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**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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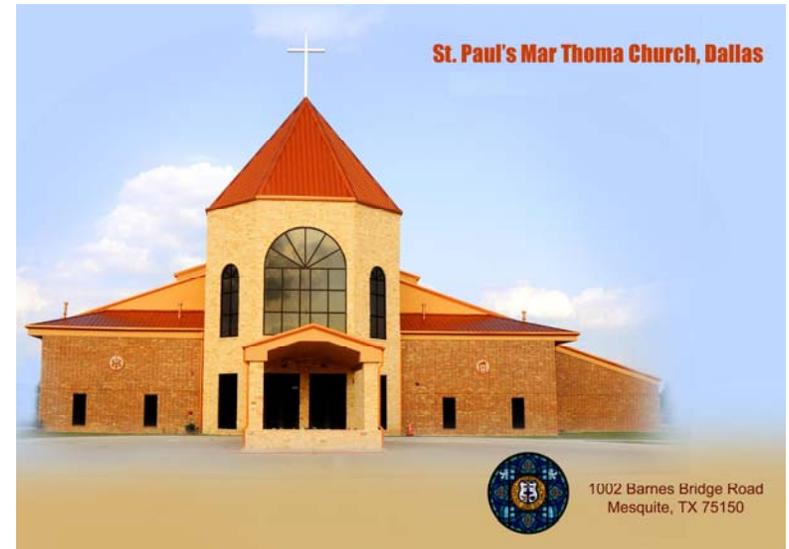


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**St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church**  
1002 Barnes Bridge Rd.  
Mesquite, TX 75150

# THE EPISTLE

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION**



**June 2015**



## ***BIRTHDAYS***

1-Jun	John Thomas(Kunju)	Mesquite	10-Jun	Oommen Koshy	Sunnyvale
1-Jun	Varghese A. Varghese	Garland	10-Jun	Thomas Abraham	Sunnyvale
2-Jun	Jacob C .C	Garland	13-Jun	Michelle Mathai	Mesquite
2-Jun	Susan Saumi Chacko	Mesquite	17-Jun	Shilu Varghese	Rockwall
4-Jun	Bassy Philip	Grand Prairie	19-Jun	Abigail Lilly Mammen	Rockwall
4-Jun	Susan Alexander	Fate	20-Jun	Joice Phil Mathew	Sunnyvale
4-Jun	Jeevan Simon	Garland	21-Jun	Fregi Varughese	Mesquite
5-Jun	Amita Elizabeth Edison	Sunnyvale	22-Jun	Raju Chacko	Rowlett
5-Jun	Kunjamma Thomas	Garland	24-Jun	Jiji Mathai	Mesquite
8-Jun	Ashish Mathai	Mesquite	25-Jun	Thomas Philip	Garland
8-Jun	Jenny Mammen	Rockwall	25-Jun	Suja Mathew	
8-Jun	Lincy George	McKinney	26-Jun	Sherril Ann Raju	Mesquite
8-Jun	Subin John	Mesquite	30-Jun	Annamma Thomas	McKinney
9-Jun	Joseph Koshy	Garland			
9-Jun	Lysamma George	Garland			
9-Jun	Nathan Koshy	Garland			

## ***WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES***

2-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Baby George	Garland
5-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Reji Philip Thomas	Garland
5-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Thomas Mathew	Wylie
6-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. John K . Mathew	Mesquite
7-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Beji Pappachan	Mesquite
8-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Jonathan Jones Mathew	Sunnyvale
9-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Abey Kuruvilla	Wylie
12-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Anish Mathew Thomas	Garland
12-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Alex Abraham	Garland
14-Jun	Dr.&Dr. Juby Joseph	Garland
15-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Cherian Mathew	Garland
17-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Bincent Jacob	Garland
18-Jun	Dr.&Mrs. Vinu Ipe	Garland
19-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Abraham Koshy	Mesquite
20-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Zachariah Thomas	Sunnyvale
20-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. George Mammen	Rockwall
26-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Alex Koshy	Garland
30-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Thomas George	Rockwall

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty” – Psalm 91:1

Dearly beloved in Christ,

There are so many words that we grow up with that carry with them the definition attached to them by the world. Words (like love, peace, joy, faith) that have worldly meaning that are contradicted by their biblical definition. Psalm 91 provides the basis for understanding the biblical meaning of the protection of the Lord.

The words shelter, Shadow (V.1), refuge, fortress (V.2), pinions, wings, shield, bulwark (V.4) are all examples used to teach something about the nature of God’s protection. They all provide cover for all the possible situations we might find need for different levels of protection, whether as a shield, wings or shadow to cover us while on the move, or when we need absolute separation from the world such as fortress and bulwark, or something in between to wait out temporary conditions such as shelter, refuge, and pinions. But all these things must each be sought after and run to in order to be used.

“He who dwells.” - V.1

We’re choosing where to live, where to establish our home, in this case in Him. It’s implied that we’re not choosing to try and live on our own or away from his protection. It speaks of our having to make a choice. People in need of being rescued or protected have to first want the help and then must cooperate with those from whom they’re receiving help. Otherwise the rescue or protection efforts won’t be successful. When we speak of God’s protection, we need to know that He provides cover when we seek Him, He is faithful, never letting us down, He delivers us from this world’s traps. We sometimes believe we can go anywhere, do anything, and we will still be protected by God. We need to characterize ourselves as running towards god’s shelter or away.

“Taking refuge in the world rather than in God”. - Verse 5-10.

What do all these activities (terror by night, pestilence that stalks in darkness, destruction that lays waste at noon, evil, plague) have in common? They are all the results of sin, the judgments and consequences that come upon those that choose a worldly lifestyle. They are the ultimate results of someone taking refuge in the world rather than God. We may ask, “Is dwelling in God’s refuge a guarantee of protection against anything and everything bad? No, there may be physical hardships, test and trials – all of which are designed to toughen us spiritually, but more importantly there is the protection that results from living a life that embraces God’s righteousness while rejecting sin. The consequences of sin will not befall those who cling to the protection of His ways. The most important ‘peace’ in life is being free of sin and sinful behavior. The question is do we assess ‘protection’ as to whether we’re getting what we want or living like we should?

“Heavenly resources” – V.11-13

These verses summarize the teaching about God’s protection. God provides additional resources for protection that we can’t see. How do these heavenly resources fit in with the previous passage? They’re both discussing spiritual warfare, both in the visible realm and the invisible. The war between God and Satan is for our soul, not our life as it subsists on this earth, but rather whether we attain to thesecond life.

“Different perspective”. - V.14 – 16.

The previous verses spoke in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person; here it is God personally speaking in the 1<sup>st</sup> person ‘I.’ the three things referring to us which provide a definition

*Lectionary/Worship Information*

<b>Sunday, June 7, 2015</b> Feast of Ascension	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Dan 7:9-14	<b>Epistle:</b> Eph. 1:3-14
<b>Lesson 2:</b> James 3:13-18	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 24:50-55
<b>Sunday, June 14, 2015</b> Creation Proclaims the Glory of God Environmental Sunday	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Prov. 8:22-31	<b>Epistle:</b> Col. 1:9-20
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Rev. 21:1-8	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 8:22-25
<b>Sunday, June 21, 2015</b> Worship the Lord in Truth and Spirit	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Isa. 6:1-8	<b>Epistle:</b> 2 Thes. 2:13-17
<b>Lesson 2:</b> 1 John 5:1-12	<b>Gospel:</b> John 4:13-26
<b>Sunday, June 28, 2015</b> Cost of discipleship	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Dan. 6:11-23	<b>Epistle:</b> 2 Cor. 6:11-18
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Heb. 11:23-40	<b>Gospel:</b> Mark 10:35-45

for what it means to seek His shelter and protection are: 1, he has loved me (V.14); 2, he has known my name(V.14); 3, he will call upon me(V.15).

God's personal response to those who seek His protection :

1. I will deliver him (V.14)
2. I will set him securely on high (V.14)
3. I will answer him (V.15)
4. I will be with him in trouble (V.16)
5. I will rescue him and honor him (V.15)
6. With a long life will I satisfy him (v.16)
7. I will let him see my salvation (V.16)

The Psalmist began this as a testimony or teaching, but it ended with God's personal commentary. The question is, "Does this give us more courage to let go the things of this world for the things that lead to his protection?" As we plan our vacation let us do it wisely and creatively so that we might always be under His protection. – Sam Achen.



**VBS**  
June 22—28  
Early Registration \$20—Ends April 12

**REGISTER NOW!!**

## Silence the Critics

*By Mariam Chacko*

“For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence, the ignorance of foolish man.” (1 Peter 2:15)

It is from my personal experience that when people start to criticize the way of life I lead by faith, then according to my natural human response, I strike back. May be if they get a taste of their own medicine, they'll shut their mouth, you think. They won't. Our words will add fuel to their fire and they'll criticize harder than before. According to the word of God, by keeping quiet and continuing to do the good works God has called us to do. We know that Jesus was criticized highly by the religious rulers of His day. But He never fought back. Instead He went on doing good works, healing people, preaching, raising dead people, feeding the hungry etc. We have to pray for people who are oppressed by devil, for their deliverance. Devil's primary task is to stop believers their work for the Glory of God and His kingdom. Devil wants to wrap us with the criticism and make ineffective for the Glory of God. He wants to distract and get our mind of the job God has given us. He really wants us to quit.

We can't rest, believer, until we have full assurance of our interest in Jesus. In 2 Tim 1:12 says that "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him." Holy Spirit bearing witness with our spirit you are certified that you are a child of God (Rom 8:16).

Dear believer don't abide no more in the wilderness of doubts and fears. Cross the Jordan of distrust and enter the Canaan of peace, where Canaanites still lingers, but where the land does not cease to flow "with Milk and Honey." (Lev 20:24)

Oh believer, do not think that your sorrows are out of God's plan, they are necessary parts of it. We must go through much tribulation to enter into the kingdom of God. Learn, then, even to "count it all joy when we fall into divers temptations and criticisms" (James 1:2).

## Sevika Sanghom

SWC "A" Sevika Sanghom will be held at Sehion MTC on June 20th 2015 from 9.30am-1pm.

St. Paul's Sevika Sanghom will be held on June 13th 2015 @Church from 10am-12pm.