

CSI CONGREGATION OF DALLAS  
2422 NORTH GLENBROOK DRIVE  
GARLAND, TX 75040  
WWW.CSICOD.ORG

VICAR  
REV. K. G THOMSON  
2725 RED RIVER STREET  
MESQUITE, TX 75150  
PARSONAGE (469)757-8285  
CELL (214) 434-3639

*(Newsletter published for private circulation only)*

# *CSI Congregation of Dallas*

## *March 2019*



Beloved in Christ,

The Christian world is once again observing the Lenten season – the season of prayer and fasting that precedes the joyous festivity of Easter. The word lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word for spring, which is derived from a verb meaning to lengthen. Lent comes in the spring when the days become noticeably longer. The season of fasting, prayer and persistence have been observed by the Church since the first century after Christ. The first day of Lent is called Ash Wednesday from the custom that prevailed in the early Church of sprinkling ashes on the heads of penitents on the first day of Lent, in token of repentance for sin. Ash Wednesday comes forty-six days before Easter.

This year Ash Wednesday is being celebrated on March 6<sup>th</sup>. As we are entering into the season of Lent through Ash Wednesday, we have been called to remember that lent is a period of the corporate act of seeking remission of sins rather than individual piety. In Psalms 79:9, the Psalmist Asaph says that “Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name’s sake”. Instead of seeking forgiveness of sins by each and every individual, we find here the corporate act of collectiveness of the Church as a whole, of seeking forgiveness.

The cross of Jesus is not a sign of curse but a sign of glorification. The collective act of the Church as a whole seeking remission of sin glorifies Christ. The Lent is the time of cleansing and disciplining both mind and body towards the end of making them more receptive to the Christ ideas. Every follower of Jesus Christ who would keep Lent in the true Christian spirit follows the way of prayer and fasting that He taught His disciples. Jesus revealed that prayer and fasting are the sure way of spiritual power, the way to keep the soul cleansed and purified that it may feel the presence of God. Now is the time to affirm the power of Holy Spirit indwelling in all people everywhere and influencing their thoughts, words and action to work for the good of the whole. We must learn to deny our selfish impulses and be obedient to impulses of brotherly love. When we withdraw our attention, interest and support from the false and the unworthy, this is true fasting. When we give that same attention, interest and support to the enduring good, we are feasting the things of spirit, and this is true prayer. When we have truly fasted in the Christ way, we have increased our ability to respond to God’s good will.

In Psalm 43:3, the Psalmist prays “Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling”. The Cross of Jesus sheds the Divine Light and God’s truthfulness. This revelation is unchanging for all times. The cross continued to guide the people to the life of light and truth. Allow the cross to enlighten our spirits with divine light. Light and truth shall lead me to the holy mountain, continues the Psalmist. Sometimes we need to proceed from the plains to the mountain. The mountain top refreshes the body, mind and spirit. It brings close to the Creator. To get relieved of the frustration and depression move to the mountain top to listen to God’s talk. Praying, fasting Bible study, Charity and self-denial are gestures of our pilgrimage to the holy mountains. The Psalmist prefers to dwell with God. Dwelling with the God the Father develops to right relation with Him and with fellow human beings and whole creation. Walk through the light and truth, keeping the holy mountain as the goal and dwell with God experiencing the fullness of life.

May this Lenten season be one of challenge, commitment and support as the Church responds to the call of God-

” Yet even now, declares the LORD, Return to me with all your heart”. (Joel 2:12)

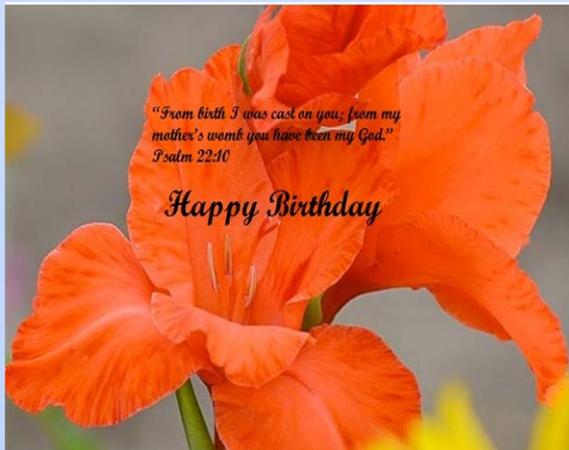
May God bless us all through the Lent and thereafter too.

Rev. K. G. Thomson

<p>March 10<sup>th</sup> 2019, Sunday</p>	<p><b>Mission: Being with Outcasts and Marginalized</b></p> <p>Esther 4:1-17 Psalms 43 Acts 15:12-21 Mark 1:40-45</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Lesson – <i>Psalms</i> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson – Gospel –</p>
<p>March 17<sup>th</sup> 2019, Sunday</p>	<p><b>Releasing from the Burden of Sin</b></p> <p>2 Sam 12:1-14 Psalms 32 Acts. 8:9-25 Mark 2:1-12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(English)</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Lesson – <i>Psalms</i> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson – Gospel</p>
<p>March 24, 2019, Sunday</p>	<p>Acknowledging faith beyond Boundaries</p> <p>Is. 44 28-45 Psalm-125 Acts. 10: 24- 33 Mat 15: 21- 28</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Lesson - Psalm - 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson – Gospel-</p>
<p>March 31, 2019, Sunday</p>	<p><b>Annunciation to Mary</b></p> <p>Is 7: 10- 14 Psalm-41 1-10 Galatians. 4: 1– 17 Luke 1: 26- 38</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Lesson - Psalm- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson Gospel -</p>

## Birthdays

Mr. Vinod G Philip	1-Mar
Ashby Joseph	2-Mar
Mr. Mannil I Mathew (Sunny)	4-Mar
Mr. John Joseph (Joy)	5-Mar
Edwin Mathew Varghese	6-Mar
Mrs. Sosamma George	7-Mar
Mr. Anil Joseph	9-Mar
Mrs. Rachel Thomas (Bindu)	10-Mar
Dylan J John	12-Mar
Rohan K. Samuel	14-Mar
Mr. Thampy P Varghese	15-Mar
Mrs. Aleyamma Cherian	17-Mar
Mrs. Lintu Merin George	19-Mar
Mr. Jisho Tony Philip	20-Mar
Alan C Mathew	20-Mar
Mr. Thomas Varghese (Monachan)	20-Mar
Miss. Diya Thankam Jacob	21-Mar
Christa Philip	25-Mar
Mrs. Betty George	26-Mar
Angel R. Thampy	26-Mar
Mathew T Mathew	26-Mar
Abigail Grace Cherian	27-Mar
Mrs. Dr. Annamma Eapen	30-Mar
Nathan Johny Thomas	30-Mar



## Wedding Anniversaries

Mr. Itty Eapen & Mrs. Esther Itty	8-Mar
Mr. Rejoy Varghese & Mrs. Julie Rejoy	12-Mar
Mr. George P Varghese & Mrs. Annamma George	23-Mar
Mr. Eapen K Samuel (Sam) & Mrs. Jolly Samuel	25-Mar
Mr. Wesley Cherian & Mrs. Christine Tharian	31-Mar



## *Chorister's Corner*

“And he, bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of the skull, which is called in the Hebrew Galgotha: Where they crucified him.” — John 19:17-18

If someone approached you, asking you to name America's most popular hymn, no doubt many of you would respond with “The Old Rugged Cross.” It has been the most favored of the approximately 300 songs written by George Bennard.

Bennard was born into a very modest family in Youngstown, Ohio, in 1873. His father passed away during George's teen years, leaving the youth with tremendous family responsibilities. To that end, he became a coal miner, as was his father before him. Later, and for a number of years, he and his wife worked with the Salvation Army.

George served for several years as an itinerant Method preacher and had a favorite scripture verse, John 3:16. When quoting the verse, he seemed to always have a vision of a cross — a crude Roman instrument of death. It was stained with the blood of Christ, who gave his life in order that we might become Christians.

On one occasion, as he was thinking of Christ's crucifixion, an original melody ran through his mind. Although it was a complete melody, very few words came with it. He struggled to write some appropriate lyrics, but all that came was the passage, “I'll cherish the old rugged cross.” The song seemed to take shape in bits and pieces.

He returned from several preaching engagements to his home — 1101 E. Michigan Ave., Albion, Michigan — with a renewed meaning of the cross etched in his mind and heart. He took the song manuscript and placed it on the kitchen table. In a very short span of time, he was able to rewrite the stanzas with each word falling perfectly into place. He asked his wife to join him in the kitchen. She did so and he joyfully sang his prized, new song. She was very pleased, expressing that the song was great.

He then sent the manuscript to Charles H. Gabriel, in Chicago, asking if he would write the proper chords with the melody line. Gabriel did so and returned the document with the message, “You will hear from this song.”

Bennard said what I have since heard countless other songwriters say, “I really didn't write it. I was merely the instrument God used.”

A plaque, identifying a State of Michigan Historic Site, marks the location on Michigan Avenue in Albion, Michigan, where Bennard wrote the song. It reads, in part:

**Birthplace of “Old Rugged Cross”**

.... one of the world's best-loved hymns, was composed here in 1912.....

**“On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,**

**The emblem of suffering and shame.**

**And I love that old cross**

**Where the dearest and best**

**For a world of lost sinners was slain.**

**“So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,**

**’Till my trophies at last I lay down.**

**I will cling to the old rugged cross,**

**And exchange it some day for a crown.”**

**Have a blessed Lenten Season.**

## *Sunday School Corner*

### **Notes from the Sunday School Teachers**

- Please encourage all kids to attend Sunday School regularly
- Parents please encourage kids to read Genesis chapters 1 – 10 and do the Newsletter bible quiz
- Always encourage your kids to Pray and read Bible regularly.

### **Bible Quiz Genesis chapters 1- 10**

1. In whose image did God create man?
2. God planted 2 trees in the middle of the Garden of Eden, what are they?
3. Who was craftier than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made?
4. After Cain attacked and killed Abel, the Lord asked Cain, "Where is your brother, Abel"? What was Cain's reply?
5. How old was Methuselah (oldest man in the bible) when he died?
6. What wood was used by Noah to build the ark?
7. How many days did it rain during the flood?
8. Noah's Ark came to rest upon which mountain?
9. God established a covenant with Noah and every living creature for all generations to come. God would never again send a flood to destroy all life. What sign did God create to remind him of his covenant?
10. Name the three sons of Noah?

### **Secretary's Notes**

- ❖ CSI Council of North America tele prayer conference is held on every 1st Thursday at 8pm (CST). Dial-in Number: 712-770-4010; code: 611295
- ❖ Tele prayer is every Friday from at 8-9 pm, the dial in number is 515-604-9057; access code is 539672 followed by the “#” sign.

## CSI Congregation of Dallas Executive Committee 2018

<i>Vice-President</i>	<i>Mr. George M Varghese</i>	<i>(214) 686-3272</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Mr. Cherian Varghese</i>	<i>(214) 424-7556</i>
<i>Joint Secretary</i>	<i>Mr. Sreejith John</i>	<i>(214) 695-8052</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Mr. Vinn Varghese</i>	<i>(817) 600-8731</i>
<i>Joint Treasurer</i>	<i>Mr. John Thomas</i>	<i>(214) 621-3870</i>
<i>Warden</i>	<i>Mr. Jacob Davidson</i>	<i>(214) 218-1357</i>
<i>Warden</i>	<i>Mr. Jacob Jacob</i>	<i>(214) 893-6898</i>
<i>Committee Member</i>	<i>Mrs. Betty George</i>	<i>(214) 228-0865</i>
<i>Committee Member</i>	<i>Mr. Jacob Cherian</i>	<i>(484) 343-6383</i>
<i>Committee Member</i>	<i>Mr. Vinod Philip</i>	<i>(914) 403-5634</i>
<i>Auditor</i>	<i>Mr. George Itty</i>	<i>(214) 227-9586</i>
<i>Choirmaster</i>	<i>Mrs. Rayni Tharian</i>	<i>(469) 226-4530</i>
<i>Choir Secretary</i>	<i>Mr. Jinu Abraham</i>	<i>(425) 306-5836</i>
<i>Sunday School Superintendent</i>	<i>Mr. Shelby Thomas</i>	<i>(214) 923-2719</i>
<i>Women's Fellowship Secretary</i>	<i>Mrs. Tessy Jacob Davidson</i>	<i>(214) 218-1358</i>
<i>Women's Fellowship Treasurer</i>	<i>Mrs. Emy Varghese</i>	<i>(214) 491-0068</i>
<i>Youth Secretary</i>	<i>Ms. Rebecca Ruby Richardson</i>	<i>(469) 237-6717</i>