



St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church

THE EPISTLE

JUNE, 2008

MESSAGE FROM VICAR



"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into

his wonderful light." 1 Peter 2: 9

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

A quest for 'understanding' self, the other or rather 'reality' in its comprehensive sense is what makes human life creative, meaningful and relevant. An understanding of 'self in relations' is vital to the realization of one's worth, role, and the fulfillment of one's existence in the whole order of creation.

The biblical faith and experiences of 'God's call' and the privilege of 'chosenness' are very challenging and significant in this context. A reinvention of oneself in utter relatedness to the fuller and infinite dimensions of existence is what makes 'call' a reality. The Psalmist says "Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, we are his; we are his people..." (Ps. 100:3). The challenge is "Be still, and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10). Knowledge of God is possible through wisdom awakened to the limits of finiteness. It is realized in perfect obedience and surrender, wherein communication becomes communion and worship becomes beholding the glory of God. This challenge is found in the experiences of Job as he reaches the zenith of beholding God - "My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you" (Job 42:5). Also Job is awakened to the limits of finiteness and challenged to 'brace (himself) like a man' and to 'adorn (himself) with glory and splendor, to clothe in honor and majesty' (see Job. 40: 4, 7, 10).

The challenge of the lectionary of this month is to ponder over the theme 'called and commissioned to be disciples' and to live up to the responsibility of the 'people of God'. It is interesting to note the New Testament references to believers as "disciples" (261times), in sharp contrast to the very scanty references as

'Christian'. This is very pertinent in the wider context of the over-assertiveness of organized religions. The irony is evident in the focus of the Church as strong and powerful body with its membership and resources; with steadily vanishing emphases on the challenge to be disciples of Jesus - that is to be students, 'apprentices' and followers !! The understanding of Jesus' passion and the cross is of referential significance to one's understanding of discipleship. The bible exposes the misguided confessions and desires for discipleship, with Jesus himself reprimanding such efforts (see Mat. 8:19-20, 29; 16: 15-23; 19: 16-22). The colonizing mindset revealed in the implementation of the command to 'make disciples of all nations' (Mat. 28: 20) has become a point under severe criticism from many quarters. The 'theology and gospel of glory, and prosperity' is the attraction today! We love many other things with 'all our heart, all our soul and all our mind'; and unashamedly use God to cover up such motives.

The challenge 'to be disciples' and 'to make disciples' needs to be fulfilled through ones utter faith in God and obedience to Jesus who revealed God's glory in his life as a human from God. Jesus practiced the love of God that asserted the worth of every human being. Discipleship begins only when a person is kindled by this love; and it is this love of God and God's creation that sustains discipleship with honesty and humility. So discipleship is the challenge to witness the 'power of god' working in Jesus for the glory of God alone. "Without love we become either fanatics or egoists." God's call and commission is the frame of reference of the Church in this world; and our honesty to the end is that which qualifies for the crown of life.

It is my continued plea that in everything we try to do we should be aware of this sense of call, and what is accomplished should bring glory to God alone. Our Church Construction Project is such a challenge that needs to be accomplished through our honest prayers and participation. This should eventually instill in us a renewed understanding of "God's chosen people to declare the praises of him who called (us) out of darkness into his wonderful light."

Affectionately yours in the Lord,
Koshyachen

ALL RELIGIONS, ARTS
AND SCIENCES ARE
BRANCHES OF THE
SAME TREE.

- ALBERT EINSTEIN

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Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the most awesome and glorious name of our Savior Lord Jesus Christ!

We as a family, thank you all for the warm reception and welcome we received upon our arrival here in Dallas, Texas. We praise God and are excited for the opportunity to minister to the youth of our Diocese, particularly in the Dallas, Texas area. May the Holy Spirit direct our wills so that our ministry together may be blessing for church and community.

Humanity remains in a struggle for holistic fulfillment. That is, the inherent quest to realize and ascertain True Life. Our lives may only be complete when we grow into the character of Christ and submit our lives for the selfless service and ministry of others. Jose Marti, the Latin American political activist asserts this notion in stating, "Humanity is the Homeland...nationalism, at its very core, is a profound sense of obligation to humanity in general." It is this change of perspective that must ignite our Christian witness and mission.

This month we will be meditating on discipleship and mission. Discipleship takes on a different aspect after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus the Christ. St. Matt. 28:19 states, "Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations...". Acts 2:4, "All of them were filled with the

Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability". These verses testament Christ elevating the disciples to a higher state of spiritual maturity, that is, from "Follow Me" (St.Mk.1:17) to "Go Ye"(St.Mt.28:19). They are no longer confined to the socio-political boundaries of Palestine but are commissioned and empowered for the whole world. It is to this experience of spiritual maturity and universal inclusive ministry that Christ calls us. Bishop Archibald Flannigan who dedicated forty years of his life for the ministry of the Eskimos in the Artic region wrote, "In the past forty years, many people have asked me how you could love such uncivilized and uncultured people of primitive practices...I replied, I loved them because of their need".

We, as people of faith, must respond to this invitation. We must strive to make a difference in our Church and society. We must identify the needy of Dallas, of Texas of our country and of our world and love them through selfless service and ministry. And so God strengthen us to ascertain that experience of True Life.

In Christ's Service,

Jaisen Achen & Sherin Kochamma

* Please note the new phone numbers: H: 972-495- 5393, C: 214-604-6678

Thirumeni's Visit to the Building Site



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Edison K. John & Daliya of Garland are the proud parents of a baby girl, Ameliya. Mom and baby are doing fine.

New Church Building Update

Foundation trenching, caging completed, framing is in progress and getting ready for anchor bolt and final slab concrete pouring. As you know that the rain sometimes slow us down but not significantly and able to make up the work in parking lot grading and preparation. Audio/video, stain glass sub-committees are working diligently to recommend the best

contractor so that it will be ready for installation during the course of the project. Site meetings are conducted with General Contractor regularly to evaluate the progress and any other issues reported by our Project Manager and the Core Team. As we resolved in the last General Body Meeting, our prayers and financial support is highly appreciated this time and I urge every-

-by Koshy Thomas

one to co-operate with swat team leaders when they approach you. As St. Paul family, let's work together to complete this noble project for our generation to glorify His mighty name.



Church Activities

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Regular classes at 8.45am.
Sunday, June 8 - Teacher's Meeting after Holy Qurbana
Saturday, June 14 - 3 on 3 Hoop It Up Tournament

SEVIKA SANGHAM:

Saturday, June 14 at 10am - Bible Study at the Residence of Mrs. Alice Raju
Saturday, June 28 at 10am - Bible Study at the Residence of Mrs. Leelamma James

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

Fridays, June 6, 13, 20, and 27 at 7pm - Bible Study at the Church.
Saturday, June 7 - Wal-Mart Car Wash Fundraiser
Saturday, June 14 - Clean & Cut
Saturday, June 22 - Bake Sale

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM:

Sunday, June 8 at 6:30pm - Meeting at residence of Mr. Edison K. John, 4010 Carrington Dr,

Garland, TX 75043

Saturday, June 28 at 9am to 4pm - South-West Region Annual Competition and Kalamela at St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church

PARISH MISSION:

Fridays, June 6, 20, and 27 at 7pm - Bible Study/Prayer fellowships at the Church.
Fridays, June 13 at 4pm - Combined prayer fellowship of parish missions of all Mar Thoma Churches of Dallas at St. Paul's **Sundays** 9-9:30am - Intercessory Prayer

MALAYALAM CHOIR:

Sundays, June 8 & 22 - Practice sessions after Holy Qurbana.

ENGLISH CHOIR:

Saturdays, June 7 & 21 at 10 am - Practice Sessions

SPECIAL PRAYER:

Fridays, June 6, 13, 20, and 27 from 9.30 to 11.30am - The residence of Mr. Raju George, 922 Dandelion Dr, Mesquite, Tx.

Lectionary Information

Sunday, June 1, 2008 - (Malayalam Service) Wisdom and Knowledge - Gift of God - Student Sunday	
Lesson 1: Proverbs 2:1-12	Epistle: Romans 11:25-36
Lesson 2: James 3:13-18	Gospel: Luke 2:41-52
Sunday, June 8, 2008 - (English Service) Environment Sunday - Integrity of Creation	
Lesson 1: Leviticus 25:8-25	Epistle: Romans 8:18-25
Lesson 2: Revelation 22:1-7	Gospel: John 1:1-12
Sunday, June 15, 2008 - (Malayalam Service) Media and Communication of the Gospel	
Lesson 1: 1 Kings 19:11-18	Epistle: 2 Corinthians 3:1-11
Lesson 2: Hebrews 1:1-14	Gospel: Mark 12:1-11
Sunday, June 22, 2008 - (English Service) Discipleship - call to take up the cross	
Lesson 1: 2 Kings 2:1-15	Epistle: Philippians 2:12-18
Lesson 2: 1 Peter 4:12-19	Gospel: Luke 14:25-33
Sunday, June 29, 2008 (Malayalam Service) Apostolate of the People of God - St. Peter's and St. Paul's Day	
Lesson 1: Joshua 1:1-9	Epistle: Galatians 2:1-10
Lesson 2: 1 Peter 2:1-10	Gospel: Mark 6:7-13

Prayer Meetings

COMMON FELLOWSHIP MEETING - TBA

AGAPE LEADER: MATHEW BABU 972-771-1058 TBA	EMMANUEL LEADER: MATHEW SAMUEL 972-494-5545 TBA	EBENEZER LEADER: ANNA JOHN (LIZY) 972-289-2675 TBA	MANNA LEADER: P.P. CHERIAN 972-203-2018 Saturday, June 7 @ 7:00pm Mr. Zachariah Thomas' Residence Saturday, June 21 @ 7:00pm Mr. & Mrs. Jones and Smitha's Residence	SHALOM LEADER: ABRAHAM KOSHY 972-681-7083 TBA
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BIRTHDAYS

1-Jun	Abraham Perumal	Mesquite	17-Jun	Thomas P . Chacko	Garland
1-Jun	John Thomas	Mesquite	19-Jun	Abigail Mammen	Rockwall
1-Jun	Varghese A.	Garland	20-Jun	Joice Phil Mathew	Sunnyvale
2-Jun	Jacob C .C	Garland	25-Jun	Thomas Philip	Garland
2-Jun	John K John	Mesquite	26-Jun	Sherril Ann Raju	Mesquite
2-Jun	Susan SaumiChacko	Mesquite	30-Jun	Annamma Thomas	McKinney
4-Jun	Bassy Philip	Mesquite			
4-Jun	Susan Varghese	Garland			
5-Jun	Amita Elizabeth	Garland			
5-Jun	Kunjamma Thomas	Garland			
8-Jun	Ashish Mathai	Mesquite			
8-Jun	Jenny Mammen	Rockwall			
8-Jun	Lincy George	McKinney			
8-Jun	Subin John	Mesquite			
9-Jun	Joseph Koshy	Garland			
10-Jun	Keren Cherian	Sunnyvale			
10-Jun	Oommen Koshy	Sunnyvale			
11-Jun	Thankamma Thomas	Mesquite			
13-Jun	Michelle Mathai	Mesquite			
17-Jun	Shilu Varghese	Dallas			

RELIGION IS NOT
 "DOCTRINAL
 KNOWLEDGE," BUT
 WISDOM BORN OF
 PERSONAL
 EXPERIENCE.
 - MARTIN LUTHER

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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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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MR. SOJI SKARIAH

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

5-Jun	Mrs.&Mr. Reji Philip Thomas	Garland
6-Jun	Mrs.&Mr. John K . Mathew	Mesquite
7-Jun	Mrs.&Mr. Beji Pappachan	Mesquite
8-Jun	Mrs.&Mr. Jonathan Jones Mathew	Sunnyvale
9-Jun	Mrs.&Mr. Abey Kuruvilla	Wylie
12-Jun	Mrs.&Mr. Anish Mathew Thomas	Garland
17-Jun	Mrs.&Mr. Bincent Jacob	Garland
19-Jun	Mrs.&Mr. Abraham Koshy	Mesquite
20-Jun	Mrs.&Mr. Zachariah Thomas	Sunnyvale
20-Jun	Mrs.&Mr. George Mammen	Rockwall
30-Jun	Mrs.&Mr. Viju Varghese	Rowlett
30-Jun	Mrs.&Mr. Thomas George	Rockwall

"Are you tired of writing Checks?
Are you environmental friendly?
Consider signing up for Direct Bank Draft of Your Monthly Pledge.
For more details contact the trustees or secretary"

KERALA ECUMENICAL CONVENTION

Kerala Ecumenical Christian Fellowship Convention: June 27th, 28th, 29th & 30th (Thursday ~ Sunday) @ the Mar Thoma Church of Dallas, Farmers Branch. For details, please contact Mr. John Thomas, Choir Leader

Address Changes

Mr. Chacko T Oommen (Agape Group)

New Address: 2506 Claymore Dr. Garland, TX-75043

Phone. 214 501 4477.

Dr. Mohan Philip (Emmanuel Group)

New Address: 5160 Pear Claw Ln, Rockwall, TX, 75032

Mr. P. S. Philip (Emmanuel Group)

New Address: 3174 Market Center Dr, Rockwall, TX-75032

