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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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WEB!**

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

THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



January 2009



Prayer Meetings

AGAPE

LEADER: VINOD CHERIYAN

TBD

EBENEZER

LEADER: LIZY JOHN

TBD

EMMANUEL

LEADER: VIJU VARGHESE

Sunday, January 18 @ 6:30pm

Residence of Mrs. & Mr. Mini & Abey Ninan Kuruvilla, Wylie, TX.

MANNA

LEADER:

TBD

SHALOM

LEADER:

TBD

Church Building Update

Currently we are in the process of finding a replacement Architect to approve the contractor's work on the building. This is due to the demise of the Architect of our new building, James Ezell. Let us work toward the completion of our church building by our actions for his glory. We invite your contributions both financially and through your ability, and more importantly we solicit your genuine prayers.

OBITUARY

Mr. James Ira Ezell, 68, of Desoto, Texas (Architect of our New Church Building) went to be with the Lord on Saturday, December 20, 2008 in Dallas, Texas.

A member of the American Institute of Architects. His life was dedicated to his family and his wife Elaine Fraley Ezell of 46 years. His life's work was building churches for the Kingdom of God.

SPECIAL EVENT

Episcopal Visit & First Communion

Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius who took charge of the Diocese will be visiting us from Jan 30 to Feb 1, 2009.

On **Friday, Jan 30** at 7pm Thirumeni will meet with the St. Paul's Youth Fellowship.

On **Saturday, Jan 31** at 7pm at the Church - Evening Worship followed by a Common Fellowship Meeting with Theodosius Thirumeni.

On **Sunday, Feb 1** we will have Holy Qurbana in Malayalam. Ten of our youngsters will become full communicant members of the Body of Christ through the First Communion Service that is arranged along with the Sunday service.



MESSAGE FROM VICAR

"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." Philippians 4: 8

ans 4: 8

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." Ps. 51: 10

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

The dawn of the New Year 2009 brings us a collage of images –the images of war and terror, poverty and disease, despoiled nature, the haunted faces of the ordinary people living with the insecurities of varying dimensions resulting from the 'economic crisis', all completes this collage! The average person's anxieties for the 'New Year' (and for every 'new day' too) are increasing at alarming proportions. That is not a point to be noted amidst the 'celebrations' of the 'celebrities', whether persons, communities or nations. Religious celebrations of the New Year too need to be placed in this collage. Ritualistic observances with sheer sentimental concerns and resolutions that never touch the core of the person are all part of the customary religious celebrations. Mindsets and attitudes of persons, worldviews of religions and communities, policies and approaches of governments, all go without any core change, on the contrary, with added callousness and imprudence.

Paul urges the trouble-torn Church in Philippi – troubled by the 'enemies of the cross of Christ' (3: 18-19), those who preached the gospel with envy and rivalry and with false motives (1: 15-18), and those opponents who intimidated the believers (1: 28-29) – to live a life worthy of the gospel of Christ (1: 27). He also exhorts them to have the same attitude that was in Jesus Christ (2:5). All these are realizable only through a radical transformation in ones 'thought- world' whereby one resets one's thinking to be focused on everything that is true, honorable, pure, just, praiseworthy and pleasing to God. This is a positive change that results in the change in our deeds and words, from negativism to positive and commendable nature, from arrogance and disrespect to humility and respectfulness, from hurtful and divisive interests to healing and bonding efforts. Such a setting of our hearts/minds will transform us to the core. David's prayer before God at the depth of the failure in his life to have a 'clean heart' and a 'new and right spirit' is what made him to "teach transgressors (God's) ways" that will result in sinners returning to God (read Ps. 51: 10-15). This is the challenge before us at the beginning of this New Year – "to turn the 'swords' into

'plowshares' and 'spears' into pruning hooks" (Isa. 2: 4). This is a challenge to every realm of human existence – personal and societal.

The year 2008 closed before us with some parting experiences. Our Diocesan Bishop Coorilos Thirumeni is leaving this country and region after completing seven years of blessed leadership and ministry that enriched all of us. We together as the local Mar Thoma Family could give a befitting farewell to Thirumeni. Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Thirumeni is joining us to take the mantle. Let us continue to remember and pray for those who led/ leads us in the Lord.

The other parting was a painful one to our St. Paul's Church, the sudden demise of Mr. James Ira Ezell who served us in the capacity of the Architect of our Church Construction Project. He was far more than a professional to us; he presented himself as a missionary in his commitment to the special call of constructing Churches. The words of his last sent email to us reverberate, "The Lord is in control". At this hour of the pain of bereavement let us pray that his sorrowing family may also be reassured with the very same words.

As we move on in this New Year it is my plea and prayer that each and every member of our 'Family' may experience that challenge to think on everything that is pleasing to God and live and act accordingly in every possible manner.

WISH YOU ALL A VERY BLESSED NEW YEAR – 2009 !!!

May God bless us all,

Affectionately yours in the Lord,

Koshyachen



"WAR N PEACE"

Lectionary Information

Sunday, January 4, 2009 - (Malayalam Service) Sharing of the Gospel (Outside Kerala Mission)	
Lesson 1: Isaiah 49:1-7	Epistle: Romans 1:8-17
Lesson 2: 1 Corinthians 9:15-27	Gospel: John 1:35-42
Sunday, January 11, 2009 - (English Service) Temperance Sunday - "Walk in Holiness"	
Lesson 1: Daniel 1:1-17	Epistle: Ephesians 5:15-21
Lesson 2: 1 Peter 1:13-22	Gospel: Luke 15:11-24
Sunday, January 18, 2009 - (Malayalam Service) Ecumenical Sunday "Be perfect in Unity"	
Lesson 1: Isaiah 60:1-7	Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-8
Lesson 2: 2 Peter 1:1-11	Gospel: John 17:20-26
Sunday, January 25, 2009 - (English Service) God's care for the Creation	
Lesson 1: Genesis 1:26-31	Epistle: Romans 8:18-21
Lesson 2: Colossians 1:9-20	Gospel: Luke 8:22-25

HOLY COMMUNION—TIME CHANGE
January 25 – Holy Communion will be in English at 9:30 AM

BIRTHDAYS

2-Jan	Mathew P . Samuel	Garland	31-Jan	Mini Easo	Mesquite
3-Jan	Ashish Thomas	Garland			
6-Jan	Christian Ninan Abey	Wylie			
8-Jan	Lydia Thomas	Garland			
9-Jan	Aswin Sam Koshy	Garland			
10-Jan	Mini Abey	Wylie			
11-Jan	Rajith K M	Mesquite			
12-Jan	Ligy Skariah	Garland			
18-Jan	Anieamma Thomas	Rockwall			
18-Jan	Mathew Thomas	Garland			
18-Jan	Pearl Rajan	Sunnyvale			
21-Jan	Jeff Thomas	Plano			
22-Jan	Nirmala	Sunnyvale			
23-Jan	Jaimie Mathew	Sunnyvale			
24-Jan	Ivey Abraham	Mesquite			
26-Jan	Mariam Chacko	Mesquite			
26-Jan	Thomas Easo	Mesquite			
27-Jan	Andrew George	Sunnyvale			
28-Jan	Tiji Sunil	Garland			
30-Jan	Jerry James	Sunnyvale			

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

6-Jan	Mrs.&Mr. Babu John	Mesquite
9-Jan	Mrs.&Mr. Jeff Thomas	Plano
13-Jan	Mrs.&Mr. George Ipe	Garland
13-Jan	Mrs.&Mr. Philip P.S.	Greenville
14-Jan	Mrs.&Mr. Abraham N.V.	Mesquite
15-Jan	Mrs.&Mr. John K John	Mesquite
20-Jan	Mrs.&Mr. Sunny K John	Sunnyvale
22-Jan	Mrs.&Mr. M.M.Mathai	Sunnyvale
22-Jan	Mrs.&Mr. Rajankunju C	Sunnyvale
26-Jan	Mrs.&Mr. Binu Tharian	Mesquite
26-Jan	Mrs.&Mr. Abraham Mepurath	Mesquite
27-Jan	Mrs.&Mr. Oommen Koshy	Sunnyvale

Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

THE BACK PEW - *JEFF LARSON*



**HAPPY NEW YEAR WISHES.. may
God bless you in ways that are
BEYOND YOUR DREAMS!!**

Happy New Year!!!

Is your life full of contradictions? Do you speak what is right and live what is wrong? Isn't everyone like this? Can it be any different?

Contradiction has become the prime basis of our lifestyle and faith. Our words deceive our actions and our actions betray our words. In fact, contradiction has emerged as a culture where resolutions and values have lost significance and relevance.

In Faith, in Christ, in God there is no contradiction. In Christ, we see the complete and uncompromised unity in purpose and love. In the same manner, faith is the unconditional surrender to God in discipleship. In this experience of commitment, God demands decisiveness and action. Jesus Christ reminds us of this in Luke 6:46 where he strongly asks, "Why do you call me Lord, Lord and do not what I say?" Therefore, the depth of Christian faith is not measured in words or actions alone but through a life in communion with God absent of contradiction. This is the prerequisite for true spirituality, unhindered in motivation and pure in intention.

Church Activities

As we start this New Year, take a few moments and reflect on your life. Pray that the lifestyle of contradictions would end. And prepare yourself to commit actions to the words of faith and worship.

May God Almighty strengthen us all in the New Year with blessings and grace so that we may grow spiritually equipped for His service!

With Prayers,

Your Brother in Christ,
Jaisen Achen
972-495-5393
214-604-6678
revjathomas@yahoo.com

QUIZ

- by Miriam Chacko

1. Which Plague of Egypt caused physical suffering to man and beast alike ----
-----.
2. What was the First Great Disaster God that brought on the ungodly ----
-----.
3. Jacob's daughter's name was ----- and her mother was -----.
4. This was the First Miracle performed by Joshua -----.
5. Who was the only Female Judge who ruled over Israel ----- she was also
a -----.
6. First Miracle of Jesus is recorded only in which Gospel -----
-----.
7. Who was the first Apostle slain by King Herod -----
-----.
8. In which Psalm does it say that HIS LOVE IS EVERLASTING 26 Times ---
-----.
9. Joseph's wife was ----- and her father was -----.
10. A mighty man of war who was chosen by King David and whose name was
the name of an Old Testament Writer . -----

(Answers will be given in next month's issue)

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Regular classes at 8.45am.

Sunday, January 11 - Teacher's Meeting after Holy Qurbana

Sunday, January 18 - Sunday School Annual Day and Award Ceremony.

SEVIKA SANGHAM:

Sunday, January 11 at 10 am - Meeting after the Holy Qurbana.

Saturday January 24, 10am – 1pm - Dallas Area Sevika Sangham Meeting at St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church.

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, January 11 at 6:30pm - Annual General Body Meeting at the residence of Mrs. & Mr. Anupa and Sam Koshy, 4909 Marina Cove Dr, Garland

PARISH MISSION:

Fridays, at 7pm - Bible Study/Prayer fellowships at the Church.

Sundays 9-9:30am - Intercessory Prayer

Friday, January 23 at 7pm - Annual General Body Meeting

MALAYALAM CHOIR:

Sundays, January 11 & 25 - Practice sessions after Holy Qurbana.

ENGLISH CHOIR:

Sundays, January 4 & 18 - Practice sessions after Holy Qurbana.

SPECIAL PRAYER:

Fridays, January 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 9.30 to 11.30am - The residence of Mrs. & Mr. Jaisy & Raju George, 922 Dandelion Dr, Mesquite, TX.

LEAD Program

Class on Introduction to the New Testament
January 10, 2008, 9.30am – 3pm at St. Paul's
Mar Thoma Church.