



Lighthouse

MARCH 2019

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



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

On March 3rd, we are going to embark on the journey of Great Lent. In the Gospel according to St. Matthew 4:17 (NRSV), it says: *"From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'"* The word 'repent' or 'repentance' is derived from the Greek word, *metanoia*, which more means 'change of mind' or 'change of heart'. One of Jesus Christ's primary emphasis in the public ministry was for the people of God to repent. In the speech at Solomon's Portico, the Apostle Peter said: *"Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."* (Acts 3:19-20a, NRSV).

Repentance is key in Great Lent. Many of us are busy or caught up with our own lives, priorities, trajectories, goals, education, careers, family, wealth, future, etc. Sin is not only doing what we were not supposed to. Sin is also about not doing what we were supposed to. We have followed our own ways and desires. The church is exhorting the faithful to reexamine their life's priorities and put their lives in line with the divine plan and purpose of God Almighty. Heartfelt repentance will result in a positive & creative transformation through the power of the Holy Trinity. The Diocesan Youth Fellowship has prepared a Lenten Season bookmark with important prayers, along with a timeline, and suggested scripture readings for the spiritual enrichment of the faithful. The bookmarks have been distributed.

(Continued on Page 2...)

*Man shall not live on
bread alone, but on
every word that comes
from the mouth of God.*

Matthew 4:4

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 3 - 1:15pm

First Communicants Class

Sunday, March 17 - 6:00pm

First Communicants Class

Sunday, March 24 - 4:00pm

Diocesan Sunday/Pulpit Exchange
Holy Communion led by Rev. Larry Varghese

Saturday, March 30 - 3:00pm

Holy Communion & First Communicants Service
Led by Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa

Sunday, March 31 - 10:00am

Terrace View Care Center Worship Service, Fullerton

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Family Night, originally scheduled for Saturday, August 24th, has been rescheduled to Saturday, August 31st due to a conflict with another GGUMC event.

Mark your calendars and start planning :)

***(Dennis Achen's article continued...)***

This month, we have our Diocesan Sunday, along with the Clergy Pulpit Exchange. It is our Christian responsibility to support the Parish, Region, Diocese, & Church as a whole. God-willing, our Diocesan Bishop will be visiting our parish this month. Let us uphold Philoxenos Thirumeni, and the ministry of our Diocese in prayers. In connection with the Episcopal visit, several of our children will be partaking in the Lord's Table for the first time. Let us uphold them in prayers as they take a step forward in their faith journey, and declare Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Let us truly repent and transform during this Lenten season. May the blessings of God the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit, be with us all, especially during this Lenten season.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Dennis Abraham

## *Secretary Handover*



***Horeb's secretaries for 2018, Susan Abraham and Sheeba Varughese, handed over their roles to the new secretaries for 2019, Dr. Thomas Mathew and Nikhil Thomas.***



# Western Regional MTVEA Annual Conference



***Hosted by Horeb Mar Thoma Church***

Horeb had the opportunity to host the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Regional Voluntary Evangelists' Conference on February 16th and 17th. The theme of this year was Died for you, Live for Him, based on 2 Cor 5:15. This was one of the largest gathering of believers in a single location in the Mar Thoma Western Region. We had about 250 delegates consisting of 40+ children, 20+ youths and 30+ seniors who attended the conference.



While numbers tend not to convey the complete story, my personal experience being the convener for this conference was nothing short of awe and wonder. In our lifetimes, especially in this fast-paced lifestyle, Christ mandates us to take that pause. A pause consisting of a focused, multi-day experience of great Christian teaching, worship, prayer, confession, alone-time with God and celebration; a combined impact that is hard to describe. Athletic teams have week-long and sometimes summer-long intensive training programs to dramatically move students forward in their athletic abilities. What's true of our mind and physical body is also true of our soul and spirit. We are designed by God to take that pause.

As you may know, the Israelites were told to keep three feasts per year; the Feast of Unleavened Bread for one week, the Feast of Pentecost which was a weekend, and the Feast of Tabernacles which was a week long. During these times there was celebration, public reading of the Word of God, teaching, praise and worship and confession of sin. Unfortunately, the Israelites did not always keep these feasts and their hearts strayed away from the Lord. But, periodically during the years they would repent, return to God and hold these feasts with spectacular results.

We have an amazing Father who yearns for us. It's remarkable how nourishing it is for Christians who practice regularly, to gather together at such conferences and to stay focused on Christ. ***(Continued on Page 4...)***



*(Manoj Mathew's article continued...)*

What I personally witnessed was the power of prayer throughout the planning and conference. I experienced an extra ordinary sense of purpose within our committee, sub-committees and numerous volunteers; with Horeb unitedly coming together. I saw Dr. Vino Daniel making himself vulnerable and stepping out of his comfort zone, to passionately proclaim uncompromised truth from the Word of God. And who can forget our fearless shepherd, Dennis Achen being supernaturally plugged-in, portraying nothing short of the grace of God. And did I forget to mention, about how miraculously God worked His art in GGUMC logistics, finances and the weather; amid a very eventful week for all our us.

As the psalmist says, "Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!"

Thank you for your steadfast support and prayers Horeb, and God Bless you.

**- Manoj Mathew**



*Speaker: Dr. Vino Daniel*



*To contribute content, please contact:*

**Editorial Team:** Anjali John & Saji Abraham

**Photography:** Saji Abraham & Saji Baby

## MARCH CALENDAR

|              |                   |                                                                                             |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun March 3  | 3:30pm - 4:00pm   | <b>Praise &amp; Worship - GGUMC</b>                                                         |
| Sun March 3  | 4:00pm - 6:00pm   | <b>Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC; First Communicants Class 1:15pm</b>            |
| Tue March 5  | 7:00pm - 9:00pm   | <b>Parish Mission Bible Study - Annamma Mathew &amp; Mathew Koshy, Cerritos</b>             |
| Fri March 8  | 7:30pm - 9:30pm   | <b>South Area Prayer - Naomi &amp; Rajan Abraham, Portola Hills</b>                         |
| Sat March 9  | 11:00am - 1:00pm  | <b>East Area Prayer - Anna Chandy &amp; Philip Jacob, Yorba Linda</b>                       |
| Sat March 9  | 5:00pm - 7:00pm   | <b>West Area Prayer - Thankamma &amp; Thomas Mammen, Long Beach</b>                         |
| Sun March 10 | 3:30pm - 4:00pm   | <b>Praise &amp; Worship - GGUMC</b>                                                         |
| Sun March 10 | 4:00pm - 6:00pm   | <b>Holy Communion Service (Malayalam) - GGUMC</b>                                           |
| Wed March 13 | 8:00pm - 9:00pm   | <b>Western Regional Tele-prayer Conference - 515-603-3108; 638599#</b>                      |
| Sun March 17 | 3:30pm - 4:00pm   | <b>Praise &amp; Worship - GGUMC</b>                                                         |
| Sun March 17 | 4:00pm - 6:00pm   | <b>Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC; First Communicants Class 6:00pm</b>            |
| Tue March 19 | 7:00pm - 9:00pm   | <b>Parish Mission Bible Study - Ann &amp; Isaac George, Buena Park</b>                      |
| Sat March 23 | 5:00pm - 7:00pm   | <b>Young Families Fellowship - Dr. Susan Varghese &amp; Dr. Sunil Thomas, Anaheim Hills</b> |
| Sun March 24 | 3:30pm - 4:00pm   | <b>Praise &amp; Worship - GGUMC</b>                                                         |
| Sun March 24 | 4:00pm - 6:00pm   | <b>Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC; Diocesan Sunday/Pulpit Exchange</b>            |
| Sun March 24 | 6:15pm - 6:45pm   | <b>Mary's Kitchen Outreach - GGUMC, Room 10</b>                                             |
| Wed March 27 | 8:30pm - 9:30pm   | <b>MTVEA Western Regional Bible Study - 515-603-3108; 638599#</b>                           |
| Sat March 30 | 3:00pm - 5:00pm   | <b>Holy Communion Service &amp; First Communicants Service (Episcopal Visit)</b>            |
| Sun March 31 | 10:00am - 11:30am | <b>Worship Service at Terrace View Care Center - Fullerton</b>                              |
| Sun March 31 | 3:30pm - 4:00pm   | <b>Praise &amp; Worship - GGUMC</b>                                                         |
| Sun March 31 | 4:00pm - 6:00pm   | <b>Divine Service &amp; Witnessing (English) - GGUMC</b>                                    |

### In Loving Memory of...

#### Mickey Abraham

Mickey Abraham, member of Horeb MTCLA, passed away on February 10th in Carson, CA. He was 66 years old and is survived by his beloved wife, Mercy, two children, Binoy and Sharmila, daughter-in-law, Seena, and his granddaughter, Abigail.



#### Santhamma Thomas

Mrs. Santhamma Thomas, grandmother of Sheba Chacko, passed away on February 5th in Kerala. She was 85 years old.



We express our deepest condolences to the bereaved families. May God grant them the strength, comfort and divine peace that surpasses all human understanding at this time of grief.

## REGIONAL & DIOCESAN CONFERENCES 2019

**Joint Western Regional Conference**  
Azusa Pacific University, California

July 12-14

**Diocesan Youth Fellowship Conference**  
Mar Thoma Church of Dallas, Texas

July 25-28

**Diocesan MTVEA Conference**  
St. Mathew's Mar Thoma Church, Toronto, Canada

Aug 1-4

**Diocesan Senior Fellowship Conference**  
Philadelphia Ascension Mar Thoma Church, PA

Sep 25-28

**Diocesan Yuvajana Sakhyam Conference**  
Philadelphia Christos Mar Thoma Church, PA

Oct 4-6

**Diocesan Sevika Sangham Conference**  
Houston Trinity Mar Thoma Church, Texas

Oct 10-13