



LIGHTHOUSE

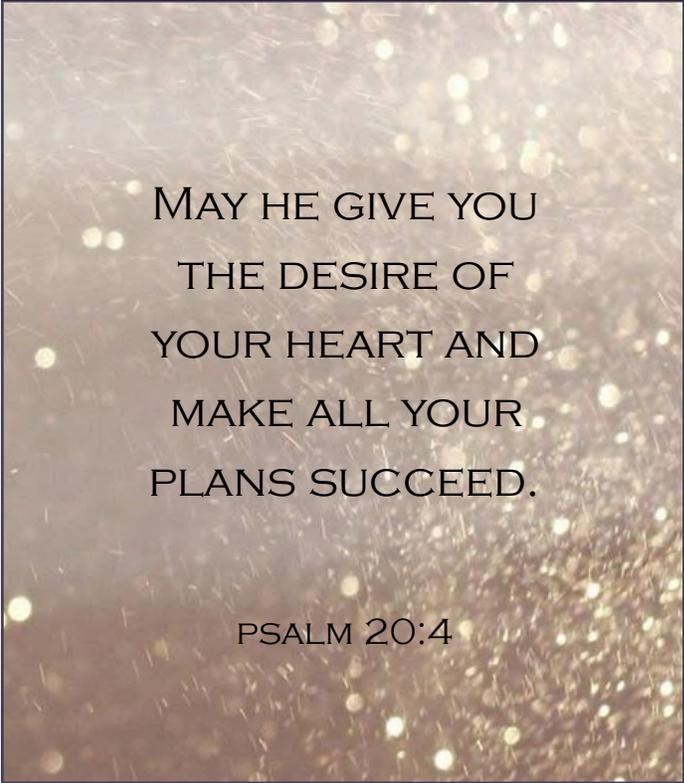
January 2021

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

ECCLESIASTES 3: 1-8

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

NIV



MAY HE GIVE YOU
THE DESIRE OF
YOUR HEART AND
MAKE ALL YOUR
PLANS SUCCEED.

PSALM 20:4

VIRTUAL SERVICES & EVENTS

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

Please find more information on Page 6.



Dear Horeb Family,

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us”

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

By God’s grace and mercy, we’ve crossed the threshold into the new year 2021. 2020 was surely a year of unexpected challenges and unprecedented experiences that surrounded our lives with sickness, loss, limitations, unrest, and uncertainty. What was to be the Year of Vision became the Year of COVID-19, and yes, it was a difficult year that will be hard to forget. And, after such a year, as 2021 lies before us as a vast sea of unknown experiences, it may be hard to feel enthusiastic and confident about the New Year. Yet, let’s remember all the more the words of the Apostle Paul: *“...Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 3 : 13b - 14). Every New Year beckons us to take a fresh look at ourselves and our lives...yet before we make one step forward, we need to even more, as Paul reminds, be confident of what, rather who, is within us, beside us, and in our focus ahead of us. Is the light of Christ burning bright in the lamp of our

heart? Is Christ walking beside us in the journey of life? Are we striving forward with our eyes fixed on what Christ has prepared ahead of us? I pray that each and every one of us may enter into this New Year, learning from this past year yet leaving it behind – leaving our anxieties, disappointments, frustrations and burdens, at the feet of Christ – and go forward with renewed spirits and undivided hearts for the glory of God. Let’s meet the continued challenges and limitations before us all the more with faith, hope, and love, upholding everything with prayer and witness.

Wishing you all a Blessed New Year filled with Hope, Peace, and more of God’s grace!

With love & prayers,

Rev. Arun Samuel Varghese



Christmas Caroling (Social Distance Edition)

EAST AREA



SOUTH AREA



WEST AREA





2020 - Struggles & Blessings

By Sarah Abraham

When we hear 2020, we remember the crazy year. So many things have happened, we continue to go through a global pandemic, we have witnessed racial injustice, and we have gone through a presidential election. All of these things have impacted everyone in a different way. For me it has been an interesting experience and would not choose to go through it again.

Going through this pandemic has been hard but also a blessing. When I first heard that in-person school was cancelled I was actually happy. I thought I wouldn't have to wake up early and get dressed, it was a dream. But as I continued to do online school it started to get hard. It was hard not to have a teacher to go to and ask questions. It also could get stressful at times when teachers pile you with homework.

I also got to realize what racial injustice is and how bad it can get. It was very scary to see the things done to people just because of their skin color. It was also scary to see all of the hate in this world. But it was also beautiful to see people come together to support each other. We should always remember that God created us in his image and we should share God's love that he has for us with others.

But I got to experience things that I would never get to do without the pandemic. Some of you know that my family has been in the process of moving. It is not easy to move without a pandemic, imagine moving in the midst of a pandemic. Once we had sold our house we got to live with my ammachi, while we were looking for another house. Living with my ammachi is a big blessing because we get to spend more time with her. But I'm sure she doesn't appreciate the mess. Even though I get to spend quality time with my family it sometimes gets annoying to share a room with your parents, especially when your parents snore.

Life can be crazy and we have to remember that we will get out of this together and God is with us. Isaiah 43:2 says: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you".

Several Sunday School students from 4th through 12th grade participated in the "Doodling Faith" Workshop on December 28th & 29th led by Sara Aby from Sharjah Mar Thoma Church.



Horeb members volunteered to help setup a mobile field hospital at Fountain Valley Regional Hospital on December 27th & 28th to support the bedside caregivers during this historic Covid patient surge.

Thanks to Anina Cholakath for organizing and Nebu Varghese for photos.



New Prescription: 20/21

By Mahyini Mathew

After all that we faced in the insane and chaotic period of our life that we call last year, we can all understand that coming up to this point was not at all a comfortable journey. 2020 was challenging, very challenging. The whole world is angry and deeply disturbed by all the events that came one after another this past year. The world was already frustrated with the lockdown and social distancing measures and to top that off, we see racial tensions, weather calamities and violence all around the world. Watching the news now is just physically and emotionally draining. On top of this, as a high school senior I will not be having a proper graduation, grad night, prom, or even casual hangouts with friends. Despite all this, 2020 has no doubt taught us a lot. So with the lessons learned and high hopes, let's go into 2021 with a drive for a different outcome and a great year.

In John 5:5-9, the sick man's first response was to offer all the reasons that he couldn't be healed. But, Jesus stepped past all the excuses and told him to walk. In the same way if we focus on working things out on our own, we won't get anywhere. We have to be willing to leave the past in the past and follow Jesus to see a difference in our lives. The world is also constantly distracting us. For example, many teenagers like I, are constantly surrounded by the societal pressures or trends that do not exactly align with a Christ-like life or can be harmful to ourselves. But the more we desperately hold on to the Bible's teachings and God's voice, we can be filled with strength and peace to move forward in hopes to be the best versions of ourselves. From now on, let's not be discouraged by the unrest and evil this world is throwing our way but continue to focus on God each step of the way. The more we focus and turn to Him, we can trust Him more. As we swim out into new and uncharted waters, let's use God's immense power to calm the waves. In this brand new year, let's move forward believing that our 2021 vision will be clearer than 2020's.

JANUARY CALENDAR

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

SUN JAN 3	8:45am - 10:15am 10:15am - 10:30am 10:30am - 12:30pm	Sunday School Resumes - <i>Zoom</i> Praise and Worship - <i>Zoom</i> Online Worship Service (English) - <i>Zoom</i>
TUE JAN 5	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Parish Prayer Fellowship/Bible Study - <i>Zoom</i>
WED JAN 6	8:00pm - 9:00pm	Western Regional MTVEA Tele Prayer - <i>Zoom</i>
FRI JAN 8	7:00pm - 8:30pm	South Area Prayer - <i>Zoom</i>
SAT JAN 9	6:00pm - 7:30pm	West Area Prayer - <i>Zoom</i>
SUN JAN 10	8:45am - 10:15am 10:15am - 10:30am 10:30am - 12:30pm	Sunday School - <i>Zoom</i> Praise and Worship - <i>Zoom</i> Online Worship Service (English) - <i>Zoom</i>
TUE JAN 12	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Parish Prayer Fellowship/Bible Study - <i>Zoom</i>
WED JAN 13	8:00pm - 9:00pm	Western Regional MTVEA Tele Prayer - <i>Zoom</i>
SAT JAN 16	11:00am - 12:30pm	Sevika Sangham Meeting - <i>Zoom</i>
SAT JAN 16	6:00pm - 7:30pm	East Area Prayer - <i>Zoom</i>
SUN JAN 17	8:45am - 10:15am 10:15am - 10:30am 10:30am - 12:30pm	Sunday School - <i>Zoom</i> Praise and Worship - <i>Zoom</i> Online Worship Service (English) - <i>Zoom</i>
TUE JAN 19	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Parish Prayer Fellowship/Bible Study - <i>Zoom</i>
WED JAN 20	8:00pm - 9:00pm	Western Regional MTVEA Tele Prayer - <i>Zoom</i>
SAT JAN 23	5:00pm - 6:30pm	Young Family Fellowship Meeting - <i>Zoom</i>
SUN JAN 24	8:45am - 10:15am 10:15am - 10:30am 10:30am - 12:30pm	Sunday School - <i>Zoom</i> Praise and Worship - <i>Zoom</i> Online Worship Service (English) - <i>Zoom</i>
TUE JAN 26	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Parish Prayer Fellowship/Bible Study - <i>Zoom</i>
WED JAN 27	8:00pm - 9:00pm	Western Regional MTVEA Tele Prayer - <i>Zoom</i>
FRI JAN 29	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Parish Wide Prayer - <i>Zoom</i>
SUN JAN 31	8:45am - 10:15am 10:15am - 10:30am 10:30am - 12:30pm	Sunday School - <i>Zoom</i> Praise and Worship - <i>Zoom</i> Online Worship Service (English) - <i>Zoom</i>



IN LOVING MEMORY OF... **Aleyamma Mathai**

Mrs. Aleyamma Mathai, Pushpa Samuel's grandmother, passed away at 89 years old in Houston, Texas. Let us uphold their family in our prayers and ask God to comfort them during this time.

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 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