

# Hermon Marthoma Church

## MIDLANDS

September 2007

[www.marthomamidlands.co.uk](http://www.marthomamidlands.co.uk)

Volume 1, Issue 5



### Next Service:

8<sup>th</sup> Sept 2007 (Malayalam)  
22<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2007 (English)

At

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

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### Just a reminder to all

**Please pay your initial contribution and monthly subscriptions in time to be able for this Church to function efficiently.**

## Something to ponder

### From the Achen's desk

Dearly beloved in Christ,

*Warm Greetings!*

"Hear, my child, your father's instruction, and do not reject your mother's teaching;" – Proverbs 1:8

The value of education is highly regarded in the Jewish culture. In ancient Israel, the children's education appears to have been initially a parental responsibility. The Old Testament makes numerous references to the obligation incumbent upon a parent to teach, inspire, and shape the knowledge and worldview of their child. (*Deuteronomy* 6:7, *Deuteronomy* 11:19, etc.) Both parents, the father and the mother, had a role in educating the children, and this is part of the reason that children are to respect their parents. (Honor your father and mother. – Exodus 20:12)

The parents not only taught their children how to earn a living, but they were also responsible for their children religious education. Reading the Old Testament, we can see how religious traditions and its teachings are passed on from generation to generation (Exodus 10:2, 13:8; Deut. 4:9, 32:7) Children would even accompany their parents on pilgrimages to religious sanctuaries (1 Samuel 1:24, Deut. 16:16.) These pilgrimages were important not only because of the sacrifices, but also because of the teachings and prayers which occurred during the celebration.

Many people complain about the educational system here in the UK. But how many parents are taking an active role in educating their children? The education of our children can not be a responsibility that we completely give to other people. Every parent can spend some time with their children, ensuring that they receive a proper education, even from the earliest of ages. Their time and teachings can supplement what the children learn in school.

This includes the children's religious education. Parents need to show and teach their children the proper Christian values. We should always remember that the home is the main place where our children will be educated. This education has to be based on the fact that, 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Ps.111:10, Proverbs 1:7).'

Let us examine our lives. Most of us encourage our children to study hard at school. Some of us go to great efforts to take our children to music classes, dance classes, sport events, etc... We are willing to drive our children long distances to these events. We are willing to make sacrifices so that our children can participate in these events.

But how many of us take this kind of effort to see that our children come to Sunday School?

Do we view Sunday School as an important part of our children's education?

Do our children see the importance that we put on God, on church, and on Sunday school?

Do we ask our children what they learned in Sunday School?

Do we study the bible at home with our children? Do we have Sunday School in our homes everyday?

Are we the parents that God wants us to be? Teaching the values that God wants our children to have? In our homes what is the father's instruction and what is the mother's teaching?

As many of our children will be beginning classes this September, let us pray to the Lord that they have a blessed school year. Let us also pray that we, the parents, with God's Grace, will be proper teachers to our children, now and all the days of our lives.

Rev. Shibi Abraham

## Choir – what is it?

A choir, chorale, or chorus is a musical ensemble of singers.

A body of singers who perform together is called a choir or chorus. The former term is very often applied to groups affiliated with a church (whether or not they actually occupy the Choir) and the second to groups that perform in theatres or concert halls, but this distinction is far from rigid. "Choir" has the secondary definition of a subset of an ensemble; thus one speaks of the "woodwind choir" of an orchestra, or different "choirs" of voices and/or instruments in a polychoral composition. In typical 18th to 20<sup>th</sup> century oratorios and masses, chorus or choir is usually understood to imply more than one singer per part, in contrast to the quartet of soloists also featured in these works.

Structure of choirs

Choirs are often led by a conductor or choirmaster. Most often choirs consist of four parts but there is no limit to the number of possible parts

Choirs can sing with or without instrumental accompaniment. Singing without accompaniment is called a cappella singing. Accompanying instruments can consist of practically any instruments, from one to a full orchestra; for rehearsals a piano or organ accompaniment is often used even if a different instrumentation is planned for performance, or for rehearsing a cappella music. While Eastern Orthodox churches and some synagogues ban the use of instruments, in churches of the western rite the accompanying instrument is almost always an organ.

Beside the leading of singing in which the congregation participates such as hymns and service music, choirs still sing the full propers (introit, gradual, communion antiphons appropriate for the different times of the liturgical year) Choirs are also categorized by the institutions in which they operate:

- \* Church choirs
- \* College choirs
- \* School choirs
- \* Community choirs (of children or adults)
- \* Professional choirs, either independent (e.g., Chanticleer) or state-supported (e.g., National Chamber Choir of Ireland, Netherlands Chamber Choir, Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, Canadian Chamber Choir, Swedish Radio Choir etc.)

Finally, some choirs are categorized by the type of music they perform, such as

- \* Symphonic choirs
- \* Vocal jazz choirs
- \* Show choirs, in which the members sing and dance, often in performances somewhat like musicals

### Skills involved in choral singing

Choral singers vary greatly in their ability and performance. The best choral singers possess (among others) the following abilities:

- \* to sing precisely in tune and with a vocal timbre which complements the other singers;
- \* to sing at precisely controlled levels of volume, matching the dynamics and expression marked in the score or prescribed by the conductor, and not sing so loudly as to be markedly detectable as an individual voice within the section;
- \* to sight-read music fluently;
- \* to read and pronounce the lyrics accurately and in the pronunciation style specified by the leader, whatever the language may be;
- \* to remain completely alert for long periods, monitoring closely what is going on in a rehearsal or performance;
- \* to monitor one's own singing and detect errors.
- \* to accept direction from others for the good of the group as a whole, even when the singer disagrees esthetically with the instructions;

Singers who have perfect pitch require yet other skills:

- \* to sing music in keys other than that in which it is written, since choirs often sing music in transposed form.
- \* to stay in tune with the ensemble, even in the event the ensemble modulates slightly away from "perfect" pitch

Choir robes are worn to designate that the person have academic credentials and is part of a team.

Music for choirs evolved in the 20th century, which has become a period of experimentation, formalization, and development. With this evolution came the mass marketing of the choir robe for both secular choirs in primarily schools, and religious choirs in churches and temples.

Choir robe sales started with a focus on just a few colors, styles, and fabrics. Originally, most choir gowns came in only one of three colors: black, white, and blue. With the advent of the popularity of gospel choirs the choir robe began to blossom into a multitude of choices. Now, choirs across the world can choose from over a hundred styles, with almost any color in the spectrum and numerous fabric choices and accessories.



A choir

**ENTER IN**

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. - PSALM 100:4 KJV

### TRUE ORIGINS OF THE INTERNET

An old, bearded shepherd with a crooked staff walked up to a stone pulpit and said, "And lo, it came to pass that the trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot. And Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she had been called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why doth thou travel far, from town to town, with thy goods when thou can trade without ever leaving thy tent?" And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, Dear?" And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale and they will reply telling you which hath the best price. And the sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had, at the top price, without ever moving from his tent. But this success did arouse envy. A man named Maccabia did secret himself inside Abraham's drum and was accused of insider trading. And the young man did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy

horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Siderites or NERDS for short.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums, that no one noticed that the real riches were going to the drum maker, one Brother William of Gates, who bought up every drum company in the land. And indeed did insist on making drums that would work only if you bought Brother Gates' drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And as Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or as it came to be known "eBay," he said, "we need a name that reflects what we are." And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators." "Whoopee!" said Abraham. "No, YAHOO!" said Dot Com.....and that is how it all began.

### COFFEE

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee.

The husband said, "You are in charge of the cooking around here so you should do it."

The wife replied, "No you should do it, and besides it is in the Bible that the man should do the coffee."

The husband replied, "Yeah, right!"

So she showed him in the Bible where it says: "HEBREWS"



## Special Greetings this month

**Birthday** greetings to all who are celebrating their birthdays this month

**No Wedding Anniversary** this month reported

Congratulations to Syma Sunny and Derrick Clarence on their marriage

Congratulations to Jinu and Sanu Varghese for the birth of Little Joseph Varghese on 7<sup>th</sup> Aug 2007

## Sunday school starts

**At 3:30pm every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays at the Church.**

## For the Kids

### **Father & son**

A father was approached by his small son, who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "So, Son, what does the Bible mean?" "That's easy, Daddy. It stands for **B**asic **I**nformation **B**efore **L**eaving **E**arth."

### **Mother & daughter**

When a mother saw a thunderstorm forming in mid-afternoon, she worried about her seven-year-old daughter who would be walking the three blocks from school to home. Deciding to meet her, the mother saw her walking nonchalantly along, stopping to smile whenever lightning flashed. Seeing her mother, the little girl ran to her, explaining happily, "All the way home, God's been taking my picture!"

## Other announcements

### Choir Dedication Service

The Choir Dedication service will be held during the Malayalam service on the 8<sup>th</sup> Sept 07.

### Students Dedication Service

Students' dedication program is a brief program to be done during service. It will also be held on Sept. 8. There will be a special prayer for all students since the school year is beginning. All children should attend the service.

### Outreach Service

There will be an outreach service at Grimsby

**Date & Time:** 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2007 (Sunday) at 3.00 pm

**Venue:** St Giles Church, Church Lane, Scartho, Grimsby DN33 2LX

**Contact:** Dr Rajeev Thomas Maliyil Tel: 01472 508 018 / 07790 481391

## Our Committee 2007/08

PRESIDENT	Rev Shibi Abraham	SUNDAY SCHOOL	
VICE PRESIDENT	Dr Sunny Thomas	REP	Mrs Susan Abraham
SECRETARY	Mr V.V. Abraham	SEVIKA SANGAM	
TRUSTEE	Dr Simon Idiculla	REP	Mrs Marykutty Thomas
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LAY LEADERS	Mr Thomas Koshy(Saji) & Mr Joji Philip		Mr Thomas Abraham (Sajeev)

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Please send in your comments so that the newsletter can be improved and contain articles you wish to read.

