



RENEWAL IN THE FAMILY

Rev. Titus Thomas (Vicar St. Pauls MTC, Ghala)

Editorial

പ്രാർത്ഥനയിൽ ജാഗ്രത പാലിക്കുക

പ്രാർത്ഥന എന്ന് മൈഥ്യം അർത്ഥം ഇല്ലാത്ത ഒരു പ്രാർത്ഥനയിൽ...

പ്രാർത്ഥനയുടെ ആദ്യം പരമം എന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നതിൽ ശക്തമായി പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുക...

എഴുതിയതിനെ തന്നെ പാലിക്കുന്നവർ മലയാളത്തിൽനിന്നും എഴുതിയതിനെ എല്ലാ...

മറ്റു കാര്യങ്ങളിലും താല്പര്യം കാണിക്കുന്നവർക്ക് പ്രാർത്ഥനയിൽ മുഴുകി...

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പ്രാർത്ഥനയിൽ മുഴുകി



മാർത്തോമ്മാ മതസഭയിൽ ഉറപ്പാക്കലിന്റെ അടയാളമായിട്ടാണ് മേൽ കാണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ചടങ്ങുകൾ നടന്നത്.



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When you and your family sit for a photograph you hardly ever seem to come out looking like the ideal family in the finished print. There are always flaws. Dad's tie does not match his suit. The gap in the junior's teeth stands out. Mom has her eyes closed. The baby was just starting to cry. That's just the way families are. We fail to measure up to the ideal in many ways. But God has given us a picture of His ideal family, one that goes far beyond outward appearances, and even reflects His relationship to His people. Marriage is shared relationship of love and commitment. The love in marriage unites two individuals as they are. Family is not a human institution, it is a divine institution. God, the Creator of humanity and marriage has laid out His plan for marriage as a lifelong union. Marriage is the first institution created by God. Today the structure of family is changing. So families are breaking up and as a result divorce cases are increasing. Why it's happening? Lack of Communication. This is one of the major reasons why divorce happens. Distance is created quickly if you don't share your feelings, don't tell your partner what's happening, and keep your feelings to yourself. A successful relationship constantly keeps the lines of communication open. Financial problems. Money talks and can make your life better or in some cases worse than you were. If money becomes a consistent topic of disagreement, the road to divorce is certain. Feelings. You may feel your marriage is holding you back from achieving goals and taking opportunities. If your partner can't support you, then they don't support the marriage. Trust. Do you really trust your spouse? Trust is one of the leading factors in having a successful relationship and marriage. Your marriage is unlikely to survive if you don't trust your spouse. Unfulfilled expectations. When expectations aren't met, it can put a strain on the relationship. This leads to a personality conflict because one or the other spouse won't bend to sacrifice their time and comfort. Needs and desires. It's common knowledge that we all have different needs and wants. A partner who won't acknowledge your interests and desires won't go the distance to fulfill your needs and wants. Physical and emotional abuses. Lastly, if you've been in a situation where your partner has been abusive or controlling in any manner, discuss this rationally with your spouse. If need be, contact a trusted family friend, or your attorney about this matter. Insecurity. Jealousy and insecurity can lead to fights, and questioning each other's intentions can put a dent into trust and your relationship moving forward. Changes in lifestyle. Couples that can't compromise and meet in the middle are unable to adapt to new changes and be together in harmony. Religious and cultural differences. Religious beliefs and cultural values can cause conflict, which affects the way you live your life and raise your children. If you aren't committed to adapting and practicing these values, this can be an ultimate deal breaker.



Therefore a renewal is essential in the family life. So I would like to recollect the essential elements of family as recorded in the scripture.

- 1. Family- God's creation Families are close to God's heart. In fact, they were His idea in the first place. From the beginning, when God created man, He said, "It is not good for man to be alone," so He created woman as a "help-meet, suitable for him". Then, He blessed them and told them, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it". Even after they fell into sin, God continued with His plan for families, and even spoke prophetically of the salvation that would come through the seed of the woman. Later, after the Flood, He reiterated His plan to Noah and his sons, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth". God continued His plan when He chose Abraham and miraculously gave him a son in his old age. And so it goes, all the way down to the "fulness of time, when He sent forth His Son" to be born in human flesh, to live and to die for the people He Himself had created. So God is the architect and builder of the family. 2. Family- The place to experience the beauty of relationship The scripture says God created man out of the dust and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. God provided him a perfect environment to live. The blessing of God indicates that the life of God made human being a living creature. It also indicated the relationship of human being with God. Again Genesis says God said, it is not good that the man should be alone. Then He created Eve from the rib of Adam. Then Adam said "this is now bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh". Here God designate the importance of intimate relationship between the husband and wife in the family. Scripture again says "a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife and they become one flesh". This does not mean to stay away from their parents. After the marriage he supposed to sustain the obligations to his parents. Love is at the heart of the family. All humans have the need to love and to be loved; the family is normally the place where love is expressed. Love is the close personal blending of physical and mental togetherness. It includes privacy, intimacy, sharing, belonging, and caring. The atmosphere of real love is one of honesty, understanding, patience, and forgiveness. Such love does not happen automatically; it requires constant daily effort by each family member. Loving families share activities and express a great deal of gratitude for one another. Love takes time, affection, and a positive attitude. Strong families have a sense of loyalty and devotion toward family members. The family sticks together. They stand by each other during times of trouble. Conclusion In this busy world our priorities have been changed. There may be little time to spare with your children and spouses. Family get together and visits have become very rare. Sunday school classes and youth meetings are often replaced by coaching classes. Now most of the families have no time to pray. Remember the family that prays together, stays together will grow and flourish together. Husband, wife and children are like the strings of musical instruments. If it synchronized properly it will produce harmonious tunes. So let us submit our family to be an agent to transmit the blessings to the generations.

Quiz section with a list of 10 questions in Malayalam and a table of answers below.

HOPE section with a decorative border and text: 'When peace and love go ash tray A ray of hope comes to stay...' and 'SHEENA SUSAN JOSEY'.



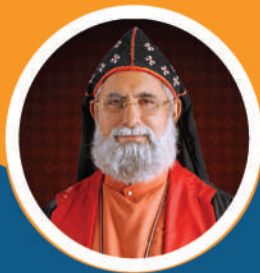
# Logos MAR THOMA CHURCH IN OMAN

## Parish Bulletin

Edition 1 - 2016 SEPT, OCT, NOV

## Parish Day

**Date** 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2016, 9.45 AM  
**Chief Guest** Rt. Rev. Joseph Mar Barnabas Episcopa  
**Venue** St. Thomas Church, Ruwi  
**Highlights** Holy Qurbana, Academic Excellence Award, Honoring members who completed 25 years in membership etc.



*Dearly beloved in Christ,*

"One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple." Psalm 27 : 4 .

The first edition of "Logos" for the year 2016-17 in new look and content is now in your hand. It is our earnest desire that this edition live up to your expectation with meaningful reading. Mar Thoma Church in Oman is the mother parish of all Mar Thoma parishes in the Sultanate of Oman and its indeed a privilege and honor for all of us to be proud members of such a blessed parish. Let us humble ourselves in praise to our Lord Almighty as we continue to be led under His care and providence this year as well. We have initiated visa processing for our newly appointed Asst. Vicar Rev. Johnson Varghese. Solicit earnest prayer from all members in this regard so that Achen join us here at the earliest. Let me extend my sincere gratitude to our Vicar Rev. Jackson Joseph for his able leadership and pastoral care, especially in the absence of Asst. Vicar in our church, a brief period at Ghala and Salalah Parishes while the transfer process of vicars in these parishes was in progress. I would also like to extend heartfelt gratitude to Rev. T. Babu and Rev. Titus Thomas for their wholehearted support to our parish. On behalf of the Kaisthina Samithi, I thank you all for the warm welcome extended to us during recent house visit.

The world around us is changing fast and it is changing for the worse. The ever increasing greed of mankind has caused irreversible damage to Planet Earth and put the world in turmoil and distress. Nature turns its fury on mankind for the exploitation meted on it for centuries. On one side the capitalist countries gleefully possess all resources meant for entire mankind while on the other side millions die of famine, drought, flood and starvation.

"From the Desk of Parish Secretary"

There is value for everything under the sky except for human lives. Today, religion, caste, sect, creed and color of skin has more importance than humanity.

We live in an air of uncertainty. Our region in particular is passing through an economic meltdown, causing distress in many lives. Is this the world God created in his grand plan for mankind to live in fellowship? Who can save the mankind from this crisis? Man's basic needs have not changed. Mankind is still in need of a savior and Jesus Christ is the only way. Our thinking may have changed, but Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever. Nothing in our life is worth compromising our Lord. Being faithful to Him is our highest call and greatest honor. Our forefathers turned to Lord when in crisis and He blessed their generations, the blessing we experience in our lives even today. It is our call now to turn to Lord and submit our lives in His hand, so that our generations be blessed too. Let us shed our inhibitions, shake us out from the addiction to the virtual world of social media, the spoiling comforts of modern times, and surrender ourselves at the feet of our Graceful and ever forgiving Lord for He is the only answer for everything that concerns us.

Rt. Rev. Joseph Mar Barnabas Episcopa, our Diocesan Bishop, will be on His Lordship's first official visit to our Parish from 29<sup>th</sup> Sept – 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 2016. Let us all join together in extending a hearty welcome to Barnabas Thirumeni.

Upcoming major programmes of the parish for the next quarter are highlighted on this page.

Solicit your wholehearted prayer, support and participation to make all the programs a grand success.

Love and Prayers,  
 For Kaisthina Samithi  
**Mathew Pulipra Mathal**  
 Parish Secretary.

## Koinonia - 2016

(Annual Get Together)

Curtain Raiser

11<sup>th</sup> November 2016, 6.30 PM

Musical Extravaganza & Food Carnival

Mega Event

18<sup>th</sup> November 2016, 8.45 AM - 4.30 PM



Food stall  
 Games  
 and  
 many more  
 surprises



## Parish Convention

**Date** : October 3-6, 2016  
**Time** : 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
**Speaker** : Rev. Dr. P. P. Thomas  
**Venue** : St. Thomas Church, Ruwi







# The Story of the Garden of Eden

SWEETA VARGHESE

The bible is the only book that provides answers to all questions that arise in a human mind. When reading the story of creation, a few questions that arise in most of our minds are that, according to the bible God made man in his own image then why is it that we say that God is not visible to the naked eyes of man and that he can be seen only as a bright light? Similarly, man himself is a creation of God then why did God choose man to be the ruler of all creations? Another question that arises when we further go down into the story is that woman was created out of man. Why? Why did God take a rib of man to create woman and no other part?

God always has an outstanding explanation for all that he does; which he shows us through the Bible. In the story of creation, Gen 1:26 says, 'We will create human beings in our resemblance' that means just like God and his angels we have one head, two hands, two legs and one body. But we cannot see this in God himself because of his holiness. According to science, every human body produces an aura. This aura radiates itself depending on the energy filled in us and according to the intensity of the positivity and negativity of the human body the colour of the aura changes from brightness to darkness. Auras also affect the surroundings in which it is radiated. God's aura is full of positivity. He is so pure, so holy, so divine and so filled with positive energy that his aura radiates out of him like a bright morning star. This light is so strong that it blinds the vision of any human eyes that tries to see through it. His love for us from the time of creation till today is so great; not because he wants us to worship him but because he created us with his own hands and because of this, we are to worship him. Man was not created like the

other creations. Gen 1:3,6,9,11,14,20,24 says all creations were created by the command of God. But in case of man, Gen 2:7 says he took soil from the ground and made man with his own hands. A creation made by God's own hands certainly will be the most perfect creation of all, and also the most favourite creation of all. So he considered his most perfect creation to be the right choice to look after all his other creations.

God loved his special creation so much that he couldn't stand the sight of him being sad. He wanted to give man the best and most perfect companion that would make him happy and feel complete. So he created woman out of man so that she becomes a perfect match. Gen 2:22 says God created woman out of a rib taken from man. God could have created her from any other substance just like he created man, but he considered choosing the rib because he thought that if he creates woman out of man himself, he will value and love her more than anything else as she actually is a part of his own body. God wanted to give him a friend to whom he can share all that was there in his heart and so the rib became the best choice as the anything that happens to the heart is first known by the rib that covers it. So he created woman from man's rib to show him that she is equal to him and is a part of him itself and so he is supposed to hold her close to his chest and replace her for the missing rib. This is the reason why Gen 2:23 says you are the bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh and so I call you woman".

Even today, God loves man so much that he still provides him all that is necessary for him to develop himself in his relation with God. But we human beings are so selfish we never understand or care for his love. We

consider worship as our duty or responsibility and not our love or feeling for God. For every hurdle that comes our way we blame God without realising that he is standing right beside us to help us face the problem. The story of the Garden of Eden teaches us that now it is time to look back and see the goodness of God and say like Job "God gave

and God took back, may his name be glorified". God has been good from the very beginning and till today he is patiently waiting for us to understand him. So now it's up to us whether to love him or to keep him as a part of our daily schedule.

## Summer Camp - 2016



മാർത്തോമ്മാ ചെട്ടി ത്തെ ഓരോ സൗഹൃദപൂർവ്വ ഭവനങ്ങളിലായി കൂട്ടായി 'സമ്മർകാമ്പ് 2016' ജൂലൈ 19,20,21,22 തീയതികളിൽ വാർഷിക 7 ന്നടി മൂത്തയ്ക്ക് ഓരോ 6 ന്നടി വരെ ഓരോ മാർത്തോമ്മാ ചെട്ടിയിൽപ്പെട്ടു നടന്നു. 'Are you 4 G?' എന്ന തീർത്ഥാടനത്തിന് തയ്യാറെടുപ്പിച്ചു. 'Are you 4 G?' എന്ന തീർത്ഥാടനത്തിന് തയ്യാറെടുപ്പിച്ചു. 'Are you 4 G?' എന്ന തീർത്ഥാടനത്തിന് തയ്യാറെടുപ്പിച്ചു.



## Once saved always saved

Rani Mathew

Now here is something at least some of us have well thought out, how about considering this as a question. Many of us call ourselves saved. It is because we believe that we are saved by the blood of Christ through faith. Now the point to ponder is, once saved always saved? Do we remain saved irrespective of what we do? When we call ourselves saved does it mean we get salvation? What about our life after being saved? Can we forfeit our salvation by our deeds after we are saved? Consider this illustration: Imagine that you are walking on the beach and you hear a man calling out to be saved from the water. As you know swimming and are considerate about the life of the person, you rescue him. As you begin to walk away, you hear the shout for help and see the man in the water again. Thinking that he has made a mistake, again you go and rescue him. You walk away and you see the man jump into the water again... Do you recognize the similarity? Can you repeat the same sins and keep asking for forgiveness?

impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance."

It is also given in Hebrews 10: 26-31 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God."

"If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning."

Jesus promises salvation to those who endure till the end... Mathew 24:13

"But the ones who endure to the end will be saved." There are many passages that speak of how Christians can fall away especially towards the end times. It could be due to tribulation, by being hated by others, influences of false prophets, due to lawlessness decrease of love to one another etc.,

We are never perfectly sinless during our life's journey. But, we gradually grow in righteousness with a daily life of obedience. We put forth cooperative effort with the spirit. This effort is through a changed heart with new desires to obey God. Our battle with sin will be a lifelong endeavour. So, in our life's journey we could backslide but with the help of the counselor, the Spirit we will be able to move forward if we listen to Him and hold on to the promise in Philippians 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Saved means the salvation is complete and you are restored to the perfect image of Christ. When we stand by his side there will not be a difference. Only those who are in the Son's likeness will inherit the kingdom and live in the new city for eternity. Now for reflection... Can we say we are saved...? We could say we are in the process of being saved. This is a continuous process but never complete or finished. At this point the truth of the fact is that we could lose our salvation even at the gates of heaven... It is mentioned in John Bunyan's Pilgrims progress... "Then I saw that there was a way to hell, even from the gates of heaven" The main point in this is, once we are in the process of being saved it is even more easy to lose salvation completely to the point of no return as given in Hebrews 6:4-6 " It is

### Congratulations



KEZIAH ELIZABETH JOHNSON  
Topper in Oman, Commerce Stream  
CBSE XII Final Exam 2016



JAINI VARGHESE  
First Prize Inter Church Education Competition - Women, 2016

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**ജീവിതം**

ദാനമാണ്, ദാതാവിനായി ഉപയോഗിക്കുക. കർത്തവ്യമാണ്, അത് നിർവ്വഹിക്കുക. അനുഗ്രഹമാണ്, അത് അംഗീകരിക്കുക. അദ്ധ്യക്ഷമാണ്, അത് ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുക. സൗജന്യമാണ്, അത് സ്വീകരിക്കുക. ഒരു സ്വീകരണം, അത് സ്വീകരിക്കുക. പാരമാർശ്യമാണ്, അത് മൂല്യമുറപ്പാക്കുക. ഒരു കളിയാണ്, അത് തിരിച്ചറിയുക. ഓരോന്നിലുമുണ്ട് അതിനെ തിരിച്ചറിയുക. ജീവനാണ് അതിനുവേണ്ടി പരാമർശിക്കുക. നമ്മുടെ നന്മയെക്കുറിച്ച് നന്മയെക്കുറിച്ച് നന്മയെക്കുറിച്ച്.

ജീവിതം



### Inviting Articles

Inviting articles from Church members in English and Malayalam to publish in the next edition of Logos. Bible thought, short story, personal experience in blessing of God, small poem or song, travel experience, knowledge essay, Cooking note, social awareness, eventsoft church organizations etc....

Articles based on Christian ideologies do not be over more than one sheet. Write in only one side of the paper.

Please hand over to:  
Stanley V Sunny (Chief Editor or Mathew Pulprava Mathal (Parish Secretary) before Nov. 10, 2016  
E-mail : logosmc@gmail.com