

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

PRESIDENT
REV. A. P. NOBLE

VICE PRESIDENT
BABU MATTHEW

SECRETARY
JACOB ABRAHAM

TREASURER
ANIL MATHEW

ACCOUNTANT
MATHEWKUTTY GEEVARGHESE

LAY LEADERS
RAJANKUNJU CHIRAYIL
JUSTIN MATHEW



Published by Sub-committee for Communications 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



September 2009





MESSAGE FROM VICAR

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Our students have entered into a new academic year. Some of our friends have completed their high school graduation and are prepared for their college education. Many of our YOUTH are doing their hire professional education. I wish all our students all the best in their life and I pray that god in a shower his blessings and guide them in god's wisdom.

I would like to remind four things about education.

1) God is the source of knowledge and wisdom. The bible says that the fear of God is the beginning of the wisdom (Prov. 1:7). There are two kinds of knowledge – wisdom from heaven and knowledge from the world (James 3: 13-18). Earthly knowledge is of the devil. It is envy, selfish ambition, disorder, and evil practice. But the heavenly wisdom is pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and sincere. If we trust in God, we will get the heavenly wisdom.

2) Education is to be related with life. Education is a lifelong continuing process. We learn from our life experiences and we apply in life what we learned. So our school/college education is just a beginning of a never ending journey. Our experience are good teachers. A wise man or a wise woman is one who learn from experiences. Those who do not learn from experiences are called fools. So Jesus called a rich man a fool (Luke 12: 20).

3) Knowledge is to be acquired through hard work. If we use easy and unrighteous ways to get knowledge, it will not help us to build our life. The great leaders in the world history were ordinary people who succeeded with their hard work. Thomas Edison, the great scientist, said that a genius is 1% talent and 99% hard work. If we make the most of every opportunity, we will be called wise (Eph 5:16).

4) Our education is becoming possible through the efforts of so many people. Our parents, our friends, our teachers, our society, and so many other factors influence and help us to be educated. Our life itself is a debt to many people that cannot be given back. We should have social commitment. Our knowledge is not to be used for our selfishness, but is to be used for God's glory and for the goodness of the society in which we live. Like child Jesus, let us grow in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and people (Luke 2:52).

Yours in Christ

Noble Achen

revnobleap@yahoo.com

Cell phone: 469-964-7494

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

Faith and Practices of the church- study series

Questions about the Holy Spirit

1. Is the Holy Spirit a person or a power?

The Holy Spirit is a person. A person is one who has knowledge, emotions and ability to work. The Holy Spirit has these three things (1 Cor 2:10-12; 12:11; Rom 8:27; 5:5; 15:32; Acts 16:6; 13:4; 8:29; John 14:15; 15:26; 16:8,13). The Holy Spirit is God and is one person in the Trinity. All three persons in the Trinity are equal in nature and work. They are eternal, almighty, omniscient, holy and truth (Heb 9: 14; Rom 15: 13; 1 Cor 2:11; 1 Jn 5:7; Ps 139:7; Lk 1:35). The terms 'He' and 'counselor' are used to denote the Holy Spirit and these terms indicate personal-ity (Jh 14:6-17; 16:13-17; 15:26; 1 Jn 2:1).

2. What is baptism of the Holy Spirit?

The term 'baptism of the spirit' is used in the bible to denote the Pentecost event (Mt 3:11; Mk 1:8; Lk 3:10; Jn 1:33; Acts 1:5; 11:16; 1 Cor 12:13). It is the historical event happened once and for ever the birth of the church (Acts 2) and it will not be repeated. It is the experience of the whole church and is not an individual experience. The festival of Pentecost was celebrated to remember the formation of the Old Testament church, Israel (Exo 19). The word 'Pentecost' means 50th day. Festival of the first fruits comes three days after the festival of Pentecost. Jesus Christ was risen from the dead as the first fruit (1 Cor 15:20). Fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit came up on the disciples on the day of Pentecost. On that day the prophecy about the Holy Spirit was fulfilled (Joel 2:28; Isa 32:15; Eze 37:14; Mt 3:11; Jn 16:7). The tongues which were confused in Babel were unified in the day of Pentecost (Gen 11:9; Acts 2:8). God also re-vealed that the gospel is for all the people all the world without any differences.

3. Is speaking in tongues the mark of spiritual life?

No. Speaking in tongues is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:10). It is not the mark of spiritual life, but it is given as a sign for the nonbelievers (Mk 16:17-18; 1 Cor 14:22). Signs are not expected to be always in our life, but marks should be in our life always. The marks of the life in spirit are: i) Preaching the gospel (Acts 1:8; 4:31); ii) Praise and thanksgiving (Eph 5:18-19); iii) Doing service (Acts 6:3); iv) Overcoming temptations (Mt 4:1); v) and loving (1 Cor 12:31; 13:1). Speaking in tongue is not a language without clarity. It is speaking the language of other people. The gift of speaking other tongue was given by God to preach the gospel to the people of different languages (Acts 2:9-11; 10:44-48; 19:1-6). St. Paul says that this gift will cease (1 Cor 13:8). Paul says that all believers are not expected to speak in other tongue (1 Cor 12:30). Also he discouraged the urge of believers to speak the tongues (1 Cor 14:19).

Prayer Meetings

AGAPE

LEADER: VINOD CHERIYAN

TBD

EBENEZER

LEADER: LIZY JOHN

TBD

EMMANUEL

LEADER: VIJU VARGHESE

TBD

MANNA

LEADER: SAJI P. GEORGE

September 6, 2009 at 7 pm—Residence of Mr. & Mrs. Anil Mathew
September 20, 2009 at 7pm—Residence of Mr. & Mrs. Cherian P. P.

SHALOM

LEADER: ABRAHAM KOSHY

TBD

4. Does the holy spirit live in all believers?

Yes. Holy spirit is the gift of God for all believers (Acts 2:38-39; 11:17; Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 3:16; 6:19; 1 Pet 1:11; Gal 3:2; 4:6; Jn 7:39; Tit 3:4-6). To denote the indwelling of the holy spirit, Paul uses different symbols such as anointing, seal, guarantee, and witness (2 Cor 1:21-22; 5:5; 1 Jn 2:20, 27; Eph 1:13-14; 4:30). Our responsibility is to flame the spiritual experience that God gave us (Eph 16:8; 4:3; 1 Thess 5:19; 2 Tim 1:6; Gal 5:16; 2 Cor 13:14; Rom 8:26).

5. How does the holy spirit work in believers?

- i. He makes us conscious about sin, justice and judgment (Jn 16:8; Micah 3:8).
- ii. He sanctifies us (2 Thess 2:13; 1 Cor 6:19).
- iii. He guides us as a counselor and as an advocate (Rom 8:14; Gal 5:18; Eph 2:2).
- iv. He helps us in prayer (Rom 8:26-27; Eph 6:18).
- v. He teaches about Christ (Jn 14:26; 16:13).
- vi. He produces fruits in our life (Gal 5:22-23)
- vii. He raises the dead (Rom 8:11)

6. How does the holy spirit work in the church?

- i. He builds up the church (Acts 2:47; Eph 2:22; 1 Cor 12:13).
- ii. He appoints the leaders (Acts 20:28)
- iii. He solves the issues (problems) (Acts 15:28).
- iv. He controls the worship (Jn 4:24; Phil 3:3; 1 Pet 2:5)
- v. He gives gifts to the believers for the growth of the church (1 Cor 12:4,11; Rom 12:6; 1 Tim 4:14).
- vi. He strengthens to become witnesses and to do the mission (Acts 1:8; Jn 15:26-27).

Next Issue: Study about God

Address Changes

Abraham Oommen
282 Duxbury Court
Sunnyvale TX 75182

Reji John Thomas
4010 Red Pine Dr.
Garland, TX 75043

Lectionary Information

Sunday, September 6, 2009 - (English Service) Education Sunday: Jesus the Great Teacher	
Lesson 1: Prov 4:1-19	Epistle: Col 1:24-29
Lesson 2: Acts 22:1-15	Gospel: Luke 4:31-44
Sunday, September 13, 2009 - (Malayalam Service) Sevika Sangham Day: Women in Service of the Kingdom of God	
Lesson 1: 1 Sam 1:1-28	Epistle: Gal 3:23-29
Lesson 2: Acts 16:11-15	Gospel: Mark 15:37-37
Sunday, September 20, 2009 - (Malayalam Service) Political Responsibility of God's People	
Lesson 1: Isa 49:1-13	Epistle: 1 Pet 4:12-19
Lesson 2: Acts 24:10-27	Gospel: Matt 13:31-43
Sunday, September 27, 2009 - (English Service) Senior Citizens Day: Aged: Sharing Wisdom and Experiences with the Young	
Lesson 1: Josh 23:1-16	Epistle: 1 John 3:1-10
Lesson 2: 1 Tim 5:1-10	Gospel: Luke 2:25-38

Laity Duties

	Worship Service Assistant	1st Lesson	2nd Lesson	Prayer
Sept 6	Jacob Abraham	Fiona Cherian	Nisha Jacob	Joselyn Mathew
Sept 13	P. M. Skariah	Lizy John	Molly Koshy	Annamma Chacko
Sept 20	Binu Tharian	P. C. George	Gracy George	Susheela John
Sept 27	Stanley Samuel	Lijo George	Lincy George	Princey Varhese

BIRTHDAYS

1-Sep	Reema Thomas	Mesquite			
7-Sep	Fiona Cherian	Garland			
11-Sep	Richie Philip	Mesquite			
12-Sep	Nancy Varghese	Garland			
13-Sep	Kurian Baby	Rockwall			
13-Sep	Lizy John	Mesquite			
14-Sep	Koshy Varghese	Rowlett			
15-Sep	Leah Susan Binu	Mesquite			
15-Sep	Mariamamma Sam	Sunnyvale			
16-Sep	Elizabeth Ipe	Garland			
16-Sep	Happy George	Mesquite			
16-Sep	Jessey John	Mesquite			
16-Sep	Joseph Abraham	Mesquite			
17-Sep	Biju Varghese	Dallas			
20-Sep	Philip Vattachakkal	Mesquite			
21-Sep	Grace Mathew	Mesquite			
24-Sep	Mercy Abraham	Garland			
25-Sep	Asha A. Varghese	Mesquite			

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

8-Sep	Mr. & Mr.s Aby Thomas	Mesquite
14-Sep	Mr. & Mrs. Johnkutty Mathai	Mesquite
14-Sep	Mr. & Mrs. Janet Philip	Garland
17-Sep	Mr. & Mrs. Biju Varghese	Dallas
17-Sep	Mr. & Mrs. Stanly J George	Rockwall

Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



What is culture? What culture do you most associate with? Why?

Culture, has often been defined as a set of shared practices and customs associated with a specific population or group. Additionally, it has also been considered to be a systematic tool for integrated knowledge and behavior. Generally, we may understand culture to be a lifestyle. However, despite all these definitions the implications of culture is what we really need to greater understand.

Culture is a distinct form of power that functions like capital (e.g. American dollar versus Indian rupee). Despite its explicit impact, it has the dynamic power to proliferate and permeate cognitive and spiritual concepts. We live in a world and society where competing cultural notions compromise ideological and spiritual positions as they work to assert precedence over the other. As such, the emergence of numerous cultural patterns through various genres of music and pop culture has diminished the visibility of the true Christian culture.

However, the Christian faith culture is not bound by the rules of common cultures as it serves the sole purpose of uniting God and human. Therefore, it is important that we perpetuate the faith through our obedience to the lifestyle and teachings of Christ. That is, our true identity/culture must transcend the traditional limits of ethnicity, heredity and physical attributes to effectively reveal Christ. Therein, as individuals and as a community we may assume the very culture of Christ.

In the Gospel according to St. Matthew 8:5-13, we read of how a centurion despite his ethnic, religious and cultural diversity exhibited incredible faith in Jesus Christ. The centurion did not deny his culture but, he was through faith in Jesus Christ able to transcend the cultural limits and experience the power of God. His faith was so great that even Jesus testified of him: "When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, 'I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith...'. In faith and obedience, let us choose the Christ culture that transcends all human and cultural limitations asserting His

power through our lives.

May the Almighty God strengthen us in the power of discernment and commitment so our perspectives may transform to receive Christ as the source of true culture!

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

Suvisesha Nidhi Collection

Suvisesha Nidhi Collection of the Diocese will be done on Sunday, Sept 20, 2009 according to the circular of the Diocesan Episcopa. This is the annual collection to meet the expenses of the Diocese for the mission activities including Mexico Mission. As per the circular of the Diocesan Episcopa, \$12 is the minimum amount that is to be collected from each house in the parish. The area prayer group representatives are requested to collect the money from their respective prayer groups and submit in the worship service on Sept 20, 2009.

Important Dates

Church Picnic — Saturday, Sept 26, 2009

Common Prayer—Saturday, Sept 12, 2009 at 7 pm at St. Paul's MTC.

Sevika Sangham Diocesan National Conference
Oct 1—4, 2009
New York

Church Organizational Activities

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Regular classes at 8.45am.

September 19, 2009 - Southwest Regional Competition at the MTC of Dallas in Carrollton

SEVIKA SANGHAM:

TBD

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

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM:

Sunday, September 13 at 7pm - Prayer meeting at the residence of Mr. Vincent Johnkuty and Julie, 2730 Rio Grande Pass, Mesquite, TX 75150

Regional Conference—Sept 5th at Trinity Mar Thoma Church, Houston, TX

PARISH MISSION:

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

Sundays at 9-9:30am - Intercessory Prayer

Friday, Sept 11 at 7pm— Common Prayer at Mar Thoma Church of Dallas, Farmer's Branch.

CHOIR:

Sundays - Practice sessions after Holy Qurbana.

SPECIAL PRAYER:

Fridays from 9.30 to 11.30am - The residence of Mrs. & Mr. Jaisy & Raju George, 922 Dandelion Dr, Mesquite, TX.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jiju & Tini Thomas who had a baby boy, **Benjamin**, on August 29, 2009 weighing 7 lbs 15 oz.

