

St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church
2425 Gus Thomasson Rd.
Mesquite, TX 75150

THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



July 2008





MESSAGE FROM VICAR

“No-one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money” Mat. 6: 24

My dear sisters and brothers in the love of our Lord,

It is a joyous occasion for us as we complete 20 years of our life together as a faith community, called to be witnesses through relations of love and fellowship, and commitment to serve the world that God created and redeemed. The journey and experiences of a believer/community should enrich her/their understanding of God. The diverse experiences of life's journey should reinforce a believer's faith and trust in God's abounding love and unfailing providence. The history of God's people stands witness to the 'kingdom dimensions' of the 'scattering' experiences. This is true of the Mar Thoma Church too to a considerable extent. The quality of our 'saltiness' and 'light' (especially in the context of having the motto "lighted to lighten") is to be appraised in the changing scenarios.

The 'St. Paul's Family' history too needs to be critically examined in this context; indeed we, the members have made tremendous advancements at our varying levels. The faith community is perpetually reminded of the danger of 'becoming proud' and forgetful of the Lord God at their lands of affluence (read Deut. 8: 10-18). At the completion of our 20 years on July 26, 2008 every member/family of our fellowship needs to be all the more obedient and humble before God, leaving aside anything and everything that hinders us from our closer relationship with God. In today's market-driven world the very identity of the believer and the Church are transformed in terms of the market dynamics!

One of the themes of this month's lectionary focuses on "Christian stewardship". This is a fundamental faith issue since the believers' relationship with what God created is implied here. Human interventions with selfish motifs of amassing wealth and possessions essentially violate the divine mandate to "till and guard" the 'garden'. Jesus pointed out the ungodliness involved in our relationship with wealth in the parable of the 'rich fool' (Lk.12: 12-21). St. Paul also highlights the dangers of 'love of mamon', "*For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs*" (1 Timothy 6:10). Here the question is of 'Lordship'. Jesus was asking the rich person to be bold enough to break the clutches of his 'love of money' and to assert the His Lordship. This incident is very significant in today's context because that person was righteous in all other respects, but was under the 'Lordship of money'. The Psalmist reminds, "*though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them*" (63: 10b). The widow's example speaks in volumes to us; she exercised 'stewardship' of what she had.

Contemporary 'marketing' of spirituality through "name it and gain it" style 'agents' poses a radical challenge to Christian discipleship, and the perception of 'blessings'. When faith is practiced as discipleship (following Jesus) generation of wealth, and its distribution etc, all become tools to glorify God; that is the realization of *koinonia*. In our 21st year of worship and witness, we ardently struggle to complete the construction of the 'house of the Lord'. Let us all be very vigilant, humble and honest lest we will think that "(our) power and strength ...have produced this wealth for (us)" (Deut. 8: 17). Our new worship place should symbolize our faithfulness to God, and should proclaim the love of God to the coming generations!!

May God bless us all,

Affectionately yours in the Lord,

Koshyachen

Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We live in a society that FOCUSES and tries to exaggerate **only the physical** aspect of our lives. Just think about it for a moment. The **TELEVISION, movies, cartoons, commercials, magazines, etc.** all overly promote the external physique and appearance.



It is as if we are “one-dimensional”, **limited** to the physical alone and the spiritual aspect of our lives, the very aspect that makes us *human* (Gen 2:7, breathed the breath of life in Adam) is neglected! In reality, if we don't cater to our **SPIRITUAL** needs and make special efforts to *grow spiritually* we may NEVER truly be as God intended us - His children in His Image!

That is why **P-R-A-Y-E-R** is so important. What is prayer? Is it *just* talking to God?! Or even just listening to God?! Prayer is a relationship that *binds* us to God. It is when we realize who we *really* are and how without God I can not do anything (St. John 15:5, Jesus said “**Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing**”). It is from that experience that we should pray! So, prayer is really also *submitting* to and **depending** on God.

A little boy once prayed, “Dear God, please take care of my daddy and my mommy and my sister and my brother and my doggy and me. Oh, please take care of yourself, God. If anything happens to you, we're gonna be in a big mess.” We must be **careful** that our prayers don't become “**TO DO LISTS**” for God! That is, a way to get our selfish or self-centered aims accomplished. Rather, *our prayers should be an invitation* to God **TO DO AS HE WILLS** in our lives.

THE BACK PEW - Jeff LARSON



Lord, not my will but yours be done.. but Lord if your will could be my will.. that would be swell.

In the Gospel according to St. Matt. 26:39, Jesus "And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want' ". Although the human desire to avoid the pain and cross was great, Jesus gives prominence to the WILL of GOD! In Gen. 3:6, Eve "saw that the tree was good for food and a *delight* to the eyes...to be *desired*...and she ate". She succumbed to her desire over the will of God. Sometimes we may even do the same thing, give more importance to the physical and to our desires than to the will of God. **So, be careful!**

Pray everyday WHENEVER or **wherever** you are and **trust God** will lead you on no matter what.

I wish you all a HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY and pray God strengthen us to spread the message of true independence in Jesus Christ to all whom we meet. Amen.

With Prayers YBIC,

Jaisen Achen
972-495-5393
214-604-6678

email:revjathomas@yahoo.com

Church Activities

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Regular classes at 8.45am.

Sunday, July 8 - Teacher's Meeting after Holy Qurbana

July 10th - 13th - Vacation Bible School

VBS Directors: Patrick & Pearl

Theme: God's Big Back Yard.

Early Registration fee \$15.00/ person; registration on the day of VBS,
\$20.00.

Saturday, July 26 - Sunday School Picnic @ Sunnyvale Park from 9:00-4:00PM.

SEVIKA SANGHAM:

Saturday, July 26 at 10am - Bible Study at the Residence of Mrs. Susan John

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

Fridays, July 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 7pm - Bible Study at the Church.

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM:

Sunday, July 13 at 6:30pm - Meeting at residence of Mrs. & Mr. Leena & Rajith
K.M. 2816 Sonor Lane, Mesquite, TX 75181, phone (972) 222-3417

PARISH MISSION:

Fridays, July 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 7pm - Bible Study/Prayer fellowships at the
Church.

Sundays 9-9:30am - Intercessory Prayer

MALAYALAM CHOIR:

Sundays, July 13 & 27 - Practice sessions after Holy Qurbana.

ENGLISH CHOIR:

Saturdays, July 12 & 26 at 10 am - Practice Sessions at Church

SPECIAL PRAYER:

Fridays, July 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 9.30 to 11.30am - The residence of Mr.
Raju George, 922 Dandelion Dr, Mesquite, TX.

Prayer Meetings

<p><u>AGAPE</u> LEADER: MATHEW BABU 972-771-1058 TBA</p>	<p><u>EMMANUEL</u> LEADER: MATHEW SAMUEL 972-494-5545 TBA</p>	<p><u>EBENEZER</u> LEADER: ANNA JOHN (LIZY) 972-289-2675 TBA</p>
<p><u>SHALOM</u> LEADER: ABRAHAM KOSHY 972-681-7083 TBA</p>	<p><u>MANNA</u> LEADER: P.P. CHERIAN 972-203-2018 Saturday, July 5 @ 7:00pm Residence of Mrs. & Mr. Molly & Oommen Koshy Saturday, July 19 @ 7:00pm Residence of Mrs. & Mr. Joice & Phil Mathew</p>	

BIRTHDAYS

2-Jul	Felix Cherian	Garland	21-Jul	Leelamma James	Sunnyvale
3-Jul	Christine Susan	Mesquite	22-Jul	Titus Sam	Rockwall
4-Jul	Abhigaill Thomas	Sunnyvale	23-Jul	Sosamma Mathai	Sunnyvale
6-Jul	Allison Varghese	Rowlett	24-Jul	Easow Chacko	Garland
6-Jul	Mariamamma George	McKinney	24-Jul	Hannah Marie Jo-	Garland
6-Jul	Veena Joseph	Sunnyvale	26-Jul	Noah John Mathews	Sunnyvale
8-Jul	Reji Philip Thomas	Garland	27-Jul	Ditty John	Mesquite
9-Jul	Alvin John	Mesquite	27-Jul	Suma Philip	Rockwall
9-Jul	Laly Kurian	Mesquite	29-Jul	Aleyamma Mathew	Garland
15-Jul	Jayne Sarah Thomas	Plano	29-Jul	Mariamamma Joseph	Garland
15-Jul	Jobin P.Mathew	Sunnyvale	31-Jul	Sachin John	Mesquite
15-Jul	Kevin Mathew	Mesquite	31-Jul	Tiju Abraham	Mesquite
15-Jul	Saumia S. Thomas	Mesquite			
15-Jul	Thara Joseph	Garland			
17-Jul	Christy Kurien	Mesquite			
18-Jul	Lijin John	Garland			
19-Jul	Aliyamma Samuel	Garland			
19-Jul	Babu P. Simon	Mesquite			
19-Jul	Sion Mammen Philip	Rockwall			
19-Jul	Susan Kurien	Mesquite			

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1-Jul	Mrs.& Mr. Raju Varghese	Mesquite
10-Jul	Mrs.& Mr. Abraham Oommen	Dallas
11-Jul	Mrs.& Mr. Anil Mathew	Sunnyvale
11-Jul	Mrs.& Mr. Thomas Easo	Mesquite
11-Jul	Mrs.& Mr. Philip Mammen	Rockwall
12-Jul	Mrs.& Mr. Cherian P.P.	Sunnyvale
15-Jul	Mrs.& Mr. Soji Skariah	Garland
16-Jul	Mrs.& Mr. Varghese K. Mathew	Garland
16-Jul	Mrs.& Mr. John Yohannan	Mesquite
21-Jul	Mrs.& Mr. Thomas P . Chacko	Garland
22-Jul	Mrs.& Mr. Sibiu Joseph	Garland
22-Jul	Mrs.& Mr. Joy Thomas	Plano
24-Jul	Mrs.& Mr. Thomas Koshy	Mesquite
27-Jul	Mrs.& Mr. Titus Sam	Rockwall
28-Jul	Mrs.& Mr. Mathew Babu	Rockwall
29-Jul	Mrs.& Mr. Koshy Varghese	Rowlett
30-Jul	Mrs.& Mr. Sam Koshy	Garland

Lectionary Information

Sunday, July 6, 2008 - (Malayalam Service) Christian Stewardship - Tithe Offering	
Lesson 1: Malachi 3:6-18	Epistle: 1 Timothy 6:17-21
Lesson 2: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9	Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30
Sunday, July 13, 2008 - (English Service 9:30 AM) Theological Education of the People of God	
Lesson 1: Jeremiah 1:4-10	Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13
Lesson 2: 1 Timothy 4:6-16	Gospel: Matthew 7:24-29
Sunday, July 20, 2008 - (Malayalam Service 9:30 AM) Ordained Ministry - Calling for Service	
Lesson 1: Ezekiel 33:1-9	Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:1-8
Lesson 2: 1 Peter 5:1-11	Gospel: John 21:15-19
Sunday, July 27, 2008 - (English Service) Divine Purpose of Christian Marriage	
Lesson 1: Genesis 1:26-31	Epistle: Ephesians 3:14-21
Lesson 2: Ephesians 5:22-33	Gospel: Mark 10:1-12

Holy Communion

Sunday July 13, 2009 (VBS)
Holy Communion begins at 9.30am

Sunday July 20, 2009 (Parish Day)
Holy Communion begins at 9.30am

ANNUAL CONVENTION – 2008

WHEN

Thursday, July 17 to Saturday July 19 – at 7pm

LOCATION

Church Auditorium

SPEAKER

Prof. David Abraham (Rtd., Christian College, Chengannur)

PARISH DAY

Sunday July 20, 2009

21st Parish Day of St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church

Holy Communion begins at 9.30am

New Members

**The St. Paul's Family would like to extend out
welcome to the following families:**

1. **Abraham Oommen** Address: 9030 Markville Dr., Dallas, TX 75243
Hansa (wife) Phone. 214 570 0321
Jini (daughter)
Jerin (son) (Shalom Prayer Group)
2. **Sherry P George** Address: 4802 Marina Cove Dr., Garland, TX 75043
Sheela (wife) Phone. 214 227 6371
Shone (son)
Shine (son) (Agape Group)
3. **Sam Koshy** Address: 4409 Marina Cove Dr., Garland, TX 75043
Anupa (wife)
Alen (son)
Aswin (son) (Agape Group)

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. C. K. KOSHY

TREASURER
MR. OOMMEN KOSHY

VICE PRESIDENT
MR. EASOW CHACKO

ACCOUNTANT
MR. THOMAS GEORGE

SECRETARY
MR. SAJI P. GEORGE

LAY LEADERS
MR. BABU P. SIMON
MR. JACOB ABRAHAM

