

Church Picnic
July 9

Church
PICNIC
You're Invited

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NEWSLETTER
JULY 2016

HOREB MAR THOMA CHURCH

LOS ANGELES



Vicar's Message



Rev. Larry Varghese

Happy Independence Day!

According to the founding fathers of this country, humans have certain inalienable rights. We have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

On July 4th,

we celebrate the freedom we are afforded in this country.

Freedom is an interesting concept though. Many think freedom means you are free to do anything you want to do, at any time, and in any place. But really that kind of freedom is just hedonistic chaos. Eventually the strongest ones will broaden their "freedom" at the expense of the lesser.

For us Christians, freedom is not licentiousness. It is not a borderless morality. Genuine Christian freedom is twofold. We are free from doing what sin would have us do. And we are free to do whatever God wants us to do. Gaining that kind of freedom comes at a cost – his Son. When we think about the cost, we appreciate and appropriately use our freedom.

For the freedom we enjoy in America, there was also a cost. Let us remember those who serve and have served in different capacities to make this freedom a reality.

For our country and for our faith, we have much to celebrate and be thankful for.

Larry Achen

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, July 9:

- **Church Picnic** at Carbon Canyon Park in Brea (Shelter 5) from 10 am - 4 pm

Friday, July 15 - Sunday, July 17:

- **Youth Fellowship Western Regional Conference** at San Diego

Sunday, July 24:

- **Sunday School Anniversary** celebration at GGUMC

Thursday, Aug 4 - Saturday, Aug 6:

- **VBS** at GGUMC from 9:30 am - 3 pm

Sunday, August 7:

- **Last Day of VBS** at GGUMC from 3 pm - 5 pm



His Grace Is Sufficient For Me

By Prasad & Moni Varghese

We had spent a major portion of our life in Mumbai and were active members of the St Thomas Mar Thoma church, Santacruz, Mumbai. We came to Los Angeles in December 2015 to join our son, and were welcomed with open arms by a vibrant church and its members. Transition was not easy but the Horeb Mar Thoma church and its members made us feel at home from day one. Our son had come to LA few months earlier and had given a positive feedback about this church. We too were very happy that he could find a Mar Thoma church close by. We were pleasantly surprised to see the enthusiasm of this young but dedicated congregation...right from preparing for service to the final clean-up. Moreover, we were genuinely glad to see the various organizations of the church functioning in tandem. We could therefore immediately identify with them.

The function of the Edavaka mission is broadly based on the following activities undertaken by the Mar Thoma parishes all over: Prayer meetings, Intercessory prayers, Bible study, witnessing and sharing, house visits, charity projects and gospel work among non-Christians.

After our arrival in LA, one of the most 'looked forward' events for us was the Tuesday prayer under the auspices of the Edavaka mission. We understand that few families took the initiative and continued this weekly prayer and bible study for years to

gether, meeting every Tuesday at 7 pm in various homes. Apart from the Bible study, we take time for bible reading, singing, intercessory prayers and most important, the fellowship we enjoy is invaluable. We are indeed blessed to have Larry Achen as our vicar who takes this in-depth bible study. In fact, he recently completed teaching from the Gospel according to St. John and now we are learning from the book of Romans. He makes it a point to explain each chapter in a simple way with examples. We also have a question hour in the end which is like 'dessert' after a meal.

We understand that the Edavaka mission undertakes house visits, Outreach programs and missionary works from time to time in coordination with the other church organizations. Witnessing and sharing are an integral part of 5th Sunday worship and area prayer meetings.

Going forward, we see a lot of potential in this growing church. Let's work towards a service-oriented congregation and make a useful contribution to the people around us. And let's not forget that every Marthomite is a Missionary.

FEW INTERESTING QUOTES

*Worship is so much more than the Sunday service we attend; it's the life we live the rest of the week.

*When my arms can't reach people who are close to my heart, I always hug them with my prayers.

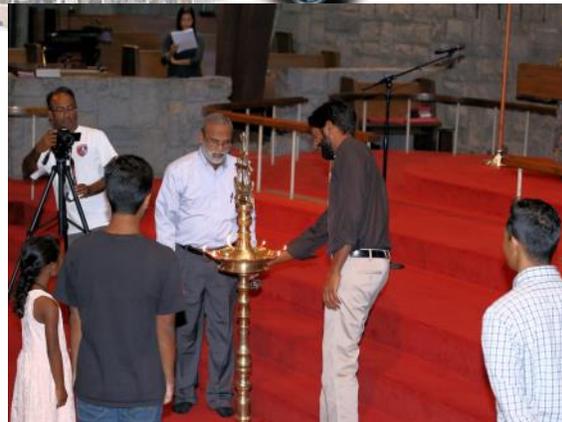
*The Bible is the only book where the author loves you and is always present when you read it.

*When you run with few people, it's called a RACE; when you run with God, it's called GRACE.

JULY CALENDAR

Sun Jul 3	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC
Tue Jul 5	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Edavaka Mission Bible Study - Saji Baby, Cerritos
Thu Jul 7	9:00pm - 10:00pm	Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500;969538#
Sat Jul 9	10:00am - 4:00pm	Church Picnic - Carbon Canyon Regional Park, Brea (Shelter 5)
Sun Jul 10	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Holy Communion Service (Malayalam) - GGUMC
Tue Jul 12	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Edavaka Mission Bible Study - Jiju Cholakath, Irvine
Wed Jul 13	8:30pm-9:30pm	Western Regional Tele-prayer Conference - 714-432-1500 638599#
Thu Jul 14	9:00pm - 10:00pm	Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500;969538#
Sun Jul 17	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC
Sun Jul 17	5:00pm - 6:00pm	Sevikha Sangham Meeting - GGUMC
Tue Jul 19	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Edavaka Mission Bible Study - Thomas Mammen, Long Beach
Thu Jul 21	9:00pm - 10:00pm	Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500;969538#
Fri Jul 22	7:00pm - 8:00pm	South Area Prayer - Mini & Thampi Thomas, Orange
Sat Jul 23	5:00pm - 7:00pm	Young Family Fellowship - Jiby & Abey Mathews, Yorba Linda
Sun Jul 24	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC; <i>Sunday School Anniversary</i>
Sun Jul 24	5:00pm - 6:00pm	Youth Fellowship Meeting - GGUMC
Sun Jul 24	5:00pm - 6:00pm	Sevikha Sangham Mary's Kitchen Outreach Program - GGUMC
Tue Jul 26	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Edavaka Mission Bible Study - K.M.Chacko, Cerritos
Thu Jul 28	9:00pm - 10:00pm	Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500;969538#
Sun Jul 31	10:00am - 12:00pm	Praise and Worship Service- Terrace View Center/Rehab Facility Address: 201 E Bastanchury Rd, Fullerton CA 92835
Sun Jul 31	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Divine Service - GGUMC

Monthly Memorables



Lighting the lamp at the Olympiad



Sevika Sangham Outreach - Mary's Kitchen

*Photo Credit: Saji Baby
Thanks to Mathew Thomas & Anna Chandy for their invaluable contribution to the newsletter*