

Hermon Marthoma Church

MIDLANDS

April 2009

www.hermonmarthomachurch.org.uk

Volume 3, Issue 1



Next Service:

14 Apr 09 – Special service
9:30am to 12:30pm

12th Apr 09 – Easter service
10:00am to 11:30am

25 Apr 09 – Ordinary Service
4pm – 6pm

At

St. Francis Hall,
The University of
Birmingham- Chaplaincy,
Edgbaston, Birmingham
B15 2TT.

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Special announcement

- There will be no service on 11th Apr09.
- Rev Shibi Achen & Family leaves UK on 14th April 09

From Achen's desk

So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. - Matthew 28:8

In the above passage we see how Easter transformed some of the earliest disciples of Jesus. When the women came to the tomb, they were sad, disappointed, and filled with grief. But after seeing the empty tomb and hearing the Easter message 'He is not here; for he has been raised,...' their sadness has been transformed into great joy. They ran to tell other the GOOD NEWS. Jesus is Alive!

It was women who God used to tell the world that Jesus has overcome sin and death. That, sometimes, what we think is the end is in reality a new beginning; Filled with new possibilities and new chances; Filled with new life.

In those days according to Jewish laws a woman was considered a second class citizen. One of the Jewish prayers that dated from that era declared, "I thank Thee that I am not a woman." (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright (c)1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers) Her status really depended on the men in her life, (her father, her husband, or her son.)

But God used women to testify to the Easter message. This is the way of the Lord.

'The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.' – Psalms 118- 22-23

' But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the



presence of God.' –
1 Corinthians 1: 27-29

God does not view us as other people see us. God sees each and every one of us as people with immense potential and great capabilities. He wants us to use what we have to serve His Kingdom and to spread the Good News.

As we prepare to celebrate Easter, let us all remember that we are all Children of God; that our Heavenly Father loves all of us, and wants us to love each other; that we are all special in His eyes; that we are all talented and gifted. And that we are all called to spread the Great News of Easter - 'He is not here; for he has been raised,'

I and my family would like to thank all those who have given us love and support over the last two years. Please pray for me and my family as we are about to start a phase of the Lord's ministry.

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

Rev. Shibi Abraham

**Happy
Easter**

Farewell to Rev Shibi Abraham and Family

Rev Shibi Abraham is the first Vicar of Hermon Mar Thoma church (2007- 2009).

Rev Shibi Abraham who hails from Bophal, but was raised in America has been the first Vicar of Hermon Mar Thoma Church. His wife, Sheeba hails from Madras. They are blessed with 2 sons, David aged 3 and Daniel aged 1.

Achen and family are leaving UK on April 14th to continue their ministry in Houston, Texas. Achen has been appointed as the Youth Chaplin in the Houston region.

Best wishes to Achen and family from the all the members of The Hermon Mar Thoma church.



"Pastor, about this new idea to reach teens..."

Know your Customers

A disappointed salesman of Coca Cola returns from his Middle East assignment. A friend asked, "Why weren't you successful with the Arabs?"

The salesman explained

"When I got posted in the Middle East, I was very confident that I would make a good sales pitch as Cola is virtually unknown there. But, I had a problem I didn't know to speak Arabic. So, I planned to convey the message through three posters..."

First poster: A man lying in the hot desert sand...totally exhausted and fainting.

Second poster: The man is drinking our Cola.

Third poster: Our man is now totally refreshed.

And then these posters were pasted all over the place

"Then that should have worked!" said the friend.



"The hell it should had!?" Said the salesman. "I didn't realize that Arabs read from right to left"

Where does the name 'Easter' come from?

Pagan traditions give us the English word "Easter" which comes from the word "Eostre". The Anglo-Saxon word for April was "Eostre-monath" (the month of openings).

However, it should be remembered that Christians celebrated the resurrection of Christ long before the word "Easter" was used, and the word they used for the celebration was "Pascha", which is derived from and linked to the Jewish festival of Passover.

According to Bede, the English monastic historian, the English word Easter comes from the Anglo-Saxon name for the month of April, which was known as "Eostremonath" in the AngloSaxon tongue and since Pascha was most often celebrated in Eostremonath, the English Christians began calling it "Easter". Bede also notes that the month was named after the Anglo-Saxon goddess Esostre.

Rituals related to the goddess Eostre focus on new beginnings, symbolized by the Easter egg, and fertility, which is symbolized by the hare (or Easter bunny).



The Seed

A successful business man was growing old and knew it was time to choose a successor to take over the business.

Instead of choosing one of his Directors or his children, he decided to do something different. He called all the young executives in his company together.

He said, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next CEO. I have decided to choose one of you. "The young executives were Shocked, but the boss continued."I am going to give each one of you a SEED today - one very special SEED.

I want you to plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from the seed I have given you.

I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next CEO."

One man, named Jim, was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly, told his wife the story. She helped him get a pot, soil and compost and he planted the seed. Everyday, he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about three weeks, some of the other executives began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow.

Jim kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. Three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by, still nothing.

By now, others were talking about their plants, but Jim didn't have a plant and he felt like a failure.

Six months went by -- still nothing in Jim's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Jim didn't say anything to his colleagues, however... He just kept watering and fertilizing the soil - He so wanted the seed to grow.

A year finally went by and all the young executives of the company brought their plants to the CEO for inspection.

Jim told his wife that he wasn't going to take an empty pot.

But she asked him to be honest about what happened. Jim felt sick to his stomach, it was going to be the most embarrassing moment of his life, but he knew his wife was right.

He took his empty pot to the board room. When Jim arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other executives. They were beautiful -- in all shapes and sizes.

Jim put his empty pot on the floor and many of his colleagues laughed, a few felt sorry for him!

When the CEO arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted his young executives.

Jim just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees, and flowers you have grown," said the CEO. "Today one of you will be appointed the next CEO!"

All of a sudden, the CEO spotted Jim at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered the Financial Director to bring him to the front.

Jim was terrified. He thought, "The CEO knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me fired!"

When Jim got to the front, the CEO asked him what had happened to his seed - Jim told him the story.

The CEO asked everyone to sit down except Jim. He looked at Jim, and then announced to the young executives, "Behold your next Chief Executive Officer! His name is Jim!"

Jim couldn't believe it. Jim couldn't even grow his seed.

"How could he be the new CEO?" the others said.

Then the CEO said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone in this room a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds; they were dead - it was not possible for them to grow.

All of you, except Jim, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you.

Jim was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new Chief Executive Officer!"

- * If you plant honesty, you will reap trust
- * If you plant goodness, you will reap friends
- * If you plant humility, you will reap greatness
- * If you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment
- * If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective
- * If you plant hard work, you will reap success
- * If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation
- * If you plant faith in God, you will reap a harvest

So, be careful what you plant now;
It will determine what you will reap later..

"Whatever You Give To Life, Life Gives You Back"





Useful contacts

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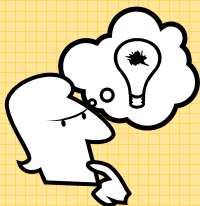
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Special Greetings this month

Birthday greetings to

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

Congratulations on the Wedding Anniversaries of

Anup V Mathew & Neena Mathews, Reggie Sam John & Annie John,
San P Thomas & Sunitha San, Abraham Thomas & Elizabeth
Abraham Thomas (Mini)

Sunday school

**At 3:30pm every 2nd and 4th Saturdays at the
St Francis Hall**



What is the Easter story?

Easter is the story of Jesus' last days in Jerusalem before his death. The Easter story includes Maundy Thursday (the Last supper leading to the Eucharist), Good Friday (the day on which Jesus was crucified) and Easter Day (the day on which Jesus came back to life).

It is a sad story because Jesus was killed. But the story has a very happy ending, because Jesus came back to life and visited his friends and followers once more. He did not die at all, but went back up to Heaven to be with God, his father.

A verse to remember

He is not here, but is risen" (Luke 24:6).

Prayer for the month

Dear God, thank You that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. Thank You that He arose from the dead and is now living; and because He lives, we can have eternal life. In Jesus' Name. Amen

