

Hermon Marthoma Church

MIDLANDS

November 2008

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Volume 2, Issue 7



Next Service: (4-6pm)

8 Nov 08 -Holy Communion

22 Nov 08 -Holy Communion

At

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

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From Achen's desk

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

We are going to celebrate World Sunday School Day on November 2nd. Countless men and women over the years have helped develop the Sunday School to be a powerful tool in the Kingdom of God. One of these Great Soliders in the Army of the Lord is Robert Raikes. 'Known as the founder of the Sunday Schools movement, Raikes used his position as editor and proprietor of the Gloucester Journal to publicize the cause.'¹

'The movement started with a school for boys in the slums. Raikes had been involved with those incarcerated at the county Poor Law (part of the jail at that time) and saw that vice would be better prevented than cured. He saw schooling as the best intervention. The best available time was Sunday as the boys were often working in the factories the other six days. The best available teachers, were lay people. The textbook was the Bible, and the originally intended curriculum started with learning to read and then moved on to the catechism.'¹ Soon girls were also allowed to attend Sunday School.

It is better to prevent bad behavior than to try and cure it. The best tool to teach good behavior is the Bible and the best people to teach it are those that the children know and have a close relationship with. They can set an example for the children to follow. Parents and other elders can be the best "Sunday Day School Teachers."

The Lord said "Let the children come unto me; do not stop them for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Mt. 19: 14) Rev. Dr. K. A. Abraham wrote of one of his experiences in India " I am reminded



of one of my experiences in a Senior Sunday School conference some time ago at Charal Mount in Kerala. "Let us grow in Jesus" was the theme of the conference. After the main talks a few questions were given to children for discussion. In the plenary session, as usual, they had to give their summary of findings. One of the questions was this: "Who stops you from following Jesus today?"

"Surprisingly, two groups reported that their parents are the ones who stop them from following Jesus!"¹

Are we, as parents and as the older members of the church stopping the children from coming to Jesus? The way we act in church and at home shows our children what type of Christian we are. When they see how we behave and how we speak, are we stopping them from coming to Jesus?

Our children are one of the greatest gifts that God has given us. We are responsible to "Train children in the right way," (Prov. 22:6) and present them to the Lord pure and holy. They are to be the next generation of witnesses and missionaries for Jesus the Christ.

It takes the combined efforts of the parents, students and teachers to make sure that the Sunday School is growing the right way and that the children are coming to Jesus.

Let us thank God for our Sunday School, for all our children and teachers and let us pray that all children will come to Jesus.

Yours in His Service,
Rev. Shibi Abraham

The Bible in a nutshell – Through the eyes of a child

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one', but I think He must be a lot older than that.

Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did. Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, But they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel.

Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt And away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable.

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti.

Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your Neighbour's' stuff.

Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humour thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies.. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a Giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn.

(I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying To me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would Be nice to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.')

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans.

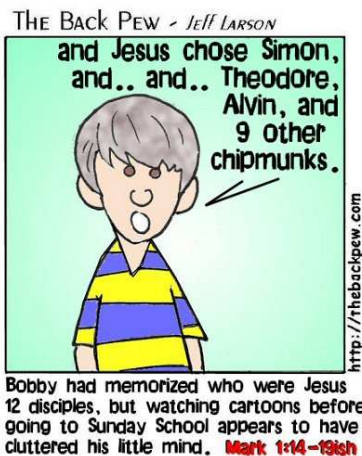
Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount But the Republicans and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, and then came back to life again.

He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution

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Children's questions about God & the Bible

❖ How do people stay up in heaven and not fall through the clouds?

The heaven that's above the clouds is what we call sky. In the sky we see clouds, the sun and the moon and billions of stars. But the heaven God is in, the heaven we go to when we die is way, way, way, above that heaven in another place and that is where we'll live with God. The Bible calls it paradise. We won't have to worry about falling through the clouds as we'll be in a different place way above the clouds. (Gen 1:6-8 and Luke 23:43)

❖ What do we wear in heaven?

The Bible tells us we will be wearing white robes, won't that be neat? We'll get new bodies, new clothes, a new name, and new heaven and a new earth. We won't grow old, we get sick, there will be no pain, no tears and we'll have beautiful robes to wear. Heaven is a beautiful place and God will give us beautiful clothes to wear. (Revelation 7:9, 19:8 and 21:1-4)

❖ How do you rise from the grave?

Actually you don't, Jesus will do it for you. When it's time for us to get our new bodies a trumpet will sound and Jesus will call our bodies out of the grave and they will be brand new ones, just like the one He got when God raised him from the grave. (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17)

❖ How did the rock get pushed away from Jesus tomb?

The Bible tells us an angel came and rolled the stone away. (Matthew 28:2)

❖ Why does God live in the Church?

God does not physically live in the "church", it is a place we call the house of God where we come to worship Him. God lives in the Heavens far above us but His son Jesus is building a new heaven and a new earth where someday we'll live with God in the same place He is, and it will be a very beautiful city. Today we come to God's house, the church building, to worship Him, in the future we'll live with God and we'll see Him everyday. (Revelation 21:1-4)

❖ How can God be everywhere? Does He have a lot of eyes?

God is a Spirit and as a spirit he doesn't have physical eyes like we have but he is able to see everything. It's one of those mysteries we won't understand about God until we're in heaven with him. But the Bible tells us He sees everything and nothing is hidden from him, he is everywhere at all times and sees everything. This means no matter where we are God knows we're there and because He sees everything He knows what we need before we know it, isn't God awesome? (Hebrews 4:13)

❖ Who put Jesus on the cross?

The people who actually put Jesus on the Cross were Roman Soldiers. In fact the Roman army had special units of soldiers who were trained on how to crucify people. They were the ones who nailed Jesus to the cross then stood guard and made sure that Jesus died before they took Him down. (Matthew 27:27-31 and John 19:32-34)

❖ Who is God's brother?

God doesn't have a brother. God is God; there was no one before God. God does show Himself to us in three ways, as God our Father in heaven, as the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts, and as Jesus as God's only son who came and died on the cross for us. Because of Jesus we are the children of God and He is our Holy Father who loves us very much and wants us to love Him in return. (Genesis 1:1, Romans 8:16, Isaiah 43:11, Isaiah 44:6, 45:5, 45:18, 45:21-22 and Isaiah 46:9)

❖ How did the fire get started (burning bush and Moses), and did it really happen?

When Moses saw the burning bush the Bible tells us the Angel of Lord came as flame and it was in the middle of the burning bush, so the Angel of the Lord started it burning. It also says the bush didn't burn, that the fire didn't burn up the bush; this was a real miracle and attracted Moses to the bush. This is also the fire God tells us about in hell, the one that burns forever in the Lake of Fire where the Devil and all his followers will be sent forever. They will burn night and day and never die, never be burned up, just like the bush that burned but didn't get burnt. And yes it really happened; God wouldn't put a lie in the Bible. (Exodus 3:1-3, Matthew 25:44, Mark 9:47-48, Revelation 14:11, Revelation 20:10, and Revelation 20:14.)

❖ How can we hear God talk?

We can hear God talk if we stop, look and listen. God speaks to us in many, many ways. He speaks to us through His Holy Word, the Bible, and all those people he sends to speak to us for Him, like your pastor or your teacher, he speaks to us through the world around us that He created – you can learn a lot about God by looking very carefully at His creation, and at times He will actually speak to us in a voice we can hear and understand, you just need to listen. (Exodus 3:1-4, Exodus 15:26, Numbers 7:89, Isaiah 6:8 and Matthew 17:5)

❖ How did God create the whole world?

He spoke. God is more powerful than anything we can imagine. The Bible tells us He created the earth, the sky and the whole universe just by speaking. If he is that powerful imagine how much He can help you when you ask Him for help? And, imagine how much God loves you that as powerful as He is He chose to create you and to make a place for you in heaven. (Genesis 1:1-3 and Matthew 25:34)

❖ Why would God create animals that hurt people?

God didn't create animals that hurt people, but that is what happened after Adam and Eve sinned and went against God's command. In the beginning all of the animals were friendly to people, they ate grass and other vegetation; it wasn't until after God destroyed His original creation with the flood that animals and people became enemies, and they both began to eat meat and flesh. God tells us that when Jesus comes back and builds a new heaven and a new earth the animals will be friendly with people again and we can play with lions and snakes and all sorts of animals and they won't hurt us at all, but today that's not so and we have to be careful around animals or they will hurt us. (Genesis 1:29-30 and 9:1-3 and Isaiah 11:6-9)

❖ Why do we come to Church?

We go to Church because we want to worship Jesus and because it is Jesus who builds the church. He does this so that we may come together to worship Him, to learn about Him, and to pray to Him. The Bible tells us we are to gather together to encourage each other and to help each other live the life Jesus wants each of us to live. The church is our gathering place where Jesus speaks all of us at one time and helps us help others. (Matthew 16:18 and Hebrews 10:24-25)





Useful contacts

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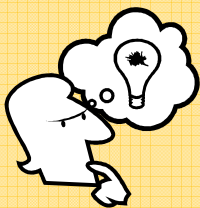
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0247 632 7334

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Special Greetings this month

Birthday greetings to

George M Patteril, Mathew P Daniel, Ashlynn M Mathew, Susan Abraham, Thomas K Mathew, Sinu Mathew, Mathew Samuel, Gowry Simon, Mathew Samuel, Jenisha Joji, Sosamma Shyji

Congratulations on the Wedding Anniversaries of

Thomas K Mathew & Marykutty Thomas, Joji Philip and Jejo Joji, Shyji Joseph & Sosamma Shyji

Sunday school

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

Other announcements

Forthcoming Events:

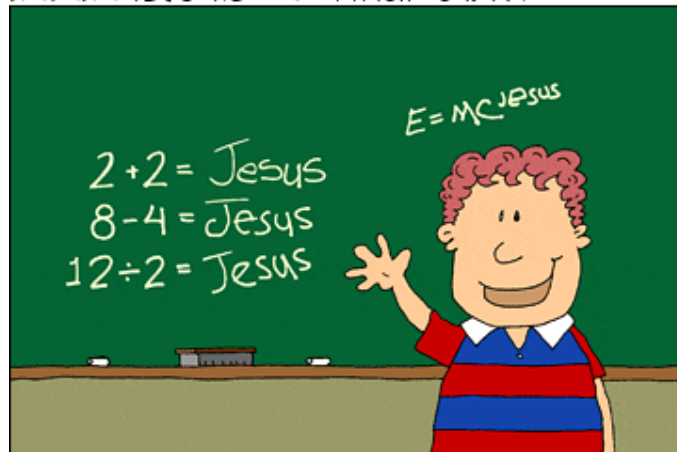
Sunday school Dedication Day : NOVEMBER
Christmas Carol Service : 13th Dec 08

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

Harvest Festival

Sevika Sangam conducted the Harvest Festival on the 25th Oct 08 and it was a great success with a record amount collected for the Church Fund. A big thank you to all who worked to make it a success and to those who contributed generously!

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Thanks to Gert-Jan van Heugten

06-16-2008

**IN BIBLE CLASS WE LEARNED THAT JESUS IS
THE ANSWER**