



Detroit Mar Thoma Church

January 2010

Volume 9, Issue 1

DETROIT MAR THOMA CHURCH

Inner Voice



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¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,

¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:12-14

Please contact the Secretary to contribute organization reports/activities, short articles, poems, thoughts etc., For convenience, you may also use the email address dmtc_sec@gmail.com.

This issue features news and parish programs for January 2010. We welcome any suggestions and feedback..

Message from the Vicar



Dearly beloved in Christ,

We are at the dawn of yet another new year. At this juncture, let us recollect God's faithfulness in past, remember God's promises for the future and make God our new beginning. Let us entrust our weak hands in God's mighty hands to go to the irresistible future.

Dr. Radha Krishnan says that, "Not to be the prisoners of the past, but the pilgrims of the future". We have learned many things from our past experiences. The term, 'failsmanship' is an important term in Christian life. We have to say goodbye to our past failures, drawbacks and spoiled opportunities etc. The past is finished, we should never look back. But, one thing is important, remember God's blessings. According to St. Paul, in Philippians 3:14, 'I press onto toward the goal for the prize of the upward all of God in Christ Jesus'. We are called as a Pilgrim community to travel with God for the work of the kingdom of God through the church. For this purpose, we need the unconditional submission and implicit obedience. In the first phase of the World War II, England faced the bitterness of failure, and then Sir Vincent Churchill became the prime minister. On the third day of being the prime minister, he addressed the English people by raising a challenging question before them, "What is our purpose or goal?" "Victory" was the unanimous answer that he got from his audience. Then, he placed a condition, "I offer you sweat, blood and tears" to attain the goal. They worked together and finally, they won. Before the division of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who was the leader of Pakistan, addressed his people. "If you need the nation 'Pakistan', you think of it, then, you dream it and then, work for it and then die for it, then you will get Pakistan". Later, they worked together and attained the goal. Dear friends, history teaches us one thing is that, if we are not willing to break down ourselves, there is

no forming. Without giving price, we cannot make history. There is no salvation/ liberation, without shedding the blood. You may have heard the words of Evangelist Christmas Evans, "It is better to burn out than to rust out". In John 12:24, 'Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit'. The church father, Tertullian, told that "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church". The future is for those who dare to dream and to risk for a vision.

Dear friends, when we enter into a new year, I want to remind all of you that, our parish was dedicated on 13th March, 2000. So, we will be completing 10 years this year. This is the time to thank God for the abundant blessings and mercies. At the same time, it is the time to expand the mission of the church through the parish. Before we come for the parish day on March 14th, we have to think and plan about the further programs in association with the completion of one decade. I inspire the executive committee members and all the other parishioners to involve in extending the mission activities in co-operation with the diocesan mission activities. We have to find out genuine projects to be completed this year. My suggestion is that before our diocesan bishop come for the parish day celebration, we have to sort out the projects. As a community, we are responsible to reach out the 'Message of God' to the new spheres of human life. Our parish should be an 'influencing power' among the society. We need a pain or divine disturbance about the perishing people around us. We cannot be blind, deaf and dumb before the cry or the needs of the world. So, we are called to be the watchman/custodian of the society. Our new year programs should be healing and consolation to the people, in short, it should lead others to eternal life. I request the members to participate in the 'resource mapping' to find out the sources and possibilities to be channalized the total developing of projects of the church. If we are the keepers of 'Dead' money, then, it should be utilized for the constructive purpose. Let us seek the way of 'blessedness'. We cannot neglect its importance because of the financial recession. God interferes in human history and is able to change the situation. He is faithful and just and He will never let us down. We have to put trust in Him. God is always good for us in the past, present and future. "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God". So, there is no need of anxiety about the future. I recollect the words of Dr. Stanley Jones, "I do not know what the future holds for me, but I know who holds it". "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever"(Heb13:8). Again, we read in John 14: 18, "I will not leave you as orphans; I

will come to you". Yesterday, we tasted that our Lord is good, again, we can proceed with that hope. Let us go forward with sharp vision, strong faith and sacrificial service for our Lord. I request everybody's prayer and participation.

1. By God's grace, we conducted the Christmas Carol programs, year-ending service and the regional youth conference in a nice manner.

2. I appreciate all of you for the participation in the Ecumenical Carol Service and we have the spirit for the coming years. We have to find out in which areas the churches can work together. Don't try to prune, but pool to establish peace, harmony, fraternity among the churches and for the integrity of the whole creations in the world .

3. Let us remember our youth chaplain, Rev. Alex Peter and his family in our prayers and co-operate with them. They are our precious part and try to utilize their availability for our spiritual growth especially our youths' growth. Dear youths, if you are an earning member, co-operate with us by your financial support.

4. Let us remember and participate in the diocesan as well as parish mission activities. Try to cultivate the culture of giving-Tithe.

5. Keep the upcoming office bearers in our prayers.

6. Special Mandalam meetings and Maramon convention in February 2010.

Dear friends, we, as a worshipping community, let us go forward with a passion of mission in the coming years. God needs our participation for His work. Once Abraham Lincoln said, "Die when I may, I want it said by those who knew me best that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower where I thought a flower would grow".

I wish you all a Blessed Happy New Year!

With Prayer,

Shaji Achen

January 3rd– Proclamation of Truth
(Outside Kerala Mission)
First Lesson: Isaiah 56:1-8
Second Lesson: Acts 17:16-31
Epistle: Ephesians 4:25-32
Gospel: John 12:20-26

January 10th– Temperance Sunday-
“Jesus who liberates”
First Lesson: Proverbs 23:19-34
Second Lesson: Ephesians 5:1-11
Epistle: Galatians 5:16-21
Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

January 17th– Ecumenism Sunday– Unity at the
Local level
First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-7
Second Lesson: Ephesians 4:1-8
Epistle: Luke 15:11-32
Gospel: John 17:20-26

January 24th– Call for Christian Discipleship
First Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-7
Second Lesson: 2 Timothy 2:1-13
Epistle: 1 Peter 4:12-19
Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

January 31st– Fall of Creation.
First Lesson: Genesis 3:1-15
Second Lesson: James 3:1-12
Epistle: Romans 5:12-19
Gospel: John 3:1-16

Church Calendar– January 2010

Saturday, January 2nd LEAD– 9:30 am-3:30 pm Church History

Sunday, January 3rd Holy Communion– Malyalam

Thursday Jan. 7th- Sunday Jan. 10th XIII Diocesan Leadership Conference
Theme: Who Am I?

Sunday, January 10th Holy Communion– English

Sunday, January 17th Holy Communion– Malyalam

Sunday, January 24th Holy Communion– English

Sunday, January 31st Ordinary Service

Sunday School Memory Verse

DATE	8 & BELOW	9 & ABOVE
Jan 3rd	Isaiah 40:8	Isaiah 40:11
Jan. 10th	Isaiah 42:3	Isaiah 42:8
Jan. 17th	Isaiah 43:11	Isaiah 44:22
Jan. 24th	Isaiah 49:5b	Isaiah 48:12
Jan. 31st	Isaiah 50:5	Isaiah 53:4

Weekly Meetings

Day	Time	Meeting Details
Every Tues	5:30 PM	Intercessory Prayer
Every Fri	10 AM	Fasting Prayer
Every Sat	1:30 pm	Youth Meeting

Birthday

January 2010

Abraham, Liz	Jan 2	Kurian, Elizabeth	Jan 19
Thomas, Vivek Jacob	Jan 2	Mathews, John	Jan 21
John, Maria Thomas	Jan 3	Abraham, Stephen	Jan 23
Mathew, Gracy	Jan 3	Abraham, Thomas	Jan 23
Chacko, Elizabeth Sara	Jan 4	Abraham, Thomas	Jan 23
Koshy, O. C.	Jan 4	George, Sarah A.	Jan 24
Philip, Jeffrey	Jan 4	Philips, Neethu Susan	Jan 24
Thomas, Alina George	Jan 4	Chacko, Shinoj	Jan 25
Koshy, Saramma	Jan 6	George, Timothy	Jan 25
John, Ramdai Mariam	Jan 7	Abraham, Reshmi	Jan 26
Chacko, Stanley	Jan 8	Alexander, Jeena	Jan 26
David, Sarasu	Jan 8	Varghese, Preethy	Jan 26
George, Aleesha	Jan 8	Varghese, Rebi	Jan 26
John, Mathai T.	Jan 8	Thomas, Jacob	Jan 28
David, Jeswin	Jan 9	Cherian, Dr. Jasmine	Jan 29
Jacob, Sherine	Jan 9	Chacko, M. Eapen	Jan 30
John, Diana	Jan 10	Cherian, Sunita	Jan 30
Sam, Saramma	Jan 10	George, Arvin	Jan 30
Varughese, Mary B.	Jan 11	Mathew, Saramma	Jan 30
Cherian, Shawn	Jan 13	Chacko, Annamma	Jan 31
Varghese, Calvin John	Jan 13	John, Mathew V.	Jan 31
Philip, Mathew	Jan 15	Mathai, Jaya	Jan 31
Varghese, Bino Tom	Jan 15		
Thomas, Sharon Susan	Jan 16		
Abraham, Sanju John	Jan 17		
George, Mathew	Jan 17		
Mathew, Skaria	Jan 18		
George, James	Jan 19		

Wedding Anniversaries

January 2010

Johnson & Reena Philip	Jan 1
Abraham & Jyothi Varghese	Jan 2
Tijo & Susan Simon	Jan 2
Vinoo & Priya Thomas	Jan 2
John & Mercy Thomas	Jan 4
Simson & Mariamma Oliver	Jan 5
K. V. & Aleyamma Varghese	Jan 13
Chacko P. & Rachel Chacko	Jan 14
Varughese & Leelamma Abraham	Jan 15
Samuel & Vidya George	Jan 18
P. M. & Annamma George	Jan 19
Scaria & Annamma Thomas	Jan 21
George & Annamma Thomas	Jan 22
Chacko & Sheeba Varghese	Jan 27
E. T. & Gracy Mathew	Jan 27
George & Asha Thomas	Jan 31

Prayer Groups

Prayer Group 1: January 3rd at the residence of:

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Philip
4208 Pardee, Dearborn Heights, MI 48125 Tel: 313-563-0280

Please email prayer group information to dmtc.sec@gmail.com.

Deadline: January 24, 2010