

THE BANGALORE EAST MAR THOMA CHURCH

PARISH HERALD

July - September 2016



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From the Vicar's Desk...

Dearly beloved in Christ,

An year plan of the programmes of the parish is included in this issue, and I request your whole hearted involvement in these programmes. Last year we conducted a family conference for the parish which was a blessed occasion for our members to know each other and to strengthen our fellowship. This year we plan to have our Family Conference during the last week of August, and I request you all to plan ahead to participate in this conference. We also need to have more participation in the activities of the Parish Organizations, which in turn would benefit the spiritual edification of members.

Christian giving is a happy affair for those who knew the mind of Jesus. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." (2Cor.8:7) Giving is a natural response of love. If you refuse to help, your love is not as genuine as you say. Teach our children about generous giving. Teach our children that whatever we give to the parish are not collections, but our gracious response to the love of God who loved us first. Teach our children to be proud of our church and its traditions, and to encourage them to actively participate in the activities of the parish. Let our homes to be the centers of the formation of genuine human beings, remembering that the beauty of the home is order; the blessing of the home is contentment; the glory of the home is hospitality; and the crown of the home is godliness. May God bless you all.

Alex Achen

22nd June, 2016

OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

1st Sunday	STC (Mal.) at 7 a.m.	Parish (Mal.) at 9.30 a.m.
2nd Sunday	Kothannur Area (Mal.) at 8 a.m.	Parish (Eng.) at 9.30 a.m.
3rd Sunday	STC (Mal.) at 7 a.m.	Parish (Mal.) at 9.30 a.m.
4th Sunday	Kothannur Area (Eng.) at 8 a.m.	Parish (Eng.) at 9.30 a.m.
5th Sunday	Parish (Divine Service Mal.)	

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Parish	: Every Sunday at 8.15 a.m.
STC	: Every Sunday at 7.30 a.m. except on 1 st & 3 rd Sunday at 8.30 a.m.
Kothannur	: Every Sunday 9.30 a.m.

EDAVAKA MISSION

Intercessory Prayer	: Every Wednesday at 10.30 a.m. at Church
Swanthana & Palana	
Fellowship & House Visit	: Every Friday at 10.00 a.m. onwards

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM

Sunday : After 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

CHOIR

Saturday: Choir practice session in the Church at 6 pm.

SEVIKA SANGAM

1st and 3rd Friday at 4.00 p.m.; Combined Meeting: Once in three months at Church

TRUSTEES - 2016-'17

Finance	: Mr. Mathew Varughese	Mob: 9886749267
Accounts	: Mr. George Verghese	Mob: 8050296960

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Date	Service	Assisted by	Read by	Reading
2016 July 3	ST. THOMAS DAY, DHASAMSA SAMARPPANA DINAM			<u>Less. 1&2</u> Mal. 3:7-12 Phi. 4:10-20
7 am	Holy Communion (Mal.) (St. Thomas Centre)	John Philip (E1) Varughese KM (F)	T.V. Thomas (A) Rajamma Mathew	<u>Epistle</u> Heb. 2:1-4
9.30 am	Holy Communion (Mal.) (Church)	Biju Varghese (C) Aju Varghese (D)	Leelamma Abraham (B) K.O. Sabu (A)	<u>Gospel</u> St. Joh 20:24-29
July 10				<u>Less. 1&2</u> Josh. 4:1-9 1Cor. 10:1-11
8 am	Holy Communion (Mal.) (Kothannur Area)	Ninan MK Roby T. Mathew (F)	Rani Mathew (F) John Mathew	<u>Epistle</u> 1Tim. 6:11-16
9.30 am	Holy Communion (Eng.) (Church)	Ani Alex Kurian (A) Subin Abraham (UTC)	Ann Sabu (A) Roshan Jose (A)	<u>Gospel</u> St. Mat. 13:1-9
July 17				<u>Less. 1&2</u> Exo. 29:1-21 Eph. 5:1-14
7 am	Holy Communion (Mal.) (St. Thomas Centre)	Thankachen P (E1) Sonu Varghese (E1)	Sujith Koshy (A) Annamma Varghese (E1)	<u>Epistle</u> 2Cor. 2:12-17
9.30 am	Holy Communion (Mal.) (Church)	George Varghese(UTC) I. John Thomas (B)	Santhamma Baby (E1) Joseph Philip (B)	<u>Gospel</u> St. John 21:15-19
July 24				<u>Less. 1&2</u> Gen. 24:32-52 Eph. 5:20-33
8 am	Holy Communion (Eng.) (Kothannur Area)	Cherian Thomas Jr.(F) Subin Abraham (UTC)	Godly Abraham (F) Reeja Sunil (F)	<u>Epistle</u> Heb. 13:1-6
9.30 am	Holy Communion (Eng.) (Church)	Melvin Alex Ruben Kurien (F)	Kavya Milan	<u>Gospel</u> St. Mat. 19:1-6
July 31				<u>Less. 1&2</u> Gen. 8:1-14 Col. 3:1-11
9.30 am	Divine Service (Mal.) (Church)	Manoj Oommen (E2) Subin Abraham (UTC)	Valsamma Mathew (E1) Bobby Jacob (E2)	<u>Epistle</u> 1Peter 3:16-22 <u>Gospel</u> St. John 3:1-8
Aug. 7	MISSION SUNDAY			<u>Less. 1&2</u> 1King. 17:1-15 Jude 17-25
7 am	Holy Communion (Mal.) (St. Thomas Centre)	Aju Philip (F) Alex Kurien (A)	Samuel T.A. (A) Selin Maria Thomas (E1)	<u>Epistle</u> Gal. 2:1-10
9.30 am	Holy Communion (Mal.) (Church)	Kunju Varghese (A) Cherian K.M. (C)	Binu Sabu (A) Kurien K.K.	<u>Gospel</u> St. Mat. 22:1-14

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Date	Service	Assisted by	Read by	Reading
2016				
Aug. 14 8 am	Holy Communion (Mal.) (Kothannur Area)	Mani K. Abraham (F) Binoy Abraham (F)	John Mathew (F) Shirly John (F)	<u>Less. 1&2</u> Exo. 12:1-14 1Cor. 11:23-33 <u>Epistle</u> 1Cor. 10:15-17
9.30 am	Holy Communion (Eng.) (Church)	Chris Jibin	Bhavana Mathai Rahul George	<u>Gospel</u> St. Luke 22:7-20
Aug. 21 7 am	Holy Communion (Mal.) (St. Thomas Centre)	Saju Varghese (E1) Thankachen P. (E1)	Benjamin Mathew (F) Ammukutty Varghese (A)	<u>Less. 1&2</u> Exo. 7:1-7 2Tim. 3:10-17 <u>Epistle</u>
9.30 am	Holy Communion (Mal.) (Church)	Sunny Jacob (E2) Biju Varghese (C)	Saly Alex Thomas (B) Rajan Varghese (C)	Gal. 1:6-9 <u>Gospel</u> St. Mat. 5:17-20
Aug. 28 8 am	Holy Communion (Eng.) (Kothannur Area)	Cherian Thomas Jr. (F) Subin Abraham (UTC)	Benjamin Mathew (F) Shiney Ninan (F)	<u>Less. 1&2</u> 1Sam. 24:1-12 Rom. 12:14-21 <u>Epistle</u>
9.30 am	Holy Communion (Eng.) (Church)	Nishu Alex Kurian (A) Sajith Thomas (D)	Kshema Susan Dr. A.J. Thomas (C)	Eph. 6:10-20 <u>Gospel</u> St. Mat. 5:38-48
Sep. 4 7 am	EDUCATION DAY Holy Communion (Mal.) (St. Thomas Centre)	John Philip (E1) Shiji Varghese (F)	Sanjay Cherian (F) Reena Jose (E1)	<u>Less. 1&2</u> Neh. 8:1-8 Acts. 18:24-28 <u>Epistle</u>
9.30 am	Holy Communion (Mal.) (Church)	Alex Kurien (A) N.T. Easow (A)	Ponnamma Mathew (C) Ajay Varghese Joy (E1)	James 3:13-18 <u>Gospel</u> St. Luke 4:16-22
Sep. 11 8 am	SEVIKA SANGHA DHINAM Holy Communion (Mal.) (Kothannur Area)	Ninana MK. Biju Thomas	Godly Abraham (F) Vincy Biju	<u>Less. 1&2</u> Judges 4:4-16 Phil. 4:1-7 <u>Epistle</u>
9.30 am	Holy Communion (Eng.) (Church)	Ani Alex Kurian (A) Subin Abraham (UTC)	Rebekah Alexander (C) Jerome Alexander (C)	Rom. 16:6-16 <u>Gospel</u> St. Mark. 14:3-9
Sep. 18 7 am	SENIOR CITIZENS DAY Holy Communion (Mal.) (St. Thomas Centre)	Kunju Varghese (A) Sonu Varghese (E1)	Akash Thomas Jose (E1) Susamma Thankachen(E1)	<u>Less. 1&2</u> Gen. 46:1-7 Phile. 8-22 <u>Epistle</u>
9.30 am	Holy Communion (Mal.) (Church)	Abraham Sam (E1) Subin Abraham (UTC)	Kunjamma Samuel (D) Koshy Mathew Jr. (E1)	2Tim. 1:3-14 <u>Gospel</u> St. Luke 2:25-38
Sep. 25 8 am	Holy Communion (Eng.) (Kothannur Area)	Cherian Thomas Jr.(F) Subin Abraham (UTC)	Binoy Abraham (F) Meena Philip (F)	<u>Less. 1&2</u> Amos 9:1-12 Acts. 10:34-43 <u>Epistle</u>
9.30 am	Holy Communion (Eng.) (Church)	Chris Ruben Kurien (F)	Gift Lincoln	Rom. 2:17-29 <u>Gospel</u> St. John 12:20-26

COTTAGE PRAYERS

GROUP - A

July 10	6 pm	Mr. Thomas V.G.	Babita Villa, 1st Cross,J.V. Shetty Rd., R.R. Palaya, Kammanahalli Main Rd., Tel: 9945216191
July 17	6.30 pm	Mr. Thomas Joseph	#37A, Eden Villa, 2nd Block, 3rd Cross, Behind BDA Complex, HBR Layout. Tel: 9880514022
July 24	4.30 pm	Mr. Renin Raj	No. 3, KKM Residency, Ullasappa Road, Kammanahalli. Tel: 9845094489
July 31	6.30 pm	Mr. Alex Kurian	203 SRK Enclave, 63, 2nd Cross, 3rd E Main, Ramaiah Layout Tel: 9449005287
Aug. 21	6 pm	Mr. George Mathew Thondapurathu	158/174/1, 4th A-Cross, II Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar P.O. Tel: 25450233
Aug. 28	4.30 pm	Mr. Cheriyan Alexander	Apt.C-1, THE CHALET, 1527, Next Jyothi School, Hennur Main Rd., Tel: 9845950910
Sep. 4	6 pm	Lt. Col. Thomas Varghese (Retd.)	K-444, Sena Vihar, Kammanahalli Kalyan Nagar P.O. Tel: 23684444
Sep. 11	6.30 pm	Mrs. Deenamma George	Viju Nivas, Gurumurthy St., Kammanahalli Main Road, M.S. Nagar P.O., Tel: 25476817

Young Couples Fellowship

July 16

Contact: Anoop Varghese

Yuvajana Sakhyam One-day Retreat

July 9

Contact: Subin Varghese

GROUP - B			
July 3	4.30 pm	Mr. Renji E. Mathew	No. 37, 5th Cross, Jaibharath Nagar, Tel: 25461945
July 24	4.30 pm	Mr. Joseph Philip	26, 7th A Cross, New No. 48, Raghavappa Road, Jaibharath Nagar Tel: 25462406
July 31	4.30 pm	Mr. Abraham P.J.	7/87, 3rd Cross, Behind Lokesh Tent Lingarajapuram Extn. Tel: 25472500
Aug. 7	5.30 pm	Capt. Abraham Thomas	No. 302, Sai Keerthi Residency, 3rd Cross, Sun shine, T.C. Palaya Main Road, KR Pura. Tel: 9916511392
Aug.14	5.30 pm	Mr. Jacob Thomas	74, 1st Flr, 3rd Cross, Vivekananda Nagar. Tel: 25460616
GROUP - C			
July 24	4.30 pm	Mr. Sam G. Jacob	002, Reyes Castillo, 46, Hutchins Road, 2nd Cross, Cooke Town Tel: 25462958
Aug. 21	4.30 pm	Mr. Ravi George Tharakan	T-1, 3rd Floor, Crescent Calibre, 19, Davis Road, Cooke Town, Tel: 25806822
Aug. 28	4.30 pm	Mr. Abraham Thomas	22, 6th Cross, Hutchins Road, St. Thomas Town. Tel: 25464980
Sep. 4	4.30 pm	Mr. Thomas K.P.	No.1/3, Gospel Road, Opp. Nirmala Girls H.School, St. Thomas Town, Tel: 25478044
Sep. 11	4.30 pm	Mr. Varghese Alexander	43, D-Costa Layout, 2nd Cross, St. Marys Town. Tel: 25479457
Sep. 18	4.30 pm	Mrs. Kunjamma Mathai	#54, THE CASILDA, GF 1, Hutchins Road, 2nd Cross, St. Thomas Town Tel: 25476671
GROUP - D			
Aug. 7	6.30 pm	Mr. Thomas T.	F 1, Tabernacle Apts., 63, Ramakrishnappa Road, Cox Town, Tel: 25807294
Sep. 11	4.30 pm	Mrs. Rachel John	101 Cline Mansion, 15/1 Cline Road, Cooke Town. Tel: 41251232
Sep. 18	4.30 pm	Mr. Sajith Thomas	No. 28, 3rd Cross, Anjanappa Block, Krishnamma Garden, Benson Town. Tel: 8123003001

GROUP - E1			
July 17	5 pm	Mrs. Aleyamma Abraham	Vellarathe Galilee, 7 BM 201, HRBR 1st Block, Kalyan Nagar. Tel: 25450015
July 31	5 pm	Mr. Saji George	H4,Block 2, Indra Prastha, Indraprastha Apts,5th Main OMBR Layout, Banaswadi. Tel: 42052418
Aug. 7	5 pm	Mrs. Annamma Varghese (Susamma)	Flat No. 101, 1st Floor, Amrutha Avenue, 2nd Main Road, Munireddy Layout, Horamavu. Tel: 9986832624
Aug. 14	5 pm	Mrs. Moncy S. Zachariah	1110, Pujari Gopal Reddy Layout, Dodda Banaswadi. Tel: 25451935
Sep. 11	5 pm	Mrs. Ponnama Thomas	No. 195, Chickbanaswadi, 2nd A Cross, M.V. Layout Tel: 25450506
Sep. 18	5 pm	Mr. Jackson John	318, 9th 'C' Main, HRBR Layout, Ist Block, Kalyan Nagar. Tel: 41714182

GROUP - E2			
July 17	5 pm	Mrs. Sosamma Joseph	17, 9th Main, Hoysala Nagar, R.M. Nagar Extn., T C Palaya Main Road. Tel: 25315077
July 31	5 pm	Mrs. Aleyamma Mathew	3B , 3rd Floor, RL Apartment Block 1, T C Palaya Main Road, Ramamurthy Nagar. Tel: 6452 4129 / 93421 60945
Aug. 14	5 pm	Mr. Anil Aby Koshy	# 260, 11th main Palm Street, Raghavendra Nagar Extn., Horamavu Road, Near Asha Kiran School, Ramamurthy Nagar Tel: 98861 52232
Sep. 4	5 pm	Mr. Libu Thomas	B2, Amulya Park Apartment, NRI Layout, T C Palaya Road Tel: 97412 66911 / 97419 70854
Sep. 18	5 pm	Mr. Santosh Abraham	D1, Amulya Park Apartment, NRI Layout, T C Palaya Road Tel: 28493708 / 98863 12219

FAMILY CONFERENCE 2016

August 26 - 28

(Fri. - Sun.)

at

Ecumenical Christian Centre (ECC)

Whitefield

Register your names

Lt. Col. J.K. George (Convenor)

Ph: 9341242661

GROUP - F (Hennur - Kothannur Group)

July 3	4.30 pm	Mr. Minu Thomas	#36, reddy layout, opp kristu Jayanti College, K Narayanapura. Tel: 9886622673
July 10	4.30 pm	Mr. John Mathew	Kuriott Shechem, Sy. No. 34/1, Bilishivale, Hanumanth Nagar, Doddagubbi Post. Tel: 9448464744
July 17	4.30 pm	Mr. Mohan John T.	96/6, Ground Floor, Bethista Street, Behind Balaji Driving School, Agarah, Hormavu. Tel: 8762559312
Aug. 14	4.30 pm	Mr. Sanjay J. Cherian	Block No. -16, Diamond Regency, Near Alpha College of Engineering, Doddagubbi. Tel: 9845982507
Sep. 18	6 pm	Mr. John Varghese	Eden villa, 105, Bens Royals woods Layout, Naganahalli Cross, Kannur PO Tel: 9900966203

ഭാഷ തന്ന രക്ഷ

Koshy Thomas



ആയിരത്തിത്തൊള്ളായിരത്തി മുപ്പതുകളിൽ ഇന്ത്യ ഒട്ടാകെ ഇളക്കിമറിച്ച അക്രമരഹിത സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യ സമര പോർവിളി! വടക്ക് കാശ്മീരം തൊട്ട് തെക്ക് കന്യാകുമാരി വരെ അലയടിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്ന കാലം. നിരാഹാരവൃതം, ജാഥ ഒക്കെ മുർദ്ധന്യത്തിലെത്തിയപ്പോൾ ഗാന്ധി ജിയെ പൊക്കി ഇയിലിലടച്ചതും മറ്റും ചരിത്രം. ബ്രിട്ടീഷുകാർ നേരിട്ടു ഭരിച്ചിരുന്ന മദ്രാസ് പ്രസിഡൻസിയിലായിരുന്ന മലബാറിലും, ജനജീവിതം സ്തംഭിച്ച മട്ടിൽ.

അസ്വസ്ഥതകളും, അസഹിഷ്ണുതകളും കണ്ട ഒരു യുവകവി സമാധാന ആഹ്വാനം ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടൊരു കവിത എഴുതി. അതിൽ ഒരു വരി. "ഗാന്ധിയെ ബന്ധിച്ച വംശം നശിക്കണം" എന്നുണ്ടായിരുന്നത് കണ്ട പോലീസ് മേധാവി തൽക്ഷണം കവിയെ പൊക്കി ലോക്കപ്പിലാക്കി.

അടുത്ത ദിവസം കോടതിയിൽ വിചാരണയ്ക്കെത്തിച്ചു. രാജ്യഭ്രാഹം ആണ് കുറ്റം. എഴുത്തുകാരനായ കവിയ്ക്ക് എന്തെങ്കിലും സമാധാനം ബോധിപ്പിക്കാനുണ്ടോ? എന്ന ചോദ്യത്തിന് മറുപടി:- താൻ എഴുതിയത് ഗാന്ധിയെ ബന്ധിച്ച വംശം - അതായത് ഗാന്ധിയുടെ അനുയായികളായവരെക്കെ നശിക്കണം, എങ്കിലേ സമാധാനം ഉണ്ടാകൂ എന്നാണ്. അല്ലാതെ ഭരണക്കാരായ ബ്രിട്ടീഷുകാർ നശിക്കണമെന്നല്ലെന്നും, ബന്ധം, ബന്ധനം, ബന്ധിക്കുക ഇതൊക്കെ വിശദീകരിച്ചു.

തന്റെ വിശദീകരണം അത്രകണ്ട് കോടതിക്ക് ബോധ്യപ്പെട്ടില്ല എന്ന് തോന്നിയ കവി വീണ്ടും:- സാർ ഈ പോലീസുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന് ഭാഷ അറിയില്ലെന്നായി. അതിനെ നിഷേധിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് പോലീസ്സുദ്യോഗപഠത്തത് താൻ ബി.എ. വരെ പഠിച്ചതിൽ മലയാളഭാഷ ഒരു പഠന വിഷയമായിരുന്നു എന്നും ഭാഷ ശരിക്കും പഠിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും ആയി.

കവി ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട കോടതിയോട് അപേക്ഷിച്ചത് ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ ഇദ്ദേഹത്തെ ചോദ്യം ചെയ്യാൻ തന്നെ അനുവദിച്ചാൽ ഇയാൾക്ക് ഭാഷ അറിയില്ലെന്ന് താൻ കോടതിയെ ബോധ്യപ്പെടുത്താമെന്നായി. ചോദ്യം ചെയ്യാൻ കോടതി അനുവദിച്ചു. കവി പോലീസുകാരനോട്, താങ്കൾ ഭാഷ പഠിച്ചല്ലോ, അതിന്റെ വ്യാകരണം അറിയാമോ? വ്യാകരണത്തിൽ നാമമുണ്ട്, ക്രിയയുണ്ട്, ലിംഗമുണ്ട്, ആഖ്യയുണ്ട്, ആഖ്യാതമുണ്ട്, വൃത്തമുണ്ട്, അലങ്കാരമുണ്ട്, ഉൽപ്രേക്ഷയുണ്ട്, ഘടകമുണ്ട്. ഇതേപ്പറ്റി എല്ലാം അറിയാമോ?? ഇത്രയുമായപ്പോഴേക്കും പോലീസുകാരൻ പരങ്ങലിലായി. ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ തുടർന്നു. താൻ പറയുന്ന ഈ വാചകത്തിലടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്ന വ്യാകരണത്തിലെ പ്രയോഗം എന്താണെന്ന് പറയണം.

ഇതുവരെ കുനിഞ്ഞ് സൗമ്യനായി നിന്ന കവി നീണ്ടുനിവർന്ന് പോലീസുകാരന്റെ മുഖത്തേക്ക് അതിരുകൂലമായ ഭാവത്തിൽ, ഒരമ്പ് തൊടുത്തുവിടുന്ന വിധത്തിൽ ചോദ്യം:-

"നായും നീയും തമ്മിലുള്ള വ്യത്യാസമെന്ത്??"

ഇതുകേട്ടതും പോലീസ്സുകാരൻ പൊട്ടിത്തെറിച്ച് അലറി. കോടതി ആകെ അസ്വസ്ഥതയിലായി. ഒരു കുലുക്കവുമില്ലാതെ നിന്ന കവിയുടെ ആത്മഗതം: കുഴയണം - ഏറെ കുഴയണം ഇല്ലെങ്കിൽ കുഴയ്ക്കണം, എങ്കിൽ മാത്രമേ തനിക്ക് രക്ഷപെടാൻ ഒരു പറ്റു തുണ്ടാകുകയുള്ളൂ.

ഇത്രയുമായപ്പോഴേക്കും കവി തന്നെ ഉത്തരം പറഞ്ഞ് കോടതിയെ ബോധ്യപ്പെടുത്തി. ചോദ്യവാചകത്തിലെ "നാ" എന്നുള്ളത് അകാരവും "നീ" എന്നുള്ളത് ഇകാരവുമാണ്. തന്റെ ചോദ്യം തന്നെ പറഞ്ഞ വാചകത്തിലടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്ന വ്യാകരണഭൂഷ്ട്യാ ഉള്ള പ്രയോഗം ആണ്. അതുപോലും പോലീസ്സുദ്ദേഹം മനസ്സിലാക്കിയില്ല.

ഇനിയും ഏറെ കുഴയാതിരിക്കാനായി ബഹുമാനമുള്ള കോടതി പ്രതിയെ ശിക്ഷിക്കാതെ നിരുപാധികം വിട്ടയച്ചു.

ഭാഷ മാതൃഭാഷ - അതുതന്നെ രക്ഷ

-ശുഭം-

Testimony:-

When all doors close God opens another one

By Jayan Philip

As I got into my school bus along with my son on 24th November 2014 my only prayer was not to lose my job which I loved and enjoyed.

I was apprehensive and spent sleepless nights. A technical ignorance from my side had been blown out of proportion and I had to take the blame for everything. Though I had the full support of my colleagues and students, I was forced to resign. This was one of saddest days of my life and I was crestfallen but God always surprises, never walks away from us but is besides us .

I knocked on everyday door possible, got fed up of interviews but the inner voice said “Be still and know that I am your God”. I was about to join duty on a Monday in a new school but on Saturday, I was told that the teacher who resigned had withdrawn her resignation. I thanked the Lord because he had something else in mind for me. ‘My ways are not your ways and your ways are not mine’ says our Lord. I had gone to receive an offer letter from another school when I learned that somebody had played truant to stifle that. God had a plan for me! It is wrong to expect the world to be fair when we think we are fair. As Christians, the events of today are the lessons of tomorrow because our Lord teaches us to forgive and forget. As Job said “The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away blessed be the name of the Lord”.

I went through a frustrating time of ridicule and loneliness but a family which prays together stays together. Prayer is the muscle that moves the muscles of omnipotence. My family stood rock solid with me along with many prayer partners in our neighborhood. The Lord is a

silent listener to every conversation and is a witness of every move as he is of every wave which tosses up and down in the mighty oceans .

During the course of nine months of unemployment we never knew how we lived each day but everything from my son's admission to my mother's medical treatment fell in place to perfection as Jesus was watching us from above.

I used to wait for Wednesday classifieds to come, spent hours browsing the net, shooting off my CV to all employment portals but our God doesn't need our CV because he knows it before we make it. One of my mother's classmates had happened to be in Bangalore and asked her to search the net for a school in Chickmagular. I did apply and within an hour I got the call. The Lord answered our prayer.

Finally , I got the appointment letter yesterday and I will be taking over as a Dean in Amber Valley School, ChickMagular which is nestled among the hills and coffee plantations. In a world of deceit and deception, our Faith in Jesus will help us to tide over every crisis and march on as Christian soldiers of war.

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for , the evidence of things not seen"

SEVIKA SANGHOM MEETINGS - July-Sep. 16

June 24	-	Mrs. Santhamma Baby
July 15	-	Mrs. Jessy Abraham
Aug. 5	-	Mrs. Sally Thomas
Aug. 19	-	Mrs. Saramma Thomas
Aug. 26	-	Combined Meeting - at Church
Sept. 2	-	Mrs. Leelamma Thomas
Sept. 16	-	Mrs. Valsa Mathew

'Quality' Thinking

By Lt Col (Retd) Thomas Varghese



Human beings are the privileged species among all living beings, because God had taken special care to create them in His own image. However, many of us hesitate to accept this fact fully due to the physical differences, skin colours, languages and many other such factors. We tend to give importance only to the visual image, forgetting the various attributes of Godly virtues, such as love, compassion, kindness, empathy, sacrifice and passion to save the humanity from the worldly sins. Teaching through parables and demonstrating the glory of our Father Almighty, **Jesus** performed miracles for humanity.

Our Achen, during a recent sermon spoke on the theme '**environment**', which was an apt thought in view of the '**earth-day**'. The illustration about a chalk line drawn prohibiting children crossing beyond, and how the children crossed the line in the absence of the teacher was an ideal example of how adults, violating all norms, codes and rules, create environmental retardation without shame. Afterwards, an interesting question was there from him, if my memory was correct, in a low voice with his characteristic smile, "Are not all people here good, is there any one otherwise"? The tone and the accent in Malayalam was perhaps more impacting. It was a pointed question to each of us gathered in the Church for worship in the name of our savior **Jesus Christ**, who in turn had given us the proud privilege of being his children. This elevated status arguably gives us the best opportunity to emulate all those qualities possessed by Jesus. Having known the congregation closely for the last four years, Achen perhaps was trying to affirm his opinion about the goodness of the people of our church through that query.

The question arises as to who is qualified and entitled to quantify and measure the goodness of each of us, and the congregation as a whole, particularly in the midst of numerous orders practicing varied styles of worship focused towards the Cross of Calvary. Though the focus is

the same variations in worship styles confuses us and many a time infuses in us certain egocentric sense of superiority about our own church over others. It is always good to have a sense of belonging, and feel proud about one's exclusive community, but there is an obvious danger when we are too rigid in our outlook.

Very recently, a person known to me, while talking to me about his brother's children living in Bangalore, made a specific remark, sounding bit negative to me, about their different church affiliation, which he has not been able to reconcile with so far. It was also stated that all of them are doing very well and God has been blessing them immensely. Having felt that it was a contradiction in terms, I abruptly and inadvertently rebutted by saying that God, perhaps, has been making errors by blessing people outside our church in abundance.

I was prompted to probe further on his attitude towards believers outside own church, particularly because I heard him making identical statement about them earlier too. When questioned as to how we could judge others in that way, no solid reasons came but the justification was that it was a **matter of quality**. It really opened my eyes to the brand concept and the quality thinking of some of us with regard to churches. Unfortunately, our pride, possessiveness, arrogance and many such idiosyncrasies blind us from visualizing the neo - liberal society in which others too have their rights, besides freedom for worship.

What Jesus said was that if two or three got together in his name, he would be there in their midst. He did not specify any category of congregation as such.

Deliberating little more on quality consciousness, we know that certain commercial entities look for certain ratings and star status for better customer base. Ironically, no one has so far dared to think of forming a forum to measure the quality of churches in the Kingdom of God, because we know that we are incapable of doing so. **A good Christian knows from the Bible that there is only one perfect judge that is our Lord Almighty and no one else.**

In the absence of an established authority in this world to do quality check on churches, we need to understand what makes an organization

elite. Let me take an analogy from political science. There are three components that make a 'State' (or a Nation), which are – **territory/land, people and a government**. A church is like a state, which must have a place of worship, people to worship and an organization to manage. It is obvious that the vital component among the three is 'PEOPLE'. A place or building cannot make a church, but good people can build quality churches. So is the case with a state, **a nation must have good and capable people to transform it to a land of plenty with benevolence**.

A crucial question still remains is, “**Who is a good Christian**”? In the eyes of our Chief Judge there are many criteria for us to fulfill to attain that position, certainly not our worldly possessions, but our deeds entitling us to enter eternity. At the entrance, the sure questions would be, firstly, “did you walk on the righteous path, if not, what corrective measures did you take as per the scriptures and our faith”, secondly, “what did you do for my people”, and thirdly, “did you see other people as yourself”? Preparing positive answers to these questions is part of our duties in this world.

Our most revered Valiya Metropolitan, **Chrysostom Thirumeni** always ends up his talks with only one pivotal idea, **Manushan Manushanayee Jeevikkanam**. May be, we can translate it this way, “**Man must live as Man**”.

Having been born in this world, baptized with Holy Spirit and united in Christ, we good Marthomites can look at others in an unbiased and dispassionate way, in order to be fair in our judgments, and to ensure that others are not divested of their birth rights, and at the same time be magnanimous and generous in respecting others, the way we expect them to do for us.

The ultimate aim of all good Christians is one, ‘Do for His glory and Dwell in His glory’ in order to be in eternity. Therefore, all that we are expected to do in this world are our ‘duties’. Let us remember one thing, ‘**devotion to duty is not a sacrifice, but it is a justification to our existence in this world**’.

(Writer served in Indian Army as an Infantry Officer for 31 years, he is a British Council trained Trainer for IELTS , whose post retirement pastime has been teaching . Ph 9945114878)

Year Plan 2016-17

- July 2 - Bangalore Centre Sunday School Anniversary
- July 3 - Breakfast Sale by Sevika Sangham
- July 8 - Chennai-Bangalore Diocese Sevika Sangham Annual Meeting
- July 9 - Yuvajana Sakhyam One day Retreat at UTC
- July 16 - Young Couples Fellowship at Church
- Aug 26-28 - Parish Family Conference at ECC
- August 16 - Mission field visit to Jangamacottah by Sevika Sangham
- August 30 - Center Clergy Fellowship at Marathahalli
- Sept- 15-17- Sabha Mandalam at Thiruvalla
- Sept.12-17 - Sevika Sangham Week
- Sept.18 - Sevika Sangham Day
- Sept.26-Oct.2 - Sangha Varam (Edavaka Mission)
- Oct.2 - Voluntary Evangelists' Day
- October - Sevika Sangham Picnic (to be decided)
- Oct 29-31 - Centre Sunday School Camp
- Oct.10-15 - Youth Week
- Oct 16 - Youth Sunday
- Oct.20-22 - **Parish Convention**
- Oct.23 - Family Sunday & Tithe Collection
- Dec.17 - Christmas Carol
- Dec.25 - Christmas
- Dec.31 - New Year Service
- Jan.8 - **Harvest Festival**
- Jan 27-29 - Sevika Sanghom Triennial Conference at Beerasandra
- Jan 28 - Explore - Centre Sunday School Competitions
- Feb.4 - Parish Sevika Sangham competitions
- Feb.26 - Great lent Begins
- March 12 - **Parish day**
- April 3-9 - V B S
- April.9 - Hosanna
- April.13 - Passover
- April. 14 - Good Friday
- April.16 - Easter

HEARTY WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBERS
George Verghese , D-1502, Satha Gold Summit, Hennur - Kothannur Road, Bangalore 560 077 (F Group)
Binu Abey Oommen , 301, SLV Grand Apt., 19 Main, 36 Cross, HBR Layout, 5th Block, Bangalore 560 043 (A Group)
Tom Philip , 60, Venkat Nivas, 1st A Main, 5th Cross, East of NGEF Layout, Kasturi Nagar, Bangalore 560 043 (E2 Group)
Colonel Jacob Ninan , 36, Maple Green, Phase-3, Taponagara Main Road, Chikkagubbi, Bangalore 560 077 (F Group)
Mohan John T. , 96/6, Ground Floor, Bethista Street, Behind Balaji Driving School, Agarah, Hormavu, Bangalore (F Group)
Rency Rachel Mathews , Yuvathi Sharan Convent, Kammanahalli, Bangalore (A Group)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS / PHONE NUMBER
John Varghese (F) Grp. - #105, Bens Royal Woods Layout, Nagenahalli Cross, Kannur (PO), Kothannur-Bagalur Road, Bangalore 560 077
Abraham Thomas (Ex. H/Capt.) (B) Grp. - No. 302, Sai Keerthi Residency, 3rd Cross, Sunshine, T.C. Palaya Main Road, KR Pura, Bangalore 560 036
Dr. Saju Abraham (E1) Grp. - Madathethu, No. 6, 8th Cross, Bank Avenue, Babusapalya, Hormavu.

OBITUARY - We extend our heartfelt condolences to the family members of:-
1. K. Chacko, B/o. K. Abraham (E1) - 16-4-2016
2. P.M. Mathai, F/o. Sally kochamma - 18-4-2016
3. Mary George, M/o. Dr. George Zachariah (D) - 1-5-2016
4. M. A. Mathai, F/o. Regi Mathews Mithramadathil (F) - 9-5-2016
5. Mariamma Thomas, M/o. Jacob Thomas (C) - 13-5-2016
6. Jiju K. Varghese (B) - 18-5-2016
7. E. J. John, F/in-law of Roy Thomas (C) - 19-5-2016
8. Sharon, D/o. Omana Jacob (C) - 19-5-2016
9. Rachel Varghese, M/o. Biju Varghese (C) - 22-5-2016
10. O. C. Thomas, F/in-law of Johnson M. George (A) - 6-6-2016
11. Elizabeth Oommen, M/o. M.O. Thomas (C) - 21-6-2016
12. Mother of Abraham Thomas (Ex. H/Capt.) (B) - 22-6-2016

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Mr. Mathew Varughese Mob: 9886749267
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