

ST. PAUL'S MAR THOMA CHURCH
2425 GUS THOMASSON RD.
MESQUITE, TX 75150

Phone: 972 613 9080

PARSONAGE ADDRESS

5906 BLUE OAK DRIVE
GARLAND, TX 75043
972 226 0976

ARTICLES NEEDED!

If you would like to submit any articles in English or Malayalam,
please send it to: Jacobkab@hotmail.com

**WE'RE ON THE
WEB!**

WWW.STPAULSMTC.ORG

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RAJANKUNJU CHIRAYIL
JUSTIN MATHEW



Published by Sub-committee of St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church, Dallas

St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church
2425 Gus Thomasson Rd.
Mesquite, TX 75150

THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



August 2009



FACEtheBOOK: face the truth!

WHO?

St. Paul's Youth Ages 12-35 Years

WHERE?

Camp Arrowhead

5236 FM 199

Cleburne, TX 76033

WHEN?

August 13-15 | Thursday-

Saturday



MESSAGE FROM VICAR

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

We celebrated the Independence Day of America on July 4th, India's Independence day is August 15th. Both of these got freedom from British colonialism and both these countries exist as two great democratic powers in the world. We should be thankful to those who gave their life in struggle for freedom. God is the one who liberates people from slavery and uses people as leaders. Thus Moses was used in the history of Israel (Exodus 3:7) and Gandhiji was used in the history of India. So let us praise God for the gift of freedom.

Freedom without responsibility will lead us to destruction and slavery. Individual freedom and social commitment should go together. Salvation means freedom, justice, peace, integrity, and unity. But today we face new forms of slavery such as globalism and multinational corporations. Today money became God and market became religion. Only the profit is the goal. Values such as love, truth, justice, sharing, have no place in the market. Those who don't have capital and purchasing capacity are neglected. The church is called to become the voice of the voiceless and the strength of the weaker section of the society. We have the responsibility to become alternate community that is based on the values of the kingdom of God.

Great philosopher Russo said, "Man is born free but everywhere he is chained." We can have real freedom only through Christ that is freedom from sin. If we don't have freedom from sin, then all other freedoms are meaningless. It is Christ Jesus who sets us free (John 8:36). Salvation is our participation in God's love and forgiveness that is revealed in Jesus. God wants us to be his co-workers in the mission of salvation. Let us submit ourselves for the same. May God bless every one of us.

Yours in Christ

Noble Achen

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Cell phone: 469-964-7494

Faith and Practices of the church- study series

Four questions about baptism:

- 1.) Was the baptism of Jesus in water an act for imitation?
 No. It is not Christian baptism. Jesus received baptism from John the Baptist with special purpose:
 - a) To fulfill the righteousness (Mathew 3:13). It means to fulfill the law (Deuteronomy 6: 25; Ezekial 18:9). According to the law of Moses, a priest has to have three requirements and Jesus fulfilled them (Mathew 5: 17):
 - i. He completed thirty years (Numbers 4:2,4,6)
 - ii. He was called by God(Exodus 28, Hebrews 5: 4-10)
 - iii. He was washed by another priest (Numbers 8:6, Leviticus 9:14)
 Jesus was high priest and the lamb of sacrifice at same time (Hebrews 6:20, 7:1-3, 26-28, Psalms 110:6, Genesis 14:18, John 1:36). So baptism of Jesus was an act of proclamation of his priesthood.
 - b) To proclaim that Jesus is the messiah, the son of God. God and John the Baptist witnessed that Jesus is the messiah (John 1:33). Water was the third witness. (Deuteronomy 17:16, John 5: 1-10). God proclaimed that Jesus is the king and the suffering servant (Isaiah 42: 1, 7-8, Mathew 3:17). The true baptism of Jesus was not the baptism in water, but was the death on the cross (Luke 12:50, Mark 10:38) and it is the one baptism for redemption from sins (Ephesians 4:5). Christian baptism was started after the resurrection of Jesus and it is not the baptism of John the Baptist (Acts 19:1-5). John came to prepare the way for Jesus.
- 2.) What is the purpose of Christian baptism?
 The Church gives baptism as an act of union with Christ and with church the body of Christ (Romans 6:3-5, Galatians 3:27, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians1:23) Circumcision was to be united with Israel, the Old Testament Church (Genesis 17:24). The children born within the church were given circumcision and baptism and then were brought up in faith(Genesis 17:12, Mathew 28:19, 20). But the adults were given circumcision and baptism at the context of religious conversion (Genesis 17: 24, Mark 16:16). Through baptism one becomes a member of his church, the royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9). Christian baptism is an act of identification with death and resurrection of Jesus (Romans

Sponsors Needed for the Following Items	
<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Altar Curtain accessory 1 (track)	\$7,000
Altar Curtain accessory 2 (Curtain Motor)	\$4,000
Altar Curtain accessory 3 (wireless remote)	\$500
Altar Lighting	\$800
Altar - Communion table	\$3,000
Stained glass panels	
Creation of Day & Night - 1st day of creation	\$1,680
Creation of Sky - 2nd day of creation	\$2,016
Creation of Land, Seas and Vegetation - 3rd day of creation	\$2,486
Creation of Sun, Moon & Stars - 4th day of creation	\$2,486
Creation of Sea animals & Birds - 5th day of creation	\$2,016
Creation of Land animals & Human beings - 6th day of creation	\$1,680
7th Day of creation - Holy Day (very unique design with the "Lighted to Lighten" emblem in the middle)	\$6,468
Chandelier - Church entrance - foyer	\$8,000
Flat screen TV in the foyer - news board	\$1,500
Sanctuary lighting (special lighting on the wall)	\$3,000
Computer for the Sunday School	\$1,000
Chairs for Sunday School class rooms	\$2,500
Chairs for fellowship hall	\$2,500
Coffee Maker (large size)	\$600
Built in microwave	\$1,000
Refrigerator for kitchen with freezer	\$1,500
Commercial vacuum cleaner	\$1,000
Trees for landscaping	\$12,000
Office furniture(vicar, organization, Bishop, etc.)	\$3,000
Landscape sprinkler system	\$4,000
Church Illuminated sign	\$5,000
Church Main Cross - Front Tower	\$3,750
Communion Rails	\$10,000

Prayer Meetings

AGAPE

LEADER: VINOD CHERIYAN

August 22, 2009 at 6:30 pm—Residence of Mr. & Mrs. Jacob C. C., 7002 George Brown, Garland, TX - 75043

EBENEZER

LEADER: LIZY JOHN

TBD

EMMANUEL

LEADER: VIJU VARGHESE

TBD

MANNA

LEADER: SAJI P. GEORGE

August 1, 2009 at 7 pm—Residence of Mr. & Mrs. Zachariah Thomas

August 15, 2009 at 7pm—Residence of Mrs. Thankamma Thomas

SHALOM

LEADER: ABRAHAM KOSHY

TBD

6: 3-5, Colossians 2: 11-12). Since Christ has died once and forever, baptism also should be once (Ephesians 4:5). In the Nicene Creed, we proclaim that redemption for our sins is through one baptism that is the death of Jesus Christ.

3.) Is Baptism in water the basis of salvation?

No, because salvation is through God's grace, and not through any religious rituals (Ephesians 2:8) The death of Jesus on the cross is the baptism of Jesus through which we get salvation (Luke 12:50, Mark 10:38). Jesus never baptized anyone in water (John 4:2) Also Jesus never asked those to who received forgiveness and healing to get baptized. The thief on the cross got paradise by faith, not by baptism. The apostles of Jesus did not receive baptism in water. But they were baptized by the holy spirit on the Pentecost day (Acts 2) Water used for baptism is a symbol of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit (John 3:5, 4:14, 7:37-39) Quantity of water is not a necessary factor in baptism. For example Israelites received baptism through the red sea without touching water. Also Noah and family received baptism without immersing in water (1 Corinthians 10:2, 1 Peter 3:20-21). There was no water in the upper room to baptize three thousand people on Pentecost day (Acts 2:41). St. Paul was sent by Christ to preach the gospel, but not to baptize (1 Corinthians 1:15-17). Baptism in water is not a necessity to receive the Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 1:4-5; 10:44-47; 8:14-17; 19:17-18). The new commandment Jesus gave is to love each other and it is the criteria of final judgment. (Mathew 25:31-46, John 13: 34).

4.) What is the relevance of infant baptism?

Infant baptism has relevance because:

- i.) They are able to receive Gods grace and blessings. (Mark 10:13-16)
- ii.) They are able to believe in Jesus and they belong to God's kingdom. (Matthew 18: 1-6, Luke 9:46-48)
- iii.) God receives praise of children (Psalms 8:2, Matthew 21:16)
- iv.) They can receive Holy Spirit. (Luke 1:15, Acts 2:38)
- v.) Children are born from God and are set apart from birth (Isaiah 44:2, Jeremiah 1:5 , Galatians 1:15)
- vi.) They are able to get forgiveness of sin (1 John 2: 12)
- vii.) God will bless children because of the faith of their parents (Mark 2:5, Matthew 15:28, 8:10, 19: 13-15)
- viii.) Children of Christian parents are called Holy (1 Corinthians 7:14)

- ix.) In early church, children were not excluded from baptism of families (Acts 10:48 ,16:15, 18:8, 1 Corinthians 1:16)
- x.) Epistles were written to children because they were members of the church (Colossians 3:20, Ephesians 6:1-4)
- xi.) Children were given circumcision and baptism and then brought up in faith. (Genesis 17:10-14, Matthew 28:19, 20)
- xii.) Children were baptized into Jewish religion from other religions. Jesus never spoke against it.
- xiii.) References about infant baptism are seen in the writings of the early church fathers.
- xiv.) Infant baptism is an occasion of purification of parents and the faith community. God parents are representative of the church. At the time of infant baptism the parent and the god parents take an oath that they renounce Satan and believe in Christ. Purification of parents and faith community is necessary for the purification of the child.
- xv.) Salvation is a continuing process starting from birth till the second coming of Jesus. Justification, purification and glorification are difference steps of this continuing process of salvation. Re-birth is an act of the Holy Spirit who gives birth and renews. Faith is the gift of God which enables us to grow up in salvation. Baptism of a child is an occasion to dedicate the child for the grace of God through which salvation is possible.

Next Issue: Questions about the Holy Spirit

Lectionary Information

Sunday, August 2, 2009 - (Malayalam Service) Mission Sunday: Gift of the Holy Spirit for Mission	
Lesson 1: 2 Kings 2:1-18	Epistle: Gal 4:16-24
Lesson 2: 1 Cor 12:1-13	Gospel: John 15:12-27
Sunday, August 9, 2009 - (Malayalam Service) Christian Response to Globalization	
Lesson 1: Dan 3:1-18	Epistle: James 5:1-6
Lesson 2: Rev 21:22-27	Gospel: Luke 6:20-31
Sunday, August 16, 2009 - (English Service) The Sacrament of Confession	
Lesson 1: Joel 2:11-17	Epistle: 1 John 1:1-10
Lesson 2: Rev 3:1-6	Gospel: Matt 3:1-11
Sunday, August 23, 2009 - (English Service) Reformation Day: Reformation - Renewing and Rekindling	
Lesson 1: Gen 26:12-25	Epistle: 2 Tim. 3:10-17
Lesson 2: Rev 3:14-22	Gospel: Matt 23:1-12
Sunday, August 30, 2009 - (Malayalam Service) Common Humanity and Sharing of Faith	
Lesson 1: Jonah 4:1-11	Epistle: Rom 14:1-14
Lesson 2: Acts 17:16-34	Gospel: John 12:20-32

BIRTHDAYS

1-Aug	Shiny Mathewkutty	Mesquite	26-Aug	Vincent Johnkutty	Mesquite
1-Aug	Smitha Mathew	Sunnyvale	27-Aug	Kevin John	Mesquite
3-Aug	Aleena Thomas	Rockwall	28-Aug	Jeffrey	Sunnyvale
3-Aug	Christopher Thomas	Sunnyvale	29-Aug	Preethy Varghese	Garland
9-Aug	Mary Mathew	Rowlett	29-Aug	Renita Thomas	Mesquite
9-Aug	Renny Zachariah	Frisco	29-Aug	Shawn Thomas	Mesquite
10-Aug	Alexander Varghese	Garland	30-Aug	Justin B Pappachen	Mesquite
11-Aug	Nicholas Koshy	Mesquite	31-Aug	Soji Skariah	Garland
15-Aug	Crystal Kurien	Mesquite			
20-Aug	George John	Mesquite			
21-Aug	Jerin Abraham	Dallas			
21-Aug	Syja Cherian	Garland			
22-Aug	Jeffrey Mathew	Mesquite			
24-Aug	Jiju Thomas	Mesquite			
24-Aug	Thankamma Thomas	Forney			
24-Aug	Varghese Alexander	Fate			
25-Aug	Abey Kuruvilla	Wylie			
26-Aug	Juby Joseph	Garland			
26-Aug	Mariamamma Philip	Dallas			
26-Aug	Merlin	Garland			

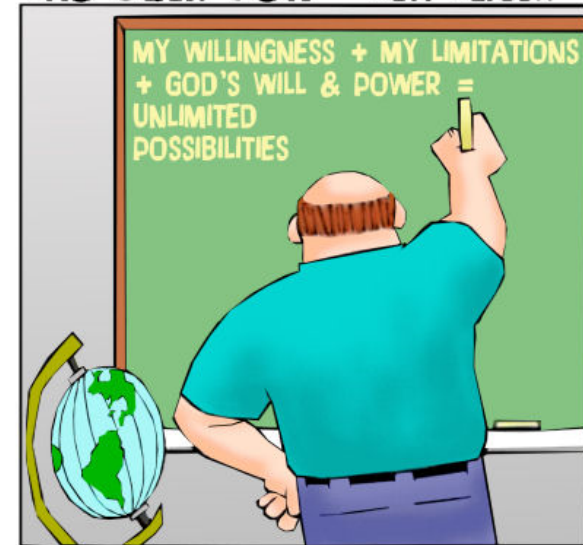
WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

2-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. George John	Mesquite
11-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. Rajan Mathew	Mesquite
13-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. John Mathew	Richardson
19-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. Raju Chacko	Rowlett
19-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. Varghese A. Varghese	Garland
20-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. Varghese K. Mathew	Mesquite
26-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. Jacob C.C	Garland
27-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. Mathews Idiculla	Garland
30-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. John Thomas	Mesquite
30-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Abraham	Garland

Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



GOD'S MATH: My willingness + my limitations + God's will & Power = UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES.

What makes life so important? What is the purpose of it all?

Our lives are special and meaningful both to God and the world we live in. In fact, we must always remember that God considered our lives so precious and valuable that he sent His Son (Jn. 3:16) to die for all humanity. As such, our life is made purposeful through our Creator who has a divine plan for each one of us. So, our life is not just some meaningless journey on random roads towards an indiscreet end. It's a walk with our Creator God as he works through us to fulfill our potential and his purpose for our lives.

In the Book of Psalms 139:13-16, we read "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...". The Psalmist sings praise to God for he realizes his very life, his very breath was the product of God's divine task. It was and is more than any human act or conception. In other words, our life [body] is a gift from God. He provides us this gift in the belief that we are responsible to use it wisely and for His glory.

In the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 12:1-2, states "offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God..." The gift of life God has given us, therefore, is not to be kept to ourselves nor is meant just for our own use or pleasure. Rather, it becomes holy and pleasing to God when our bodies, our lives become living sacrifices. That is, in our service and mission to others our lives become an offering to God just as the life of Jesus Christ.

Church Activities

So, life is not made important or meaningful by the material or the exterior things that often attract. It is special and sacred when we realize that this is a gift from God which He expects us to offer unto Him through our love for all people. Also, our life has a purpose and is part of God's divine plan. Thus, submit your life to God and he will work in you and through you.

May God Almighty strengthen us all to understand the importance of life and our purpose in creation!

Your brother in Christ,

Jaisen Achen
H- 972-495-5393
C- 214-604-6678
revjathomas@yahoo.com



ATRIUM FINE HOMES
GOT TALENT?
ST. PAUL'S MTC PRESENTS
ATRIUM SUMMER
bash
2009

\$15 TICKETS
WHEN: AUGUST 16TH
WHERE: 5210 LOCUST GROVE RD., GARLAND, TX 75043
TIME: 6:00PM - 9:00PM

DANCERS 1 OR MORE PEOPLE; 7 MINUTES \$300 TO WINNER	SINGERS SOLO OR DUET; TRACKS ALLOWED ANY LANGUAGE; 5 MINUTES \$300 TO WINNER	BANDS 3 OR MORE PEOPLE; 2 OR MORE INSTRUMENTS; 7 MINUTES \$300 TO WINNER
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CONTACT INFO
KEZIA CHERIAN: 214-280-1323 LIGY SKARIAH: 469-222-6978 HANNA JOHN: 469-583-7916

Event Sponsored by **ATRIUM** www.buildwithatrium.com (214) 734-5654
Sponsored by **FUNASTIA** www.funastia.net 972-904-7122

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Regular classes at 8.45am.

SEVIKA SANGHAM:

August 15 at 10 pm- Prayer Meeting at Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Babu Residence

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

Tuesdays - Bible Study with Rev. Jaisen Thomas

Thursdays - Prayer Call

Fridays - Prayer Fellowship -

Sundays at 7-8:30pm - Open Gym at Sunnyvale First Baptist Church

August 7-9—Regional Sports Tournament

August 13-16—Youth Retreat at Camp Arrowhead, Cleburne, TX

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM:

TBD

PARISH MISSION:

Fridays, at 7pm - Bible Study/Prayer fellowships at the Church.

Sundays at 9-9:30am - Intercessory Prayer

CHOIR:

Sundays - Practice sessions after Holy Qurbana.

Sunday, August 16 at 6pm—The Works, MGM Auditorium, Garland, TX

SPECIAL PRAYER:

Fridays, August 7, 14, 21, and 28 from 9.30 to 11.30am - The residence of Mrs. & Mr. Jaisy & Raju George, 922 Dandelion Dr, Mesquite, TX.

Church Building Update

The interior work for the church is going on. Sprinkler system, AC/Heating, and electrical work is currently in progress. City inspection is going on while the work is in progress. The balcony area is boarded up due to it's completion in the second stage. Soon the wiring for the sound system and video system will be in progress as soon as the dry wall are put up.

Please continue to pray for our project and make your financial contributions today as we only have two more months before the completion of this building. Let us work for HIS KINGDOM!