



# St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church

## THE EPISTLE

FEBRUARY, 2008

### MESSAGE FROM VICAR



*"Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but*

*whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it."* (Mark 8: 34-35)

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

The observance of the Great Lent and the Holy Week is very much central to Christian faith and life. It commemorates the events in the last one week of Jesus' life and ministry. The general trend is to project the tragic and painful death (or the judicial murder) of Jesus as the quintessence of the whole life of Jesus, with its connotations of 'vicarious suffering' and the experience of 'salvation'. (An example from the recent past is the discussions evoked by the Film "Passion of Christ".)

The death of Jesus is understood and interpreted in many different ways as it is evident in the Scriptures, and also in the history of the Church. A person's answer to the question, "Why was Jesus crucified?" reflects essentially her/his understanding of the 'Good news of salvation'. It is part of the widely accepted beliefs that the earliest forms of the "proclamation" (*kerygma*) of the Good News were about **"the Jesus whom you crucified"** and whom **"God raised to life...and made Lord and Christ"** (see Acts 2: 32-36). So the challenge perennially continues to understand Jesus and his death on the cross, in 'responsible' and 'pro-life' dimensions. This dimension can be seen in the 'call for repentance and rebirth' which makes possible the new reality of 'life in its fullness'. Jesus him-

self started his ministry with this call "to repent and believe the good news" (Mark 1: 15), and continued this ministry with inevitable confrontations with imperial Roman powers and the colluding religious systems.

The call of Jesus was sharp with its challenge to 'change radically' and to 'follow... taking one's cross' (see Mk. 1: 15, 8: 34-35, 10: 15, Mt. 5: 20, 6:33, 7: 21; Lk. 9: 23, 13: 3, 5; John 3: 3, 12: 24-26). Obedience to this call is possible only through repentance. Repentance is far greater than any simple sense of feeling remorse; rather it is one's own reinvention in a participatory mode with the redemptive love of God. In this participatory discipleship cross reveals the glory of God (cf. John 12: 28-32, 17: 1-4). It is a paradox that this glory of 'life' is revealed through loosing and dying. It is through repentance and rebirth that one comprehends this paradox, and takes the detour through 'ways that lead to life'. **The cross signifies the revealing of the 'passionate love of God', 'passionately lived out' by Jesus of Nazareth, because of his 'passionate commitment' to the divine will and call.**

In today's market oriented systems with commoditized dynamics, cross is often portrayed as of instrumental value and significance. The spiritualization of the self-gratifying pursuits of glory and the aspiration to amass material possessions has taken the driving seat of almost all the religions. The ridiculing taunt of **"save yourself"** (Mt. 27: 40f) is adored as the new motto of the gospel !!

I earnestly wish and pray that during this Lent season every person could meditate and interiorize the cross, and feel the call for repentance that leads to rebirth, and the call for participation in the passion of God in Jesus (cf. Col. 1: 24).

It is with profound grief that I note here of the demise of Rev. C. P. Wilson (43) Vicar of

the Philadelphia Mar Thoma Church. It was untimely in our perception, intolerable for the surviving family, and extremely painful for all who knew him; but for the Master he has completed his job and was found faithful in the little that was entrusted to! Achen was called to rest on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January and the burial service will be held at the Salem Mar Thoma Church, Kadampnad, Kerala. I personally thank God for the brief time of more than two years of friendship and association with that blessed life. I could also join the huge crowd of people and a large number of Achens in attending the wake service held on Jan 26, and could offer floral tributes representing the St. Paul's Family. Achen is survived by his wife, Pracey Wilson and two daughters – Paavana and Praveena.

Dear friends our Church construction works will start soon; it took sometime more than what we expected in completing the formal requirements of the financing institution. I earnestly call for the continuous involvement of every member through prayerful support and sacrificial giving. I sincerely commend the dedicated and perseverant efforts of the different Committees - the members and the Conveners, and the prayers and support of all the Parishioners received so far. It should be our dream and vision to move into the new House of God, together totally renewed by the Spirit.

Let us ardently look to the cross.... Feel the embrace by the outstretched hands with the marks of nails.... And lead lives that proclaim the 'good news of the kingdom of God'.

Affectionately yours in the Lord,  
**Koshyachen**

## God Invented Dancing!!!

By Lydia Thomas

*Why should I think this way?  
Have you watched the tall grass sway?  
Have you ever noticed leaves,  
merrily responding to the breeze,*

*considered a robin's "bob and run,"  
searching for wiggly worm,  
or the dolphins' graceful glide,  
never happening to collide,*

*traced a butterfly's pirouette  
just before it comes to rest  
on a dandelion's fluff,  
still clinging to its ruff?*

*Even the stars of the night  
shimmy and bounce in my sight.  
There's no earthly reason why,  
in abandon, should not I*

*throw caution to the wind,  
cut myself loose, twirl and spin  
raise my arms in ardent praise  
for glorious dance-filled days!*

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*Kingdom of God*

- by Soji Skariah

If Jesus had to use an analogy to explain how to get to the Kingdom of God, it would be something like this:

The Kingdom of God is as such:

It's like a highway with several lanes with all of God's commandments forming the traffic rules.

People drive in different cars, Mercedes, BMW, Toyota, Honda, Kia, etc according to the solemn will and plan of God. Many try to break the traffic rules by speeding, cutting lanes, etc., trying to get to the destina-

tion faster hoping that the traffic cop does not catch them and give them a traffic violation ticket.

In the Kingdom of God, the enforcement of the traffic rules is not done by the traffic cops but they are photo enforced and every single breaking of rule, in thought or in action, is recorded somewhere and it adds to the amount of the ticket.

The only way to resolve the traffic ticket is to go to our Judge (JESUS) and apologize & repent and go on permanent probation i.e. not to get a ticket in the same city (EARTH)...for ever...not 90 days.

The only way to get to the Kingdom of Heaven is to drive in the JOV lane (Jesus Occupancy Vehicle) and stay within the double white lines (teachings of the Bible).

I HAVE FOUND THE  
PARADOX THAT IF I  
LOVE UNTIL IT HURTS,  
THEN THERE IS NO  
HURT, BUT ONLY  
MORE LOVE.  
- MOTHER TERESA

*New Church Building Update*

-Edited by Jacob Abraham

Great news everyone!! The loan has been approved by the bank and we have given a notice to proceed our contractor, Craig Everett Inc. We have been given a response from the contractor that work will start Monday, February 04, 2008. However, this does not mean that we will start seeing activities on the building site immediately. There are still some preparation that

need to be accomplished by the contractor before actual ground work will proceed. So while you may not see heavy machinery or workers on site this week, know that there is work being done in the background. With that said, we do hope to see activities very soon.

Please continue to give you support for this cause through the most important contribution

that you can make, your genuine prayers. Let us continue to keep this project in our prayers

**COME TO ME**

- Contributed by Jaisy Raju

**WHEN YOU ARE HURTING,  
COME TO ME AND I WILL BIND YOUR WOUNDS.  
WHEN YOU NEED TO BE ASSURED,  
COME TO ME AND I WILL GIVE YOU MY EMBRACE.  
WHEN YOU CAN NO LONGER GO ON,  
COME TO ME AND I WILL CARRY YOU.  
WHEN YOU NEED COMFORT,  
COME TO ME AND I WILL WIPE YOUR TEARS.  
WHEN YOU ARE UNCERTAIN OF MY LOVE,  
COME TO ME AND I WILL SPEAK MY HEART TO YOU.**

**ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT IN YOUR NEED YOU ARE COMING  
TO THE ONE WHO CAME FOR YOU.**





## Church Activities

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

Regular classes at 8.45am.  
**Sunday, February 3** - Annual day and Trophy Distribution  
**Sunday, February 10** - Teacher's Meeting  
**Saturday, February 16** - Community Outreach Activity

**SEVIKA SANGHAM:**

**Saturday, February 9** at 10am - Residence of Mrs. Elizabeth Ipe  
**Saturday, February 23** at 10am - Residence of Mrs. Mini Mathew

**YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:**

**Fridays, February 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29** at 7pm - Bible Study at the Church.

**YUVAJANA SAKHYAM:**

**Sunday, February 10** at 5:30pm - Meeting at residence of Mr. Vincent Johnnykutty, 2730 Rio Grande Pass, Mesquite, Tx.

**PARISH (EDAVAKA) MISSION:**

**Fridays, February 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29** at 7pm - Bible Study/ Prayer fellowships at the Church.  
**Friday, February 2** at 10:30am - Basic Accounting Practice Training for Trustees of all Church Organizations

**MALAYALAM CHOIR:**

**Sundays, February 10 & 24** - Practice sessions after the Holy Qurbana .

**ENGLISH CHOIR:**

**Saturdays, February 1 & 15** at 10 am - Practice sessions at the Church.

**SPECIAL PRAYER:**

**Fridays, February 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29** from 9.30 to 11.30am - The residence of Mr. Raju George, 922 Dandelion Dr, Mesquite, Tx.

## Lectionary Information

**Sunday, February 3, 2008 - (Malayalam Service)**  
 Beginning of Great Lent - Transformation and healing

**Lesson 1:** Hosea 6:1-11                      **Epistle:** Jam 5:13-20  
**Lesson 2:** Acts 3:1-10                      **Gospel:** John 2:1-11

**Sunday, February 10, 2008 - (English Service)**  
 Cleansing Power of Lord Jesus (2nd Sunday in Lent)

**Lesson 1:** Zechariah 13:1-9                      **Epistle:** 1 John 1:5-10  
**Lesson 2:** Hebrews 10:1-18                      **Gospel:** Mark 1:40-45

**Sunday, February 17, 2008 - (Malayalam Service)**  
 Liberating Faith (3rd Sunday in Lent)

**Lesson 1:** 1 King 17:17-24                      **Epistle:** Colossians 1:1-14  
**Lesson 2:** Acts 9:23-25                      **Gospel:** Mark 2:1-12

**Sunday, February 24, 2008 - (English Service)**  
 Lord who hears the cry (4th Sunday in Lent)

**Lesson 1:** Joel 2:12-21                      **Epistle:** Philippians 4:4-9  
**Lesson 2:** Acts 10:34-48                      **Gospel:** Matthew 15:21-28

## Prayer Meetings

**COMMON FELLOWSHIP MEETING - Saturday, February 6 @ 7pm, St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church**

<u>AGAPE</u>	<u>EMMANUEL</u>	<u>EBENEZER</u>	<u>MANNA</u>	<u>SHALOM</u>
<p><b>LEADER:</b> MATHEW BABU 972-771-1058  <b>Saturday, Feb 23 @ 6:30pm</b>                      Mr. Abraham Chacko 517 Trail View Ln. Garland, Tx</p>	<p><b>LEADER:</b> MATHEW SAMUEL 972-494-5545  <b>Sunday, Feb 24 @ 6:30pm</b>                      Mr. Jeff Thomas 4716 Yorkshire Trail Plano TX 75093</p>	<p><b>LEADER:</b> ANNA JOHN (LIZY) 972-289-2675  <b>Saturday, Feb 2 @ 7pm</b>                      Mr. Raju George 922 Dandelion Dr, Mesquite, Tx.  <b>Saturday, Feb 16 @ 7pm</b>                      Mr. Mathew Mathai 611 Sumner Dr, Mesquite TX  <b>Saturday, Feb 23 @ 7pm</b>                      Mr. Abraham Mepurathu 1311 Juniper Ln, Mesquite, TX</p>	<p><b>LEADER:</b> P.P. CHERIAN 972-203-2018  <b>Saturday, Feb 2 @ 7pm</b>                      Mr. Saji P. George 278 Brookwood Forest Dr, Sunnyvale, TX  <b>Saturday, Feb 16 @ 7pm</b>                      Mr. Rajan Mathew 4548 Woodbluff Dr, mesquite, Tx</p>	<p><b>LEADER:</b> ABRAHAM KOSHY 972-681-7083  <b>Sunday, Feb 17 @ 6.30pm</b>                      Mrs. Mariam Chacko 234 Idleyld Dr, Mesquite, Tx</p>

## BIRTHDAYS

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1-Feb	Nicole Sam	Rockwall	26-Feb	Maya Thomas Easo	Mesquite	4-Feb	Mr. & Mrs. Easow Chacko	Garland
1-Feb	Gracy Abraham	Mesquite	26-Feb	John K. Mathew	Mesquite	5-Feb	Mr. & Mrs. Babu P. Simon	Mesquite
1-Feb	Ligit Mathew	Mesquite	27-Feb	Cheryl Babu	Rockwall	6-Feb	Mr. & Mrs. Chacko T. Oommen	Garland
4-Feb	Sydni Rebecca Philip	Rockwall	28-Feb	Jennifer John	Sunnyvale	13-Feb	Mr. & Mrs. Ajit Cherian	Garland
4-Feb	George P. C.	Mesquite				14-Feb	Mr. & Mrs. Mathew P. Samuel	Garland
11-Feb	Ritz Thomas	Mesquite				22-Feb	Mr. & Mrs. Ashish Thomas	Garland
14-Feb	Edison K. John	Garland				23-Feb	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas K. J.	Mesquite
14-Feb	Sibu Joseph	Garland				25-Feb	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Mathew	Garland
15-Feb	Thomas Mathew	Mesquite				28-Feb	Mr. & Mrs. Geevarghese Mathewkutty	Garland
17-Feb	Simon P. P	Mesquite				28-Feb	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Varghese	Garland
18-Feb	Johnkutty Mathai	Mesquite						
21-Feb	Joy Thomas	Plano						
21-Feb	Mini Mammen	Mesquite						
22-Feb	Abraham Chacko	Garland						
23-Feb	Raju Mathew	Rowlett						
23-Feb	James Joy Thomas	Plano						

**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

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

**WWW.STPAULSMTC.ORG**

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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

**PRESIDENT**

REV. C. K. KOSHY

**VICE PRESIDENT**

MR. EASOW CHACKO

**SECRETARY**

MR. SAJI P. GEORGE

**TREASURER**

MR. OOMMEN KOSHY

**ACCOUNTANT**

MR. THOMAS GEORGE

**LAY LEADERS**

MR. BABU P. SIMON

MR. SOJI SKARIAH

***BIBLE QUIZ***

- Lizzy John

1. How old was Isaac when he married Rebecca?
2. How many times did Jacob bow as he approached Esau?
3. What was the first commandment the Bible mentioned that God gave to Adam and Eve?
4. Who was the first person mentioned in the Bible as being put in prison?
5. What caused the flood waters to recede from the face of the Earth?
6. Who were the first two mid-wives mentioned in the Bible?
7. How many years did Noah live after the flood?
8. What Bible character fell on his face and laughed?
9. What was the covenant between Abram and God?
10. What was the name of Pharaoh's two store cities the Israelites built?

Send your answers to [jacobkab@hotmail.com](mailto:jacobkab@hotmail.com) and we will publish your name in the March issue, if you answer all correctly. The answers for this quiz will be provided in the March issue of the Newsletter.

