



# LIGHTHOUSE

October 2020

Horeb Mar Thoma Church, Los Angeles  
12741 Main Street, Garden Grove, CA 92840

## PSALM 37: 23-29

The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.

I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.

They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing.

Turn from evil and do good; then you will dwell in the land forever.

For the Lord loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones.

Wrongdoers will be completely destroyed; the offspring of the wicked will perish.

The righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever.

NIV



*The Lord makes  
firm the steps of  
the one who  
delights in him.*

*Psalm 37:23*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Due to COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines, all Worship Services and events will continue to be conducted online for the month of October.**

**Please find more information on Page 4.**



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

By God's grace and mercy, we are entering into the final quarter of the year 2020. The past months brought unprecedented challenges and experiences in our lives. All of our plans and expectations were turned upside down and we were thrust into uncharted waters. Yet, we've been reminded all the more, as it's been written, "A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps" (Proverbs 16:9). It's God's will, not simply our efforts, that has kept us alive and safe. Anxiety and frustrations take hold of us when we feel that the control of our lives is out of our hands. Let's remember that the best place to be is in His hands – He is with us to help and guide us. Can we trust in Him, whatever may be the situation around us? Let us move forward giving Christ the right place in our lives.

As Horeb complete 8 years as a parish, this year's Parish Convention invites us to meditate on the theme "In Times Like These" and consider together:

- How can we be a faith-led people in times of uncertainty?
- How can we be a peace-filled people in times of anxiety and frustrations?

- How can we be a people of hope in times of despair?
- How can we navigate this season as an enduring people?

And as the Mar Thoma Church observes MTVEA Sunday, Youth Sunday, and Family Sunday in October, this month really brings into our focus the life and witness of the Body of Christ. The Body of Christ is called to be a faithful and healing presence in this world – our lives, from the young to the elderly, to be a collective witness of God's love and salvation. As followers of Christ, how are our lives the message of hope to one another and world around us, especially during these difficult times? Accordingly, our Virtual Family night promises to be a meaningful undertaking, a great way to encourage each other and unite in making a difference around us. I hope and pray that all of our programs for this month will enable all of our families and members to all the more connect to the life, mission, and ministry of the church. Requesting your prayers and wholehearted support.

With prayerful regards,

**Rev. Arun Samuel Varghese**



# GOD AND YOUR GPS

*By Sharon Kochamma*

Praise the Lord! During my sermon on Sevika Sangham Day, I talked about GPS- your gifts, your passions and your story; which has a lot to do with locating yourself and your purpose: Who am I and what's my story? -- especially in times like these...

So, I would like to share a part of my story. It's been 7 months since I arrived here in L.A., but I haven't really gotten a chance to meet many of you. Thanks to the 3 Sundays at church before lockdown was initiated, I was able to meet in-person a handful of our families. And now, we look forward to visiting you, either virtually or physically in a safe manner. It's a joy being around God's people and we feel so blessed to be a part of this Horeb family. I had waited 9 months to get here, which was much like a new mother waiting 9 months to hold her baby for the very first time! The welcome I received and still continue to receive warms my heart.

I grew up in a small apartment on a tiny island in the Middle East. I didn't have a lot of my extended family around me and it's wonderful having all of you around. Growing up, I had a lot of ambitions- started off by wanting to be a doctor, as I've always been curious what a stethoscope in the ear sounded like (I still haven't found that out!). Later, that changed to an astronaut when I heard of Kalpana Chawla (look her up, if you don't know of her!). I had many other ambitions over the years, but one thing I was sure I didn't want to be was a teacher. My entire family had been in the teaching profession at one point of time or another- parents, grandparents, aunts... I never felt like I had the kind of patience it takes to be a teacher, so that's something I was sure I didn't want to be. And well, no one considers being a Kochamma as a profession, so that didn't even cross my mind. In fact, if someone had mentioned to me five years ago, that this is where I would be in 2020, doing what I do now, I would have laughed like Sarah laughed when she heard God tell Abraham about her having a son over the year!

But God has His own plans. My favorite verses from the time I left home in 2010 for college have been Hebrews 13:5 – "I will never leave you nor forsake you" and Jeremiah 29:11 – "For I know the plans I have for you.., plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." These coupled with 1 Peter 5:7 – "Leave all your worries with Him, because He cares for you" – made up my guiding block the past ten years of my life.

At this time, I would like to remind all our young people out there: Things don't always go as per our plan. God sees you beyond what you see in the mirror. He has the aerial view remember? I thought I would never make a good teacher. Yet during my 9 months of waiting last year, despite my accounting background, the Lord made way for an opportunity to help teach at a school. It was one of the most fulfilling jobs I had ever taken up. He taught me that through Him, I could do it. Moreover, I would have never pictured myself being the wife of a priest, though all those missionary stories I heard at VBS year after year as a child did stir something within me to want to do more of His Kingdom's work.

Over the years, God has taught me to keep aside my vision of a perfect reality and surrender to letting God take control of the wheel. God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called. He continues to teach me each day to realize a better version of myself that glorifies Him – that's what we are all called to do. Whatever we do, do it for the glory of God.

## OCTOBER CALENDAR

*All links to the Zoom worship services and teleconference info will be provided via email.*

SAT OCT 3	6:00pm - 7:30pm	South Area Prayer - Zoom
SUN OCT 4	8:45am - 10:15am 10:15am - 10:30am 10:30am - 12:30pm	Sunday School - Zoom Praise and Worship - Zoom Online Worship Service (English) - Zoom; <i>MTVEA Sunday</i>
TUE OCT 6	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Parish Prayer Fellowship/Bible Study - Zoom
WED OCT 7	8:00pm - 9:00pm	Western Regional MTVEA Tele Prayer - Zoom
FRI OCT 9	7:00pm	Church Convention - Zoom (Flyer below)
SAT OCT 10	5:00pm	
SUN OCT 11	10:30am	
SUN OCT 11	8:45am - 10:15am 10:15am - 10:30am 10:30am - 12:30pm	Sunday School- Zoom Praise and Worship - Zoom Online Worship Service (English) - Zoom; <i>8th Annual Parish Day</i>
TUE OCT 13	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Parish Prayer Fellowship/Bible Study - Zoom
WED OCT 14	8:00pm - 9:00pm	Western Regional MTVEA Tele Prayer - Zoom
FRI OCT 16	7:00pm - 8:30pm	East Area Prayer - Zoom
SAT OCT 17	6:00pm - 7:30pm	West Area Prayer - Zoom
SUN OCT 18	8:45am - 10:15am 10:15am - 10:30am 10:30am - 12:30pm	Sunday School - Zoom Praise and Worship - Zoom Online Worship Service (English) - Zoom; <i>Youth Sunday</i>
TUE OCT 20	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Parish Prayer Fellowship/Bible Study - Zoom
WED OCT 21	8:00pm - 9:00pm	Western Regional MTVEA Tele Prayer - Zoom
SAT OCT 24	6:00pm	Virtual Family Night & Fundraiser - Zoom (Flyer below)
SUN OCT 25	8:45am - 10:15am 10:15am - 10:30am 10:30am - 12:30pm	Sunday School - Zoom Praise and Worship - Zoom Online Worship Service (English) - Zoom; <i>Family Sunday</i>
TUE OCT 27	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Parish Prayer Fellowship/Bible Study - Zoom
FRI OCT 30	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Parish-Wide Prayer - Zoom info via email
WED OCT 28	8:00pm - 9:00pm	Western Regional MTVEA Tele Prayer - Zoom
SAT OCT 31	6:00pm - 7:30pm	Youth Fellowship Meeting - Zoom



### ***Dr. C.A. Thomas***

Dr. C.A. Thomas passed away on September 23rd at age 92 in Tampa Bay, Florida. He is survived by his two sons, Abe and Tom, and a large extended family.

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF...

*Let us uphold the families in our prayers and ask our Almighty God to comfort them during this time.*



### ***Mr. Leo Netto***

Mr. Leo Netto, brother of Mercy Abraham and uncle of Binoy and Sharmila Abraham, passed away at age 67 in Kollam, Kerala.

*Please take a moment to make contributions to the church via Zelle; this includes Sunday offertory, birthday and wedding offertory, subscriptions, etc. Donations can quickly be made via your mobile bank app or through online banking. The church email for Zelle is [treasurer@horebmtc.org](mailto:treasurer@horebmtc.org) or checks can be sent to our Treasurer, Abey Mathews.*

To contribute content, please contact:  
Editorial Team: Anjali John and Saji Abraham

<http://www.horebmtc.org/>  
Photography: Saji Baby & Saji Abraham

# Welcome Mia Mary Thomas!

Congratulations to Alex and Aswathi as they welcomed their new baby girl Mia Mary Thomas on September 11, 2020. Let us continue to keep Alex, Aswathi, Gabriel and Mia in our prayers.



**October 4th**  
MTVEA Sunday

**October 9th - October 11th**  
Church Convention

**October 11th**  
8th Annual Parish Day

**October 18th**  
Youth Sunday

**October 24th**  
Virtual Family Night

**October 25th**  
Family Sunday

Horeb Mar Thoma Church, Los Angeles  
2020 Church Convention



## In Times Like These



**Finney Premkumar**  
President - Truth Matters International

Fri, Oct 9th- 7pm  
Sat, Oct 10th- 5pm  
Sun, Oct 11th-10:30am  
8th Annual Parish Day

**Zoom**  
Meeting ID: 738 219 260  
Passcode: 403986

PSALMS 31:15a

MY TIMES ARE IN YOUR HANDS...

Horeb Mar Thoma Church, Los Angeles

invites you to

## Virtual Family Night & Fundraiser

Friends and Well Wishers Welcome!!! A night of fun, music, fellowship, games and raffle prizes!

For Fundraiser Raffle Tickets: <http://bit.ly/horebfam>

15 Tickets: \$100  
6 Tickets: \$50  
1 Ticket: \$10

A great opportunity to showcase your talents & skills, presenting both the young and young at heart!

100% of proceeds will go to several worthwhile causes:  
Laura's house, JOYA scholars, Horeb Parsonage Payoff

**OCTOBER 24TH @ 6PM**

For more information, contact:  
Sobha Mammen  
sumammen@gmail.com

Join us on ZOOM:  
Meeting ID: 832 1649 4710  
Passcode: Horeb