

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

THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



September 2008





MESSAGE FROM VICAR

“Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God” Mat. 5: 9

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

It is gratifying to note that we together as a Parish could arrange, participate and accomplish commendable things during the past few weeks. I would like to congratulate once again especially our Youth Fellowship and Yuvajana Sakhyam for their dedication and hard work. This should instill in us a greater sense of commitment to higher goals that should bring glory to God. Our genuineness and humility, and honest endeavors for the good of all will be honored by God far beyond what we humans could imagine. As we move on with our Church Construction Project with significant advancements, I continue to plead for your honest, prayerful support at all possible levels.

Now our youngsters moved on to another new academic year, both at the secular level and also at our Sunday School level. It is my earnest longing and prayer that every student shall be able to engage seriously with the ‘texts’ around, and new ‘texts’ and meanings with wisdom shall be produced so that life as a larger inclusive reality shall be fostered. Within the Parish we need to focus tremendously on our kids; Sunday School should be a space for learning far more than what the curriculum can offer. It is in this context that the responsibility of the older generation becomes a challenge to unlearn and learn, and to undo and do. Our life together in faith should equip us ‘not to be conformed to the world’.

During September we observe the *Sevika Sangham* (the women’s wing of the Church) Day. It is an occasion to reaffirm the dignity, rights and responsibilities of women as co-workers of God in God’s world. Sexist understandings and interpretations of the scriptures (of all religions and faiths) legitimize and strengthen the chauvinist traits in peoples and communities. The ‘modern’ understanding of ‘freedom’ too needs to be revisited in this context. So also the fourth Sunday of September is set apart as ‘Senior Citizens’ Day to honor the elderly within the Church. The problems of the elderly people in the society become one with alarming implications in today’s world of enhanced life-expectancy. Understanding the aged in their social and family context, with sensitivity to their historical experiences, is very important.

As part of the lectionary of this month we ponder over the theme ‘peace and reconciliation’. As Churches we move closer to the end of the ‘Decade to Overcome Violence’ (2001 – 2010) which was formally launched in 2001 by the World Council of Churches. The objective of this declaration was to mobilize the Churches to understand and to act against the logic and culture of violence; and to work for peace based on justice and reconciliation. It should be clearly noted that ‘peacemaking’ is highlighted by Jesus as of becoming the children of God (cf. Mt.

5: 9). So the missionary mandate of the Church 'to go to the ends of the world' 'to become witnesses' need to be taken as a mandate to become peacemakers. This is very important in our personal, family and social spheres of life. Our life within the Parish should be a witness in terms of the 'mission of peace and reconciliation'.

May God bless us all,

Affectionately yours in the Lord,

Koshyachen

QUOTE

“WE NEED ATTITUDES TOWARD REAL RECONCILIATION THROUGH A FORGIVENESS NOT DISCONNECTED FROM TRUTH AND JUSTICE.”

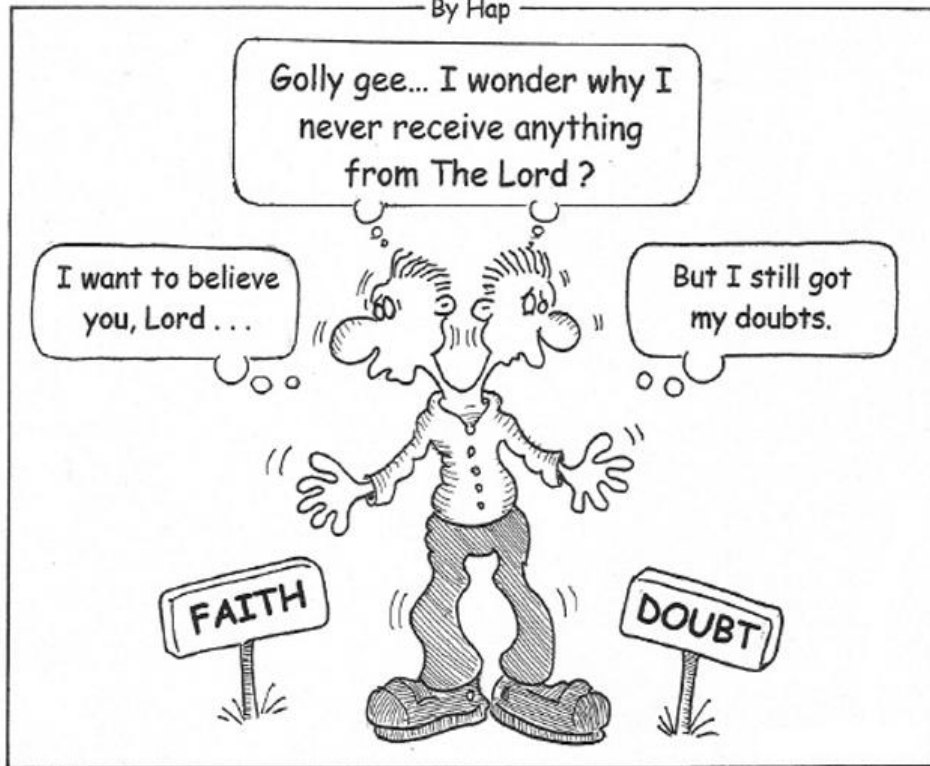
-J. MARTIN RAMIREZ

Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Incredibly Unstable Adventures Of the Two-Headed Christian

By Hap



"If any of you lack wisdom he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord, he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does." -James 1:5-8

What do you doubt in your life?

Don't worry, everyone doubts. Sometimes our doubts may be intellectual curiosity while at other times it may be even personal and spiritual. It is how you deal with your doubt that is important!

God meets us in our doubt

In the Gospel of St. John 20:25, Thomas says, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I

will not believe". And in verse 27, Jesus came to him and said, "Put your finger here...do not doubt but believe".

Thomas did not believe the word of his fellow disciples. Instead, he wanted to not only *see* the risen Christ, he wanted to **touch** Jesus as well. That is, **for Thomas faith was a personal experience**. Jesus Christ knowing Thomas reveals himself both visibly and personally to him and ushers him into faith.

God met Thomas in his doubt! **God will come to us and reveal himself**, the truth, in our doubts too.

Faith is a personal decision

Although, God comes to us in our time of doubt **it is our decision** to either "hear his voice or recognize his presence". If we put all our doubts, concerns, fears and so on into our lives first, we will crowd out any room for belief. In allowing God in our lives or in making that decision to believe in Him we commit ourselves. And the decision is complemented by **reading and studying of the Bible, as well as, building on our relationship with Jesus through prayer**.

It is through that personal decision that **God will bless us and use us to be blessing to others**. It was only after Thomas declared his faith before Jesus and he disciples "My Lord and My God" did Christ use him and send him out to be a witness to all nations.

We may have doubts in our life, we may even be confused at times...just remember God is there with us! **Open your eyes** to see Him, your **ears** to hear His voice and he will lead you on!

May God strengthen us all to grow in faith and be His witnesses!

In Christ's Service,

Jaisen Achen

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214-604-6678

Church Activities

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Regular classes at 8.45am.

Saturday, September 6 - Sunday School Annual Competitions @ 9:00am.

Sunday, September 14 - Teacher's Meeting after Holy Qurbana

SEVIKA SANGHAM:

Saturday, September 13 at 9:30 am - Dallas area meeting of Sevika Sangham at MTC Carrollton, TX

Sunday, September 14 - Harvest Festival after Holy Qurbana

Sunday, September 21 - Sevika Sangham Day. Food Sale is arranged.

Saturday, September 27 at 10 am - Bible Study at the residence of Mrs. & Mr. Susamma & Varghese K. Mathew of Mesquite, TX

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

Fridays at 7pm - Prayer Fellowship at the Church.

Tuesdays 7-8pm - Jr. and Sr. Men's and Women's Bible study will be held at the Church with Rev. Jaisen Thomas.

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM:

Sunday, September 14 at 6:30pm - Meeting at the residence of Mrs. & Mr. Sally & Abraham Koshy, 2721 El Paso way, Mesquite, TX

PARISH MISSION:

Fridays, September 5, 19, and 26 at 7pm - Bible Study/Prayer fellowships at the Church.

Friday, September 12 at 7pm - Combined Fellowship of all 4 Mar Thoma Churches at St. Paul's.

Sundays 9-9:30am - Intercessory Prayer

MALAYALAM CHOIR:

Sundays, September 14 & 28 - Practice sessions after Holy Qurbana.

ENGLISH CHOIR:

Saturday, September 13 & 27 at 10am - Practice Session at Church

SPECIAL PRAYER:

Fridays, September 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 9.30 to 11.30am - The residence of Mrs. & Mr. Jaisy & Raju George, 922 Dandelion Dr, Mesquite, TX.

Lectionary Information

Sunday, September 7, 2008 - (Malayalam Service)
Education Sunday - Church's Mission Through Education

Lesson 1: Proverbs 8:1-12

Epistle: Colossians 1:24-29

Lesson 2: Titus 2:1-8

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Sunday, September 14, 2008 - (English Service)
Peace and Reconciliation

Lesson 1: Micah 4:4-7

Epistle: Romans 12:9-21

Lesson 2: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, September 21, 2008 - (Malayalam Service)
Sevika Sangham Day—Jesus Empowers Women For The Ministry

Lesson 1: Esther 7:1-10

Epistle: 2 Timothy 1:1-5

Lesson 2: Acts 6:11-15

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

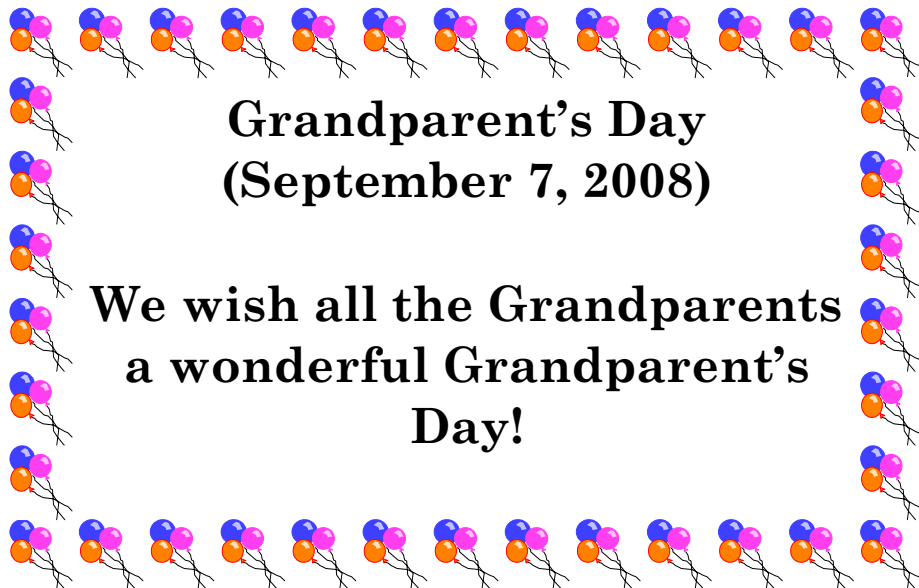
Sunday, September 28, 2008 - (English Service)
Senior Citizens Day - Care for the Aged

Lesson 1: Isaiah 40:21-31

Epistle: 1 John 3:1-10

Lesson 2: 1 Timothy 5:1-10

Gospel: Luke 2:25-38



Sports Tournament

-Stanley Samuel

St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church Youth Fellowship hosted the SouthWest Regional Youth Fellowship Sports Tournament on August 8-9, 2008. All Seven churches from the region participated in this event. All of the youths from St. Pauls stepped up and worked together in unity to provide an enjoyable time to all that participated and came out. Mr. Subin John, Main Coordinator, along with Mr. Jeffrey John, Secretary of the Youth League, did a great job leading this effort. This tournament went from just sports to an opportunity for all to come closer to Christ. Each game started with both teams praying with each other and closing each game likewise. Also, Our St. Paul's Youth girls battled back from the losers' bracket and went on to beat Famers



Branch MTC, the defending 8 year champions in the Final. St. Pauls' Youth girls played the losers bracket with 3 back-to-back games without a break in between games. The win gave St. Pauls the first Sports Tournament Championship! In conclusion, we have realized that all things can be done

through Christ and none other.

"I can do all things through Him who gives me strength." - Philippians 4:13



Prayer Meetings

AGAPE

LEADER: MATHEW BABU
972-771-1058

TBA

EBENEZER

LEADER: ANNA JOHN (LIZY)
972-289-2675

Saturday, September 20 @ 7:00pm

Residence of Mrs. Saramma & Mr. Mathewkutty Geevarghese, Mesquite, TX

EMMANUEL

LEADER: MATHEW SAMUEL
972-494-5545

Sunday, September 7 @ 6:00pm

Residence of Mrs. and Mr. Jeney & George Mammen, Rockwall, TX

MANNA

LEADER: P.P. CHERIAN
972-203-2018

Saturday, September 6 @ 7:00pm

Residence of Mrs. Mariamma & Mr. Rajan Mathew, Mesquite, TX

Saturday, September 20 @ 7:00pm

Residence of Mrs. Alice & Mr. Raju Varghese, Mesquite, TX

SHALOM

LEADER: ABRAHAM KOSHY
972-681-7083

Sunday, September 14 @ 5:00pm

Residence of Mariam Chacko (Pansy), Mesquite, TX

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!**

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