

WHY THEN DO I HAVE TO CELEBRATE 72ND YEAR OF THE FORMATION OF THE CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA?

I HAVE PERSONALLY COME UP WITH A LIST OF FIVE REASONS:

1) At the outset, a church doesn't just arrive at its ***72nd anniversary*** by accident. Such a commendable milestone is not reached without some intentionality. To serve God and neighbor *continuously for nearly seventy two years* requires at least two things: ***thankfulness*** *and* ***visioning***-qualities that contribute toward faithful service.

It's a wonder that we have survived at all. A married couple who came close to divorce but healed their relationship may celebrate their wedding anniversaries with more vigour than a couple that sailed through a blissful matrimonial life. Likewise, as a united and uniting church we have always battled against a tough climate; we have had many ups and downs. Our community which consists of different sections of people have fought it all. Praise God!!!!

Aggressive secularism and material worldliness though have the power to blind us to spiritual things, nevertheless, with God's help we have overcome all that had the power to stop our calling and commitment. For the last 72 years God has turned all our bitterness into blessings.

We are an ongoing church. We must surely rejoice on this occasion!!! The gates of hell have not prevailed.

2) CSI day anniversary is a picture of its individual members' spiritual journeys. Many Christians, like their churches, cannot remember the day and time at which they came to faith in Christ. This day personally reminds me for a distinct and definitive decision that I made to the life and Ministry of CSI. Many, like myself, can remember the day and the hour.

3) Anniversaries honour the founders. The Church of South India is the result of the union of churches of varying traditions Anglican, Methodist, Congregational, Presbyterian, and Reformed. It was inaugurated on September 27th, 1947, after protracted negotiation among the churches concerned. Except the Lord build the house, they that labour do so in vain. All those years ago, God gave men and women a vision to join hands and build a communion of churches. Though it cost them dearly in terms of resources and time, they

did it. Some may have seen that this work would outlive them, reaching out to generations not yet born. Surely, our churches were founded by sons of Jabez crying out to God “Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast!” While saints of old now worship in glory, their spiritual great-grandchildren worship at their earthly tabernacle.

4) It’s a great evangelistic outreach and biblical in nature. The Scriptures are the ultimate standard of faith and practice. The historic creeds are accepted as interpreting the biblical faith, and the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper are recognized as of binding obligation. Being the largest Protestant church in India, the CSI celebrates her life with Indian culture and spirituality and she also raises her voice for the voiceless on matters of justice, peace and integrity of creation. Sharing the love of Jesus Christ with the people of India through proclamation of the good news of Jesus; responding to human need through institutional and emergency relief work; through community development projects and skill training programmes for the marginalized and disadvantaged sections of the people and programmes for the integrity of creation. Translating this vision and commitment, the Synod of the Church of South India as the apex body of the church endeavors to encourage, equip and empower her dioceses, congregations and institutions through varied ministries. Celebrating a day such as this affords all an opportunity to hear of Christ and Him crucified, let’s celebrate!

5) Finally, it’s good to catch up with people and enjoy time and fellowship together. Last week, I saw invitations from different Areas: City, Civil, KGF and Tumkur. It’s always good to spend time with God’s precious people, even they that meet at other places. This we call fellowship - **united and uniting**, and it is to be encouraged among the churches of God. It is church celebrating together!!!

To be Precise, for me -

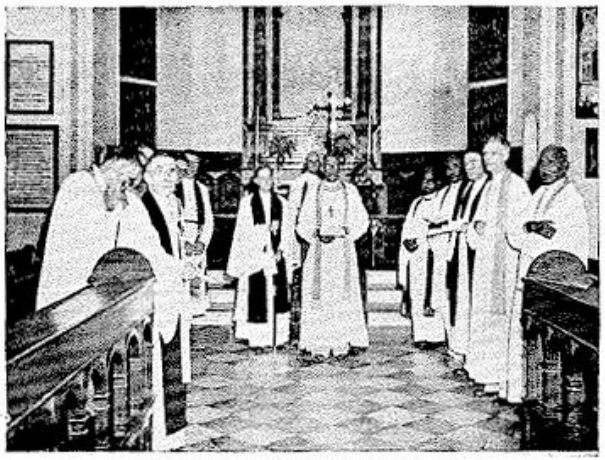
A unique church (body of Christ) was born out of the blending of the Episcopal and non - Episcopal traditions as a gift of God to the people of India and as a visible sign of the ecclesiastical unity for the universal church.

The Journey Continues….

The CSI is a united and uniting church moving forward with a dynamic vision for The Communion of Churches in India. Today, *we give thanks* to God for the abundant blessings worked in and through this faith community for 72 years. The Spirit is vibrantly at work in this place: calling, gathering, enlightening, and making us holy to go out sharing the good news of *Jesus*, the

***Crucified and Risen One*. May God continue to work in and through us for the furthering of the kingdom.**

THE INAUGURATION OF THE CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA,
ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, MADRAS, 27th SEPTEMBER, 1947



THE SOLEMN DECLARATION OF UNION

Let us continue to uphold our churches in our prayers

Have a Blessed CSI Day Celebration!!!!

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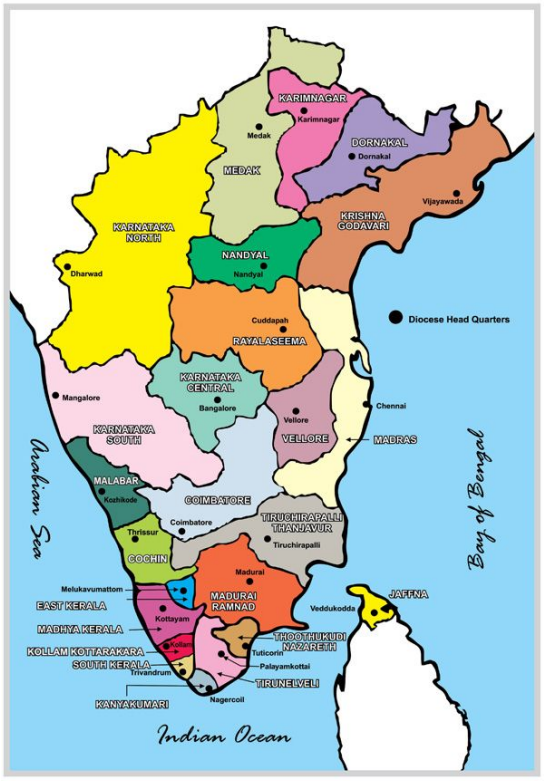
CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA
GEOGRAPHICAL MAP OF DIOCESES



Stay United.... Strive Uniting!!!