

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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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



July 2009





MESSAGE FROM VICAR

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Our students have finished one more academic year. Usually we take the education of our children very seriously. But we should know about it's meaning and goal. Education is not just collection of information or it is not a means to earn money. But it is a process of learning through experiences and making experiences what we leant. Education is to know how to live. For a successful life, we should get five things thorough education: 1) Character; 2) commitment; 3) conviction; 4) courtesy and 5) courage. Through education, we grow up to fullness of personality. For the personality development, we should acquire the following:

1) physical intelligence (PQ). It means living. It is for survival. Food with quality, exercise, discipline, and perseverance are essential for it.

2) Mental intelligence (IQ). It means learning. It is for vision. Our dreams should become thoughts and thoughts should become actions.

3) Emotional intelligence (EQ). It means loving. It is passion. But emotions should be controlled by rationality.

4) Spiritual Intelligence (SQ). It means leaving a legacy. It is conscience. It gives moral principles to live according to our conscience.

All these four factors are equally important . Jesus himself is an excellent model of all students and all teachers. May God give us true knowledge and wisdom.

The month of July is important for us. Our annual convention will be held from 16th July to 18th. We celebrate our parish day on 19th. This should be a time of repentance, renewal, transformation, and submission. As he faith community, let us walk with Jesus Christ. May God bless us all and make our lives a blessing to others.

Your loving,
Noble Achen.

Faith and Practices of the Church: Study Series.

1) What is the identity of the Mar Thoma church ?

i) It is an eastern church, ii has oriental character. It embraces eastern theology and symbols,

ii) it is Syrian church Among the Three main traditions within the Christianity - Jewish, Syrian and Greek, we belong to the Syrian tradition. We use St. James liturgy of the Syrian church of Antioch and hence we are known as Syrian church.

iii) It is reformed and reforming church. It has tradition, but was reformed from traditionalism.

Address Change

Mr. & Mrs. Varghese Alexander

207 Griffin Ave.
Fate, TX 75132

Mr. & Mrs. Viju Varghese

497 Rochshire Dr.
Sunnyvale, TX 75182

Newly Wedded

Vincent James Bhatti & Ditty Susan John

9702 Fairway Vista Dr.
Rowlett, TX 75089

Tom Thomas & Jency John Oommen

4009 Tawakoni Lane
Garland, TX 75043

Baptized

Amalea Elizabeth Edison

D/O Mr. & Mrs. Edison John

Date of Birth: May 12, 2008

Prayer Meetings

AGAPE
LEADER: VINOD CHERIYAN

TBD

EBENEZER
LEADER: LIZY JOHN

TBD

EMMANUEL
LEADER: VIJU VARGHESE

TBD

MANNA
LEADER: SAJI P. GEORGE

TBD

SHALOM
LEADER: ABRAHAM KOSHY

TBD

iv) It is apostolic church. It holds the tradition of St. Thomas, one of the apostle of Jesus. The word 'apostolic' means 'called out for mission'.

v) It is Episcopal church. The church as a whole is the priesthood community of Jesus. Deacons, presbyters and celibate espiscopas are three positions to minister the church.

vi) It is democratic church. It is governed under a constitution.

vii) It is autonomous church.

viii) It is a missionary church. Every Marthomite is considered as a missionary.

2) Which were the foreign churches came in contact with Our church?

The Malankara church was founded by St. Thomas in A.D. 52 in Malankara (Malabar) in Kerala. This church came in friendly contact with the East Syrian church of Persia from early times down to the 15th century. Then the church came in contact with the Roman Catholic church with the arrival of the Portuguese sailor Vasco De Gama in 1498. Roman Catholic missionaries like Francis Xavier came to India and started missionary activities. The Malankara church was brought under the Roman Catholic church by force in 1599 at synod of Diamper. In 1653, the Syrian community gathered at Mattancherry, held a rope tied on the granite cross, took an oath that they shall never be under the Rome. This event is known as the path of Coonan (bent) cross. This community then came in contact with the Jacobite Syrian church of Antioch and started using their Syrian liturgy.

When the British East India company got power in India, the Anglican missionaries of Church missionary society also came in 1811. Claudius Buchanan translated four Gospels into Malayalam. Other three missionaries came in 1816. Benjamin Bailey translated New Testament into Malayalam and the whole Bible in 1841. Joseph Fenn became the principal of seminary to train in the clergy which was founded by Col. Munro in 1813 in Kottayam. Henry Baker started English medium schools all over India. The relation with the Anglican missionaries continued till 1836

3) What was the reformation movement of the Malankara church?

Abraham Malpan, who was a teacher in the seminary was attracted by the activities of Anglican missionaries and started reformation movement in 1836. It was to cleanse the wrong ways of life, to return to the teaching of Bible and to the tradition of the early church. The reform movement was opposed by the then ruled metropolitan and the church was divided into two. The reformers were called the Mar Thoma Church. The main changes happened due to reformation are as follows : i) Liturgy and the Bible are translated and used in Malayalam.

ii) Prayers for the dead and invocation of saints were eliminated.

Lectionary Information

- iii) Idol worship and festivals in the name of saints were removed.
- iv) It is decided not to minister the sacrament of Qurbana if nobody is willing to receive it. Also bread and wine are given separately.
- v) The teaching that the bread and wine physically change to flesh and blood of Jesus in Qurbana was rejected. It is accepted that in Qurbana, Christ gives himself to the believers and the believers are incorporated with Christ and with the fellow worshippers.
- vi) The teaching that Qurbana is the repeating sacrifice of Jesus was rejected. It is accepted that in every Qurbana, we eat and drink again and again from the feast of sacrifice of Jesus that happened once for ever.
- vii) The concept that priests are mediators between God and people is rejected. Secret confession to the priests is also rejected. It is accepted that priests are representatives of the believers before God.
- viii) Sundays, the day of resurrection is set apart for worship, ix) Anointing of Muron was done only once in life of a believer.
- x) Mission of evangelism was accepted for this purpose Mar Thoma evangelistic association was started in 1888. As a result Maramon convention was started in 1895 and mission fields were started in different states of India.

Next issue: Baptism.

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| Sunday, July 5, 2009 - (Malayalam Service) Stewardship: Resource Management and Accountability | |
| Lesson 1: 1 King 12:1-16 | Epistle: Philip.4:10-20 |
| Lesson 2: Acts 5:1-11 | Gospel: Luke 19:11-27 |
| Sunday, July 12, 2009 - (English Service) Nurturing the People of God in Faith | |
| Lesson 1: Amos 7:10-17 | Epistle: Eph. 4:7-13 |
| Lesson 2: I Tim. 4:6-16 | Gospel: Mark 6:30-44 |
| Sunday, July 19, 2009 - (Malayalam Service) Ordained Ministry: Divine Calling and Election | |
| Lesson 1: Ezek. 33:1-9 | Epistle: 2 Tim. 4:1-8 |
| Lesson 2: 1 Pet. 5:1-11 | Gospel: John 21:15-19 |
| Sunday, July 26, 2009 - (English Service) Baptism and Conversion in a Pluralistic Society | |
| Lesson 1: 2 Kings 5:1-19 | Epistle: 1 Pet. 2:1-10 |
| Lesson 2: Acts.10:34-48 | Gospel: John 3:1-8 |

BIRTHDAYS

| | | | | | |
|--------|----------------------|-----------|--------|-------------------|-----------|
| 2-Jul | Felix Cherian | Garland | 19-Jul | Sion Philip | Rockwall |
| 3-Jul | Christine Kurien | Mesquite | 19-Jul | Susan Kurien | Mesquite |
| 4-Jul | Abhigaill Ashish | Sunnyvale | 21-Jul | Leelamma James | Sunnyvale |
| 6-Jul | Allison Varghese | Rowlett | 22-Jul | Titus Sam | Rockwall |
| 6-Jul | Mariamamma George | McKinney | 23-Jul | Sosamma Mathai | Sunnyvale |
| 6-Jul | Veena Joseph | Sunnyvale | 24-Jul | Easow Chacko | Garland |
| 6-Jul | Vince P Philip | Mesquite | 24-Jul | Hannah Joseph | Garland |
| 7-Jul | Vincent James Bhatti | Rowlett | 26-Jul | Noah John Mathews | Sunnyvale |
| 8-Jul | Reji Philip Thomas | Garland | 27-Jul | Ditty John | Mesquite |
| 9-Jul | Alvin John | Mesquite | 27-Jul | Suma Philip | Rockwall |
| 9-Jul | Laly Kurian | Mesquite | 28-Jul | Gracy Varghese | Mesquite |
| 15-Jul | Jayne Sarah Thomas | Plano | 29-Jul | Aleyamma Mathew | Garland |
| 15-Jul | Jobin P.Mathew | Sunnyvale | 29-Jul | Mariamamma Joseph | Garland |
| 15-Jul | Kevin Mathew | Mesquite | 31-Jul | Sachin John | Mesquite |
| 15-Jul | Saumia S. Thomas | Mesquite | 31-Jul | Tiju Abraham | Mesquite |
| 15-Jul | Thara Joseph | Garland | | | |
| 17-Jul | Christy Kurien | Mesquite | | | |
| 18-Jul | Lijin John | Garland | | | |
| 19-Jul | Aliyamma Samuel | Garland | | | |
| 19-Jul | Babu P. Simon | Mesquite | | | |

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

| | | | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 1-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Raju Varghese | Mesquite | 27-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Titus Sam | Rockwall |
| 10-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Oommen | Dallas | 28-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Mathew Babu | Rockwall |
| 11-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Anil Mathew | Sunnyvale | 29-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Koshy Varghese(Babilu) | Rowlett |
| 11-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Easo | Mesquite | 30-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Sam Koshy | Garland |
| 11-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Philip Mammen | Rockwall | 31-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Joy Thomas | Plano |
| 12-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Cherian P.P. | Sunnyvale | 31-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Shiju Baby | Garland |
| 15-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Soji Skariah | Garland | | | |
| 16-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Varghese K. Mathew | Garland | | | |
| 16-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. John Yohannan | Mesquite | | | |
| 21-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Thomas P. Chacko | Garland | | | |
| 22-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Siby Joseph | Garland | | | |
| 24-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Koshy | Mesquite | | | |

Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



What sets you apart from others? Are you just one among the crowd? What is spiritual freedom?

Happy Independence Day!

This month we celebrate the independence of our country the USA from Great Britain in the 18th Century. It is a time of joy for all Americans because we affirm our right to freedom despite the obstacles and challenges that lay before us. The forefathers of this great nation chose to express their freedom through their emphasis of “difference”. It took the form of a new administration empowered by the people and varied educational methods among other innovations. This uniqueness is what made America past and the standard for America future: a place of difference!

In a similar manner, personal transformation in our lives must be emphasized through a “lifestyle of difference”. It is the outright statement that our values are not utterly dictated by the whims of culture and fad. Rather, it is the acute proclamation that in Christ there is the Way, Truth and the Life.

Firstly, this spiritual difference must arise in our lives through a personal desire to overcome the obstacles and hindrances we face, so as to know Him (Mk 10:46ff). It is truly a call to relationship wherein Christ despite our faults, receives us as His very own. Next, it is the conscious decision to work towards change, difference and spiritual transformation in life (Lk. 19:8). Lastly, the fruit of this spiritual difference spreads from the personal to the family to the parish to the community (Lk.19:9).

May God Almighty strengthen us all to live a life of difference in true spiritual freedom all the days of our life!!!

Your brother in Christ,

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

Church Building Update

The roof almost complete and the electrical wiring has started. We will see more internal work being completed in the next weeks. The plumbing, mechanical, heating and air conditioning work are in progress. Please continue to pray for the project and make your contributions (prayer and financial) whole heartedly.

Our goal is to raise \$150,000.00 from members this year as a part of 8% annual income of a household (we have only raised \$28,725.00 this year). Those who haven't paid their commitments, please do so. Your immediate financial support is greatly appreciated.

If you would like to visit the site, please see one of the conveners for making the necessary arrangements.

Church Activities

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Regular classes at 8.45am.

SEVIKA SANGHAM:

July 11, 2009 - Prayer Meeting at Mr. & Mrs. Oommen Koshy's Residence

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

Tuesdays - Bible Study with Rev. Jaisen Thomas

Thursdays - Prayer Call

Fridays - Prayer Fellowship -

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

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM:

July 12, 2009 - Last day for submitting membership form

July 12, 2009 - Prayer Meeting at the Residence of Jiju and Tini Thomas

July 26, 2009 - Sakhyam Competition after Holy Communion

PARISH MISSION:

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

Sundays 9-9:30am - Intercessory Prayer

CHOIR:

Sundays - Practice sessions after Holy Qurbana.

SPECIAL PRAYER:

Fridays, July 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 from 9.30 to 11.30am - The residence of Mrs. & Mr. Jaisy & Raju George, 922 Dandelion Dr, Mesquite, TX.

OTHER EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

CONVENTION

July 16-19, 2009

Speaker: Rev. K. J. Samuel

PARISH DAY

July 19, 2009