

The Mar Thoma Church of Dallas, Carrollton
1400 W Frankford Road, Carrollton, TX 75007

News Bulletin



January 2015

From the Vicar's Desk

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

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Corinthians 5:17



Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings! Let me begin by asking you a question, **“What does it mean that a Christian is a new creation?”** (As described in 2Cor. 5:17). The word ‘therefore’ refers us back to verses 14-16 where Paul tells us that all believers have died with Christ and no longer live for themselves. Our lives are no longer worldly; they are now spiritual. Our ‘death’ is that of the old sinful nature which was nailed to the cross with Christ. It was buried with Him, and just as the Father raised him up, so are we raised up to ‘walk in the newness of life’ (Romans. 6:4). That new person that was raised up is what Paul refers to in 2 Corinthians 5:17 as the ‘new creation.’

To understand the new creation, first we must grasp that it is in fact something created by God. John 1:13 tells us that this new birth was brought about by the will of God. We did not inherit the new nature, nor did we decide to re-create ourselves anew, nor did God simply clean up our old nature; He created something entirely fresh and unique, just as the whole universe was created by god ‘ex nihilo’, from nothing. Only the creator could accomplish such a feat.

Second, ‘Old things have passed away.’ The ‘old’ refers to everything that is part of our old nature – natural pride, love of sin, reliance on works, and our former opinions, habits and passions. Most significantly, what we loved has passed away, especially the supreme love of self and with it self-righteousness, self-promotion, and self-justification. The new creature looks outwardly toward Christ instead of inwardly toward self. The old things died, nailed to the cross with our sinful nature.

Along with the old passing away, ‘the new has come!’ old, dead things are replaced with new things, full of life and the glory of God. What about the Christian who continues to sin? There is a difference between continuing to sin and continuing to live in sin. No one reaches sinless perfection in this life. But the redeemed Christian is being sanctified (made holy) day by day, sinning less and hating it more each time he fails. Yes, we still sin, but unwillingly and less and less frequently as we mature. Our new self hates the sin that still has a hold on us.

The difference is that the new creation is no longer a slave to sin, as we formerly were. Now we are empowered by and for righteousness. We now have the choice to, ‘let sin reign’ or to count ourselves ‘dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.’ Best of all, now we have the power to choose the latter. The newborn soul delights in the things of God and abhors the things of the world and the flesh. Our purposes, feelings, desires, and understandings are fresh and different. We see the world differently. The Bible seems to be a new book, and though we may have read it before, there is a beauty about it which we never saw before, and which we wonder at not having perceived.

The whole face of nature seems to us to be changed, and we seem to be in a new world. The heavens and the earth are filled with new wonders, and all things seem now to speak forth the praise of God. There are new feelings toward all people – a new kind of love toward family and friends, anew compassion never before felt for enemies, and a new love for all mankind. The things we once loved, we now detest. The sin we once held onto, we now desire to put away forever. We ‘put off the old man with his deeds’ (Colossians 3:9), and put on the ‘new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness’ (Ephesians 4:24). The new creation is a wondrous thing, formed in the mind of God and created by His power and for His Glory.

Dearly beloved, this new year, we can give the gift of God’s likeness through us. When our lives reflect the God who lives in us, we can be different from the world, and the difference can bless others with the transforming presence of His love and Grace. Let our humble prayer be:-

**THAT MY WAYS MIGHT SHOW FORTH YOUR GLORY,
THAT YOU, DEAR LORD, GREATLY DESERVE!
WITH YOUR PRECIOUS BLOOD YOU’VE REDEEMED ME –
IN ALL MY DAYS, YOU I WOULD SERVE!**

**WISHING YOU ALL – A happy and
prosperous New Year!**

Sam Achen



Conscience 2015

In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble -1Peter5:5

We all are confident and cruising ahead for 2015 and I do say its attractive quality to move on with new resolutions to meet the new MIND this year. We are confident that we are right in mind and emotions with an inflated sense of righteousness and religiosity (right with God) moving to meet life and its challenges. We have put on new faces, attitudes and clustered Conscience from last year’s leftovers so that we may look confident. We are called to live a life in humility and to acknowledge the power of God in our lives and by doing so we know where we stand in the greater picture of salvation.

IF CHRISTAMAS IS A SCANDAL OF GRACE LET OUR NEW YEAR BE GRACE OF HUMILITY

We may be wounded, miscommunicated or valued less, but remember that when you are valued less it not that we are out of the race, in the larger picture of life God works for those who are crushed and oppressed or sidelined in the race of religiosity. Disciple’s religiosity was crushed when Son, God stooped down to wash their feet challenging their Mind of righteousness.

Be sure that in your life span you may have to be with people, friends and so called others who even spin plans or team with those who view themselves as protectors of God’s divinity having a high view of oneself.

“DO YOU WISH TO RISE?”

BEGIN BY DESCENDING YOU PLANS A TOWER THAT WILL PIERCE THE CLOUDS?

LAY FIRST THE FOUNDATION OF HUMILITY”- AUGUSTINE GRACE TO GIVE CREDIT

Give credit to God and others who have been sources of your growth who have played an important part in your growth, acknowledging fellow co- workers, friends and teammates. To be outside frame is called humility; we may be pushed outside frame for fame. Many a times we might be not having people to market us or our work, but in the long run time will prove that working and giving credit to God given talents and acknowledging the others contributions in our lives changes our perspective and inner conscience.

Let this New Year be a time of giving due credit to God and others who been a source of redefining your Conscience in God.

Thanking God and all the Members of Parish, Vicars, Executive members, Young families and youths for enhancing our ministry among all the parishes in Dallas.

Rev. George Jacob

Dallas Youth Chaplain

SCHEDULED FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

Parish Mission

Prayer Meetings will held from **7:30PM** every Thursday

Sunday School

Praise and worship will begin from **9:15AM** every Sunday

Malayalam Choir

Choir Practice will be held from **9:30AM** every Sunday

English Choir

English Choir practice sessions will be held from **1:00PM** on alternate Sunday
After Holy Communion service

Fasting Prayer

Fasting prayer will be held at Parsonage every Friday from **10 AM – 1 PM**

Bible study

Every Sunday from **9:45 – 10.20 AM**

Malayalam Class

Every Sunday immediately after the service

Young Family Fellowship Meeting
January 18th, Sunday immediately after the service

EVENTS FOR JANUARY

National Leadership Conference

January 1 – 4

Will be hosted by the Carmel MTC, Boston

For registration and details, please visit

<http://marthomaleadershipconference2015.com/-index>

South West Center MTVEA Prayer Fellowship

January 8 at 7 pm

Will be held at the Sehion MTC, 3760 14th Street, Plano TX 75074

KECF Annual General Body Meeting

January 11 at 4 pm

Will be held at the Marthoma Church Farmers Branch

January Area Prayer Meetings

Jan 3rd (Sat)	Mr. Santhosh Chacko @6:30 PM	GAR/MES
Jan 3rd (Sat)	Mr. John Vaidyan @6:30 PM	CAR
Jan 10th (Sat)	Mr. P.T. Chacko @6:30 PM	AFW

Jan 10th (Sat)	Mr. Abraham Mathew @6:30 PM	CAR
Jan 11th (Sun)	Mr. Shaji Ramapuram @ 6:00 PM	IRV
Jan 17 th (Sat)	Mr. Sam Chacko @ 6:30 PM	CAR
Jan 24th (Sat)	Mr. John P Varghese @6:30 PM	CAR
Prayer group contact		
Carrollton: Mr. Merin Samuel AFW: Mr. Abraham George Garland/ Mesquite : Mr. Ginu George Irving : Mr. Renji George		

January Wedding Anniversaries

DATE	NAME	AREA
2	Mr. & Mrs. Varghese Mathew	MES
3	Mr. & Mrs. Roshan Mathew	AFW
4	Mr. & Mrs. Kurian Mathai	AFW
6	Mr. & Mrs. Minoo Alex John	CAR
6	Mr. & Mrs. John Vaidyan	CAR
6	Mr. & Mrs. Chacko P T	AFW
7	Mr. & Mrs. Tony John Panickar	CAR
7	Mr. & Mrs. Sakariah P Jacob	CAR
14	Mr. & Mrs. Lukose Mathai	CAR
14	Mr. & Mrs. Babu A Geevarghese	MES
20	Mr. & Dr. Thomas Rajan	AFW
20	Mr. & Mrs. Mathew V M	AFW
22	Mr. & Mrs. Abraham K Mathew	MES
24	Mr. & Mrs. Sam Chacko	CAR

January Birthdays

DATE	NAME	AREA	DATE	NAME	AREA
1	Dr. John Mathew	AFW	15	Mrs. Susan Mathew	MES
2	Mr. Christy Jacob	CAR	16	Mr. Reju P. Rajan	AFW
2	Ms. Kripa Jacob	CAR	18	Mr. Kenly Mathew Varghese	CAR
3	Mr. Mathew Thomas	AFW	18	Mr. Sam Chacko	CAR
4	Mr. John Varghese P	CAR	18	Mr. Vinu Simon	GAR
4	Ms. Libby Abraham	CAR	19	Mr. Jayden Jacob Joseph	CAR
5	Mrs. Iby Koshy	CAR	19	Mrs. Jessy Mathew	MES
5	Mr. Levin Sam	CAR	19	Dr. Julie James Lefler	OTR
5	Ms. Serah Rajan	IRV	20	Mr. John P Varghese	MES
6	Geeth P Varghese	CAR	20	Mr. Kuruvila Thomas	MES
6	Ms. Sarah Thomas	OTR	21	Ms. Bobbie Mathew	CAR
7	Mr. Ashley Varghese	AFW	22	Ms. Feba Merin Jacob	CAR
7	Mr. Johan E Cherian	AFW	22	Mrs. Gena Stephens	OTR
8	Mr. Abraham Samuel	CAR	23	Mrs. Deepa Thomas	CAR
8	Mrs. Leena Alexander John	AFW	23	Mr. Joshua Mathew	CAR

9	Ms. Nimisha Elizabeth Alexander	IRV	23	Ms. Sheba Diya Korah	CAR
9	Mrs. Rachel Mathew	MES	24	Mrs. Annamma John	IRV
10	Mr. Abraham Yohannan	CAR	24	Mr. Jensen Saju Lukose	CAR
10	Mr. Daniel K Thomas	AFW	24	Ms. Rachel Varghese	CAR
10	Mr. John Vaidyan	CAR	25	Mr. Binu Mathew	MES
11	Mr. Joseph Varghese	CAR	25	Mr. Mon Kurian	IRV
11	Mr. Kevin P Mathew	CAR	25	Ms. Niya Ann Thomas	CAR
11	Mr. Shaji S Ramapuram	IRV	29	Ms. Feba Mariyam Jacob	CAR
13	Mr. Mathew V M	AFW	29	Mrs. Suja Alex John	CAR
14	Mrs. Annamma Jacob	CAR	30	Ms. Robina Philip	MES
15	Mr. Pavin Thomas	AFW	30	Mrs. Tency Thomas	CAR

January Lectionary

Date	Lessons		Epistle-Gospels
04 Sunday	Holy Communion Service [English] @ 10:30AM		
Revelation for liberation (Out side Kerala Mission)			
	Isa. 61:1-11	Acts.27: 18-26	
	Rev.5: 1-10	St.Luke.4: 16-21	
Lessons Read by AFW prayer group members			
11 Sunday	Holy Communion Service [Malayalam] @ 10:30 AM		
Live Worthy of your calling-Temperance Day			
	Prov.20: 1-11	Gal.5: 16-24	
	Rom.6: 12-21	St. Mat. 7:15-23	
Lessons Read by CAR prayer group members			
18 Sunday	Holy Communion Service [Malayalam] @ 9:30 AM		
One Lord, One Baptism-Ecumenical Sunday			
	Num.11: 23-30	Eph.4: 1-10	
	1John 3:1-11	St. John 10:7-18	
Lessons Read by IRV prayer group members			
25 Sunday	Holy Communion Service [Malayalam] @ 10:30 AM		
Church: An Interceding Community			
	Gen.18: 19-33	Jam.5: 13-18	
	1 Pet.4: 7-15	St.Mat.6: 1-9	
Lessons Read by MES / GAR prayer group members			