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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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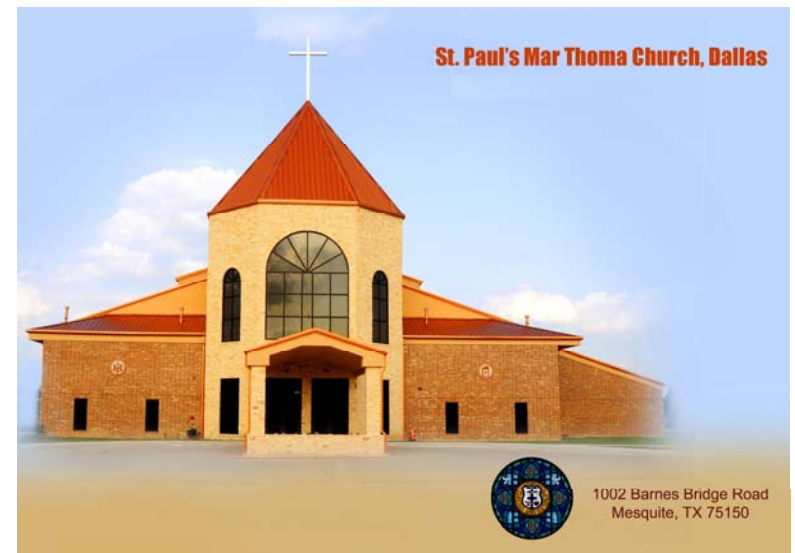


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St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church
1002 Barnes Bridge Rd.
Mesquite, TX 75150

THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



July 2014



MESSAGE FROM VICAR



Dearlly Beloved in Christ,

Loving Greetings in the gracious name of our Savior Jesus Christ. It is the time of Summer Vacation for our children. Vacation Bible School is over.

Parents, remember to spend their time not just for fun and recreation but also to encourage them to take Summer Classes that helps them in their Higher Studies.

July 3rd is St. Thomas Day. The Mar Thoma Church is an ancient church coming in the traditional lineage of the Church established by St. Thomas, one of the apostles of Jesus Christ. As the original church in India was established at the Malankara Coast, it was known as Malankara Church and the people were known as St. Thomas Christians. Apostle Thomas was one of the disciples of Jesus, who took the great commission give the Lord in Mathew:28:18-20 seriously and left for India. According to the tradition , He reached Crangannore at the Malabar coast on 52. A.D. According to the tradition, he established seven Churches . They are: 1. Crangannore(Malabar) 2. Chavakad (Polur) 3. Parur(near Alwaye) 4.Gokamangalam 5. Niranum 6. Nilackal, 7. Kollam.

It is believed that St. Thomas then continued his mission and reached the East Coast of India and died a martyrs death at a place called St. Thomas Mount. He was buried at Mylapore in Madras. The remains were later taken to Edessa. St. Thomas Day is celebrated in July 3rd to commemorate the entombment of the remains at Edessa.

Apostle Thomas, a disciple of Jesus who questioned the resurrection and appearance of Jesus, telling that unless "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were,and put my hand in to his side, I will not believe." But he dedicated himself to be a faithful witness of Christ, by addressing Him "My Lord My God "at Jesus reappearance to Thomas to remove his doubt. Thomas's blood is the seed of the Indian Church.

Let us dedicate our life to be a witness of our Savior Jesus Christ where we are planted.

With prayers for blessings.

Rev.O.C.Kurian.

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Lectionary/Worship Information

Sunday, July 7, 2014 Stewardship Sunday-Responsible Resource Management (Tithe Offering) (4th Sunday after Pentecost)	
Lesson 1: Exo.18:13-27	Epistle: 2 Cor.8:1-15
Lesson 2: 1 Tim.6:17-21	Gospel: Mat. 25:14-30
Sunday, July 13, 2014 Priests: Called for the Divine Ministry (Clergy Day) (5th Sunday after Pentecost)	
Lesson 1: Deut. 6:1-17	Epistle: Eph. 4:7-16
Lesson 2: 1 Tim.6:6-16	Gospel: Mat. 7:24-29
Sunday, July 20, 2014 People of God: Ambassadors of Christ (6th Sunday after Pentecost)	
Lesson 1: Josh. 1:1-9	Epistle: 2 Cor. 5:16-21
Lesson 2: Phil. 1:12-21	Gospel: Mark 6:7-13
Sunday, July 27, 2014 Theological Education Equipping people of God (7th Sunday after Pentecost)	
Lesson 1: Deut. 6:1-17	Epistle: 1 Tim. 3:1-13
Lesson 2: 1 Tim. 6:3-16	Gospel: Mat.21:15-19

BIRTHDAYS

2-Jul	Felix Cherian	Agape	19-Jul	Sion Philip	Emmanuel
2-Jul	Kezia Sara Alex	Agape	19-Jul	Susan Kurien	Manna
3-Jul	Christine Kurien	Manna	19-Jul	Susan Anish	Agape
6-Jul	Mariam George	Emmanuel	21-Jul	Leelamma James	Manna
6-Jul	Yohan Eapen Alex	Agape	21-Jul	Mathy Mathai	Emmanuel
8-Jul	Reji Philip Thomas	Agape	23-Jul	Sosamma Mathai	Manna
9-Jul	Alvin John	Ebenezer	24-Jul	Easow Chacko	Agape
9-Jul	Laly Kurian	Shalom	24-Jul	Hannah Joseph	Agape
12-Jul	Kiran Abraham Alex	Agape	26-Jul	Noah John Mathews	Manna
15-Jul	Jayne Sarah Thomas	Emmanuel	27-Jul	Suma Philip	Emmanuel
15-Jul	Jobin P.Mathew	Manna	27-Jul	Shalu M. Philip	Agape
15-Jul	Kevin Mathew	Ebenezer	28-Jul	Gracy Varghese	Ebenezer
15-Jul	Saumia S. Thomas	Ebenezer	29-Jul	Aleyamma Mathew	Agape
15-Jul	Thara Joseph	Agape	29-Jul	Mariam Joseph	Agape
16-Jul	Aleyamma Kurien	Agape	31-Jul	Sachin John	Ebenezer
16-Jul	Neena Ann Pappachen	Ebenezer	31-Jul	Tiju Abraham	Ebenezer
17-Jul	Christy Kurien	Manna			
17-Jul	Aben Alex Koshy	Agape			
18-Jul	Lijin John	Agape			
19-Jul	Aliyamma Geevarghese	Agape			
19-Jul	Babu P. Simon	Agape			

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Raju Varghese	Manna	24-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Koshy	Manna
10-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Oommen	Manna	28-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Mathew Babu	Agape
11-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Anil Mathew	Manna	30-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Sam Koshy	Agape
11-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Easo	Manna	31-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Shiju Baby	Agape
11-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Philip Mammen	Emmanuel			
12-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Cherian P.P.	Manna			
15-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Soji Skariah	Agape			
16-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Varghese K. Mathew	Emmanuel			
16-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. John Yohannan	Ebenezer			
22-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Siby Joseph	Agape			

Bible Quiz -By Mariam Chacko

What role did the following women play in the Bible?

1. Sarah
2. Hannah & Peninnah
3. Sapphira
4. Queen of Sheba
5. Rebekah
6. Deborah
7. Tabitha
8. Queen Candace
9. Abigail
10. Zeresh

Answers:

1. Gen. 18:12-15
2. 1 Samuel 1:2
3. Acts 5:1-10
4. 1 Kings 10:1
5. Gen. 25:21-28
6. Judges 4:4-5
7. Acts 9:36-43
8. Acts 8:27
9. 1 Samuel 25:3
10. Esther 5:10

Organizational Activities

Church

26th Church Anniversary and Parish Day – 07/20/2014.
Visit by Metropolitan, Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan.

St. Paul's Mar Church Annual Convention:
07/24, 07/25 & 07/27 (Thursday, Friday & Sunday)

Sevika Sangham

South West Center Sevika Sangham and Parish Day Center Meeting –
07/12 at Sehion Mar Thoma Church, Dallas 09:30 – 01:00 pm.

Sunday School

South West Center Sunday School Camp at Immanuel Mar Thoma
Church, Houston – 07/04 – 07/06

Youth Chaplain's Message

EGO-EDGING GOD OUT

26. And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified, behold, He is baptizing and all are coming to Him." John-3:26

Ego and pride go hand in hand and if we have a leadership ego, we might be like the one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, But the worries of the life and the DECEITFULNESS OF THE WEALTH CHOKE IT. MAKING IT UNFRUITFUL..... The question is all about our Leadership EGO? Sigmund Freud defined ego as the conscious part of a person's psyche, the part that controls thought and behavior and interprets external reality. The fear of losing instant gratification, recognition and applause can put each one of us in a defensive mood. When followers of John the Baptist who saw people get closer to Jesus and THREAT OF LOSING GROUND they came and complained about it. Spiritual insecurity was evident and to look at others' ministry as competitive rather than complementary made them more insecure.

The Eminence of leadership and service is a direct result of your spiritual provision

VALIDATING AND AFFIRMING OTHERS' MINISTRY

Leadership is all about preparing and equipping others and that's what John the Baptist did. Jesus Christ in his interaction with John he demonstrated significant attributes of leadership. He validated and affirmed John the Baptist in his ministry and submitted to the same. Failure to understand that others' ministry (lay ministry or being in administrative ministries) or looking down can lead to the wilderness experience. Accepting each other's role and paving way for the Master is what we need to develop in our ministry. Followers of John the Baptist were hypnotized by fear of Jesus' Ministry and were evident in their actions (isolation, clouded thinking, misdirected actions, unhealthy judgments, distort the truth)

Factors that edge God out is

When we displace God

When we trust in our understandings

When it becomes one man show and ratings

ALTER TO ALTAR YOUR EGO

John the Baptist Redefines Discipleship in Jesus Christ to develop

Attitude of Humility, Attitude of submission, Attitude of supplication, Attitude of weakness

- a) Dedicated and consecrated for sacrifice-Disciples are those who are set apart for a mission**
- b) Spirit of Repentance-To have a sense they can go wrong**
- c) Spirit of unity-foster unity of Spirit of identification with masters vision and cross**

Are we more like the followers of John the Baptist who failed to understand their master's vision. Do we edge God out of our worship, our community and people for our spiritual gratification or due to spiritual insecurity. Are we mere followers or do we want to be His Disciples of Christ. Let us **altar** our actions and thoughts breaking ourselves at altar. Exalting God only rather Edging God out.

WISHING YOU ALL A BLESSED SUMMER VACATIONS AND TRAVEL MERCIES FOR ALL THOSE WHO ARE TRAVELLING

Obliged always

Yours in Christ

Rev. George Jacob and family

Upcoming Events for Youth

Regional Sports Tournament hosted by St. Pauls Mar Thoma Church
July 25th -27th, 5702
Alpha Rd, Dallas Texas 75240

August 2nd - The Promise (The Play)

August 7th - 8th and 9th Men's Conference
@ The Mar Thoma Church of Dallas, Carrollton

August 7th, 8th and 9th Women's Conference
@ Trinity Mar Thoma Church Houston