

Hermon Marthoma Church

MIDLANDS

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www.marthomamidlands.co.uk

Volume 2, Issue 3



From Achen's desk

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God."
John 20:28

Mar Thoma Christians are very proud of our ancient roots and rich traditions, and we commemorate July 3rd as St. Thomas Day. But we sometimes forget the faith proclamation and missionary zeal of the disciple Thomas. St. Thomas Day reminds us of the need to be faithful to our Lord and his mission. "My Lord and My God" should be the faith proclamation of Christians all over the world. Thomas first proclaimed it through his words and then through his life.

It is easy to say that we are Christians, but can Christianity be seen in our words, and actions, (God also knows if your thoughts are Christian.) Our Lord, Jesus Christ, came seeking the lost and the least. He chose to associate with the marginalized and was a companion to the downtrodden. He loved and cared for the rejected and the despised people in society.

We are supposed to represent Jesus on earth. The church is supposed to work for the welfare of its non-members. Sharing and caring for the weak and the poor is supposed to be part of our mission. We need to extend our friendship beyond our own little circle in order to win others for Christ. Our friendship should be extended to those who require it the most. We are to work to reconcile the people in the world with each other and with God.

The following is from the 2004 Annual Report of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar. The "Church is the community called to work for the transformation of the world together with God, the Lord of history, the one who is ever active in the world. It is through continuing in the present times the ministry of reconciliation that has been made possible through Jesus Christ, that the church, the body of Jesus Christ, reveals God to the world.

The church is sent to be where Christ is. Jesus Christ's leaning towards the tax collectors, shepherds, sinners, prostitutes, the lame, the blind, the poor, the weak etc., The church has the responsibility to believe, experience and make others understand the fact that the power of the gospel is greater than that of any human institution or thought. It is the church's responsibility to declare aloud that it is not evil, but good, righteousness, peace and the cross that would gain victory. The church's mission is to discern the work of God going on in this world and make it known to the world." (http://www.marthomasyrrianchurch.org/images/Annual_Report_2004.pdf)

Despite all of Thomas' weaknesses and doubts, Jesus was able to transform him into a valuable instrument in the construction of the Kingdom of God. One who lacked faith, was able to give faith to many. Today there are millions of people throughout the world who are eternally grateful for the missionary zeal that Thomas had.

We need to continue the mission of reconciliation and transform the world. In our churches and in our families there are divisions that need to be reconciled. We need to demonstrate our faith by reaching out to those who need our help. But before we can reconcile the world to God, we need to reconcile ourselves to God, and we need to reconcile with each other. It is the Jesus' prayer and desire that we be one, that we be reconciled to each other, so that the world would believe that God sent Jesus (John 17:20-24.) If there is no reconciliation between us then how can others believe in Jesus? How can others believe in our message of peace and love? How can we call ourselves Christians?

As St. Thomas was faithful until death, we also should be faithful to our Lord in carrying out his mission. May the Holy Spirit enable all of us to proclaim "My Lord and My God", and may the Holy Spirit enable all of us to live a life that shows that proclamation.

Rev. Shibi Abraham

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Next Service:

**12 July 08 (First Holy Communion service)
4pm to 6pm conducted by
Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa**

**26 July 08 (Holy Communion)
4pm to 6pm**

At

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

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Message from Choir Secretary

Greetings in the name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

It is with great pleasure that we announce the festivities planned for the coming months.

To begin with, on the 2nd August we are having a Summer Barbeque at Coombe Country Park in Coventry from 10am to around 4pm, the day will cater for games for all ages, a barbeque filled with mouth watering delicacies.

This will be followed by Onam celebrations on the 30th August at St. Barnabas Church in Coventry from 10am till 4pm.

We do hope you will join us to make these social gathering a wonderful experience.

On the 13th Sept we will be having the Choir dedication service at the St. James Hill Church at Sutton Coldfield, at 4pm.

Further details to the above programmes will be passed onto all congregation members as the details are finalised.

There will be Choir practise on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month leading to the Choir dedication service. This is to ensure we optimise our practise sessions and facilitates the learning of new songs for the choir dedication service.

Please make time to come for the practice sessions as the time available to us is limited and we have to make the most of it.

Thanking you in advance.
Yours Sincerely,
Modit Monsi.

Message from the Secretary

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof." (Proverbs 18:21)

Words are serious business. There's a vast difference between lying and speaking by faith. A lie is meant to deceive someone. It's designed to make someone believe something that's not true. But to speak by faith is simply to speak words that agree with the Word of God instead of the circumstances around you. It's speaking from your spirit instead of from your mind.

As the Apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:13, "We have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, I have believed, and therefore have I spoken. We too believe, and therefore we speak" (The Amplified Bible).

There are some folks, who speak the words, but they don't have the faith to back it up, and as a result, they fall flat on their spiritual faces. They didn't actually "call things that be not as though they were." They called things that be not the way they wished they were.

Those are two very different things. The words may be the same. But just wishing and hoping won't get the job done. You've got to "believe."

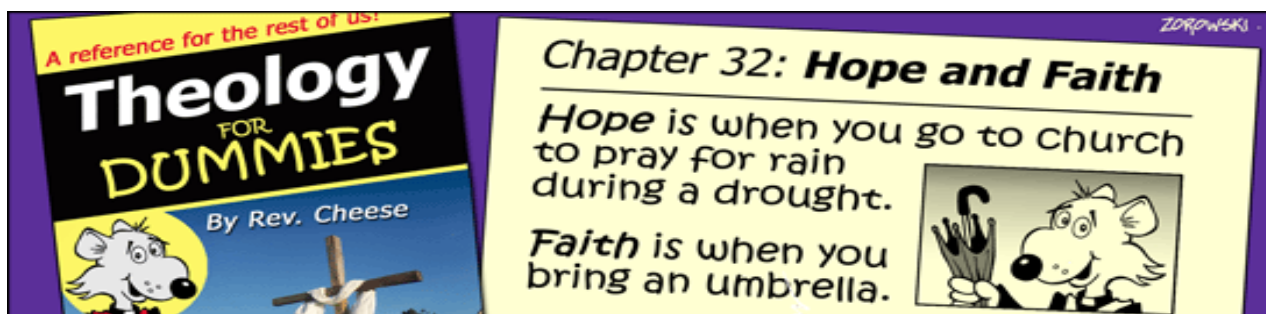
Begin today bringing both your tongue and your heart in line with the Word. Stop "telling it like it is" and start speaking and believing the promises of God. Put the power of words to work for you.

I believe that we can as Hermon Mar Thoma Church acquire a Church to call our own and run it with the help of the congregation. **We need a committee to make this dream come true.**

I believe that we can progress our Sunday School forward with the help of the talented people in our midst. There are many talented people among us who can make our children realise the word of God and the teachings of Christ. **Please come forward and assist.**

The elections for the 2008/09 are due on the 27th Sept08. **Put the faith & power of words to work for you and contribute towards the successful running of the Church.**

Biji (V V Abraham)



Sunday school

Teachers and assistants are required as our Sunday school grows with many in different age groups.

A child's poem

I love to go to Sunday School
To learn the Word of God.
I want His truth my life to rule
And light each path I trod.

I love to go to Sunday School
And learn to love Christ more;
To make myself a better tool,
As we God's Word explore.

I love to hear the Bible read,
And hear its stories told.
I love to know what God has said,
For it my life will mould.

I love to memorize the Word,
And hide God's truth within.
There's nothing I have ever heard
Like it to keep from sin.

I love to sing the songs of praise,
And clap my hands with joy.
It makes the day the best of days,
And all my doubts destroy.

I love my Christian family
Brothers, sisters in Christ.
I hate to be an absentee
For such love can't be priced.

So listen to this song I sing,
And come with me my friend.
We'll follow Christ our living King,
And praise Him without end.

BY GLENN PEASE

Our Motto

Lighted to Lighten



The role of the church is to spread the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Every believer and member of the Church is here in their position, wherever they are, are given the light so that they can lighten others.

Mathew 5: 14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

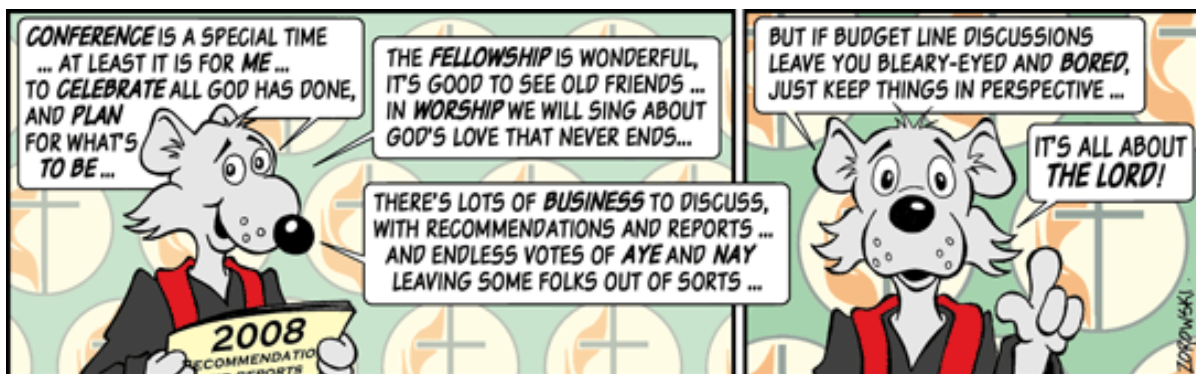
Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl, instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

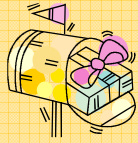
Mar Thoma Church was commissioned with the vision of mission.

THIS IS THE DAY.....



BE GLAD IN IT!!





Useful contacts

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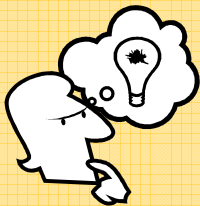
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Dr Simon Idiculla
01902 380 363

Sevika Sangam
Marykutty Thomas
0121 772 8697

Sunday school
Susan Abraham
0247 632 7334



Special Greetings this month

Birthday greetings to

Sowmya Simon, V.V.Abraham(Biji), Ardra Giboy, Anu Shaji, Ajay John, Rebekah E Thomas, Elizabeth Thomas (Sajini), Reggina Mathew, Christine Mathew, Elizabeth Abraham Thomas (Mini)

Congratulations to Saji & Sonia for the birth of their daughter in June 08

Congratulations on the Wedding of

Sinu Mathew to Sherin being held on 19th July08 at St Thomas Church, Parackathanam. Keezhvaipur, Pathanamthitta.

Sunday school

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

Other announcements

Forthcoming Events:

Annual Conference	:	8 th to 10 th Aug 08
Vacation Bible School for Kids	:	AUGUST
Choir Dedication Day	:	13 th Sept 08
Elections of new office Bearers	:	27th Sept 08
Sevika sangam day	:	SEPTEMBER
Convention	:	To Be Advised
Harvest Festival	:	OCTOBER
Sunday school Dedication Day	:	NOVEMBER
Christmas Carol Service	:	DECEMBER

Changes to the above will be made based on availability of the Church Hall & holidays

