

**ST. PAUL'S MAR THOMA CHURCH**  
1002 BARNES BRIDGE 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

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WEB!**

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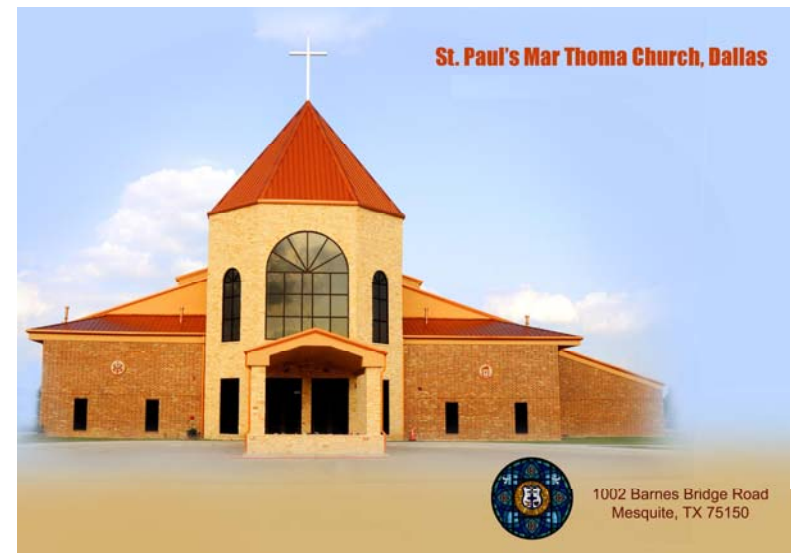


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**St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church**  
1002 Barnes Bridge Rd.  
Mesquite, TX 75150

# THE EPISTLE

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION**



**December 2010**



ദിവ്യതാരകം

ബേതലഹേമിലെ പുൽക്കൂട്ടിൽ  
രക്ഷകനിന്നു പിറന്നല്ലോ  
സുരലോകത്തിൻ നാഥനിവൻ  
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സന്തോഷിപ്പിൻ സോദരരേ  
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ലോകത്തിന്റെ രക്ഷയ്ക്കായ്  
മന്നവനിന്നു പിറന്നല്ലോ

ആട്ടിയൻമാർ കേട്ടല്ലോ  
സുരവൃന്ദത്തിൻ ഗാനങ്ങൾ  
കാലിക്കൂട്ടിൽ ചെന്നല്ലോ  
കന്യാസുതനെ കണ്ടല്ലോ

വിദ്വാൻമാരവർ കണ്ടല്ലോ  
വാനം തന്നിൽ നക്ഷത്രം  
ബേതലഹേമിൽ ചെന്നെത്തി  
കാഴ്ചകൾ നൽകി നമിച്ചല്ലോ

- By Sam Meleth

*Lectioary/Worship Information*

<b>Sunday, December 5, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana - English)</b> Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth Bible Sunday—Bearers of Good News	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> 1 Gen 33:1-17	<b>Epistle:</b> Thess 3:6-13
<b>Lesson 2:</b> 2 Cor 1:3-11	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 1:39-45
<b>Sunday, December 12, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana - English )</b> Birth of John the Baptist Hope for the World	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Isa 55: 6-13	<b>Epistle:</b> Heb 4:1-13
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Acts 11:19-26	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 1:57-66
<b>Sunday, December 19, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana—Malayalam)</b> Annunciation to Joseph Invitation to Participate in God's Plan of Salvation	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Isa 11:1-10	<b>Epistle:</b> Rom 1:5-16
<b>Lesson 2:</b> 1 John 5:1-12	<b>Gospel:</b> Matt 1:18-23
<b>Saturday, December 25, 2010 - 7 AM - (Holy Qurbana - English)</b> Birth of Our Savior	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Isa 9:1-8	<b>Epistle:</b> Heb 1:1-12
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Gal 4:1-7	<b>Gospel:</b> John 1:1-14
<b>Sunday, December 26, 2010 - 10:15AM - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam)</b> Celebration of Lordship of Christ, the King	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Jer 23:1-8	<b>Epistle:</b> Phil 2:1-11
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Acts 2:21-36	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 10:21-24
<b>Friday, December 31, 2010 - 9PM - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam)</b> End of the Year God Who is Always with us	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> 1 Sam 7:1-17	<b>Epistle:</b> Eph 5:15-21
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Heb 13:7-21	<b>Gospel:</b> Matt 6:25-34



**MESSAGE FROM VICAR**

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Christmas celebration is important event in month of December.

What is the relevance of celebration of Christ's birth in our life? It can be explained in three points:

1. God has not lost hope for this world.

God created everything with beauty and order. Human beings are created as stewards of God's creation. But due to sin, man lost the paradise, divine glory and eternity. Also death and judgment came into the world. But God never gave up this world. He was gracious enough to love the world and to redeem it through His only begotten son (Jn 3:16). Christmas is the event that God revealed Himself fully in man and lived with us as Immanuel to show the meaning and purpose of human life. Jesus was a man born to die on the cross. Salvation is our participation in God's love and forgiveness that revealed in the cross of Jesus. So this is an occasion to remember both birth and death of Jesus and to share God's hope for this world.

2. Family has an important role in Redemption.

God became man and he was born in a family where Mary and Joseph are parents. Jesus was obedient to his parents and well disciplined in faith. The family is God's plan and gift for human beings and it is the early heaven on the earth. Through his incarnation Jesus revealed the happiness of sonship and glory of parents. Today so many families are breaking up, due to various reasons. Many youth are not willing to get married but keep illegal sexual relations. Many children are under care of single parents. God gave sexuality within the family. But today immorality has become very common. When Joseph planned to give up Mary in secret, God asked him to protect her because he wants every family to be protected.

3. Every child is source of possibilities.

Jesus born as a child in Mary to reveal that every new born baby is God's hope for the world. Jesus also asked us to be like child to enter the kingdom of God because only child has freedom from bondage, unconditional faith and possibility of growth. Through the Christmas celebration, let us share God's hope for the world. Let us receive salvation. Let us take our family as important and let us enter into the kingdom of heaven as a child. May God bless us.

Yours in christ,  
Noble Achen

Yours in Christ Service,  
Noble Achen  
revnobleap@yahoo.com



## Date to Remember

**Dec 1**  
**Twenty Five Days of Lent Begins**

**Dec 24**  
**St. Paul's MTC Christmas Carol Service at 6:30 PM**

**Christmas Carol Rounds:**  
**Dec 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19**  
**Convener: Mr. Zachariah Thomas**

### *Church Organizational Activities*

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

Regular classes at 8.45am.

#### **SEVIKA SANGHAM:**

**TBD**

#### **YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:**

**Tuesdays** - Bible Study with Rev. Jaisen Thomas on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month

**Thursdays** - Prayer Call

**Fridays** - Prayer Fellowship -

#### **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.

A.D. 1905: Mar Thoma Sunday School Samajam started.

A.D. 1919: Mar Thoma Suvishesha Sevika Sangam started.

A.D. 1924: Mar Thoma Voluntary Evangelists Association started with the vision: "Every Mar Thomite is a missionary."

A.D. 1926: Mar Thoma Theological Seminary established in Kottayam.

A.D. 1933: Mar Thoma Yuvajana Sakhyam was organized.

A.D. 1943: Abraham Mar Thoma became Metropolitan.

A.D. 1946: Hoskote Mission (near Bangalore) started.

A.D. 1947: Juhannon Mar Thoma became Metropolitan.

A.D. 1968: Department of Sacred Music was organized.

A.D. 1976: Alexander Mar Thoma became Metropolitan. Also Mar Thoma-CSI-CNI joint council formed as an ecumenical movement.

A.D. 1977: Development department was started for economic growth of the poor.

A.D. 1979: Congregations under Evangelistic Association elevated to parishes (Dalit Parishes).

A.D. 1981: Mar Thoma Charitable Trust formed.

A.D. 1997: Dayara (Monastic Order) was established. Also first Bishop's house outside India was built in New York.

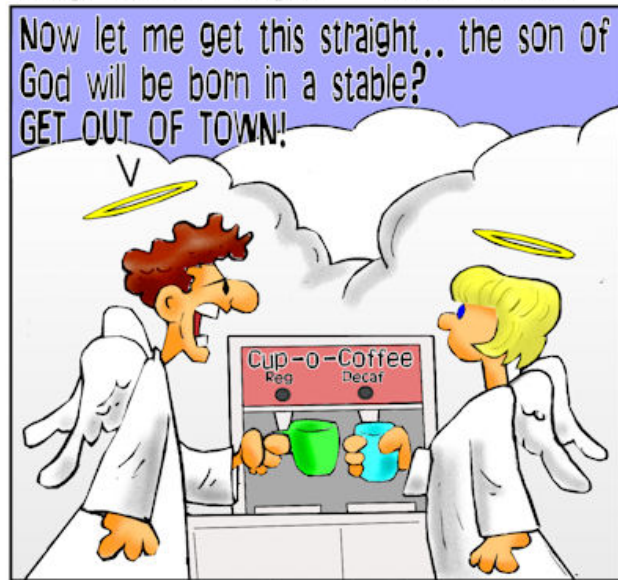
A.D. 2000: Philipose Mar Chrysostom became Metropolitan.

A.D. 2007: Joseph Mar Thoma became the Metropolitan.

## Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

### The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Imagine the buzz around Heaven's coffee maker when God's salvation plan for mankind was revealed. **Luke 1:25ish**

### Merry Christmas!

**What does Christmas mean to you? Who do you think of when you think of Christmas?**

"After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshipped Him". (St. Matt. 1:12)

We live in a world that has commercialized Christmas to the point that amongst all the celebrations, gift exchanges, food, etc. we forget the true essence of the birth of Christ. The birth of Jesus Christ into the world, His own creation, reflects the truth of the power and love that God commands. His birth is also an invitation to all humanity to understand and incorporate this love and power in their lives through Christian discipleship. That is, in His birth we find ultimate power wrapped in the vulnerability and helpless physical state of a baby. We see the Almighty One who had dwelled in the exalted heavens seek warmth and rest within a manger set apart for animals. Thus, it is in our willingness to open our eyes and seek God amongst the weak, the least and the vulnerable that enable us to better understand the message of Christmas.

So, at Christmas do we think of the poor, homeless, helpless? Do we find ourselves with those who have been denied room everywhere else? Christmas is not a time to think about ourselves and how many presents we may or may not receive. It is also not simply a season of remembering the salvation that Christ offered us through His birth. It is the command to love others, to seek and reveal Christ

among the least, to offer our room (ourselves) so that Christ may be seen and worshipped.

I pray that as we come to the close of this year that we meditate on the true meaning of the birth of Jesus Christ and celebrate it in a manner that reflects the heart of God! Let us choose to let go of the worldly perspectives that often just make us feel good and choose to see Christmas through the eyes of Christ!

May God Almighty strengthen and bless us so that we may fall to the ground and worship this Christmas as did the Magi on that most awesome day!

Your bro in Christ,  
Jaisen Achen  
214-604-6678  
revjathomas@yahoo.com

### NEWLY ELECTED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS & AUDITORS FOR 2011.

Vice President:	Mr. Sunny K. John
Secretary:	Mr. Soji Skariah
Trustee:	Mr. Oommen Koshy
Accountant:	Mr. Babu Mathew
Lay Leader: (Mal)	Mr. Phil Mathew
Lay Leader: (Eng)	Mr. Merril Sonaj Raju
Sunday School Superintendent:	Mr. Justin Mathew
Edavaka Mission:	Mr. Chacko T. Oommen
Sevika Sangham:	Mrs. Jolly Babu
Yuvajana Sakham:	Mr. Liju Thomas
Youth Fellowship:	Mr. Stanley Varughese
Choir:	Mrs. Ligi Skariah
Area Prayer Leaders. ( Area Reps)	
Agape:	Mr. John Oommen
Ebenezer:	Mr. John Thomas
Emmanuel:	Mrs. Suma Philip
Manna:	Mrs. Joice Mathew
Shalom:	Mr. Shibu Chacko

#### Auditors:

1. Mr. Koshy Thomas
2. Zachariah Thomas