

صوت الشرق

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nos 5 & 6



Memorial for Mar Narsai Metropolitan in Beirut, Lebanon. His Beatitude Mar Gewargis Metropolitan of Iraq, Mar Aprim Athniel, Bishop of Syria are seen in the middle. In the extreme right of the picture is Mr Zaya d Malik Ishmael, Member of the Syrian Parliament

VOICE OF THE EAST

VOICE OF THE EAST

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Voice of the East (English edition) in the website

Voice of the East published once in two months will be uploaded in the site of the Indian church www.churchoftheeastindia.org. Please check the Indian website (in every two months) You can read the magazine in it. Moreover the colour pictures are clear in the internet than the black and white pictures now printed in this magazine. We shall continue to post the regular copy to you as usual. We shall also e mail to those who ask for it. Thank you for reading Voice of the East.

VOICE OF THE EAST

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Editorial

1600 Years

Mar Issac (399 — 410) the 16th Catholicos of the Church of the East held the historic Holy Synod at Seleucia.

It was First General Synod of the Persian Church Synod of Mar Isaac confirms the primacy of the bishop of Seleucia-Ctesiphon as “Catholicos of all the Orient” and the equality of Seleucia-Ctesiphon with the sees of Jerusalem, Antioch, Alexandria and Rome, adopts the Nicene Creed and establishes metropolitans for Jundishapur, Nisibis, Basra, Arbela, and Kirkuk, now in Iraq.

The Chaldean Catholics have celebrated this historic event. The real Church which should celebrate the 1600th anniversary of the Holy Synod of Mar Isaac is the Assyrian Church of the East. The Church of the East making the legislation for the church members, through the Holy Synods that are summoned from time to time. It is expensive to hold universal synods periodically. At the same time it is necessary to meet together to elicit the views on current affairs from the fathers meeting in the Holy Synod.

Although due to persecutions the Assyrian Church of the East was not in position to meet in the Holy Synods after the Holy Synod of Patriarch Mar Timotheus II(A.D.1318-1328) in the 14th century, the present Catholicos Patriarch started the practice of convening the universal Synods more periodically. From 1976 to 2010 the universal Synod met 13 times in distant places such as England, Baghdad, Chicago, Sydney, Dohuk and India.

In addition to the Holy Synods, patriarchal Councils are held in between. The last Patriarchal Council was held in Sydney, Australia in December 2008 which was the last meeting H.B. Mar Narsai de Baz Metropolitan of Lebanon, Syria and Europe which met after the consecration of Mar Meelis Zaia from the rank of an apiscopa to that of a Metropolitan. The next Patriarchal Council may take place in Iran in September after the scheduled Consecration of cor episcopa Geevarghese Benyamin as Episcopa for Iran.

As the participants of the Holy Synods or Patriarchal Councils are prelates of the Church, ordinary clergy and lay people have no much awareness of these important councils. But people of God, the clergy and laity should pray for the success of these councils and send their suggestions through their prelates for discussion in these Holy Synods and Patriarchal Councils. It is not only the human wisdom but also the Holy Spirit that guide the fathers of the Synods to make necessary decisions for the church from time to time.

As we remember the 16 hundredth anniversary of the Holy Synod of Catholicos Mar Isaac in 410 A.D. let us pray to God Almighty to guide this Church in His Holy Way.

Mar Aprem, India

Memorial service of H.B.Mar Narsai in Beirut, Lebanon



Cathedral in Beirut, Lebanon with the picture of Mar Narsai Metropolitan on both sides of the front gate at the sad news of his death in USA.

Mar Meelis Zaia Metropolitan visited Beirut and offered Memorial Qurbana.in March 2010.

Ordination of Father John Kushaba and Sub-deacon Fariz Yokhanis in Sydney, Australia

‘Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’ Matthew 28:19

In the blessed morning of April the 11th 2010, the first Sunday after the resurrection of Christ, the consecration of a priest and sub-deacon took place at St Hurmizd’s Cathedral by H.B Mar Meelis Zaia, the Metropolitan of the Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon. A large congregation of priests, deacons and faithful gathered to witness this blissful event offering prayers, support and comfort for the individuals that were to be ordained and begin their life-time service to our Holy Church.

H.B Mar Meelis laid his blessed hand on Deacon John Aprim Kushaba which was lifted to the ranking of priesthood to continue his service for the Assyrian Church of the East and in particular guiding the Saints Peter and Paul Parish, an English speaking parish that that will soon have their own premises in Cecil Park, God willing. Father Genard Lazar, the current parish priest of Saints Peter and Paul, will be relieved from his position in the parish. He will work for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in the Diocese of California upon the request of H.G Mar Awa Royel, the bishop of the diocese.



His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia conducts ordination service in Sydney Cathedral on 11 April 2010



Deacons present at the ordination service in Sydney on 11 April 2010

Rev. John Kushaba inaugural Eucharist Service at Ss Peter and Paul Parish

On the morning of Sunday the 19th of April 2010, being the second Sunday after the resurrection of Christ, Ss Peter and Paul Parish's Holy Eucharist was offered by the newly ordained parish priest, Reverend John Kushaba in St Johns Park High School hall, accompanied with the presence of Reverend Genard Lazar. A congregation of faithful parishioners gathered to partake in the offering of the body and blood of Christ through Reverend John's hands. Reverend John preached on the promises made by Christ to His disciples after His resurrection, and also touched upon being committed and well-pleasing children to God.

Upon completion of the holy mysteries, the parishioners along with the new parish priest had fellowship, showing love, compassion and their support.



Rev. John Khushaba celebrating Holy Qurbana in Sydney.

Assyrians in China - Lecture by Dr Ken Parry

Thursday the 22nd of April 2010, was an evening of knowledge, wisdom and a clear understanding on the history of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East's missionaries in China and India. Dr Ken Parry, a senior lecturer and researcher from the Ancient History Department of Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia and is a world renowned authority on ancient philosophy, church history and theology, lectured to a congregation of church faithful in Edessa Reception with the presence of H.B Mar Meelis

Zaia, other university lecturers, along with priests and deacons and faithful of the church. His extensive travels in Asia enabled him to give first hand information on the ancient missionary work of the church of the east that cannot be found in textbooks. The presentation by Dr. Parry opened the eyes of the congregation and expanded their knowledge of the remarkable message propelled to China and India over a thousand years ago.

H.B Mar Meelis Zaia, being a graduate of the MA East Syriac Studies of Macquarie University, also presented a speech on this note and was highly supported both historically and factually by the lecturers present (having taught H.B Mar Meelis during his studies).



His Grace Bishop Mar Awa visits St. Marys' Parish, Assyrian Church of the East in L.A. May 2, 2010

Ordination of eleven young people in Turlock

On Sunday, 9th May 2010 at 10:00am (VI Sunday of the Resurrection), the gracious gift of the Holy Spirit, the laying on of hands (Syameeda), was bestowed upon eleven young men of the Church, through the hand of His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California & Secretary of the Holy Synod. The service was conducted at Mar Addai Church, followed by the offering of the Holy Eucharist (Qurbana Qadisha) by His Grace.

Those first ordained were six Readers (Qaroye): Mr Michael Nissan, Mr David Baghdasarian, Mr Sargiz Eshaq, Rameil Youkhanna, Eilen Shahbaz and Mr. Delmon Khoshaba.

Then, two Sub-Deacons (*Heevpadyaqne*) were ordained:

Mr. Ramsin Youkhanna and Mr. Raymond Rasho.

Finally, three were ordained to the Diaconate (Shamshane)

Mr. Edson Joudeh, Mr. Antovan Ousipsargezzadeh and Mr. Ramil Biviyodavid.

It is apposite to note that the above ordained were educated and trained by Rev. Fr. Jameel Wardah, Parish Priest of Mar Addai Church, Turlock. We beseech the Lord's merciful grace to be bestowed upon the newly ordained, granting them the desire and strength to serve His holy church.



Mart Mariam UAE parish, Sharjah

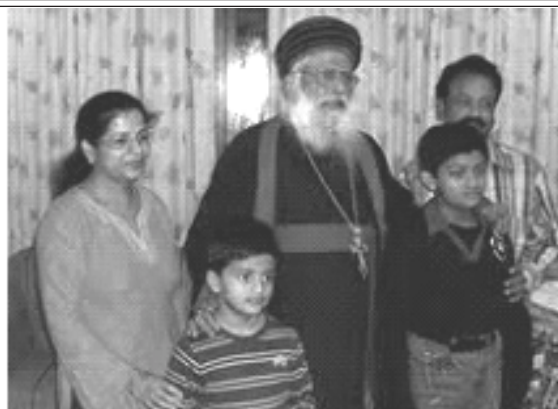
Fr.N.J.Abraham M.Com. aged 55 has come in April to Sharjah to work full time for the UAE parish during the leave period of the Vicar Fr.Victor Kollannur who has gone to Trichur. Fr.Abraham is conducting holy Qurbana on all Fridays and visiting the homes of the Indian and Assyrian parishioners in Sharjah, Dubai, Abu Dhabi etc. Fr.Victor will return to Sharjah in June.



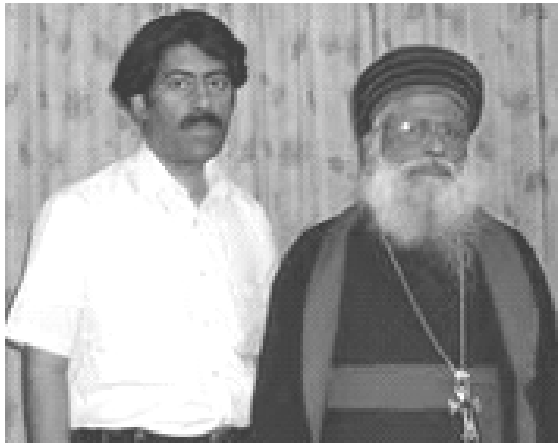
Mar Aprem celebrates holy Qurbana in Emirates National School, Sharjah on Friday March 5, 2010 during the one day stop over in Abu Dhabi, Vicar Fr.Victor, Assistant Vicar Fr.Sachin, Fr.Simon Emmatty from Trichur assisted.



Mr.E.I.Paul of Ernakulam, Mar Aprem and Chacko Konikara who were classmates in the High School graduating class 55 years ago in 1955.



Linda with her husband Raju and two sons poses for photo with Mar Aprem at Abu Dhabi. Lynda is the daughter of Jokin master, classmate of Mar Aprem in High School 55 years ago.



Pradeep Mookan, son of Mar Aprem's Brother Prof. Andrews Mookan after Holy Qurbana on Friday March 5th, 2010.

Swedish parliament recognizes the crimes of genocide against Assyrians (Sipho)

March 12th, 2010

Ankawa.com – Stockholm – Exclusive

After hot debate and by the difference of only one vote, the Swedish parliament passed this afternoon, Thursday 11 March, the crime committed against our people from Chaldean Assyrian Syriac, Armenians and Albontien Greece (Sipho) that occurred in 1915 as crimes of "genocide".

The resolution received the support of 131 parliament members against 130 opposing it. The left-wing Parties, the Environment and the

Social Democrats stood firmly with the resolution, while it was opposed by the same strength by the ruling conservative Party. The other ruling Parties (the People, Christian Democrats and the Medium) said that they are with the recognition of such crimes without the need to issue a "decision" and they added, it is a task to be carried out by historians and jurists, as well as it will affect Turkey's accession to EU countries, which sought by Turkey for several years, and affect the relations between Turkey and Sweden.

The parliament member from the Social Democrat Party, Yelmas Kremó, who is one of the sons of our people, has been active in provision and has been taking to recall the tragedies suffered by our people in that period of time. Also, other parliament members contributed to the activation of this subject.

Kremó, in his talk to the site of Ankawa.com express the joy of the decision, calling the day "historic" and as a big victory for our people and our community in Sweden. He thanked all that supported the efforts and supported the resolution presented and voted for. Kremó said that the Swedish parliament is the first global European parliamentary recognizes the decision, which includes a Chaldean, Assyrian, Syriac, Armenians and Albontien, since those crimes have been recognized previously in France and the United States, but only on behalf of the Armenians. Kremó related the reason for the success of the parliament in approving the decision this time to the collective support came up with the latest conference held by the Social Democratic Party as well as the influence of the activists in activating it on a number of other Swedish party members, who are supporters of our people issues.

Representatives and supporters who spoke enthusiastically about the subject, in addition to Kremó, are, Coughlan Ouji from the People Party, although her party runs against the resolution, Hans Lendy and Amina Kaka from the Left-Wing Party, Karena Haik and Nikos Pabadoplas from the Social Party, in addition to Mahmad Kaplan from the Environment Party and a number of other parliamentarians.

The meeting was attended by nearly 400 audiences from the sons of our people who met the resolution and the talks of the parliament members backing it with great applause. On the other hand, the Turkish site represented by about 25 persons mostly employees of the consulate and the Turkish Embassy.

It is expected that our people living across Sweden will celebrate this occasion in the different parts of the country.

ORTHODOXIA

Published from Regensburg, Germany

ASSYRIAN

His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV Catholicos Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East

Dinkha Khanania

East USA

T: Catholicos Patriarch, Patriarchate of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East.: 8908 Birch Avenue, USA-MORTON GROVE, IL 60053, [1] 847 9663385. fax 9660012.

*15.9.1935 Derbenduk, Arbil Iraq, diak 12.9.1949 (Mar Yosip Khnanisho) * 15.7. 1957 Tehran (by Mar Yousep Khnanishu), *11.2.1962 in Tehran by Mar Shimun XXIII. (18th bishop named Dinkha). 1962-1976 B Tehran and all Iran. Patriarch London 17.10.1976, elected by six bishops 120th successor Seleucia Ctesiphon. since 1984 USA. 1994 Administration East USA, Delegation Rome.

Aprem George Mookan

India

T: M Thrissur and All India, - Metropolitan's Palace, High Road, IND-680 001 THRISSUR KERALA, [91] 487 2420978, fax 2442166. 2428993. aprem@vsnl.com www.churchoftheeast india.org

"13.6.1940, diak 25.6.1961 * 13.6.1965 * 21.9.1968, M 29.9.1968 (Mar Thoma Darmu). 1970 Metropolitan. B.D., M.Th. S.T.M., D.Th., Ph.D. 1994 Pro Oriente Wien. 17.11.1995 union with Mar Dinkha.

Narsai de Baz

Lebanon

T: M Lebanon, Syria, Europe, - Assyrian Archbishop, Jedayah Al-Matten, RL-JABAL, [961] 1 962962, fax 689587. *17.5.1940 Iraq * 23.3.1968 * 28.7.1968 B Lebanon, M 15.10.1976 London by Mar Dinkha. Pro Oriente Wien June 1994. Rome 8.-12.11.1994.

Passed away in February 2010 in USA

Gewargis Sliwa

Iraq

T: M Baghdad and All Iraq, - P.O.Box 3075, Hay Babel 92939, IR Q-BAGHDAD, [964] 1 7176233, 7198574. fax 7184608. *23.11.1941

Habbaniya Ramadi Iraq, diak 13.4.1980 Chicago. *8.6.1980 Rector Seminary, *14.6.1981 M Baghdad by Mar Dinkha, Chicago.

Meelis Zaia

Australia

T: M Australia+New Zealand, - 25 Edinburgh Circle, AUS-CECIL HILL, N.S.W., [61] 2 9822 113-4, fax -2. zaiaj@betscape.net www.assyrianchurch.com.au. *5.8.1956 Baghdad, diak 1973 * 28.3.1982 San Jose. * 21.10.1984 B Australia by Mar Dinkha in Chicago. B.A. History Sydney. 1994-2008 Secretary Holy Synod. 1994 Delegation Rome. 1995 Trichur full communion two calendars. 1997 »Understanding Eucharist. Theodor of Mopsuestia«. 2007 Order of Australia. 7 December 2008 M. Sydney by Mar Dinkha

Sargis Youseph

T: B Saint Zaia Cathedral, 1457 Mable Avenue, USA-MODESTO, CA 95355, [1] 209 526-2860, fax -9615. * 10.4.1950 Kirkuk * 19.2.1967. B Baghdad by Mar Yosip Khnanisho in Baghdad. 1967-2004 B Baghdad. 2004 California.

Awa David Royel

California

T: B Modesto, Secretary Holy Synod. - Saint Zaia Cathedral, 1457 Mable Avenue, USA-MODESTO, CA 95355, [1] 209 526-2860, fax -9615. *1.7.1975 Chicago IL. diak 1.1.1992 * 1.6.1999 * 30.11.2008. Secretary of the Holy Synod, Chairman CIRED.

Aprim Khamis

Arizona

T: B Western USA, - 18221 N 59th DR., USA-GLENDALE, AZ 85308, [1] 602 5880267, fax 8964212.*7.1.1943 Habbaniya, Iraq diak 2.3.1973. * 2.3.1973 * 2.3.1973 B Basrah, 1976 B USA+Canada. 1984 B East USA+Canada. 1990-1994 B East USA. 1994 B West USA. 1999 B Western USA.

Emmanuel Emmanuel Joseph

Canada

T: B Toronto and All Canada. - P.O.Box 334, Stn. B CDN-TORONTO, Ontario M9W 5L3; [1] 416 7449311. fax 7440358. [1] 408 2867377. fax 2861236. 16 Hibiscus Court Toronto M9M 1R9 ibem@rogers.com. *24.11.1958 Baghdad, diak 1.3.1981 Chicago * 11.11.1984 Chicago, 27.5.1990

Chorepiscopa and Archdeacon Toronto. M.Div. Toronto * 3.6.1990 B Canada in Chicago by Mar Dinkha.

Odisho Adam Oraham

Europe

T: B Europe, - K P.O.Box 3020, S-145 03 norsborg, [46] 853188407 fax 853177979.

*12.7.1961 Baghdad Iraq, diak 1983 Sydney, stud Trinity College Bristol, B.A. Theology * 1986 Sydney * 24.7.1994 in Sydney by Mar Dinkha. 1994 B Europa.

Aprim Athniel

Syria

T: B Syria, - E3 P.O.Box 137, SYR-HASSAKE, [963] 52 314925 +fax. *8.12.1963 Baghdad, diak 18.10.1992 *8.11.1992 * 3.10.1999 Hassake by Mar Dhinka B Syria.

Isaac Joseph

Duhok

T: B Duhok+Russia, Assyrian Church, IRQ-DUHOK, [44] 162 84888499. [964] 62 7773806 *31.5.1959 Barwar Iraq. diak 25.11.1979 Baghdad. * 14.9.1990 for Nineveh Church. * 24.10.1999 by Mar Dinkha in Baghdad, B North Iraq, Russia Armenia Georgia

Yohannan Yoseph

India

T.B. Trichur, India. Bishops' Palace, Anjangadi, Thrissur 680005, Kerala, India. 0091 487 2424599, maryohannan@gmail.com www.churchoftheeastindia.org 14.11.1966. Diak 16.4.1989 by Mar Poulouse, * 11.4.1999 by Mar Aprem, *Arch Diak 14.1.2010 by Mar Aprem, *17.1.2010 by Mar Dinkha in India, B India. B.Com, B.D., M.A. (Syriac Language and Literature), Now doing Ph.D in Syriac Language and Literature)

Awgin Kuriakose

India

T.B. Trichur, India. Bishops' Palace, Anjangadi, Thrissur 680005, Kerala, India. 0091 487 2424599, marawgin@gmail.com www.churchoftheeastindia.org 21.5.1974. Diak 21.5.1996 by Mar Aprem, * 11.4.1999 by Mar Aprem, *Arch Diak 14.1.2010 by Mar Aprem, *17.1.2010 by Mar Dinkha in India, B India. B.A, B.D, M.Th, Now doing Ph.D in Biblical Theology.

THE CATHEDRAL OF MAR ZIA OF BAGHDAD

By Solomon S. Solomon, USA

On April 19, 1953, I attended Sunday services at Mar Qardagh Church in Gailani Camp in Baghdad where Kasha Philipos was consecrated a Bishop by Metropolitan Mar Yousip Khnanisho. Afterwards, a wealthy Assyrian by the name of Leera Eshu of Jeelu spoke. He said that he was donating a valuable piece of land in the exclusive neighborhood of Karadat D'Merriam for the purpose of building a cathedral on it.

The donated land was about 1,500 square meters in size and, at the time, was valued at forty thousand dollars; however, the property remained dormant, so Leera decided to do the work himself. He started by organizing a committee to raise funds, and he personally visited all the major Assyrian centers in Iraq in a bid to collect donations.

On April 14, 1957, the Bishop of Baghdad, the late Mar Eshu Sargis, laid the foundation stone for the new church in a great ceremony that was attended

by a thousand Assyrians. The Bishop was assisted by several priests and deacons.

Leera then launched a massive building program, supervising all aspects of construction. He also donated large sums of his personal fortune toward the project.

On April 24, 1959, the Prime Minister of Iraq, General Abdul Kareem Qassim, personally cut the ribbon for the Cathedral of Mar Zia the Saint, and then he gave a speech that was broadcast on the national radio and Baghdad T. V. He was followed by a speech by His Grace Mar Sargis, Bishop of Baghdad. Present were other dignitaries including Metropolitan Mar Yousip Khnanisho, and Kasha Goriel Suleiman.

The cathedral was consecrated soon, and it became the location of many important ceremonies for the Church of the East.

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FOREWORD

His Eminence Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan of the COE in India does not require any introduction to a voracious bookworm because of the quantum of books on copious subjects that have been published by him so far. Being a frequent globe trotter and exceedingly well informed on almost any subject under the sun the eminent Dr. Mar Aprem has mastered the art of putting views and beliefs into expressions. Over 68 books on numerous topics have been penned and published by His Eminence displaying a talent par excellence. He also tends to bring joy and laughter to the World with several books of jokes that have been published so far. The highly proficient Dr. Mar Aprem has been recipient of innumerable awards for his cultural and ecumenical

experience, as well as an assortment of community welfare activities. As a well revered personage he has been instrumental in the founding and operation of more than half a dozen institutions. He has established time and again by his modesty that he is the true leader of the Church of the East in India bested by none.

Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan who was consecrated as Bishop at the age of 28 and promoted immediately as Metropolitan has completed over four decades of enlightening the congregation. He has revealed his mettle as a linguist and poet, exposed his dexterity as a journalist, satirist and an orator.

The 69th book written by Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan is a concise narration of his experiences during his

fourth sojourn to the world reputed cities of Sydney, Melbourne & Perth in Australia. The book is elegantly authored in precise simple English for the benefit of a reader with a basic knowledge of the language. The sequence of events leads one back and forth from the present to the past. A brief history of the origin of the Assyrian community and their spread through out the globe serves one in gaining additional awareness. By this book he continues to express gratitude to a lot of kind and helpful people he has met during any of his whirlwind tours. Clergy and Laymen alike go out of their way to serve the kind hearted Dr. Mar Aprem. He cherishes fond memories of people he has had the opportunity of meeting even on a single occasion. A liberal sprinkle of humor adds spice to the narrative prompting the reader to plough through to the finish. A book so authored can be compared to pearls of knowledge and enlightenment.

This book can also be termed as a basic reference book particularly to an Indian traveler who is embarking on a maiden expedition to the Great Outback. It also encompasses in brief the historic origin, culture and customs of these cities. The book relates the account of the aborigines and their orientation into the modern society of Australia. It glides through the calamities and financial debacle these cities have gone through in its metamorphosis as some of the greatest cities in

the World. The informational content of the book is brusque and knowledgeable.

During an era when a multitude of Indian youth seek out dreams of high quality living conditions, promising career options and the urge to acquire wealth, this book would serve as a guide to lands across distant shores. Interspersed with references of meetings with eminent and distinguished personalities from all walks of life adds to fascinating reading. Additionally the book gives the reader an idea about the time involved in traveling between the two continents and the shortest route to be chosen. Even the hub city of Singapore is skimmed through in the pages proving to be an efficient travel guide. The cover page of the book has been artistically done up to give credence to this fact.

The book also serves to keep one grounded with The Almighty and prompts mankind not to abandon humility and simplicity in their pursuance of the golden pot at the end of the rainbow. It tends to illuminate that the recipient of benevolence would always be closely anchored to the conviction of an existence of The Almighty. I humbly beg and pray that may the perpetual light keep shining on His Eminence Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan and may he continue the good deed of edifying mankind in the glory of The Almighty.



P. C. Chacko

NEWS

His Grace Bishop Mar Awa Royel visited St. Mary's Parish in Los Angeles, California and celebrated Holy Qurbana on Sunday 2 nd May 2010. Cor episcopa George Rasha (Adal) and other deacons assisted. The new address of Bishop Awa Royel is as follows.

BISHOP MAR AWA ROYEL
5417 Ratto Way, Salida, CA 95368, USA

Pope Benedict completes five years.

Pope Benedict completes five years on April 19. Elected as the successor of John Paul II in 2005, the 83-year-old global leader of Catholics

has visited a total of 13 countries including Turkey, Israel and Brazil.

Church merger aims to help Indian Christians

Published Date: May 5, 2010

Tags: historic merger, Reformed Churches, World Alliance of Reformed Churches

A historic merger of Reformed Churches scheduled for next month in the United States will help unite major non-Catholic churches in India, says the official leading the merger.

The World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) and Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC) will merge in June in Michigan to form the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC).

WARC general secretary Reverend Setri Nyomi, who was in India last week for the biennial meeting of the Presbyterian Church in India, told UCA News that the merger constitutes “a refreshing attempt to reverse fragmentation” within the Church.

Six Indian churches—the Church of South India, Church of North India, Presbyterian Church of India, Evangelical Church of Maraland, The Church of Christ and Reformed Presbyterian Church in North East India—will be a part of the alliance.

The WARC includes congregational, Presbyterian, Reformed and United Churches. Reverend Nyomi, who hails from Ghana, is the first non-European to head the alliance and has done so since 2000.

Reverend Nyomi said the merger will showcase global-level Christian unity. It will also strengthen the unity of Churches in India, he said.

Moreover, the Presbyterian Church of India is a member of both the merging organizations. Instead of belonging to two, it will now belong to the one merged new alliance.

The WCRC would be “the one voice of the united churches” against “any evil” in the world, he said.

The alliance would be helpful to its partners in India because “in a communion, when one suffers, the other also suffers.” If Indian Christians suffer, it should affect Christians in other parts of the world, he said.

“The Churches in India should be able to say that we are not alone. We have brothers and sisters in other parts of the world,” the Presbyterian theologian said.

He said the alliance will make Christianity easy for outsiders to understand. “The union represents unity in diversity, which is a healthy sign,” he said during a lecture in New Delhi.

“Christ prayed that his followers be one and we take that prayer very seriously,” he said adding

the decision to merge was taken in 2006 when the two groups concluded the need to go beyond collaboration.

Source: Church merger aims to help Indian Christians (UCAN)

Bishop Mar Awgin visited New Zealand

Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa visited New Zealand for a short time and conducted Easter Holy Qurbana at Mar Odisho parish, Wellington and on first and second Sundays after Easter at St. Mary’s parish, Auckland in April 2010. Both churches were overcrowded during Easter Qurbana and it was an excellent resurrection experience for the entire church members. There are two churches in New Zealand based at Auckland and Wellington, which comes under the arch diocese of Australia and New Zealand. Auckland parish consists of around 180 families, mostly located at Manurewa suburb and there are 80 families at Wellington parish. Rev. Fr. Toma Kanon is the priest for both parishes who resides in Auckland. There are 4 deacons in Auckland parish (Named: Dea. Younan Kandal, Dea. Shamoon Ibrahim, Dea. Riyadh Dinkha and Dea. Rofael Lajeen) and three deacons in Wellington parish (Named: Dea. Sliwa Youndan, Dea. Ishaya and Dea. Albert Isaac).

Both parishes do not have a building of their own, since all church services are conducted in rented premises. St. Mary’s parish Auckland managed to buy a land to build a church and still waiting for the final approval from the city council and all hope by divine grace that soon we will have our own church building at Auckland. The Saturday school (*shawthapootha*), church choir and youths are very active in both churches and the entire community very eager to preserve our faith, tradition and language in a foreign land.

There are only 16 Indian church members in Auckland parish consisting of 5 families and two singles. Please find attached their picture (two families are missing in this picture). May God almighty bless the New Zealand Church.



Bishop Mar Awgin with Qasha Toma Kanon and two deacons.



Lighting the fire for cooking food for 15000 (Fifteen Thousand) people on May 1, 2010 on the memorial of the late prelates in Trichur



Archbishop Andrews Thazhatha of the Syro Malabar Church inaugurates the concluding celebration of the centenary of Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church

24th National Youth Conference Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East

The 24th National Youth Conference will be held in June 2010 in Chicago on 27th June onwards. This year Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose (formerly Fr.P.P.Shaju of New Zealand) from the Archdiocese of India will be one of the speakers. Last year Sister Jincy Othottil from India attended the 23rd National Youth Conference held in San Jose.

Christmas on December 25

The Ancient Church of the East Synod has officially declared that the Church will begin to celebrate Christmas on the 25th December according to the Gregorian calendar.

The Ancient Church Patriarch Mar Addai II declared the new calendar to be effective from December this year. This would mean that both the Ancient Church of the East and the Assyrian Church of the East would follow the same calendar. The calendar issue was one of the



St. Stephen parish in Delhi. Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph and Bishop Jacob Mar Barnabas of the Syro Malankara Church. Vicar Fr. Mohan Konikara welcomes the Bishops.

main reasons the Church of the East split more than 50 years ago.

This latest move by the Ancient Church comes as numerous efforts were made by the Assyrian Church of the East Catholicos Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV to unite the Church of the East. A joined holy synod between the two sister churches was postponed and expected to be held in the near future.

Thursday, 10 June 2010 08:09



After the wedding of Fr. Victor Kollannur on Monday on 24 May 2010 at Mart Mariam Cathedral, Trichur. Mar Aprem in the middle of the couple. Mar Awgin and Mar Yohannan on either side.

Move by Archbishop Mar Louis Sako

Chaldean Archbishop of Kirkuk and Sulemaniyah, Mar Louis Sako has called on reform within the Chaldean Church and unity with the Assyrian Church of the East.

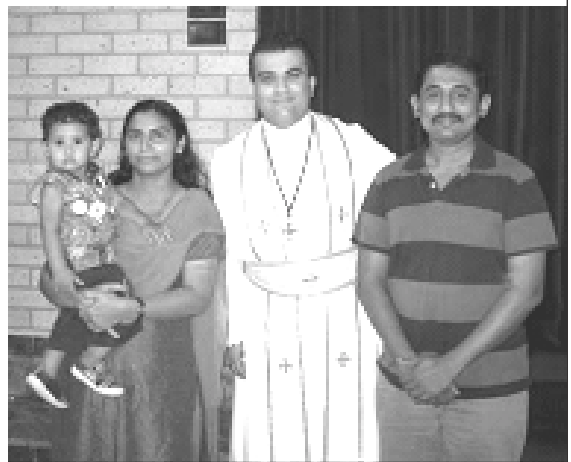
Archbishop Sako stated that he hopes to restore unity with the Assyrian Church of the East, while also mentioning the Chaldean church was in need of great reform.

Mar Sako said in the article which was published on Ankawa.com, that 'while the Chaldean Church has given martyrs and has suffered so much, it is still infected with superficial spirit, shallowness of thought, laziness and egos and favouritism, and a strong desire to have access to post and ranks'

He also says that while many would not agree with Chaldean Church officials that the church is heading for extinction, there is a great need for revival of the church and a strong push for unity with the Assyrian Church of the East, which will also help maintain a strong Christian presence in Iraq.

Archbishop Sako also said he wished joint synod meetings to be held with Eastern Churches in Iraq later this year to help lay the foundations to unity.

From Trichur to Sydney



Vinod Mookken, wife and child from Trichur, with Fr. Genard Lazar in Sydney after Holy Qurbana in Sydney

70th Birthday greetings

The clergy Council which met on 12 th June 2010 at the Metropolitan's Palace offered felicitations and gave gifts to Mar Aprem Metropolitan for completing 70 years of age, Mar Yohannan Episcopa and Mar Awgin Episcopa gave leadership to the Meeting. Fr. Runo Varghese, clergy Council Secretary and Fr.T.R.Jos spoke. The families of the clergy were present at the function

Various celebrations were made in Trichur on 13 June for the completion of 70 years of Mar Aprem Metropolitan. In the function at Mart Mariam Cathedral the Rector of the Syro Malabar Church Fr.Dr.Loius Edakolathur came and offered greetings. In the Photo exhibition at Mar Timotheus Church, Nellikunnu, Honourable Minister of Kerala Government Mr.K.P.Rajendran inaugurated the photo exhibition. The Honourable Minister Mr.Kadannapilly Ramachandran came to the Metropolitan Palace and offered greetings.

The Youths Association of the Church arranged a meeting at Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church in the evening of Sunday 13th June.

Secular newspapers and Television media gave good coverage of the celebrations.

Deacon Rauman Benjamin

Deacon Rauman Benjamin of San Jose, California now working in Texas assisted at the Holy Qurbana and spoke in three meetings on the day during his 3 day visit to Trichur. He made a proposal to hold an international Youth meeting in Trichur after two years so that youth from all over the world can attend.

H.B. Mar Aprem Metropolitan

Greeting your beatitude and all under your jurisdiction in the Holy Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ to whom I offer supplication prayers intention to keep Your Beatitude always under His Merciful care and to grant to you healthy and happy life: Amen.

I learnt that today is your birthday. I wholeheartedly congratulate Your Beatitude for this blessed occasion. You have been truly a disciple of our Lord who worked so faithfully and self denial for the glory of our Lord and peace and unity in His Holy Church. May joy, love, and peace like candles... light your birthday and every day of your blessed life. HAPPY BIRTHDAY H.B. MAR APREM

Y.B. did you hear that in the recent synod of old calendar they decided to adhere to the new calendar for Christmas? I have no idea as to what they decided for the joint meeting between prelates of our groups for the unity of our Church. I pray to our Lord that soon this dream to come to reality: Amen.

In conclusion: Happy birthday and with so many happy returns. God bless your life. My greetings conveyed to the prelates, clergy and faithful of your blessed Archdiocese: Amen

In Christ our Lord

+ Mar Aprim Khamis, June 12, 2010

Andrew Aziz, Phoenix, Arizona, USA

Mar Aprem

Qessi, it has been a while since I have e-mailed you. I truly do miss speaking with you and hearing your kind words. Qessi, I would like to wish you a Happy Birthday, and greetings and many blessings from my family, and myself.

I am continuing to learn and progress to become a shamasha.

Thank You Qessi, and God Bless

Greetings from UAE

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

We have great pleasure to inform you that BIRTHDAY of HIS GRACE

DR MAR APREM falls on 13th June 2010.

We used to celebrate Birthday of our beloved patron His Grace Dr Mar Aprem

since 2005. This year, 13th January falls on Sunday and therefore we decided

to arrange special gathering on 18th June and pray for our Metropolitan for

his good health and wise guidance.

We all wish HAPPY BIRTHDAY and healthy long life to His Grace Dr Mar Aprem and pray to the Almighty for allow him to continue his noble works our beloved Metropolitan.

Therefore, on 18th Friday, there will be special Qurbana in Sharjah at St Martin Church facility at 7.00 am (to 8.30 am)

At 8.30 there will be special meeting chaired by Rev Fr N.J. Abraham.

The event has been sponsored by Mr. Kurian Thomas, Tomtek Genuine Spare Parts, Dubai.

Note: Please note that Rev Fr N.J. Abraham who is with us from 26 April onwards will leave UAE on 18th to India. We like to extend our gratitude to the visiting priest as well.

All are cordially invited and request to join us. In Jesus, with prayers Mart Mariam Parish - UAE

Blesson Antony , UAE,

“God almighty always shower his blessings on our beloved Bishopwish you a wonderful Birthday.....”

Paul and Brigitte Huber, Eversbuschstr. 46 a D-80999 München , Tel. ++49-89-812 81 81 Mail: b.huber-beb@gmx.de

Munich, June 12, 2010

Dear Bishop Dr. Mar Aprem,

May it please your Grace,

It's your birthday tomorrow, and so we would like to say thank you for all you have done for our family. At the same time we would like to wish you God's abundant blessings for your life, your ministry and your health. With your assistance we have had two wonderful children, and we thank you and God for this gift.

We are very proud of the friendship with Your Grace, and we hope to see you soon, either in India or in Munich. We will probably come to India in December with a study group. At the

end of the trip Saritha will join us in Chennai. Thomas is still undecided. We cannot persuade him.

The Lord who gives new light and life to this world every day

Bless you and keep you,

The Lord make His face to shine upon you

In the coming new year

And be gracious to you and to all those

Who will meet you.

His light may spread its brilliance over your life every day of the year.

His light may brighten all your ways.

His light may cover all the ups and downs of your life.

His Eternity may shine upon your days

And His protecting hand may always be with you and your beloved ones.

The Almighty and Gracious Lord bless you and keep you.

With our best wishes,

Yours, Paul and Brigitte

Election of Central Trustees in India

The counting of ballots of election to the Board of central Trustees of the Church of the East archdiocese in India took place on 31 March 2010. The new Trustees took oath of office on the same day at the Mart Mariam Cathedral, Thrissur, Kerala, India. The term of office is for three years. The Central Trustees are.

1. Mr.I.G. Joy (Chairman)
2. Mr. George I.Emmatty (Vice Chairman),
3. Dr.Mohan Thomas Chitalapilly
4. Advocate Baby P.Antony
5. T.T. Thampy, Puthur
6. Mangan P.Dolphin
7. Mrs. Gladly Francis, Nellikunnu
8. Mrs. Joicy Francis, Nellangara
9. E. K. Jos, Emmatty House



The new Readers, Sub deacon and deacons with their consecrator Bishop Mar Awa Royel in USA



Indian members in New Zealand with Bishop Mar Awgin after Holy Qurbana on 18 April 2010 in Auckland, New Zealand. Left to Right. Vinu Paulson, Libin Babu Palissery, Sinto Wilson Palissery, Maliyekal Joby Raphael, his wife Reena and daughter Ncha, Deacon Shimon, Dea. Raphael, Dea. Riyadh, Maliyekal Dennis Raphael, his wife Shiby and children; Akeena and Aaron.



Mar Aprem cuts cake on his 70th Birthday. Deacon Rauman Benjamin from USA and Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph, Fr. Sunny (Vicar) and Fr. Michael (Asst. Vicar) and Parish Trustees are seen in the Mart Mariam Cathedral on 13 June 2010



The new Board of Central Trustees took oath of office in the Mart Mariam Cathedral in Trichur on Wednesday, 31st March 2010