

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

**WE'RE ON THE
WEB!**

WWW.STPAULSMTC.ORG

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

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

THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



July 2010





MESSAGE FROM VICAR

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

July 03rd is St. Thomas day. The Mar Thoma Church holds the apostolic tradition of St. Thomas. The word "apostle" means "one who is sent". The term 'church' came from the word 'ecclesia' which means 'a called out community for a mission.' The risen Christ gave great commission to his disciples to make others his disciples (Matthew 28:19, 20). After receiving this commission, St. Thomas, the apostle of Jesus came to India in 52 A.D. and preached the gospel thus started the Malankara church. This is the common belief that we have.

This church came in relationship with foreign churches; and received their faith practices. Through reformation in 19th century under the leadership of Abraham Malpan became a missionary church. The reformation was a process of going back to the apostolic tradition and apostolic mission. We are reformed church and reforming church. Preaching the gospel became main goal of the church. In 1888, Marthoma Evangelistic Association started to evangelise India. For this purpose the maramon convention started, mission fields and Ashrams were formed, at different parts of India. Many people were converted to Christian faith.

At the same time the members of the MarThoma church in Kerala migrated to other states of India and other countries, North America and Europe. And they started parishes. Thus the MarThoma church became a global church. Today our church had 1166 parishes, 900 priests, 300 evangelists and nine hundred thousand members approximately. Our North America and Europe Diocese also engaged in mission activities such as Mexico Mission, Native American mission, India mission and neighborhood mission. The great vision of our church is that we are lighted to lighten the world. The motto of our church is that every MarThomite is a missionary.

St. Thomas day reminds us about the call and mission of our church. St. Thomas is the one who gave his life for the gospel. As we hold the tradition of St. Thomas, let us accept Jesus as our Lord and God as Thomas proclaimed. Let us hold up the faith and vision of St. Thomas. May God Bless us and strengthen us to participate in the mission of Jesus that we are entrusted to do.

Yours in Christ Service
Noble Achen
revnobleap@yahoo.com

2010 GRADUATES

COLLEGE GRADUATES:

- Susan Abraham - MBA
- Patric Marathummootil - Masters in Electrical Engineering
- Charles Babu - Bachelors in Business Administration
- Ancil Mathew - Bachelors in Biology
- Shibin Mathewkutty - Bachelors in Industrial Engineering
- Merril Sonaj Raju - Bachelors in Bio Chemistry

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:

- Alvin John (Valedictorian)
- Joselin Mathew

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WITH ASSOCIATED DEGREE.

- Jeffrey Mathew
- Joshua Thomas
- Renita Thomas

PHOTOGRAPHY SCHEDULE (For Parish Directory)

- July 30, 2010—2:00 PM to 9:20 PM
- July 31, 2010—9:30 PM to 5:10 PM
- August 1, 2010—1:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Study Series: Marriage and Family
(Continued from last issue).

Prayer Meetings

AGAPE

LEADER: JOHN OOMMEN

TBD

EBENEZER

LEADER: JOHN K. MATHEW

TBD

EMMANUEL

LEADER: GEORGE MAMMEN

Sunday, June 11, 2010 at 6:30pm—Residence of Mr. & Mrs. Philip Mammen,
1147 whispering Glen, Rockwall, TX 75087

MANNA

LEADER: ANNIE THOMAS

TBD

SHALOM

LEADER: ABRAHAM KOSHY

TBD

Four phases of a marriage:

- 1.) Expectations
- 2.) Covenant making
- 3.) Disillusionment
- 4.) Growing fulfillment

About the expectations, people have different expectations about marriage. At the same time God has some expectations. We have to distinguish between these two kinds of expectations.

Common expectations of people:

i.) Marriage will meet my needs- need for affection and sexual intimacy, need for companionship, need for family, need for conversation, need for financial security, need for social acceptance and need to leave home. Many people enter into marriage expecting it to solve their problems. But problems occur when we pursue these desires with shortsighted strategies and motives.

ii.) Marriage will change my life partner.

Many people enter into marriage with a predicament idea of what they want their partner to become and it will make problems.

iii.) Marriage can be as free as we let it be

Some people who entered into marriage offer their partner more freedom and want even more freedom for themselves. It is a give and take approach. Here they say; "I want to ask any questions, and I don't expect you to ask any either"

God's expectation about marriage:

i) Marriage will enable us to serve someone else's needs.

Marriage demands our own spiritual growth and transformation instead of attempting to change our partner (Phil 2:1-4) The closeness and responsibilities of marriage give us an ideal setting to help us learn the real meaning of love. Marriage by its very nature demands commitment, risk and unselfish investment. As a husband and wife learn to love in this way, they become a window through which others can see the kingdom of God at work. Through such a life, others can see the kind of faithful love, honesty, moral courage, true humility, incredible patience, and tender understanding that God gives in our marriage.

iii) Marriage will place us under the mutual spirit of love.

In Christian marriage, man and woman become one (Mat 19:6). This oneness is their mutual commitment to care for one another's well-being for as long as they live. Here individual freedom is not above the mutual commitment.

iv) Marriage will be a picture of Christ's relationship to the Church (Ephesians 5:22-23) Christ is the head and the church is the body of Christ. As the church is subjected to Christ, wife should be subjected to husband. As Christ loved the church, husband should love wife. The love of Christ towards the church was self-sacrificing love, sanctifying love, caring love and unbreakable love. St. Paul says that the relationship between Christ and Church is a great mystery. Likewise the husband-wife relationship is also a mystery (Ephesians 5: 30-32) I means love and mutual submission of the partners make a marriage relationship more stronger and consistent.

NOTE: This study will be continued in the next issue.

Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



CHURCH BODY IN TURMOIL?

One body, many parts.. each with gifts, roles, and flaws... SO QUIT FIGHTING WITH EACH OTHER .. quit tearing each other down.. CUZ it makes you look silly! **1 Cor 12:12-25**

What is the mission of the Church? As Christian community what are we called to do? Are we truly the Body of Christ?

The faith community, Church, is commissioned to be the agent of change and restoration in the world. However, the church is first called to transform itself in order to transform society and the world. That is, we the Church must have the very mind of Christ so that the body of Christ may function as a cohesive unit which is transformative and integrative.

In the letter to the Philippians 2:5 it reads, "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus...". This passage reminds us that the right mental attitude is important to the salvation experience which God offers through grace. However, the mind of Christ is not to be considered a personal spiritual property but an act or experience reflective of living in the midst of the people. In fact, living in the mind of Christ is truly a process of transformation and renewal. Therefore, the Church exists in society and the mind of Christ is the model by which the Church must engage the society and the world. Thus, the attitude of we the Church must transcend its own socio-cultural limits and be a community of inclusiveness, sacrificial love and self-emptying in order to effect true Christian mission and transformation in the world.

Forsake me not, O Lord

By Miriam Chacko

Frequently we pray to God, "don't forsake me"; may be in sickness or sorrow or temptation. Often we forget that we need to us this prayer at all times. There is no moment in our lives without God's protection and guidance. Whether in light or darkness, in communion or in temptation, we need this prayer. A little child, while learning to walk, always needs his/her mother's hand. The child gets protection in his/her mother's hand. Someway when we look on Jesus and pray "forsake me not" we get peace and protection. Then God save us from the enemy. Jesus is our Good shepherd, forsake ne not (His lamb) lest we wander from the safety. Forsake me not O' Lord, now and forsake me not at any moment of my life. Forsake me not in my joys lest they absorb my heart. Do not forsake me in my sorrows lest I murmur against you. Do not forsake me for without you I am weak but with you I am strong. Forsake me not O Lord!, for my path is dangerous and full of shares. I can't do without your guidance. Lord cover me evermore with your feathers and permit me to find my refuge under your wings. Leave me not, neither forsake me O God of my salvation (Ps. 27:9). Let us praise His name together.

Laity Duties

| | Worship Service Assistant | 1st Lesson | 2nd Lesson | Prayer |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------|--------|
| July 4 <i>Agape</i> | | | | |
| July 11 <i>Ebenezer</i> | | | | |
| July 18 <i>Emmanuel</i> | | | | |
| July 25 <i>Manna</i> | | | | |

CHURCH PICNIC

Sunnyvale Park, Sunnyvale, TX

August 7, 2010—8 AM TO 5 PM

Lectionary/Worship Information

Sunday, July 4, 2010 - (Ordinary Worship)

Christian Stewardship - Tithe Offering

Lesson 1: Exo. 36:1-7

Epistle: 2 Cor. 9:6-15

Lesson 2: Acts 5:1-11

Gospel: Luke. 21:1-4

Sunday, July 11, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana - English)

Ordained Ministry - Call for Shepherding

Lesson 1: Exo. 3:1-12

Epistle: 2 Tim. 4:1-5

Lesson 2: Acts 9:10-18

Gospel: John 21:15-19

Sunday, July 18, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana—Malayalam)

Church: Community of the Kingdom of God

Lesson 1: Micah 6:1-8

Epistle: 1 Pet. 2:1-12

Lesson 2: Col. 1:9-23

Gospel: Luke 6:27-36

Sunday, July 25, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam)

Fellowship with God and with one another

Lesson 1: Gen. 7:1-16

Epistle: Acts 4:32-37

Lesson 2: 1 Cor. 12:12-27

Gospel: John 15:1-12

22nd Parish Day

St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church, Dallas

Sunday, July 18th

Youth Fellowship Regional Sports Tournament

Friday, July 16th thru Saturday, July 17th
Houston, TX

In the epistles of Saint Paul, we note that in Christ there is no division. Also, despite the various cultures and communities that came to know Christ the oneness of the Church, Body of Christ, was asserted through the linking of the Mind of Christ. The Church cannot ignore the presence and mission to the other. Thus, we the Great Commission of the Church is to have the Mind of Christ so that we may truly be the Body of Christ. May God Almighty strengthen us all to be of His mind so that we live as His Body!!!

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

Church Organizational Activities

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Regular classes at 8.45am.

SEVIKA SANGHAM:

TBD

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

Tuesdays - Bible Study with Rev. Jaisen Thomas

Thursdays - Prayer Call

Fridays - Prayer Fellowship -

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM:

Saturday, July 17, 2010 at 7pm—Prayer meeting at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Rejith K M, 2816 Sonora Ln, Mesquite, TX 75181

Saturday, July 31, 2010—One day picnic - Turner Falls, Davis, Oklahoma

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.

BIRTHDAYS

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

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

| | | | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------|-------------------------|----------|
| 1-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Varghese | Mesquite | 24-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Koshy | Mesquite |
| 1-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Raju Varghese | Mesquite | 28-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Mathew Babu | Rockwall |
| 10-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Oommen | Dallas | 30-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Sam Koshy | Garland |
| 11-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Anil Mathew | Sunnyvale | 31-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Shiju Baby | Garland |
| 11-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Easo | Mesquite | | | |
| 11-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Philip Mammen | Rockwall | | | |
| 12-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Cherian P.P. | Sunnyvale | | | |
| 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. Siblu Joseph | Garland | | | |
| 22-Jul | Mr. & Mrs. Joy Thomas | Plano | | | |

Birth Announcements

- Julie and Vincent Johnykutty welcomed their newborn baby girl named Anna Mary Johnykutty.
- Sally and Abraham Koshy welcomed their newborn baby boy

Marriage Announcements

- Jessy John, daughter of John Yohannan was married.
- Dr. Jubey Joseph, son of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Varghese married Dr. Iffat Jahan, who is a new member of the parish.
- Asha, daughter of Varghese K Mathew and Susamma Varghese was married.

New Members

- Mr. Alex Koshy, husband of Mrs. Sheena P John.
- Mr. Thomas K George (Toy), 4226, East Hwy 80, App.#1082, Mesquit, 75149, Ph:972-329-8940.

Baptism

Annette Ann Alex, daughter of Alex Koshy and Sheena P John was baptised and became member of the Church.