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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

**WE'RE ON THE  
WEB!**

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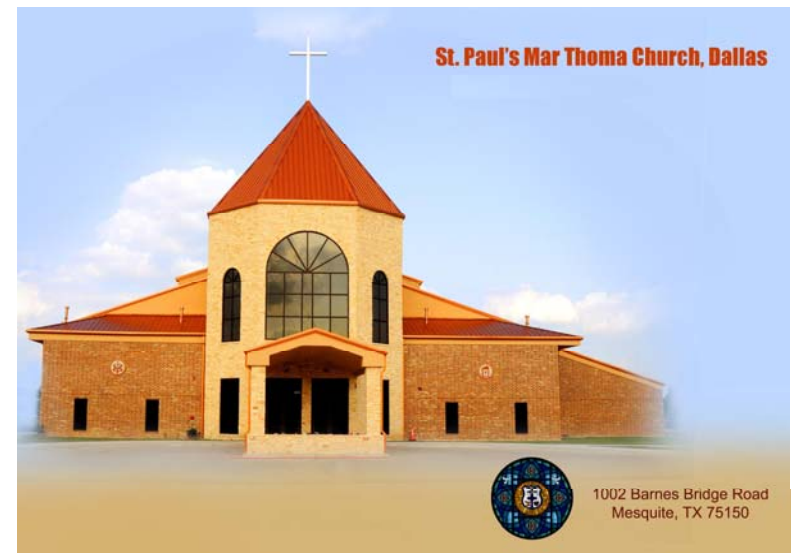


*Published by Sub-committee for Communications of St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church, Dallas*

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

# THE EPISTLE

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION**



**January 2012**



## MESSAGE FROM VICAR



*Dearly Beloved in Christ,*

The year 2011 has become a memory and we have entered into a new year of history. This is the time to remember and to praise the eternal God who is the Lord of history.

Moses, the man of God prayed:

“Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, From everlasting to everlasting you are God” (Pss:90: 1-2).

This prayer reminds us that Generations, World and Ages will pass over, but only God

the creator remains for ever.

Moses again speaks that human life is just momentary:

“A thousand years in God’s sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.....” (Pss: 90: 4-10).

Job, the suffering righteous man says:

“My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle, and they come to an end without hope” (Job: 7:6).

These words of Job remind us three things about our life:

**1. The days of human life are swifter like the shuttle of the weaver.**

We live today in an era of rapid speed and tremendous changes, so we have no time even to stop for a moment and to think where we are going.

**2. The shuttle of the weaver needs a source of energy to function either physical or mechanical.**

In our life also we need the power from God to live in this world and we get that power through prayer.

**3. Human life is like the cloth made by the weaver.**

As the cloth is made up of a lot of strands of thread, our life is the result of many decisions we take every moment. Some of our decisions may be wrong as some threads are broken. If the weaver ignore the broken threads, the cloth will tear up. Likewise if we ignore our wrong decisions, our life will be a failure. So self evaluation of our life and renewal are necessary to live a fruitful life.

The meaning of a **Sanskrit** poem is as follows:

“Look to this day, for it is life, the very life of life.

In it’s brief course lie all the varieties and realities of your existence:

The bliss of growth, the glory of action and the splendour of beauty.

For yesterday is but a dream and tomorrow is only a vision,

But today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow

a vision of hope.

Look well therefore to this day, such is the salutation of the dawn.”

May God bless and guide us to live a meaningful life in the new year.

Yours In Christ’s service,

A.P.Noble achen.

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## Welcome to the New Family:

Mr. Toby Philip, Mrs. Bincy & Twinkle

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## Church Organizational Activities

### SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Regular classes at 8.45am.

### SEVIKA SANGHAM:

TBD

### YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

**Tuesdays** - Bible Study with Rev. Jaisen Thomas on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month

**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:

**Thursdays** - Malayalam Choir Practice sessions for the prior week of Malayalam Qurbana

**Saturdays** - English Choir Practice sessions for the prior week of English Qurbana..

*Lectioary/Worship Information*

<b>Sunday, January 8, 2012 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam 10:15 AM)</b> Temperance Sunday Faithful life before God	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Daniel 1:1-21	<b>Epistle:</b> Acts 6:1-7
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Acts 7: 54-60	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 24:45-51
<b>Sunday, January 15, 2012 - (Holy Qurbana - English 10:15 AM)</b> Spirituality That Transcends Prosperity	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Micah 4:1-7	<b>Epistle:</b> Eph 2:11-19
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Romans 5:1-11	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 5:1-9
<b>Sunday, January 22, 2012 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam 10:15 AM)</b> Unity Sunday Unity Through Christ	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Isa. 60:1-14	<b>Epistle:</b> Eph. 4:1-7
<b>Lesson 2:</b> 2 Peter 1:1-11	<b>Gospel:</b> John 17:21-26
<b>Sunday, January 29, 2012 - (Holy Qurbana - English 10:15 AM)</b> Repentance and Renewal of God's Creation	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Joel 2:12-17	<b>Epistle:</b> Eph. 5:8-14
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Rev 2:12-17	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 13:1-5

*Youth Chaplain's Message*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**But, seriously, why do we even say "Happy New Year"?!?!?**

We want things to be different in a new year but we quickly find out how elusive real change can be. We wish each other "Happy New Year" without really thinking through what that means. Is there a way to be happy, or is there more to life than the pursuit of happiness? How can we become better people? We need to develop an attitude of discipleship through faith in order to have a happy New Year and to live a holy life.

In the book of Numbers 14, we see the majority of the Israelites grumbling and vowing to overthrow the guidance of Moses and assemble to go back to Egypt. This is quite a tremendous passage that truly recounts the human condition. God had been so faithful and had provided for all their needs. However, when they faced challenges they not only doubted God's promises but, began to rebel. In that rebellion and doubt, they became enticed by thoughts of their previous life in slavery. As such, they themselves became their greatest hindrance for God's blessings in the Promised Land. Unfortunately, we often exhibit the same attitude which propels backwards into sin instead of accepting His word to move in a new direction through the challenges of life. There is no doubt that all of us will be confronted by countless challenges this new year. Yet, remain strong in the faith and trust in God Almighty so that you move forward and not backwards, you overcome and not be overwhelmed! Be Happy this New Year because God is faithful!!!

A Prayer for the New Year

*May God make your year a happy one!*

*Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,*

*But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;*

*Not by making your path easy,*

*But by making you sturdy to travel any path;*

*Not by taking hardships from you,*

*But by taking fear from your heart;*

*Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,*

*But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;*

*Not by making your life always pleasant,*

*But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,*

*and by making you anxious to be there to help.*

*God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.*

May God strengthen us to grow boldness, faith and wisdom throughout the year!

Prayers and Love,

**Youth Fellowship – Office bearers for 2012**

- Vice – President** : Mr. Subin John.
- Secretary** : Miss. July Joseph.
- Joint – Secretary** : Miss. Miriam Easo.
- Treasurer** : Miss. Princey Varghese.
- Accountant** : Mr. Kevin Thomas.

***BIRTHDAYS***

2-Jan	Mathew P . Samuel	Garland	24-Jan	Ivey Abraham	Mesquite
3-Jan	Ashish Thomas	Garland	26-Jan	Mariam Chacko	Mesquite
6-Jan	Christian Abey	Wylie	26-Jan	Thomas Easo	Mesquite
8-Jan	Lydia Thomas	Garland	27-Jan	Andrew George	Sunnyvale
9-Jan	Aswin Sam Koshy	Garland	28-Jan	Tiji Sunil	Garland
10-Jan	Mini Abey	Wylie	28-Jan	Mathew Kurian	Mesquite
11-Jan	Rajith K M	Mesquite	30-Jan	Jerry James	Sunnyvale
12-Jan	Ligy Skariah	Garland	31-Jan	Mini Easo	Mesquite
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 Rajankunju	Sunnyvale			
23-Jan	Jaimie Mathew	Sunnyvale			

***WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES***

6-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. Babu John	Mesquite
8-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. Manu GeeVarghese	Garland
9-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Thomas	Plano
10-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. Kuruvilla A. P.	Garland
13-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. P. S. Philip	Rockwall
13-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. George Ipe	Garland
14-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. Abraham N.V.	Mesquite
22-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. M.M.Mathai	Sunnyvale
22-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. Rajankunju C	Sunnyvale
26-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. Binu Tharian	Mesquite
26-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Mepurath	Mesquite
27-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. Oommen Koshy	Sunnyvale
28-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. Sunny K John	Sunnyvale