



St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church THE EPISTLE

MARCH, 2008

MESSAGE FROM VICAR



"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scrip-

tures..." (1 Cor. 15: 3-4)

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

Now we are half way through the Lent. I tried to remind about the need for 'repentance to reinvent our 'selves' through a participatory discipleship of taking one's own cross'. This mode of discipleship is a life lived with the living Lord. 'Easter' should be the experience of every believer of Christ in her/his day-to-day life. God raising Jesus from the dead is the symbol of the fulfillment of the hope of human existence. The Living Jesus is the living communication and actualization of the living God's saving grace. It is here that 'salvation' becomes experiential and relevant. Unfortunately for the average religious or pious person it is a question with exclusive future significance!

For a true Christian, salvation is her/his living experience of (comm)union with God in Christ. Appropriation and realization of that union and communion is possible only through one's faith, commitment and obedience to Jesus who is the mediating memory and presence of God. The passion and death of Jesus exemplifies the ultimate obedience in love that became life-giving and salvific. The meeting and experiencing of the power of God in the person Jesus of Nazareth as 'healing and restoring' is to be communicated as the 'Good News'. "God assumes every aspect of human existence, so that it is healed,

cleansed, cured and saved." (Gregory of Nyssa) Salvation needs to be experienced today in 'healed and restored' relationships as the foretaste of the reconciled, peaceful and joyous future (eschaton) - cf. Lk. 15: 11-32; 19: 1-10. In a world with realities of death, decay and degeneration, the resurrected Lord's assurance "Behold I make all things new" (Rev. 21: 5), remains the hope. The fundamental question of Christian spirituality is 'how the life of a believer (and the community of believers - the Church) mediates in continuity, the self-giving 'being' of God revealed in Jesus as incarnate, as memory and experience in today's world of sin and suffering'.

Today for Christians at large Easter is a carnival to be celebrated with partying and other extravaganzas. Demands of the expressions of 'life victorious over death' are the challenge of the day. But life becoming more vulnerable and threatened by 'forces of death' like poverty, slavery, wars, and the rampant threats to nature's integrity, is the grave reality today. We should be sensitive and humble enough to listen to the call of the Spirit of the living God, to turn from sinfulness to godliness and from death to life. It is a call to turn back to "one's senses" (cf. Lk. 15: 17). In our life together as a Family of God we need always to be with our 'senses' to pursue everything that contributes to the building up of the "Body of Christ".

I hope that all of you take seriously the challenge to make this year - 2008, a year of reading the Scriptures. It should be a special challenge to our youngsters to study the word of God so that they may be able to "guard the good deposit that was entrusted...with the help of the Holy Spirit." I really commend the zeal that's in our Youth Fellowship meetings and activities. Thanks to all.

Our Church construction process is progressing well. As we all know it is a great challenge

for us to stand up to its demands and responsibilities. I earnestly request all of you to be very alert and prompt in your financial contributions; and so also to pray for and to actively facilitate with your support in every possible manner for its accomplishment in a blessed way.

It is with a deep sense of appreciation and gratitude that I mention the dedicated services of Nimu, Chandy Achen and family, which we all enjoyed during the last three years. Achen has been serving the Youth of this region, especially of our Parish with real commitment and motivation. Achen is now transferred to India, and we are left with only one more Communion Service by Achen on March 16. I ask all of you to be present on that day when we also plan to give farewell to Achen and family. We wish God's blessings and guidance in Achen's ministry ahead too.

May the indomitable 'Spirit of life' of Easter keep all of you 'alive in Christ' in the days ahead. May God bless us all!

Affectionately yours in the Lord,
Koshyachen

ജീവിതയാത്ര എങ്ങോട്ട്

ഞങ്ങളുടെ സാമൂഹിക വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം, സാമ്പത്തിക വകുപ്പുകളിലും, അടുത്തപുരമ്പുറത്തു വളർച്ച കൈവരിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന കാലഘട്ടത്തിലാണ് ജീവിതം ജനിക്കുന്നത്. "ജന്മമരണമത്യന്തം നിത്യം" എന്നു പറയുന്നതു പോലെ ജീവിത സാഹചര്യങ്ങളുടെ സമ്മർദ്ദത്തിനു വഴങ്ങി പൊതു, പൊതുവേ നാം, നിർബന്ധിതരാകാം. ഒരു വലുത് അറിവിന്റെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പും, കഴിവിന്റെ പരമരൂപം പരിമിതിയും, കാര്യങ്ങൾ ഒരു വലുത് ജീവിത സ്വഭാവങ്ങളുടെ ആഴ്ചയിൽ തന്നെ അലഞ്ഞുനടന്ന് അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ആഴ്ചകണക്കായതിൽ അകപ്പെട്ടു ജീവിതം ഒരു നാൾ, സന്തോഷപൂർണ്ണ പരിപാടിയിൽ കുടിയേറുന്ന ഈ ലോകത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങളിൽ ഹൈന്ദവ വായനയും, ഭക്തിസന്ദർശനം, നാലിടത്തും നഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നു അല്ലെങ്കിൽ അതിൽ നിന്നു അകന്നു പോകുന്നുവെന്നുള്ള സാഹചര്യം സാധാരണമാകുന്നു. "നമ്മുടെ ജീവിത യാത്ര എങ്ങോട്ട്" എന്ന് നാം സമയം ചിന്തിക്കണം.

ഹൈന്ദവ പരിഷ്കാരത്തിൽ വളർച്ചയെന്നും, ഹൈന്ദവ ഭക്തിസന്ദർശനത്തിൽ ജീവിതം 'ആശാന്തം' നമ്മുടെ കഴിയുന്നില്ല എങ്കിൽ ജീവിതയാത്രയിൽ നാം പരാജയപ്പെടുന്നു എന്ന് അറിയാൻ സാധാരണമാണ്.

അലഞ്ഞുനടന്ന ജീവിതയാത്രയിലൂടെ നാം അറിയാൻ പറ്റാതെപ്പോയിട്ടുള്ള വിഷയങ്ങളിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടു ഒരു ജീവിതയാത്രയിലാണ് നമ്മുടെ ഹൈന്ദവങ്ങളിൽ സമർപ്പിക്കണം.

ഈ പുസ്തകം, അന്ത്യഘട്ടത്തിൽ നമ്മുടെ സാധാരണത്തിൽ നമ്മുടെ, സന്തോഷത്തിൽ നമ്മുടെ, ഹർഷമായി ഏകീകരണം, ദൈവം ഒപ്പം!

സന്തോഷപൂർണ്ണമായൊരു

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NEW MEMBERS

PASSION WEEK SERVICES

March 16 ~ 23 - Passion Week
Evening Service Monday -
Wednesday @ 7:00 PM

Thursday, March 20 - Maundy
Thursday. Holy Qurbana @ 7:00
PM

Friday, March 21 - Good Fri-
day Service @ 9:00 AM

Sunday, March 23 - Easter Sun-
day Service @ 8:00 AM

The following families were admitted to the membership of the St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church in the recent past:

1. Mr. K. M. Rajith (Ebenezer Prayer Group)
Leena G Panicker (wife)
Address: 2816 Sonora Lane, Mesquite, TX 75181. Phone 972 222 3417
2. Mr. Bassy Philip (Manna Prayer Group)
Sheela Philip (Wife), Roger Philip (Son), Richie Philip (Son)
3256 N Galloway, Apt. # 703, Mesquite, TX 75150. Phone 972 613 2070
3. Mr. Stanley Jones George (Shalom Prayer Group)
Smitha Mathew (Wife)
1514 Butterfield Dr, Mesquite, TX 75150. Phone 972 279 0060

Let us extend them the warmth of fellowship and love, and wish and pray that together we experience the bliss of the great household of God.

IF YOU JUDGE
PEOPLE, YOU HAVE
NO TIME TO LOVE
THEM.
- MOTHER TERESA

Condolences

Mother of Mr. C. C. Jacob,
(Garland, Agape Prayer
Group) passed away in Kerala,
India on Feb 28, 2008. Our
condolences to C. C. Jacob and
his family during this time of

New Church Building Update

by George Ipe

The preliminary work on the site started on Monday, February 04, 2008 after a prayer by our vicar in the presence of a small gathering along with the contractor. During the first week of work, topsoil was removed using earth-moving equipment and the required site survey was conducted to locate the building site plinth area. The dirt at the building site was removed to a predetermined

depth and fresh soil is being trucked in to fill the site pad layer by layer, and then to compact it by roller compacter to get the desired soil strength during the 2nd week of operation.

Unfortunately, many days of work were lost due to inclement weather on the 2nd and 3rd week of work and therefore, the soil compacting process could not be completed. Once the

desired soil strength is achieved, work will start on laying utility lines and pier drilling and then casting/concreting of the drilled holes in the coming weeks in preparation for spread footings, beams and slab casting process.

Please continue your support for this project and let us keep this project in our daily prayers.

Children - A Personal Story

Contributed by Jaisy Raju

Never did I think that after surviving the hardest trials in my life, God would place a young 20 year old, Nepali boy in my life who I would love as my own son. Raj Silwa came to the U.S. from Nepal on student visa and has been studying at North lake Community College and teaching Physics. While driving home one afternoon, he had a seizure and was taken to Parkland Hospital. They ran tests and the MRI revealed he was suffering from a brain tumor. Raj Silwa was introduced to me by chance and I am so blessed to have him in my life. It only took a phone call for my children (not Joel and Jeslyn) to go meet a complete stranger and within one day love him as if their own brother. This has been a time of great stretching as I've learned to lead and love in my own brokenness and failings. While I haven't always done this well, I can truly say that my children have brought me through some of the most intense trials and loneli-

ness. Though Raj may not be Christian, I am reminded of Christ's love when I see how much my children love their new brother, Raj. I am convicted to remind our parents to "always be grateful" for our precious children because their love is so priceless; nothing in this world can mend a broken heart like our children's hearts can. It never ceases to amaze me how my children have taught me to laugh more, love more, pray more, care more, and most importantly depend on God more.

I thank God for my children and the way they have each shaped my life as instruments of love towards myself & Raju.

Church Activities

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Sundays, March 2, 9, 16, & 30 - Regular classes at 8:45am
Sunday, March 9 - Teacher's Meeting
Saturday, March 15 - Regional Sunday School Conference - 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Sunday, March 23 - Easter Egg Hunt (No Sunday School Classes)

SEVIKA SANGHAM:

Saturday, March 8 at 10am - World Day of Prayer - Mar Thoma Church of Carrollton
Saturday, March 15 - Regional Sevika Sangham & Parish Mission Conference - 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturday, March 22 at 10am - Bible Study, Residence of Mrs. Susan Sunny, 301 Wooded Glen Drive, Sunnyvale, TX

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

Fridays, March 7, 14, & 28 at 7pm - Bible Study at the Church.
Sunday, March 2 - Bake Sale in support of Sports Tournament
Sundays, March 9 & 28 - Youth League Meeting
Saturday, March 15 at 7pm - Bowling

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM:

Sunday, March 9 at 6:00pm - Cottage Meeting at the residence of Mr. Raju George, 922 Dandelion Dr, Mesquite, TX

PARISH (EDAVAKA) MISSION:

Friday, March 7 - Cottage Fellowship at the residence of Mr. John Oommen, 5301 Brookport Dr, Garland, TX
Fridays, March 14 & 28 at 7pm - Bible Study at the Church
Saturday, March 15 - Regional Sevika Sangham & Parish Mission Conference - 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Sundays at 9-9:30am - Intercessory Prayer for New Church Construction.

MALAYALAM CHOIR:

Sundays, March 9 & 23 - Practice sessions after the Holy Qurbana.

ENGLISH CHOIR:

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

SPECIAL PRAYER:

Fridays, March 7, 14, & 28 from 9:30 to 11:30am - The residence of Mr. Raju George, 922 Dandelion Dr, Mesquite, TX.

Lectionary Information

Sunday, March 2, 2008 - (Malayalam Service)

Christ who gives new value to human personality (5th Sunday in Lent)

Lesson 1: Judges 4:4-16

Epistle: Galatians 3:1-29

Lesson 2: Acts 17:22-31

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

Sunday, March 9, 2008 - (English Service)

Christ's approach to suffering people

Lesson 1: Isaiah 40:1-11

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:1-12

Lesson 2: 1 Peter 4:1-11

Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

Sunday, March 16, 2008 - (Malayalam Service)

Hosanna: Welcoming the Savior

Lesson 1: Zechariah 9:9-17

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

Lesson 2: Hebrews 5:1-10

Gospel: Mark 11:1-10

Sunday, March 23, 2008 - (Malayalam Service)

Easter Sunday - Resurrection - Celebration of Life

Lesson 1: 2 Kings 4:27-37

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:42-58

Lesson 2: 1 Corinthians 15:12-28

Gospel: John 20:1-8

Sunday, March 30, 2008

Christ's appearance to Apostle Thomas - My Lord and My God

Lesson 1: 2 Kings 4:27-37

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:42-58

Lesson 2: 1 Corinthians 15:12-28

Gospel: John 20:1-8

Prayer Meetings

COMMON FELLOWSHIP MEETING - None Scheduled

AGAPE	EMMANUEL	EBENEZER	MANNA	SHALOM
LEADER: MATHEW BABU 972-771-1058 Sunday, Mar 2 @ 8:30pm Mr. Varghese Alexander 5609 Kerry Lane Garland, TX 75043 Saturday, Mar 29 @ 7:00pm Mr. Mathew Babu 119 South Lake Dr. Rockwall, TX 75032	LEADER: MATHEW SAMUEL 972-494-5545 TBA	LEADER: ANNA JOHN (LIZY) 972-289-2675 Saturday, Mar 1 @ 7:00pm Mr. Koshy Thomas 717 Dandelion Dr. Mesquite, TX 75149 Saturday, Mar 29 @ 7:00pm Mr. N. Abraham 708 Bill Shaw Dr. Mesquite, TX 75149	LEADER: P.P. CHERIAN 972-203-2018 Saturday, Mar 1 @ 7:00pm Mr. Raju Varghese 1209 Gonzales Dr. Mesquite, TX 75150 Saturday, Mar 15 @ 7:00pm Mr. Phil Mathew 300 Rain Tree Dr. Sunnyvale, TX 75182	LEADER: ABRAHAM KOSHY 972-681-7083 Sunday, Mar 16 @ 6:00pm Mr. Samuel Kurien 2820 Independence Dr. Mesquite, TX 75150

BIRTHDAYS

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1-Mar	Patrick Oommen	Sunnyvale	16-Mar	Rachel Philip	Greenville	2-Mar	Mr. & Mrs. Raju Mathew	Rowlett
1-Mar	Tony Easo	Mesquite	17-Mar	Anil Mathew	Sunnyvale	3-Mar	Mr. & Mrs. Sunil K. Abraham	Garland
3-Mar	Sonia Alexander	Garland	17-Mar	Susan Varghese	Rowlett	5-Mar	Mr. & Mrs. Chandy Jacob	Mesquite
4-Mar	Nisha Mary Koshy	Mesquite	18-Mar	Joseph George	Garland	9-Mar	Mr. & Mrs. John Oommen	Garland
6-Mar	Binu Tharian	Mesquite	20-Mar	Leena G Panicker	Mesquite	10-Mar	Mr. & Mrs. Alexander M Varghese	Garland
7-Mar	Shiju Mathew	Garland	21-Mar	Arjali M Varghese	Rowlett	16-Mar	Mr. & Mrs. Phil Mathew	Sunnyvale
8-Mar	Grace Varghese	Mansfield	21-Mar	Geevarghese Mathew	Garland	30-Mar	Mr. & Mrs. Bassy Philip	Mesquite
8-Mar	Saramma Mathewkutty	Mesquite	21-Mar	Justin Mathew	Rowlett			
9-Mar	Alice Raju	Mesquite	21-Mar	Mathews Idicula	Garland			
9-Mar	Viju Varghese	Rowlett	23-Mar	Sisily Johns George	Rockwall			
10-Mar	Blessy Jacob	Garland	24-Mar	Ligi Babu	Mesquite			
10-Mar	Gracykutty Thomas	Garland	25-Mar	Jamie K Jacob	Mesquite			
11-Mar	Smitha Mathew	Rockwall	31-Mar	Shelby Alexander	Garland			
13-Mar	Crystal	Sunnyvale						
15-Mar	Ajit Cherian	Garland						
15-Mar	Mary John	Mesquite						

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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BIBLE QUIZ

- Lily John

1. In the book of Romans, what was the name of the man who predicted that a famine would spread through the entire Roman world?
2. What was the name of the queen of whom the Ethiopian eunuch worked for?
3. King Herod was eaten by _____
4. When Philip met the Ethiopian eunuch he was reading from the book of which prophet?
5. How many days after Jesus' resurrection did he ascend into heaven?
6. Lydia the seller of purple was from which city?
7. In what city were the disciples first called Christians?
8. Ananias was told to go to a street called _____
9. What was the name of the man who wanted to buy the ability to do miracles from Peter and John?
10. What is the name of the servant girl who answered the door when Peter escaped from prison?

Send your answers to jacobkab@hotmail.com and we will publish your name in the next issue, if you answer all correctly. The answers for this quiz will be provided in the next issue of the Newsletter.

February Bible Quiz Answer:

1. 40 years, Genesis 25:20
2. 7 times, Genesis 33:3
3. Be fruitful and multiply, Genesis 1:28
4. Joseph, Genesis 39:20
5. A wind, Genesis 9:28
6. Shiphrah and Puah, Exodus 1:15
7. 350 years, Genesis 9:28
8. Abraham, Genesis 17:17
9. Circumcision, Genesis 17:9-14
10. Pithom and Raamses, Exodus 1:11

Thanks to those who participated in the February quiz:

Lydia Philip
Marykutty Skariah

SPORTS SECTION

- Lily Thomas

The youth league has been practicing hard for the upcoming Regional Sports Tournament which is to be hosted by St. Paul's Youths. The youth league simulates games by dividing into two teams and playing such other. Given below are the "stats" of such a game held recently.

Location: Crooked Lights

Date: 2/22/08

Player of the Week: Jeffery Mathew

Team A						
	Points	Rebounds	Assists	Turnovers	Blocks	Steals
Ivy Abraham		3				
Renita Thomas	10	10	5	2		1
Shibey	6	9	1			4
Christo Kurian	2	3				
Jim		1				
Christina Kurian		1		1		
Rubin Thomas	12	13	1			
Jeffery Mathew	22	12	2	2		

Team B						
	Points	Rebounds	Assists	Turnovers	Blocks	Steals
Reema Thomas	2	2				
Ashley Mathai		2			1	
Josh Thomas	16	5	4	1	2	
Tiju Abraham	22	5	1	5	2	
Lijin John	8		2			2
Teena Abraham		2				
Kevin Mathew	2	7				
Ribu Thomas	18	16	5	5		3
Jeffery John	4	1				