Lighthouse

AUGUST 2018

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

Dear Horeb,

We are now in the summer season. Hoping you and your family are having a blessed, productive, and Christ-centered summer. Many of you have been travelling near and far, and so I pray for God's travelling mercies on all.

As we approach the end of another summer season, our children and youths are preparing to go back to school and college. Let us thank God for all the opportunities we have for work and education in this country. The Apostle Paul says, *"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me." (1 Cor 15:10).*

It is important that we understand that God's grace enables us to experience all these blessings. At the same time, we need to be aware that the blessings we receive from God are not only for our use, but for the betterment of humanity and for God's glory. We are blessed to bless others. What is our contribution to the kingdom of God, in light of God's blessings on us?

In a world where we see an increase in the standard of living, access to information, affluence and conveniences, we need to understand that we are God's creation, set apart for a particular purpose, which is designed by God Almighty. Let us move towards a purpose-driven way of living, so that we can truly experience the presence and blessings of the Holy Trinity in our lives.

During the past few months, we have had various conferences, along with Sunday School Olympiad, parish picnic and outreach programs. My hope and prayer are that these programs help us to be rejuvenated in our spiritual life, and enable us to be empowered to go out into the world and be a witness of Jesus Christ, our Lord & Savior.

I am very happy to address you all through the medium of this newsletter. I look forward to ministering together as a team, for the glory of God and for the blessing of humanity. The church is a *family of families. Let us move forward with a God-conscious, Christ-centered, and Holy Spirit filled life.* May the blessings of the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit be with you all.

Sincerely,
Dennis Achen

MAJOR EVENTS

Sunday Service Times:
Please refer to the calendar on Page 4 for Sunday service schedule changes

Thursday, August 2 - Saturday, August 4
VBS - **9:30am - 3:00pm -** *GGUMC*

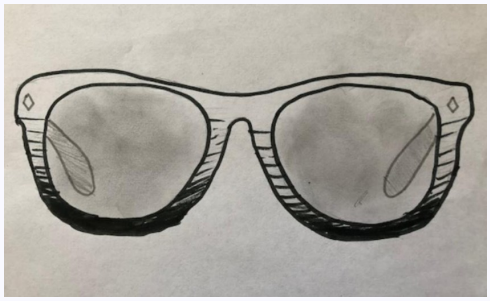
Saturday, August 25 - 11:00am - 3:00pm
Sunday School Teachers Regional Workshop
St. Andrew's MTC, Chatsworth

Saturday, September 8 - 4:30pm
Unity Musical Evening - *GGUMC*

SMUDGED GLASSES

By Joana Thomas

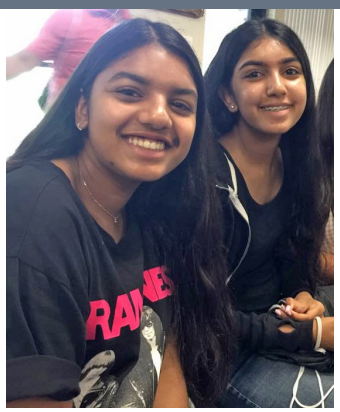
A pair of clean and clear glasses can make all the difference for our vision. I realized this because sometimes, I forget to clean my glasses. I get them so dirty, but I don't notice it until I finally clean it. When I clean my smudged glasses, it's like seeing through new eyes. I've been so used to seeing through cloudy lenses that when I clean them, it's like a new perspective.

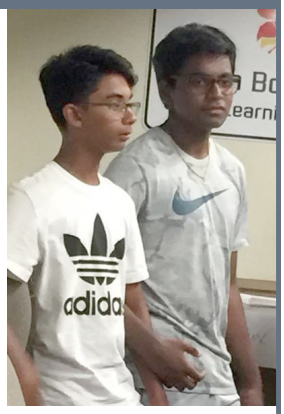


My smudged glasses remind me of sin. When we sin, we first believe that it is a small error and not a big deal. The more we sin, the more we get used to the idea of sinning. Sinning becomes part of our everyday life and it affects the way we see life. We can further extend this to our surrounding as well. Common sins such as lying, cheating in a game, or petty thefts can become an everyday routine. We might see the depth of our errors only when we can compare it with what Jesus has taught us to do.

Unlike cleaning my glasses, we can't clear away sin by ourselves. We must repent of our sins and ask Jesus to cleanse us. He cleared away our sins when he died on the cross. His love for us is what made us clean and able to see! Let us not take the wonderful gift of redemption lightly and keep ourselves clean at all times!

WESTERN REGIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE





The 2018 Western Regional Youth Conference was hosted by the Phoenix Mar Thoma Church from July 20th to 22nd. 13 youths from Horeb attended.

Photos courtesy of Anina Cholakath

To contribute content, please contact:

Editorial Team: Anjali John & Saji Abraham

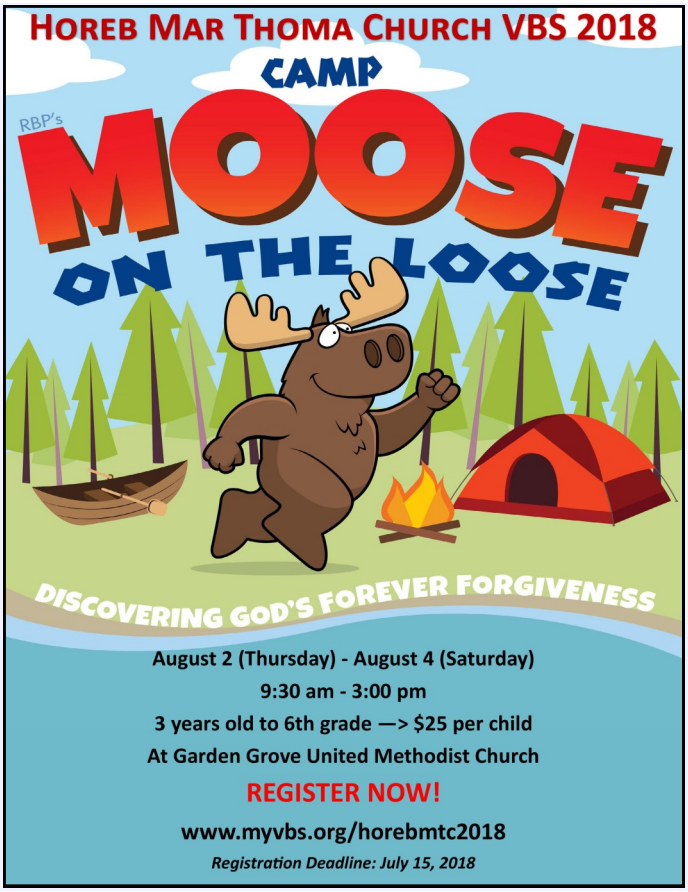
Photography: Saji Abraham & Saji Baby

The Thoughtful Wife

By Saji Abraham

THIRUMENI VISIT & DENNIS ACHEN ARRIVAL

The Executive Committee members met with our Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa, Dennis Achen and Liju Achen on Sunday, July 29th.

AUGUST CALENDAR

Aug 2 - 4	9:30am - 3:00pm	**VBS** - *GGUMC*
Sat Aug 4	6:00pm - 8:30pm	**South Area Prayer** *@TBD*
Sun Aug 5	3:30pm - 4:00pm	**Praise & Worship** - *GGUMC*
Sun Aug 5	4:00pm - 6:00pm	**Holy Communion Service (English)** - *GGUMC*
Wed Aug 8	8:00pm - 9:00pm	**Western Regional Tele-prayer Conference** - *515-603-3108; 638599#*
Fri Aug 10	7:00pm - 8:30pm	**Youth Fellowship Meeting** - *Jaidon Thomas, Orange*
Sat Aug 11	4:30pm - 6:30pm	**West Area Prayer** - *Jayni & Saji Abraham, Cypress*
Sun Aug 12	3:00pm - 3:30pm	**Praise & Worship** - *GGUMC*
Sun Aug 12	3:30pm - 5:30pm	**Holy Communion Service (English)** - *GGUMC; Sunday School Anniversary*
Sat Aug 18	7:00pm - 9:00pm	**East Area Prayer** - *Giti & Nebu Varghese, Corona*
Sun Aug 19	3:00pm - 3:30pm	**Praise & Worship** - *GGUMC*
Sun Aug 19	3:30pm - 5:30pm	**Divine Service (Malayalam)** - *GGUMC*
Sun Aug 19	5:30pm - 6:30pm	**Sevika Sangham Meeting** - *GGUMC, Room 20*
Wed Aug 22	8:00pm - 9:00pm	**MTVEA Western Regional Bible Study** - *515-603-3108; 638599#*
Sat Aug 25	11:00am - 3:00pm	**Sunday School Teachers Regional Workshop** - *St. Andrew's MTC, Chatsworth*
Sat Aug 25	6:00pm - 7:00pm	**Young Families Fellowship Meeting** *@TBD*
Sun Aug 26	TBD	**Praise & Worship** - *GGUMC*
Sun Aug 26	TBD	**Holy Communion Service (English)** - *GGUMC*
Sun Aug 26	5:15pm - 5:45pm	**Mary's Kitchen Outreach** - *GGUMC, Room 20*
Sun Aug 26	5:00pm - 6:00pm	**Youth Fellowship Meeting** - *GGUMC*