

Hermon Marthoma Church

MIDLANDS

April 2008

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Volume 1, Issue 12



From Achen's desk

Next Service:

26 April 08 (Holy Communion)
4pm to 6pm

10 May 08 (Holy Communion)
4pm to 6pm followed by
**General Body & election of
office bearers for 2008/09**

24 May 08 (Holy Communion)
4pm to 6pm

At

St. James Hill Church
Mere Green Road
Four Oaks, West Midlands
B75 5DD

Highlights

From Achen's desk	1
A Poem	2
Recipe for the Month	3
Announcements	4

Reminder to all

Please confirm your memberships with Achen.

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

In the days after Easter, we, like the first followers of Jesus have to learn how to walk with the risen Lord. Easter represents a new beginning for all of us. As we look back over the last few months at all that has happened in the world, (Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, etc... the problems in the world, upheavals in the financial markets, companies closing or laying off people, the amount of crime here in the UK, in India, and throughout the world, etc...) we realize that there are a lot of tragedies and misfortunes in the world.

In the midst of all these tragedies and misfortunes, the dependence on Jesus of a believer is what motivates him to thank God and it is what motives him to move forward. We thank God for His wonderful care and protection. Further, just as the risen Lord gave joy and encouragement to the disciples, that same joy and encouragement is available for us. That and the power of the Holy Spirit enabled the disciples to live a life different than the life they lived before Easter.

They realized that their Lord and Savior had overcome the powers of this world. They realized that no matter what happened in this world, in the world to come, their God would reward them for living a life of a true disciple. So they tried their best to live a life pleasing to God. They gladly endured pain and suffering for their Savior. They happily sacrificed their own pleasures for the good of others.

Yes, in this world they suffered physical pain and injustice, but in their spirit they were renewed everyday. They kept their

eye on the prize. For the disciples the Resurrection was not just an experience of life after death. To them, the Resurrection happened everyday. For them, the Resurrection is a process of the transformation of all our relationships. A transformation of our relationship with God, and with other people. The Resurrection enabled them to use all the talents and gifts that God gave them to serve others in His Name.

There is a story about Leonardo da Vinci. When he was a student, his aged teacher who was also a good painter, asked him to finish a painting that his teacher had begun. Young da Vinci stood in such awe of his master's skill that at first he respectfully declined. But his teacher would accept no excuse. He simply said "Do your best." Trembling, da Vinci took his brush and began. With each stroke, his hand grew more and more steadier as the genius within him awoke. Soon he was so caught up in his work that he forgot his timidity. When the painting was finished, the master came to the studio to see the picture. Embracing his student, he exclaimed, "My son, I paint no more!" Leonardo da Vinci had God given talents, but was reluctant to use it. But because of His teacher's encouragement he gained the confidence he needed to use his talents.

May we all be empowered by the Resurrection, to learn to walk a new way with our God. Further may it also enable us to use all our talents to serve God through serving others.

Yours in Christ's Service,
Rev Shibi Abraham

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A Poem



"The Bible has been hid away"

The Master's Touch

Today, the values in this world
Are not a pretty sight
A life of fame and worldly gain
Has led us from the light.

Today, our lives are compromised
By greediness and wealth
The Bible has been hid away
Upon a dusty shelf.

Today, the thoughts that fill our minds
Are shallow without God
The trails that wander through the soul
Are paths, we shouldn't trod.

Today, I took a look around
I gazed into the sky
The grandeur of this universe
The fact we all shall die.

Today, I viewed God's handiwork
And somehow felt quite small
The moon, the stars, a grain of sand
The mystery of it all.

Today, I came to realize
The things that meant so much
Are really of no value now
Without the Master's touch

~ Marilyn Ferguson ~
(Taken from the internet)

Did you Know

Vishu – New Year in Kerala

Keralites celebrate their New Year on the first day of the Malayalam month of Medam according to the Kollam calendar. This usually falls on 14 April. A festival of gaiety and renewal, this day is celebrated with great fun in Kerala.

Ritual: The main ritual on this day is *Vishukkani* and *Vishu Kaineettam*. It is believed that the first objects which one sees on the morning of Vishu determine the prosperity experienced in the coming year. As a result, people make it a point to see all the auspicious things as soon as they wake up. This is called *Vishukkani*. A special ritual arrangement of auspicious articles like rice grains, fresh linen, golden cucumber, betel leaves, arecanut, metal mirror, yellow flowers, a holy text and coins is made in a bell metal vessel called *uruli*. A bell metal lamp called *nilavilakku* is lighted near it. When the day begins, people behold this ritualistic arrangement. A *puja* is performed and sweets offered to the gods. Older members of the family give *kaineettam* (token amount of money) to the youngsters, as part of the celebrations. The Kanippoo (flower of cassia) is considered especially auspicious for both the *kani* and *puja* on this day.



"Vishukkani – an arrangement of auspicious articles in a bell-metal vessel."

Legend: The Kollam era is said to have begun on the day Parashurama, the sixth incarnation of Vishnu, created Kerala by making the waters of the Arabian Sea recede. Parashurama had vowed to exterminate the Kshatriya caste from the face of the earth. In keeping with this oath, he went to war with Rama, who was a Kshatriya. During the battle, he realised that Rama was none other than the seventh incarnation of Vishnu. He realised that the purpose of his own life had come to an end and decided to spend the rest of his life in meditation. For this, he wanted a place where he could meditate in total peace. The gods granted him a boon according to which, he was to throw his battle axe into the sea and land would rise along the distance it covered. This is how Kerala was created.

Festival: The festival of Vishu is a symbolic representation of the deepest feelings of the human heart for spreading peace and good will all around. Art dances and family get-togethers make up the main celebrations of this day.

On this day decorated elephants with equally decked up persons join in the gala celebrations. Along with these shopping, special foods and rituals make this day of Vishu very special and eagerly awaited for.

Vishu Recipe

Ada Pradhaman

Ada - 1 cup
(Available at Kerala store at Erdington or
Afga Malayalee store at Walsall)
Milk - 3 cups
Sweetened condensed milk - 1 small tin
Sugar if necessary
Water - 2 cups
Cardamom - 1/2 tsp (powder)
Clarified Butter (Ghee)- 1/2 tsp

Method

Add 3 cups whole milk in a wide vessel with a long spoon in it. Keep the same inside a pressure cooker till 3 whistles blows. Cook the milk for 1/2 hr over low flame. In the meanwhile, boil 2 cups water and add the Ada to the boiling water. Remove it from the heat and keep it closed till it becomes soft (20min). Drain the ada and keep it till all the water is drained (10 min).

Take the milk out from the cooker that will have become pink color by now.

Cook the milk further over medium flame and add the ada to the milk. Once it is done, add the sweetened condensed milk and cook for 1/2 hr. Add more sugar to your taste.

Stir it with a spoon every now and then to avoid making lumps and so that it does not stick to the bottom of the vessel either. Once it is well cooked, add the cardamom powder and 1/2 tsp ghee (clarified butter) to enhance the taste and its aroma.



The Law

The Way It Is . . .

1. "The Law of Avoiding Oversell"

When putting cheese in a mousetrap, always leave room for the mouse.

2. "The Law of Common Sense"

Never accept a drink from a urologist.

3. "The Law of Volunteering"

If you dance with a grizzly bear, you had better let him lead.

4. "The Law of Self Sacrifice"

When you starve with a tiger, the tiger starves last.

5. "Weiler's Law"

Nothing is impossible for the man who doesn't have to do it himself.

6. "The Law of Reality"

Never get into fights with ugly people, they have nothing to lose.

7. "Law of Probable Dispersal"

Whatever hits the fan will not be evenly distributed.

8. "Law of Volunteer Labor"

People are always available for work in the past tense.

9. "Conway's Law"

In any organization there is one person who knows what is going on. That person will be fired.

10. "The Steel Law of Distribution"

Those who have some... They get more.

11. "Law of Cybernetic Entomology"

There is always one more bug.

12. "Law of Drunkedness"

You cannot fall off the floor.

13. "The Law of Management"

The first myth of good management is that it exists.

14. "Osborne's Law"

Variables won't -- constants aren't.

15. "Washington's Law"

For every action there is an equal and opposite government program.



Special Greetings this month

Birthday greetings to

Syba Sunny, Annamma Giboy, Shibu Thannimootil George, Mathew K Thomas , Shyni Thomas, Silvy Viji George, Reena Abraham

Congratulations on the Wedding Anniversaries of

Anup V Mathew & Neena Mathews, Reggie Sam John & Annie John, San P Thomas & Sunitha San

Useful contacts

Rev: Shibi Abraham:
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0247 632 7334

Dr Simon Idiculla
01902 380 363

Sevika Sangam
Marykutty Thomas
0121 772 8697

Sunday school
Susan Abraham
0247 632 7334

Sunday school

At 3:30pm every 2nd and 4th Saturdays at the Church.



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IF GOD IS SO POWERFUL AND HE IS SUPPOSED TO BE EVERYWHERE, HOW COME I CAN'T FIND HIM ON EITHER MYSPACE OR FACEBOOK?

Other announcements

Office Bearers for 2008/09

Hermon Marthoma Church has completed its one year of existence. It is time for a change. New faces mean new ideas. There are only 21 official members and it is hoped that 2008/09 will help to double the membership. Please do assist by giving your time to be an office bearer, participate in the service, contribute generously and help in strengthening the Church.

ALTAR EGO. by Len Jones



"That concludes my presentation on time-tested, sure-fired statements that will stunt church growth. Any Questions?"

