

ST. PAUL'S MAR THOMA CHURCH
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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!**

WWW.STPAULSMTC.ORG

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St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church
1002 Barnes Bridge Rd.
Mesquite, TX 75150

THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



February 2012



MESSAGE FROM VICAR



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

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The month of February is important to the Church because of two reasons – (i). Maramon Convention & (ii). Beginning of the 50 days Great

Lent.
1. Maramon Convention.

117th Maramon Convention is going to be held from 12th to 19th February. The main theme of meditation in the Convention for this year is “ARISE LET US GO FORWARD”. This Convention has great impact and relevance in the history of the MarThoma Church. After the Reformation of the Malankara Church in 1836 by Abraham Malpan, the MarThoma Church had to face a lot of difficulties and hardships. Through Reformation our Church became a Missionary Church. The MarThoma Evangelistic Association was formed in 1888 with the vision of preaching the Gospel all over India. Maramon Convention was started in 1895 under this organization.

The Maramon Convention kept the ‘spirit of Reformation’ alive and acted as a catalyst for the ‘revivals’ in Kerala. This Convention has a special place in the growth and nurture of the Reformation ideals and thus the MarThoma community. So it can be called the “nursery” of the MarThoma Church. This was a place for all believers to meet together, to hear the Word of God and to get a vision of mission. It is from there people have gone far wide who dedicated their lives for the mission. It was a place from where Organizations of the Church have been born. Rev. T. Walker, Dr. E. Stanley Jones, Dr. Kagawa and Sadhu Sunder Singh were some of the world famous preachers who inspired the believers through this convention. Let us pray that the Convention of this year also may become a time of revival for the Church and the World.

2. The Great Lent.

50 days Great Lent begins on 19th February. The Lents are special time for spiritual disciplines. There are mainly five Lents in eastern tradition ranging from 3, 13, 15, 25 and 50 days. The Lents are observed with special time for meditation and devotion. The Lent focus on different aspects of the life of Christ in the World. It is the collective celebration of the Church. Lent is an affirmation of eternal life over this material life. Fasting is generally accompanied with Lent. Fasting is a spiritual discipline. It is the time for serious reflection, self-examination and renewed commitment with meditating the Word of God, prayer and fasting. It is the time of great fellowship with God and transformation of our life. Some restrictions regarding food may be observed as self-imposed discipline which would facilitate concentration, a feeling of deep concern for the hungry and poor and a real sense of self-denial. Observing the 50 days Great Lent will help us to participate in the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May God guide and strengthen us to participate in His Mission in this World. As the parish let us be a worshipping, witnessing and caring community.

Yours In Christ`s service,
A.P.Noble achen.
Email: revnobleap@yahoo.com
Ph: 469-964-7494.

Birth Announcement

Rev. Biju P. Simon is blessed with a baby boy named ‘Eben’.

Mr. Varughese A. Varughese was blessed with a Grandson, Elijah Varughese, on February 4, 2012

Cash Flow - YTD
1/1/2012 through 2/4/2012
Category Description 1/1/2012- 2/4/2012

INFLOWS	
Building Fund	
Rent from Leasing	\$ 1,077.92
TOTAL Building Fund	\$ 1,077.92
Donations	
General	\$ 389.00
Other Donations	\$ 520.76
TOTAL Donations	\$ 909.76
Offertory	
Birthday	\$ 951.00
General Offertory	\$ 1,533.00
Wedding Anniversary	\$ 830.00
Other Offertory	\$ 58.00
TOTAL Offertory	\$ 3,372.00
Other Income	
Church Facilities	\$ 300.00
TOTAL Other Income	\$ 300.00
Pledge	\$ 16,465.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	\$ 22,124.68

OUTFLOWS	
1002 Barnes Inspection	\$ 140.00
Building Project Expenses	
Pews	\$ -
TOTAL Building Project Expenses	\$ -
Building REPAIR	\$ 5,750.00
Church	
Cleaning and Janitorial Service	\$ 300.00
Coffee, Refreshments, etc	\$ 238.10
Electricity	\$ 2,511.90
Mortgage	\$ 9,815.11
Printing & Stationery	\$ 196.42
Property Insurance	\$ 1,122.00
Vicar's Salary	\$ 4,071.00
TOTAL Church	\$ 18,254.53
Cleaning Supplies	\$ 12.98
Parsonage	
Internet & Cable	\$ 30.07
Lone Star Gas	\$ 151.02
Telephone and Cellphone	\$ 147.28
Utilities (Elec, Water, Garbage)	\$ 149.92
TOTAL Parsonage	\$ 478.29
Retreat 2012	\$ 250.00
Travel	\$ 3,900.00
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	\$ 28,785.80

OVERALL TOTAL -6,661.12

Lectioary/Worship Information

Sunday, February 5, 2012 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam 10:15 AM)

Medical Mission Sunday

Healing to the Nation and People

Lesson 1: 2 Kings 2:19-22

Epistle: 2 Cor. 12:7-10

Lesson 2: Rev 22:1-7

Gospel: Mark 5:25-34

Sunday, February 12, 2012 - (Holy Qurbana - English 10:15 AM)

117th Maramon Convention Begins

'Arise Let us go forward.'

Lesson 1: Joshua 6:12-20

Epistle: Rom 13:11-14

Lesson 2: Rev. 22:5-17

Gospel: Mark 14:32-42

Sunday, February 19, 2012 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam 10:15 AM)

Beginning of the Great Lent (Pethurtha)

Lent is for the Formation and Transformation of Life

Lesson 1: Job 1:1-5

Epistle: 2 Cor. 5:16-21

Lesson 2: Rom. 12:1-15

Gospel: John 2:1-11

Sunday, February 26, 2012 - (Holy Qurbana - English 10:15 AM)

Second Sunday in Lent

The Compassion of the Lord

Lesson 1: 2 Kings 5:1-16

Epistle: Acts 5:12-16

Lesson 2: James 2:1-10

Gospel: Luke 5:12-16

Welcome to the New Member:

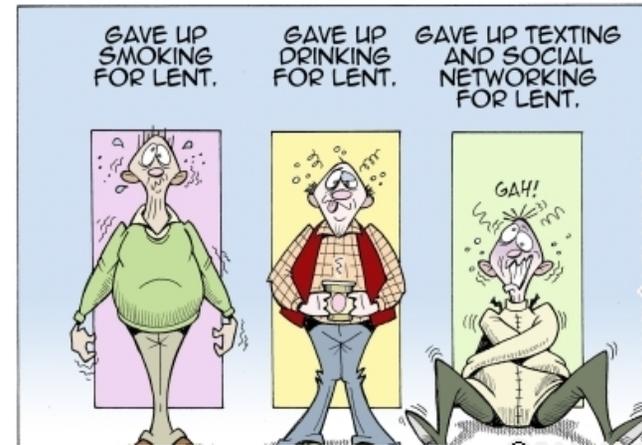
Mr. Rinu Thomas, husband of Kezia Cherian.
316 Stone Ridge
Sunnyvale, TX-75182.

Welcome to the New Family:

Shibu Thomas Mathai and Lisa
6405 Fallbrook Dr.,
Garland, TX-75043.
Ph: 214-771- 8196.
Email: sdotmathai@gmail.com

Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



HAPPY LENTing! Take a moment to read this article and prepare yourself for the amazing journey to Easter!

Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter when Christians sought to purge their lives of anything that hindered their devotion to Christ. By observing the 50 days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness. A common practice associated with Lent over the centuries had been the act of fasting or self-denial. The most common form of fasting during Lent is fasting from food, of which there are many variations such as abstaining from meat or omitting an item or two from your diet that you are accustomed to eating daily. The idea is that every time you get an appetite for one of these items, you are reminded of your fast, which prompts you to embrace the spiritual significance of the season. In essence, your hunger pains serve as that which draws your attention to Christ.

Some people are more creative with their form of Lenten self-denial. Giving up television is a common alternative or a "Facebook Fast". Some churches stirred up controversy by deciding to go on a "Carbon Fast," a 40-day period (for certain churches) of reducing the amount of greenhouse gases they produce in an effort to tackle climate change and in living out their call as "stewards" of the earth. Roman Catholic bishops in Italy are urging the faithful to go on a high-tech fast for Lent. I wonder what Jesus would think of all our inventive Lenten practices. One thing I know for sure is that Jesus desires our freedom. Jesus said his mission was to set captives free, and that knowing the truth would set us free. I know a lot of Christians who are knowledgeable, zealous, moral, and dis-

ciplined, but who are not free. There is always some inner malady or life circumstance disturbing their peace, stealing their happiness, diminishing their worth, disconnecting them from love, or filling them with fear and anxiety.

Why not develop a new pattern in your life during the season of Lent? For the remainder of Lent, deny that voice in your head. The voice gets you striving after possessions, money, beauty, success, status, power, recognition, or a special relationship. It promises as a result that you will feel better about yourself, feel complete and loved and worthy, and be happy. What the voice doesn't bother telling you is that it's a bottomless hole you are trying to fill. As long as that voice is running your life, you will never be at peace or fulfilled except for those fleeting moments when you briefly obtain what you wanted before realizing it's not enough, and you need and crave more.

What would it be like to be free? Free from the emotional baggage that sabotages your life, free from that static anxiety that interferes with enjoying the moment, free to be yourself, free to be at peace regardless of your circumstances, and free of all the self-conscious preoccupations constantly ricocheting around in your head. Jesus never promised we'd be rich or that our lives would be void of difficulties and hardships, but he did say we could be free. Paul wrote in Galatians, "Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you." I can think of no better Lenten practice for embracing the significance of Jesus Christ then to take our stand in freedom. Sometimes the person who is putting "a harness of slavery on you" is yourself. Paul admonished in 2 Corinthians to "take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."

What if our Lenten practice was to deny every thought floating around in our heads and hearts that compromises the freedom Christ wants for us? What if we took advantage of the Lent season to give up every idea we have that opposes freedom and embrace the truth that offers peace in whatever situation we find ourselves in? Freedom in Christ means nothing can affect or restrict your experience of love, peace, fulfillment, and contentment because these spiritual qualities emanate from the presence of Christ within you. In every moment, those spiritual realities are alive within you and available to you without condition.

May God Almighty strengthen you this Lenten season to know true freedom in Christ!

Your brother in Christ,
Jaisen Achen 214-604-6678

BIRTHDAYS

1-Feb	Twinkle Toby Philip	Mesquite	23-Feb	Jaiden Bincent	Garland
1-Feb	Gracy Abraham	Mesquite	26-Feb	John K.Mathew	Mesquite
1-Feb	Ligit Mathew	Mesquite	26-Feb	Maya Thomas Easow	Mesquite
4-Feb	P.C.George	Mesquite	27-Feb	Cheryl Babu	Rockwall
4-Feb	Sydni Rebecca Philip	Rockwall	27-Feb	Ruben Reji John	Garland
5-Feb	Alex Sam koshy	Garland	28-Feb	Jennifer John	Sunnyvale
8-Feb	Stan Philip	Sunnyvale			
11-Feb	Ritz Thomas	Mesquite			
11-Feb	Bindu Reji	Garland			
14-Feb	Edison K.John	Garland			
14-Feb	Neethu Manu	Garland			
14-Feb	Sibu Joseph	Garland			
15-Feb	Thomas Mathew(Valson)	Mesquite			
17-Feb	P.P.Simon	Garland			
18-Feb	Johnkutty Mathai	Mesquite			
21-Feb	Mini Mammen	Mesquite			
23-Feb	James Joy Thomas	Plano			
23-Feb	Raju Mathew	Rowlette			
23-Feb	Ritika Grace Reji	Garland			

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

4-Feb	Mrs. & Mr. Easow Chacko	Garland
6-Feb	Mrs. & Mr. Chacko T Oommen	Garland
6-Feb	Mrs. & Mr. Babu P. Simon	Mesquite
13-Feb	Mrs. & Mr. Ajit Cherian	Garland
14-Feb	Mrs. & Mr. Mathew P . Samuel	Garland
22-Feb	Mrs. & Mr. Ashish Thomas	Garland
23-Feb	Mrs. & Mr. Thomas K. J	Mesquite
25-Feb	Mrs. & Mr. Thomas Mathew	Garland
28-Feb	Mrs. & Mr. Joseph Varghese A.	Garland
28-Feb	Mrs. & Mr. Geevarghese Mathew	Garland