

# ܡܠܚܝܬܐ ܕܡܪܝܢܐ

Vol 59 March - April 2013 Nos 3 & 4



Mar Aprem Metropolitan pictured in an open vehicle during the Palm Sunday (Oshana) procession on 24 March 2013. The procession commenced at Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church and proceeded to Mart Mariam Cathedral. Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose is pictured to the right.

## VOICE OF THE EAST





Bishop Mar Paulus Benjamin at the consecration of the Holy Qurbana for elderly faithful in Chicago on 26 March 2013. Archdeacon William Toma and Deacon Dadway Daniel are pictured assisting the Bishop.



Bishop Mar Paulus Benjamin pictured at St Andrew's Church in Chicago with Mr. Johnson Siyawesh, Minister of Transportation and Communication in the Kurdistan Regional Government. Chicago clergy are also pictured.

**VOICE OF THE EAST**

(A socio-Religious bi-monthly)

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March - April 2013

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# Voice of the East

**Vol. 59**

**March - April 2013**

**Nos. 3 & 4**

## **Editorial**

### ***The world can't change us; but we can change the world***

We need a determination to change the world. Many in our world are victims of injustice. Many of us feel that we are helpless. Are we too small to effect any change in the large society in which we live? Some of us feel that only the rich and powerful can influence the world. There are people who try to rule over us by muscle-power and money-power. It is true! We should never forget Jesus Christ did not change the world by muscle-power or money-power.

Mahatma Gandhi in India led us in the freedom movement. We won. Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr. and many others changed the world and made history with positive, non-violent, grassroots approaches. Hitler did not win in Germany. Many dictators have fallen. We should lead a life pleasing to God. Money or mundane factors should not be at the forefront of our desires and attention.

In attempting to effect change, we should not wait idly for someone to change the world for us. The change should begin with us without delay. There are people satisfied with slow progress. But we have no time to wait. Evil forces surround us. They lead us to temptations. That is the reason why our Lord Jesus Christ taught us to pray, "Lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil."

The Evil One is ever present in our homes, churches and schools. All good things we do are not sufficient to prevent the forces of evil. We have not thought seriously about the damage which evil is doing to us and in our society. At the same time, we ourselves can take practical, albeit small, steps to improve our lives. We can for example, decide never again to use alcohol or cigarettes. We can work diligently to rid our communities of drugs which spoil our health and reduce us to a useless existence. We can campaign for an end to poverty and conflict between the nations.

Let us not wait for the world to change us. We should be our own masters. We should change the world. By the grace of God we can change the world so that our children can live in a better environment.

We have a moral force within us to confront the Evil One. We can work diligently and actively to redeem our people, improve our societies and save our world. May Almighty God's grace, mercy and blessings be with us all.

Mar Aprem



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### **Patriarchal Epistle The Holy Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ – 2013**

Our Beloved Brothers The Prelates, our Spiritual Sons the Pure Priests, The Honorable Deacons, all the Sons and Daughters of The Holy Church, the Assyrian Nation and all Christians of the world:

#### **Prayers and Blessings receive:**

We celebrate with great joy this Great Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ from among the dead! This is a great Feast and the pride of all feasts. By the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from among the dead the Joy of Salvation was delivered to the Holy Church. Let us welcome this Solemn Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ with peace and honor. By His Resurrection the power of the darkness of the ancient nights were released. Today we welcome with peace the light which enlightened mankind with enjoyment and comforted the grievers with the joy of hope.

Christ the king has given us peace: He says: *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.”* (John 14:27) The Lord teaches us to maintain His true peace among ourselves. Offer true peace one to another so that our hearts and souls are abundantly filled with divine love and become humble and merciful towards each other.

Today the sons and daughters of the Holy Church by are celebrating the glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from among the dead and proclaiming the gospel of Salvation to all the Christian believers of the world. Our Lord Jesus Christ by His Holy Resurrection adorned the sons and daughters of His Holy Church with divine gifts and by the spiritual birth from the Sacrament of the Holy Baptism which is the spiritual mother of all the Christian believers, He, the Lord gave them once more the New and true life. In the Sacrament of the Holy Baptism we participate in the death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the purpose for our rejoicing on this Great Day! Celebrating this Great Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord from among the dead and Proclaiming to all of the Sons and Daughters of the Holy Church, Assyrian Nation, and to all our Christian Brothers and Sisters:

#### **The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ be to you all most blessed**

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ has risen from among the dead with a Spiritual body. He sits at the Right Hand of our heavenly Father, in Great Power. He is alive forevermore; death has no

power over Him! Let us gaze upon Him, who is the Head of our holy faith. As faithful believers let us build the edifice of our faith upon Him who is The Solid Rock, so that it will neither be shaken by waves, storms, nor deceptive thoughts of the deceiver. The evil-one will use all kinds of tricks and deception to destroy the edifice of our Holy Faith.

The Apostle Paul proclaims: *“But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. .... For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.”* (1 Corinthians 15:12-18)

It is written in the Holy Gospel: *“On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’”* (Luke 24:1-8)

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ died in His humanity and on the third day rose from among the dead. His human body has changed into the Spiritual body. By His Resurrection, our Lord released the power of the death of sin, filled our hearts with joy and granted new life and renewal to all creations. Thus the Resurrection of our Lord brought Salvation to all the nations of the world who believe in the death and Resurrection of the Lord.

Let us be wise to do good deeds! We must be obedient and truly faithful to the Holy Church, and the Truths that have been entrusted to her! We must not stray from The Holy Church of our Lord Jesus Christ! We are bound to adorn ourselves with the pious acts of fasting and prayer and carry in our hands the spiritual sword which is the divine words of God. *“Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.”* (Ephesians 4:14-15)

The Faith, true Christian love, respect and obedience of the sons and daughters of the Holy Church is required for the growth, adorning and beautifying of the Holy Church. As long as we are united with Christ, we will yield delightful fruits and will continue to live in this world in joy and happiness. Therefore as brothers and sisters in Christ we ought to be faithful towards one another.

It is of the utmost necessity that the faithful believers of the Holy Church to attend the house of God the Holy Church in order to hear the divine words of God written in the Sacred Scriptures



proclaimed by the clergy. We are not only to “be hearers of the word” of God; but, also to transform the words of God into action, as the seed which is buried in the cultivated field; and, watered will grow and produce great harvests of fruit. After the same manner the divine word of God must be buried within the prepared soil of the human heart; it will sprout forth, producing good and beneficial fruit. Sons and daughters of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East, we request of you to be in peace and love with all Christians. They are your brothers and sisters; they are all born of one spiritual mother in the Sacrament of the Holy Baptism.

O, spiritual Sons and Daughters of our Holy Church, we ask of you all, as faithful believers, in the nation where you reside, be faithful citizens to the authorities and diligently abide by the constitution and bylaws of the country of your residency. When you do so, you’ll be honored, respected and held in esteem by those who govern. We direct all the faithful believers of the Holy Church to honor and respect their neighbors regardless of their ethnic and religious background so that they will likewise respect you. It is written: *“love your neighbors as yourselves.”* (Luke 10:28)

O, spiritual Sons and Daughters of our Holy Church, Where ever you may reside, do not forget that you are members of The Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East. We instruct all the faithful believers of the Holy Church to be devoted, obedient and truthful members of the Church. With the humble spirit and good will and purity of heart be actively involved in the Church ministry. Thus you will be able to attentively keep the holy faith, her worship liturgy, Holy Sacraments, Liturgical Language and the Apostolic Traditions which you have received; together with, the Synodical Decrees of The Church.

In conclusion, once again we declare to you all: May the Feast of the Holy Resurrection be richly blessed unto you all! We beseech our worshipful Lord and God to keep you all in good health, peace and tranquility and long and joyful life. We hope and pray that you, O beloved Sons and Daughters of the Holy Church will celebrate this holy feast of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in all peace and joy. Where ever you dwell, together with the all of our Christian brothers and sisters throughout the whole world may peace and tranquility be yours. We pray that peace and tranquility will abundantly be bestowed upon the whole world in general and in the Middle Eastern countries in particular.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, forever and ever: Amen

+ *K. Mardinkha*  
†Khanania MARDINKHA IV  
By Grace: Catholicos-Patriarch  
of the Holy Apostolic Catholic  
Assyrian Church of the East.

The seal is circular with a purple border. Inside the border, the text "ܡܕܢܚܐ ܕܡܕܢܚܐ ܕܡܕܢܚܐ ܕܡܕܢܚܐ" is written in Syriac script at the top, and "ܡܕܢܚܐ ܕܡܕܢܚܐ ܕܡܕܢܚܐ ܕܡܕܢܚܐ" is written at the bottom. In the center, there is a cross with a book and a chalice, and a banner below it with the text "ܡܕܢܚܐ ܕܡܕܢܚܐ ܕܡܕܢܚܐ ܕܡܕܢܚܐ".

Given at our Patriarchal Cell in Morton Grove,  
Illinois (USA); this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2012

Given at our Patriarchal Cell, Morton Grove, Illinois (USA); on the Feast of the Resurrection 2013

*International News*

## **ACERO Reaches Assyrians Affected By Syrian Humanitarian Disaster**

His Grace Mar Afram Athneil, Bishop of Syria and Chairman of the Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organisation (ACERO) has expressed his appreciation to faithful of the Assyrian Church of the East internationally who have extended their financial support in aid of the organisation's provision of humanitarian assistance during the current conflict in Syria.

In a letter dated 31 January 2013, His Grace has noted that 'the security and living situation are very crucial and difficult and worsening day by day. There is difficulty finding most of the essential materials such as bread, gas, and medicine and the prices have gone up almost five times'.

At the same time, His Grace has described in detail the deteriorating security situation noting that, 'People are afraid to leave their homes, especially after sunset. Most of the pharmaceutical companies and hospitals [have] closed and a large number of doctors have fled the country from fear of abduction'.

ACERO is providing direct assistance to those affected by the crisis. This includes food assistance, financial support for families, financial and medical support for cancer patients, funding medical operations in conjunction with the United Nations as well as funeral assistance.

This financial and material aid has also extended to those who have fled Syria and are currently in Lebanon and Iraq where food aid and housing aid respectively have been provided. In the preceding weeks for example 350 aid packages (including blankets and food) have been distributed to Assyrians from Syria who have fled to Lebanon.

Referring to the situation as 'truly a humanitarian disaster', the Bishop of Syria has issued an urgent call to faithful of the Assyrian Church of the East and all compassionate individuals worldwide to support ACERO's campaign to provide urgently needed aid to Assyrians affected by the crisis in Syria.

Donations can be made simply and securely through ACERO's website using PayPal at the following link:

<http://www.theacero.org/donate.php>

Receipts will be issued by ACERO via e-mail.

Alternatively donations can be made through all Assyrian Church of the East parishes worldwide with a note that the funds should go to the ACERO Syrian relief campaign.





**Prof. Ninan Koshy hands over the new book 'Rugby to Rome' to Dr. Sebastian Paul Ex. M.P. at the function of 15th Death Anniversary of Bishop Dr. Paulose Mar Paulose. The author Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Mar Awgin Episcopa and Adv. Paul C. Joseph are seen in the picture.**



**Release of Malayalam Translation of jokes. Prof. V G Thampy releases the book by giving it to Baby Mookan. The author Mar Aprem is in the middle. Translator Mr. Abraham Konor, George Emmatty are seen.**





**Mar Aprem Metropolitan lights candles at the Easter procession from Mar Yohannan Mamdana Church to Mart Mariam Cathedral**



**Mar Aprem is leading the Oshana procession entering the Mart Mariam Cathedral**





His Beatitude Mar Gewargis Sliwa, Metropolitan of Iraq and Russia has welcomed His Beatitude Mar Louis Raphael I Sako (Third from the left) newly-consecrated Patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic Church to the Baghdad Archbishopric on Sunday 17 March 2013.



Bishop Mar Odisho Oraham of Sweden pictured with ecumenical guests at the Vatican in connection with the consecration of the new Pope







## **Iraqi Kurdistan Minister Johnson Siyawesh Calls On H.G. Mar Paulus Benjamin in Chicago**

On Thursday, March 14, 2013, His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, the bishop of Chicago and the Diocese of the Eastern USA, accompanied by the priests of diocese in the state of Illinois, received Mr. Johnson Siyawesh, the Minister of Transportation and Communication in the Kurdistan Regional Government, at St. Andrew's Church in Glenview.

In this meeting, Minister Siyawesh explained the purpose of his visit to the United States and portrayed the situation of our people in Iraq, especially in the Baghdad and Nineveh regions. His Grace praised the exertion of Minister Siyawesh and all our political leaders in serving the cause of our people and promised to keep them always in his prayers. His Grace also stated that as a bishop and a church leader he will always support with words and action all the constructive attempts aimed to restore the rights of our people in our homeland to live in freedom and dignity.

After the meeting, His Grace Mar Paulus welcomed the Minister to partake in a lunch prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary of St. Andrew's Church.

At the end of this meeting His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin wished Minister Siyawesh success in his mission of serving our people and their honorable cause, and the visiting Minister in turn thanked His Grace for the cordial meeting and hospitality.

## **H.G. Mar Paulus Benjamin Consecrates Eucharistic Liturgy for Elderly Faithful in Chicago**

His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Bishop of Chicago and Eastern USA consecrated the Eucharistic Liturgy on Tuesday March 26, 2013 at Peterson Park Health Care Center in Chicago where many Assyrian faithful are currently residing. His Grace was assisted by the Rev'd Archdeacon William Toma and Deacon Dadway Daniel.

The Holy Qurbana was consecrated on the occasion of Christ's triumphal work of salvation accomplished in the last days of His life on earth beginning with His messianic entrance into Jerusalem and concluding with His crucifixion, death and resurrection.

The Diocese of Eastern USA expresses its gratitude to Jorjette Esho and her team for their assistance in organizing the celebration.

## **Volume II of 'Church of the East in India: A Brief History' Published**

In the Nov - Dec 2012 issue of *Voice of the East* we published the front page of the newly published book, *Church of the East in India: A Brief History (Part I)*. Part II is now available

and covers the history of the Church of the East in India from 1907 to 1966. The first volume covers the period of Mar Timotheus and the second volume covers the history of Mar Thoma Darmo (1952-68).

A number of readers have enquired as to whether this book is available through India. The book is written in modern Assyrian and is published by the Archdiocese of Australia and New Zealand from Sydney. Copies can be ordered from [betkokheh@assyrianchurch.org.au](mailto:betkokheh@assyrianchurch.org.au)

Page 114 has a good photograph of Mar Thoma Darmo Metropolitan. In the foreword (p. XV) there is a reference to the biography of Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan written by Mar Aprem in 1975 and translated into the Assyrian language by Shamasha Gewargis Benjamin in Chicago in 1976.

The author of this book is the late Emmanuel Shimun who had been with His Holiness the late Mar Eshai Shimun, Catholicos-Patriarch. The editor of this book is Benyamin M. Benyamin of Sydney, nephew of the late Shamasha Gewargis Benjamin.

### *Ecumenical News*

## **Chaldean Patriarch Mar Louis Raphael I Sako Calls On Metropolitan Mar Gewargis Sliwa in Baghdad**

His Beatitude Mar Gewargis Sliwa, Metropolitan of Iraq and Russia, has welcomed His Beatitude Mar Louis Raphael I Sako, newly-consecrated Patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic Church to the Baghdad Archbishopric on Sunday 17 March 2013.

His Beatitude Patriarch Sako was accompanied by Bishop Jacques Ishaq and Bishop Shlemon Warduni along with the media communications representative of the Chaldean Patriarch, Father Albert Hisham.

During the fraternal meeting, the Patriarch and Metropolitan discussed the warm relations between the Chaldean Catholic Church and the Assyrian Church of the East as well as the condition of Christians in Iraq more broadly.

At the conclusion of the meeting His Beatitude Mar Gewargis Sliwa presented His Beatitude Patriarch Sako with a new pectoral cross as a symbol of fraternal affection between brothers.

## **His Grace Bishop Mar Odisho Oraham Attends Consecration of His Holiness Pope Francis**

His Grace Mar Odisho Oraham, Bishop of the Assyrian Church of the East, Diocese of Europe arrived at Rome International Airport on Monday 18 March 2013 in preparation to attend the Papal inauguration of His Holiness Pope Francis at St Peter's Square in the Vatican representing His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch.

The Bishop of Europe was welcomed at the airport by Reverend Tyari Aweshalem, priest of the Assyrian Church of the East currently studying theology in Rome, along with a number of representatives of the Catholic Church.

On the morning of Tuesday 19 March, official delegations arrived at St Peter's Basilica at 9.30am before the commencement of the consecration of the new Pontiff.

On Wednesday 20 March, all official delegations were welcomed at an audience with the new Pope and offered felicitations to him personally. After greeting the delegations His Holiness Pope Francis delivered an address stressing the need for unity between the churches and committing to follow in the footsteps of his predecessors in working for greater dialogue and understanding between the churches.

## **Bishop of Europe Meets with Archbishop of Canterbury's Ecumenical Secretary in London**

His Grace Mar Odisho Oraham, the Assyrian Church of the East's Bishop of Europe, has called upon The Revd Canon Jonathan Goodall, Ecumenical Secretary of the Archbishop of Canterbury at London's Lambeth Palace upon the invitation of the Ecumenical Secretary.

During the two-hour long meeting on Saturday 16 March, His Grace and The Revd Canon Goodall discussed relations between the Assyrian Church of the East and the Church of England as well as pathways to enhanced dialogue.

His Grace Mar Odisho was accompanied by Dr Anderson Shlemon, Chairman of the Church Council of St Mary's Church in Ealing and Mr Andy Darmoo.

During the meeting His Grace provided an overview of the composition of the Diocese of Europe and its parishes and the Assyrian Church of the East more broadly.

His Grace expressed his hope that the Church of England would consider making a provision for placement of theological students of the Assyrian Church of the East to study in Anglican institutions in the future. At the same time, His Grace requested assistance with the use of an Anglican Church facility for the faithful of the Assyrian Church of the East due to the small size of the current St Mary's Church in Ealing, London. Revd Canon Goodall noted that he would discuss the latter request with the Anglican Archdeacon of Ealing.

Revd Canon Goodall enquired about the status of the theological dialogue between the Assyrian Church of the East and the Roman Catholic Church. His Grace noted that this formal dialogue commenced in 1994 with the signing of a *Common Christological Declaration* between the heads of both churches. His Grace went on to inform that in the last two months a meeting was held in Rome between representatives of both churches with a view to resuming the longstanding theological dialogue.



In response to The Revd Canon Goodall's enquiry as to the interest of the Assyrian Church of the East in a formal dialogue with the Anglican Communion, His Grace commented that the spirit of the church is ecumenical and that with the blessings of His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch, that the church is willing to participate in such dialogues with all willing churches.

His Grace also discussed previous attempts at dialogue with the Syrian Orthodox Church and the Coptic Orthodox Church in particular and noted that there is no difficulty envisioned in the formation of such dialogues where both parties are committed to preventing division in the Church of Christ.

His Grace Mar Odisho Oraham will be present at the enthronement of Justin Welby as Bishop of the See of Canterbury and Primate of All England, the spiritual leader of the worldwide Anglican Communion on Thursday 21 March 2013 at Canterbury.

## **Egyptian Bishop Elected Coptic Catholic Patriarch**

Bishop Ibrahim Isaac Sidrak, aged 57, has been elected as Coptic Catholic Patriarch of Alexandria by the Synod of the Coptic Catholic Church on 15 January 2013. The Pope has given approval to the election held at the Vatican. The new Patriarch occupies the seat vacated by the resignation of Cardinal Antonios I Naguib. Although Christians in Egypt constitute roughly 10% of Egypt's population, the Coptic Catholic Church is a small community of a quarter million members.

### ***Indian Archdiocese News***

*The following is the foreword written by Mar Aprem Metropolitan to the book of Rev'd P.K. Varghese captioned GPITHA DASHRARA, to be released on 14 April 2013. Anybody interested to order copies of this three-language book of poems may e-mail Rev'd Runo Varghese, son of Rev'd P.K. Varghese at runovarghese@gmail.com*

**Ind 49-13**

**21 March 2013**

## **Foreword**

*Gpitha Dashrara* (the true Vine) is the product of the hard work of Fr. P. K. Varghese for half a century in the field of Syriac (Aramaic) literature. There are many Christians in Kerala who read and chant in this language of Jesus Christ. But there are only very few who attempted to write books in this language. Kanianparambil Kurian cor episcopa aged 101 of the Syrian Orthodox Church is an exception.

Qashisha P.K. Varghese is the leading writer in our Church who has composed many poems in Syriac. Like his senior colleague cor episcopa Kurian Kanianparambil. Fr. P. K. Varghese is also the recipient of the prestigious ARAM price for Syriac studies from Sweden. Fr. Varghese taught Syriac not only to the students in our Seminary in Thirur near Thrissur, but also to the students for M.A. degree course in SEERI, Kottayam, affiliated to the Mahatma Gandhi University.

It is appropriate that this book is dedicated to the late Archdeacon Kaku Lazar who was our *Malpan* (Teacher) in Thrissur in the Aramaic language from 1956 to 58. Malpan Kaku Lazar who was a deacon while in India returned to Baghdad and was made the priest in the Mar Zaia Cathedral in Karradat Mariam in Baghdad where I stayed with him in 1962 while I was deacon. Later Revd. Kaku Lazar migrated to U.K. and later to USA and Canada. I had the privilege to meet him in Chicago in 1984. Late Archdeacon Kaku Lazar is fondly remembered by many of his students in America and counted as the best scholar in Aramaic language in our Assyrian Church of the East in the recent generation.

I am **the true Vine** is the last of the seven “I am” sayings of Jesus Christ found in the Gospel of St. John. Fr. P. K. Varghese is the senior most priest of our Church in India. He is two months older than our Catholicos Patriarch MarDinkha IV. In January 1991 Fr. P. K. Varghese was deputed by the Church in India to receive the Catholicos Patriarch and Bishop Mar Meelis Zaia of Australia in Bombay and to be Patriarch’s interpreter during that Apostolic Visit to India. Therefore the author got the opportunity to show some of his poems in Syriac to the Catholicos Patriarch.

The author of this book is fluent in three languages namely Malayalam, English and Syriac. Some of his works could not be printed owing to lack of financial support. His Malayalam translation of the *Mazmora d Dhaved* is an excellent work. I hope and pray that some of his friends and well wishers will support him to publish his remaining works without delay.

Mar Aprem Metropolitan, India

## **4000 Students Participate in Sunday School Day**

More than four thousand Sunday School students and parents held a colourful rally on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2012. The rally started at the Metropolitan’s Palace. Bananas and sweets were distributed to all.

The public meeting was inaugurated by Chandan Chaudhary IPS, Asst. Commissioner of Police, Thrissur City. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph, Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose, Mr. I.G. Joy, Chairman, Board of Central Trustees and Rev’d B.O. Timothy, Sunday School General Secretary spoke on the occasion.

## **Football Signed by Football Star Diego Maradona**

More than 1600 students of the Chaldean Syrian High School and Higher Secondary School stood at attention and expectation as a football signed by Diego Maradona, soccer icon of Argentina was presented to Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan by the business magnate and philanthropist Bobby Chemmannor. Bobby Chemmannor is an old student of the same school as Mar Aprem Metropolitan, the Patron of the Church Schools. Newspapers and TV channels gave good publicity to this event where Jo Paul Anchery, former Captain of the Indian Football Team was present along with the Bishops Mar Yohannan and Mar Awgin, Mr. I.G. Joy, Corporate Manager of the Church Schools, Mr. Aby Paul (Principal), Mrs. Annie Francis (Headmistress), Advocate Nancy Akkarapatty (Corporation Councilor) and other guests.

## **Re-print of Mar Aprem Metropolitan's Doctoral Thesis Available**

*History of the Assyrian Church of the East in the 20<sup>th</sup> century*, the first Ph.D. dissertation submitted to the Syriac Language Department at Mahatma Gandhi University has been re-published. This thesis was out of print for some years. Due to requests from many people and the St. Ephrem Ecumenical Research Institute (SEERI), Kottayam, the doctoral dissertation has been reprinted in Trichur. Those interested can write to Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan. The cost of the book is \$10 and the air mail charge is \$10. If Youth Associations or book stalls of churches would like to stock this book a discount will be given. This book has photographs of all patriarchs of our church in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Please write to [hgmaraprem@gmail.com](mailto:hgmaraprem@gmail.com).

### **Mart Mariam Parish – United Arab Emirates**

New members of our church, both Indians and Assyrians, please contact the following phone numbers for details of the holy services on Fridays: Rev'd Victor Kollannur (0509677903), Mr. Nithin Timothy (055 35 35 246) or Mr. Anil Emmatty (0504578706).

### **Mar Aprem Metropolitan Gulf Travel Details**

Mar Aprem Metropolitan will visit Muscat, Oman to meet faithful of the church and review progress in the newly formed mission.

**Holy Qurbana** will be held at Rui, Muscat at 10.30 am at Mar Thoma Church Hall where the Holy Qurbana was held in December 2012. Mar Aprem will stay in Muscat from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> until Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April.

The Metropolitan will proceed to Dubai on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April and celebrate the Holy Qurbana on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April in Sharjah. He will return to India the same night.

April 22<sup>nd</sup> is the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Holy Qurbana celebrated by Mar Aprem Metropolitan in the Mar Thoma Church in Jabal Ali, Dubai.

Francy Davis Chettupuzha (Muscat Mobile: 00968-99713422)

People living in Kuwait or Bahrain or Qatar may contact me, as we are planning Holy Qurbana for our members in Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain.

#### **Travancore Malayalee Council, Sharjah, UAE**

is planning to conduct a nice function at Sharjah Indian Association regarding

**'Akshara Sadas'** (literary meeting) & to

**honor Mar Aprem Metropolitan**

**on 25th April 2013 at 7.00 pm to 9.00 PM.**

**All are welcome.**

**Mr. Daies Idiculla,**

**General secretary TMC**

[www.tmcgulf.com](http://www.tmcgulf.com) Mob. 00971 50 6980613



# *1st Death Anniversary*

**05.04.2013**



*Samuel Chacko Panancherry*

*Born 31 July 1947*

*Death 05 April 2012*

*Remember me in your prayers. Amen.*



Newly elected Board of Central Trustees  
Standing L to R: Anto T Thazhtha, C P Jose, Saji John, Shaji B Vadakkan,  
Roy V T, Paul Jose, Mereej Timothy. Sitting L to R: M A Thomas (Vice Chairman),  
Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa, Mar Aprem Metropolitan,  
Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa, I G Joy (Chairman)