

beautiful savior  
jesus



Diocese of North America and Europe

# The Mar Thoma *Besorah*

The *Besorah* is an Official Publication of the Diocese of North America and Europe.

## Message from the Diocesan Bishop

Dear friends in Christ,

Last month, I read the book ‘Through the villages of Karnataka with the Gospel,’ written by Dr. Abraham C. Thomas, Diocesan Assembly Member, Tampa Mar Thoma Parish, Florida. The book speaks about the significance of personal evangelism and narrates an incident that happened after a prayer meeting in Siddhilaghatta, Karnataka, India. It was about a tall man who was heavily drunk and standing by the door after a prayer meeting. He invited the missionary to his house for a time of prayer. Seeing that the man was drunk and anticipating opposition from the people in the neighborhood, the missionary scheduled his house visit for the following week. As scheduled, the man was there the next week and when he understood that the missionary would be visiting, he arranged for his son to accompany the missionary. The man went ahead of the missionary and invited his neighbors to hear the Gospel and to attend the prayer meeting at his house. During that prayer meeting the man witnessed that his mother at her deathbed (when he was a boy) had told him, “*There is only one God. His name is Jesus. You worship him only when you grow up. I am going to die. But I will see you in his presence.*” These words stayed in this man’s mind. That was the reason for his being attracted to the former prayer meeting, because he had again heard the name of Jesus. He was looking for a community of Jesus. The prayer meeting at his house helped him find that community. He got rid of his drinking habit, his family regained happiness, and the transformation led to the formation of a Christian Church in his locality.

Sonia was a mother of two children. Her husband divorced her and stopped supporting the family. Sonia had attended school only for three years and found it difficult to get a job to support her and the children. She took some sleeping pills to commit suicide but was rescued at a nearby hospital. When she was still in the hospital, depressed, dejected, and full of anger towards everything, a devotee from the local church came to pray for her and visited her day after day. The visitor first introduced Sonia to God, then gave her a copy of the Holy Bible, and assured her that God has a purpose for her life and for her children. Sonia became a committed Christian, started a family altar, and raised her children with deep faith in Jesus. Her one son became an Engineer, and the other son is Dr. Ben Carson, a pediatric neurosurgeon at Johns Hopkins, and a committed Christian doctor. His book is titled, “Gifted Hands.”

Are you a missionary liberating people who need help and fellowship, listening and leading many to Christ and to the life in the kingdom of God? Can our parish be a light in the neighborhood? Personal evangelism still has relevance and meaning. You can be that evangelist.

**Mar Theodosius+, Diocesan Episcopa**

## Annual Meeting of the Council of the Mar Thoma Parishes in Europe (COMPE)



The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual General Body Meeting of the Council of Mar Thoma Parishes in Europe (COMPE) was held on April 19, 2014, at the St. John's Mar Thoma Church, London, UK. The Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius presided over the meeting. Rt. Rev. Thomas Mar Timotheos, the Diocesan Episcopa of Trivandrum - Kollam Diocese was also present. The Annual Report and Accounts of COMPE for the year 2013-14 and Budget for 2014-15 were passed. There were discussions about common projects, organization programs, and the publication of a quarterly magazine. Office bearers for the new term were elected.

## Philadelphia Youth Fellowships Joint Volunteer Service Project



On February 15, 2014, youths and young families from five churches in the Philadelphia area engaged in a joint Youth Fellowship volunteer project at a local organization called Cradles to Crayons. Cradles to Crayons provide children from birth to age 12, living in low-income and homeless situations, with the essential items that they need to thrive at home, at school, and at play. This is the first year this group has done a joint volunteer project and they hope to carry this on as an annual tradition. About 80 volunteers participated. It is an honor to take part in local missions to spread Christ's love. All youth fellowships and churches are encouraged to engage and/or continue local or diocesan mission activities. Amazing things for God's kingdom are accomplished when all work together.

## Going Green Project –Tree Planting by Belfast Congregation

The Belfast Mar Thoma Congregation celebrated Episcopal Silver Jubilee of Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius, the Diocesan Episcopa, during his visit to Belfast on April 20, 2014. This was a joyous occasion for the Christian community in Belfast. To mark the occasion, Thirumeni planted an apple tree at the Belfast Bible College. Rev. Dr. Jacob Thomas (CSI Parish), Rev. K. P. Johnson (Vicar, Belfast congregation) Rev. George Varughese (Vicar, Dublin Mar Thoma Church) felicitated Thirumeni during the special meeting.



## Northeast Region Clergy & Family Meeting



The regional clergy meeting of the northeast region was held at St. Andrew's MTC, Yonkers, NY, on April 22, 2014. The Diocesan Episcopa Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius presided over the meeting. Rev. Abraham Oommen, Vicar, welcomed all. Rev. Mathew George led the devotional talk based on the theme 'Churching the Diaspora' (Jer.29:1-19). There were discussions on diocesan and parish matters. A farewell session was held for the Achens transferred from this Diocese.

## Regional Clergy Fellowship in the Southeast Region

The southeast regional meeting of clergy with family was held at the St. Stephens MTC, NJ, on April 23, 2014. The Diocesan Episcopa, Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius, presided over the meeting. Rev. Christopher Phil Daniel, vicar of St. Stephens MTC, NJ, welcomed all. Rev. Alex Kolath, Vicar of the Baltimore MTC, led the meditation based on 2 Tim 1: 6-14. Mrs. Ani Mathews (kochamma) lead the intercessory prayers. Rev. Jaisen A. Thomas presented a paper on, "Being Single and Single Parent." Melodious songs were rendered by the kochammas and the children. A thoughtful discussion regarding Jaisen Achen's paper presentation ensued. Rev. Mathews Abraham led the farewell meeting for the clergy and families who transferred from this Diocese and Rev. P. A. Abraham gave the reply speech representing the transferred Achens and their families. The Episcopal Silver Jubilee was also celebrated during this meeting. Rev. Shaji M. Eappan felicitated Thirumeni on the occasion and presented a gift to Thirumeni.



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