

## JULY CALENDAR

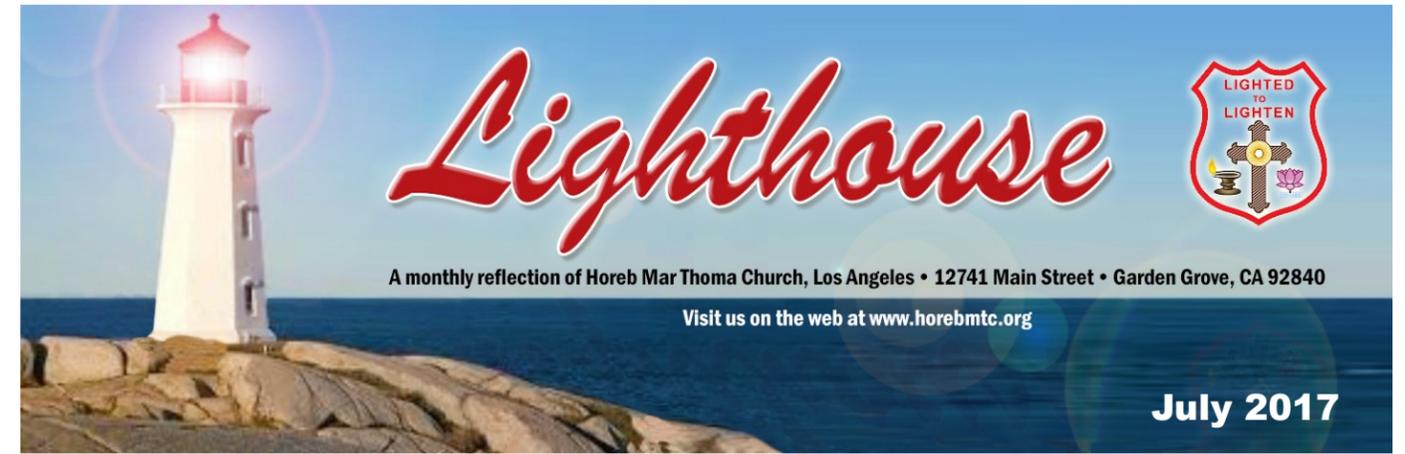
Sat July 1	9:30pm - 3:00pm	<b>Church Picnic - Irvine Regional Park 1 Irvine Park Rd, Orange, CA 92869</b>
Sun July 2	3:00pm - 5:00pm	<b>Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC</b>
Tue July 4	7:00pm - 9:00pm	<b>Parish Mission Bible Study - TBD</b>
Thu July 6	9:00pm - 10:00pm	<b>Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500; 969538#</b>
Sat July 8	6:00pm - 8:00pm	<b>West Area Prayer - Riya &amp; Ginu George, Cerritos</b>
Sun July 9	3:00pm - 5:00pm	<b>Holy Communion Service (Malayalam) - GGUMC</b>
Tue July 11	7:00pm - 9:00pm	<b>Parish Mission Bible Study - Aleyamma &amp; K.M. Chacko, Cerritos</b>
Wed July 12	8:30pm - 9:30pm	<b>Western Regional Tele-prayer Conference - 712-432-1500 638599#</b>
Thu July 13	9:00pm - 10:00pm	<b>Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500; 969538#</b>
Fri July 14-Sun July 16	5:00pm - 12:00pm	<b>Western Regional Youth Conference - Vanguard University, Costa Mesa</b>
Sun July 16	3:00pm - 5:00pm	<b>Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC</b>
Sun July 16	5:30pm - 6:30pm	<b>Sevika Sangham Monthly Meeting &amp; Fellowship - GGUMC, Room 20</b>
Tue July 18	7:00pm - 9:00pm	<b>Parish Mission Bible Study - TBD</b>
Thu July 20	9:00pm - 10:00pm	<b>Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500; 969538#</b>
Thu July 20-Sun July 23	4:00pm - 1:00pm	<b>MTVEA 14th Diocesan Conference - California State University, East Bay</b>
Sun July 23	3:00pm - 5:00pm	<b>Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC</b>
Sun July 23	5:00pm - 6:00pm	<b>Youth Fellowship Meeting - GGUMC</b>
Sun July 23	5:00pm - 5:30pm	<b>Sevika Sangham; Mary's Kitchen Outreach - GGUMC, Room 20</b>
Tue July 25	7:00pm - 9:00pm	<b>Parish Mission Bible Study - Moni &amp; Prasad Varghese, Cypress</b>
Thu July 27	9:00pm - 10:00pm	<b>Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500; 969538#</b>
Sun July 30	3:00pm - 5:00pm	<b>Divine Service &amp; Witnessing (English) - GGUMC</b>



Pentecost Sunday



Father's Day Celebration



### Vicar's Message Rev. Binu P. Thomas

Dear Members in Christ,  
We are entering the month of July. Let us prepare for upcoming activities of our church, and prepare our children for coming academic year, both school and Sunday school. I request your support and prayers for the newly appointed Sunday School Principal

and the Directory Coordinators.  
The word faith is very important in our both spiritual and physical world. Hebrews 11.1 tells us that faith is "being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Perhaps no other component of the Christian life is more important than faith. We cannot purchase it, sell it or give it to our friends. So, what is faith and what role does faith play in the Christian life? The dictionary defines faith as "belief in, devotion to, or trust in somebody or something, especially without logical proof." It also defines faith as "belief in and devotion to God." The Bible has much more to say about faith and how important it is. In fact, it is so important that, without faith, we have no place with God, and it is impossible to please Him, Hebrew 11.6. Faith is belief in the one, true God without seeing Him. Faith is the very sum and substance of life. Without faith, human beings cannot achieve anything. If we observe all the greatest endeavors carried out in this world, we find that behind them faith was the sole-driving force, without which everything is impossible.

A person can set a goal for himself, only if he has faith that ultimately he will achieve the goal. Thus, faith forms the foundation of every new achievement, every invention and every new discovery and every new victory. There is a co-relation between faith and achievement. Faith cannot be imposed upon anyone. It comes from deep inside one's heart. It cannot be measured. The quantity of faith possessed by you depends upon how positive your approach towards life is. Without faith, motivation for the achievement of goal is completely lost and the person ends up becoming a failure in his life. If we observe the reasons behind the failure of any person, we find that one of the main factors responsible for his failure is lack of faith. Faith is the only power that inspires a human being in despair. But if a person loses faith during the period of struggle, he gives up hope for any success and succumbs to the unfavorable situations. So, an individual without

**Saturday, July 1: Church Picnic**, Irvine Regional Park, Shelter #1, 1 Irvine Park Rd., Orange, CA 92869 at 9:30 am

**July 14 - 16: 2017 Western Regional Youth Conference** at Vanguard University (see page 3 for more information)

**July 20 - 23: MTVEA 14TH Diocesan Conference** at California State University, East Bay, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd, Hayward, CA 94542

**August 3 - 5: VBS** at GGUMC starting at 10 am (see page 3 for more information)

faith is as good as a dead person. His life is just like a deflated balloon. So, we can truly conclude that faith is the foundation stone of any project that is undertaken with a will to complete. It is that driving force which enlightens the candle of hope by giving strength to fight against all odds. A person having faith may face failures in his or her life, but he does not lose his heart in despair. He knows that the obstacles that are coming in his way are only temporary and he will ultimately be successful in achieving his goal. Without demonstrating faith and trust in God, we have no place with Him. We believe in God's existence by faith. Most people have a vague, disjointed notion of who God is but lack the reverence necessary for His exalted position in their lives. These people lack the true faith needed to have an eternal relationship with the God who loves them. Our faith can falter at times, but because it is the gift of God, given to His children, He provides times of trial and testing to prove that our faith is real and to sharpen and strengthen it. Therefore, James tells us to consider it pure joy when we fall into trials, because the testing of our faith produces perseverance and matures us, providing the evidence that our faith is real. (James 1; 2-4) We are all one family and can remember each other in our prayer. Let me thank Kunju uncle for his service as our Sunday School Principal and thanks to all who took responsibilities in our church last month.

With love and prayers,  
Binuachen, Elizabeth, Angelina, Agnes



## Christian Combat: How to Battle Racism and Annihilate Your Enemies

By Vikram Abraham

Recently over dinner, my parents asked me if I had ever faced racism growing up in Southern California. They were surprised when I responded that I had. I've been asked if I only eat curry, if I worship elephants and countless other stereotypes, both subtle and overt. And I am certainly not the only one – this is an issue that other youth have faced growing up in the U.S., especially in this post-Trump era.

As a teenager, this extra nonsense only added to my stress of getting good grades and test scores. I used to think that the answer was to respond with physical confrontation, but my school's zero-tolerance policy always deterred me. I would be useless to my family if I was expelled. And so, seeking answers on how to handle my enemies, I opened my Bible.

Paul writes that we should "...take up the whole armor of God, that [we] may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm" (Ephesians 6:13). The disciples were heavily persecuted for spreading the Word and faced death in many instances. However, they persevered and fought back their fear, comforted by the knowledge that Paradise awaited them. They didn't care about what non-believers called them or hurled at them; their one purpose was to preach the Gospel to the world.

This selflessness is the metal that makes up our Mar Thomite armor. Each day I got up to attend school, I brushed my teeth, took a shower and said a small prayer. I prayed for the health of my parents and my brother, for good grades and successful college admissions, and that I would have the necessary strength to be a good Christian soldier. My prayer wasn't long or particularly deep, but it was my way of strapping on my armor for the day. In turn, whenever I did face racism, I chose to either ignore it (if subtle), or retort with an even harsher insult (if overt). In all instances that I can remember, this would disarm my opponent and prevent future trouble.

For all of you youth facing prejudice or other stress, I urge you to seek revenge by living a happy and fulfilling life. If facing ongoing harassment, please let your parents and teachers know. There is zero shame in asking for help, and it does no good to harbor hatred in our hearts when it can be filled with the love of Christ instead. There will always be evil men in the world and, as Christians, it will always be our job to destroy them. Causing your enemies physical harm is an empty, temporary solution. Annihilate your opponents by becoming successful citizens, thereby destroying their very thoughts, ideas and essences. History will never remember their names (I don't even remember my high school aggressors' names), but it may very well remember yours.

Make powerful the mind and savage the body. For the mind, I highly recommend prayer, meditation and reading a good book. For the body, I enjoy weightlifting, although any physical activity outside will help make you strong (running, cycling, recreational sports, etc.). Most of all, know that you are not alone. We are a church of 50+ families who left our mother country with nothing and have successfully planted roots in this new land. We are artists, scientists, engineers, doctors, bankers, nurses, professors, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, daughters and sons, and we have only just begun.

### OBITUARY

*In Loving Memory...*

#### Sergeant Nadzrie Matin

Mrs. Naomi Abraham's nephew passed away on June 1, 2017 at Singapore. He was 29 years old, a Singapore Traffic Police Officer and died in the line of duty.

#### Mr. Thomas Mathew (Baby)

Mr. Thomas Mammen's brother-in-law passed away on June 6, 2017 at Edamon, Vakathanam, Ranny, Kerala. He was 67 years old.

We extend our deepest condolences to all members of their family. May God give you all the comfort and peace to bear this pain.

### It's a Girl

*Every good and perfect gift is from above. James 1:17*

A GIFT FROM GOD

*Olina Mathew*

BORN:

*June 4, 2017*

PROUD PARENTS:

*Justin & Christina Mathew*



### Jesus, THE Way

By Jaden Mathew

We must **trust** in HIM to be our guide,  
We must **feed** on HIS truth at all times,  
We must **walk** in HIS ways all our lives,  
We must **obey** HIS word to make the wise choice,  
We must **share** HIS love with others constantly,  
We must **seek** HIM without fear continually,  
For Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life,  
Who loves us and forgives our sins forever.

Vacation Bible School 2017

Theme: Hero Central-  
Discover Your Strength In God



When- August 3rd to 5th, 2017  
Where- Acker Hall, 12741 Main St.,  
Garden Grove  
Time- 10 am- 2:30 pm

DO GOOD! SEEK PEACE AND GO AFTER IT!  
(PSALMS 34:14B)  
WEBSITE: 2017COESBURYVBS.COM/HEREBMTG

Lets take our kids on an inspiring adventure alongside some of their favorite Bible heroes and discover some of the qualities that make us truly heroic in God. Please feel free to invite your friends and neighbors.

Please register your child here - [VBS Student Registration](#)

If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up here - [Volunteer Sign Up](#)

For questions/concerns, please contact the VBS coordinators, Anina Cholakath and Merry Thomas

**2017 Western Regional Youth Conference**

**JULY 14-16, 2017**

"Am I My Brother's Keeper?" Gen 4:9

**Speaker: Rev. Larry Varghese**

Hosted by Horeb Marthoma Church  
at Vanguard University  
55 Fair Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Registration Deadline: **July 1st, 2017**

Register online at:  
[horebyf.wixsite.com/wryc2017](http://horebyf.wixsite.com/wryc2017)



To contribute content, please contact:

**Editorial Team:** Anna Chandy, Mathew Thomas & Susan Abraham

**Photography:** Saji Abraham & Saji Baby