



Lighthouse

JANUARY 2018

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



VICAR'S MESSAGE Rev. Binu P. Thomas

Dear Members in Christ,

I believe that every year God gives us on this earth is to be a year where we are as productive as we can be for His work and as pleasing as we can be for His glory. The longer we live the more we should realize just how fleeting these years are and just how important it is to maximize the potential of each year for being who we ought to be and doing what we ought to do.

I want to take this opportunity to thank God and the families at Horeb for welcoming our family into your midst. We really cherished spending our first Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year 2018 with you. As we begin a new year together, let's take God's Word and turn with me to Isaiah 43. As we enter this new year, it's only natural to want to reflect back over the previous year and consider what all was accomplished. That's true in our professional life as well as our personal life. It's also true in our spiritual life. How much time did I spend in God's Word? How consistent was I in my prayer life? Did my witness help bring anybody to Jesus?

Just imagine if you had \$1,440 in your bank that you had to spend each day and none of it would be carried to the next day. The fact is, each of us does have 1,440 minutes every day to use for some purpose. If you live through next year, you'll have 8,760 hours to spend. Allowing eight hours per day for sleep and eight more for work, meals, and commuting time, it only leaves 2,920 hours. How will you use those hours that God has entrusted to you? Will you use them considering eternity? Or, will you waste a significant amount of time on things that really don't matter?

Have a blessed year ahead and am looking forward to worshipping God in Spirit and Truth.

With love and prayers,
Binu Achen, Elizabeth, Angelina, and Agnes

Happy New Year

NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.
Amen.

MAJOR EVENTS

Saturday, January 6 - 9:00am - 12:00pm

Sunday School Chili Van Outreach - OC Rescue Mission

Saturday, January 13 - 10:00am - 3:00pm

Family Workshop - Yorba Linda Community Center



I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

By Annamma Mathew

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ~ Romans 1:16

My Dearly Beloved Horeb Family, greetings to you all from our Savior Jesus Christ. First let me thank the Almighty for strengthening me and giving me the thoughts to write in our Newsletter. Also, I thank Susan Abraham for her encouragement to write to you all in our Church Newsletter.

Apostle Paul wrote the letter to the church in Rome around AD 57. By the time he wrote this letter, there were Christians in Rome whom he had never met and a growing Church. By Apostle Paul's (servant of Jesus Christ) hand, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, this piece of writing became the most influential letter in the world. Why? Because God knew Christians in every generation would live in similar places and need these words to guide their days.

Paul had many things to boast about before he met Christ. He was a Jew; a Pharisee, a group that was proud of His Law. Paul had set himself apart from all kinds of things. From his position of Pharisee, he saw Christians as a heretical threat who would destroy his cherished traditions. Paul became narrow, self-righteous and murderously cruel. One day he had planned to arrest Christians and bring them to Jerusalem to be punished. Instead, on the road to Damascus in Syria, the Lord Jesus arrested Paul. The brilliance of the light of Jesus temporarily blinded Paul. But in that moment, Paul's spiritual blindness ended. Jesus Christ changed Paul from **Prosecutor** to **Servant of the Lord**. Paul became humble and joyful and he embraced both Jews and Gentiles.

Gospel means Good News from God. First, God promised this Good News through the prophets in the Holy Scriptures. The Christian Gospel may have seemed new, but the amazing Good News of salvation through the work of Jesus Christ was not a novelty. God's prior revelations during the Old Testament pointed to God's gift of His Son. The prophets put down in writing God's announcement of the Gospel.

The Gospel is God's Gospel. God announced and accomplished it. He sent His apostles to proclaim it and He blesses us through it. The Gospel is a message from God to our minds and hearts. God rescues both men and women.

Are you hesitant to share God's Good News with others? If God cares about His Gospel to this extent, He will bless it fully wherever it is proclaimed. God calls believers to follow Paul's example. The whole world needs the Gospel because we all are affected by a deadly disease and it is genetic. This disease is sin. There is no humanly possible cure for it. Therefore, let us be silent before God and listen to Him and receive the cure for this deadly disease. ***"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*** ~ John 3:16

God's people are to take the Good News of Jesus Christ and His anointing death to every place and to everyone. The whole world needs the Gospel. It is no less powerful today. We need never to be ashamed of it. Is this true of you?

God had to come down from heaven to earth to get us. ***"As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God."*** ~ Romans 3:10-11. Listen to what He says: you weren't even seeking me and you weren't even looking for me. I had to go to the cross and pay for your sin with my life. I had to suffer and die. I was stripped naked so that I could put my cloth of righteousness on you and I want you to come home with me.

When you realize that God has sought you out, it will fill you with humble joy and fear of the Lord. We will be filled with holy fear and we will bow our knee and worship God.

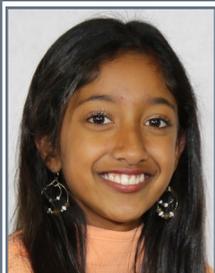
I praise God that I realized that my Lord has sought me out and purchased me with His redeeming blood. Therefore I am not ashamed to proclaim this Good News to everyone and everywhere He sends me. ***Horeb Family, would you stand with me to proclaim this Good News and commit yourself and your family to proclaim the Gospel?***

Yours in Christ,
Molly Aunty

To contribute content, please contact:

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A NEW YEAR AHEAD

By Serena John

As we take down the Christmas decorations and enter a new year, I reflect upon 2017 and how God has walked with me and has shown grace and mercy on me. This past year, I started middle school and I was afraid of what to expect since it was a new school with more classes and new people. I just prayed to God that he would be with me, my classmates, and teachers. God has answered my prayers and my experience has been so wonderful so far. I'm lucky to have amazing teachers, friends, and new opportunities this year. I also think about the many wildfires, mass shootings, and unfortunate events that occurred last year. With the fires being so close to us, I'm thankful to God for protecting my home, family, and friends.

In 2018, I hope to be more Christ-like by praying for others, reading the bible daily, and being more active in church. I want to dedicate my life to do God's will. I am thankful for having Sunday School that helps strengthen my faith and teaches me to apply the Bible in my daily life. One memory verse that we learned and continues to guide me is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." I wish everyone a Happy New Year and may God bless you.

CHRISTMAS 2017



Canned food donation from the Christmas Carol Service dinner was dropped off at the First Southern Baptist Church's shelter kitchen on December 26th. Thank you for supporting and sharing with the less fortunate during such a busy period.

JANUARY CALENDAR

Tue January 2	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Parish Mission Bible Study @TBD
Sat January 6	9:00am - 12:00pm	Sunday School Chili Van Outreach - Orange County Rescue Mission, Tustin
Sat January 6	6:00pm - 8:00pm	West Area Prayer - Ann & Isaac George, Buena Park
Sun January 7	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC
Tue January 9	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Parish Mission Bible Study @TBD
Wed January 10	8:30pm - 9:30pm	Western Regional Tele-prayer Conference - 515-603-3108; 638599#
Sat January 13	10:00am - 3:00pm	Family Workshop - 4801 Casa Loma Ave, Yorba Linda, CA 92886
Sun January 14	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Holy Communion Service (Malayalam) - GGUMC
Tue January 16	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Parish Mission Bible Study @TBD
Wed January 17	8:30pm - 9:30pm	Western Regional Monthly Bible Study - 515-603-3108; 638599#
Sat January 20	7:00pm - 9:00pm	East Area Prayer - Julie & Aji Varghese, Brea
Sun January 21	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC
Sun January 21	5:15pm - 6:15pm	Sevika Sangham Monthly Meeting - GGUMC, Room 20
Tue January 23	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Parish Mission Bible Study @TBD
Sun January 28	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC
Sun January 28	5:00pm - 5:30pm	Sevika Sangham Mary's Kitchen Outreach - GGUMC, Room 20
Sun January 28	5:00pm - 6:00pm	Youth Fellowship Meeting - GGUMC
Tue January 30	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Parish Mission Bible Study @TBD

CHRISTMAS 2017

