

JANUARY CALENDAR

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| Sun Jan 1 | 2:00pm – 5:00pm | Praise & Worship followed by Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC |
| Tue Jan 3 | 7:00pm – 9:00pm | Edavaka Mission Bible Study - Annamma & Mathew Koshy, Cerritos |
| Thu Jan 5 | 9:00pm – 10:00pm | Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500; 969538# |
| Sun Jan 8 | 3:00pm – 5:00pm | Holy Communion Service (Malayalam) - GGUMC |
| Sun Jan 8 | 5:00pm – 6:00pm | Sunday School Parent-Teacher Meeting - GGUMC |
| Tue Jan 10 | 7:00pm – 9:00pm | Edavaka Mission Bible Study - Ann & Isaac George, Buena Park |
| Wed Jan 11 | 8:30pm – 9:30pm | Western Regional Tele-prayer Conference - 714-432-1500 638599# |
| Thu Jan 12 | 9:00pm – 10:00pm | Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500; 969538# |
| Fri Jan 13 | 7:00pm - 9:00pm | Youth Fellowship Meeting - TBD |
| Sat Jan 14 | 6:00pm - 7:00pm | West Area Prayer - Jayni and Saji Abraham, Cypress |
| Sun Jan 15 | 3:00pm – 5:00pm | Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC |
| Sun Jan 15 | 5:30pm - 7:00pm | Sevika Sangham Fellowship - GGUMC |
| Tue Jan 17 | 7:00pm – 9:00pm | Edavaka Mission Bible Study - Thankamma & Thomas Mammen, Long Beach |
| Thu Jan 19 | 9:00pm – 10:00pm | Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500; 969538# |
| Fri Jan 20 | 7:00pm - 8:00pm | East Area Prayer - Susan and Sunil Thomas, Anaheim Hills |
| Sun Jan 22 | 3:00pm – 5:00pm | Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC |
| Sun Jan 22 | 5:00pm - 6:00pm | Youth Fellowship Meeting - GGUMC |
| Sun Jan 22 | 5:30pm - 7:30pm | Sevika Sangham; Mary's Kitchen Outreach Program - GGUMC |
| Tue Jan 24 | 7:00pm – 9:00pm | Edavaka Mission Bible Study - Aleyamma & Mammen Chacko, Cerritos |
| Thu Jan 26 | 9:00pm – 10:00pm | Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500; 969538# |
| Sat Jan 28 | 5:00pm - 8:00pm | Young Family Fellowship - TBD |
| Sun Jan 29 | 3:00pm – 5:00pm | Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC |
| Tue Jan 31 | 7:00pm – 9:00pm | Edavaka Mission Bible Study - Sherly & Saji Baby, Cerritos |



THE PARSONAGE HOUSEWARMING SERVICE



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE



Lighthouse

A monthly reflection of Horeb Mar Thoma Church, Los Angeles • 12741 Main Street • Garden Grove, CA 92840

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MAY YOU SHINE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN THE NEW YEAR



Vicar's Message
Rev. Larry Varghese

Dearly Beloved in Christ,
And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."
Revelation 21:5

This New Year is a fresh start for some, but for most it's another week just like the last one. It's easy to get caught up in the monotonous and mundane cycle of life. The Teacher, from Ecclesiastes, warns us about the repetitive cycle that our lives follow. Refer to Ecclesiastes 1:3-10 and see if this is a description of your life. We wake up, eat, go to school or work, eat, come home, study or work some more, eat, sleep, lather, rinse, repeat. The world is stuck in a rut and we have succumbed to it.

How are we as Christians any different? Our schedule may be similar to everyone else, but do we realize the uniqueness of life in Christ? God promised the Israelites who went through exile that he would be doing a new thing. "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." – Isaiah 43:19. He started a new thing in the 5th century BC and in Revelation 21:5 he's still at it. Christian hope is founded, in part, on this idea that God has the power to break us out of the vain, repetitious cycle and infuse our lives with newness. What is this newness? It's forgiveness of sins. Being set free from the hold of destructive and unfruitful living, and having our mistakes and faults wiped away is a renewing experience. But I think it's more than forgiveness of sins. It's an upgrade in the character and quality of our beings. We are being conformed into the image of Christ. This is a life-long process of constant newness. This year, let us be the proof of Revelation 21:5's truthfulness. Let us strive to be Christ-like in our character. Allow God to do a new thing in your life. Attend church more regularly, pray more often, forgive sooner, give bigger, read the Bible more thoughtfully, spend more quality time with family, work more diligently, rest more Biblically (even God took a break), fellowship more deeply, love more patiently, rejoice constantly, think more empathetically, live more sacrificially, act more humbly.... You get the point. May God bless you in this New Year so you would experience newness that only He can bring.



New Year Message
Mrs. Roshin Varghese

Wishing you all a blessed New Year! We just celebrated another Christmas and before we even realized it, we are at the dawn of a new year. We are probably enjoying the Christmas gifts we received. We exchanged gifts among family and friends as a reminder of the greatest gift we ever received – Jesus. But I often wonder what our gift to Jesus is. How weird would it be if we went to a birthday party and exchanged gifts and no one gave any gift to the birthday kid? It's never too late to give Jesus a gift. It can be anything like our time, talents, energy, and resources. A life that honors him is the best gift. Romans 12:1 says offer your bodies as a living sacrifice. What does giving our time look like? To begin with it would involve spending quality time with Jesus every day and prioritizing him. Giving our time does not merely stop with fellowship within the church. But it implies setting apart time to serve the least and the needy. Giving our talents is to use our God given gifts to glorify him. We do not need to go too far away places necessarily to do this. We can start at our home, our neighborhood, workplace, and school. Sing like we were singing for him, work like we were working for him. Giving our resources implies giving God what is his. The Old Testament talks about giving God a tenth of what we have. We do not hesitate to tip the waiter with 15-20% of our bill at a restaurant. But somehow, when it comes to setting apart money for God we find excuses and justifications. Let 2017 be a year of walking closer to Jesus and gifting to him joyfully. God Bless.

Editorial Team: Mathew Thomas, Anna Chandy & Susan Abraham



MAKING FAITH YOUR OWN

By Sheila Vilanilam

At some point in the stages of early adulthood, many young people experience a phenomenon known as the “Quarter life crisis.” Growing up, everyone goes through life in a linear kind of way, in which there are set structures and rules. Everyone colors within the lines; time is broken down into semesters and trimesters, and things were generally predictable if we followed the rules. Things start to change once this structure is taken away and we are left to navigate without a compass. The “Quarter life crisis” can be best described as a kind of panic a young person faces in the early or middle stages of adulthood when they no longer receive set answers, rigid structures, or black and white options. This kind of “crisis” occurs with a young adult’s faith as well. As children, most of us tagged along with our parents every Sunday for church, went to Sunday school, learned the memory verses, and aced our diocesan exams (well, some of us just tried!). This routine was well-established, and reinforced by our parents and community. As we become adults, this reinforcement no longer exists. We must make a conscious effort to stay connected with the faith, or else it quickly takes a back seat in our life. Our current “social media” climate has also made it incredibly difficult for one to stay interested or committed to something for a long period of time. And while social media has its positive aspects, it has given many of the millennial generation a remarkably short attention span.

So, while we are busy steering through the unknowns of early adulthood, and constantly “reinventing” ourselves, the most important thing to realize is that our relationship with God must only grow closer. Since our parents will no longer be reminding us to attend church or pray every day, it is imperative, now more than ever, that we stay close to the faith. For some, this would mean going back to the basics, and following it with a strict discipline. Establishing a routine communication with God, through prayer, is absolutely crucial. When you speak to God about your everyday life, thank him for all the blessings you have, and ask for forgiveness consistently—you are involving Him directly, and His hand will be upon your life’s path. You are no longer behind the steering wheel, He is. Though this something that we’re all accustomed to hearing as we grew up, it is surprisingly difficult as an adult to follow regularly. We must make prayer a central part of our day with a vigorous kind of discipline. It is a vital part of making the faith your own, separate from the structure you followed as a child.

The other part is to understand the nature of God through reading the Bible regularly and attending church consistently (without being asked to do so). Since, there is no longer anyone to test your memory verse knowledge or take you to service every Sunday; it is up to you to make this a priority in your life. Making these basics a part of your life will give you the direction you need to navigate through any feeling of “crisis” you might face as a young adult. Though we are constantly changing our look, our social media profile, our job, and our friends, one thing in our life must remain constant—our relationship with Jesus. It must only grow stronger with time and remain unfaltering, just as His love for us. May God bless you all.



FAITH

By Abiel Cholakath

Fear not, fear not! For the Lord is with you.

Through darkness and raging storms,
Thunder and dark clouds
Through tears and turmoil,
Failures and loss.

Fear not, fear not! For the Lord is with you (2)

Cheer on, cheer on! For the Lord, will lead you

To the calm, reassuring shore
Of eternal love and hope
To the glorious land,
Of joys untold and victory divine.

Cheer on, cheer on! for the Lord will lead you (2)

Keep faith, keep faith! For he will be by your side

From the dark of the night
till the light of the day
He will be beside you
so things can go your way

Keep faith, keep faith! For he will be by your side (2)

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome John Varghese, Rasheen Samuel (Leeba) and their daughter Anisha John from Long Beach to the Horeb family!



Sunday School Projects



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PROJECT

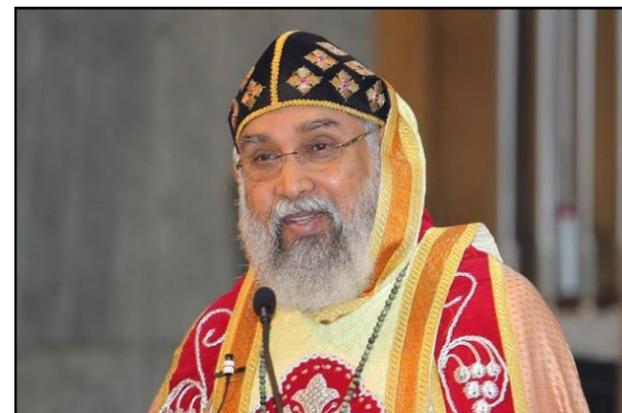
Last month our Sunday school children participated in the world’s largest Christmas project called the Operation Christmas Child. They shared the joy of Christmas by packing shoe boxes with toys, school supplies, hygiene items and other small gifts for distribution to less fortunate children around the world. About 15 shoe boxes were collected from our church and dropped off at the Samaritan’s purse collection center in Irvine. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan’s purse has delivered gift-filled shoeboxes to more than 130 million children in over 150 countries. It’s amazing to see how a simple gift, packed with love can communicate hope and transform the lives of children worldwide. Thanks to all the children and parents for their generosity and support.



THE SUNDAY SCHOOL BOOK DRIVE

This project coordinated by Joana Thomas was a major success. A total of 42 new books was collected and handed over to Ethan, the ten year old founder of “Ethan and Choco’s Book Club”. Ethan was amazed at our generosity. Joana mentioned these books will be given to other sick children by the club.

Episcopal Visit by The Rt. Rev. Dr. Issac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa



THE FIRST HOLY COMMUNICANTS

