

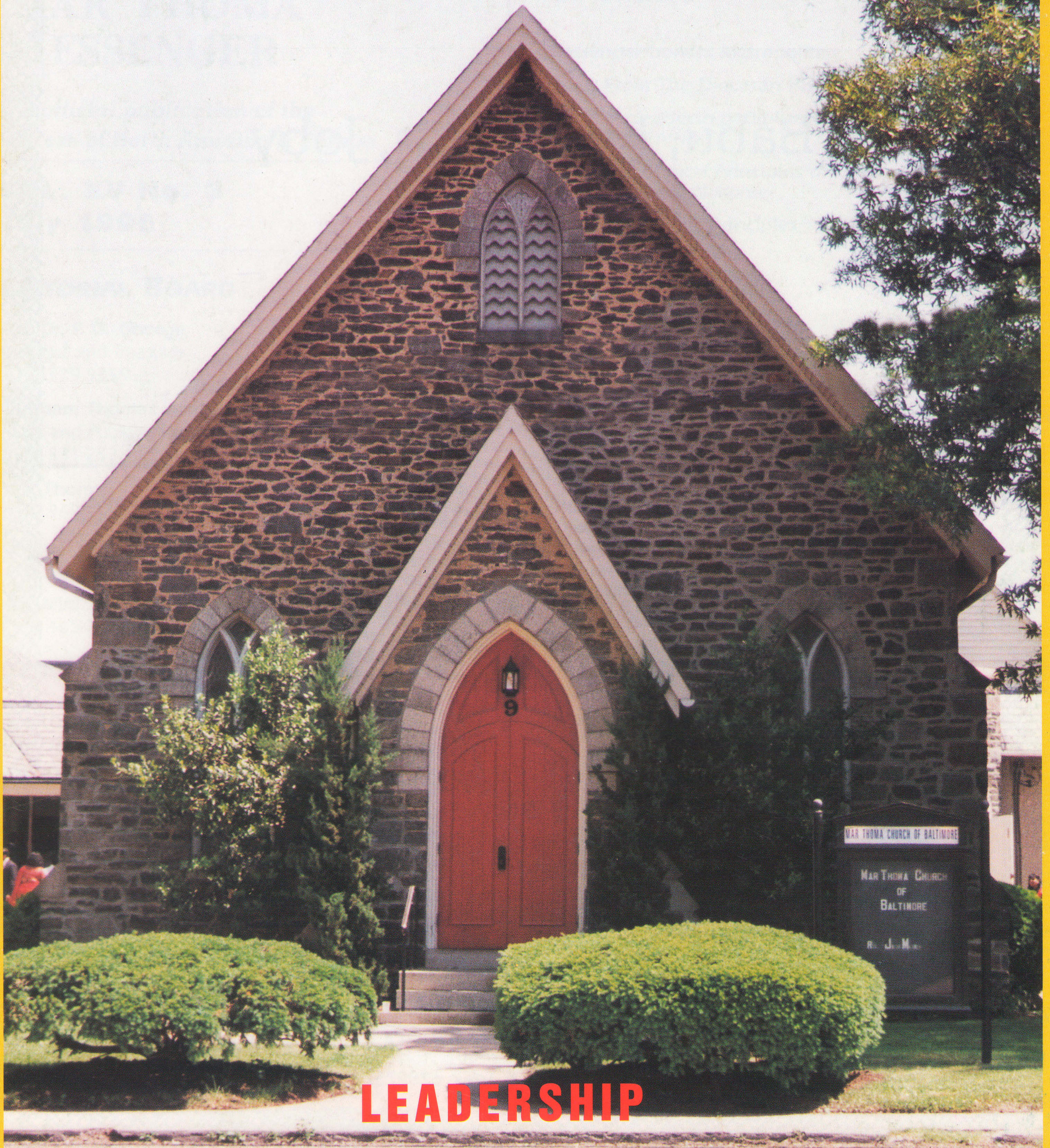


MAR THOMA

MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE

JULY 1996



LEADERSHIP

Best Compliments

from

Babu, Kusumam, Joby
Jeena & Julie



Titus Family
Kent, WA



**Airlines have a
commitment to quality...
Aero Controls has built a
reputation on it.**

A Aero Controls was established in 1985 with emphasis on providing the highest quality repairs and overhauls for hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical, electro-mechanical and electronic components utilized in Boeing and Douglas aircraft.

AERO CONTROLS, INC.

1602 Pike Street N.W. • Auburn, WA 98001 • Phone: (206) 735-3350

Fax: (206) 939-0530 • Telex: 62897575



MAR THOMA MESSENGER

The official publication of the
Diocese of North America & Europe

VOL. XV No. 3
July 1996

EDITORIAL BOARD

Rev. Dr. P. G. George
Manager and Treasurer
(215) 579-9359

Abraham Thomas
Editor and Publisher
(908) 531-2533

Alex Thomas
(617) 969-7520

James T. Philip
(718) 761-1295

Mrs. Mini Thomas
(718) 465-2358

Mailing Address:

Mar Thoma Messenger
744 Newtown Richboro Road
Richboro, PA 18954-1718
Tel. (215) 579-9359
Fax (215) 579-7490

Subscription Rates:	U.S.	CAN.
Four Issues	\$10.00	\$15.00
Eight Issues	\$18.00	\$25.00

Advertisement Rates:	Four Issues	One Issue
Back Cover Page	\$1,500.00	\$500.00
Front/Back Cover Inside	\$1,000.00	\$300.00
Inside Full Page	\$ 500.00	\$150.00

Cover: Baltimore Mar Thoma Church

CONTENTS

Messenger honors Metropolitan	2
Letter From The Diocesan Bishop	3
Christian Leadership: Biblical Perspective Dr. Saphir Athyal	5
Jonathan: Biblical Principles of Leadership Rev. Dr. Martin Alphonse	8
Leadership: Basic Principles Eapen Daniel	10
Matrimonials	11
Friendly Fire T. M. John	12
Caring Parenthood Dr. Thomas Vadakethundiyl	13
Dedication of Mar Thoma Church of Baltimore	16
Deivika Viliyil Prathyashayum Rev. Raju George	17
XIV Mar Thoma Family Conference	19
Rooted & Built Up In Christ The Rt. Rev. Geevarghese Mar Athanasius	22
Kids Corner	25
Bible Crossword Puzzle	26
Diocesan News	28
Parish News	37
Editorial	40



MAR THOMA MESSENGER UPCOMING ISSUES

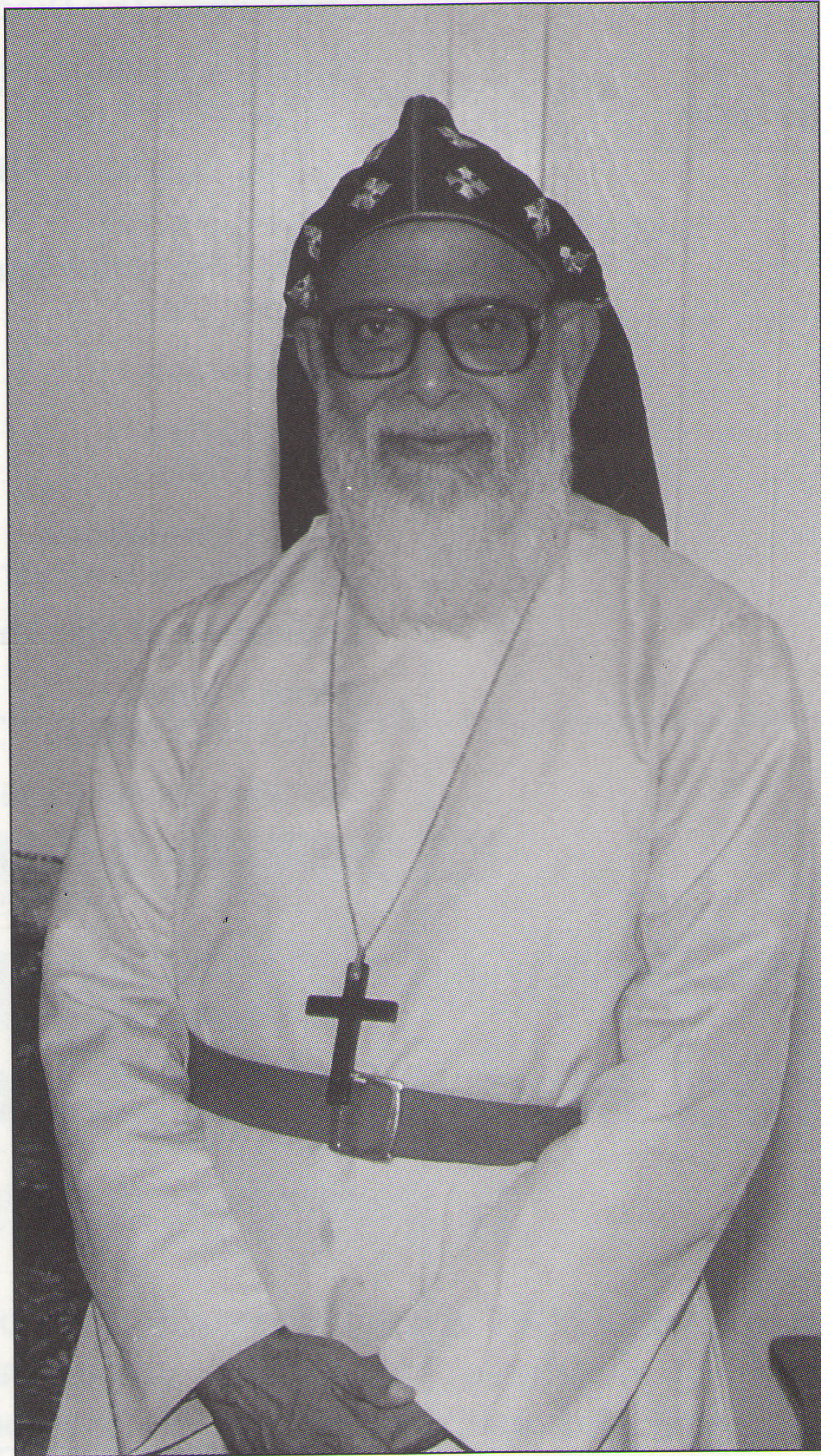
OCTOBER, 1996 — SPIRITUALITY
Articles, News etc. due by September 15, 1996

JANUARY, 1997 — LAITY
Articles, News etc. due by December 15, 1996

MAR THOMA MESSENGER

*proudly honors
our Beloved Metropolitan*

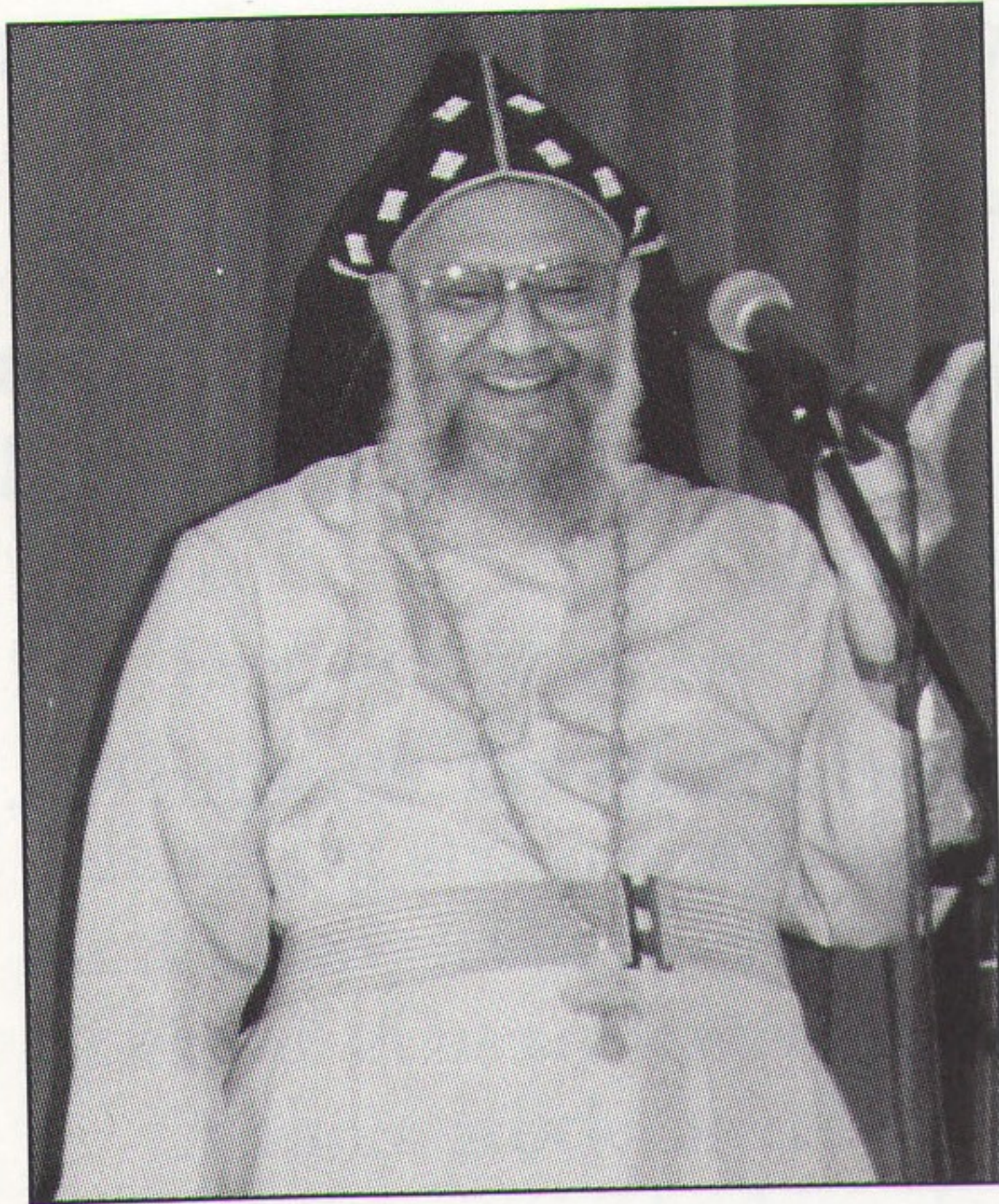
The Most Rev. Dr. Alexander Mar Thoma



*on
the 50th Anniversary of Ordination*

Many more years of service in the Lord's Vineyard

Letter From The Diocesan Bishop



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Our Diocese is entering into a new phase in its growth and development. The Diocesan Assembly has elected a new Council of 15 members from various regions of our Diocese and the Council has elected an Executive Committee of seven members to monitor and implement its decisions. The Assembly has made a major decision to relocate the Diocesan Center from Philadelphia to New York. The Diocesan Council has decided to purchase one acre of land in Long Island adjacent to the Mar Thoma Church property at a cost of \$360,000. It has become necessary to construct Diocesan Office, Bishop's House, Secretary's Quarters and

other facilities on our land at the earliest. Prayerful support of all members is essential to accomplish our goal.

In 1997 we will complete 25 years since the regular Mar Thoma worship started in USA. The Assembly has decided to declare the year 1997 as the Jubilee Year. Numerous projects and programs are being worked out as part of Jubilee Celebrations. The Diocesan Flag has to be placed along with the National Flag in all our churches. Mementos will be presented to all homes to mark the Jubilee occasion. *Suvisheshanidhi* boxes also will be supplied to all families to support financially the Mission work of the Diocese. A Memorial Endowment Fund is already instituted for Theological Education, Youth Work and Mission endeavors. As a result, \$ 23,000.00 was raised at the Chicago Family Conference. The aim is to raise it to \$ 100,000.00 by the year 1997. Numerous audio-visual publications of information and education are envisaged. Mission tours and Mission projects will be implemented and Regional Conventions are also planned. I hope that Jubilee Celebrations would generate a new enthusiasm and zeal among our members.

This is the month of Conferences. The Family Conference at Chicago had good leadership and over 300 families with three hundred young people were in attendance. Profound talks and reflection on the theme, "**Rooted and built up in Christ**" enabled the participants to renew their thoughts and actions. The Junior-Senior Conference and Youth Leadership Conference at Allentown, the Doctor's and Dentist's Conference in Hackensack, Youth Conference in Dallas and the Family Conference in London are going to enrich our people spiritually. The participants of most of these Conferences seem to be the regular Conference goers. New participants from all Parishes need to attend more.

I had the privilege of attending the 208th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church at Albuquerque, New Mexico during the first week of July, as an Ecumenical Advisory Delegate representing the Mar Thoma Church. It was a very valuable ecumenical experience. We maintain relationship with them through exchange program in the field of Theological education. We have to learn a lot from their administrative efficiency and missionary enterprises. All our Parishes should try to relate with neighboring local churches to participate in joint mission and services wherever possible. Similarly, I was a delegate representing our Church and the World Council of Churches at San Jose, in Costa Rica, in a theological consultation with the Pentecostal Churches in USA. Over 30 theologians and church leaders representing Orthodox, Protestant, Reformed, Evangelical and Pentecostal Churches from USA and Latin America shared and reflected issues that bind them together and keep them separate. The Consultation was a bold

step towards the one ecumenical movement and common understanding and a vision of WCC and Churches and movements outside WCC.

The new Sabha Mandalam is scheduled to meet from 28th to 30th August 1996 at the new Sabha Auditorium. For the first time, the Sabha Council members are going to be elected from the respective Dioceses by the Diocesan Mandalam members. We need to elect a Clergy and two Lay persons to represent this Diocese at the Center. I believe we will have our best persons in the Sabha Council.

The Diocesan Council has nominated numerous sub-committees so as to tap the resources of this Diocese. They need to execute the decisions of the Assembly, and think, plan and suggest new ways and means of making the Diocese more relevant to our people and the people of this land.

Leadership is the Theme of this issue. We find a dearth of qualitative leadership all around us. Leadership is said to be "one percent inspiration and ninety nine percent perspiration."

Longfellow has said,

*"Heights by great men reached and kept
Are not attained by sudden flight.
But while their companions were fast asleep
They were toiling hard in the night."*

God's grace and hard human efforts are essential to become a leader. A good leader must be a good follower. In the words of Jesus a good Master must be a good servant. Behind every Master there is a faithful disciple. Discipleship is the first step towards leadership. Discipline, training, learning, unlearning, understanding, patience, perseverance all jointly help to mold a leader. Virtues and values, visions and commitments, ability to suffer and efficiency to deliver are integral nature of any leader. One automatically becomes a leader when he catches the dreams of the people and articulates them with clarity in the best possible way for them.

Christian leadership is developed in and through following the martyr, Jesus Christ. There is no other path than the one via dolorosa — the way of the cross. The chalice and the paten, the towel of the basin remains central in christian discipleship as well as leadership. One who humbles himself would be honored by others. We need leaders of real christian leadership qualities at such a time as this.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus Episcopa, Diocesan Bishop

ARE YOU IN EXILE?

Rev. Brenda McNeil in her message during the family conference quoted "In exile is being in a place you do not want to be, with people you do not want to be with."

Our Diocesan Bishop posed the question to all:

"In your home, church, and community, are you in exile?"

Christian Leadership: Biblical Perspectives

Dr. Saphir Athyal

Good times or bad times of a nation largely depend upon its leadership. Whether in organizations, business enterprises, institutions or families, competent leadership is critically important for their smooth progress and success.

Everyone of us has some leadership abilities, and we are placed in a position of leading, influencing and guiding others toward some goal. At the many levels of leadership in different aspects of life, all of us are leaders and at the same time followers.

A short article as this one necessarily has only a very limited scope. Leadership of committed Christians in the secular professions, their challenges and the opportunities before them to make a difference for the cause of Christ, is not dealt with. But our interest here is Christian leadership particularly in the context of local churches as seen in the light of the biblical teachings on the subject.

I. Christian Leadership as Servanthood

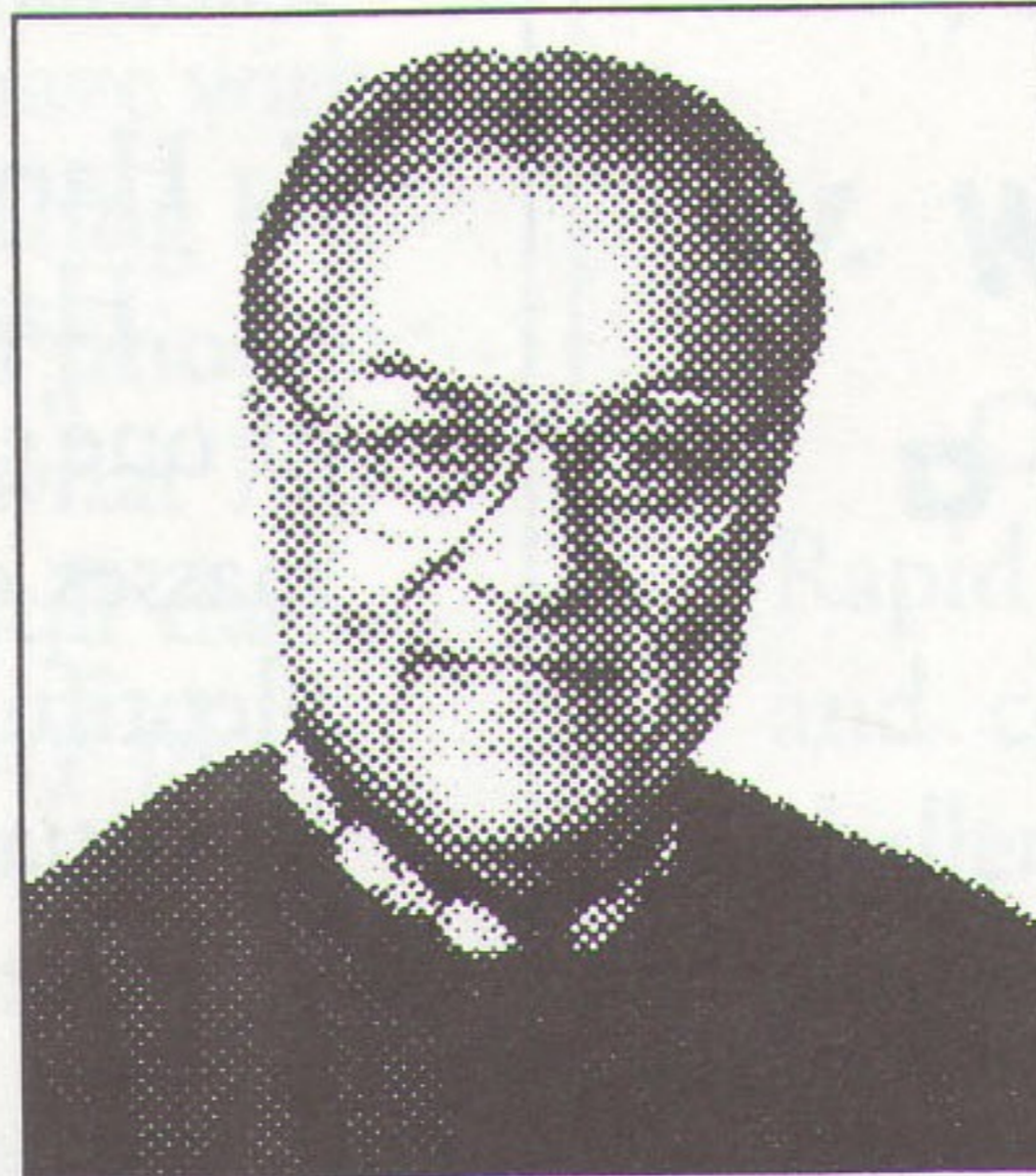
When we hear the word "leader," the concepts that we often associate with it are: power, clout, status, limelight, respect, large office and good money. This might be true in the secular sense of the word in society at large. But the central concept that is associated with leadership in the Bible is servanthood and not lordship. Leadership is always equated to service or ministry.

Often we use the word minister or servant with a connotation opposite to its basic meaning. We call the top persons in our nation, ministers, and their chief, the Prime Minister, or the top servant. The "public servants" with the government are indeed our masters.

When the disciples of Jesus got confused with the concept of leadership, he radically reversed their notion by saying, *"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first, must be your slave."* (Matt.20:26-27)

How can a servant be a leader? It depends on our understanding of who is a leader. A leader does not need to be a manager, but one who motivates, influences and directs people toward some common goals. Sometimes the goals are misconstrued because of their underlying wrong values. People could be influenced and driven by the exercise of the power of an office, money or threat.

But the leadership style in the biblical sense is influencing people by modeling and motivating them through moral and spiritual ideals. The central goal is that we bring honor to God. It is peace and reconciliation with God, and love and unity among people.



In the broad sense, Christian leaders are not just the professional leaders of the church, but all who are parts of God's body, the church. With the risk of simplification we might say that all who are lighted in Christ and guide others by showing them the light of Christ may be considered as Christian leaders. They are those who lead others in the right path as is expected of everyone committed to Christ.

The ancient Hindu religious leaders described humanity as originating from four major parts of a primeval person. They, the Brahmins, credited themselves as issuing from the head, and therefore having final authority and status. The New Testament also uses the metaphor of the human body to describe the church. But its great contrast from the Hindu's view is that in the New Testament the head represents Christ, and there is only one head, and He alone has ultimate authority. All the members are different parts or organs of the body having their different vital functions.

God has given different responsibilities and gifts to all members of the church. He expects them to faithfully use them in leading people. The gifts include preaching, serving, teaching, encouraging, contributing to needs, governing and compassionate works (Rom. 12:6-8).

Many passages in the Bible deal with qualifications of leaders. For example, Deut. 33 :8- 11, 1 Tim. 3 :1-4, Titus 1:6-9. They must be people who are committed to Christ as their Savior and live under His lordship. They must have a deep sense of God's call to serve Him. While training will help, it is not obligatory. They should be grounded in the Scripture. They should be willing to suffer for Christ, take up their cross and follow Him.

II. Leadership: Biblical Images

There are scores of images and metaphors in the Bible that describe leaders. We will mention only certain select ones. What is striking is that none of the most commonly used images is associated with power and prestigious status.

1. Shepherd

The Old Testament repeatedly refers to the Israelite leaders as shepherds and Israel as sheep. This was a favorite figure of speech of the prophets, fully developed in Ezekiel 34. Jesus called Himself the good shepherd (John 10). His leaders are to be "shepherds of the church of God." (Acts 20:28)

A shepherd serves as a watchman for the sheep being on the lookout for any dangers and predators. Sheep are among the most defenseless animals when danger strikes, and he risks his life to protect them. He leads them to pastures and

streams for their feeding. He walks in front of them and gently leads them instead of driving them. He restores the sheep that go astray. He cares for the sick and weak ones.

When Jesus says "Feed my sheep" as he did to Peter, all these responsibilities are given to the Christian leaders.

The phrase "servant-leader" may sound self-contradictory. But Christ was clear that only a servant can be a leader.

2. Servant

The New Testament, in Greek, uses many different words for servant. One word refers to a servant in terms of his work, the service entrusted by God. Another word focuses on a servant's relation to his master, his accountability, obedience and loyalty. Still another word describes him from the perspective of his master and his authority over him. A fourth word speaks of a servant in relation to other servants of the same household, God's household, and so on.

The phrase "servant-leader" may sound self-contradictory. But Christ was clear that only a servant can be a leader. A servant's basic goal is to please his master coming under his authority with total loyalty to him. In our case, Christ is our Master.

3. Model

Christian leaders are to be models or examples for others to follow. They should be "eager to serve, not lording it over those entrusted to them, but being examples to the flock," (1 Pet. 5:3). Paul could confidently tell his followers that as they knew how he lived among them they should follow his example (1 Cor. 1 1:1, Phil. 3:17). He exhorts his disciples, Timothy and Titus to be models for others to follow (1 Tim. 1:16, Titus 2:7).

Jesus washed the feet of his disciples saying, "You also should wash one another's feet." (John 13:14). Our leaders should wash the feet of others? That, too, in the context of our local church? And hardest of all, wash the feet of their Judases?! Very tough, but yes.

4. Steward

Jesus taught through parables that his workers are stewards of God. They are entrusted with the message of the gospel, God's ministry, varied talents and also God's people. They are to faithfully use all that is given to their care, "his property to them—each according to his ability." (Matt. 25:14-30) The foremost and basic trust given to us is the word of God which we are to correctly handle. (2 Tim. 2:15)

5. Intercessor

Leaders such as Moses, Aaron, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel were great intercessors. Paul in the letters he wrote would say, "We have not stopped praying for you." (Cor. 1:9, Eph. 1:16). We have no record of Jesus teaching how to preach, how to conduct a worship, how to manage a church, important as these are. But he taught us how to pray because prayer is the life and death issue with respect to Christian leaders.

6. Multiplier

A leader is one who reproduces other leaders. The Old Testament prophets had disciples who carried on their work. Moses developed Joshua as a leader. Paul trained leaders like Timothy and Titus. Some leaders often try to do all the work themselves and do not delegate it to others in an effort to instill leadership quality in them as well.

7. Harvester

Harvest gives the picture of one finally enjoying the fruits of one's labors. Jesus spoke of harvest as indicating the need of masses of people to come to know his gospel. "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." (Matt. 9:37). In all what the Christian leaders do, their aim ought to be that people come into the Kingdom of God.

III. Leaders' Common Temptations

Christian leaders are subject to the common temptations of all people, such as personal gains, money, gluttony, sex, hatred and jealousy. But we will comment on three areas where leaders often fail by which their ministry becomes a disaster.

One is that they come to enjoy their power and misuse their authority that is associated with their responsibilities. This was the temptation of even Jesus when the devil offered him, "All the kingdoms of this world and their splendors." (Matt. 4:8) This was the very first enticement that confronted the humans. "You will be like gods." (Gen. 3:5)

Speaking of authority of leaders Jesus admonished, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them; not so with you." (Matt. 20:25)

Why is this an irresistible temptation to many Christian leaders? It is because the opposite attitude to exercising authority over people is to accept and love them as Christ does which is much harder to do. Trying to control people under you is so much easier than loving them.

A second common failure of leaders is their search for popularity among people and their praise instead of bringing glory and honor to God by all what they do. We live in a world that is very competitive. Individual heroes are worshipped by masses. People and organizations go all out to discredit others to advance their own positions. Many unashamedly praise themselves. These evils creep into church circles, also.

***In all that we do
God alone is to be lifted up.
He alone is worthy of praise.***

True, only people of good reports can be leaders. But when the motive of ministry of God becomes people's praise, this dishonors Him. We often live in a fallacious world of compliments. We work recklessly to somehow score well with the outside world. And our inside becomes increasingly shallow and our inner world empty.

There are times when leaders will have to choose between the basic demands of the word of God and what people would

want to hear, between truth and popularity. In all that we do God alone is to be lifted up. He alone is worthy of praise.

A third common area in which Christian leaders fail is becoming too busy in the work of the Lord to have quiet time with him to know him better and love him deeper. Leaders are often overloaded with responsibilities thrust upon them. They are almost always burnt out.

All this at the expense of quiet time they should have with God for their own inner growth and strength. Jesus during His earthly life was extremely busy. Yet, He considered it a priority to have time alone with His Father. Mark speaks of what His habit was. "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed." (Mark 1:35)

The basic issue for a Christian leader is, "Do I love the Lord more than I love His work (for whatever hidden agenda of mine)?" The all-important challenge Jesus put before Peter before he was commissioned to his ministry was, "Do you love me?" (John 21:17)

IV. Our Responsibilities to Our Leaders

All of us, including acclaimed leaders, have our respective leaders. We often view them as we do sportsmen and singers. We sit back and watch the specialists performing. This perspective is wrong. In Christian work, all of us are players; none is a mere spectator. What are our minimum responsibilities to our leaders?

One, we are to regularly pray for them. Every Sunday at the end of the worship service, the closing instruction our pastors give us is, "Pray for me, my brothers, weak and sinful that I am, that I may obtain mercy and help. Depart in peace, filled with gladness and rejoicing." But how many of us pray for them during the week?

We need to pray regularly for all in leadership. Prayer strengthens our love for them and our participation with them.

In our local churches, there are several lay leaders who give precious time for different ministries without any remuneration. Their only reward often ends up as criticism and even hostility from those who contribute neither time nor money. We need to pray regularly for all in leadership. Prayer strengthens our love for them and our participation with them.

Another responsibility we have to our leaders is our cooperation and teamwork with them. We need to offer them in addition to our suggestions (at which we are all experts), our time and our resources. It is easier to assume an adversarial attitude to our leaders as is the style in political circles. The "janatha" (members) of the church considering leadership as another camp, and the use of "they-we" language, only weakens the local church.

Still another responsibility we have to our leaders is to seek to understand them even when we do not agree with them, and

respect them for what they do. To lead is not easy, and that too in the situation of a local church with its mix of vested interests, conflicting legacies and personal goals. We may see things differently from our leaders. But always remember that our limited vantage point blurs our vision. So frequently try to shelve our "wisdom," and give in to our leaders, so that there may be unity and peace in the church.

V. Working Toward Leadership Development

Church today finds itself in an increasingly complex world. Rapid changes in society, technology, culture, medical science and communication are posing an avalanche of issues and challenges before the church, which its professional leaders alone cannot handle. Church no longer can be content with the sacramental ministry of the clergy, their prayers for the sick and their management of the church affairs. A host of lay people should come into leadership in the local church to deal with the varied areas of challenges.

There are moral and spiritual questions relating to abortion, euthanasia and genetic engineering. Our young people struggle with many issues their parents never faced. Incredible is the adverse impact that mass media, TV, Internet and printed materials have on them. In the church there are various subgroups such as adult singles, the elderly, the working women and the divorced, whom we marginalized in the past, but now should be separately ministered to.

Women constitute a very influential segment of both our society and the church, and our traditional straightjacket view as to their restricted role cannot be sustained much longer. So also, the multiracial, multilingual and multicultural composition of our society forces the church to change its largely mono-ethnic character. Still another important aspect of the context of the church is our pluralistic society where different religio-cultural values and convictions both interpenetrate and enter into mutual conflicts.

From these and many other issues of our society, the church can no longer shelter itself in a cocoon. We need to develop many levels of leadership in different areas of concern. The clergy alone cannot minister to the diverse needs of the members of the church. Ministry should be understood as being much broader than the sacramental ministry. Committed lay leaders should be encouraged to take up some aspects of Christ's ministry. In every local church there should be a team of leaders that include the youth, the women and lay people of all walks of life. There should be concerted effort in the local churches to identify committed people with abilities and gifts, and develop them as leaders.

Only when every member of the church does his/her part can the body of Christ be strengthened. "From Christ the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." (Eph. 4:16)

Saphir Athyal (Ph.D. - Princeton) served at Union Biblical Seminary, Pune for 23 years, including 15 years as its Principal. Now he is the Director of Mission and Evangelism of World Vision International.

Jonathan: Biblical Principles of Leadership

(1 Samuel 14: 1-23)

Rév. Dr. Martin Alphonse

With reference to the leadership crisis in Indian politics an editorial said: "Leadership is a somewhat indefinable quality. It has so many dimensions and attributes. It demands vision, courage, understanding, determination and decisiveness. It cannot exist devoid of a sense of firmness, a capacity to act and above all an ability to inspire. Sadly in the hour of national crisis, that is what has been missing..." (India Today – January 31, 1993).



Sadly enough we must admit that such dynamic leadership is also missing in many churches around the world today. God is looking for dynamic leaders within the church, and He has provided in the Bible some excellent models of leadership for us to follow. In general there are two categories of biblical leadership. One is **Institutional Leadership** and the other **Inspirational Leadership**. Or it also may be called as **Structural Leadership** and **Spiritual Leadership**. The difference is, institutional or structural leaders are chosen, elected or appointed by the constitutional provisions of the organization. Whereas inspirational or spiritual leaders are spontaneous, they respond to a crisis or need of the community whether or not they are elected or appointed for the task. Either way, Christian leaders are expected of God to have and follow certain biblical principles of leadership.

God is looking for dynamic leaders within the church, and He has provided in the Bible some excellent models of leadership for us to follow.

A biblical model of inspirational leadership may be seen in Jonathan, son of Saul. (1 Samuel 14:1-23). Jonathan was hardly acknowledged as a leader, but largely seen as a young man closely associated with two great leaders of Israel, namely as son of Saul, and as friend of David. Yet, Jonathan indeed was a dynamic leader in his own right as he has demonstrated in the episode we read in I Samuel 14. The context is, God had appointed Saul to fight against the Philistines. But Saul was totally withdrawn, doing nothing to fulfill God's command. Jonathan, irresistibly inspired from within, launches out on an attack against the enemy as one man with the help of his young armor-bearer, and leads Israel to an enormous victory. We may learn four

distinct principles of leadership from this passage.

The Principle Defined Vision

Verses 1 and 6: Jonathan said: "Come, let us go over to the Philistine outpost..." Those four words, "come, let us go" are charged with power, courage, determination and vision. The Philistine outpost, makes his destination clear, specific and precise. Jonathan knew exactly where he was going and precisely why he was going.

Such a well defined vision, emerges out of a leader's clear understanding of the historical purpose of God for the community he/she belongs to. Jonathan had known that beginning with the call of Abraham in Genesis 12, the people of Israel were given the promised land. But the Philistines were standing against God's plan, by preventing the Israelites from occupying the territory. Hence God had raised Saul to fight against the Philistines. But Saul was indifferent to fulfilling God's purpose. Jonathan considered the glory of God, and His purpose as of greater importance than anything else. Hence he decided to lead a one man crusade against the Philistines no matter what.

The question is: What is God's purpose for the church today? God wants His Kingdom to expand all over the world, His gospel preached among peoples of all cultures, and Jesus Christ proclaimed everywhere. Many a Christian leader appointed for the purpose of inspiring and leading the church for the fulfilment of God's mission is resting like Saul (v. 2). Who will rise up like Jonathan with a defined vision? Will you?

The Principle of Daring Faith

Verse 6 Jonathan said: "Come, let us go...perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder him from saving by many or by few."

Jonathan was confronted with a majority-minority conflict. Can one man go against many? His faith convinced him that God Himself will act on his behalf. From the world's perspective Jonathan was making a foolish suicidal attempt by deciding to go all alone against a huge army. A comparison of the troops of Israel and Philistine makes the picture fatal. In 1 Samuel 13:2-5, there were 3000 Israelite soldiers, and the Philistines had 3000 chariots, 6000 charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the sea shore. Seeing their plight the Israelites deserted Saul and ran away (1 Samuel 13:6-7), and the number was reduced to 600 (1 Samuel 13:15; 14-2). The

most pathetic situation is in 1 Samuel 13:22 "...on the day of the battle not a soldier with Saul and Jonathan had a sword or spear in his hand; only Saul and his son Jonathan had them." It was indeed a foolish attempt for Jonathan to go against thousands of Philistine soldiers with one sword and one spear. Yet, Jonathan went, not trusting in his power or resources, but relying entirely on the power of God. Jonathan did not think about **what he can do** but **what God can do through him**. For he said: "Nothing can hinder God from saving by many or by few."

God wants His Kingdom to expand all over the world, His gospel preached among peoples of all cultures, and Jesus Christ proclaimed everywhere.

The Challenge before us is: It is not the question of what we can do, but what can God do through us. Yes, we are a minority. Yet, "the One who is in us is greater than the one who is in the world (1 John 4:4)." Yes, we are a minority. Yet, "If God is for us, who can be against us? (Rom 8:31)." Yes, we are a minority. Yet, Jesus said: "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...And I am surely with you always, to the very end of the age."

The Principle of Dependable Partnership

Verse 7 "Do all that you have in mind," his armor-bearer said, "go ahead; I am with you heart and soul."

The words of the armor-bearer are charged with the power of affirmation, power of encouragement, and power of unconditional support. He meant if we win let us win together, or if we die let us die together. The defined vision and daring faith of Jonathan had thoroughly convinced the young armor-bearer of the seriousness of God's glory and purpose. He was also determined to be part of the deadly adventure, no matter what the result would be. He was unshakably convinced that **a cause which is not worth dying for is not worth living for.**

The armor-bearer's partnership with Jonathan demonstrates a high quality of dependability. It had emerged out of a common vision, common faith and common commitment. We may call it a synergic partnership. Synergy is a pharmaceutical concept which means that the simultaneous action of separate chemicals working together has greater total effect than what the ingredients can produce individually. It is said that one horse on his own can pull a weight of two tons. Two horses put together can pull upto twenty tons. This is the synergic power Jesus promised us when he said: "...whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ...If two of you agree on earth on anything you ask for, it will be done for you... For

where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them."

The amazing thing is: The armor-bearer's name is not known to us. Yet, God uses even nameless, insignificant people to impress upon us some of the most profound lessons of His power at work in the world. Not many of us may be called upon to be great leaders like Moses, David or Paul, nor even to be inspirational leaders like Jonathan. But all of us can, like the armor-bearer stand in synergic Partnership with dedicated Christian leaders for the fulfillment of God's mission on earth.

The Principle of Divine Unction

Verse 15 "Then panic struck the whole army ... and the ground shook ... It was a panic sent by God."

God always honors a vision and faith which is willing to take risks for the sake of His glory and for the fulfillment of His purpose. In faith, taking their life in their hands, Jonathan and the armor-bearer climbed up the hill and killed some twenty men (1 Samuel 14:13-14). When God saw their daring faith, He responded by causing an earthquake to panic the Philistines. **Jonathan's faith shook God's throne of grace, and in response God shook the battlefield and the army camp.**

God wants inspirational leaders who can shake the world by their defined vision and daring faith.

As a result, a three-fold revival broke out among the Israelites. 1) **The leadership was revived.** "Saul and all his men assembled and went to the battle (1 Samuel 14:20)". 2) **The deserters returned.** "Those Hebrews who had previously been with the Philistines and had gone up with them to their camp went over to the Israelites... (1 Samuel 14-21)." 3) **The cowards were revitalized.** "...all the Israelites who had hidden in the hill country of Ephraim...joined the battle in hot pursuit (1 Samuel 14:22)." The final outcome was that "The Lord rescued Israel that day (1 Samuel 14:23)."

The need today is: God wants inspirational leaders who can shake the world by their defined vision and daring faith. John Wesley once said: "Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the Kingdom of heaven on earth. God does nothing but in answer to prayer." What the church needs worldwide today is hellshakers and Kingdom-seekers, from among the clergy and among the laity. Are you one of them?

↔ ♥ ↔ ↔ ♥ ↔ ↔ ♥ ↔

Leadership: Basic Principles

Eapen Daniël, Philadelphia

In practicing religion and spirituality, "Leadership" is defined slightly different from the known standards of business and social leadership. In Biblical expressions the leader is compared to a good shepherd who knows every one of his sheep by name, leads them to the right pasture and always keeps them as one group. Any and all leadership styles may not get this positive feedback at all times. But the possibility is in achieving the ultimate goal with less complications.



Leadership is the ability to get one to manifest the right result at the right time with a sense of satisfaction and contentment. Leadership becomes harder when you have to understand and demonstrate the basic principles of Christian living on a broad sense and then you must be able to make your team (sheep) adapt those principles as such. Convincing your team that you are a good leader itself is a task that requires skills.

Management is the ability to allocate the available and acquirable resources to the right tasks at the right time. You do not have to be a leader to be a manager. In the present day and age, some of our ministers and other prominent church figures have mistakenly acted only as managers while they were assigned the duty of both leader and manager.

Following are some of the leadership skills.

1. **Vision.** An understanding of the make and background of your team, its present direction of growth and its future expected results. It is always good to have a well defined vision before anybody accepts a leadership role.
2. **Duty.** The performance of a task with full heart and mind, avoiding complaints and undesired results. A true leader must be able to perform his duties selflessly and without complaint. It is very important to remember the fact that your followers are watching your actions at all times with a slight sense of criticism.
3. **Honor.** Paul's lifestyle is the best example of honor. He defined the results of Christian leadership in a way nobody else prescribed. In his letter to Philippians all these characteristics are well defined.

These skills are designed to increase your effectiveness when your role requires to:

- Improve individual lifestyle as a Christian
- Develop teamwork and team support

- Build a mutually productive relationship
- Manage change or encourage innovation.
- Encourage individual involvement
- Develop increased vision and commitment
- Help develop future leaders

The basic principles are the foundation for all leadership activities. In a problem situation you must be able to:

- Focus on the situation or issue rather than the person involved
 - Maintain the confidence and self-esteem of others.
 - Maintain constructive relationships with team members, peers and authorities.
 - Lead by example
- You must be able to increase your effectiveness when you:
- Hold general discussion/evaluation sessions
 - Give corrective guidance
 - Use feedback
 - Recognize positive results
 - Explain the mission and goal
 - Key person assignments

Leadership is the ability to get one to manifest the right result at the right time with a sense of satisfaction and contentment.

Coaching for optimal performance is very important in a leadership role. We should be able to conduct formal review sessions and discuss the weak points and the strong points and present changes to increase the performance. Always point out the difference between the present result and the expected results. Explain the negative impact of spreading the "overheard". Avoid getting caught up in a possible melodrama of defensive excuses rather than dealing with how to solve the problems. Staying calm in a situation of anger from the team member, is advisable. Be sure to ask for practical ideas to solve the problems. Then explain the steps you are willing and planning to take and why.

When we are dealing with Team Performance we must be able to clarify the team roles and responsibilities. In the case of church leadership it may take elaborate communication steps involving different levels of management and leadership. A breakdown in communication can cause major drawbacks. All available

media should be utilized to its full extent to ensure effective communication. Conducting information exchange meetings and team conflict resolutions at more than one point will be necessary. It is very important that all communications must be bi-directional.

Managing change and innovation is the only way we can fit the changing society. Changing the style without changing the inner expressional meaning is an art in itself.

Making the organizational impact is more of a challenge than mere introductions. Church goals and visions should be taught at all levels of growth and development. Pulling all the resources and redirecting them where it is most needed is a stressful task that the church managers have to deal with. Loyalty and strong leadership can be achieved only by continued reinforcement of our vision. A good leader always wins support from his team members.

Managing change and innovation is the only way we can fit the changing society. Changing the style without changing the inner expressional meaning is an art in itself. Church has sometimes lagged behind in catching up with the need of the individual in a non-traditional society. This

is a result from lack of communication as well as problem identification.

Coaching sessions must be conducted more often to keep up with the growing demands. These sessions are possible work tools for the leader in propagating meaningful ideas and problem solving strategies. Any organization where the leadership fails to reach its grass root level people, has shown significant downfall in continued growth. Church growth is measured in Spirituality, Christian Citizenship and Individual Life Expressions. Christian growth is a continued process and hence the leadership tasks.

Problem identification is one of the major tasks of any leadership. In a growing church, it is very important to realize any problem at its start. This will take delegation and probing. We have seen cases where simple matters gradually became major problem for a group. In this case the leader was not aware of a problems at its beginning stage or in leadership terms "the leader was not able to detect the problem at its seed level." Trying to solve such problems at its later stage takes more time and resources and may even cause the integrity of the group. One sided communication where the leader contacts only one person or "click" on a regular basis ignoring the other persons or "clicks," results in such problem situations. Ignoring a simple problem is not an expression of good leadership. Remember the old watch maker. Every little part inside the watch has to work in harmony, so that it can show the right time on the dial. Winding the watch on a regular basis keeps it going and avoids a slow down.

MATRIMONIAL

Brother invites proposal for sister 33 years old, Ph.D. (working as an assistant professor in a top five university) 5' 4", from Firm Christian Believers with similar educational background (professionals only) of similar age. Please respond with brief personal and family information, and with a recent returnable photograph to: Box No. DA/8342, c/o The Editor, Mar Thoma Messenger, 744 Newtown Richboro Road, Richboro, PA 18954-1718.

Marthomite sister invites marriage proposals for her 23 year old sister, currently working as a Staff Nurse in North India, doing BA in psychology, 5' 5", God fearing, attractive, well mannered. U.S. citizen or Green Card holder preferred. Interested parties may please contact: **718-698-7463** or **914-963-4654**.

Marthomite parents, invite marriage proposals for their 28 years old son, 5' 10", fair complexion, handsome, athletic, good nurtured and family oriented, Dentist with a practice, from parents of well mannered caring and traditional, Marthomite, Jacobite, CSI or Catholic girls. Interested parties please respond with full details and a recent photograph to Box TTE/2681, c/o The Editor, Mar Thoma Messenger, 744 Newtown Richboro Road, Richboro, PA 18954-1718.

Friendly Fire

T. M. John, New Jersey

During the Gulf War, we heard the expression "Friendly Fire" which killed several American soldiers. Friendly fire is not what comes from the enemy camp, but fire power intended for the enemy, but unfortunately it strikes the unintended target, your own people. Friendly fires kill and maim people, devastate individuals and families.

I would like to talk about another kind of "friendly fire" we face in our own families and the community. Parents, uncles and aunts shoot down our youngsters with good intention, but the results are devastating, the scars from the wounds inflicted remain a lifetime. The crippling effects last for ever. These effects show up in adolescent as well as adult life. Spouses have a hard time figuring out their mates and their behavior. Intimidation by parents to create "pious" children many a times produces maladjusted people in the market place, unable to cope with the outside world. Let me give some specific examples, so that we will be aware of our insensitivity which is damaging to our younger generation. One auntie told a young niece not to go out in the summertime, to play or go swimming because chlorine and sun light would darken her skin. The poor little girl gave up swimming for the next few years. Another cannonball that shoots down the young people is regarding their looks. Young kids love to eat ice cream and cake, and as a result some of them put on weight in summer months. Loved ones call them harmless nicknames, relating to their size and shape. (I leave the names to your imagination!). Adolescent girls are so conscious about their skin color, appearance, weight etc. If any of your children are obsessively self-conscious, bulimic or suffer from anorexia nervosa, it's quite possible that someone in the family "shot them down" during their early adolescent years.

Another area of conflict is where parents "want" their children to follow a certain prestigious career even though they don't have an aptitude for it. Unwillingly children follow their parent's wishes, but they experience a mid-life crisis and in frustration they quit or change their jobs. Don't shoot down the aspirations and enthusiastic pursuits of a career of our children. In family life most Malayalee men shoot down their wives every day in private and in public. In the church, women are not given a place in prestigious positions, holding on to the misquoted words of Paul that "women should keep silence in church."

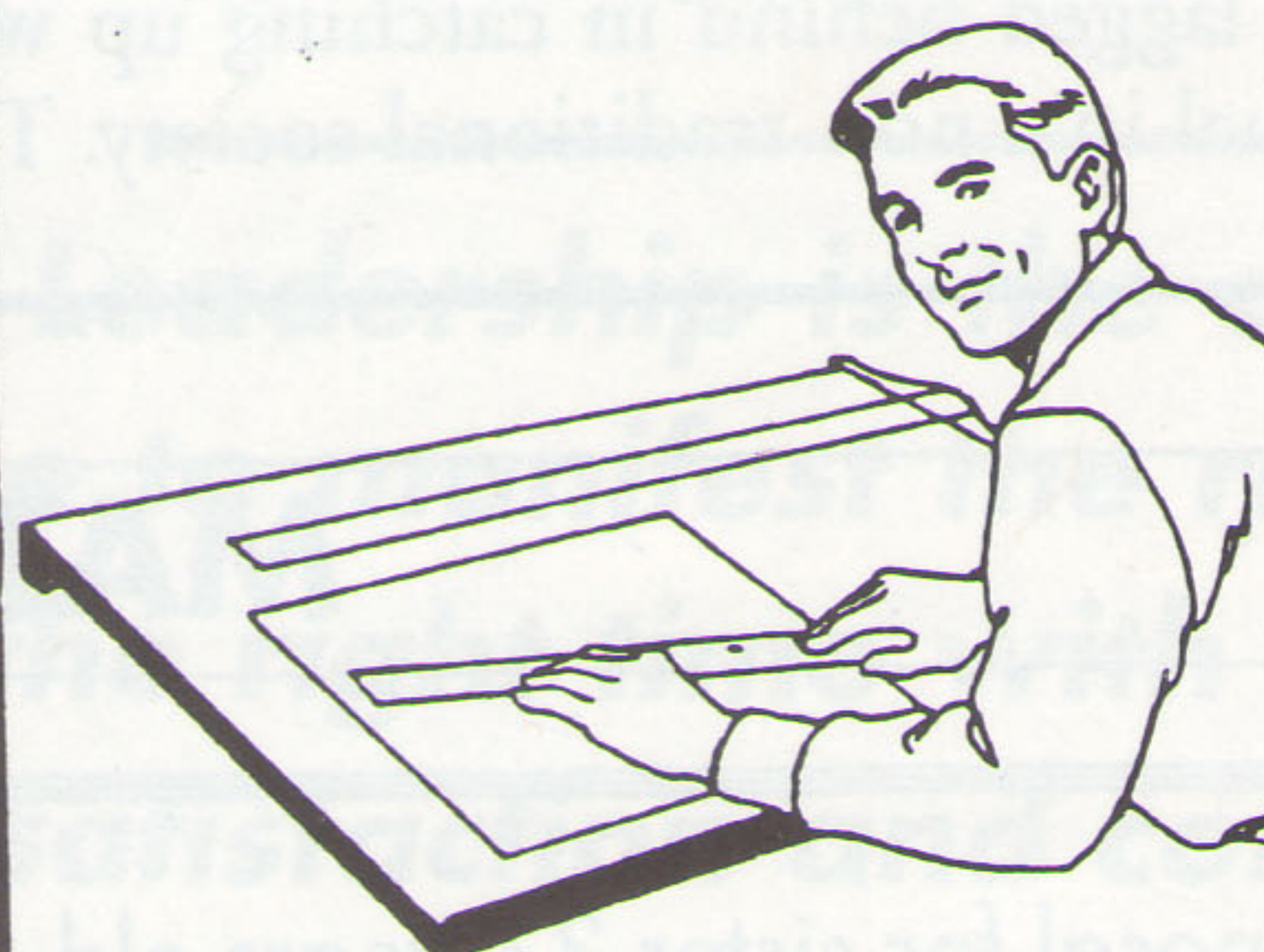
In our public prayers, we have to exercise caution. We may out of sympathy pray for certain needs of our friends which are not meant to be public information. Don't shoot them down with our insensitivity. Even in our emotionally

charged personal testimony we have to have extreme caution. In a revival meeting, one lady testified about her unpleasant past. Her husband walked out of that meeting never to return. The injury he sustained as a result of the testimony was too much for him to bear and hence he walked out of her life.

Let us be very careful about our manner of speech and how we talk about people. Ask the Lord to give us sensitivity to feelings of others whether they are our own family members, friends or members of our church or community.

IMAGE IS IMPORTANT!

We'll help you create your company's image. We offer a large selection of designs to suit your needs or create your own, on personalized business stationery



Business Forms
Computer Stationery
Continuous Forms
Announcements
Business Cards
Labels
Folders
Stamps and Badges
Letterheads
Envelopes

ADMA GRAPHICS

ABRAHAM MATHEW

659 MAYFAIR STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA.19120

Phone: (215) 743-7202

Fax : 743-4752

*"Do what you can,
where you are,
with what you have."*

Caring Parenthood

Dr. Thomas Vadakethundiyl

The home plays a major role in the development of an individual. At home, he or she encounters many experiences that determines their future actions and pre-actions. What happens in the home is reflected in school and elsewhere. The following are some thoughts every parent should keep in mind when raising their children.

Positive Approach

An atmosphere of security, acceptance and warmth in the interpersonal relationship between the members of a home spontaneously arises where genuine, selfless love for one another exists. Children stand in need of food, clothes and shelter; but just as necessarily do children feel the need of being secure and accepted by others around them. Acceptance is a practical and undeniable expression of that love provided that acceptance is without any conditions attached to it. For instance, one child in a family may have a darker complexion than the others. Ought this to be any reason why he or she is looked down upon or treated any differently from the others? Some children may not be as good in their studies, as the other. Do the parents resent this quite natural state of affairs, or are they large-hearted and large-minded enough to accept those children as their own? Some child may be gifted in art or sports or any other practical line. Do we show our appreciation and encourage that child?

Are we willing and ready to accept that child as he or she is? Or, as so very often happens, do we try to force the child into a line or pattern that is in "Our own image and likeness?" If we are genuinely concerned about our children, then, ours ought to be a positive approach: "Accentuate the positive" ought to be our guiding motive and principle if we truly wish to offer our children a feeling of security and the abiding warmth of our love. For it is love that creates an atmosphere and environment in which the child can really and fully be "himself" or "herself"? Our homes then will become heavens of joy and peace which comes from above, and which no one can take away from us. Where there is joy and peace, questions can be voiced, problems can be openly discussed and no argument will develop precisely because love and warmth prevent inhibitions and preclude antagonism. Let us always bear in mind that a child's world is as complex as that of an adult. To be able to face the world with all *its* challenges and contradictions, every child needs the creative experience of love from its parents and other members of the family who surround it.

Punishment and Rewards

A word concerning corporal punishment for children will not be out of place here. Some parents believe that corporal punishment is very effective. Many parents while administering corporal punishment to their children, seek to release their own anger towards someone else. The father, or mother, who is angry with the other usually uses the children as scape-goats. The children are naturally confused. Parents who punish their children without valid reasons, except that of venting their own spleen on them, are harming them rather than correcting them. In fact, they do untold damage to their children in many ways.

Other parents believe that by giving their children rewards in an attempt to bribe them to behave in an acceptable manner, or threaten them with bodily harm or even abandonment, is the best way of correcting children. This could also damage a child's personality in many ways. The child then learns to respond only when he is promised a reward to desist from doing something wrong. The question that each parent ought to ask is: "Am I trying to bring up my child into thinking as I think and acting as I behave, or am I sincerely endeavoring to understand my child so that I can help him or her to achieve maturity as an individual?" Why put the blame on others when the children turn to be a burden to their parents? If they cared for their children and were concerned in their human development from childhood onwards, many of the evils that plague society today could easily have been avoided. Are you training your child in the proper way? Are you concerned about his or her welfare in the future?

Most parents would answer "yes" to these questions but they are unable to translate this desire into practical parenting. For this reason, we need good communication, especially in the family.

Family Communication

God has so equipped us, human beings, with a gift, that is not found among other created living beings. This gift, this faculty has to do with communicating our thoughts and ideas, of relating with other human beings through word of mouth and by means of bodily movements. This usually refers, therefore, to both verbal and non-verbal communications achieved within the social context of our lives. Expressed in its simplest terms, communication implies "interaction" or "transaction" in both of which include all those symbols and signs used by human persons in manifesting and receiving messages that

all contain an inner meaning. In the context of the human family the process of parent-child communication actually begins before birth as a mother communicates warmth and security to her unborn child whom she cherishes in her heart. This communication is transmitted to her child in a manner beyond human comprehension. Students of human behavior through research and experimentation; have concluded beyond the shadow of a doubt that the unborn child receives from its mother not only nourishment, but also the effects of the very personality of its mother, her feelings and emotions, all the plus and minus qualities which she possesses. That is why in the process of conception, care should be taken to provide for both the physical and psychological well-being of the mother.

The majority of experienced psychologists today believe that the husband also contributes a great deal in this communication of warmth and security of the unborn child. This he does by providing lovingly for his wife who bears his child within her, wholesome surroundings made more welcome by his much needed presence, attention and care as the days and the weeks and the months go by. This means that the father, too, ought to be an active participant, even though only indirectly, in the growing process and human development of his child. It does not call for deep thought or prolonged argumentation to show that all this is absolutely necessary for the formation of a healthy personality in the still unborn child. We should always, however, keep in mind that there are no foolproof methods, ideas and theories. Why? Because of the simple, everyday fact that there is much foolishness to be found in the heart of everyone. Parenthood is a full-time job for every human couple. Entrusting our children to baby-sitters, is just like visiting a butcher's shop to get your teeth attended to when what you need is a good dentist! It is folly of the highest kind. Our children need our personal love and attention; not even the best or the most experienced *ayah* or baby-sitter can give either of these for there is no such commodity as a "part-time" parent, either mother or father.

After a child is born into this puzzling and complicated world of ours, a new dimension dawns on the horizon of its parents consisting in the responsibility that is now theirs of creating a channel, or several channels of openness in communicating with their new-born infant. What parents have provided during the first stage conception and gestation-in the life of their unborn child serves as the basic or foundation of this superstructure of openness and communication with their infant after its birth.

Feelings of warmth and security, tones of love and appreciation, even the simple act of clasping a tender, helpless baby to its mother's or father's bosom-all and every one of these factors go a tremendously long way to giving that little infant what it is looking for even though it may be only a few weeks old. Are we surprised, then, to hear

Mother Theresa repeat over and over again, that what human beings hunger and thirst for is not bread and water, but the milk of ordinary human love and kindness? We understand her typically maternal gesture when she clasps a thin, undernourished-child to her breast or puts her arms around an old wrinkled man or woman about to close their eyes, for this may be the first time or perhaps the last when they experience that warmth, love and acceptance that ought to have been theirs from the very beginning.

Let us, following her beautiful and inspiring example always be aware of the compelling fact that parents are the engineers of communication in the family. That bridge stands or falls in proportion to the importance they give to it, and the manner in which they take care to construct it, and keep it in existence between themselves and their children over the years. If they do so, then theirs will be the happiness of never having to use the awful words "Generation Gap" or "Communication Gap" which are bandied about by people who have never taken the trouble to build bridges in their own lives between themselves and their children, who are God's gifts to them.

Every child from the very first moment of his/her birth, has all the potential to be, a whole human being, able to relate and communicate with his fellow-human beings. Touching and feeling are not enough to communicate what the parents have in their mind. Over and above these, they have, always to remember that they communicate with their children non-verbally and intangibly by means of the example they set them as they live from day to-day. Through their behaviors, reactions, smiles, frowns, praises, blame and patience, they communicate to their children their values and almost everything that they store up for their future life. This insistence on the example that parents willingly set before their children cannot be over-emphasized because, by nature, children instinctively imitate; they imbibe and imitate all they see, hear and learn from their parents. That is why the following poem puts forth irrefutably what the parental example does for the children:

If a child lives with criticism,
he learns to condemn;
If a child lives with hostility,
he learns to fight;
If a child lives with ridicule,
he learns to be shy;
If a child lives with shame,
he learns to feel guilty;
If a child lives with tolerance,
he learns to be patient;
If a child lives with encouragement,
he learns confidence;
If a child lives with praise,
he learns to appreciate;

If a child lives with fairness,
he learns justice;
If a child lives with security
he learns to live faith;
If a child lives with approval,
he learns to like himself;
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship
he learns to find love in his world.

Normally, however, we communicate with our children through direct teaching and instruction. There are certain principles which ought to be kept in mind always when parents communicate verbally with their children: First of all they ought to communicate, not on the basis of their own age level, but on the basis of the child's age. This means that, if necessary they should take the trouble to adapt themselves to the level of understanding of their children. It is possible however that owing to the scientific progress of our day, children may be more advanced in thought processes than their parents. This makes it all the more imperative that parents make the effort to think as their children think! Otherwise they will find their ideas irrelevant. That is the compelling reason why, today especially, Christian parents ought to pay special attention to, and keep track of what their children are reading or watching on TV. One of the most common mistakes made by most parents are that they want their children to conform to their own way of thinking. This is, perhaps, the fundamental reason why there is so little communication in our families for the simple reason that unless we strive to communicate with our children on their own level, there can be no openness or spontaneity in family communication. How can a child possibly think and speak like a grown-up person?

Secondly, when our children come to us with a question, be it stupid or clever according to our own standards, we ought to give them an answer that is simple and directed towards that question. To quote an American expression: "Put the cookies where the children can reach them!" Even if children approach us with a multitude of questions we ought never to give in to our instinctive reaction of shooing them away. The basic reason why children approach their parents to get their questions answered is because they see in them, persons whom they can depend upon when they stand in need of an answer or a solution to their problems. If they do not get this much from their parents, it is obvious that they will look for the answers and solutions from other people or from books—and the latter usually are not of the best! Children by nature are curious about many things so they are apt to ask all kinds of questions. Some of these may appear to be very simple to

an adult mind, but very complicated to a child's mind. Our parents ought to try to be more patient in answering their children's questions.

Thirdly, when our children come to us, we must give them our undivided attention. Parents, therefore, ought to consider it a privilege and lay aside whatever they may be doing at the moment when their children approach them in order to listen to them with genuine interest and concern. Instinctively, children can tell whether we are genuinely interested or not in what they have to say. They are quick to detect pretense and "humbug." Many young people complain that their parents have "no time" for them. Hence, they go to somebody else who is willing to listen to, and talk with them. It is not surprising then, that many of our children seek congenial company - "congenial" from their point of view and pick up habits which keep parents awake at night, wondering what is happening to them, when the fault initially is their own.

Parents should not only take time to talk to, and discuss things of interest to their children, but also they should develop in themselves that fourth ingredient of successful parenting, namely Christian Patience. The Word of God, the Bible terms it "long suffering" for the evident reason that it calls for courage and endurance on the part of the parents if they want to prove that they are genuinely interested in their offspring. This value of patience is a trait that saves parents a lot of subsequent headaches and heartaches as well. Our children are "fragile human beings who need to be handled with care." Every time we have to deal with a child let us keep before us those words of wisdom that came from the mind and the pen of Rabindranath Tagore "be patient with me! God is not finished with me yet." Indeed we ourselves do not fully mature over-night nor do we attain growth in parenthood in proportion to the number of children God has blessed us with. We have to learn how to be patient in handling and dealing with our children because children are the heritage of the Lord the fruit of the womb is his reward." (Ps. 127:3).

Finally, as a last recommendation towards making our communication with our younger children the full success which it ought to be, we ought not to forget the fact that we must talk plainly and clearly to them. This may appear to be a necessary piece of advice, but very often parents forget that children are children and they ought to use words and expressions that they are used to, and not language common among grown-ups. We ought to speak to our smaller children in a manner which they can understand. This is something that cannot be stressed too much—show understanding.

DEDICATION OF MAR THOMA CHURCH BALTIMORE

The Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus Episcopa dedicated the newly acquired building, on June 1, 1996. The beautiful church building, a parsonage and a recently built school building was bought by the parish with 30 families after a long period of negotiation and prayerful waiting. The Diocesan Bishop very aptly said that if he were to give a name to this church, it would be "The Grace Church." The Bishop also said that one of the rooms will be dedicated in the memory of late Stanley Jones, a life long friend of Mar Thoma Church.

*We always do take everything in life for granted,
When it is God who provided us what we wanted;
He has given us a special place of worship,
To pray together even amidst the hardship,
If He has entrusted us the gift so special,
Why struggle for the worldly glory unessential;
Proud, arrogant, power hungry any one can be,
Rare is a jewel with humble heart to see;
Life is but a short lourney which soon end one day,
We may not be _____
But the frangrance of a pleasant personality shall stay!*

Anita Panicker



ദൈവിക വിളിയിൽ അടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്ന ഉത്തരവാദിത്തവും പ്രത്യംശയും.

ദൈവിക വിളിയും തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പും ഒരു പദവിയല്ല. ഉത്തരവാദിത്തമാണ്. ബലഹീനവും നികൃഷ്ടവും ഏതുമില്ലാത്തതും ആയതിനെ ദൈവം തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുകയും ചരിത്രത്തെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള ദൈവിക ദൗത്യ നിർവഹണത്തിനായി അവരെ ശക്തികരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു (1കൊരി. 1:26-31.) ദൈവിക വിളിയോടു പ്രത്യുത്തരം നൽകിയ യിസ്രായേൽ ചരിത്രത്തെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള ദൈവത്തിന്റെ ആത്യന്തിക ലക്ഷ്യം വിസ്മരിച്ച യഹൂദ ദേശീയതയുടെ വക്താക്കളായി മാറി. അപ്പോൾ രക്ഷിക്കുന്ന ദൈവം ശിക്ഷിക്കുന്ന ദൈവമാണെന്നു പ്രവാചകന്മാർ പ്രഖ്യാപിച്ചു.

യിസ്രായേൽ, ദൈവിക വിളി ഒരു പദവിയായി കരുതി അഹങ്കരിച്ചു. ശുശ്രൂഷാസ്ഥാനങ്ങൾ, രാഷ്ട്രഭരണവും മതജീവിതവും-സ്വകീയ താല്പര്യത്തിനും, ചൂഷണത്തിനും അടിമത്തത്തിനും മുഖാന്തരമായി. ദൈവിക സ്വരൂപത്തിൽ സൃഷ്ടിക്കപ്പെട്ട സഹോദരൻ അടിമയും ദരിദ്രനുമായിത്തീരുന്ന സാമൂഹ്യ സാമ്പത്തിക സംവിധാനങ്ങൾ ശാശ്വതീകരിക്കപ്പെട്ടു. ഏട്ടാം നൂറ്റാണ്ടിലെ പ്രവാചകർ ഈ അനീതിക്കെതിരെ ശബ്ദമുയർത്തി. ദൈവം നീതിയുടെ ദൈവമാണ്. അനീതി ദൈവത്തിന്റെ കോപം ജ്വലിപ്പിച്ചു. യിസ്രായേൽ ജനം പ്രവാസികളായിത്തീർന്നു. ദൈവ വിളിയോടുള്ള അവിശ്വസ്തതമൂലം ആദർശാത്മകമായ ലോകത്തിൽ നിന്ന് അന്യപ്പെട്ടു ഉഴറി നടക്കേണ്ടിവന്നപ്പോഴും ഭാവിയിലേക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള സുന്ദരസ്വപ്നങ്ങൾ അവർക്കു കൈമോശം വന്നില്ല.

തിന്മയുടെ ശക്തികൾ ആത്യന്തികമായി പരാജയപ്പെടുകയും നന്മയുടെ ശക്തികൾ വിജയം വരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്ന, ഏല്ലാ മനുഷ്യരും ഒന്നിച്ചു പച്ചപ്പുല്ലിൽ പത്മപത്മിയായിരുന്നു ആഹാരം കഴിക്കുന്ന, ദൈവിക ഭരണം പൂർണ്ണ യാഥാർത്ഥ്യമാകുന്ന ദിനം ചരിത്രത്തിൽ ഉദയം ചെയ്യുമെന്ന ശുഭാപ്തി വിശ്വാസം യിസ്രായേൽ ജനത ഒരിക്കലും കൈവിട്ടില്ല.

ജ്ഞാനത്തിന്റെയും വിവേകത്തിന്റെയും യഹോവാഭക്തിയുടെയും ആത്മാവിൽ ദരിദ്രന്മാർക്കു നീതിയോടെ ന്യായം പാലിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുകയും ദേശത്തിലെ സാധുക്കൾക്കു നേരോടെ വിധികല്പിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്ന യിശ്ശായുടെ കുറ്റിയിൽ നിന്നുള്ള മുളയെക്കുറിച്ചവർ സ്വപ്നം കണ്ടു. നീതിയുടെയും വിശ്വസ്തതയുടെയും രാജാവിനെ അവർ കാത്തിരുന്നു.

അന്നു മനുഷ്യനും പ്രകൃതിയും തമ്മിലുള്ള ബന്ദത്തിലും ഐക്യം സാധ്യമായിത്തീരും. 'ചെന്നായ് കുഞ്ഞാടിനോടു കൂടെ പാർക്കും. പുളളിപ്പുവി കോലാട്ടുകുട്ടിയോടുകൂടെ കിടക്കും. പശുക്കിടാവും ബാലസിംഹവും തടിപ്പിച്ച മുഗവും ഒരുമിച്ചു പാർക്കും. ഒരു ചെറിയ കുട്ടി അവയെ നടത്തും, പശു കരടിയോടുകൂടെ മേയും. അവയുടെ കുട്ടികൾ ഒരുമിച്ചു കിടക്കും. സിംഹം കാള ഏണപോൽ വൈക്കോൽ തിന്നും. മുലകുടിക്കുന്ന ശിശു സർപ്പത്തിന്റെ പോതികൽ കളിക്കും. മുലകുടി മാറിയ പൈതൽ അണലിയുടെ പൊത്തിൽ കൈ ഇടും. സമുദ്രം വെള്ളംകൊണ്ടു നിറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ ഭൂമി യഹോവയുടെ പരിജ്ഞാനംകൊണ്ടു പൂർണ്ണമായിരിക്കയാൽ ഏന്റെ വിശുദ്ധ പർവതത്തിൽ ഏങ്ങും ഒരു ദോഷമോ, നാശമോ ആരും ചെയ്കയില്ല.' (യെശ. 11:1-9.)

യഹൂദജനതയുടെ ഈ ഭാവി സ്വപ്നം യേശുവിൽ ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്യപ്പെട്ടു. യേശുവിന്റെ ജീവിതശൈലിയിലും പഠിപ്പിക്കലിലും പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിലും ദൈവരാജ്യനുഭവത്തെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള പ്രതീക്ഷ യാഥാർത്ഥ്യമായിത്തീർന്നു.

റവ. രാജു അഞ്ചേരി ഫ്യൂസ്റ്റൺ



CROSSROAD BOOKS & GIFTS SHOPPE

Inter-denominational, Messianic Jewish & Multi-lingual Books & Gifts Shoppe with its CROSSROAD OUTREACH CHRISTIAN MINISTRY invites you to:

HOLY LAND TRIP W/Athens City Tour AUGUST 12-21, 1996

Tailored for Keralites to celebrate 3000 years of Israel with our cochin Jewish brothers & sisters. Be a part of this memorable, inspirational, life-changing Christian fellowship, Praise & Worship.

For brochure:

70 Front Street
Port Jervis
New York 12771
(914) 856-8640
Fax: 856-8640

P.O. Box 196
Sparrow Bush
New York 12780
(914) 856-6546



Mathew V. Zacharia, B.S., M.P.A.

Renew Your Subscription Before It Expires!

MAR THOMA MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTION FORM

I, Rev./Mr./Mrs./Miss _____ would like to subscribe to the MAR THOMA MESSENGER for one year at the rate of \$10 [\$15.00 CAN.] (4 Issues); for two years at the rate of \$18.00 [\$25.00 CAN.] (8 Issues)

New

Renewal

Please fill out this form and send to the following address along with check payable to:

Mar Thoma Messenger
744 Newtown Richboro Road
Richboro, PA 18954-1718

Address _____

Signature _____

Date: _____

Parish _____

Please make copies of this form rather than tearing off this page

XIV Mar Thoma Family Conference

The XIV Mar Thoma Family Conference hosted by the Chicago Mar Thoma Church was held on July 4-7, 1996. The theme of the conference was "Rooted and Built Up In Christ". Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus Episcopa, Rt. Rev. Geevarghese Mar Athanasius Episcopa, Rev. Brenda Salter McNeil and Dr. & Mrs. Norman Clothier were the main leaders. Rev. Jacob Mathew and Rev. Prakash George conducted bible studies. There were three panel sessions: (1) Crisis Management in the Family presented by Rev. Jacob Mathew, Rev. K. E. Easow and Rev. Mathew John; (2) Crisis Management in the Church presented by Rev. Prakash George, Rev. Raju George and Rev. Oommen Philip; and (3) Medical Panel presented by Dr. Mrs. Dolly Thomas, Dr. Leya Mathew, Dr. M. V. Mathew and Mrs. Rachel Mathew. There were separate programs for the children and youth. Rev. Brenda Salter McNeil and Dr. & Mrs. Norman Clothier gave inspirational messages to both groups. About 40 people dedicated themselves for mission work. About 300 families — approximately 1,000 participants attended the conference.



Rt. Rev. Geevarghese Mar Athanasius Episcopa, Main Leader



Rev. Brenda Salter McNeil addressing the Main Session.



Clergies of the Diocese



Panel Session



Audience



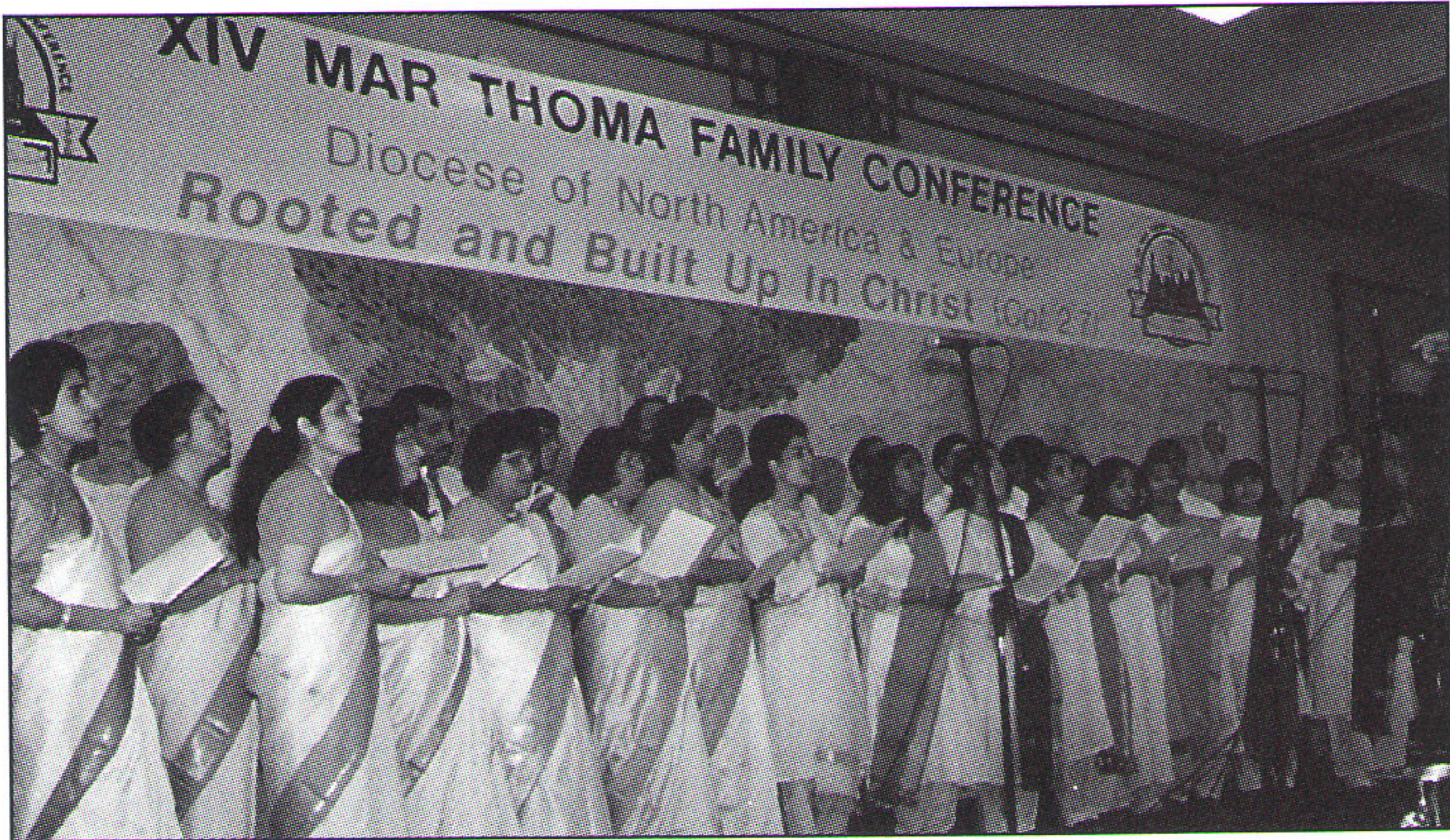
Audience



Youth Session



Children's Session



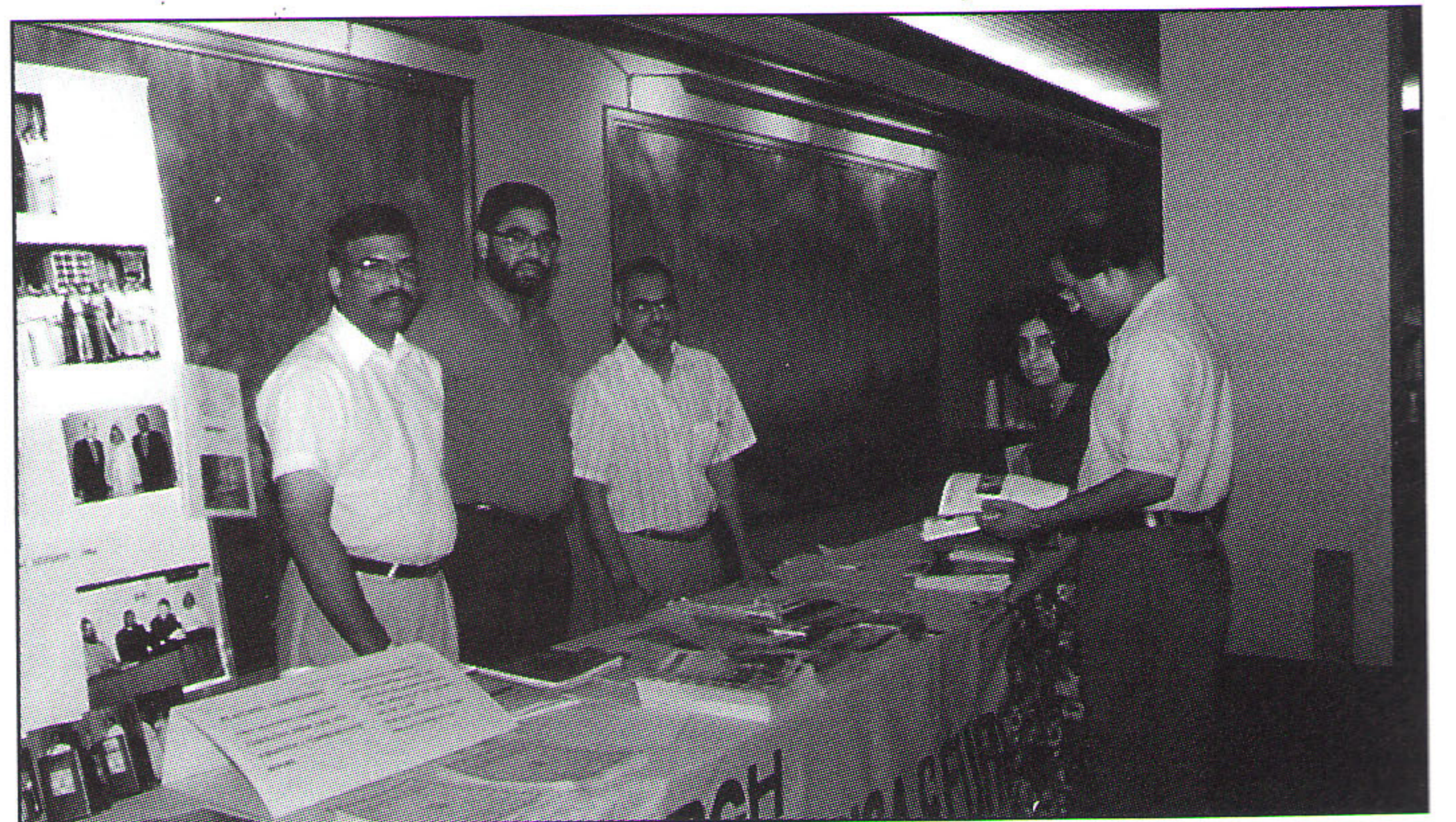
Choir Competition First Place winner Philadelphia Mar Thoma Church



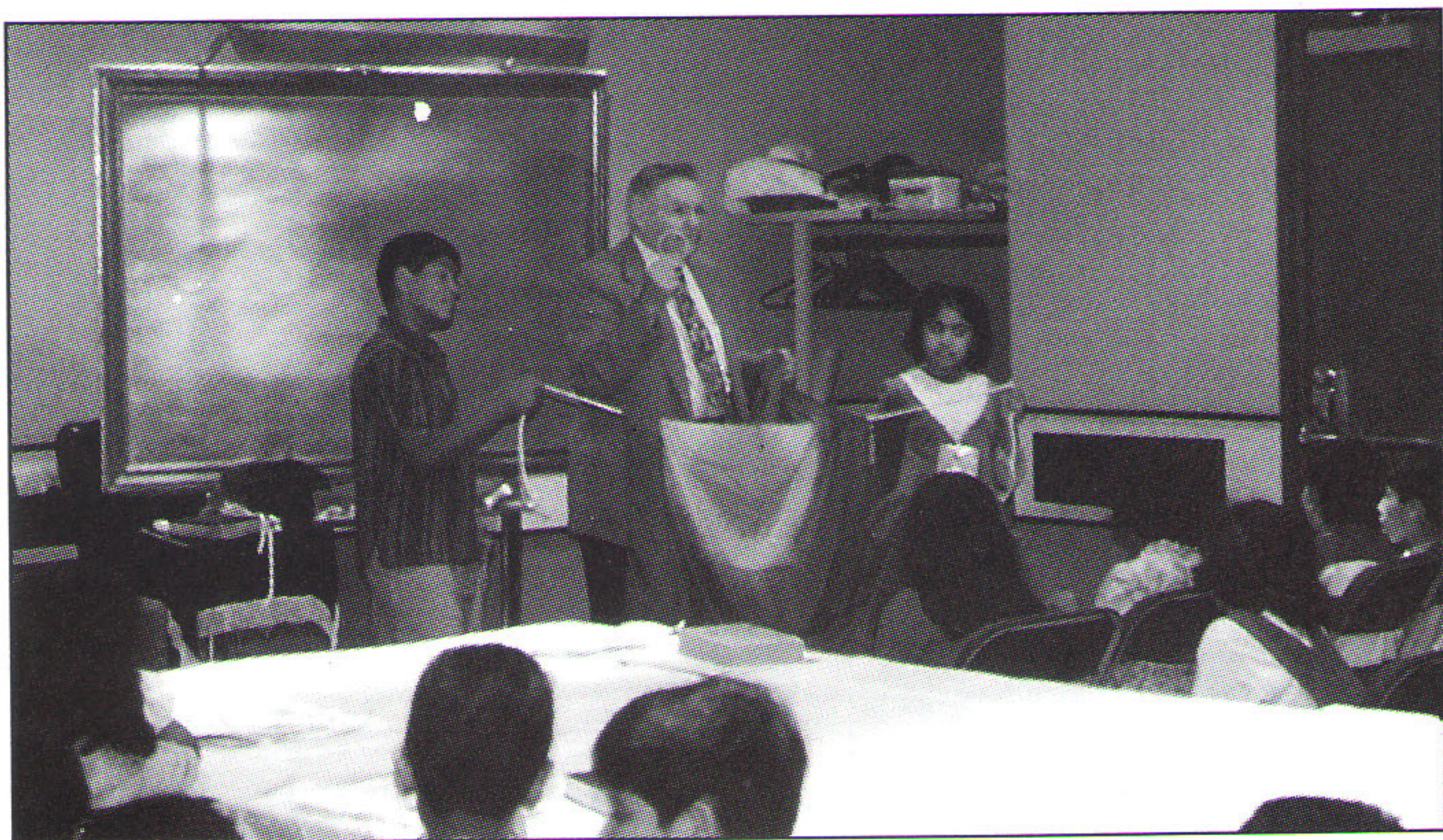
Choir Competition Second Place winner Detroit Mar Thoma Church



Mar Thoma Literature Society Booth



Diocesan Booth



Dr. Norman Clothier, a Conference leader performing a magic for the children.



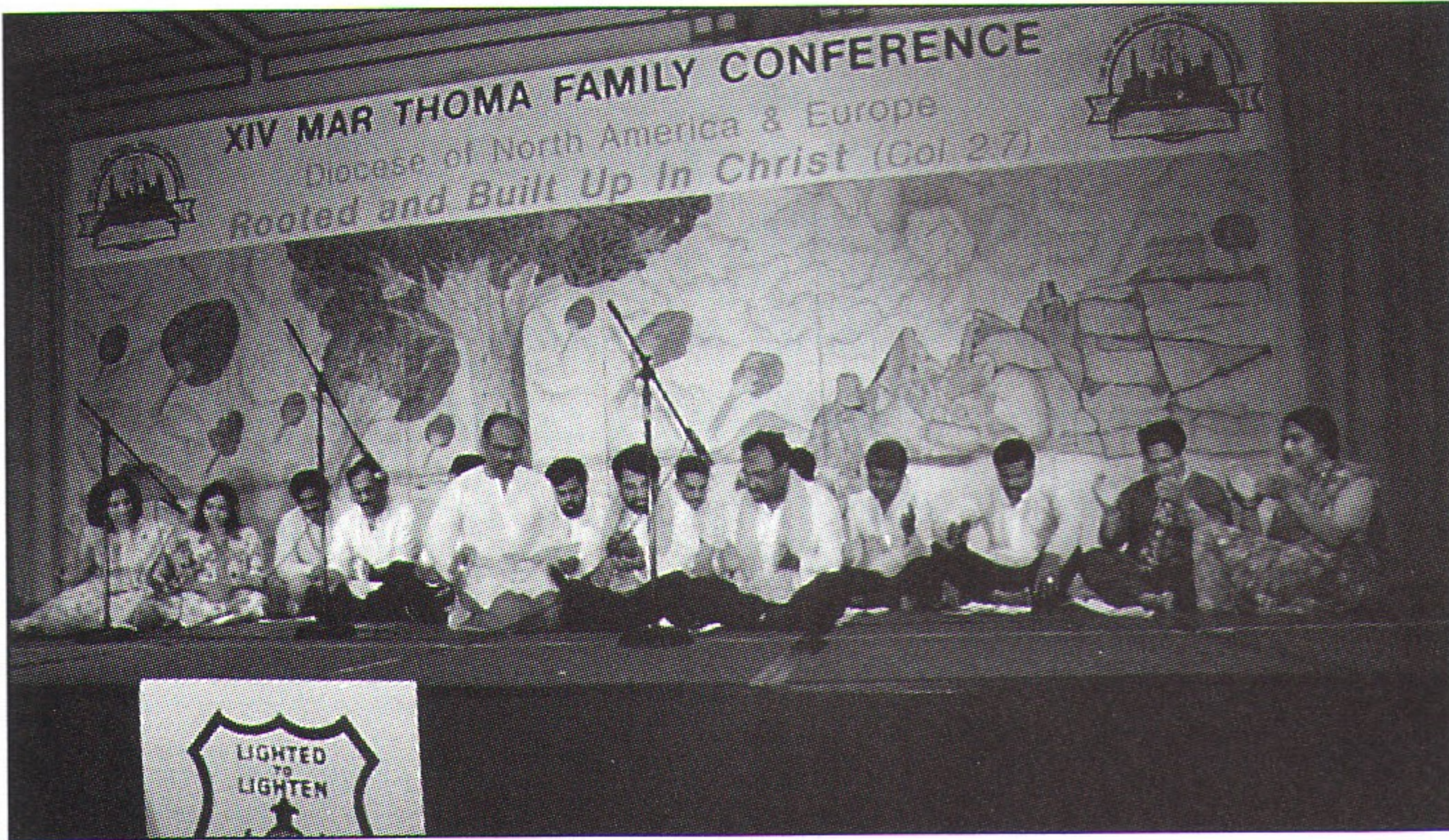
Mar Thoma Messenger Editorial Board, Advisory Committee and Promoters after the combined meeting.



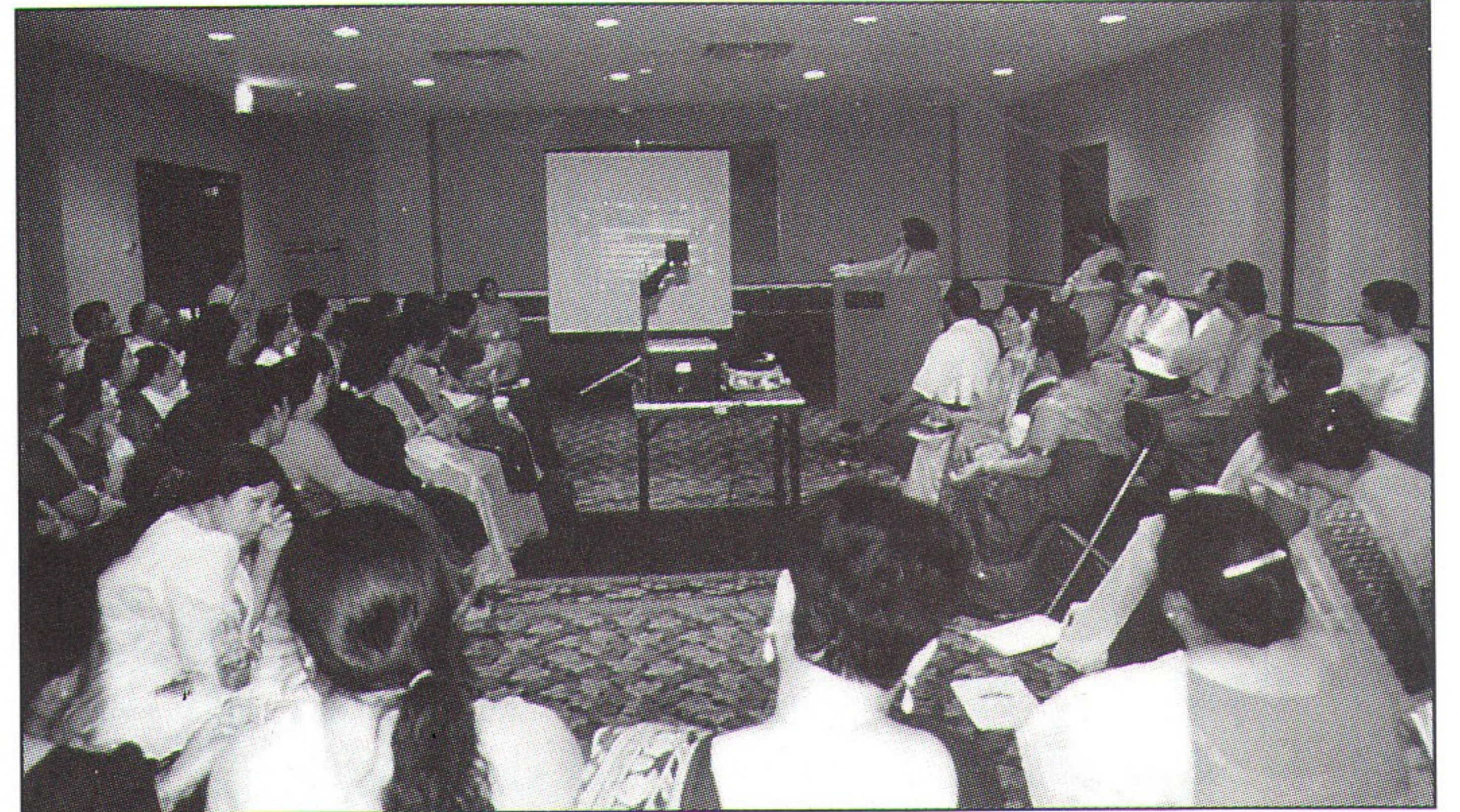
Talent Show



Talent Show



Talent Show



Medical Panel



Children's Session



Dedication Ceremony



Concluding Session



Rev. Dr. Winston Ching cutting the Birthday Cake

Rooted & Built Up In Christ

Rt. Rev. Geevarghese Mar Athanasius Episcopa

(Following is the summary of Thirumeni's messages)

The theme chosen for the Mar Thoma Family Conference at Chicago is quite relevant to us. This phrase "Rooted in Christ" speaks to us of the depth of spiritual life which springs from a living relationship with Christ. We have noticed the care given in the first few years after a young tree has been planted. The ground near it should be weeded. Rain must have free access to the roots. Only so will the tree be strong. Only so will it be possible to remove the stake which supported the young stem. Granted the rootedness, there is flexibility of growth and development.

The garden has given us a reliable picture. It has provided us with a parable. Rooted in Christ, and then - no rigidity. Love Christ and do anything you like, said St. Augustine. Loyalty to Christ and freedom to think and develop. The very freedom will strengthen the growth. The flexibility will make for a larger beauty and maturity. Let the roots go down deep in a great loyalty to and love for Christ and you need not fear to look out and look up and to love as you labor.

The root is derived from the Latin word 'Radix' which means to be radical. Without root there is no plant life possible. What does this verse (Col. 2:7) speak to us:

1. Live in union with Him.
2. Keep your roots deep in Him.
3. Build your lives on Him.
4. Become stronger in your faith.
5. Be filled with thanksgiving.

Taken with the word of the preceding verse we have at first sight a triple metaphor.

1. Christian life is treated as a Pilgrimage (Walk)
2. A growing plant (rooted)
3. A building in the process of construction (Built up)

The word speaks volumes about Christian life and the inner man. The inner man is the highest part of

our nature by which we delight in the law of God (Romans 7:22). It is renewed day-by-day while we look not for the things which are seen but for the things which are not seen (II Cor. 4:16-18). It is contrasted with our outer man who goes his inevitable way to dissolution. The inner man is that part of our nature as men by which we are able to apprehend eternal things and acknowledge the goodness of that which is good, even when we lack power to act upon it.

"Tree with its roots deep in the soil" (Col 2:7)

"House erected on a firm foundation" (Luke 6:48)

Just as a tree is deep rooted in the soil and draws its nourishment from it, so is the Christian rooted in Christ, the source of his life and strength. Just as the house stands fast because it is built on a strong foundation, Christian life is resistant to any storm because it is founded on the strength of Christ. Christ is the source of Christian life and the foundation of its stability.

Some years ago at a conference of Christian girls in Japan, the theme was "How to glorify God in our lives" One of the girls made the following contribution. Early in the spring her mother bought some flower seeds, rather ugly little things and planted them in their garden. They grew and bloomed forth most beautifully. A neighbor coming around and seeing the flowers exclaimed "How delightful are your flowers! Will you please give me some of the seeds?" Had the neighbor seen only the flower seeds and not the flowers themselves, she would never have asked for them. It was only when she saw the flowers that she wanted the seeds from which they came. Even if the truths of Christianity may not in themselves appeal at first sight to certain kinds of people who may think it hard to grasp or unlikely to work with. But when they see those truths through our fragrant lives, sacrificial service, kind words and deeds they begin to long for the truths which have wrought such lives. Let us pray wholeheartedly, "God, make me a fragrant flower diffusing joy to all."

CALL INDIA @59 CENTS/MIN. 24 HOURS A DAY



**7 DAYS A WEEK
FROM ANYWHERE IN USA
TO ANY NUMBER IN INDIA**



PAKISTAN .79¢/MIN. • BANGLADESH .79¢/MIN. • HONG KONG .59¢/MIN. • JAPAN .49¢/MIN.
AUSTRALIA .39¢/MIN. • U.K. .39¢/MIN. • SINGAPORE .39¢/MIN.

CARDS AVAILABLE FOR \$25, \$50, \$100

For more information contact:

CHACKOCHEN KUNCHANDY

82 ROOSEVELT AVENUE • STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314

Tel.: (718) 494-8328 • Fax: (718) 983-7340

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY

The Diocesan Council decided to publish a Directory in November, 1996. This revised directory will have more and updated details. All the parishes and members are requested to cooperate in the updating process already on the way.

The cost of this directory will be \$10.00. To reserve your copy at this pre-publication price, please contact the Vicar, Diocesan Assembly Member or write to the Diocesan Secretary, Mar Thoma Center, 744 Newtown Richboro Road, Richboro, PA 18954-1718 along with payment of \$10.00 per copy.

Only a few pages are set apart for advertisement in this very important publication of our Diocese. The Rates are : Back Cover Page (Color) - \$3,000.00, Inside Front and Back Cover (Black & White) - \$2,000.00, Regular Full Page (Black & White) - \$300.00 (Limited Pages) and Colored Pages - \$1,000.00. To place an add please write to the Diocesan Secretary, Mar Thoma Center, 744 Newtown Richboro Road, Richboro, PA 18954-1718 along with payment.



**Justice
is being
served,
to the Asian Community.**

**Lal Varghese
Attorney at Law**

(214) 788-0777 • Fax (214) 788-2202

**Immigration • Business Law • Bankruptcy • Family Law
Personal Injury • Product Liability • Real Estate**

**Texas Commerce Bank Building
5050 Quorum Drive, Suite 241 • Lockbox 34
Dallas, Texas 75240-6723**

(Not Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization)

The Lost Generation

Julie Thomas

Mar Thoma Church, New Jersey

One disturbing question many high school seniors ask themselves is, "Where do I go from here?" I hear it from my peers all the time and I often ask myself the very same question. High school seniors have to decide if they want to pursue a higher education, where they want to do this, and what they are going to focus on if they do go to college.

What should not add to the complexity of a high school senior's life is the Church. Yet sadly enough, the Church often creates more problems than suggesting choices to be made. All churches have slightly different practices concerning the completion of Sunday School. However, all churches have their students out of Sunday School by the twelfth grade. That poses a major problem to many seniors. Where do they go from there?

The next logical step would be to join the adult congregation every Sunday for church service. However, for most this is not a feasible choice. Every child's understanding of Malayalam is different, but for most it is limited. This scarce knowledge of Malayalam causes many problems. Children lose themselves in the Malayalam service. Unfortunately, they cannot follow because the service is in Malayalam and the order of worship is either typed in Malayalam or the children are unable to translate the transliterated version into English for their own understanding.

For many, the alternative to joining the adults in church is teaching Sunday School. This however is not a feasible choice either. Many are either not equipped to be teachers or do not possess the desire to teach. However, faced with such limited choices, they choose to teach. If the Sunday School has a sufficient number of teachers, then the seniors end up loitering in the halls or remaining home on Sundays for lack of anything constructive to do at Church.

With the dismal future, people have realized that something must be done. The children must be assimilated into the Malayalee and Mar Thoma culture. In my church we are beginning a Malayalam class. Many churches have taken the steps necessary to make a change in their practices. However, this is too little and too late. There is almost an entire generation who will be affected by the gap between Sunday School and Church. For the Mar Thoma Church to exist twenty or thirty years from now in America, changes must be made quickly, because as time slowly ticks away, another year of seniors are joining the rapidly growing Lost Generation.

Prisoner

Gina Mathew

Trinity Marthoma Church, Houston, TX

The sands of time are falling rapidly—

Too fast for you to fool around.

Having no earthly idea where you're bound.

Searching desperately for love that is so great.

*Falling to the ground when only receiving
unbearable hate.*

Going through dry deserts and violent sandstorms.

Reliving doubtful examples you knew

*Trying to get yourself in Heaven only given to a
chosen few.*

But you insist for a corner of a dark cell—

You call it home, I call it Hell.

Locking yourself in and throwing away the only key.

Obeying what others believe you ought to be.

Following the popular crowd

And feeling mighty, good, and proud.

Listening to their slandering voices

Letting them make your choices.

Wasting the little time you've got,

But only realizing how you forgot

That your creator has a far better plan for you.

If only you would follow it with a clue.

You'll never know when it's too late

*And you'll cry those salty tears because of your
bitter fate.*

Do you know where you are heading to?

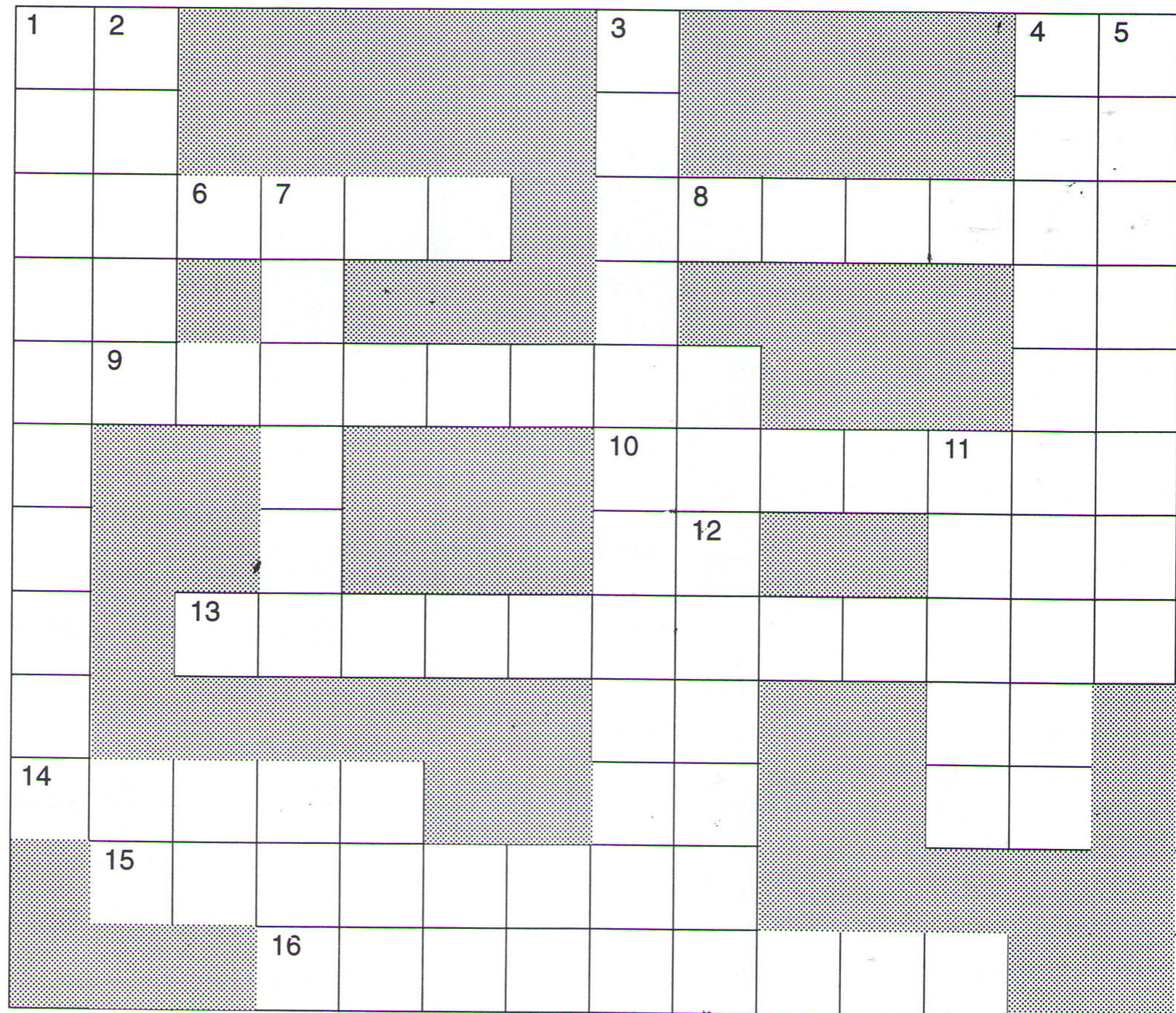
To a Heaven given to a chosen few?

Or are you a prisoner of Hell?—

Where it is almost impossible to say. "It is well."

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

AS IN TODAY'S ENGLISH VERSION
 (based on the books of Ezra & Esther)
 Mrs. Rachel Thomas (Staten Island)



Across

6. He was a priest and a scholar in the law of God.
8. This was the capital city of Persia at the time of Xerxes.
9. Name of Jair's Son.
10. Who gave back the cups and bowls that were taken by King Nebuchadnezzar.
13. He made a proposal to stop the mixed marriage of the Israelites with foreign women.
14. He was the prime minister of King Xerxes.
15. He is one of the palace eunuchs who guarded the King's rooms.
16. Ezra set out from this place to Jerusalem with a group of Israelites.

Down

1. He was the Chief of the royal treasury at the time of Emperor Cyrus.
2. This festival was observed by the Jews in the month of Adar.
3. Where the fasting and prayer took place under the leadership of Ezra.
4. He is the son of Shealthiel.
5. Where the scroll containing the record of the rebuilding of the temple was found.
7. She is the wife of Haman.
11. This is the third month of the Jews .
12. This is one of the provinces that King Xerxes ruled.

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

AS IN TODAY'S ENGLISH VERSION

(based on the book of St. Luke)

Mrs. Rachel Thomas (Staten Island)

A	N	O	P	R	S	T	M	N	O	P	Q	C	D	E	Z	Y	Z
C	M	O	Q	T	S	A	M	A	R	I	T	A	N	Z	Y	X	J
D	J	K	I	P	A	R	Z	E	P	C	Z	E	U	V	R	F	X
E	A	O	L	N	E	Y	R	I	L	E	I	R	B	A	G	O	V
F	I	M	A	H	T	L	E	V	I	J	R	C	J	N	Q	R	N
X	R	Z	T	N	P	G	B	K	U	O	A	T	S	O	R	A	U
Z	U	C	F	X	N	L	E	A	N	P	B	N	P	L	Z	T	H
O	S	F	Y	B	O	A	D	I	E	Q	O	U	I	A	S	Y	A
M	Z	B	U	C	W	I	H	R	P	E	T	O	R	I	B	A	O
Q	E	A	T	O	A	P	N	W	M	S	H	E	T	S	E	N	W
R	B	R	L	S	X	A	A	I	V	T	T	N	H	T	E	K	E
S	E	A	H	A	U	E	S	G	W	H	S	P	N	E	L	L	E
Q	D	T	S	M	Y	T	A	D	X	U	A	Q	R	W	Z	B	D
R	E	E	N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H	I	R	Q	N	E	V	E
V	S	U	S	U	T	S	U	G	U	A	D	L	A	A	B	O	B
S	U	S	R	K	Z	R	N	M	F	A	A	M	B	R	U	N	E
U	N	A	I	N	I	S	U	R	A	Z	A	L	F	J	L	J	Z
W	H	E	K	W	K	E	W	Y	M	A	N	A	G	S	T	M	P
N	O	A	C	B	D	F	G	H	N	I	K	L	N	Q	R	T	U
K	E	L	I	Z	A	V	E	T	H	N	E	K	K	P	W	Z	C

1. Who helped the man on the road who was attacked by the robbers?
2. Who took Baby Jesus in his hands and gave thanks to God?
3. Who is Chuza's wife?
4. Which is the home town of Jesus?
5. At which place did Jesus touch the coffin?
6. Which Angel appeared to Zechariah?
7. Who is the father of James?
8. Where did Jesus feed more than 5,000 people?
9. Who is the mother of John the Baptist?
10. Whose daughter was brought to life again by Jesus?
11. Who is the chief of the demons?
12. Who was healed of his skin disease by prophet Elisha?
13. Jesus said about a town, "did you want to lift yourself up to heaven? You will be thrown down to hell." Which is the town?
14. Which emperor ordered a census to be taken in the Roman Empire?
15. Who is called by Jesus from his office?
16. Who sat beside Abraham after his death?

Bible Word Search Finders (April 1996)

Arun Samuel Varghese	Mar Thoma Church, Dallas
Reji & Reny Koshy	Trinity Mar Thoma Church, Houston
John Varghese	Mar Thoma Church, Dallas
Melanie Zacharia	St. Thomas MTC, New York
Davis Thomas	St. Peter's MTC New Jersey
Jay V. Mathew	Trinity Mar Thoma Church, Houston
Sheena Cheriyan	Bethel MTC, Philadelphia
Prathik Manuel Philip	Carmel Mar Thoma Church Boston
Sheeba Susan Philip	Carmel Mar Thoma Church Boston
Trica Paul	Bethel MTC, Philadelphia
Jerin Philip	Trinity MTC, Edmonton
Asha Deena Alex	Carmel Mar Thoma Church Boston
Anu T. Alex	Carmel Mar Thoma Church Boston
Susy John	MTC Ottawa, Canada
Larry Varghese	Trinity MTC, Houston
Lesly T. Varghese	Trinity MTC, Houston
Manju Mathew	Bethel MTC, Philadelphia
Jenny Raj	Bethel MTC, Philadelphia
Vinod & Asha John	St. Luke's MTC, South Florida
Aanju Kaippallil	MTC Greater Washington
Ashley Kaippallil	MTC Greater Washington
Teena, Tigi, Toby Mathew	Trinity MTC, Houston

Bible Cross-Word Puzzle Winners (April 1996)

Arun Samuel Varghese	Mar Thoma Church, Dallas
Reji & Reny Koshy	Trinity Mar Thoma Church, Houston
John Varghese	Mar Thoma Church, Dallas
Melanie Zacharia	St. Thomas MTC, New York
Davis Thomas	St. Peter's MTC, New Jersey
Jay V. Mathew	Trinity Mar Thoma Church, Houston
Sheena Cheriyan	Bethel MTC, Philadelphia
Prathik Manuel Philip	Carmel Mar Thoma Church, Boston
Sheeba Susan Philip	Carmel Mar Thoma Church, Boston
Trica Paul	Bethel MTC, Philadelphia
Jerin Philip	Trinity MTC, Edmonton
Asha Deena Alex	Carmel Mar Thoma Church, Boston
Anu T. Alex	Carmel Mar Thoma Church, Boston
Susy John	MTC Ottawa, Canada
Larry Varghese	Trinity MTC, Houston
Manju Mathew	Bethel MTC, Philadelphia
Lesly T. Varghese	Trinity MTC, Houston
Jenny Raj	Bethel MTC, Philadelphia
Aanju Kaippallil	MTC, Greater Washington
Ashley Kaippallil	MTC, Greater Washington
Tigi, Teena, Toby Mathew	Trinity MTC, Houston

Congratulations to all winners!

DEADLINE FOR ANSWERS SEPTEMBER 15, 1996

DIOCESAN NEWS

NEW DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY AND COUNCIL MEMBERS



New Diocesan Council members with Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus Episcopa and Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa.



Diocesan Assembly in session

COUNSELING CENTERS

A task force consisting of Mrs. Kunjumol Cherian (Convenor), Dr. Thomas Vadakethundiyl, Dr. John Benjamin and Rev. Jacob Mathew was appointed to study the feasibility of establishing counseling centers.

MISSION TOUR

A committee was appointed to organize mission tours. Rev. K. G. Joseph (Convenor), Mrs. Mariamma Pillai, Dr. T. M. Thomas and Mrs. Sophie John. Those who wish to participate in the mission tour may please contact the Diocesan Office.

YOUTH CHAPLAIN SEARCH COMMITTEE

A search committee was appointed to select a Youth Chaplain. Dr. (Mrs.) Anna Panackal (Convenor), Rev. K. G. Joseph and Mr. Saju Mathew.

LEGAL COUNSEL

It was decided to retain Edward Rocap as the legal counsel of the Diocese and that the assistance of a legal firm be sought as and when needed.

THE XV MAR THOMA FAMILY CONFERENCE

The XV Mar Thoma Family Conference hosted by the Toronto Mar Thoma Church will be held in July 3-6, 1997 at Toronto, Canada. The Theme of the Conference is **"Rekindle the Divine Gift in You."** 2 Timothy 1:6. The rate is \$35.00 Registration and \$175.00 Conference Fee per person in US dollars.

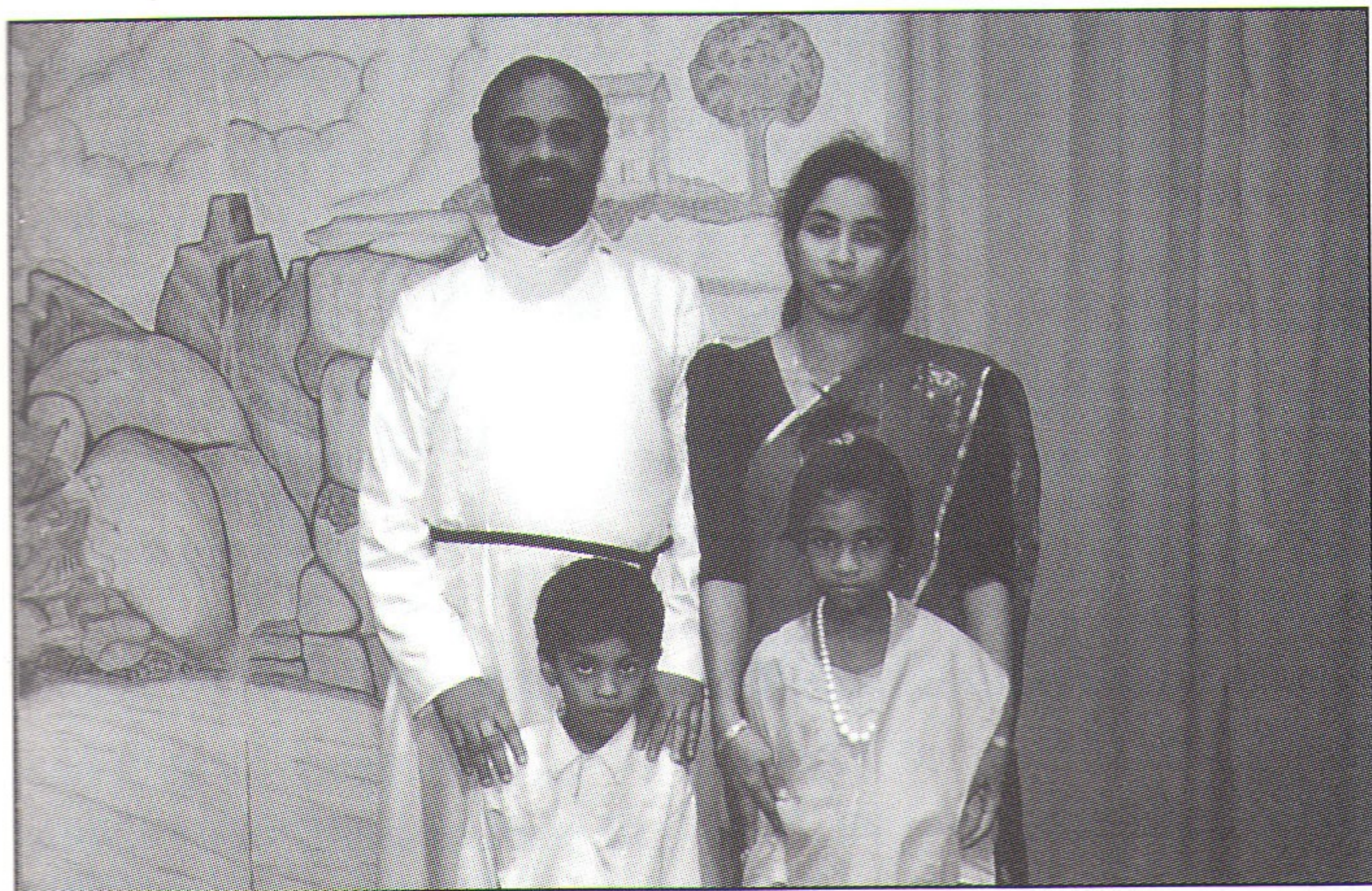
SUVISESHA NIDHI

The Council decided to establish a *Suviseshanidhi* and to distribute boxes to all our homes in the Diocese to collect money for the mission. A committee consisting of Rev. Ninan Jacob, Dr. John P. Lincoln (Convenor) and Mrs. Mary Mohan was appointed for this purpose. Edavaka Mission of each parish will be requested to assist and collect the money on Mission Sunday. The fund will be used for the mission work of the Diocese.

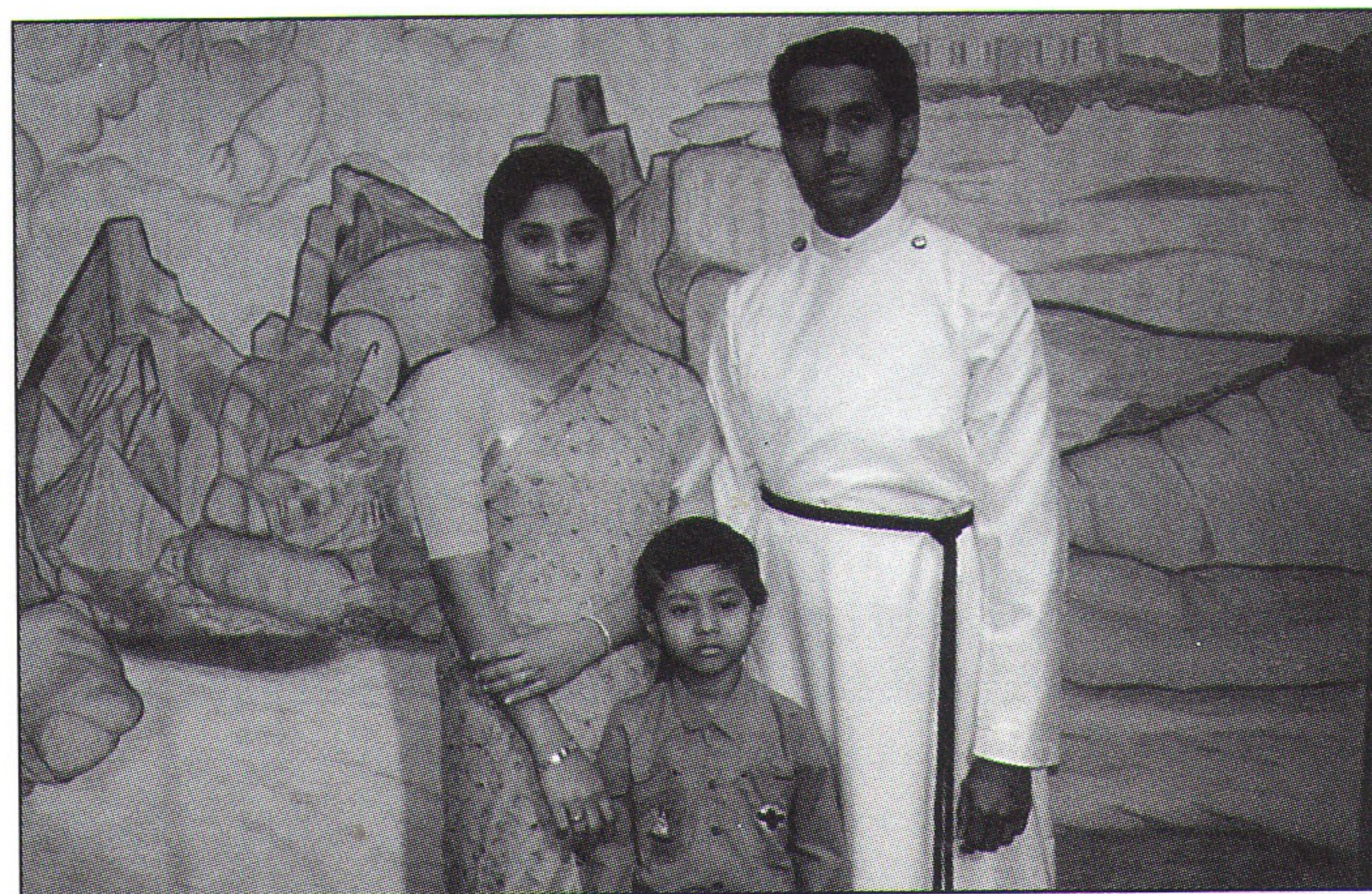
VAIDEEKA SELECTION COMMITTEE INVITES APPLICATIONS

If you are interested in theological training, please call the Diocesan Office or talk to our beloved Thirumeni during his visits to the parishes or during conferences. Please pray and encourage our young people to take up full time ministry in the Church.

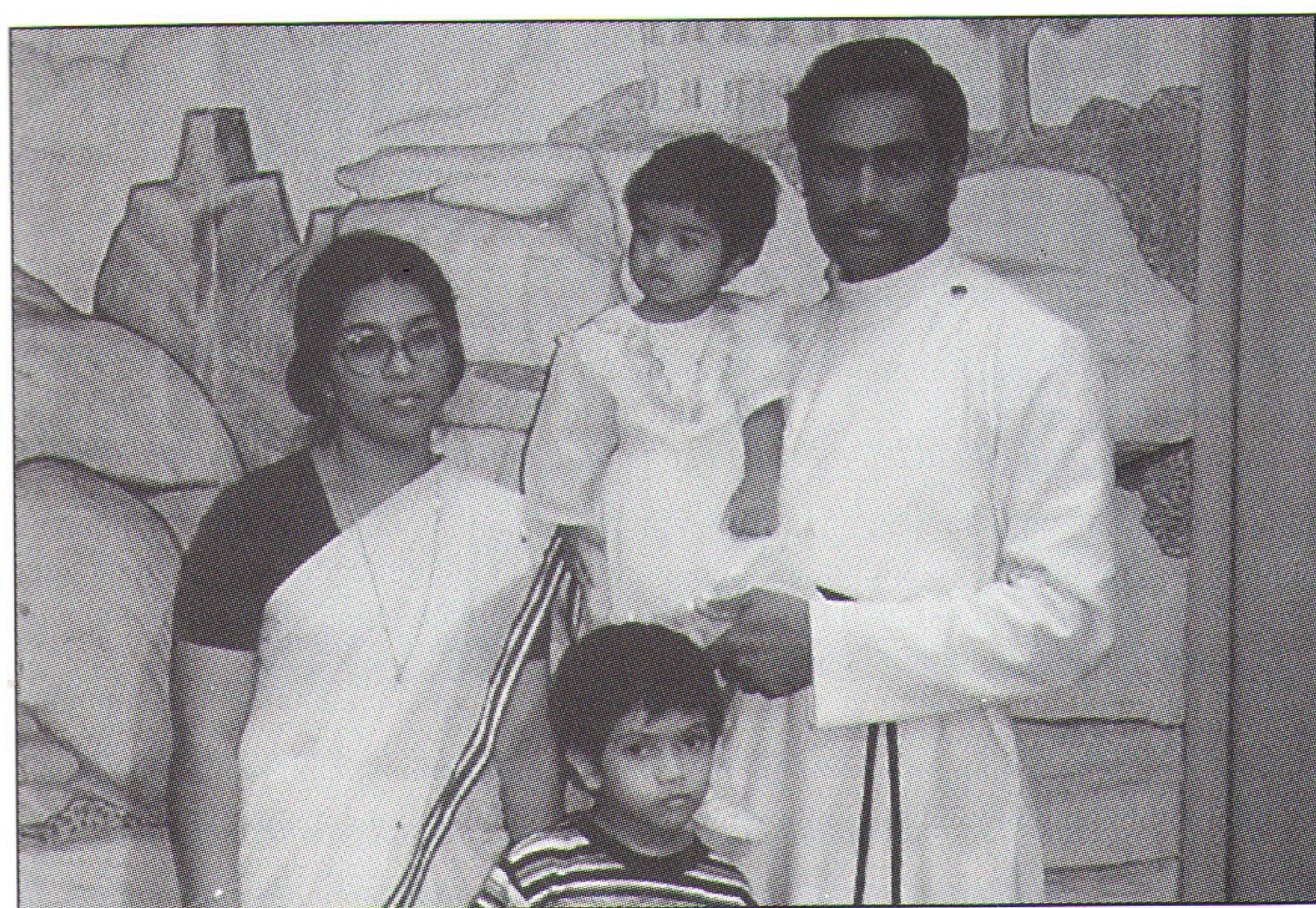
OUR NEW ACHENS



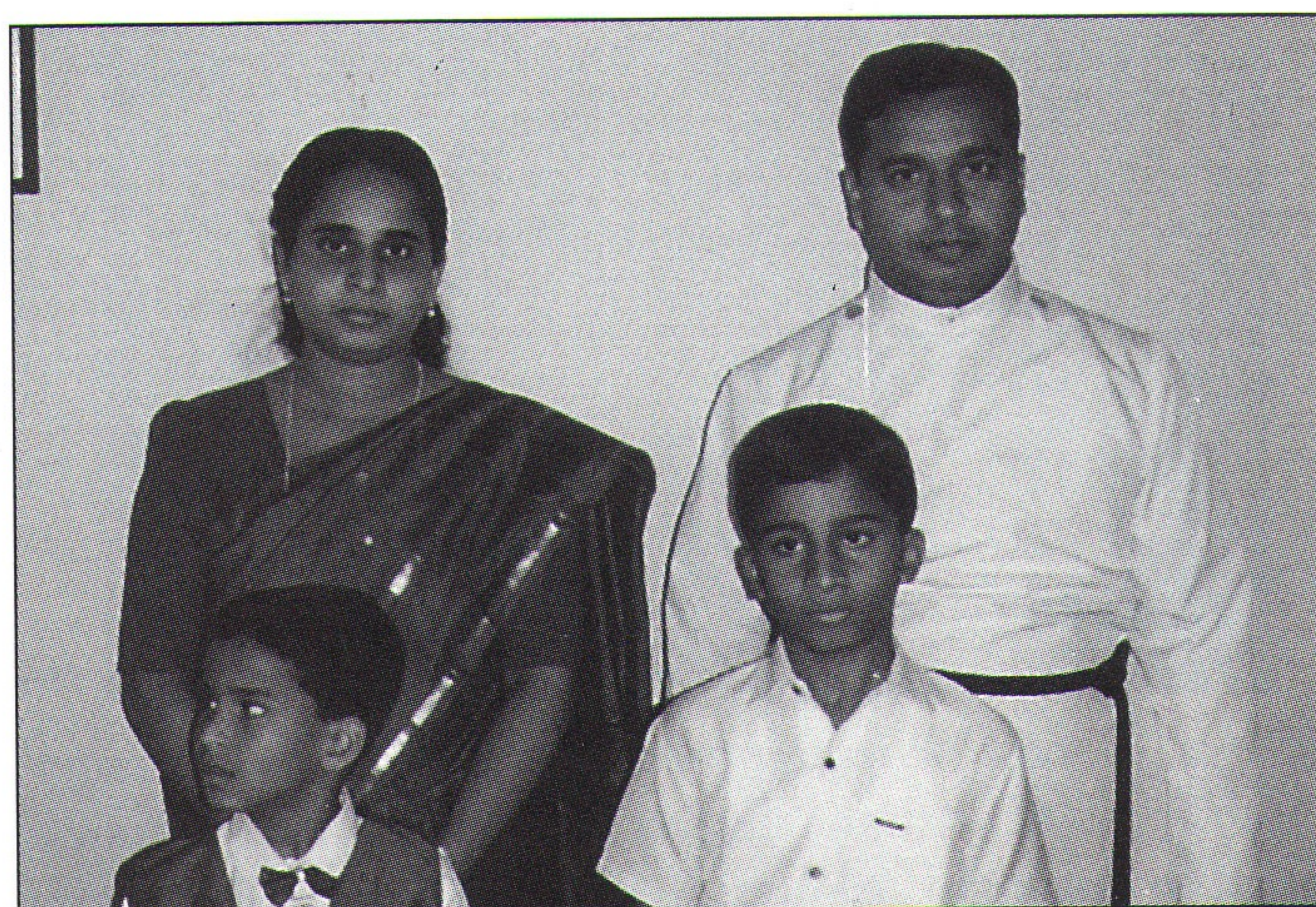
Rev. K. G. Joseph of Vellayil Mar Thoma Church, has joined the Diocese as the Vicar of Epiphany Mar Thoma Church, New York. Achen studied at the Jabalpur Theological Seminary and has ordained in 1986. He has served the Kallar, Changanachery parishes and Girideepthi hostel. Achen is accompanied by Cicily Kochamma, daughter Jesina and son Joel.



Rev. Thomas Easow of Keekozhur Mar Thoma Church, has joined the Diocese as the Vicar of St. Johns and Ebenezer Mar Thoma Churches, New York. Achen studied at the Kottayam Theological Seminary and has ordained in 1987. He has served the Surat, North Trvancore and Kottarajasthan parishes. Achen is accompanied by Mini Kochamma and son Jim.



Rev. George Abraham of Uthimoode Mar Thoma Church, has joined the Diocese as the Vicar of St. James and St. Andrews Mar Thoma Churches, New York. Achen studied at the Kottayam Theological Seminary and has ordained in 1987. He has served the Thannithodu, Nagpur and Karunagapally parishes. Achen is accompanied by Anitha Kochamma, son Asish and daughter Aswitha.



Rev. Kuruvilla Philip of Thalavady Mar Thoma Church has joined the Diocese as the Vicar of St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church, Dallas, Mar Thoma Church Oklahoma and Mar Thoma Church, Lubbock. Achen studied at the Kottayam Theological Seminary and has ordained in 1982. He has served the Karimpa parish and Mission centers in Andra Pradesh and Karnataka states. Achen translated and published the Holy Communion Service of the Mar Thoma Church in Telugue language. Achen is accompanied by Gracy Kochamma, sons Santhosh and Sam.

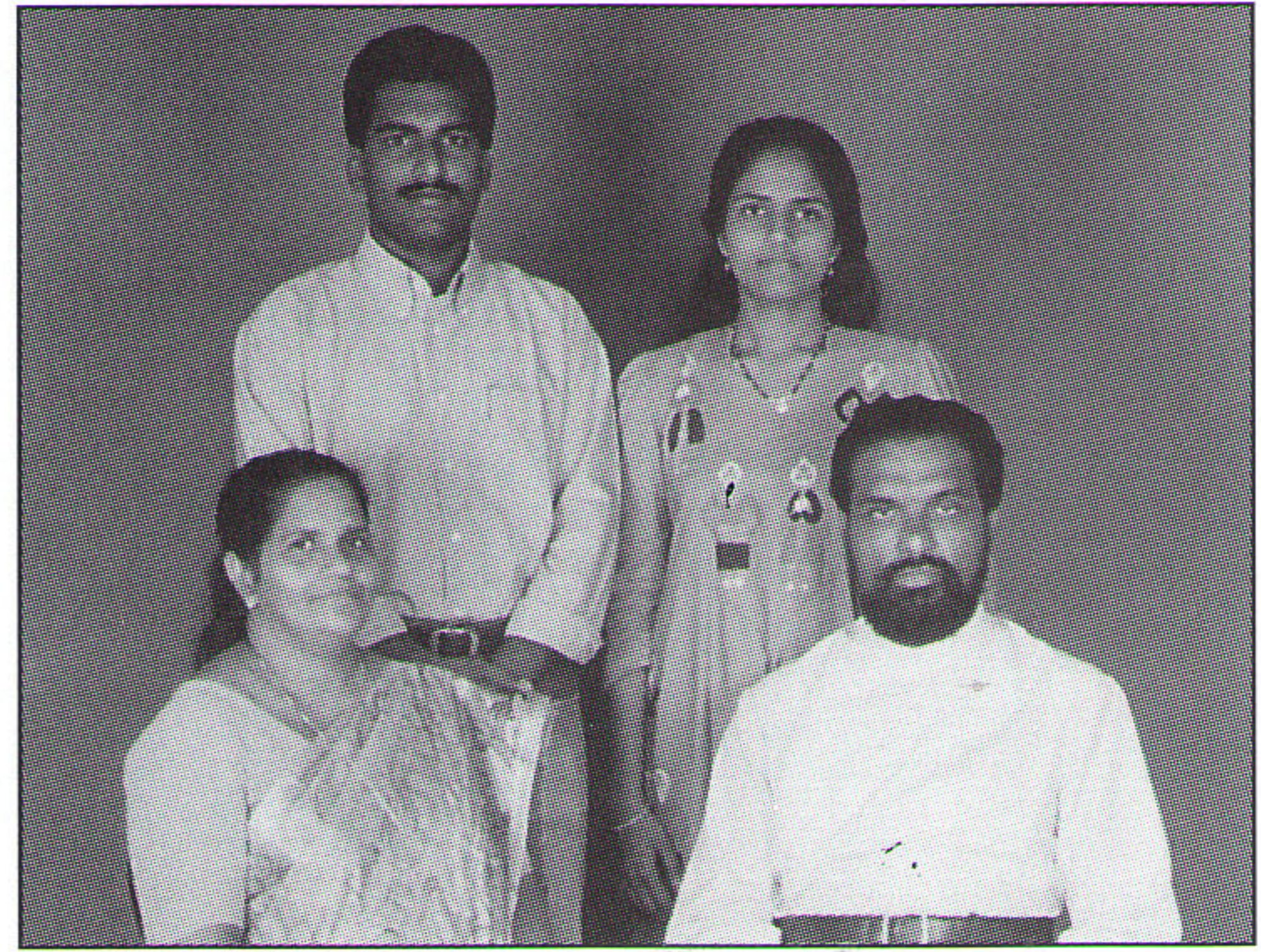
*"The new birth takes only a moment;
The growth of a saint takes a lifetime."*

*"If you are sure of God's approval,
you need not fear the world's disapproval."*

OUR NEW ACHENS

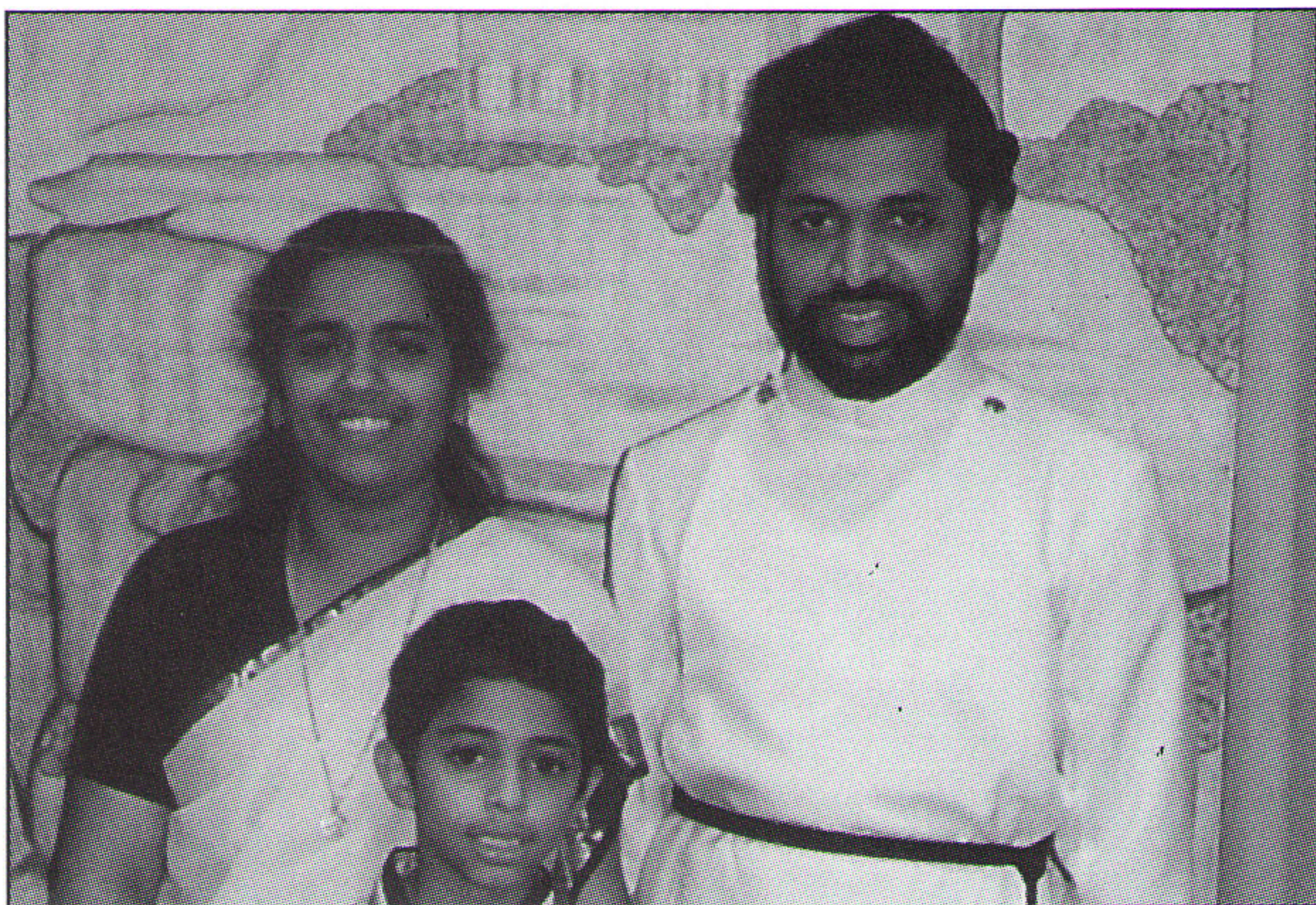


Rev. K. Y. Jacob of Pulamon Mar Thoma Church, has joined the Diocese as Vicar of Chicago Mar Thoma Church. Achen studied at Kottayam Theological Seminary and has ordained in 1985. He has served the Santa Cruz, Boriville parishes and as Manager of the Mar Thoma Deaf and Dumb School Kasargod. Achen is accompanied by Susamma Kochamma, daughters Dhanya and Divya.



Rev. K. V. Simon of Kottayam Mar Thoma Church, has joined the Diocese as Vicar of Los Angeles and San Francisco Mar Thoma Churches. He has ordained in 1970. He has served the Thalavoor, Chittar, Kalyan, Pune, Kollad, Ayroor, Keekozoor, Pampadi, Vazoor and Kottayam St. Thomas parishes. Achen is accompanied by Marykutty Kochamma, son Saibu and daughter Selin.

BEST WISHES TO OUR ACHEN TRANSFERRED



George Mathew Achen served as the Vicar of the Chicago Mar Thoma Church for the last four years. Achen is transferred to Santhigiri Ashram, Always as Director (Acharya). Achen and family left for India on July 8, 1996.

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO REV. M. O. OOMMEN JR.



The Rev. M. O. Oommen Jr. has graduated and awarded with an M.Div. Degree from the Princeton Theological Seminary and returned to India and took charge as the Vicar of Bocaro Parish.

REV. P. M. THOMAS CELEBRATES THE SILVER JUBILEE OF HIS ORDINATION

Rev. P. M. Thomas, Vicar of St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church, New York completed 25 years of pastrol service on May 15, 1996 and a special service and a public meeting was held on June 8, 1996 at St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church, New York. Achen completed his B. D. from Jabalpure Theological Seminary in 1971 and received his ordination on May 15, 1971 as deacon and on June 10, 1971 as Kassissa.



Presenting a plaque to Achen by the trustees

NEW COMMITTEES ARE FORMED

Ecumenical Relations Committee

Rev. Oommen Philip (Chairman)
Mrs. Nirmala Abraham (Convenor)
Dr. P. T. Mammen
Miss. Suja Ninan
Mr. T. M. John
Dr. V. T. Samuel
Dr. George Zachariah

Public Relations Committee

Rev. K. Y. Jacob (Chairman)
Mr. O. C. Koshy (Convenor)
Dr. Thomas Ninan
Dr. Usha George
Mr. Kuruvilla Cherian
Mr. Alex Thomas
Mr. M. C. Alexander

Endowment Committee

Rev. P. M. Thomas (Chairman)
Mr. T. A. Mathew (Convenor)
Mr. John Titus
Mr. Varghese P. Varghese
Dr. P. John Lincoln
Mr. O. C. Koshy
Mr. P. T. Mathew

Finance Committee

Mr. Kuruvilla Cherian (Convenor)
Mr. Jacob Chacko
Mr. Andrew Pappachen
Mr. T. A. Mathew
Mr. O. C. Koshy
Mr. P. T. Mathew
Dr. John Benjamin
Mr. N. M. Philip

Mr. Cherian Philip
Mr. Mathew Thomas
and all members of the
Diocesan Assembly

DSM Committee

Rev. Alexander M. Isaac (Chairman)
Mr. Abraham Varghese (Convenor)
Mr. George Varghese
Mr. Kuruvilla Abraham
Mr. Lalu Mathew
Mr. Varghese Chacko
Mr. N. M. Philip

Diocesan Mission Board

Rev. Kuruvilla Philip (Chairman)
Mr. Thomas Mattappallil (Convenor)
Mr. P. T. Thomas
Mrs. Mariamma Thomas
Mrs. Lilly Kurien
Dr. P. John Lincoln

Planning Commission

Rev. Prakash K. George (Chairman)
Mr. Jacob Chacko (Convenor)
Dr. George Jacob
Dr. Samuel Chacko
Dr. George Zachariah
Mr. Daniel Varghese
Mr. Thomas Koshy

Diocesan Center: Building & Property Management Committee

Rev. M. P. Yohannan (Chairman)
Mr. P. T. Mathew (Convenor)
Rev. K. E. Easow

Mrs. Anniekuty George
Mr. K. A. George
Mrs. Susan Kurien
Mr. John P. Mathai

Retirement Center Committee

Rev. Raju George (Chairman)
Mrs. Mary Mohan (Convenor)
Rev. Skaria Varghese
Mr. Chacko Jacob
Mr. George Kunchandy

Youth Retreat Center Committee

Rev. Ninan Jacob (Chairman)
Dr. P. John Lincoln (Convenor)
Mr. James Mepurathu
Mr. Abraham Mathew
Mr. Philip Abraham

Directory Committee

Rev. Dr. P. G. George (Chairman)
Mr. Abraham Thomas (Convenor)
Mr. Kuruvilla Cherian (ex-officio)
Dr. P. John Lincoln
Mr. C. V. Samuel
Mr. T. A. Mathew
Mr. James T. Philip

Library Archives Committee

Rev. George Abraham (Chairman)
Mr. O. C. Abraham (Convenor)
Dr. (Mrs.) Anna Panackal
Dr. Samuel Chacko
Dr. T. M. Thomas

MAR THOMA SABHA AWARD

The Sabha Council has decided to give MAR THOMA SABHA AWARD for poetry to Mr. Cherian K. Cherian of the Long Island Mar Thoma Church, New York, a former Diocesan Council Member. The award will be given at the Sabha Mandalam meeting in August 1996.

VALEDICTORIAN AWARD

Mar Thoma Awards for all Valedictorians belonging to the Mar Thoma Church in High School be established. The first award be given in 1997. The following committee was appointed: Rev. Skaria Varghese (Chairman), Mr. John Kunchandy (Convenor), Mr. Raju Kurien, Mr. Mathew George.

WEB PAGE: www.marthoma.com

A committee on the Internet Web page was appointed: Mr. Cherian Abraham (Convenor), Mr. John A. Sunny, Mr. Thomsun Thomas, Mr. Abraham Thomas and Rev. Dr. P. G. George.

COSTA RICA — WCC MEETING



WCC Consultation with Pentecostal Churches. Our Diocesan Bishop with other church leaders.

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO



General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA
Rev. Dr. Thomas Gillespie, President, Princeton Theological Seminary

EDUCATORS AND RESEARCHERS FELLOWSHIP



Mar Thoma Fellowship of Educators and Researchers
Baltimore, Washington

THE XVII NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

The XVII National Youth Conference will be hosted by the Dallas Mar Thoma Church from August 8-11, 1996 at the Riverbend Retreat Center, Dallas. Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus (Diocesan Bishop), Todd Wagner (Minister of singles at Northwest Bible Church), John Garlock (author of "The Traps of the Devil"), and Rodney Walker (founder of Shekinah Evangelistic Ministry) are the main speakers. The theme of the conference is **"FREE THE FIRE IN ME"** For more information call 214-251-1151, 214-272-8976 or 214-438-4924.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE MAR THOMA NURSES OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA



A Meeting of the Mar Thoma Nurses was held in Chicago at the Family Conference on July 6, 1996. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus Episcopa, presided over the meeting. Thirumeni gave an introductory speech and several members spoke on the occasion in favor of forming an organization. It also decided to charge \$10 as membership. The meeting also elected the committee members: President - Rev. P. P. Thomas; Vice President - Mariamma Pillai; Secretary - Susan Thomas; Treasurer- Mariamma Abraham; *Center Coordinators*: Sosamma Abraham (Long Island), Susy Varghese (New York), Sosamma Abraham (New Jersey), Kunjamma Koshy (Florida), Mary Ninan (Chicago), Sosamma Cherian (Oklahoma), Kunjamma Abraham (Houston), Leelamma Philip (San Francisco), Aleyamma Rajan (Canada).

ASIAMERICA MINISTRY NATIONAL CONSULTATION

The Asiamerica Ministry National Consultation will take place in Hawaii from August 5th to 10th 1996. The Rev. Oommen Philip, Dr. Thomas Abraham (New Jersey) and Dr. P. V. Cherian (Detroit) will be our delegates.

EASTERN REGION VOLUNTARY EVANGELISTS ASSOCIATION

The second regional conference of the Eastern Region Voluntary Evangelists Association was held on Saturday, June 22, 1996 at the United Methodist Church, Berkley Heights, hosted by the New Jersey Mar Thoma Church. The main speaker Rev. Thomas Samuel of CSI Church presented a two part message based on the theme "Following Christ";

CELEBRANT SINGERS

Celebrant Singers of California, renowned gospel singers, conducted concerts in Philadelphia on June 28, and in New York at Epiphany Mar Thoma Church on June 30, 1996. Both events were attended by large crowds. They conducted a concert at the last Maramon Convention.



Philadelphia Mar Thoma Church Children with Celebrant Singers

the theological and cultural interpretation of mission and the Biblical exposition based on the encounter of Bartimaeus with Jesus (Mark 10:46-52).

During the meeting, the president Rev. P.M.Thomas was felicitated on his completion of 25 years of his ordination and the new Achens to the region were extended welcome.

TEXAS/OKLAHOMA CENTER SEVIKA SANGHAM



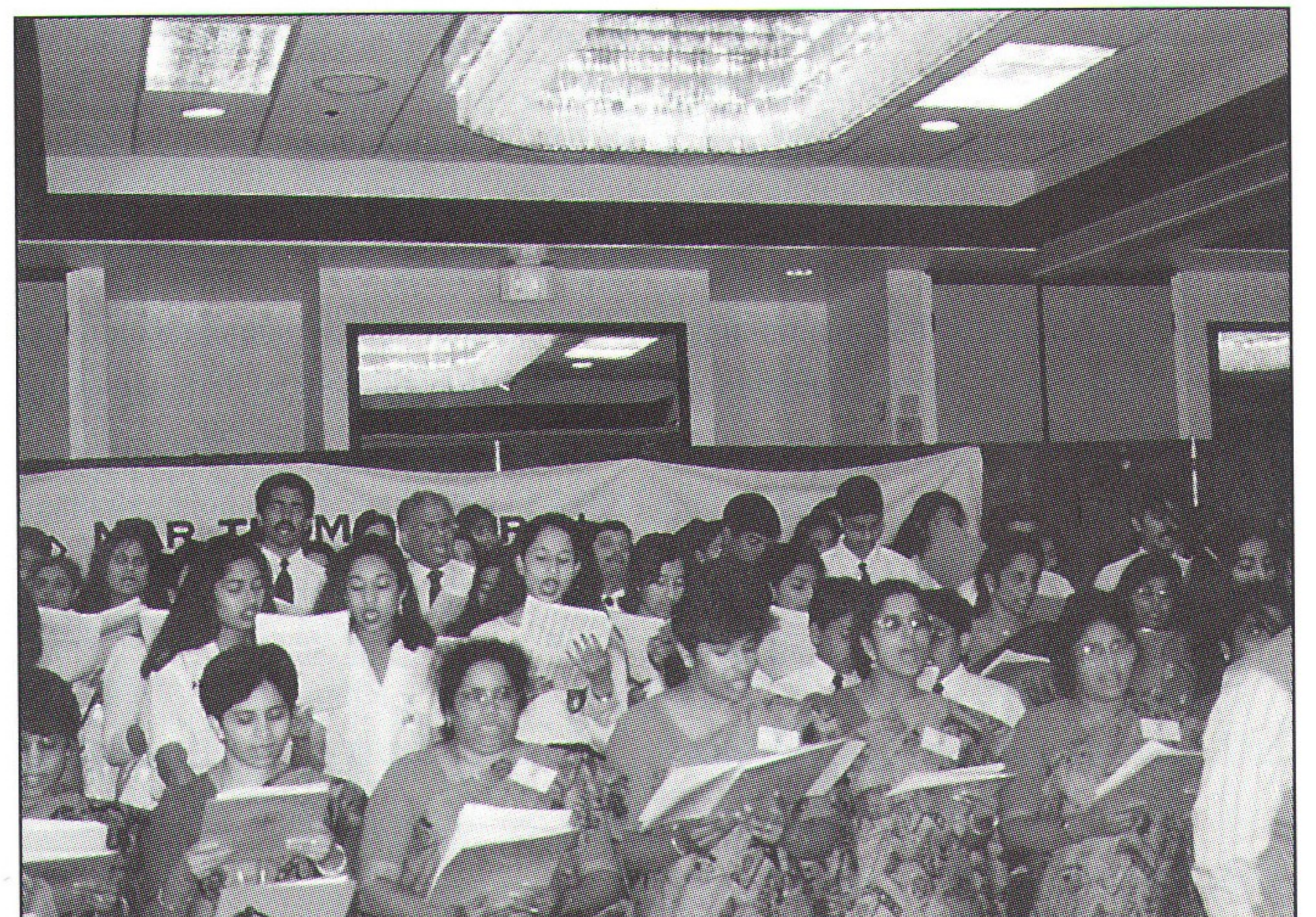
Texas/Oklahoma Center Sevika Sangham conducted various meetings and seminars at Dallas Mar Thoma Church, Trinity Mar Thoma Church, Houston, Immanuel Mar Thoma Church, Houston, Mar Thoma Church Lubbock and St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church, Dallas. The main leaders were Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus, Rev. Eapen Cherian, Rev. Ninan Jacob, Rev. T. J. Joseph, Rev. Raju George and Rev. Skariah Varghese respectively.

Mrs. Elizabeth John, Secretary

EASTERN REGION CHOIR FESTIVAL

The Eastern Region Choir Festival was held on June 8, 1996 at the Marriot Hotel, Long Island. All the choir from Eastern

Region participated in this festival. Rev. Dr. John C. Itty gave the message.



DIOCESAN ENDOWMENT FUND

Our Diocese is in the process of establishing an Endowment Fund. The purpose of this fund is to give scholarships for youths from our Diocese who pursue theological studies, and also support the mission projects and youth work. We have raised \$23,000 at the family conference in Chicago on July 7, 1996. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 by December 31, 1997 and the interest we earn from this fund will be used for the above purposes. We encourage members to donate a minimum of \$1,000 to this fund in memory of their loved ones. If you donate \$1,000, your name will be recorded at the Diocesan Center and also will be published in the Mar Thoma Messenger. It was also decided to display the names of the persons on a special plaque at the Diocesan Center, if you donate \$10,000 or more. Please donate to this worthy cause.

For more information please contact:

T. A. Mathew (Convenor)	713-455-7469
Kuruvilla Cherian	914-365-1336
Dr. P. John Lincoln	806-797-9354
O. C. Koshy	206-747-2946
P. T. Mathew	215-934-6518
M. K. Thomas	201-836-5653
Varughese P. Varughese	718-698-2370

Donors' List:

1. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus Episcopa	\$1,000
2. Mr. O. C. Koshy & Dr. Sara Koshy	\$1,000
3. Dr. P. John Lincoln & Dr. Annie Lincoln	\$1,000
4. Mr. P. T. Mathew & Mary Mathew	\$1,000
5. Mr. M. K. Thomas & Aleyamma Thomas	\$1,000
6. Mr. Kuruvilla Cherian & Elizabeth K. Cherian	\$1,000
7. Mr. T. A. Mathew & Valsa Mathew	\$1,000
8. Mr. Jacob Chacko & Aleykutty Jacob	\$1,000
9. Dr. Abraham A. Panackal & Dr. Anna A. Panackal	\$1,000
10. Mr. P. Mohan & Mary Mohan	\$1,000
11. Dr. George Zachariah & Susan Zachariah	\$1,000
12. Mr. Cherian Philip & Leelamma Philip	\$1,000
13. Mr. Abraham Thomas & Annamma Thomas	\$1,000
14. Mr. Thomas K. Jose & Annie Jose	\$1,000
15. Mr. Roy Thomas & Susan Thomas	\$1,000
16. Mrs. Kunjamma Koshy	\$2,000
17. Mr. George Kunchandy & Susamma George	\$1,000
18. Mr. N. M. Philip & Marykutty Philip	\$1,000
19. Dr. K. E. Mathew & Dr. Leya Mathew	\$1,000
20. Dr. T. M. Thomas & Annamma Thomas	\$1,000
21. Mr. Mathews P. Kurian & Letha Kurian	\$1,000
22. Dr. Korathu Thomas & Dr. Dolly Thomas	\$1,000
Total	\$23,000

T. A. Mathew (Houston)

HOUSE FOR THE HOUSELESS

The idea of "House for the Houseless" which made a big social impact in Kerala was a great contribution of our late Metropolitan, Juhannon Mar Thoma. The Mar Thoma Church continued to keep this alive over the years and has build over 3,500 houses. The Kerala Government has now adopted this idea and in cooperation with the Government of Kerala, The Mar Thoma Church has decided to construct 1,000 homes mainly for Daliths (socially and economically backward people).

The Diocese of North America and Europe is planning to sponsor 200 homes. The Church's share per house is \$600.00 (Rs. 19,000) per home. The Government will contribute the rest of the finance required about \$300.00 (Rs. 10,000) per house.

Please support this mission with your generous contribution. Families and Parish Organizations are encouraged to sponsor houses by donating at least \$200.00.

Messenger will continue to publish the contribution list. Please make your contribution through your parish or mail directly to the Diocesan Secretary, Mar Thoma Center, 744 Newtown Richboro Road, Richboro, PA 18954-1718.

HOUSE FOR THE HOUSELESS DONORS

(Continued from last Issue)

47. Montreal MTC, Canada	\$200
48. Rev. N. V. John & Mary John, St. Louis, MO	\$600

49. Mr. Prasad J. Kuruvilla, Cadillac, MI	\$250
50. Mr. Thomas M. Thomas, MTC Rochester, NY	\$800
51. Dr. George Kurien, MTC Baltimore	\$500
52. Mr. M. V. Cherian, St. Peter's MTC, NJ	\$200
53. Mr. John George, St. Peter's MTC, NJ	\$200
54. Mr. Chacko T. John, St. Peter's MTC, NJ	\$200
55. Mr. Jiji John, St. Peter's MTC, NJ	\$200
56. Mr. Joji John, St. Peter's MTC, NJ	\$200
57. Mr. Koshy Kuruvilla, St. Peter's MTC, NJ	\$200
58. Mr. Thomas, St. Peter's MTC, NJ	\$200
59. Mr. K. C. Mathew, St. Peter's MTC, NJ	\$200
60. Mr. Thomas Philip, St. Peter's MTC, NJ	\$200
61. Mr. K. K. Thomas, St. Peter's MTC, NJ	\$200
62. Mr. Abraham Varghese, St. Peter's MTC, NJ	\$200
63. Mr. Parampil Varghese, St. Peter's MTC, NJ	\$200
64. Mr. Samuel Yohannan, St. Peter's MTC, NJ	\$200
65. Sevika Sangham, St. Paul's MTC, Dallas	\$200
66. Mr. John Abraham, Carmel MTC, Boston	\$200
67. Sevika Sangham, Carmel MTC, Boston	\$200
68. Dr. A. V. Mathew, Rochester MTC, NY	\$200
69. Mr. T. Mani Mathew, Carmel MTC, Boston	\$1,000
70. Bethel MTC, Philadelphia	\$800
71. Dr. T. K. Idiculla, Trinity MTC, Edmonton	\$800
72. Mr. Thomas Zachariah, Trinity MTC, Edmonton	\$775
73. Trinity Mar Thoma Church, Edmonton	\$910
74. Dr. M. A. Alexander, Luton, U.K.	£400

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Diocese of North America and Europe, during its assembly meeting held on April 29, 1995, elected a planning commission to study, plan, and report on the vision and focus of the Diocese on a short and long term range. The commission consisted of the following members: Rev. Prakash George (Toronto), Dr. George Zachariah (Washington D.C.), Mr. Eapen Daniel (Philadelphia), Mr. Abraham Mathew (Dallas), and Mr. Jacob Chacko (Staten Island, convener).

Following are certain excerpts of the First Planning Commission Report presented to the Diocesan Assembly in April 1996.

OUR VISION

"They will know we are Christians by our love"

The Mar Thoma community continues to grow in the Western Hemisphere. The second generation of this community is being phased in for church administration. It is of paramount importance that we remain rooted in Christ and grow in His love. We need to anticipate the needs of tomorrow and formulate strategic and tactical plans to provide a strong foundation for our advancement. Our attempt should not be to transplant a Kerala Church to the Western Hemisphere, but to build a Western Hemisphere Mar Thoma Church by grafting Syrian Christian values onto the Western religious values thus preserving values of both cultures. We should remain alert to unethical and devious interpretations of the Bible and promptly educate our people, especially for the young generation to remain anchored on the Bible.

We should reassess and realign our current Church organizations to implement goals of the future; build operational effectiveness through the union of Parishes in geographical proximity; and challenge ourselves with practical and achievable goals for prompting frequent interaction and synergism.

Our Christian faith should produce its fruits and share with our respective communities at Parish / Regional / Diocesan level. The Mar Thoma Church should remain as a visible body in the Western community to fulfill our responsibility to God and fellow men while we maintain loyal to the Church.

The report proposed new/expanded activities to be considered at Parish, Regional, and Diocesan levels in the following areas:

1. Evangelistic Work;
2. Education;
3. Counseling Centers;
4. Retirement Center / Nursing Home / Geriatric Care;
5. Mar Thoma Cemetery;
6. Medical Assistance & Disaster Relief Agency;
7. Worship Orders;
8. Training youngsters for Priesthood;
9. Diocesan Management of Church Organizations;
10. Church Administration;
11. Improvement of the Mar Thoma Messenger;
12. Diocesan Center;
13. Current Issues of Interest;
14. Edavaka Mission;
15. Sevika Sanghom;
16. Youth League;
17. Sunday School;
18. Public Relations;
19. Special Service for members and assistance to the Bishop.

The Diocese Assembly took the following decisions in light of the proposals made by the planning commission.

1. To relocate the Diocesan Center from Philadelphia area to New York area.
2. To establish and/or build a Retirement community for our people in this Diocese and request the Diocesan Bishop to create a task force to study the feasibility and the need of the community.
3. To establish Counseling and Cultural Education Centers in the Diocese and to appoint a Committee consisting of 3-5 persons to study the feasibility and the needs of the community.
4. To appoint a Committee to prepare a uniform curriculum for the Sunday School and for the First Communicants.
5. To appoint a Committee to explore the feasibility of starting Retirement Centers, Nursing Homes/Old Age Homes in different areas of the Diocese.
6. To appoint a Committee to prepare Lectionary readings for special celebrations of the respective regions such as Thanksgiving Day, Mother's Day, etc. To also prepare a special order of worship taking into consideration the interest and involvement of the Youth and the children.
7. To retain a Legal Counsel for the Diocese to protect the interests.

SECOND PLANNING COMMISSION

The Diocesan Council in its meeting held on 4 May, 7 and 8 July 1996, elected following members to the second planning commission.

1. Rev. Prakash George, 50 Wales Ave, Markham, Ontario,, L3P 2C5 Tele. 905 - 472 4191
2. Dr. George Jacob, 41 Moose lane, Bergenfield, NJ 076201 Tele 201 - 387 2756
3. Dr. Samuel Chacko, 217 Rushley Way, Media, PA 19064 Tele 215 - 459 3715
4. Dr. George Zachariah, 4601 Sunflower Drive, Rockville, MD 20853 Tele 301 - 929 1194
5. Mr. Daniel Varghese, 1784 Colgate Plate, Plainfield, NJ 07083, Tele 908 - 688 2830
6. Mr. Thomas Koshy, 218 Lower County Dr., Gaithersburg, MD 20877 Tele 301 - 977 9192
7. Mr. Jacob Chacko, 66 Birchard Ave, Staten Island, New York 10314 Tele 718 - 698 6310

The commission is mandated to make a ten year plan with special emphasis to the following areas:

1. Church growth,
2. Youth ministry,
3. Ecumenical growth and
4. Economic stability

We need to make plans for our future and make it happen. We need your ideas on these areas, including its funding, method for its sustenance and success. You are requested to contact any one of the above members to share your thoughts.

Jacob Chacko (Convener)

Congratulations...

The Diocesan Sunday School Committee is pleased to announce the following winners of the 1996 Diocesan Sunday School examination in the Junior and Junior High divisions. First, Second and Third place winners were awarded trophies and Certificates at the closing meeting of the 1996 Family Conference. The following is a list of the winners.

Junior

First Place

Preetha Kurien Immanuel, Houston

Second Place

Joseph Varghese St. John's, New York

Third Place

Aju Raju MTC Staten Island, New York

Distinctions

1. Cynthia Varghese Canadian MTC, Toronto
2. Shanu George St. John's, New York
3. Jinsey Mamman Los Angeles MTC, CA
4. Sena Samuel Toronto MTC, Canada
5. Sherry George St. John's, NY
6. Anita Thomas Long Island MTC, NY
7. Jason George St. Peters, N.J.
8. Teena Samuel Immanuel MTC, Houston
9. Bincy Alexander Chicago MTC
10. Prabha Mathew Immanuel MTC, Houston
11. Sharon C. New Jersey MTC
12. Shawn Ninan Trinity MTC, Houston
13. Tina Philip Immanuel MTC, Houston
14. Jay Chacko Trinity MTC, Houston
15. Naveen Varghese Immanuel MTC, Houston
16. Leslie Philip MTC Staten Island, New York
17. Shyama Mathews Long Island MTC, New York
18. Vinila Zachariah Immanuel MTC, Houston
19. Betsy Varghese Immanuel MTC, Houston
20. Tintu Chirammel Florida MTC
21. Jerry Thomas Trinity MTC, Houston

Junior High

First Place

Melvi Mathew Chicago MTC

Second Place

Cibil Abraham Trinity MTC, Houston

Shane Ninan Trinity MTC, Houston

Third Place

Bibin Varghese St. Thomas MTC, Yonkers, NY

Distinctions

1. Justin Sadhu Bethel MTC, Chicago
2. Arun Varghese Dallas MTC, Texas
3. Joe Varghese Epiphany MTC, New York
4. Christine Varghese Canadian MTC, Toronto
5. Annie Mathews Trinity MTC, Houston
6. Seena Koshy Canadian MTC, Toronto
7. Serena Jacob St. Peters, N.J.
8. Jonathan Vadakethu Canadian MTC, Toronto
9. Lisa Philip Trinity MTC, Houston
10. Jasmin Samuel Trinity MTC, Houston
11. Suja Chacko Trinity MTC, Houston
12. Aby George Trinity MTC, Houston
13. Liju George Detroit MTC, MI
14. Stanley Philipose Epiphany MTC, New York
15. Vivin Varghese MTC Staten Island, New York
16. Anita Abraham Canadian MTC, Toronto
17. Linsy Thomas St. Thomas MTC, Yonkers, NY
18. Sue Ann Zachariah MTC Staten Island, New York
19. Nita M. Joseph Los Angeles MTC, CA
20. Amanda Philip Canadian MTC, Toronto
21. Celia Thomas MTC Staten Island, New York
22. Tessey Jose MTC Staten Island, New York
23. Philip Varghese St. John's New York
24. Chris John Long Island MTC, New York
25. Christopher Varghese MTC Staten Island, NY

Thomas K. Jose, Secretary, Diocesan Sunday School

*"God's good news is too good
to keep to yourself."*

"No one is hopeless whose hope is in God"

PARISH NEWS

ST. PAUL'S MAR THOMA CHURCH, DALLAS

The Parish celebrated its 8th anniversary on Sunday, June 23, 1996. Our Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus Episcopa was the chief guest. Thirumeni

Celebrated Holy Communion Service. Thirumeni met with the youths and discussed the problems they face and dedicated the new parsonage. **Koshy Thomas, Secretary**

MARTHOMITES IN CLEVELAND, OHIO

The first meeting of the Marthomites in Cleveland, Ohio was held on Sunday, December 3, 1995 at the residence of Mr. Thomas C. Thomas. About 60 people including 20 people from Detroit Mar Thoma Church attended this meeting. Rev. James Thomas celebrated the Holy Qurbana. The formation of this group has been a step in the direction of fulfilling our Thirumeni's vision of reaching the unreached Marthomites in this country. Our Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus visited Cleveland on March 22-25, and celebrated Holy Qurbana on March 24, 1996. The Marthomites and the Orthodox families of Cleveland arranged a reception for Thirumeni on March 23, 1996. Rev. Philip Varghese and Rev. James Thomas from Detroit and Rev. Oommen Thomas of the Presbyterian Church also attended this meeting. Thirumeni urged the group to grow further as a worshipping and wit-

nessing community. At the meeting Mr. C. T. Thomas was elected as co-ordinator, Mr. John Mathew as treasurer, and Mr. Scariah C. Thomas as lay leader.

**Rev. James Thomas
Vicar, Detroit Mar Thoma Church**



MAR THOMA CHURCH, DETROIT

Our Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus Episcopa visited our parish on April 21, 1996. Thirumeni met with the members of newly formed Detroit Mar Thoma Yuvajanasakhyam (Malayalam). We have 35 active members and the following members were elected as office bearers, Rajan Mathew, Vice President; Sibiu Philip, Secretary; Sheena Joseph, Lady Secretary and Soman Philip, Treasurer. The Yuvajanasakhyam donated \$325 towards the Marriage Aid Fund.

**Sibu Philip, Secretary
Yuvajanasakhyam**

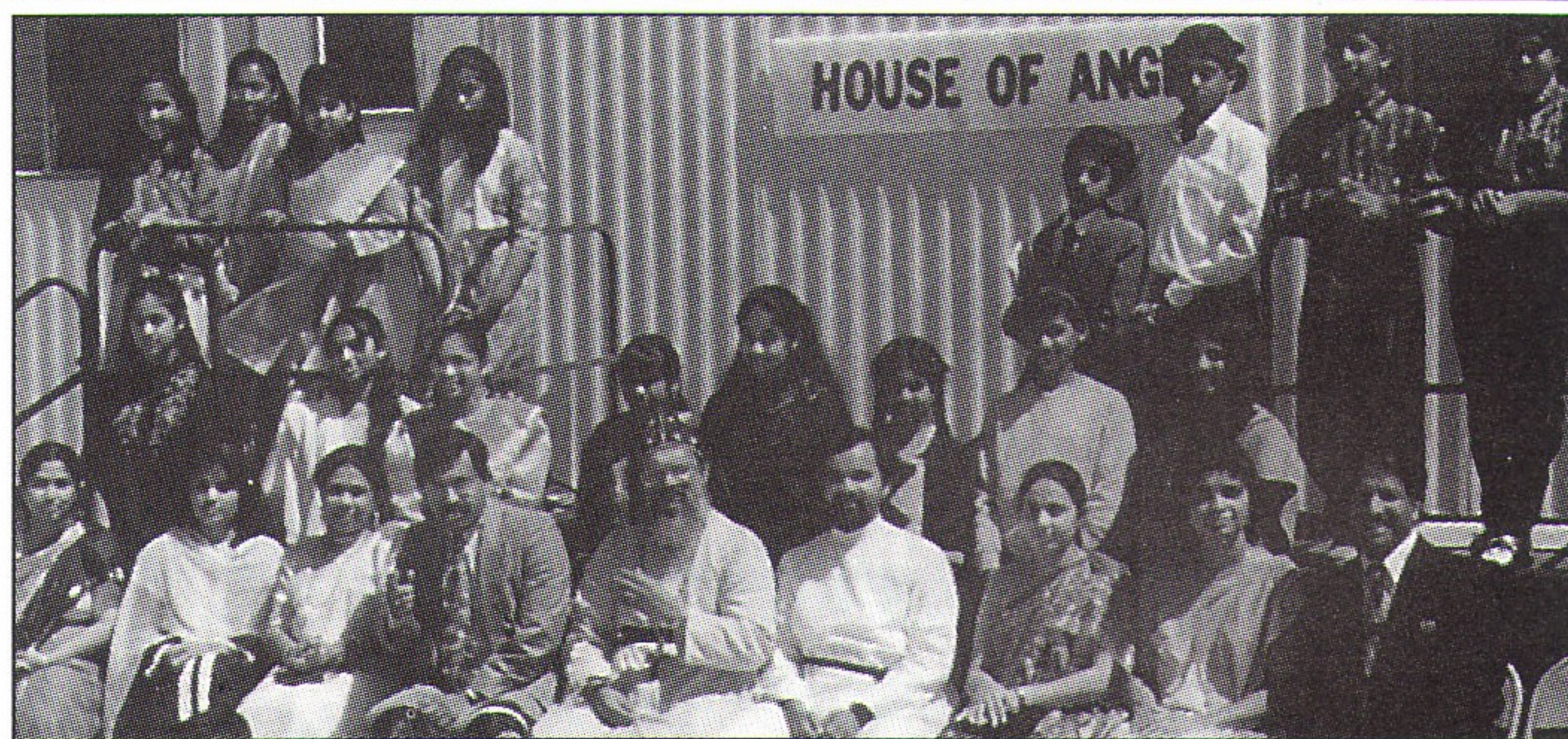


Detroit Mar Thoma Yuvajanasakhyam members with Bishop Zacharias Mar Theophilus, Rev. James Thomas and Rev. Philip Varghese.

MAR THOMA CHURCH, LOS ANGELES

Rev. K. V. Simon and family arrived on May 30, 1996 and Achen took charge as the Vicar. Rev. C. John returned to India on April 29, 1996. Our Diocesan Bishop visited our Parish on January 21, 1996 after four years. Thirumeni celebrated Holy Communion Service on Sunday. A special service was held for the first communicants and many children participated in the Holy Communion for the first time. Thirumeni spent time with Youth League and Sunday School. The Sunday School Trailer was officially inaugurated and named "House of Angels" by Thirumeni.

Abraham O. Mathew, Assembly Member



Sunday School Staff and children in front of "House of Angels" with Theodosius Thirumeni, when he visited the church.

V. S. REALTY

Residential and Commercial
400 Marcus Avenue, New Hyde Park
New York 11040

Tel: (516) 741-1850



Member of:
Long Island Board of Realtors
National Association of
Realtors

Kalathil Varughese — *Owner*

Lic. Real Estate Broker

*Lic. Mortgage Broker — NYS Banking Department
Notary*

Full Professional Real Estate Services Contact Us First Before:

Selling your home • Selling your coop & condos
Selling your business • Buying a home • Buying a business
Mortgage arranged through Banks and Other Sources for
Residential, Commercial and Business Loan
25,000 million dollars
please call for the rate

QUALITY & EXPERIENCE MAKES EXCELLENT SERVICES

Handling all parts of Queens, Floral Park, Bellerose, Queens Village, Long Island, New Hyde Park,
Williston Park, Searingtown, Albertson, Old Westbury, Manhasset, Hicksville and Syosset

Tel: 516-741-1850 (Office) • Fax: 516-627-8802
Tel: 516-365-4893 (Residence) • Beeper: 516-335-8654

ST. PETER'S MAR THOMA CHURCH, NEW JERSEY

The youth fellowship members participated in the walkathon "Walk for the Cure" held at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck on June 2, 1996 for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. We have received 53 applications from Kerala for education assistance and we have collected and distributed \$3,000.00. The church organizations participated in various project:

Edavaka Mission:

Five Houses	\$2,500.00
Sponsored one evangelist	\$800.00
Rajastan Mission Project	\$500.00
Six Student Aid	\$600.00
Marriage Aid	\$650.00

Sevika Sangahom:

Two Houses	\$1,000.00
Sponsored one evangelist	\$500.00
Balikamandiram Endowment Fund	\$500.00
Girideepthi	\$500.00

Yuvajana Sakhyam:

Marriage Aid Fund (20 people)	\$5,945.00
(\$2,945.00 from church)	
One House	\$500.00

Youth Fellowship:

Devanali Mission	\$550.00
------------------------	----------

Mathew Malayil, Secretary.

ST. LUKE MAR THOMA CHURCH, SOUTH FLORIDA

Our Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus Episcopa visited our parish from May 24-26, 1996. Thirumeni met the youths and conducted class for the first Communicants. On may 26, 1996, Thirumeni celebrated Holy Communion Service and a special service was held for the first communicants and 22 children participated in the Holy Communion for the first time.

George Kunchandy, Secretary



St. Luke Mar Thoma Church, Florida — First Communicants

REGIONAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION AT LONG ISLAND MAR THOMA CHURCH



The Regional Diocesan Convention (New York – New Jersey Area) was held in Long Island Mar Thoma Church from Friday – Sunday, April 26 thru 28, 1996. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus Episcopa and Rev. Dr. Martin P. Alphonse, Director of Evangelism, O. C. International, Colorado, were the main speakers.

CANADIAN JUNIOR YOUTH CONFERENCE HOSTED BY MTC OTTAWA MAY 18 – 20, 1996



*"A person is not lost, but is
in the process of being found."*

Martin Alphonse

From the Editor

Only a few people with dreams, vision and commitment become true leaders because of the humble beginning and a rather lengthy progression to reach acceptable level of leadership. Leadership involves the whole person. Effective leaders are highly developed in the spiritual, emotional and relational aspects of their character. The only leader worth following is the leader who is following Christ. A good leader is a good servant. Leaders possess some uniqueness; but they also have certain common characteristics.

At least for this writing, based on the underlying motivation of leaders they can be classified into two broad categories: the Christian principled leaders and the Business principled leaders.

The Christian principled leaders are the people who are inspired only by the ecstasy of selfless service and not by the grandeur of leadership. Their acceptance as leaders is a by-product of their service, their service is their leadership. For them, leadership and service are inseparable. They are not swayed by rewards, but are satisfied by being part of the joy and sorrow of their service recipient. Mother Theresa is better known for her selfless service, but she is also one of the greatest leaders the world has ever known. The Christian principled leaders are few in numbers, but they are the people with humble deeds who leave a permanent imprint of their steps and always find the next step to climb.

The business principled leaders also possess the characteristics of Christian principled leaders to a certain degree, but are predominantly motivated by rewards, power, prestige and other temporal gains. These leaders are more tolerant to the needs of the "lead" than the traditional managers, but they indeed are manipulating people and not really serving. Because of the substantial benefit, business organizations invest greatly on people with high potential to be leaders and reward them based on their performance. This material rewarding of high performers generates an increased level of professional greed in these types of leaders, ultimately producing more business principled leaders.

The Christian principled leadership is based on selfless service and heavenly rewards. Business principled leadership is based on temporal rewards. We need leaders in our churches and public offices to be Christian principled. But unfortunately we see a slow creeping in of business principled leaders even in our churches. If we do a self evaluation we will be able to find the cause for disenchantment in and to our churches. There is a lack of true Christian leaders with vision and understanding. Our true Leader, Jesus Christ, acquired His leadership qualities from one source — His Father. Our Leader drew His energy and charisma through prayer. Are we losing this vital source in our families and churches?

The Diocesan Council has reconstituted the Editorial Board of the Messenger during its last meeting. We express our thanks to Rev. Mathew John for his outstanding service during the past year. Mrs. Mini Thomas (Mini Kochamma) is joining the board. We are delighted to welcome Kochamma to the Editorial Board.

Abraham Thomas

Jewish quotation: "A leader must not think God chose him because he is great: Does a peg in the wall, on which the King hangs his crown, boast that its beauty attracted the Kings attention?"

With Best Compliments
from
Bank Of Baroda
(New York)



Please call for further information:

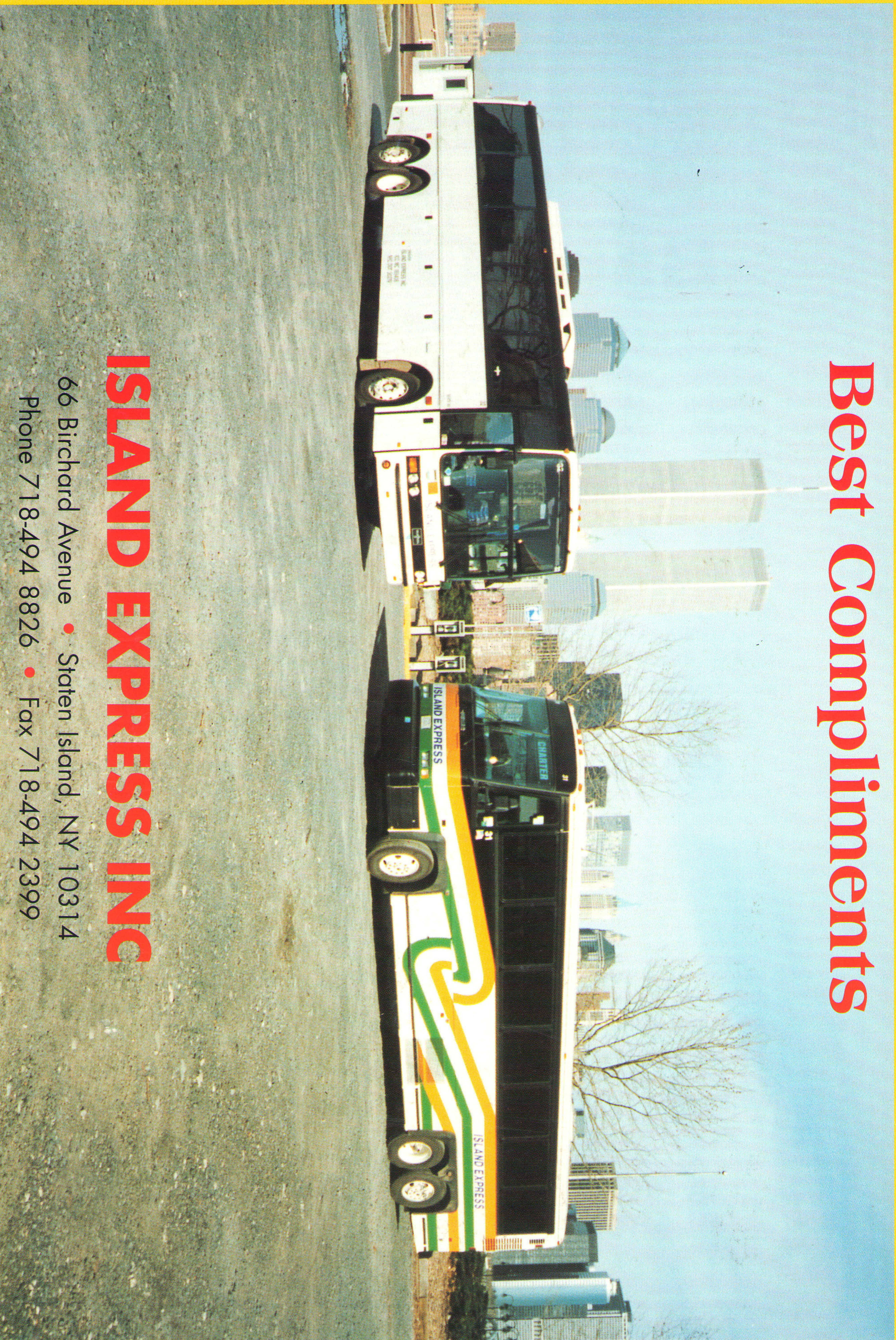
Bank Of Baroda

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Member FDIC

One Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016
Phone: (212) 578-4550 • Fax: (212) 578-4565

**A PREMIER NATIONALIZED BANK WITH
LARGEST INTERNATIONAL NETWORK**

Best Compliments



ISLAND EXPRESS INC

66 Birchard Avenue • Staten Island, NY 10314

Phone 718-494 8826 • Fax 718-494 2399

Mar Thoma Messenger
744 Newtown Richboro Road
Richboro, PA 18954-1718

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
SOUTHAMPTON, PA
PERMIT NO. 204