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**ARTICLES NEEDED!**

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please send it to: Jacobkab@hotmail.com

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

# THE EPISTLE

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION**



**August 2011**





## MESSAGE FROM VICAR

### *Reformation-175th year.*

In the month of August the Church meditates upon the theme 'Reformation'.

The Mar Thoma Church celebrates the 175th year of Reformation during this year. One year celebration of the 175th anniversary of Reformation began in August, 2010 and ends on 14th August, 2011. This celebration was intended mainly to study more about the Reformation movement that happened in the Malankara Church in 1836 so that the reformation will become a present reality in the Church. This theme was studied in the Sabha Prathinithi Mandalam, in all the Diocesan Assembly meetings, at different regions and in local parishes to reflect on the meaning and relevance of the Reformation movement in Church life.

Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus Suffragan Metropolitan says:

“The Reformation event has a very great significance in the identity, vision and ministry of the Mar Thoma Church. This unique event cannot be secluded or distanced to a past history but it becomes more meaningful, vibrant and colorful when it becomes an on – going process in the life of the Church today.”

Dr. GeeVarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa in his inaugural address in the Diocesan Assembly of 2011 emphasized the following thoughts about Reformation:

“1. Reformation was not for the formation of a new Church but for transforming the existing Church for a fruitful living.

The study of the Holy Bible and understanding of the values of the Kingdom of God helped this transformation.

2. Reformation in worship is an integral part of church – life and growth.

Worship becomes meaningful when the people worship God in their own language.

3. Reformation is an invitation for sacramental living.

The reformation – fathers were strengthened by God’s grace and they were able to love God than all material possessions.

4. The Reformation of the Church was to make the Church a community for others. Through reformation, the Church became a missionary Church to preach the Gospel all over India. The mission of the Church is emphasized through its motto ‘Lighted to Lighten’. As Jesus was a man for others, the Church is also called to be a community to serve the World.”

May God strengthen us to become witnesses of the Kingdom of God that is revealed through the life of Jesus Christ as the members of the reformed and reforming Church.

In Christ’s service,

A.P.Noble achen.

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## Bible Quiz

By Mariam Chaco

### Theme: People and their Professions

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was sent by Hiram, the King of Tiro to Solomon.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ was occupation of Amos, the Prophet.
3. What was the occupation of Eleazer, the son of \_\_\_\_\_?
4. The occupation of the two officials that were imprisoned with Joseph was \_\_\_\_\_.
5. What was the occupation of Esau?
6. Simon from Joppa was a \_\_\_\_\_.
7. What did Bartemaeus do to earn his living?
8. What was Anna’s profession?
9. Before God’s call to Moses, what was he doing?
10. Ishmael's skill was \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Queen of \_\_\_\_\_ visited King Solomon.
12. Father of Abraham lived in \_\_\_\_\_.

Answers:

1. Haram from Tiro, who was a skilled craftsman to work with Gold, Silver, Brass, etc.
2. Herdsman;
3. Priest;
4. Chief Butler & Chief Baker;
5. Hunter;
6. Tanner;
7. Begging;
8. High Priest;
9. Shepherd;
10. Archer;
11. Sheba;
12. Ur of the Chal-deans.

## **Important Date to Remember!**

### **Youth Fellowship Regional Sports Tournament**

August 5th—7th

hosted by Farmers Branch MTCYF.

### **St. Paul's Youth Fellowship Summer Bash**

August 13, 2011

MGM Auditorium, Garland, TX

### **Center Yuvajana Sakhyam Meeting**

August 13, 2011 at 10 P.M .

Sehion MTC

### **Diocesan Convention at Regional Level**

August 25-28, 2011

Houston, TX

## **FAITH AND PRACTICES OF THE CHURCH: A Study Series.**

### **Reformation : Its meaning and Relevance.**

#### **1. Pre-Reformation Era.**

St. Thomas, the apostle of Jesus came to India in AD 52, landed in Cranganore near Cochin which was a seaport on the Malabar Coast and started 7 Churches at

Cranganore (Malankara), Chavakad (Palur), Parur near Alway, Gokamangalam, Niranam, Nilakkal (Chayal) and Quilon (Kalyan).

This Church had friendly relations with the Nestorian Church in Persia during 4th to 15th centuries. The Malabar Church was independent in administration under Archdeacons. The connection with the Roman Catholic Church started with the arrival of Vasco De Gama in 1498.

The Roman Archbishop Alexeo De Menezes called the Synod of Diamper at Udayamperoor in 1599 and brought the Malabar Church under Pope. Later in 1653 the majority of the Malabar Christians became independent through Coonen Cross Oath and the Indian Church was divided into two – Roman Catholic and Malankara Church.

In 1665, Mar Gregorius the Bishop of Jacobite Syrian Church of Antioch came from Jerusalem to Malabar and consecrated Archdeacon Thomas as Mar Thoma 1. Because of this connection, the Malabar Church is also known as Syrian Church of Malabar.

When the British East India Company came to power in India in the beginning of the 19th century, the Malabar Church came in connection with the missionaries from Church Mission Society. These missionaries started Theological seminary and tried to reform the Church through teaching the Bible.

#### **2. Reformation Movement.**

Palakunnath Abraham Malpan and Kaithayil Geevarghese Malpan who were teachers in the Seminary were inspired by the Anglican missionaries and started reformation within the Church in 1836.

The main changes happened due to Reformation are as follows:

1. The liturgy of Holy Qurbana was translated from Syriac to Malayalam.
2. Prayers for the dead and invocation of saints were eliminated.
3. Idol worship and festivals in the name of the saints were stopped.
4. Started teaching and preaching of the Bible.
5. Returned to the Gospel message of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ.
6. Cleansed of wrong ways of life.
7. Took up responsibility to be witnesses of Jesus Christ to others.
8. Primacy of the Word of God was given all importance.

*Lectionary/Worship Information*

9. Autonomy, independency and democracy were accepted with Episcopacy.
10. Only Seminary trained were ordained as clergy.
11. Voluntary contribution of the believers was collected to meet financial needs.
12. Church engaged in social process and ecumenical relations.

Due to this Reformation movement, the Malabar Church was again divided into two. The Reformation party were called the Malankara Mar Thoma Church and the remaining party continued as Jacobite Syrian Church. Through the Reformation, the Mar Thoma Church became a Reforming Church and a Missionary Church.

<b>Sunday, August 7, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - English)</b> 9th Sunday after Pentecost (Mission Sunday) Reformation for Mission	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Joshua 24: 14-25	<b>Epistle:</b> Rom. 1:8-17
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Rev. 3:14-22	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 24:44-49
<b>Sunday, August 14, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam )</b> 10th Sunday after the Pentecost (End of the Celebration of 175th year of Reformation) Living According to the Gospel	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> 2 Kings 23:1-11	<b>Epistle:</b> Rom. 12:1-11.
<b>Lesson 2:</b> 1 Peter 4:1-11	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 3:1-14
<b>Sunday, August 21, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana—English)</b> 11th Sunday after the Pentecost Reformation through the Word of God	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> 2 Chr. 34:29-33	<b>Epistle:</b> 1 John 2:3-15
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Heb 8:1-13	<b>Gospel:</b> Matt. 7:24-29
<b>Sunday, August 28, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam)</b> 12th Sunday after the Pentecost Sacrament of Holy Matrimony—"What God has joined together, Let man not separate."	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Gen. 1:26-31	<b>Epistle:</b> Eph. 5:21-32
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Rev. 19:1-10	<b>Gospel:</b> Mark 10:1-9

## Lent

**15 Days Lent: August 1-15**

## BIRTHDAYS

1-Aug	Shiny Mathewkutty	Mesquite	27-Aug	Kurian Baby	Rockwall
1-Aug	Smitha Mathew	Sunnyvale	27-Aug	Kevin John	Mesquite
3-Aug	Aleena Thomas	Rockwall	28-Aug	Jeffrey John	Sunnyvale
3-Aug	Christopher Thomas	Sunnyvale	29-Aug	Preethy Varghese	Garland
9-Aug	Mary Mathew	Rowlett	29-Aug	Benjamin Thomas	Mesquite
11-Aug	Nicholas Koshy	Mesquite	29-Aug	Renita Thomas	Mesquite
15-Aug	Crystal Kurien	Mesquite	29-Aug	Shawn Thomas	Mesquite
20-Aug	George John	Mesquite	30-Aug	Justin B Pappachen	Mesquite
21-Aug	Jerin Abraham	Dallas	31-Aug	Soji Skariah	Garland
21-Aug	Syja Cherian	Garland			
22-Aug	Jeffrey Mathew	Mesquite			
24-Aug	Jiju Thomas	Mesquite			
24-Aug	Thankamma Thomas	Forney			
24-Aug	Varghese Alexander	Fate			
25-Aug	Abey Kuruvilla	Wylie			
26-Aug	Juby Joseph	Garland			
26-Aug	Mariam Philip	Dallas			
26-Aug	Vincent Johnkutty	Mesquite			

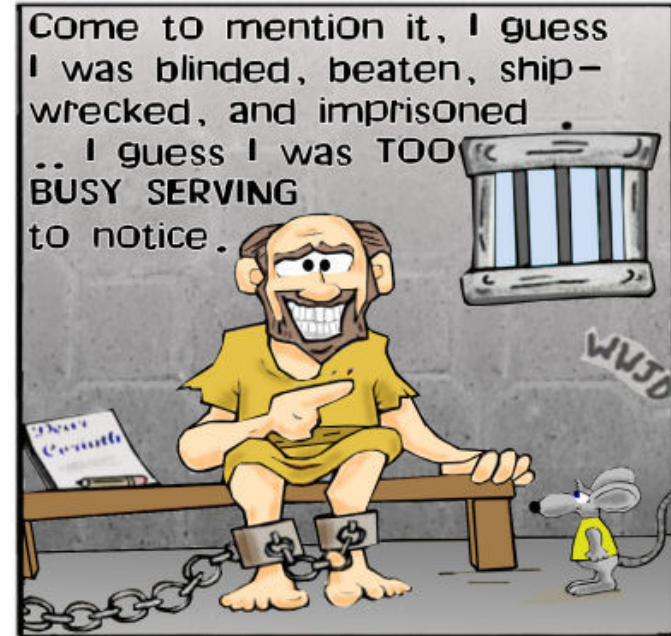
## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

2-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. George John	Mesquite
07-Aug	Mrs. Kezia Cherian	Sunnyvale
11-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. Rajan Mathew	Mesquite
13-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. John Mathew	Garland
14-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. Shibu Chacko	Mesquite
19-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. Raju Chacko	Rowlett
19-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. Varghese A. Varghese	Garland
20-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. Varghese K. Mathew	Mesquite
26-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. Jacob C.C	Garland
27-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. Mathews Idiculla	Garland
30-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. John Thomas	Mesquite
30-Aug	Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Abraham	Garland

## Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

### The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



The Apostle Paul, too wrapped up in his love for God to notice his own problems. THAT'S A NICE PROBLEM FOR LIFE.

#### What makes life so important? What is the purpose of it all?

Our lives are special and meaningful both to God and the world we live in. In fact, we must always remember that God considered our lives so precious and valuable that he sent His Son (Jn. 3:16) to die for all humanity. As such, our life is made purposeful through our Creator who has a divine plan for each one of us. So, our life is not just some meaningless journey on random roads towards an indiscreet end. It's a walk with our Creator God as he works through us to fulfill our potential and his purpose for our lives.

In the Book of Psalms 139:13-16, we read "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...". The Psalmist sings praise to God for he realizes his very life, his very breath was the product of God's divine task. It was and is more than any human act or conception. In other words, our life [body] is a gift from God. He provides us this gift in the belief that we are responsible to use it wisely and for His glory.

In the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 12:1-2, states "offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God..." The gift of life God has given us, therefore,

is not to be kept to ourselves nor is meant just for our own use or pleasure. Rather, it becomes holy and pleasing to God when our bodies, our lives become living sacrifices. That is, in our service and mission to others our lives become an offering to God just as the life of Jesus Christ.

So, life is not made important or meaningful by the material or the exterior things that often attract. It is special and sacred when we realize that this is a gift from God which He expects us to offer unto Him through our love for all people. Also, our life has a purpose and is part of God's divine plan. Thus, submit your life to God and he will work in you and through you.

May God Almighty strengthen us all to understand the importance of life and our purpose in creation!

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

## Baptism Announcement

The following babies were baptized and were joined to the church:

Sanjay, son of Shiju Baby & Salamma was baptized on 9<sup>th</sup> July.

Neenah, daughter of Beji Pappachen & Mini was baptized on 30<sup>th</sup> July.

Nathen, son of Abraham Koshy and Sally Koshy was baptized on 30<sup>th</sup> July.

## *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:**

**Thursdays** - Malayalam Choir Practice sessions for the prior week of Malayalam Qurbana

**Saturdays** - English Choir Practice sessions for the prior week of English Qurbana..