

MAY CALENDAR

Thu May 4	9:00pm – 10:00pm	Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500; 969538#
Sun May 7	8:30am – 10:30am	Sunday School Diocesan Exam - Riker Lounge @ GGUMC
Sun May 7	3:00pm – 5:00pm	Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC
Tue May 9	7:00pm – 9:00pm	Parish Mission Bible Study - Cancelled
Wed May 10	8:30pm – 9:30pm	MTVEA Western Region Tele-prayer - (714) 432-1500; 638599#
Thu May 11	9:00pm – 10:00pm	Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500; 969538#
Sat May 13	6:00pm – 7:30pm	West Area Prayer - Mercy & Mickey Abraham, Carson
Sun May 14	3:00pm – 5:00pm	Holy Communion Service (Malayalam) - GGUMC ; Mother's Day Celebration
Tue May 16	7:00pm – 9:00pm	Parish Mission Bible Study - Thankamma & Thomas Mammen, Long Beach
Thu May 18	9:00pm – 10:00pm	Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500; 969538#
Sun May 21	3:00pm – 5:00pm	Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC; Last Day of Sunday School
Sun May 21	5:30pm – 6:30pm	Sevika Sangham Fellowship - Room 20 @ GGUMC
Tue May 23	7:00pm – 9:00pm	Parish Mission Bible Study - Ann & Isaac George, Buena Park
Thu May 25	9:00pm – 10:00pm	Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500; 969538#
Sun May 28	11:00am – 1:00pm	Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC (Garden Grove Strawberry Festival)
Sun May 28	TBD	Sevika Sangham; Mary's Kitchen Outreach - Room 20 @ GGUMC
Tue May 30	7:00pm – 9:00pm	Parish Mission Bible Study - Annamma & Mathew Koshy, Cerritos

EASTER FEST + PARISH MISSION OUTREACH



Former Vicar's Farewell Message Rev. Larry Varghese

Dear Horeb,
The last four years have been a great experience for my family and me. We are thankful for the chance to have served here and to have been served by you all. We look forward to hearing good news of Horeb's continued growth.

In the early years of the parish it was good for us to be here. We were able to grow alongside you all. I am excited to know that your growth will take on new dimensions as you receive Rev. Binu P Thomas who is more capable to guide you all in that direction. Ministry is a not a easy task. Since we are all called to minister to each other in love we will understand this. I pray that you all would strive together with Achen and family to worship God more wholeheartedly, fellowship with one another more openly, and serve the community more compassionately.

In the end, the church must be the visible manifestation of Christ. May Christ be with you and may you be with Christ.

Love and prayers,
Larry Achen, Roshin, Chloe, and Eli



- May 7 - Diocesan Exam @ 8:30am, Riker Lounge
- May 14 - Mother's Day
- May 21 - Last Day of Sunday School Classes for Academic Year
- May 28 - 11am Holy Qurbana due to Strawberry Festival

PARISH MISSION'S EASTER OUTREACH by Merry Thomas

On Saturday, April 15, 2017, members of the HMTC Parish Mission prepared 105 Easter baskets for the women and children of Grandma's House of Hope (GHH). The baskets contained a toiletry travel kit, notebook and pen, 2 tracts on Easter, a wallet card and candy.

GHH is a "non-profit charity that aims to empower the invisible populations of Orange County." They provide "basic needs and enrichment services to women, children, and families living in extreme poverty and facing seemingly insurmountable barriers including human trafficking, domestic violence, life-threatening illnesses, and severe mental health concerns."

Special thanks to all of our members who took the time and put in the effort to put these baskets together. Additional thanks to all the Sunday School students who also came by during EasterFest to assist with making the baskets.



We appreciate the Sunday School, especially Anna Chandy, for allowing us to piggyback on the Easter-Fest festivities. Let me take this opportunity to specifically thank the following individuals who delivered the baskets to 4 residences of GHH: Dr. Thomas Mathew, Susan Thomas, Thampi, Mini, Jaidon and Joana Thomas, Ruth Jacob, Rajan, Naomi and Asher Abraham, Dr. Susan Varghese and Lia Thomas.

Let us remember the women and children served by GHH... They were homeless, abused, sick, lonely, exploited, and abandoned but God, in His mercy, brought them to GHH. Let us pray for these families and their specific needs and for the continuing work of GHH.

*Horeb Mar Thoma Church Welcomes
Rev. Binu P. Thomas, Elizabeth Kochamma, Angelina and Agnes
to our church family, having arrived Thursday May 3, 2017.
Achen's cell: (714) 401-6435 email: binuachenthomas@gmail.com*



A Missions Vignette: Hoskote Mission

Tim Varghese

Three summers ago, my family and I had the unique opportunity of visiting one of the oldest mission fields of the Mar Thoma Church, in Hoskote, India. The trip opened my eyes to the mission work carried out by our church.

Hoskote is a few hours drive from Bangalore, India's Silicon Valley. We set out from Bangalore on a Saturday afternoon. Our driver Sadhu, a Tamil Catholic, drove us swiftly over an unusually smooth highway, passing by places such as K.R.Puram. When we reached Hoskote, we were greeted by the mission director and his wife, who we knew as James Koshy Achen and Mini Kochamma. .

The Hoskote Mission began when A.C. Zachariah, a teacher in Kerala, decided to attend a Bible Institute in Karnataka. Returning to his home in Kerala, he shared his vision with a postmaster, M.T. Joseph, who agreed to resign his job and move north with Zachariah. At the same time, a group of Indian Christians meeting at Bangalore's famous Cubbon Park had been praying for missions and decided to support Zachariah's mission.

Hoskote was a poor village where children and adults were doomed to a life of bonded labor. A pressing need was for a good hospital as only the rich could afford to go to the nearest Hospital in Kolar, 25 miles away. While neither Zachariah nor Joseph were doctors, Joseph knew a smattering of homeopathy. Years later, the first missionary doctor arrived at Hoskote and now it is a thriving hospital. Besides the medical work, Hoskote also has a child development center and an old age home.

We first visited the current church which is used for worship. Next door to it was the original and smaller mission church. There was a sudden burst of rain and we had to tarry till the rain subsided. I enjoyed sitting in God's house for a few minutes with Achen, Kochamma and their little daughter Muthu.

After the rain, we walked to the old age home; people who were stranded on the street, or similarly abandoned, were taken in and cared for by the Church. One moment left an indelible memory. Achen's wife hugged a woman who was lying in bed, unable to move. I saw a bond between the church and the older people; the Church treated the older inmates (and even a few leprosy patients) as individuals -- without a trace of superiority.

Finally, we visited the child development center. The director, Mr. Johnson, told us two wonderful stories. First, he described how the village children are often caught in a cycle of poverty: their parents make them work as laborers by the age of 14. The child development center provides an alternative: it gives poor kids food and an education, and tells them about Jesus. In Mr. Johnson's own words, "There is a chance that these boys and girls can come out of this place as engineers, doctors, lawyers, and evangelists instead of boys becoming laborers and girls having children too early". The wonderful irony was that Mr. Johnson himself had been such a child in Hoskote years ago!

We ended with a fine tea that Achen's wife had made for us. The meal was interspersed with constant phone calls for Achen as he dealt with numerous Mission matters. As we sat eating Obbattu (a Karnataka dish that is like a sweet tortilla), I reflected on the sweetness of the mission of Jesus Christ and the hope it brings: hard and wearying work certainly, but alive and well in our own Mar Thoma church.

To contribute content, please contact

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*"At the cross, at the cross when I
first saw the light and the burden
of my heart rolled away".*

In Loving Memory ...

Mrs. Annamma Chacko
(Family Name: Thannikapurathoot)



Annamma Chacko, wife of late Chacko Mathai, sister-in-law of our member, Annamma Mathai, as well as sister of Ponnamma Thomas of MTC of Los Angeles, went to be with our Lord on Tuesday morning, April 11th, 2017 in Vadaserikara, Kerala. She was 86 years old, a member of St. Johns MTC, is survived by six children and is the grandmother of Rev. Pratesh Oommen Achen. The funeral was held Saturday April 15.