

صوت الشرق

Vol 63 January - February 2016 Nos.1 & 2



Bishop of Syria Mar Aprem Athniel standing with the captives released in February 2016

VOICE OF THE EAST



First Catechetical Course-Eastern USA diocese. Bishop in Chicago Mar Polose Benjamin is in the middle



Choir in the Cathedral after Qurbana in, Toronto on 08 Nov 2015. Qaroya George Hashimoto is first on the left and Mar Aprem Metropolitan in the middle

VOICE OF THE EAST

(A socio-Religious bi-monthly)

(Private Circulation only)

January - February 2016

Patron : **His Grace Dr. Mar Aprem**

Metropolitan's Palace,

Trichur - 680 001, Kerala, India

Phone : 91487 - 2420978

Personal : 91487 - 2442166

Email : hgmaraprem@gmail.com

Website Links

Official: www.news.assyrianchurch.org

Archdiocese of India & UAE: www.churchoftheeastindia.org

Archdiocese of Australia & New Zealand: www.assyrianchurch.org.au

Diocese of California: www.acoecalifornia.org

Diocese of Europe: www.assyrianchurch-europe.org

Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organisation: www.theacero.org

Unofficial: www.nestorian.org

Contents

1. Editorial (Release of Innocent Assyrian Captives)
2. From the Secretariat of the Holy Synod
3. First Catechetical Course – Eastern USA Diocese of the Assyrian Church of the East
International Church News
4. Rev'd Fr Tiari Aweshalem Receives Ph.D. in Rome
5. Christianity in China
6. Thomas founds the Christian Church in China (65-68)
Indian Church News
7. From the National Council of Churches in India - Perils of Migration and Human Trafficking
8. Plight of Rohingyas Trafficked to join ISIS
9. Demise of Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus
10. Galila – the Parish Hall in Mar Thoma Sleeha Church, Pattikad
11. Parish Hall in Mar Mathai Shleeha Parish, Marootichal
12. Youth Conference - 2016 in India
13. H.H. Mar Dinkha IV Assyrian Convent, Thrissur
14. Books by Mar Aprem Metropolitan
15. 'Barekh Mar' Band on Mid Lent
16. Books by Rev'd Fr. P.K. Varghese
17. New Assyrian Books by Dr. Madeline Davis, USA
18. The House was donated by the Mar Mathai Shleeha Parish Marottichal
19. HH Mar Dinkha IV Assyrian Convent
18. Letter of Invitation for Youth Conference - 2016 in India

Voice of the East

Vol. 63

January - February 2016

Nos. 1 & 2

Editorial

Release of Innocent Assyrian Captives

We recently received the good and long-awaited news of the release of Assyrian captives held for the last year in north-eastern Syria. This news was cause to breathe a sigh of relief.

When we consider however, the immense suffering of Christians and all people in Syria, we are filled with immense sadness. Particularly for those who have lost their lives and those who may very well still be unaccounted for. We cannot comprehend how much these people have suffered.

As reported, the vast sum of money demanded by the persons holding the defenseless Assyrian Christians was outrageous.

We must pray for those who have been released and those who remain captives. In the reports and photographs below, His Grace Mar Afram Athneil, Bishop of Syria, is pictured embracing and welcoming groups of released hostages.

16 Hostages Released in Syria - January 29, 2016

A Report from ACERO Headquarters – England, United Kingdom

In urgent breaking news - ACERO can confirm that 16 Assyrian Christian hostages held in north-eastern Syria since February 2015 have today been released.

The names of the released hostages are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Sabina Hawil Youkhana | 9. Almas ““ |
| 2. Ramina ““ | 10. Lewis ““ |
| 3. Lewis ““ | 11. Sargon Ninus Sarkis |
| 4. Christine Yosip Lazar | 12. Yosip ““ |
| 5. Bashara ““ | 13. Valentina Paulus Odisho |
| 6. Katrine ““ | 14. Marganta Yushiya Adam |
| 7. Peter ““ | 15. Amina Elisha Elisha |
| 8. Ilyan Saeed Youkhana | 16. Somer Shawil Elisha |

43 Assyrian Hostages Released in Syria in February

A Report from ACERO Headquarters – England, United Kingdom

In urgent breaking news - ACERO can confirm that 43 Assyrian, Christian hostages held in north-eastern Syria since February 2015 have today been released.

Voice of the East

The Assyrian Church of the East's Diocese of Syria, under the leadership of His Grace Mar Afram Athneil has also confirmed that this freed group comprises the final hostages from the group abducted from Assyrian villages in February 2015. Therefore, no further hostages remain and any reports quoting other figures to the contrary are unsubstantiated.

ACERO wishes to extend its unreserved thanks to all those supporters, both institutional and individual, who have stood with the Assyrians of Syria in this arduous 12-month period. While this news thankfully marks the end of the most recent tribulation, we mourn the tremendous losses, both human and material, suffered by the indigenous Assyrians of Syria. The destruction of their livelihoods in the historic Khabur villages is a loss for the Assyrian nation and for Syria as a whole.

The names of the released hostages are as follows:

Village: Tel Jazeera ("Inaye")

1. Martin Tamras Tamras,
2. Tamras Martin Tamras
3. Sharbal Martin Tamras
4. Mikhael Sadiq Ismael
5. Gaby Malik Sadiq Ismael
6. Ramy Sadiq Ismael
7. Raman Ameer Wilson
8. Elyan Saeed Yokhana
9. Josephine Martin Tamras
10. Maryam Timatheos Ismael
11. Maryana Timatheos Ismael
12. Manal Kako Kako
13. Emama Kako Kako
14. Munira Shaol Elisha
15. Muna Shaol Elisha
16. Ishtar Wanis Ismael

Village: Tel Shamiran ("Marboshnaye")

1. Maryam David Talya
2. Daniela Zia Goriel
3. Leena Mishael Issa
4. Hannan Mishael Issa
5. Jimmy Anwar Talya
6. Odisho Awishalim Yokhana
7. Zia George Eliya
8. Sargis Yonan Shmoni
9. Sharbal Shimon Goriel
10. Basam Shimon Goriel
11. Sanhareeb Mishael Issa
12. Ninos Mikhael Shmoni
13. Martin Yokhana Ammo
14. Adeeb Esho Goriel

Village: Tel Jazeera – ("Inaye")

- Mother:
Najat Khnanisho Yokhana
Family:
1. Clara Khalil Shimon
 2. Lara Khalil Shimon
 3. Elias Khalil Shimon
 4. Khatoun Khalil Shimon
 5. Christy Khalil Shimon
 6. Angel Hoseeb Jazaer
 7. Elena Raman Rowel
 8. Ninorta Shamoel Pityo
 9. Gewargis Ramy Ismael
 10. Muna Shaol Shaol
 11. Jessica Gaby Ishmael
 12. Sharbal Gaby Ishmael

Please continue to pray that all the innocent captives are released and settled back into their homes at the earliest. We should especially pray for Bishop Mar Afram Athneil, our Bishop in Hassaka, Syria and for the leadership he is giving to this beleaguered community.

Mar Aprem Metropolitan

International News

From the Secretariat of the Holy Synod

My dear brother Prelates:

Greetings in Christ. Please be advised that, per the directive of His Holiness Mar Gewargis III, Catholicos-Patriarch, the one year anniversary of the passing of the late H.H. Mar Dinkha IV will be observed by the whole Church on the Third Sunday of the Resurrection, i.e. April 10, 2016.

Bishop Mar Awa Royel

**First Catechetical Course – Eastern USA Diocese
of the Assyrian Church of the East**

Religious education is a pivotal aspect in the life of the Church. It strengthens the internal life as a community of believers and her external activity as a missionary Church. In fact the Church is bidden to offer catechesis her best resource, in people and energy in order to organize it better and to train qualified personnel.

In the context of the ongoing spiritual and theological awareness, evangelization and conversion process that is the goal of the Church for every Christian., the Eastern USA Diocese has successfully completed the First Catechetical Course (March-October 2014). It has consisted of five fundamental theological topics:

I Life in Christ: Morality in the Life of Assyrian Church
Instructor: HG Mar Paulus Benyamin

This course delved a loving relationship with God in Christ. It will present the dignity of the person, the moral responsibility conferred on us by God's gift of freedom, the process of conscience formation, the social teaching of the church, and the personal and social responsibility to live in justice as members of the Assyrian Christian community and steward of God's creation: 1. Sources of Knowing How to Live Justly: a) Natural Law; b) Dignity and Freedom of the Human Person; Grace and Sin; 2. Decalogue (Ten Commandments): Living in Right Relationships a. Relationship with God and Others; b) Personal and Social Sin; 3. Jesus Christ: The Reference for Moral Living: a) New Commandment of Love; b) The Beatitudes; 4. The Moral and Social Teaching: a. The Universal Call to Holiness; b) Respect for Life in All its Forms; c) Contemporary Issues: (death penalty, war, abortion...)

II Revelation through Scripture & Tradition
Instructor: Rev. William Toma

This course explored Church understanding of God's self-revelation through Scripture and Tradition. It covered all types of God's revelation; the meaning of the term Apostolic Tradition; Scripture as a source of wisdom and truth and its books; Syriac Scriptures; and how to read the violence in Scripture texts: i) Type of Revelations; ii) What do we mean by Tradition and its

Voice of the East

relationship with Scripture; iii) Scriptures: a) The Word of God written by Persons under the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit; b) Scripture as Source of Wisdom and Truth for Christian Living; iv) Old Testament: God's Revelation through History; v) New Testament: God's revelation through Jesus: Synoptic Gospels & Gospel of John; vi) the Early Church: Acts and Letters; vi) Bible in Syriac Tradition; vi) Church understanding of Scripture interpretation and how should we read and interpret the dark passages.

III. Profession of Faith – Creed

Instructor: Rev. George Toma

This course has lead the learner to an understanding of the *CREED* as the core theological source of catechesis. It will examine the development and the Church's understanding of the nature of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as well as other important concepts of our Christian faith. It covers the following aspects: 1. History and Development of the Creeds; 2. God the Father: Creator and Giver of Life; 3. God the Son: Redeemer: Major Christological Heretics; Christological Terms of the Assyrian Church: *qyana, qnuma & parsopa* & Mary, Mother of Jesus Christ; 4. God the Holy Spirit: Sanctifier a) the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church; Gifts of the Holy Spirit; 5. The Church: Body of Christ; the Church: One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic

IV The History of the Assyrian Church of the East

Instructor: Rev. Gewargis Sulaiman

The Church history is the heart of the story of God's kingdom work on earth. This course explores the development of the Assyrian church from Pentecost through the 21st century. It covered key people and events that God used throughout history to bolster His church, and it also explored the glorious and tragic events that have influenced the life of this Church. The goal of the course is to use lessons from church history to advance the Assyrian Church in the life and ministry: 1) The Apostolic Origin of the Assyrian Church of the East; 2) The Establishment of the See of Seleucia-Ctesiphon; 3) The Effects of Establishing of Christianity in the West on Christians in the East; 4) The Assyrian Church's Relationship with the Ecumenical Councils of the Byzantine Empire; 5) The council of Ephesus (431 AD) and the church of the East; 6) Ecclesiastical Organization and Expansion; 7) The Period of Survival, Persecution and Decline; 8) The Assyrian Church of the East – Modern Time; 9) The Vision of the Church for the Future.

V The Liturgy of the Church: Sacraments and Prayer

Instructor: Rev. Tawer Andrius

This course invited the participant to examine, understand and appreciate in the liturgy of the Church as it is celebrated through the Sacraments and prayer. Special attention was given to the Sacraments as sources of God's Grace and as a response to God's call to a rich life in the Assyrian community. 1. Liturgy as the Prayer and Action of the Church; a) Definition: Liturgy, Ritual, Sign, Symbol; b) Definition of Prayer and its Forms; d) Prayer in the Life of the Church: Liturgical Year and Popular Devotions; 2. Sacramental Theology of the Assyrian Church of the East: a) Definition: the Meaning of the Word *Râzâ*(mystery); b) The Validity and Effects of the Sacraments; 3) The Seven Sacraments of the Church: a) Priesthood; b) Baptism; c) The Oil of Unction; d) The Oblation of the Body and Blood of Christ; e) Absolution; f) Holy Leaven g) The Sign of the Cross.

The above courses were given for catechists and Sunday school teachers. They were also available to Deacons and sub-deacons. There were approximately 50 people who attended these courses. Due to the sad circumstances which our Church in particularly Eastern USA diocese went through last year led the awarding certification for those who had participated in the above courses to be bestowed with a certificate on Jan 24, 2016. The event took place at St. Andrew's Church under the auspicious of His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, along with some diocesan priests: Revs. William Toma, George Toma and Tawer Andrius.

**SECOND CATECHETICAL COURSE
(Jan-Apr 2016)**

In the context of continuing religious education and ongoing evangelization and conversion process that is the goal of the Church for every Christian the Eastern USA Diocese has initiated with the Second Catechetical Course (Jan – April 2016). It will be exploring the following themes:

1. *The Infant Baptism & Truly Presence of the Body and Blood of Christ during Eucharistic Celebration in Syriac Tradition*, (6 hrs) by Rev. William Toma.
2. *The Intercession of the Saints & Praying for the Dead*, (6 hrs) by Rev. George Toma.
3. *Salvation by Faith and Deeds*. (6 hours) by Rev. Gewargis Sulaiman.
4. *The Importance of the Apostolic Faith and Mariology*,. (6 hrs) by Rev. Tawer Andrius.

Rev'd Fr Tiari Aweshalem Receives Ph.D. in Rome

Following many years of study The Rev'd Fr Tiari Aweshalem has defended and been awarded a PhD in Moral Theology with Honours.

The title of the Ph.D. thesis is:

(Come Tu ci insegnasti ...)

Le anafore della Chiesa Assira d'Oriente: una fine della morale cristiana

Translated As:

(As You taught us...)

The Anaphoras of the Assyrian Church of the East: as a source of Christian morals

A Message from His Grace Mar Odisho Oraham, Bishop of Europe, following the award of the PhD:

Dear all; Greetings from Rome;

Just to let you that I was present at the Institute of Moral Theology in Rome, where Fr. Tiari Aweshalem was defending his thesis.

With great joy I wish to announce that Fr. Tiari has passed his examination in achieving a doctorate with honor degree.

On behalf of His Holiness the Patriarch and all of our Metropolitans and Bishops, I have to thank the Catholic Church for what it has done to our clergy in providing them with scholarships.

Hopefully we shall meet in Erbil.

Mar Odisho



Visiting of Sir Baniyas Island in October 2015. Bishops from L.R: Mar Yohannan Yoseph, Syriac Orthodox Archbishop of Abu Dhabi & the Gulf, Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Mar Aprim Khamis, Mar Awa Royel and 120 members.



Mar Aprem visiting the family of Dr. Rojy (Indian) and his wife Dr. Athor (Assyrian) with her parents on 14 Nov 2015 in Detroit



Mar Dinkha Parish, Cheeyaram handing over Rs.50,000/- to Mar Aprem Metropolitan for the Syrian victims



Vicar of Mar Qardakh Sahda Parish, Chennai Fr. Vinod Timothy leading the flood relief activities in Chennai



'Barekh Mar' Band on Mid Lent pictured with Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Mar Awgin Episcopa on 2nd March 2016 at Yohannan Mamdana Church, East Fort, Thrissur



Mar Mathai Shleeha Parish, Marottichal Donated the house to one of its members Mr. Raju Maliekal and blessed by Mar Aprem Metropolitan on Monday 29 February 2016



Newly constructing Parish Hall of the Mar Mathai Shleeha Parish, Marottichal, Thrissur

Christianity in China

We are proud of Alopen who went to China in 635 A.D. and established the Church in Sian. Our present Patriarch when he was Mar Gewargis Metropolitan in Iraq he visited Sian Fu and saw the monument erected in 781 A.D. telling the history of our Church from 635 A.D. to 781 A.D.

Personally I have written the Nestorian Mission to China in 635 A.D. onwards. But now a French Professor named Pierre Perrier came to visit Cardinal George Alenchery of the Syro Malabar Catholic Church in Cochin and the Cardinal suggested that he should visit me in Thrissur which is about two hours distance by car.

Prof. Pierre Perrier lectured to me for two hours nonstop about the existing history of Apostle St. Thomas establishing Church during 65 to 68 A.D when the doubting disciple of Jesus literally lived in China. His theory does not contradict the view that St. Thomas reached by ship in Kerala (known as Malabar) in 52 A.D. and was killed in 72 A.D. in a cave in Mylapore near Madras now known as Chennai. It was during his stay in South India he went to China for three years.

Pierre Perrier along Xavier Walter wrote a book in French language captioned **Thomas Fonde L'Eglise En Chine (65 – 68 A.D.)** Asie Jubilee, pages 320, ISBN-978-2-866-79-482-8

Although I had passed French examination in Princeton as a pre-requisite for Ph.D. degree-, I have forgotten most of it after 48 years. Still I understood some contents. This book makes it clear that St. Thomas is the founder of the Christian Church in China. Fortunately for me I found one chapter written in English.

Thomas founds the Christian Church in China (65-68)

(Pages 299 to 304)

This chapter of the above book gives a lot of figures, illustrious sculptures such as mother with child resembling Blessed Virgin Mary with baby Jesus. These new discoveries do not contradict the dates of the St. Thomas tradition as believed in South India. Pierre Perrier believes that St. Thomas came to Kerala in 52 AD. He worked hard for 12 years and established about ten churches. Then he went to China in 65 A.D. and worked for 3 years. He went to Sree Lanka and established church in Taprobane where there were Jewish settlements. It is believed that St. Thomas went to Japan too. By 69 A. D. he came to Tamilnadu in South India. He was martyred when he was in a cave in Mylapore.

There is a sculpture of St. Thomas on the front cover of this book. That shows a different image from the picture of St. Thomas we find in the Indian tradition.

It is true that Buddhism is older than Christianity. Buddhists were in India as well as in China, Sree Lanka, Japan etc. The students of Church history asked me in Japan, Sree Lanka (formerly

Ceylon) and in Tamilnadu in South India to research further about the evangelization of their lands by S.Thomas.

If St.Thomas had stayed and worked in Kerala only during the twenty years from 52 to 72 A.D, .he would have founded more than seven or eight churches. So this claim that St. Thomas worked not only in Kerala, but also in other places of the Silk Route where traders used to travel frequently in these countries.

The visit of St.Thomas must have helped Alopen to found a church in china in 635 A.D. ‘There remain in China a large number of later sculptures and buildings as recognized from archeological and textual evidences in direct connection to the next large mission of the church of the East, approved by emperors of Tang dynasty by a decree of 637" p.303.

Another book which this French scholar presented me is **KING WANG CHAN; Apostle Thomas and Prince Ying - The Evangelization of China from 64 A.D. to 87 A.D. published in 2012, pages 136, ISBN 978-2-86679-548-1.**

There re many pictures of icons etc in this book. Some resemble like Lord Buddha, as Buddhism was a strong religion in the first century in China, Sri Lanka, Japan etc in that time. There is a picture of Bishop Mar Aprim Khamis of Arizona as an example of the official dress of an Assyrian Bishop with crown on his head in page 30, photo no.32.

Indian Archdiocese News

**From the National Council of Churches in India
Perils of Migration and Human Trafficking**

During this consultation there was discussion regarding ”Perils of Migration and Human Trafficking”. Monijiri Bayapari, Coordinator of Lutheran World Service India Trust shared about the plight of indigenous people and women in stone quarries in Birbhum district in West Bengal and tea gardens in Assam who are at high risk of being trafficked. “We have so far focused on alternative livelihood and alleviating poverty. Now this consultation and networking meeting helps us to understand the nexus between sustainable development and eradicating poverty and human trafficking”. LWSIT runs a project for children of survivors and vulnerable women.

Plight of Rohingyas Trafficked to join ISIS

In South Asian and Asian context one cannot overlook the plight of the Rohingyas who are persecuted and fleeing from Myanmar. Moumita Biswas Executive Secretary reported that the “world has turned its attention on plights of refugees in Syria; even the Rohingyas also like refugees from Syria need support. In Delhi, Police Sources reported fake Indian passports were used to traffic hundreds of Rohingya Muslims to Saudi Arabia to join the terror group Islamic State. Delhi Police came across this information when they busted a human trafficking racket in Delhi and arrested five operatives. Addressing issues of trafficking today calls for justice and

care and concern for refugees and migrating communities. Myanmar's 1.1 million Rohingyas already live in apartheid-like conditions in western Rakhine and are facing persecution and fleeing to different parts of world.

Demise of Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus Suffragan Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church

Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus, Suffragan Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church died on 27 December 2015. He was 77 years old. He was a world leader and good preacher. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches.

Galila – the Parish Hall in Mar Thoma Sleeha Church, Pattikad

Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan inaugurated the new parish hall of the 216-year-old parish on 7 February 2016. The public meeting was presided over by the Episcopa-in-charge of 16 parishes including Mar Thoma Shleeha Parish, Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph.

The cost of the construction was 7 million (70 lakhs) Rupees (almost equivalent to \$110,000 USD). This is the largest parish hall in all our parishes in India. Most of the funds for this hall came from compensation paid by the government for acquiring our church land for construction of the National Highway. Fr. Sunny S. Koola, the Vicar of the parish gave able leadership for constructing this hall.

Mr. M.P. Vincent, MLA of the area, Panchayat President, Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose, Mr. I.G. Joy, Chairman of the Board of Central Trustees and other leaders spoke on the occasion.

Parish Hall in Mar Mathai Shleeha Parish, Marootichal

A spacious parish hall is nearing completion in the Mar Mathai Shleeha Parish, Marootichal. Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose who is in charge of this parish and Fr. Shaji Raphael, Vicar of the parish are hoping that this parish hall will be a great help not only to our church members, but also to people outside our church who need a suitable place to gather for social functions.

Youth Conference - 2016 in India

The Archdiocese of India will host a Youth Conference in Thrissur on July 21-24, 2016. Both youth associations (men and women) are collaborating together to make this Youth Conference a grand success. We are requesting that all prelates encourage their young people to attend this conference.

Those who attended the last Youth Conference in Thrissur in September 2014 are interested to have a similar experience once again. The date in July has been fixed to make it convenient for American youth also. For details, please contact. hgmaraprem@gmail.com

H.H. Mar Dinkha IV Assyrian Convent, Thrissur

The construction of the Assyrian Convent for nuns in India is progressing well. The Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organisation (ACERO) in Australia, under the leadership of His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia has donated \$10,000 AUD to the project and committed to raise more funds to complete this building located near the Mar Timotheus Memorial Orphanage in Thrissur.

This is the first time we have built a separate Convent building for nuns to stay in. At present two of our nuns (Sister Susy and Sister Annie) are staying in the Orphanage and the senior Sister Dr. Jincy Othottil is staying in the Bethany Ashram (headquarters of our Women's Society near the Chaldean Syrian College where she is the Principal).

Books by Mar Aprem Metropolitan

Those who are interested to buy books authored by Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan can send an e-mail to hgmaraprem@gmail.com.

A detailed catalogue will be sent to those who make enquiries. Several books are out of print. Some useful books are:

1. Teach Yourself Aramaic
2. History of the Assyrian Church in the 20th century. This is the first Ph.D. thesis of the SEERI, Kottayam. Reprint is available.
3. Biography of Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV. Stock is finished in India. Copies may be available in Chicago.
4. Biography of Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan of Mar Bisho who died on 30 April 1940.

Travelogues of the Metropolitan's visits to all our churches in the world in the past such as USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Russia, England, Sweden, Syria, Iraq, Iran and Lebanon are available.

Some of the Metropolitan's joke books such as **Bishop's Jokes, Laugh with Bishop, Holy Humour, and Joy to the World** are available.

The cost of the books is reasonable. Postage is expensive as it is mailed by AIRMAIL. Photocopies can be provided for books which are out of print.

'Barekh Mar' Band on Mid Lent

The Barekh Mar Band consisting of well known musicians, vocalists, instrumentalists etc of our church had a grand evening in Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church on Mid. Lent (2nd March) in Thrissur. A large audience was present. Two songs composed by Mar Aprem Metropolitan and one song composed by Mar Awgin Kuriakose were among the songs. All songs were composed and sung by members of our Church. We hope that our musical Band will grow as one of the best in Kerala. *Barekh Mar*, Bless O my Lord.

Books by Rev'd Fr. P.K. Varghese

A FRESH BOOK FROM Rev'd. P.K. Varghese (Vicar General-Emeritus)

"Evangelical and Eucharistic ANTHEMS"

An English Rendering from Thrissur Khudra Syriac Texts.
Demy 1/8, Pages 200 – Five Appendices. Price \$10 including postage.

Author's other two books:

1. The True Vine. (Modern poems in Syriac with English and vernacular renderings). Same size as above. Pages 226. Price \$25 including postage.
2. "Introducing the Worship in Assyrian Church of the East". Same size as above. Pages 140. Four Appendices. Syriac Texts and English Texts. Price \$10 including postage.

New Assyrian Books by Dr. Madeline Davis, USA

1. In Search of Lost Letters (34 Pages)
2. Simkhe d' Siprayouta 2015 Black & White (212 Pages)
3. Assyrian Reading lessons in Six Days (68 Pages)
4. Children's Illustrated Dictionary (264Pages)
5. The Assyrian Language and Literature Vol. 1(288 Pages)
6. Assyrian Speech Lessons Foundation Level Book 1- Instructor (358 Pages)
7. Igra (34 Pages)
8. Assyrian Speech Lessons Book 1 Foundation Level Student manual (460 Pages)
9. Assyrian Children's Religious Songs and Action Rhymes (158 Pages)
10. Simkhe d' Siprayouta (Black & White) (170 Pages)

Dr. Madeline Davis is the daughter of the late Rabi Youel Davis who was born in the village of Gavilan in the plane of Urmia in 1908 and passed away in Tehran, Iran in 1987. Twenty five years of experience as translator and interpreter enabled him to become a through and skillful translator capable of translating any text competently with clarity and accuracy. As he was a devoted Christian as well as a dedicated Assyrian, he put together his skill and his passion for his people to translate material from English to Assyrian. He believed that any religious or national endeavor must have its beginning at home because parents are the first teachers of a human being and that the education a child receives at home leaves its mark on the personality for a lifetime. In order to help parents achieve better results in educating their children in a Christian and Assyrian spirit, he translated these songs and poems which his daughter Madeleine has put together in this book in addition to the songs and poems translated by her. Other two books translated by the late Rabi Youel, "They Wrote on Clay" and "Mother Goose Rhymes" are ready for publication.

The House was donated by the Mar Mathai Shleeha Parish Marottichal

The House was donated by the Mar Mathai Shleeha Parish Marottichal to one of its members Mr. Raju Maliekal. Mar Aprem Metropolitan blessed this house on Monday 29 February 2016 assisted by Fr. Shaji Kottayathukaran, Vicar of the parish and Rev. Dr. Sister Jincy Othottil who took initiative for the construction of this house. Rupees one lakh was donated by the Mart Mariam Big Church during the 200th year's celebration. Two children of this family are being educated by the women's youth scholarship programme.

HH Mar Dinkha IV Assyrian Convent

The construction of the HH Mar Dinkha IV Assyrian Convent is in progress near the Mar Timotheus Memorial Orphanage, Kalathode, Thrissur. The first installment of the donation from the ACERO Australia consisting of nearly half a million rupees has been received with thanks. It is expected that the remaining donations from ACERO will be received soon so that the construction will be completed with out any delay.

Voice of the East

His Beatitude Dr. Mar Aprem

B.D., M.Th., S.T.M., D.Th., Ph. D.
Senior Metropolitan
Holy Apostolic Catholic
Assyrian Church of the East



Metropolitan's Palace
High Road, Thrissur 680 001,
Kerala, India
E-mail : hgmaraprem@gmail.com
Phone : 91 487 2420978
Mob : 9446621511

Ch 39 – 16

22 February 2016

To: H.H. Mar Gewargis III Sleeva, Catholicos Patriarch & All Prelates

Subject: Invitation – Youth Conference India July 2016

Greetings from the Archdiocese of the Assyrian Church of the East – Thrissur!

This is to share with you the upcoming youth conference which is going to be held at Thrissur on 21-24th July 2016. The youths from Indian Archdiocese would like to invite the young people from various diocese of our Holy Catholic Assyrian Church of the East and it will be a great experience for everyone.

We would like to make this conference a memorable event in the annals of the history of the Archdiocese and of the Church. In the last youth conference (Sep. 2014) we got only 5 delegates from foreign dioceses – 2 from Melbourne, 2 from London and 1 from Russia. This year we expect a minimum of 100 Youth Delegates from overseas preferably at least 2-5 from each Parish. We also welcome the well wishers and family members from our Dioceses abroad. Around 200 Youth Delegates from Indian Archdiocese will participate in this conference. Expecting your esteemed presence and blessing in person throughout this conference.

We invite Your Grace whole heartedly to this Youth Conference. We also request your Grace to handover this information to our youths in Your Diocese and Parishes.

We would like to know the number of Youth Delegates who would like to come to India and participate in this conference, preferably before 12th May 2016. We also request Your Grace to forward us the Names and Email IDs of the Priests and Youth Organizers of each Parish for further communication.

Thanking you,



Mar Aprem Metropolitan (India)

Ps. For International delegates "Dass Continental" (Business class Hotel) lodging is much cheaper compared to "Joys Palace" (5* Hotel). Please forward us the number of delegates for advance booking.

Please ask for a 'Tourist Visa' from the Indian Consulate to visit our Indian Church. Our nearest International airport is at Cochin.



Prime Minister of Iraqi Kurdistan Mr. Nachirvan Barzani talking with Mar Aprem in June 2015 in Erbil



Six Chaldean Catholic Bishops (with red skull cap) greeting Assyrian Bishops in September 2015 in connection with the election of the new patriarch H.H. Mar Gewargis III Sleeva in Erbil, Kurdistan



Board of Central Trustees and Kaikars of different parishes for the period of 2013-16
pictured with 3 Prelates of the Assyrian Church of the East in India



The Board of Central Trustees and the Church Council Members for the period of 2013-16
pictured with 3 Prelates and Vicars of the Assyrian Church of the East in India