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

THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



October 2016



BIRTHDAYS

1-Oct	Philip Samuel	Manna	15-Oct	Susan John	Agape
1-Oct	Thomaskutty Thomas	Agape	17-Oct	Jerril Raju	Manna
1-Oct	Aju Mathew	Agape	18-Oct	Jim K Jacob	Ebenezer
2-Oct	Thomas Mathew	Manna	20-Oct	Ammini Kuruvilla	Agape
3-Oct	Suja J Thomas	Agape	21-Oct	Lillykutty Mathew	Manna
3-Oct	Adena Aju	Agape	22-Oct	Alice Simon	Agape
4-Oct	Mollykutty Koshy	Manna	22-Oct	Angela Abraham	Ebenezer
4-Oct	Teena Abraham	Ebenezer	22-Oct	Annie Thomas	Manna
5-Oct	Aby Thomas	Ebenezer	22-Oct	Varghese K. Mathew	Shalom
5-Oct	Idiculla Mathew	Agape	24-Oct	Anne George	Manna
5-Oct	James Mepurath	Manna	25-Oct	Niya Mariam George	Emmanuel
5-Oct	Saramma Mathew	Agape	25-Oct	Joy Jacob	Shalom
7-Oct	Ashlen Abraham	Ebenezer	26-Oct	Anney Abey	Emmanuel
7-Oct	Daliya Edison	Manna	26-Oct	Jonathan Mathew	Manna
7-Oct	Saramma Abraham	Ebenezer	26-Oct	Thomas Varghese	Emmnauel
8-Oct	Mary Thomas	Shalom	27-Oct	Elizabeth Abraham	Agape
10-Oct	Dimple Roby Chelagiri	Emmanuel	27-Oct	Jacob Abraham	Agape
10-Oct	Jotham Babu Simon	Agape	27-Oct	Lydia Philip	Manna
10-Oct	Asher John Edison	Manna	27-Oct	Ethan Philip	Agape
13-Oct	Sunny K John	Manna	28-Oct	Alwin Mathew	Shalom
13-Oct	Susan Thomas	Manna	28-Oct	Sarah M. George	Agape
14-Oct	Nathan Abraham	Agape	29-Oct	Joshua Skariah	Agape
14-Oct	Kevin Cherian	Manna			

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

8-Oct	Mr. & Mrs. Toby Philip	Ebenezer
11-Oct	Mr. & Mrs. Rajith K M	Agape
16-Oct	Mr. & Mrs. Baby Mathai	Agape
22-Oct	Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Thomas	Ebenezer
22-Oct	Mr. & Mrs. Mathai Abraham	Ebenezer
25-Oct	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph George	Agape

MESSAGE FROM VICAR

Praise the Lord

Happy to reach you through this issue. Thanking Lord for the wonderful providence felt through out last month. Last few months were month blended with happiness and sorrow. But God was Faithfull. He was with us, strengthened and guided us.

Our church celebrated its 28th parish day. Rev P M Thomas was the annual convention speaker and the chief guest for the parish day. It provided a time to reflect on ourselves and to meditate upon the word of the God. Let the almighty enable us to reach much heights in the years to come.

Our members, M M Mathai and Thomaskutty Thomas ,were taken to heavenly home. The church, as a whole were indebted to them for the initiatives taken by them in the formation of our church. Expressing our heartfelt condolences. Let God strengthen the family members with heavenly peace.

We are planning a family retreat on the third week of November. Block these dates and make available to attend this get together. Appreciating everybody who joined to make this one a success.

Our kids joining new classes, courses and colleges. Pray that let them grow in faith and wisdom with Him. May the God help them to reflect His image where ever they are placed.

Our God is an observing God ,who judges and rewards according to our deeds. We can keep this in mind and make our ways perfect.

God bless us...

With prayers,

Rev Shaiju P.John,
Vicar

St Paul's Marthoma Church, Dallas

Lectionary/Worship Information

Sunday, October 2, 2016 Priesthood of all Believers - Voluntary Evangelist's Day (20th Sunday after Pentecost)	
Lesson 1: Isa 61:1-11	Epistle: 1 Thes. 5:12-22
Lesson 2: 1 Pet. 2:1-10	Gospel: John 17:9-20
Sunday, October 9, 2016 Care for the People with Special Skills (21st Sunday after Pentecost)	
Lesson 1: 2 Sam 9:1-13	Epistle: 2 Cor. 12:1-10
Lesson 2: Acts 9:32-35	Gospel: Mark 3:1-6
Sunday, October 16, 2016 Youth with Christ- Youth Sunday (22nd Sunday after Pentecost)	
Lesson 1: Dan. 1:1-15	Epistle: Titus 2:1-14
Lesson 2: Acts 6:1-7	Gospel: John 1:35-42
Sunday, October 23, 2016 Family: Space for Faith Formation- Christian Family Dedication Day (23rd Sunday after Pentecost)	
Lesson 1: 1 Sam. 1:19-28	Epistle: Eph. 6:1-9
Lesson 2: Eph. 3:14-21	Gospel: Luke 2:41-52
Sunday, October 30, 2016 Kudosh Eetho-Sanctification of the Church Beginning of the Liturgical Year	
Lesson 1: 2 King 23:1-6	Epistle: Rom. 13:11-14
Lesson 2: 1 Pet. 4:1-6	Gospel: John 2:13-22

Church Family Retreat – Nov 18-20

Church is planning to do a Family retreat from Nov 18-20 at Sky ranch in Van, Texas which is approximately 1 ½ hrs. east of Dallas. The cost is approximately \$150 per person for three days of food, accommodations and activities. All are requested to sign up and attend for a weekend of fun, family and fellowship. Please register with advance payment of \$ 150 per family. For registration or any questions please contact Aju Mathew - 214.554.2610 retreat coordinator or church secretary

Place - Sky Ranch, Van, Texas. (www.skyranch.org)
Cost - Approximately 150\$ per person for three days
Accommodations - Separate cabins for Men's/Boys & Ladies/Girls

Sadhu Sundar Singh



Singh was raised a member of the Sikh religion. Prior to his conversion, Sundar attended a primary school run by the American Presbyterian Mission where the New Testament was read daily as a "textbook." Sundar "refused to read the Bible at the daily lessons...To some extent the teaching of the Gospel on the love of God attracted me, but I still thought it was false."

In the midst of such confusion and while only fourteen years old, his mother died, and Sundar underwent a crisis of faith. His mother was a loving saintly woman and they were very close. In his anger, Sundar burned a copy of one of the Gospels in public. Within three days Sundar Singh could bear his misery no longer. Late one night in December 1903, he rose from bed and prayed that God reveal himself to him if he really existed. Otherwise -- "I planned to throw myself in front of the train which passed by our house." For seven hours Sundar Singh prayed. "O God, if there is a God, reveal thyself to me tonight." The next train was due at five o'clock in the morning. The hours passed. Suddenly the room filled with a glow. A man appeared before him. Sundar Singh heard a voice say, "How long will you deny me? I died for you; I have given my life for you." He saw the man's hands, pierced by nails.

Amazed that his vision had taken the unexpected form of Jesus, Sundar was convinced in his heart that Jesus was the true Savior, and that He was alive. Sundar fell on his knees before Him and experienced an astonishing peacefulness which he had never felt before. The vision disappeared, but peace and joy lingered within him.

Despite his family's pleas, bribes, and threats, Sundar wanted to be baptized in the Christian faith. After his father spoke words of official rejection over him, Sundar became an outcast from his people. He cut off the hair he had worn long like every Sikh man. Against great opposition, he was baptized on his birthday in 1905, in an English church in Simla.

Conventional Indian churches were willing to grant him a pulpit, but their rules were foreign to his spirit. Indeed, he felt that a key reason the gospel was not accepted in India was because it came in a garb foreign to Indians. He decided to become a sadhu, so that he could dedicate himself to the Lord Jesus. He was convinced that this was the best way to intro-

duce the Gospel to his people since it was the only way which his people were accustomed to. As a sadhu, he wore a yellow robe, lived on the charity of others, abandoned all possession and maintained celibacy. In this lifestyle, he was free to devote himself to the Lord. Dressed in his thin yellow robe, Sundar Singh took to the road and began a life of spreading the simple message of love and peace and rebirth through Jesus. He carried no money or other possessions, only a New Testament.

Sundar journeyed much. He traveled all over India and Ceylon. Between 1918-1919, he visited Malaysia, Japan and China. Between 1920-1922 he went to Western Europe, Australia and Israel. He preached in many cities; Jerusalem, Lima, Berlin and Amsterdam among others. Despite his growing fame, Sundar retained a modest nature, desiring only to follow Jesus' example: to repay evil with kindness and to win over his enemies by love.

He was quite independent of outward Church authority in all his religious life, thought, and work. He dropped out of a Christian seminary that he briefly attended. Neither did he attach much importance to public worship because in his experience the heart prays better in solitude than in a congregation.

He traveled in India and Tibet, as well as the rest of the world, with the message that the modern interpretation of Jesus was sadly watered down. Sundar visited Tibet every summer and in 1929, he visited there and was never seen again.

Source : <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/singh>