

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

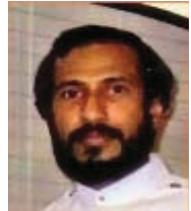
THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



March 2009





MESSAGE FROM VICAR

“Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.” **Mark 9:2-3**

“(Jesus) said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” Then he got into the boat with them and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.” **Mark 6:49-52**

My dear sisters and brothers in the love of our Lord,

‘Mountain top’ experiences are challenging and exciting so as to inspire one to go on with it. After the 1953 experience of ‘mountain top’ Sir Edmond Hillary was moved by its excitement and energy, that he continued his missions to share that experience to many! Even the literal and practical experience of being ‘on top of the mountain’ kindle one to new and clear visions of the ‘valleys’ and enthuses the transformation of the ‘valleys’ with real glory.

The life of Jesus can be seen as depicted in the Scriptures as a journey of transformations, both at the realms of the ‘valleys’ and of the ‘mountain tops’. His transfiguration at Mount Tabor (as traditionally identified) stands as the prototype of what God made possible for the world in Christ. The divine glory is shared with the creation and its manifestation in fullness is eagerly waited upon. The disciples’ effort to contain the glory to the ‘mountain top’ alone (their attempts to make booths to remain there) symbolizes the perennial contradictions in discipleship as revealed in the failure to live participating in the divine life. Thus the disciple eludes the heavenly confirmation. The transfigured Jesus is acclaimed as the ‘Beloved Son’, in which lies the promise to humanity and to the world that divinization is the possible future.

The believers' life in the world in love, forgiveness and hope is what reveals the glory of incarnation. The prevalence of speculative systems and their assertive and dominant roles tempt us to convert them into 'booths' to stay on, expecting the glory to remain. God's coming down in Jesus to make the 'tent' within humans is the hope of glory that remains.

Reducing Jesus to the level of a 'divine man' and to manage situations of adverse winds is the ordinary and popular efforts of all times. In today's world of uncertain, troubled waters and storms this level of efforts to manage the situation miserably fails. Nevertheless we find this perception shared by the disciples; widely publicized and marketed by today's 'feel good' Christian preachers! To realize the reassuring presence of the Lord amidst the 'troubled waters' we need grateful and sensitive hearts; our hardened hearts hinder us to behold the Lord who walks beside us. We are tempted time and again either to remain in the 'booths' of comfort and glory (Mark 9:5) or to slumber in our duties of the appointed watchpersons (Mark 13:34-37). The coincidence of the Transfiguration Day (as observed by the major traditions) and the Hiroshima Day on August 6 perhaps poignantly represents the paradox of history!

Lent is a time for us to purify our senses so as to comprehend and experience the Lord and his presence in our day to day lives with situations of fear, anxiety and infidelity. This is a challenge at all realms of our life – as persons, as families, as churches and as nations of the world.

May the Spirit of God pervade in our lives and sanctify us to be worthy to share the Glory of the Son.

May God bless us all,
Affectionately yours in the Lord,
Koshyachen

Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



What does it really mean to “repent”? Is it necessary?

As we continue in the Lenten season, it is important that we use this opportunity for our spiritual renewal and growth. During these days, you may have been physically, emotionally and spiritually challenged towards a deeper relationship with Christ. In so doing, you have heard the personal call for repentance in your life through which you assume your true identity in Jesus Christ.

Repentance, from the Greek word *metanoia*, literally means “to think differently after” or a “change of heart and mind”. Thus, it is not simply a verbal apology but a conscious decision to hereafter speak, think and live differently. It is the experience of a transformed attitude and freedom in life. In Christian life, it is this struggle in repentance that brings us closer to God and wakens us to the reality of our circumstance. Although, repentance is a personal decision the fruits of its effects are wide reaching. In Luke 19, when Zacchaeus repented not only did his family receive salvation, he began to serve the needs of the many poor and needy, as well. In a similar manner, St. Paul, guided many to Christ and strengthened the weak after his experience of repentance.

One evening a little boy fighting with his sister over a candy bar pushes her down to ground. He apologizes to his mom and his sister and promises never to do it again. The next day, he sees his sister with a crayon that he had wanted to use. He tries to control himself but, reluctantly pushes his sister and takes the crayon. Again, he apologized to both his mom and sister. Later, that evening he sees his sister playing outside with his soccer ball. Upset and angry he immediately falls on his knees and begins to pray like this: "God, I'm sorry. Please forgive me as I go and push my sister to get my ball back. Amen". Often times, we too say the words but, don't change the pattern of our deeds.

May God strengthen us to repent so that we may be renewed and empowered to change ourselves and our community towards His purpose!

Your brother in Christ,
Jaisen Achen
H- 972-495-5393
C- 214-604-6678
revjathomas@yahoo.com

Church Activities

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Regular classes at 8.45am.

Saturday, March 7 - Diocesan Exam preparation.

Sunday, March 8 - Teacher's Meeting

Sunday, March 14 - Junior Senior Conference at Sehion MTC from 9 AM to 4:30 PM.

SEVIKA SANGHAM:

TBD

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

Fridays at 7pm - Prayer Fellowship at the Church.

Tuesdays 7-8pm - Jr. and Sr. Men's and Women's Bible study will be held at the Church with Rev. Jaisen Thomas.

March 28 - Banquet

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM:

Sunday, March 8 at 6:30pm - Prayer meeting at the residence of Mr & Mrs Rejith K M & Leena Panicker, 2816 Sonora Ln, Mesquite, TX 75181

PARISH MISSION:

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

Sundays 9-9:30am - Intercessory Prayer

MALAYALAM CHOIR:

Sundays - Practice sessions after Holy Qurbana.

ENGLISH CHOIR:

Sundays - Practice at church.

SPECIAL PRAYER:

BIRTHDAYS

1-Mar	Patrick Cherian Oommen	Sunnyvale
1-Mar	Tony Easo	Mesquite
3-Mar	Sonia Alexander	Garland
4-Mar	Nisha Mary Koshy	Mesquite
6-Mar	Binu Tharian	Mesquite
7-Mar	Shiju Mathew	Garland
8-Mar	Grace Varghese	Mansfield
8-Mar	Saramma Mathewkutty	Mesquite
9-Mar	Alice Raju	Mesquite
9-Mar	Viju Varghese	Rowlett
10-Mar	Blessy Jacob	Garland
10-Mar	Gracykutty Thomas	Garland
11-Mar	Smitha Mathew	Rockwall
13-Mar	Crystal	Sunnyvale
15-Mar	Ajit Cherian	Garland
15-Mar	Mary John	Mesquite
16-Mar	Rachel Philip	Rockwall
17-Mar	Anil Mathew	Sunnyvale
17-Mar	Susan Varghese	Rowlett
18-Mar	Joseph George	Garland
20-Mar	Leena G Panicker	Mesquite
21-Mar	Anjaly Miriam Varghese	Rowlett
21-Mar	Geevarghese Mathew	Garland
21-Mar	Justin Mathew	Rowlett
21-Mar	Mathews Idiculla	Garland
23-Mar	Stanly Johns George	Rockwall
24-Mar	Ligi Babu	Mesquite
25-Mar	Jamie K Jacob	Mesquite
31-Mar	Shelby Alexander	Rowlett

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

2-Mar	Mrs. & Mr.Raju Mathew	Rowlett
3-Mar	Mrs. & Mr.Sunil K. Abraham	Garland
5-Mar	Mrs. & Mr.Chandy Jacob	Mesquite
9-Mar	Mrs. & Mr.John Oommen	Garland
16-Mar	Mrs. & Mr.Phil Mathew	Sunnyvale
30-Mar	Mrs. & Mr.Bassy Philip	Mesquite

Lectionary Information

Sunday, March 1, 2009 - (Malayalam Service) Christ and the Marginalized	
Lesson 1: Exo.3:7-18	Epistle: Acts.16:16-24
Lesson 2: Jam.5:1-11	Gospel: Luke. 5:12-16
Sunday, March 8, 2009 - (English Service) Jesus who forgives Sin	
Lesson 1: Isa. 1:1-20	Epistle: 1 John. 1:1-10
Lesson 2: Heb.10:1-15	Gospel: Mark.2:1-12
Sunday, March 15, 2009 - (Malayalam Service) Gospel Breaks Barriers	
Lesson 1: Isa.45:1-8	Epistle: Gal.2:11-21
Lesson 2: Acts. 16:6-15	Gospel: Mat. 15:21-28
Sunday, March 22, 2009 - (English Service) Christ's Victor over evil powers	
Lesson 1: Isa. 59:12-21	Epistle: Eph.6:10-20
Lesson 2: Rom 8:31-39	Gospel: Luke. 13: 10-17
Sunday, March 29, 2009 - (Malayalam Service) New Vision of Christ's Servanthood	
Lesson 1: Isa 42:1-9	Epistle: 1 Cor. 6:1-11
Lesson 2: Acts. 12:1-11	Gospel: Luke. 10:42-52

Church Building Update

The framing of the church building is almost complete. We must act immediately on finance, technical, and other aspects of the building. We have to mobilize all our resources to get this work done. With God's blessing, we will be able to see this building completed shortly. We request all you prayers and contribution.

One short note: The contractor has requested that due to the hazardous conditions that exists on a construction site, please DO NOT visit the site without the permission of the contractor. You may visit the site only by standing at the streets near the building.

Prayer Meetings

AGAPE

LEADER: VINOD CHERIYAN

March: Sun 29th at 7 PM at the residence of John Oommen and Susan John at
5301 Brookport Drive, Garland, TX

EBENEZER

LEADER: LIZY JOHN

TBD

EMMANUEL

LEADER: VIJU VARGHESE

TBD

MANNA

LEADER: SAJI P. GEORGE

Saturday, March 7, 2009 at 7pm at the residence of Mrs. & Mr. Smitha and Jonathan
Jones Mathew

SHALOM

LEADER:

TBD

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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