham 9847062108  
Ms. Nimmi Rachel Mathew 9995458461  
Mr. Reuben Daniel Koshy 9895223223  
Mrs. Susan Thomas 9447751085

## Diocesan Council Members

Mrs. Mary Mathew 9447054335  
Mr. Renju Philip 9846065640  
Mr. Saji Sam George 9447303524  
Mr. Suku C. Oommen 9447059920  
Mrs. Susan Ebby 9447890411  
Dr. N.O. Varghese 9847065697

## Senior Presbyters

Very. Rev. Mathew Mathew 2559965  
Rev. Dr. Jacob Verghis 2432560  
Rev. Mathai John 9447958556  
Rev. Shiju Samuel 9447613389  
Rev. Joseph Samuel 8281291203  
Rev. Dr. George Joseph 9447452473  
Rev. Viswasaraj (Tamil) 9495349325

## Church Staff

Mr. Aji George Jacob 9495304997  
Mr. S. Samuel (Joy) 9495300681  
Mr. K.C. Thomas 9846807826  
Mr. Roy Daniel 9605242882

# Tidings

December 2014

## DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## Editorial Board

Rev. Sumod C Cherian  
Rev. Saji Cherian Mammen  
Mr. John Kurien  
Mr. Saji Sam George  
Mr. M M John  
Mr. Renju Philip  
Ms. Susan Ebby  
Mr. Godwin Mathew



## CSI CHRIST CHURCH

(Diocese Of Madhya Kerala)

Palayam Trivandrum

Telephone : 2305902

Office : 2726033

Email : office@csichristchurch.org

www.csichristchurch.org

Online Edition - <http://tidings.csichristchurch.org>

# 25<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary

20<sup>th</sup> December 2014

In Loving Memory Of



**Mr. Abraham George (Reji)**

'San Juan'

Ulloor, Medical College P.O., Trivandrum 695011

*"We shall meet on that beautiful shore"*

Remembered by

Mrs. Thankamma George and Family (ID 102 & 103)

## Vicar's Reflections

Dear friends in Christ,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As we enter the final month of this year let us praise and worship God with thankful hearts. Let us pray that God who has sustained us through so many experiences in life will continue to uphold us in the days to come.

As we enter another Christmas season, I wish to share with you some thoughts based on Matthew 1:18-23. In verse 20 we read as follows: ".....Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit".

Joseph was the silent presence in God's plan of salvation - a Jew of the family of David. His name means "Let Yahweh increase". As the meaning of his name implies, he was a man who accepted the responsibility that God assigned to him and submitted himself to the will of God. He is an example for today's fathers.

What set Joseph apart were three principles of life:

**1. A life of integrity:** Joseph was a man for whom truth and justice were the foundations of life. The Bible describes him as "being a just man". He was a man who achieved inner strength through prayer and meditation. It was these qualities that led him to his destiny. In each moment of our lives we should be able to live as Joseph did.

**2. A life of self-restraint:** Even when he realized that Mary was with child before their marriage had been consummated, he tried to fulfill the demands of the law without abandoning Mary. His mature and rational response is an example to us for even when it appeared that the principles of righteous living that he had observed throughout his life were being questioned, he did not waver. His control over his own emotions is laudable. Realizing the divine power behind this extraordinary command, Joseph, without being guided by human judgment, sought the will of God. Only those who can control their own emotions and thoughts can fulfill God's plan for them. We should remember that our sudden and impulsive responses based on our emotions can only lead us into difficulties.

**3. A life of complete surrender:** In Matthew 1:24 it is recorded that “When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife”. Joseph was not really asleep: he was preparing himself for this commission. As commanded he named the child “Jesus”. How faithfully did Joseph fulfill the task of preparing a Saviour for the world!

Dear friends, let us pray that we will be able to understand the Christmas season as a commitment in life, and that we may fulfill it through a life of integrity, maturity and submission to God.

I request the participation of everyone in all our worship services and programmes during this month.

Wishing you all a joyous Christmas!

**Sumod Achen**

കർത്താവിൽ പ്രിയരെ,  
നിങ്ങൾക്കേവർക്കും കർത്താവായ യേശുക്രിസ്തുവിന്റെ നാമത്തിൽ എന്റെ സ്നേഹവന്ദനം.

ഒരു വർഷത്തിന്റെ അവസാന മാസത്തിലേക്ക് നാം പ്രവേശിച്ചിരിക്കയാണല്ലോ: 2014 നമ്മെ വിട്ടു കടന്നുപോകുമ്പോൾ നന്ദിനിറഞ്ഞ ഹൃദയത്തോടെ ദൈവത്തെ സ്തുതിക്കുവാനും, സ്തോത്രം ചെയ്യുവാനും ഇടയാകണം. എത്രയോ ജീവിതാനുഭവങ്ങളിൽ കൂടെ നാം കടന്നു പോയി. നമ്മെ നിലനിർത്തിയ ദൈവം തുടർന്നും കൂടെ ഇരിക്കണമേ എന്നു പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുവാൻ കഴിയണം.

വീണ്ടും ഒരു ക്രിസ്തുമസ് കാലയളവിലേക്കു നാം പ്രവേശിച്ചിരിക്കയാണല്ലോ. വിശുദ്ധ മത്തായിയുടെ സുവിശേഷം ഒന്നാം അദ്ധ്യായം 18 മുതൽ 23 വരെയുള്ള വേദഭാഗത്തെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കി ചില ചിന്തകൾ പങ്കിടാമെന്നു കരുതുന്നു. 20-ാം വാക്യത്തിൽ നാം ഇങ്ങനെ വായിക്കുന്നു, “...ദാവീദിന്റെ മകനായ യേശുഹോവ, നിന്റെ ഭാര്യയായ മറിയയെ ചേർത്തുകൊൾവാൻ ശക്തിക്കേണ്ട; അവളിൽ ഉല്പാദിതമായത് പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവിനാൽ ആകുന്നു”.

ദൈവത്തിന്റെ രക്ഷാപദ്ധതിയിലെ നിശബ്ദ സാന്നിധ്യമായിരുന്നു യോസേഫിന്റേത്. ദാവീദിന്റെ കുടുംബത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട യഹൂദാഗോത്രക്കാരൻ. ഈ പേരിന്റെ അർത്ഥം, “യഹോവ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കട്ടെ” (Let yahweh increase) എന്നാണ്. ഈ പേരിന്റെ അർത്ഥം പോലെ തന്നെ, ദൈവം നൽകുന്ന ഉയർച്ചയെ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുകയും, അതിനുവേണ്ടി ദൈവഹിതത്തിനു തന്നെത്തന്നെ സമർപ്പിക്കുകയും ചെയ്ത വ്യക്തി ആയിരുന്നു യോസേഫ്. ഇന്നുള്ള പിതാക്കന്മാർക്കു ഒരു മാതൃകാപുരുഷൻ. യോസേഫിനെ വ്യത്യസ്തനാക്കിയത് മൂന്നു ജീവിത മാതൃകകൾ ആയിരുന്നു.

**1. സത്യനിഷ്ഠമായ ജീവിതം (Life of Integrity)**

സത്യവും, നീതിയും ജീവിതത്തിന്റെ അടിസ്ഥാനമായി സ്വീകരിച്ച ആൾ ആയിരുന്നു യോസേഫ്. യോസേഫിനെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള വേദപുസ്തക പരാമർശം, “അവൻ നീതിമാൻ ആകുകൊണ്ട്”, എന്നാണ്. പ്രാർത്ഥന കൊണ്ടും, ധ്യാനം കൊണ്ടും സ്വന്തമാക്കിയ ആന്തരിക ബലത്തിന്റെ ഉടമ. ഈ ഗുണവിശേഷങ്ങൾ ആണ് ഒരു നിയോഗത്തിലേക്ക് നയിച്ചത്. ജീവിക്കുന്ന ഓരോ നിമിഷവും യോസേഫിനെപ്പോലെ ജീവിക്കുവാൻ കഴിയണം.

**2 സമചിത്തതയുള്ള ജീവിതം (Life of self restraint)**

വിവാഹം പൂർത്തീകരിക്കപ്പെടും മുമ്പെ മറിയ ഗർഭവതിയാണെന്നു അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടും, മറിയയെ ഉപേക്ഷിക്കാതെ, ന്യായപ്രമാണം നിവർത്തിയാക്കുവാൻ ആണ് യോസേഫ് ശ്രമിച്ചത്. ഇന്നയോളം കാത്തു പരിപാലിച്ച ജീവിതത്തിന്റെ സത്യനിഷ്ഠമായ അനുഭവങ്ങൾ ചോദ്യം ചെയ്യുമ്പോഴും, സമചിത്തതയോടു പ്രതികരിച്ച യോസേഫ് മാതൃകയാണ്. സ്വന്തം വികാരങ്ങളെ നിയന്ത്രിക്കുവാൻ കാണിച്ച മനസ്സ് പ്രശംസനീയമാണ്. അസാധാരണമായ ഈ അരുളപ്പാടിന്റെ പിന്നിലെ ദിവ്യശക്തിയെ തിരിച്ചറിഞ്ഞ യോസേഫ്, മാനുഷീകമായ ആലോചനയ്ക്ക് വിധേയപ്പെടാതെ, ദൈവത്തിന്റെ ഇഷ്ടം ആരാഞ്ഞറിഞ്ഞു സ്വന്തം വികാരവിചാരങ്ങളെ നിയന്ത്രിക്കുവാൻ കഴിയുന്നവർക്കു മാത്രമേ, ദൈവനിയോഗം പൂർത്തീകരിക്കുവാൻ കഴിയുകയുള്ളൂ. പെട്ടെന്നുള്ള വികാരങ്ങളുടെ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിലുള്ള നമ്മുടെ പ്രതികരണങ്ങൾ പ്രശ്നങ്ങളിലേക്ക് നമ്മെ വഴിനയിക്കും എന്ന യാഥാർത്ഥ്യം നാം വിസ്മരിക്കരുത്.

**3 സമ്പൂർണ്ണ സമർപ്പണത്തിന്റെ ജീവിതം (Life of Complete Surrender)**

വി. മത്തായിയുടെ സുവിശേഷം 1-ാം അദ്ധ്യായം 24-ാം വാക്യത്തിൽ യോസേഫ് ഉറക്കമുണർന്നു, ദൂതൻ കല്പിച്ചതുപോലെ മറിയയെ ചേർത്തുകൊണ്ട് എന്ന് രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു. യോസേഫ് യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ ഉറങ്ങുകയായിരുന്നില്ല, ഈ നിയോഗത്തിനായി തന്നെത്തന്നെ ഒരുക്കുകയായിരുന്നു. അരുളപ്പാടുപോലെ പൈതലിന് യേശു എന്ന് പേരിട്ടു. ലോകത്തിന് ഒരു രക്ഷകനെ ഒരുക്കിയെടുക്കുക എന്ന ദൗത്യം എത്ര പരിപാവനമായി യോസേഫ് നിർവ്വഹിച്ചു. പ്രിയമുള്ളവരെ, ഈ ക്രിസ്തുമസ് കാലയളവ്, ജീവിതത്തെ ഒരു നിയോഗമായി കാണുവാനും, സത്യനിഷ്ഠയും, സമചിത്തതയും, സമർപ്പണവുമുള്ള ജീവിതത്തിലൂടെ അതിനെ നിറവേറ്റുവാനും തുണയ്ക്കണമേ എന്നു പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കാം.

ഈ മാസത്തെ എല്ലാ ആരാധനകളിലും, പ്രോഗ്രാമുകളിലും എല്ലാവരുടെയും സഹകരണം ഞാൻ അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു.

എല്ലാവർക്കും പ്രത്യാശനിർഭരമായ ക്രിസ്തുമസ് ആശംസകളോടെ,  
സുമോദ് അച്ചൻ

CSI Christ Church, Thiruvananthapuram  
**ANNUAL CONVENTION 2015**

22, 23 & 24 January (Thursday to Saturday)

*Main Speaker*

**Vicar General (Retd.) Very Rev. Abraham Samuel**  
(Malankara Marthoma Syrian Church)

*Family Seminar*

24 January 2015 (9.30 AM to 12.30 PM)

*Speaker*

**Mr. Manu Rusell**  
Missions India



**ALMAYA CONVENTION CHOIR**



# വാർത്തകളും കുറിപ്പുകളും

## അഭിനന്ദനങ്ങൾ !!!

നമ്മുടെ ഇടവക വികാരി സുമോദ് സി. ചെറിയാൻ അച്ചനും, Diocesan Council അംഗം ശ്രീ. സുകു സി. ഉമ്മനും, മഹായിടവക എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് കമ്മിറ്റിയിലേക്ക് തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. സഭയുടെ അഭിനന്ദനങ്ങൾ അറിയിക്കുന്നു.

## Thalavady Kanjirappallil Thottukadavil Eapen Jacob Memorial Endowment

നമ്മുടെ സഭാംഗങ്ങളായ ശ്രീ. ഇ. ജേക്കബ് രാജനും, ശ്രീമതി. മേരി ജേക്കബും, മകൻ ശ്രീ. ഇറപ്പൻ ജേക്കബിന്റെ ഓർമ്മയ്ക്കായി 40 ലക്ഷം രൂപയുടെ എൻഡോവ്മെന്റ്, വിവിധ സംഘടനകളുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കും, മിഷൻ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്കുമായി 17-11-2014 ന് സഭയ്ക്ക് കൈമാറി. സഭയുടെ അകമഴിഞ്ഞ നന്ദി അറിയിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

## Proficiency Prizes for the year 2014

താഴെപ്പറയുന്ന വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കു 2014 ലെ proficiency prizes ലഭിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

1.	Miss. Achu Vinod Thomas	Std. XII	ISE
2.	Mr. Abbey Koshy Itty	Std. XII	CBSE
3.	Miss. Sherin Isaac	Std. X	ICSE
4.	Mrs. Sneha Mary Geroge	Std. X	CBSE
5.	Mr. Abhinav Thomas Thomas	Std. X	CBSE
6.	Miss. Sainah Anna Prasad	Std. X	SSLC

## Special Commemorative cover by the Kerala Postal Circle

തിരുവനന്തപുരം, ഫോർട്ട് ഗേൾസ് മിഷൻ ഹൈസ്കൂൾ 150 വർഷം പൂർത്തീകരിച്ചതിനോടനുബന്ധിച്ച്, കേരള പോസ്റ്റൽ സർക്കിൾ, ഒരു സ്പെഷ്യൽ കവർ 14-11-2014 ന് പുറത്തിറക്കി. പോസ്റ്റൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്റെ ഈ അംഗീകാരത്തെ അഭിനന്ദിക്കുന്നു. ഇതു സഭയ്ക്കും, Zenana Mission നും ഒരു ആദരവാണി.

## പകൽ വീട്

ക്രിസ്തു സേവാ ചാരിറ്റബിൾ സൊസൈറ്റിയുടെ ആഭിമുഖ്യത്തിൽ പകൽ വീടിന്റെ ആദ്യത്തെ മീറ്റിംഗ് 17-11-2014 ന് സൊസൈറ്റി കെട്ടിടത്തിൽ നടത്തപ്പെട്ടു. 60 വയസ്സിന് മുകളിലുള്ള 22 പേർ ഈ



മീറ്റിംഗിൽ പങ്കെടുത്തു. രാവിലെ 9.30 മുതൽ വൈകിട്ട് 4.30 വരെയുള്ള സമയത്ത് പാട്ട് പരിശീലനം, ബൈബിൾ കിസ്, പ്രൊഫ. സിസിലി തോംസന്റെ സന്ദേശം, മദർ തെരേസയെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള ഒരു ഡോക്യുമെന്റി എന്നിവ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഇതുപോലുള്ള പ്രോഗ്രാമുകളും, ഭാവിയിലും പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്നുവെന്ന അഭിപ്രായത്തോടെ പങ്കെടുത്തവർ മടങ്ങി.

**Christmas Carol Rounds**

പതിവുപോലെ ഈ വർഷവും ഏരിയ പ്രെയർ ഗ്രൂപ്പ് കൺവീനർ മാരുടെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ, കരോൾ റൗണ്ട്സ് നടത്തുവാൻ നിശ്ചയിച്ചു.

**Choir**

ഡിസംബർ 7-ാം തീയതി നടത്തപ്പെടുവാനിരിക്കുന്ന സംയുക്ത ആരാധന മദ്ധ്യേ 5 പേരെ കയറിൽ അംഗങ്ങളായി പ്രതിഷ്ഠിക്കുന്നതായിരിക്കും.

**Christmas Carol Service**

ഡിസംബർ 24 ന് വൈകുന്നേരം 6 മണിക്ക് ക്രിസ്തുമസ് കരോൾ സർവ്വീസ് നടത്തപ്പെടും. കരോൾ സർവ്വീസിനും ഡിസംബർ 25 ന് ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് ആരാധന മദ്ധ്യേയും റവ. ഡോ. വത്സൻ തമ്പു സന്ദേശം നൽകും.

**Church Convention**

2015 ജനുവരി 22, 23, 24 തീയതികളിൽ നടത്തപ്പെടുന്ന ചർച്ച് കൺവെൻഷൻ വെരി. റവ. എബ്രഹാം സാമുവൽ വികാരി ജനറൽ, മാർത്തോമ്മ സഭ, മുഖ്യപ്രസംഗകൻ ആയിരിക്കും. 24 ന് ഒരു ഫാമിലി സെമിനാറും നടത്തപ്പെടും. വിശദവിവരങ്ങൾ പിന്നീട് അറിയിക്കുന്നതാണ്.

**ഇടവക കമ്മിറ്റി**

2014-17 ലെ ഇടവക കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ ആദ്യയോഗം ശ്രീ. രഞ്ജു ഫിലിപ്പിനെ Pastorate Committee സെക്രട്ടറിയായി തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തു. അഭിനന്ദനങ്ങൾ.

ഓമന എബ്രഹാം (സെക്രട്ടറി)

**WELCOME!**

- ◆ Holy Communion Services of one hour duration in English are conducted on Wednesdays at 6.00 PM.
- ◆ Convenient for those who are unable, for any reason, to attend Sunday morning services.
- ◆ Those who are employed in Trivandrum, but are away during weekends will be able to attend the Wednesday evening service.
- ◆ Please bring elders who are unable to attend the early Sunday morning worship.

# Organisations' Corner

## Almaya Fellowship

വാർഷിക കൺവൻഷൻ 2014



ഈ വർഷത്തെ കൺവൻഷൻ നവംബർ 14, 15, 16 തീയതികളിൽ ക്രൈസ്റ്റ് ചർച്ചിൽ വെച്ച് നടത്തപ്പെട്ടു. വചനശുശ്രൂഷ നിർവ്വഹിച്ചത് റവ. ഡോ. ഡി.ജെ. അജിത്കുമാർ അച്ചൻ ആയിരുന്നു. അനുഗ്രഹപ്രദമായ വചന ശുശ്രൂഷ ആയിരുന്നു. ബഹു. ഇടവക വികാരി റവ. സുമോദ് സി. ചെറിയാൻ കൺവൻഷൻ ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്തു. റവ. സജി ചെറിയാൻ മാമ്മൻ അച്ചന്റെയും മറ്റു സീനിയർ അച്ചന്മാരുടെയും സാന്നിധ്യം അനുഗ്രഹപ്രദമായിരുന്നു. ഗായകസംഘത്തിന്റെ പാട്ടുകൾ കൺവൻഷൻ

കൂടുതൽ മധുരോദാത്തമാക്കി. കൺവീനറായി പ്രവർത്തിച്ച ശ്രീ. ജെയിംസ് ചെറിയാൻ, ഗായകസംഘത്തിന് നേതൃത്വം നൽകിയ പ്രൊഫ. കോശി തലയ്ക്കൽ, ശ്രീ. ഫ്രാങ്ക്ലിൻ നോക്സ്, ശ്രീ. മാത്യു തോമസ് എന്നിവരോടുള്ള പ്രത്യേക നന്ദി അറിയിക്കുന്നു. സാന്നിധ്യം കൊണ്ട് കൺവൻഷൻ ഒരു വിജയമാക്കിയ എല്ലാവർക്കും നന്ദി.

## Golden Age Fellowship

Christ Church Golden Age Fellowship wishes every member a Christ-Centered CHRISTMAS and a Christ-Controlled Blessed New Year : 2015

I am happy to inform you that the 1<sup>st</sup> Bimonthly worship of 2015 will be held on Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7-30 am.

Let us start our New Year with dedication. Your prayerful presence will be a blessing.

**Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**, the former president and great Scientist of India, released 109 Scientific books on November 14, 2014 at the Kanakakunnu Palace. The books were published by Kerala Bhasha Institute, Trivandrum.

One of the books included *“Disease management of Fruits and Vegetables”* written by **Prof. Dr. Susan Philip** (ID 139) of our Church.

*Congratulations !*

**ക്രിസ്തുസേവ ചാരിറ്റബിൾ സൊസൈറ്റി  
2014-2017 വർഷത്തെ ഭാരവാഹികൾ**

- പ്രസിഡന്റ് - റവ. സുമോദ് സി. ചെറിയാൻ  
റവ. സജി ചെറിയാൻ മാമ്മൻ  
(അസി. വികാരി)
- വൈസ് പ്രസിഡന്റ് - ശ്രീ. മോഹൻ എ. ചാണ്ടി
- സെക്രട്ടറി - ശ്രീ. സോമൻ ജോൺ
- ജോ: സെക്രട്ടറി - ശ്രീ. പോൾരാജ്. കെ.
- ട്രഷറർ - ശ്രീ.. ജെയിംസ് ചെറിയാൻ
- ഇന്റേർണൽ ആഡിറ്റർ - ശ്രീ. തോമസ് ജേക്കബ്

**കമ്മിറ്റി അംഗങ്ങൾ**

സ:ശ്രീ. ഐപ്പ് കുരുവിള, കുരുവിള എം.ജെ, സജി സാം ജോർജ്ജ്, ജേക്കബ് തോമസ്, ഡോ. സൂസൻ ഫിലിപ്പ്, സാലി ഈശോ ചെറിയാൻ.

പ്രൊഫ. കെ.വി. തോമസ്, ജോൺ കുര്യൻ, ഓമന എബ്രഹാം, തോമസ്. എ.ജെ, ശോഭാ സുമോദ് കൊച്ചമ്മ (Ex Officio അംഗങ്ങൾ)



***Congratulations!***

**Rev. Sumod C. Cherian and Mr. Suku C. Oommen** have been elected to the Diocesan Executive Committee for the period 2014-17. Our hearty congratulations!



**ക്രിസ്തുമസ്  
പുതുവത്സരാശംസകൾ**

- TIDINGS Editorial Board

## Almanac

07-12-2014	<b>Thanksgiving for Harvest</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Christmas and 2nd in Advent</b> <b>Harvest Festival</b> ആദ്യഫല പെരുന്നാൾ OT : Deuteronomy 26:1-11    Epistle : 2 Corinthians 6:6-15 Psalm 65    Gospel : Luke 21:1-4 7.30 a.m. Combined Service
10-12-2014	H.E. (English)                      6.00 pm                      Wednesday
12-12-2014	H.E. (Malayalam)                      7.30 a.m.                      Friday
14-12-2014	<b>Hope of Salvation</b> <b>2nd Sunday before Christmas</b> <b>3rd Sunday in Advent</b> രക്ഷയുടെ പ്രത്യാശ OT Zephaniah 3:14-20                      Epistle : 2 Peter 3:8-13 Psalm 43                      Gospel : Matthew 1:18-23 6.15 a.m. Matins (Tamil) 7.15 a.m. H.E. (English) 9.45 a.m. Matins (Malayalam) 7.00 a.m. H.E. at Zion Hall 6.00 p.m. H.E. at Zenana Chapel
17-12-2014	H.E. (English)                      6.00 p.m.                      Wednesday
19-12-2014	H.E. (Malayalam)                      7.30 a.m.                      Friday
21-12-2014	<b>Rejoice, the Lord is Near</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday before Christmas</b> <b>4th Sunday in Advent</b> ആനന്ദിക്ക, കർത്താവ് സമീപം OT : Zechariah 2:6-13                      Epistle : 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24 Psalm 50:1-15                      Gospel : John 16:16-24 6.15 a.m. Matins (Tamil) 7.15 a.m. H.E. (English) 9.45 a.m. H.E. (Malayalam) 6.00 p.m. Evening Worship at Zenana Chapel
24-12-2014	<b>Christmas Carol Service</b> 6.00 p.m.                      Wednesday
25-12-2014	<b>Finding Space for the Prince of Peace</b> Thursday <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> ക്രിസ്തുമസ് സമാധാനപ്രഭുവിന് ഇടം കണ്ടെത്തൽ OT : Isaiah 9:2-7                      Epistle : Ephesians 1:3-14 Psalm 85:8-13                      Gospel : Luke 2:1-14 4.00 a.m. H.E. (Tamil) 5.00 a.m. H.E. (Malayalam) 7.15 a.m. Matins (English) 9.45 a.m. H.E. (Malayalam)

28-12-2014	<b>Family as God's Gift</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas</b> <b>Family Sunday</b> കുടുംബം - ദൈവദാനം OT : Joshua 24:14-22      Epistle : Ephesians 3:14-21 Psalm : 128      Gospel : Mark 3:31-35 6.15 a.m. Matins (Tamil) 7.15 a.m. Matins (English) 9.45 a.m. H.E. (Malayalam) 6.00 p.m. Evening Worship at Zenana Chapel
31-12-2014	<b>Come to the Lord with Thanksgiving</b> Wednesday <b>Year Ending Worship Service</b> സ്തോത്രാർപ്പണത്തോടെ കർത്താവിന്റെ സമീപം വരിക OT : 2 Samuel 6:1-15      Epistle : Colossians 3:12-17 Psalm : 91      Gospel : Luke 17:11-19 11.30 p.m. - <b>Watch Night Service</b>
01-01-2015	<b>Day of the Covenant</b> Thursday <b>New Year</b> പുതുവത്സരം - ഉടമ്പടി ദിനം OT : Jeremiah 31:31-34      Epistle : 2 Corinthians 2:14-17 Psalm : 145      Gospel : Matthew 14:22-33 7.15 a.m. H.E. (English)
04-01-2015	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas</b> OT : Isaiah 61:1-4      Epistle : 2 Corinthians 6:3-10 Psalm : 63:1-11      Gospel : Matthew 5:1-12 6.15 a.m. H.E. (Tamil) 7.15 a.m. H.E. (English) 9.45 a.m. H.E. (Malayalam) 6.00 p.m. Evening Worship at Zenana Chapel

## Obituary

**Mr. John Thomas, S/o Mrs. Susy Thomas**  
(ID No. 649) on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2014. The Funeral was  
at All Saints' CSI Church, Trichur, on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014



**Harvest**  
festival

**7<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

*Come and Experience Great  
Fellowship*

## Roster For Reading Lessons

### ENGLISH

Date	First Lesson	Second Lesson
07-12-2014	HARVEST FESTIVAL	
14-12-2014	Mr. Samuel Mathew	Dr. Valsamma John
21-12-2014	Mr. Saji Sam George	Mrs. Daisy Varghese
28-12-2014	Mr. Sudhir George Verghis	Mrs. Georgina Mathen
04-01-2015	Mr. Vinod Das Mathew	Dr. Indumathi Rajakumar

### MALAYALAM

Date	First Lesson	Second Lesson
07-12-2014	HARVEST FESTIVAL	
14-12-2014	Mr. P.J. Daniel	Mrs. Mable Mathen
21-12-2014	Mr. George Mathew Vilayil	Mrs. Marykutty Abraham
28-12-2014	Mr. C.T. John	Mrs. Metty Lalan
04-01-2015	Mr. John M.M.	Mrs. Marykutty John

## Baptism

**ASWATHY U.M.** (Daughter of the Late N. Udayakumar and Mrs. Mallika Udayakumar) on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014 (DOB 28/08/1990)

## Marriage

**PREM VARKEY VARGHESE**, S/o Mr. K.V. Varghese and Mrs. Molly Varghese, Sharon, Peyad, Trivandrum and **LEEGY K. ANTONY**, D/o Mr. K.R. Antony and Mrs. Somy V. George, Kallarackal, Vazhour P.O., Kottayam, of the Mar Thoma Church, Vazhour on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014

**RENI SIMON** S/o Mr. Simon K.S. and Mrs. Lisiamma Simon, Kudiyattil House, Vivekananda Nagar, Thirumala P.O. Trivandrum (ID No. 669) and **Dr. AXSA P. THOMAS**, D/o Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Annamma Thomas, Puthenpurackal, SH Mount P.O., Kottayam, on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014

## Contributions

From 23/10/2014 to 24/11/2014

Book Collections: October 2014

### HOUSING HELP

(Roy Daniel - Gardener)

		Rs.
1	Mr. Y. Thomas	1,000
2	Mr. Thomnas Oommen	5,000
3	Pradeep M. Joseph	1,000

### FOOD FOR THE NEEDY

1	Mrs. P.M. Mary	3,000
2	Mr. & Mrs. M.Y.Rao	1,000
3	Mr. Thomas Joseph	1,000
4	Dr. Anu Thambu	2,000
5	Derrick Thomas George	5,000
6	Mr. N M Abraham	1,000
7	Dr. Rebekka Thomas	1,000
8	Mr. John Binoy Philip	1,000
9	Adv. P.J.Koshy	400
10	Mr. Cherian George	1,500
11	Mr. George Cherian	1,500
12	Mr. Jacob Koshy	2,000
13	Mr. Roy Mathai	500
14	Mrs. Mary Mathews	2,000
15	A well wisher	100
16	Mrs. Annamma T. George	500
17	Miss Nimmy Rachel Mathew	1,000
18	A Well-wisher	250
19	Mr. Rex David Gama	100
20	Ms. Nisha Thampy Joseph	250
21	Ashwin & Nevin	1,000
22	Mr. N.M. Abraham	1,000
23	Mr. K.J. George	1,000
24	Mr. Manjith G. J.	1,000
25	Ms. Nirmala Sarah Koshy	1,000
26	Mr. P.C. Varghese	500
27	Mrs. Santha Mary Joseph	500
28	Mr. K.K. George	200
29	Mr. S. Koshy George	200
30	Mr. Sajan George	200
31	Mrs. Molly Varghese	2,000
32	Mr. John Eapen	1,000
33	Mr. George Thomas	1,000

### Parkal / Jangedu Mission

1	Palayam Area Prayer	360
2	Mrs. Saramma Kuruvilla	500
3	Adv. P.J.Koshy	200
4	Mr. George Thomas	2,000
5	Mr. P.C. Varghese	200
6	Mrs. Molly Varghese	2,000
7	Mr. Biinu Joseph	500

### Parkal Orphanage

1	Dr. Y.A. Ajith	3,000
2	Mrs. Santha Mary Joseph	500

### Charkari Mission

1	Mr. Binu Joseph	500
---	-----------------	-----

2	Adv. P.J.Koshy	200
3	Mr.P.C. Varghese	300
4	Mrs. Santha Mary Joseph	500

### Mysore Mission

1	Adv. P.J.Koshy	200
2	Mr.P.C. Varghese	200
3	Mrs. Santha Mary Joseph	500

### Andhra Mission

1	Mrs. Annie George Varghese	1,000
2	Adv. P.J.Koshy	200
3	Ms. Nisha Thampy Joseph	250
4	Mr.P.C. Varghese	300

### Prison Ministry

1	Adv. P.J.Koshy	200
---	----------------	-----

### Poor Patient Fund

1	Adv. P.J.Koshy	200
---	----------------	-----

### Malayora Mission

1	Mr. John Eapen	1,000
2	Mr.P.C. Varghese	500

### Uttaranjal Mission

1	Adv. P.J.Koshy	200
2	Mr.Binu Joseph	500
3	Sr. Annamma T. George	500

### Thottapradesh Mission

1	Mr.Binu Joseph	500
2	Mr. P. Mathew Zachariah	500

### Mysore Mission

1	Mrs. Santha Mary Joseph	500
2	Mr.Binu Joseph	500
3	Mrs.Annamma T. George	500
4	Mr. P.J. Koshy	200
5	Mr. P.C. Varghese	200

### Charity

1	Adv. P.J. Koshy	200
---	-----------------	-----

### Church Maintenance

1	Mrs. Mary Thomas	500
2	Mrs. Santha Mary Joseph	400

### Bible Society

1	Adv. P.J. Koshy	1,000
2	Mr. K.E. Thomas	100
3	Mr. Binu Joseph	2,000
4	Mr. V.C. Kurian	100

### Vehicle Fund

1	Mr. Abraham Mathew	5,000
---	--------------------	-------

### Women's Fellowship

1	Mrs. Santha Mary Joseph	500
---	-------------------------	-----

### Thank Offering

1	Mr. Philip John Varghese	2,000
2	Mrs. Jasmin Mani	1,000

### Home of Love

1	Pattom-Plamoodu Area Prayer	520
2	Pattom-Plamoodu Area Prayer	1,000

### City Mission Project

1	Mr. Binu Joseph	500
---	-----------------	-----

## Area Prayer Meetings

Time	Area	Name	ID	Phone
<b>04-12-2014 - Thursday</b>				
5.30 PM	Kowdiar – Kuravan	Mr. C.C.Chेरiankunju	253	2437557 9447109200
<b>11-12-2014 - Thursday</b>				
4.00 PM	Peroorkada	Mr. Mathew Thomas	811	2434952 9447974952
4.30 PM	Nanthancode	Mr. Kurian C. Abraham	552	2314155 9446554155
<b>13-12-2014 - Saturday</b>				
5 PM	Kesavadasapuram	Mr.Mathew Kurien (Memorial Prayer)	140	2543646 9447752627
<b>14-12-2014 - Sunday</b>				
4.30 PM	Pattom – Plamoodu	Mrs. Susan Thomas Koshy	-	2540197 9847692832
4.30 PM	PTP-Vattiyoorkavu	Mr. K.V. Chacko (Near G.V. Raja Sports School, Mylom)	1005	9048503509
<b>20-12-2014 - Saturday</b>				
4.30 PM	Kesavadasapuram	Mrs. Thankamma George (Memorial Prayer)	102	2448868
5.00 PM	Palayam-Vazhu-Thy	Mrs. Anitha Kurien (D/o the late P.I. Kurien)	667	2476209
<b>21-12-2014 - Sunday</b>				
4.30 PM	Medical College-Kannam	Mr.George Varghese P.	425	2445549
4.30 PM	Kesavadasapuram	Dr. A.M. Mathew	150	3294418
<b>28-12-2014 - Sunday</b>				
4.30 PM	Pattom – Plamoodu	Mr.Mathew K. Abraham	723	2540197
5 PM	Palayam – Vazhuthacadu	Mr. D. Alexander (Memorial Prayer)	609	2328700 9447153530



## I have found THE BOOK

(2 Kings: 22: 8, 2 Chronicles: 34: 15)

These are the words of the high priest Hilkiah during the time of King Josiah. Josiah became a king at a very young age. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and walked in all the ways as King David did (2 Kings: 22:2). As the nation was in the grip of idolatry, the King began to purge Judah and Jerusalem. He chopped down heathen altars and broke the idols. Then he turned to repair the house of the Lord, spending a lot of money. The King sent Shaphan, the secretary to supervise the work and he found the men working faithfully. That's when the high priest reported to Shaphan, "I have found the BOOK of the law in the house of the Lord (2 Chro: 34:15)". Shaphan read it and brought the book to the King. The King heard it being read. He rent his clothes and was moved to repentance. He gathered elders, prophets, priest and all the people, young and old. He read the BOOK to all the people (2 Kings: 23:2).

The book contained the law which the Lord gave to Moses. They all repented and wept. The King and the people made a covenant to God agreeing to keep and obey these laws. A great reformation took place in the nation of Judah. Nothing else could bring that change, which was brought about by the Book of God's law. Never in the history of Judah was there a revival such as the one that happened during King Josiah's time. Before long they were taken away into captivity.

Scholars say this book was the original as it was written by Moses. Copies of the book were rare.

Today we have the Book; The word of God in our hands. May be we have more than one copy in our homes. It is well respected and kept in high honour. The Bible has a message for every generation. It contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the blessings of believers. How fortunate we are to have it in our language! How blessed we are to hear it read at every worship service. Are we making use of its message?

During the time of King Josiah, the book in the house of the Lord was already there. It was kept very sacred, but it was hidden away and neglected. The high priest took notice of it. When he found it, he read

it, the King heard it and it brought about the tremendous change in the king and among the people of the nation at that time.

What is the place of this Book in our lives? We may be reading it. We respect it. Do we take time to listen to what God has to speak to us? This Book speaks by itself. It is the living word of the living God. The more it enters us, the more it transforms us. Nothing else can bring about the transforming difference in us and in our society which the Bible can! Back to the Bible is the need of the day.

Let us allow ourselves a little more time with the Book, to read it and meditate on it, and we shall see the great difference that happens in us and in the society.

**Elizabeth Matthew (ID 340)**

## Programme for December

- **All Sundays (except 7<sup>th</sup> December)**  
 Sunday School - 8 AM  
 Bible Study (Youth Fellowship) – After the English Service  
 Prayer Meeting (Almaya Fellowship) – After the Malayalam Service
- **All Fridays**  
 Choir Practice (English) - 5.00 PM
- **All Saturdays**  
 Intercessory Prayer (Youth Fellowship) – 4.30 PM  
 Choir Practice (Junior Choir) - 4.30 PM  
 Choir Practice (Malayalam) - 5.00 PM
- **9<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday**  
 Prison Visit - (Women's Fellowship) - 2 PM
- **12<sup>th</sup> - Friday**  
 Intercessory Prayer - 10 AM  
 Bible Study (Golden Age Fellowship) - After the Intercessory Prayer
- **20<sup>th</sup> - Saturday**  
 Bible Study (Women's Fellowship) - 3.30 PM
- **23<sup>rd</sup> - Tuesday**  
 Prison Visit - (Women's Fellowship) - 2 PM
- **26<sup>th</sup> - Friday**  
 Visiting the Sick (Golden Age Fellowship) - 9 AM
- **27<sup>th</sup> - Saturday**  
 House Visit (Women's Fellowship) - 10 AM

## CHRISTMAS - FINDING SPACE FOR THE PRINCE OF PEACE

Christmas signifies the birth of Christ and it is here just around the corner. It is indeed a time to rejoice because the Lord is here.

The Gospels of Mathew and Luke give details of the birth of Christ. A lot of drama is associated with the birth of Jesus. In fact, everything that happened around Christmas 2000 years ago was full of action and drama: the divine conception of the virgin Mary, in strict Jewish tradition the turmoil and dilemma it would have caused, the timing of the Roman census and Joseph and Mary's forced journey to Bethlehem, no room at the inn and so settling into the humble abode of a stable, the shepherds awed by the sudden glory of the angels and being given the good news, the Magi from afar following a star, trekking across a desert on a long and arduous journey—all this was great drama, but it was nothing compared to the dynamic reason why Jesus was born. It was part of the great plan of God to save His people from their sins. Jesus was God's most profound and priceless gift offered to mankind—a Saviour so desperately needed by a sinful world. It was also to reconcile us to God as that is indeed the deepest need of every human being. Without God's forgiveness we would remain in our sin and alienated from His presence. To forgive our sins and restore us into His love and presence, 2000 years ago in a Bethlehem stable, God gave us the reason for Christmas.

We all love the Xmas story and every year we revisit this story and hear the angels singing "peace on earth and goodwill to men". Everything about Christ's birth is exciting but actually we wonder whatever happened to the "peace on earth and goodwill to men" part? 2000 years later we still live in a terribly violent world and there is anything but peace on earth and hardly any goodwill among men. Not a day passes by without our hearing or seeing or experiencing conflict or destructive events. There is no peace in homes, families, workplaces or relationships. Evil is at its worst in the world around us and unimaginable forms of violence are perpetrated. The world has become a place where people are ruled by money and money power alone, where no love exists, where brother can cheat brother and only selfish interests prosper. The good old family values that were once regarded as so important and kept loved ones together are now considered outdated. The "I" disease has overtaken everyone and now all that matters is **I and Me**. Selfishness rules the day. Does it mean that the angels' song "peace on earth, goodwill to men" when Jesus was born has no relevance in our time? Or is it because we are not genuinely

interested in peace and goodwill that they are not seen? What is really happening to us and our world?

Are we putting our trust in wrong things? Have we grown too big, too soon in our eyes? Do we believe we can do all things by our own merit? Are we reluctant to trust God fully? Are we apprehensive about our will clashing with God's will in our lives? The answer to all this is a big YES.

Real peace and goodwill will become available to us only when we are ready to accept the Prince of Peace, Jesus into our hearts and lives. Jesus' words in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled nor let it be afraid", clearly reveal that true peace and joy come from knowing Him, loving Him, trusting Him, obeying Him and abiding in His presence. The peace Christ gives and the peace the world gives are totally different. The world's peace is all about organizations and structures, meetings and discussions and agreements made by people and leaders whose words and actions change according to their will and pleasure and hold no validity. Unlike that external peace, what Jesus, our unchanging sovereign Master, offers is true peace of the heart. The diagnosis in the Bible is that the biggest problem we have in our world is not "out there" but "within" our hearts. Once we understand that we can look for the solution, and the lasting solution is the peace which Jesus the Prince of Peace gives, which is from Himself by His indwelling spirit. John 16:33 reads, "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble" and history has proved that true again and again. Great philosophers and advisors offer and market new ideas and ways for peace but nothing seems to work and we still sit in the darkness of our own wisdom. Today as we face a world full of conflict and violence, devoid of any joy or peace, let us allow Jesus to be born in our hearts this Christmas so that we can enjoy the wonderful peace and goodwill that the angels proclaimed at the birth of our Saviour. Jesus is the GOOD NEWS for our broken, suffering, violent world and He and He alone can give us back the peace, joy, cheer and abundant life that our world has so sadly lost.

This Christmas when Jesus comes, let us not be like the Jews who did not accept Him or like the innkeeper who had no place for Him in the inn. Let us sweep out all the clutter of arrogance, disobedience, selfishness and unforgiveness from our hearts, clean them up thoroughly and create the space for Jesus, the true Prince of Peace to be born.

**Mrs. Roshini George (ID 734)**

## AREA PRAYER MEETINGS

“I will extol you, O Lord, for you have lifted me up, and have not let my foes rejoice over me” (Psalms 30:1)

Greetings to you all in the matchless name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

At the very outset, we should be greatly thankful to God Almighty for having given us the facilities, opportunities and urge to conduct Area Prayer Meetings promptly in various areas of our Parish. While some Areas are regularly conducting Area Prayer Meetings, some others are irregular in conducting the meetings. Each Prayer Group Area has a good number of our members. Despite these favourable factors, many of us do not pay sufficient attention to the conduct of Area Prayer Meetings in our houses. In fact, Area Prayer Conveners are struggling to collect names in time for inclusion in the monthly issue of Tidings.

God has abundantly blessed us in the past individually, collectively, socially and financially and continues to bless us in spite of our many daily failings. Are we offering enough thanks to Him by praising Him in our prayer meetings? God has bestowed upon us His grace to live longer in life and to guard us from all perils and temptations. The Area Prayers we conduct are meant for fellowship in addition to our fellowship in the Church. Considering our many blessings by way of birthdays, marriages, anniversaries, financial gains etc., are we not sufficiently indebted to God to at least praise Him for His glory?

Area Prayers should be attended, as far as possible, by all people from the Area. There is no need for a special invitation to anyone to attend Area Prayers. It is an occasion for thanksgiving and to re-affirm our ardent faith in God, in addition to our affirmation in church.

Finally, it is our sincere wish that the prayer meetings should not be taken as an occasion to spend much money for refreshments, as a simple tea with a snack is more than sufficient to express our gratitude. As we need to finalize the list of Area Prayers before the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month, we request all our members to inform the Area Prayer Conveners before the above date each month if they plan to hold Area Prayers in their homes. This will facilitate inclusion of their names in our monthly Tidings newsletter. Thank you all.

May God bless us all.

For Christ Church Committee

**Mr. M.M. John** (ID 330)

(Co-ordinator, Area Prayer Conveners)

## **155<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Christ Church (Nostalgia)**

### **A WATCH-NIGHT SERVICE TO REMEMBER**

Pitying our woeful lives, the Almighty provides us, now and then, with breaks – some amusing, some humorous and some downright hilarious. Comic reliefs, you might say. One such break, while I remember well, came many years ago when I was a student and member of the Christ Church choir. Most of the people who feature in this are no longer with us and they are remembered affectionately with gratitude, for they enriched lives around them- on way or the other.

It was the practice in those days- maybe it is so now too- to turn off the lights in the church during Watch-night services on the stroke of twelve and play the first two bars of the hymn 'O God, our help in ages past' on the chiming pipes in the belfry which would be then taken up by the organ accompanying the choir. And a minute later the lights would be turned on, to welcome the New Year.

(The chiming pipes, as you might know, were four steel tubes of varying lengths hanging in the belfry each producing a musical note or chime of its own when struck by a wooden hammer pulled by the rope attached to it. Plainly put, there were four tubes, four hammers and four ropes to produce four different notes or chimes. Incidentally, these chimes were also played as the second bell before Sunday services too.)

Mr. Samuel, the elderly sexton, was adept at playing the chimes: pulling the ropes in the right order, with the right force, keeping the correct time or duration of each note while standing in the darkness of the belfry during Watch-night services with all the lights switched off. His was a skill acquired through long practices and years of experience.

Now, the final choir practice for the year's Watch-night service was just over when the choir secretary announced that he, and not Mr. Samuel, would be playing 'O God, our help' on the chimes that

night. The senior members of the choir raised skeptical eyebrows but said nothing. The choirmaster looked askance at the secretary but said nothing. The choir leader, a serious, no-nonsense gentleman, sat bolt upright, twisted his handlebar mustache and glared at the secretary, but said nothing. The gentle vicar raised no objection by saying nothing. We being juniors said nothing, though some of us had a premonition of impending disaster for we knew the secretary a little too well.

Close to midnight, the secretary jauntily climbed the iron ladder to the belfry and on reaching it paused at its door to catch his breath when suddenly, the lights went out on the stroke of twelve, which was the cue for playing 'O God, our help' on the chiming pipes. With the church plunged in darkness, everyone was all ears for the chimes but nothing happened in the belfry and the seconds ticked by, creating suspense. The Stygian darkness in the belfry was something the secretary had not reckoned with. He couldn't see his own palm, let alone the ropes which were a little deeper in the belfry. An embarrassing hush prevailed and with every passing second, it grew into a nerve-wrackingly loud silence. Tension descended on the vicar, the choir master, the choir leader, the choir, not to mention the congregation.

The secretary perspired profusely in the belfry, desperately trying to locate the ropes in the heavy darkness. Gone were his earlier gusto and aplomb and he realized that playing hymns on chiming pipes in the middle of the night in pitch dark belfries was no cake walk and certainly not his cup of tea! He wanted to get it over and done with and frantically groped for the ropes withoutstretched arms in the intense darkness, when his fingers, by sheer chance, made contact with one of the dangling ropes, and in his frenzy he gave it a violent tug, following it up with several hard pulls at the other ropes hanging close by. The result was that an ear-shattering cacophony erupted from the belfry, which someone later said was a piece of Chinese classical music!

The lights came on immediately, much to everyone's relief and attention turned to the organ music played by an astonishingly unperturbed Bawa, the organist, accompanying a visibly shaken choir.

The service soon came to a close and the congregation filed out. The secretary up in the belfry, after his performance felt enough was enough and wanting to go home and sleep, started to climb down the ladder, when to his horror, he saw, in the light of the fluorescent tube above, the choir leader standing at the foot of the ladder looking up with murder in his eyes and violently tugging at his handlebar mustache. The secretary knew trouble when he saw it.

Believing discretion to be the better part of valour, he dived into the belfry where he fell into a deep sleep from which he awoke around seven in the morning of the New Year Day. Cautiously inching his way to the ladder, he was affected by vertigo but found, to his immense relief, the coast clear with choir leaders sporting handlebar mustaches and displaying murder in their eyes conspicuous by their absence. Almost running down the ladder with the ecstasy of relief – in reverse gear, as a witness said- he stopped midway, hit the ground, picked himself up, raced limping to his car and made off for home sweet home. From there he was careful not to venture out except to catch a train that evening to put as much distance between himself and Trivandrum as possible.

What caused the fiasco in the belfry was a moot question. Some believed that it was another manifestation of the secretary's penchant for inviting trouble, while yet others maintained that it was a simple case of inebriation. But both schools of thought were in agreement that the darkness in the belfry was not to blame.

There was another muddle, later in the same year during the carol services wherein the secretary figured again. But, that is another story!

**Prof. C.O. Philip** (CMS College, Kottayam)



# 1<sup>st</sup> Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of



## **Mrs. Suseela Jacob**

Provident Fund Asst Commissioner (Rtd)  
Koyikkal, Meads Lane, Palayam (ID No. 609)

*Expired on 23-12-2013*

Remembered by  
D Alexander, Lizy, Philip C Abraham, Simi, Aaron and Tony

# KID'S ZONE

## Lost and Found

How much does God care about you?  
Discover the answer in this word search.

*Directions: Find the capitalized words and then memorize this Lost and Found Bible verse.*

Or suppose a **WOMAN** has **TEN SILVER COINS** and **LOSES** one. Does she not **SWEEP** the **HOUSE** and **SEARCH** carefully until she **FINDS** it? And when she finds it, she calls her **FRIENDS** and **NEIGHBORS** together and says, **REJOICE** with me; I have **FOUND** my **LOST** coin. In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the **PRESENCE** of the **ANGELS** of **GOD OVER ONE SINNER** who **REPENTS**.

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



S/o Mr. Simon K .S. & Mrs. Lisiamma Simon  
Kudiyattil House  
Thirumala, Trivandrum (ID 669)

**Reni & Axsa**

MARRIED ON 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2014