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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](mailto: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 2010**





**MESSAGE FROM VICAR**

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

The year 2009 became part of history and we have stepped into the new year 2010. Last year we witnessed a crucial financial crisis all over America and thousands of people lost their job. Now changes are happening. We welcome the new year with new hope. We don't know what is going to happen tomorrow. We are not sure about the path we have to walk. But one thing we are sure is that God, the Lord of history knows everything and we are in the mighty hands of our Lord. Let us not be anxious because God is caring for us. The Christmas celebration reminded us that God became human in Jesus Christ to be with us as Emmanuel. There is no need of fear because Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

The term "January" came from the name of the Greek god Januarius. It was believed that this god had two heads and four eyes, two of them to look forward and the other two eyes to look backward. When we enter into the month of January, we should look forward and backward that means look into the past and to the future at the same time. We can see our failures and achievements when we look into the past year. So this is the time to thank God for his blessings and is the time to repent about our failures. When we look into the new year, we can rededicate ourselves before God and commit all our ways into the hands of God.

The beginning of a new year is an occasion to take decisions for a better tomorrow. Our great Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Metropolitan gives us few decisions in his letter for all the members of the church (Sabha Tharaka, 2006 December):

- i) Myself and my family will grow up in experience of salvation.
- ii) We will have family prayer in my home everyday.
- iii) I will try my best to attend the Sunday worship service at my church.
- iv) I will pray to God for his grace to love my neighbors as I love myself.
- v) I will keep myself away from everything that brings sorrow to God.
- vi) I will use my time and income for the establishment of the kingdom of God.
- vii) I will oppose all the destructive activities as possible.
- viii) I will cooperate in all activities which help sustain the life.

May God help us to follow these decisions and thus our life may become a blessing for others. I wish you all a happy new year!

Yours in Christ,  
Noble Achen  
revnobleap@yahoo.com

*Prayer Meetings*

**AGAPE**

**LEADER: JOHN OOMMEN**

**TBD**

**EBENEZER**

**LEADER: JOHN K. MATHEW**

**TBD**

**EMMANUEL**

**LEADER: GEORGE MAMMEN**

**TBD**

**MANNA**

**LEADER: ANNIE THOMAS**

**TBD**

**SHALOM**

**LEADER: ABRAHAM KOSHY**

**TBD**

# Recipe for a Happy and Blessed 2010!

By Joseph Abraham

I came across a secret recipe that when mixed and blended properly can make our new year happy and blessed! Please follow the instructions below carefully:

Take twelve whole months,  
Clean them thoroughly of all bitterness, hate, and jealousy,  
Make them just as fresh and clean as possible.

Now cut each month into twenty-eight, thirty, or  
thirty-one different parts,  
but don't make up the whole batch at once.  
Prepare it one day at a time out of these ingredients.

Mix well into each day one part of faith,  
one part of patience, one part of courage,  
and one part of work.

Add to each day one part of hope,  
faithfulness, generosity, and kindness.  
Blend with one part prayer,  
one part meditation, and one good deed.  
Season the whole with a dash of good spirits,  
a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play,  
and a cupful of good humor.

Pour all of this into a vessel of love.  
Cook thoroughly over radiant joy,  
garnish with a smile,  
and serve with quietness, unselfishness,  
and cheerfulness.

You're bound to have a happy new year!

## *Laity Duties*

	Worship Service Assistant	1st Lesson	2nd Lesson	Prayer
<b>Jan 3</b> <i>Shalom</i>				
<b>Jan 10</b> <i>Agape</i>				
<b>Jan 17</b> <i>Ebenezer</i>				
<b>Jan 24</b> <i>Emmanuel</i>				
<b>Jan 31</b> <i>Manna</i>				

## Faith and Practices of the Church: A Study Series

### The Bible and the Science (Continued from last issue...)

#### Question 4: What does the Bible say about creationism?

All religions teach that God the super power created the universe and everything in this world. The Bible specifically refers it. The universe is too complicated to be formed by chance and so a superintelligence is behind it's creation. It is a grand design, but not chance. The physical structure of the universe is exactly what it must be to support the life. It is just the right size that lies at the right distance from the sun. Otherwise the earth should have been boiled and become steam or should have been frozen. The big bang which occurred 17 billion years ago took place with exactly the correct degree of velocity. Otherwise the universe would have been collapsed. The force of gravity must be fine tuned to allow the universe to expand at the precisely right rate.

The structure of atom is wondrous. It contains proton and neutron. Neutron is heavier than proton and hence it can decay into proton. If protons were heavier, it would have been decayed into neutron in which case life will not be possible because proton is hydrogen which is essential for life. The human species have 23 pairs of chromosomes in the nucleus of a cell. There are about thirty thousand genes present in chromosomes. The gene contains DNA (DeoxyriboNucleic Acid) which is the language of life. There are no physical laws capable of creating a structure like DNA. It is God who created human body which is a wonder and mystery. For the big band to happen, a vast amount of energy must have been required and God is the source of that energy.

#### Question 5: How far the scientific theories are accurate?

Scientific theories are changeable. Old theories may be abandoned if they are proved to be wrong. Science has it's own limitations and it cannot explain all phenomena of the universe. There are contradictions within the scientific theories. Some of them are as follows:

- i) Science has divided atom into electron, proton, and neutron. They are again divided into quarks, then quarks into superstrings and superstrings into bozone particles. But science could not explain where the bozon particles came from. So it is called GOD particle.
- ii) In 1993, a scientist named Kraus found that the cosmic egg which was exploded in big bang had a weight of  $8 \times 10^{25}$  tons. Science could not explain where it came from.
- iii) A vast energy must have been required for big bang and science could not explain the source of this energy.
- iv) Science says that to every effect there is a cause. But it could not explain the cause of the formation of the universe in the beginning.
- v) The scientific law of conservation of angular momentum states that anything that moves in a circular path cannot move in a linear path. On the other side science says that the particles moved in a linear path started moving in circular path around the sun to form solar system. It is a contradiction.
- vi) Science says that in the beginning life was formed by chemical reaction of lightening with water. But Louis Pasteur said that life can come out only from another living thing.
- vii) The age of the earth was calculated on the basis of time taken from uranium to become lead in rocks. But this rate of change may not be same for all times. Dr.

*Lectioary/Worship Information*

- Auston, the scientist discovered in 1992 that lava comes from volcano can make an increase in the rate of change from uranium to lead. Also it is impossible to find out how many rocks were lead and how many were thorium in the beginning.
- viii) Dr. Barnes who made study about the magnetic power of the earth says that the earth cannot have an age of more than twenty thousand years because if it is more than that the high temperature inside the earth could have separated the upper part of the earth from the inner part
  - ix) It was believed that the thickness of dust on the moon was 16.15 meters and thus the moon is very old. But those who went to the moon discovered that the thickness of dust is only 0.5 meters. It means the moon is not so old.
  - x) Science says that the sun's size is decreasing by five feet per hour. If so we have to imagine a very big sun five billion years and because of it's high heat, the earth would have been dissolved.
  - xi) Science could not find out fossils of the transmission period between two species.
  - xii) According to the evolution theory, man is the latest species in the chain of evolution. If so man should have maximum number of genes. But it is discovered that the rice plant has more genes than that in human beings.

**Question 6: Which are the scientific facts recorded in the bible?**

Though Bible is not a scientific book, so many scientific facts which were invented later are recorded in the Bible. Some of them are given below:

- i) Magellan and Columbus discovered that the earth is round in shape in 16<sup>th</sup> century AD. But in Bible we read it in Isaiah 40:20.
- ii) Sir Issac Newton discovered the gravitational force of earth in 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Bible says that the earth is hanging up on nothing (Job 26:7).
- iii) Toricelli found in 1643 AD that the air has weight (Job 28:25).
- iv) Galileo said that the stars are countless (Gen 15:5; Jer 33:22; Ps 147:4-5).
- v) The earth is rotating (Job 38:14).
- vi) Louis Pasteur said that life can be formed only from living beings. The Bible says that the living God created everything (Gen 2:7).
- vii) Dr. Harvey discovered in 1628 AD that life exists in blood (Lev 17:11).
- viii) Certain species cause diseases (Exo 15:26; Lev 11:29-36; Deut 23:12-14).
- ix) Certain diseases are contagious (Lev 13:14).
- x) Dr. Crawford W. Long discovered anesthesia in 1842 AD. But in Bible God made it (Gen 2:21-22).
- xi) Human body is marvelous and a wonder (Ps 139:14).
- xii) Human body and dust contain same elements such as calcium, phosphorous, potassium, sodium, magnesium, iron, oxygen, chlorine, carbon, hydrogen, and sulfur (Gen 2:7; 3:14; 3:19; Eccl 12:7).
- xiii) Wind is movement of air (Eccl 1:6).
- xiv) Process of raining (Eccl 1:7; Job 36:27-29).
- xv) Isaac Newton discovered the nuclear explosion in 1900 AD and it is seen in Bible (2 Pet 3:10-12)
- xvi) Perfect measures of an arch is recorded in Bible (Gen 6:15).

<b>Sunday, January 3, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana - English)</b> Outside Kerala Mission Sunday Proclamation of Truth		
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Isa 56:1-8		<b>Epistle:</b> Eph 4:25-32
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Acts 17:16-31		<b>Gospel:</b> John 12:20-26
<b>Sunday, January 10, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam )</b> Temperance Sunday Jesus who Liberates		
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Prov 23:19-24		<b>Epistle:</b> Gal 5:16-21
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Eph 5:1-11		<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 15:11-32
<b>Sunday, January 17, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana - English )</b> Ecumenism Sunday Unity at the Local Level		
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Isa 60:1-7		<b>Epistle:</b> 2 Pet 1:1-11
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Eph 4:1-8		<b>Gospel:</b> John 17:20-26
<b>Sunday, January 24, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana - English)</b> Call for Christian Discipleship		
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Isa 42:1-7		<b>Epistle:</b> 1 Pet 4:12-19
<b>Lesson 2:</b> 2 Tim 2:1-13		<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 14:25-33
<b>Sunday, January 31, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam)</b> Fall of Creation		
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Gen 3:1-15		<b>Epistle:</b> Rom 5:12-19
<b>Lesson 2:</b> James 3:1-12		<b>Gospel:</b> John 3:1-16

**Worship Change Notice**

Starting from January 2010, Holy Qurbana English Services will be held on First and Third Sundays.

## ***BIRTHDAYS***

2-Jan	Mathew P . Samuel	Garland	28-Jan	Tiji Sunil	Garland
3-Jan	Ashish Thomas	Garland	30-Jan	Jerry James	Sunnyvale
6-Jan	Christian Abey	Wylie	31-Jan	Mini Easo	Mesquite
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			
20-Jan	Jordan Mathew	Plano			
20-Jan	Justin Mathew	Plano			
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			

## ***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.	Rockwall
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

- xvii) Human beings traveling in space and reaching other planets (Obed 1:4).
  - xviii) Satellites make possible to see an event at same time all over the world (Rev 11:9).
  - xix) Computer makes possible to make identity numbers for all people in the world (Rev 13:16).
  - xx) The sun and other stars will lose their light after billion of years (Rev 8:12).
- Even though we read these scientific facts in the Bible, we cannot use the Bible as a scientific book because it was written for religious purpose.

Note: This topic will be continued in next issue.

## **The Power of God is in HIS name**

**Contributed by Mariam Chacko**

Ephesians 3:15 says that the whole body of Christ has been named after HIM both in heaven and earth. Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by HIM (Col. 3:17)

Just imagine about who you are named after:

“Jesus, Mighty God, Wisdom, Deliverer, Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Word of Life, Advocate, Provider, The Great I am, Helper, Savior, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Lamb of God, Lord of Hosts, Root of David, Author & Finisher of our Faith, The Healer, The Way, Son of God, The Truth, Chief Cornerstone, King of Kings, Light of the World, Good Shepherd, Righteous Judge, Resurrection and Life, The Alpha and Omega.”

Praise God, those names will cover any need, you'll ever have.

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Thomas Mathew  
Mini Mathew  
Joshua Mathew  
Justin Mathew  
Jordan Mathew

1636 Craig Dr.  
Plano TX 75023  
870-926-1228

## Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



### Happy New Year!

**“This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to recite it day and night, so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do. Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:8,9)**

The New Year is an exciting time when we all look forward to a fresh start with a promise to live anew in the year ahead. As we begin our journey this year, let us daily resolve to grow deeper in Christ.

In the passage above, God instructs Joshua as to his life and future. Joshua was about to succeed Moses in serving God and leading the people of Israel into the Promised Land. Joshua hears and accepts the call of God and commits his life to His service. In response, the promise of God is two-fold in that the daily meditation of the Word of God (book of instruction) will strengthen for success and the presence of God shall be actively abiding.

As we enter into the New Year, remember that true success and strength in life begins with our commitment to the will of God. Just as Joshua, we may not know the trials that await us in the New Year. Yet, we must be firm in our faith and commitment so that we may overcome and truly experience the empowering presence of God always.

So, don't let this year just slide by! Repent and move towards a deeper relationship with Christ, Revive and feel His powerful presence embrace you and Represent His love to the world!

Here are 3 helpful tips for the New Year:

**Pray and Study the Bible regularly.** You may not know what the future holds, but God does. God promises that if you will ask Him, He will show you things that you could never figure out on your own. (Jer.33:3)

**Goal Setting.** Write out exactly what it is you are planning for.

**Prioritizing.** You can't keep your priorities if you don't have any. Putting things in order will help you plan for and accomplish the most important things first.

May God Almighty bless us all to grow deeper in Christ throughout the coming year and witness Him to the world!

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

## Church Organizational Activities

### SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Regular classes at 8.45am.

### SEVIKA SANGHAM:

TBD

### YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

**Tuesdays** - Bible Study with Rev. Jaisen Thomas

**Thursdays** - Prayer Call

**Fridays** - Prayer Fellowship -

### YUVAJANA SAKHYAM:

TBD

### PARISH MISSION:

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

**Sundays** at 9-9:30am - Intercessory Prayer

### CHOIR:

**Sundays** - Practice sessions after Holy Qurbana.

### SPECIAL PRAYER:

**Fridays** from 9.30 to 11.30am - The residence of Mrs. & Mr. Jaisy & Raju George, 922 Dandelion Dr, Mesquite, TX.