



The Midlands Prayer Group

News & Views

February 2007
Volume 3, Issue 2



the experience of the Jewish people liberated from Egypt.

Jesus refuses to use his condition of Son of God unduly, there by giving a guideline to his disciples not to use the grace received for their own benefit. Following Jesus is not a privilege placing us above others but rather a service. Jesus will show this when He shares the loaves with the crowds. Then the Lord refuses to put God to the test, and later he will always reject those who demand a miracle in order to believe. Jesus never works miracles to impress people. His healings are signs of life, not displays of power, life against all forms of death, like sin present in humankind. Jesus is the new Adam (Gen.2: 7-9) who conquers the sin in the world and death through sin.(Rom.5:12).

The third temptation reveals what is at stake in history and proclamation of the Kingdom. In the Bible mountain is the place of God's revelation. Jesus is offered power over all the kingdoms of the world. In return, He is to pay homage to one whose plan is contrary to God's. Such is also the temptation of the Christian community – understanding its power to serve as a power to dominate. We are constantly threatened by this perversion. But we cannot confuse a historical reality, whether political or religious, with the Kingdom of God. The reign of God must be made present in history now, but it must also impel us toward realities, which are beyond history. Jesus also reminds us that we are to serve only God.

From the first month of Lent we are called to believe with our hearts, to

Dearly beloved in Christ
Warm Greetings

The first month of the year 2007 is past; we have had many experiences, a mixture of both the upbeat and the depressing of the many aspects of life, but God has given us courage to face the realities of life.

Now the season of the Lent greets us again! What does this mean; or rather, what should it mean? Lent is a dynamic time. The Lent is a season set apart by the church calendar for fasting and prayer as an annual celebration of the memory of the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It is a season for reflection and taking stock; it is a time for reformation.

The three synoptic evangelists place the experience of the desert in relation with the baptism of Jesus presented shortly before. All three also say that Jesus is led by the Spirit. This marks the beginning of His mission. The forty days refer to the experience of Israel wandering for forty years in the wilderness on the way to the Promised Land. Jesus' determination in the face of temptations corroborates the commitment of His baptism and open path for His own task. All three temptations, Jesus responds by using texts from Deuteronomy, the book which is a theological reflection on

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- * Services are held on the second Saturday of every month at
St. James Hill Church
Mere Green Road
Four Oaks, West Midlands
B75 5DD

Next Service 10th Feb 2006

The Midlands Mar Thoma Prayer Group



recall what we will celebrate during Holy week: that Jesus has risen.

Although it is neglected in so many parts of the world, human life is a gift from God. In some way, it must also be our gift to one another.

Proclaiming the Kingdom is giving life.

May God bless you all.

Yours in His Service
Gigy Achen

Jokes of the Month



One winter morning a couple was listening to the radio over breakfast. They hear the announcer say, "We are going to have

8 to 10 inches of snow today. You must park your car on the even-numbered side of the street, so the snowploughs can get through." Norman 's wife goes out and moves her car.

A week later while they are eating breakfast again, the radio announcer says, "We are expecting 10 to 12 inches of snow today. You must park your car on the odd-numbered side of the street, so the snowploughs can get through. " Norman 's wife goes out and moves her car again.

The next week they are again having breakfast, when the radio announcer says, "We are expecting 12 to 14 inches of snow today you must park..." Then the power goes out. Norman 's wife is very upset, and with a worried look on her face she says, "Honey, I don't know what to do. Which side of the street do I need to park on so the snowploughs can get through?"



With the love and understanding in his voice that all men who are married to blondes exhibit, Norman says

"Why don't you just leave it in the garage this time?"



An American decided to write a book about famous churches around the world. So he bought a plane ticket and took a trip to Orlando thinking that he would start by working his way across the USA from South to North.

On his first day he was inside a church taking photographs when he noticed a golden telephone mounted on the wall with a sign that read "\$10,000 per call". The American, being intrigued asked a priest who was strolling by what the telephone was used for. The priest replied that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 you could talk to God. The American thanked the priest and went along his way.

Next stop was in Atlanta. There, at a very large cathedral, he saw the same golden telephone with the same sign under it. He wondered if this was the same kind of telephone he saw in Orlando and he asked a nearby nun what its purpose was. She told him that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 he could talk to God. "Okay thank you," said the American.

He then travelled to Indianapolis, Washington DC, Philadelphia, Boston and New York. In every church he saw the same golden telephone with the same "\$10,000 per call" sign under it.

The American, upon leaving Vermont decided to travel to AUSTRALIA to see if Australians had the same phone. He arrived in Australia, and again, in the first church he entered, there was the same golden telephone, but this time the sign under it read "40 cents per call."

The American was surprised so he asked the priest about the sign. "Father, I've travelled all over America and I've seen this same

golden telephone in many churches. I'm told that it is a direct line to Heaven, but in the US the price was \$10,000 per call. Why is it so cheap here?"

The priest smiled and answered, "You're in Australia now, son - it's a local call!"



Letter from the editorial desk

Dear friends in Christ,

It is the second issue of the third year of the newsletter. I hope you all enjoyed them so far.

It is time for a fresh look to the newsletter. So I would ask for volunteers to take up the editor's post.

There is a chance to contribute to the Golden Jubilee Souvenir. Please send in your contributions as requested. If you need help with them, please do not hesitate to ask me.

My email id is nellikala@aol.com or elizabeththomas01@yahoo.co.uk

Regards
Sajini



QUIZ

Q: Which area of Palestine was especially wealthy?

A: The area around the Jordan, the banks were always overflowing.

Q: How do we know that Job went to a chiropractor?

A: Because Job 16:12, 14, 16 says, "I had come to be at ease, but he proceeded to shake me up: and he grabbed me by the back of the neck and proceeded to smash me."

Q: Will there be dogs in the new system?

A: No, 2 Peter 3:14 tells us that we will be without spot.
 Q: Who was the straightest man in the bible?
 A: Joseph, because the Pharaoh made him a ruler.
 Q: Which Christian magazine did the apostle Paul command to never throw away?
 A: Ephesian 5:18 says to "keep Awake"

An appeal from Lilly Abraham who is the person in charge of our Golden Jubilee committee

Dear all
 Could you please make arrangements to announce following in your church, Sunday school, youth and prayer groups. If you want me to contact your secretary (if you are no longer a secretary) then do let me know immediately with their contact ID and/ or telephone number.

1. Competition for cover page design for the souvenir, especially by Sunday school and youth -closing date is 25th of the February so that you can collate and send to me before 1st of March - you could declare your own area winners for incentive and send me the best. Please do not forget to mention the name and age of the participants.
 -Design should be made on A4 size paper. Name and age written at the back of the page
 - Theme is Golden Jubilee
 - Hand drawn or computer graphics can be used too.
2. Your own Church history (parish/ congregation and to be parish on 1st April 2007) in short with some photos collated latest by 1st March to reach me. Ask your church to include your prayer groups' input too and make sure they have a say too to have wider participation.
3. Articles no longer than A4 (200 to 300 words maximum)
 - Theme Jubilee, poem or story-again we would like Sunday school and youth input -they should be encouraged

4. Personal experience no longer than half A4 size
5. Compliments and best wishes @ the rate of £50.00
6. Ad and/or best wishes from any business personal or friends at the rate of £500.00 for full A4 page and £300 for half A4 page.
7. Tickets for 14th Aril 2007 will be with you by next Friday for sale.

We aim to get everything by 1st of March 2007. Please proactively support and pray in achieving our dead line to make it a real success. Please let me know if I have missed out anything

Thank you for your support in anticipation

Prayerfully
 Lilly



Classic Quiz
 You need 4 correct answers to pass.

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years' War last?
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3) From which animal do we get cat gut?
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of?
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
- 7) What was King George VI's first name?
- 8) What colour is a purple finch?
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
- 10) What is the colour of the black box in a commercial airplane?

Remember, you need 4 correct answers to pass.

One particular four-year old prayed,
 "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."



Announcements

Sunday School Day is being celebrated on 10th March 07 from 1pm until 4pm at the St James Hill Hall, Sutton Coldfield followed by Church service at 4pm. Please bring your kids and some food to share.

A Family Retreat is planned at St Johns Marthoma Church on Saturday 24th March 2007 and the Rt Rev Geevarghese Mar Theodosius will be presiding.

Any one wishing to contribute to the refreshments, please inform the secretary. There are many dates available.

Condolence

Mathew Patteril's mother passed away (Aleyamma Varghese). Please pray for the bereaved family.



Birthdays this month

Ashwin Thomas from Wolverhampton, Serin Jacob from Harborne celebrates their birthdays this month. Please pray for them



Wedding Anniversaries

Congratulations to Jinu and Sanu Varghese for their wedding anniversary.

Something To ponder

Although things are not perfect
 Because of trial or pain
 Continue in thanksgiving
 Do not begin to blame
 Even when the times are hard
 Fierce winds are bound to blow
 God is forever able
 Hold on to what you know
 Imagine life without His love
 Joy would cease to be
 Keep thanking Him for all things
 Love imparts to thee
 Move out of "Camp Complaining"
 No weapon that is known



On earth can yield the power
Praise can do alone
Quit looking at the future
Redeem the time at hand
Start every day with worship
To "thank" is a command
Until we see Him coming
Victorious in the sky
We'll run the race with gratitude
Exalting God most high
Yes, there'll be good times and yes
some will be bad, but...
Zion waits in glory.....where none are
ever sad!

The next Services:

10th March 07

**6th April 07 – Good Friday service
(Time to be announced later)**

**There will be no service on 14th
April 07 because of the golden
Jubilee celebrations**

There will be refreshments after the
service.

Answers To The Classic Quiz

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years War last? 116 years
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats? Ecuador
- 3) From which animal do we get cat gut? Sheep and Horses
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution? November
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of? Squirrel fur
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal? Dogs
- 7) What was King George VI's first name? Albert
- 8) What colour is a purple finch? Crimson
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from? New Zealand
- 10) What is the colour of the black box in a commercial airplane? Orange

What do you mean, you failed? Me too!

Peace

"In me . . . peace"
(John 16:33).



There is a vast difference between happiness and blessedness. Paul had imprisonments and pains, sacrifice and suffering up to the very limit; but in the midst of it all, he was blessed. All the beatitudes came into his heart and life in the midst of those very conditions.

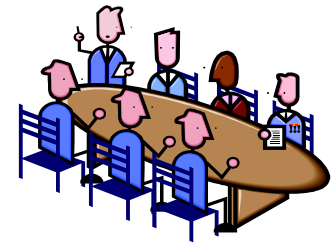
Paganini, the great violinist, came out before his audience one day and made the discovery just as they ended their applause that there was something wrong with his violin. He looked at it a second and then saw that it was not his famous and valuable one.

He felt paralyzed for a moment, then turned to his audience and told them there had been some mistake and he did not have his own violin. He stepped back behind the curtain thinking that it was still where he had left it, but discovered that some one had stolen his and left that old second-hand one in its place. He remained back of the curtain a moment, then came out before his audience and said:

"Ladies and Gentlemen: I will show you that the music is not in the instrument, but in the soul." And he played as he had never played before; and out of that second-hand instrument, the music poured forth until the audience was enraptured with enthusiasm and the applause almost lifted the ceiling of the building, because the man had revealed to them that music was not in the machine but in his own soul.

It is your mission tested and tried one, to walk out on the stage of this world and reveal to all earth and Heaven that the music is not in conditions, not in the things, not in externals, but the music of life is in your own soul.

If peace be in the heart,
The wildest winter storm is full of solemn beauty,
The midnight flash but shows the path of duty,
Each living creature tells some new and joyous story,
The very trees and stones all catch a ray of glory,
If peace be in the heart.
--Charles Francis Richardson



The 2006/7 managing committee of the Midlands Mar Thoma Prayer Group

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| President | Rev Gigy Thomas |
| Hon Vice President | Sunny Thomas |
| Hon Secretary | Biji (Varghese V Abraham) |
| Hon Trustee | Simon Idiculla |

Area Representatives Birmingham

- Thomas Mathew
- Walsall & Wolverhampton**
Sanu P Varghese

Coventry, Leicester & Nottingham

- Sajeev
- Derby & Burton on Trent**
Jacob Samuel

Lay leaders

- Saji (Thomas Koshy) & Ranu Samuel

Sunday School Co-ordinator

- Biji (Varghese V Abraham)

Choir representative

- Giboy George

Editor Elizabeth Thomas (Sajini)

Some useful telephone numbers

- Rev: Gigy Thomas: 0161 223 2199
- Dr Sunny Thomas: 07798820433
- Mr V V Abraham: **07737216172**
- Mr Sanu P Varghese: 01922628343
- Dr Simon Idiculla : 01902380363
- Editorial Desk: 0121 308 1200**





Mar Thoma Church Europe Golden Jubilee Celebration (1957 – 2007)

Patron:
Most Revd. Dr. Philipose
Mar Chrysostom Metropolitan

President:
Rt. Revd. Dr. Euyakim
Mar Coorilos, Diocesan Bishop

Vice-Presidents & Vicars: Revd. John Thomas, Revd. Thomas P. Koshy, Revd. Gigi Thomas, Revd. Benu John

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Tel & Fax 020 8577 9981
E-mail regiachen@yahoo.com
Website: www.marthoma.org.uk

Dear Sirs,

We, the Mar Thoma Church in Europe, 1st century Christians from India are celebrating our Golden jubilee on 14th April 2007 at the Troxy in London and are planning to publish a souvenir to commemorate this event.

We would be very grateful if you could support us in this endeavour and help us meet our target of £20,000 to meet our production costs and we plan to raise this through advertisements and compliment slots. Any surplus monies will go to our charity in the UK, currently Richard House to help with their efforts to raise money for vital equipment.

Please find attached a sheet with rates for your perusal and we would be grateful if you could complete it and send it back to us with cheques made out to 'St. James Marthoma Church UK'. Also please send any artwork or text that you want to appear in the advertisement to us on a cd or via email.

Thanking you in advance for your generosity and co-operation in this matter, we remain,

Yours sincerely,

Committee members: Mrs. M. Abraham, (Secretary), Dr. K. John, Dr. Z. Varghese, Mr. A. A. Mathew, Mr. A. K. Thomas, Dr. M. Edison, Mr. R. Abraham, Dr. J. John, Dr. A.K. Thomas, Mrs J. Thomas, Mrs J. Thomas, Mr. T. Thomas, Mr. M. Zachariah, Mr. S. Jacob, Mr. S.C. George, Mr. S. E. Varughese, Dr. B. Thomas, Dr. S. Thomas, Mr. J. Thomas, Mr. G. Mathew, Mr. S. Philip, Miss N. Philip, Mr. A. K. Niravathu



Mar Thoma Church Europe

Golden Jubilee Celebration (1957 – 2007)

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 Website: www.marthoma.org.uk

Rate Card

Half page A4 size colour advertisement	£ 1000.00
Full page A4 size colour advertisement	£ 1500.00
Inside front cover	£ 2000.00
Inside back cover	£ 2000.00
Outside back cover	£ 5000.00

Please find attached my cheque for _____ made out to 'St James Marthoma Church for (please tick as required)

- Half page colour advertisement at £1000.00
- Full page colour advertisement at £1500.00
- Inside front cover page colour advertisement at £2000.00
- Inside back cover page colour advertisement at £2000.00
- Outside back cover page colour advertisement at £ 5000.00

artwork and text

- Provided on CD
- I will provide it in due course – last date for submission is 15 March 2007

I agree with the Terms and Conditions as attached.

Signature _____ Date _____

Name _____ Position _____

Committee members: Mrs. M. Abraham, (Secretary), Dr. K. John, Dr. Z. Varghese, Mr. A. A. Mathew, Mr. A. K. Thomas, Dr. M. Edison, Mr. R. Abraham, Dr. J. John, Dr. A.K. Thomas, Mrs J. Thomas, Mrs J. Thomas, Mr. T. Thomas, Mr. M. Zachariah, Mr. S. Jacob, Mr. S.C. George, Mr. S. E. Varughese, Dr. B. Thomas, Dr. S. Thomas, Mr. J. Thomas, Mr. G. Mathew, Mr. S. Philip, Miss N. Philip, Mr. A. K. Niravathu