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Vol 63 September - October 2017 Nos.9 & 10



Mart Mariam Cathedral, Thrissur Illuminated with the Figure of Mar Aprem Metropolitan by LED Bulbs in Connection with the Festival of Qudasheetha on 3 November 2017

VOICE OF THE EAST



H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan Speaks at the Valedictory Function of the Christava Mahilalayam at Aluva, Ernakulam on 18 September 2017



Bishop Mar Raphael Thattil wraps the eyes of Mar Aprem Metropolitan to walk on the road of Thrissur Round in connection with the 'World Sight Day 2017' organised by Jubilee Mission Hospital, Thrissur on 13 October 2017

VOICE OF THE EAST

(A socio-Religious bi-monthly)

(Private Circulation only)

September - October 2017

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Voice of the East

Vol. 64

September - October 2017

Nos. 9 & 10

Editorial

SAINT NARSAI ASSYRIAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE – Sydney

The new St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College campus at 217-233 Horsley Road, Horsley Park (near Sydney) will be opened and inaugurated on Monday 21 January 2018 at 4 pm. This is the culmination of an almost 2 decade journey in the educational programs of the Assyrian Church of the East, Archdiocese of Australia and New Zealand. The new state-of-the-art facility will be the permanent campus of the College in Sydney. His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia Metropolitan ought to be congratulated for the steady progress he has brought to the Archdiocese of Australia and New Zealand in mobilising the Assyrian refugees who migrated to Australia during the several decades in the last century and now continuing in the present century. The Assyrians in Australia and New Zealand are those who migrated from Iraq, Iran, Syria and Lebanon since the early 1960s.

His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia was the first bishop of the Australian diocese and has steadily built up the Church in country. The early years were very difficult with civil suits in the Supreme Court in Sydney. God blessed the Metropolitan to win the civil suits and to continuously build-up the now-Archdiocese. The key achievements of the Metropolitan have included the construction of St. Hurmizd Cathedral, the ordination of priests and deacons, the consecration of Bishops and of course the construction of St. Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School and St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College.

Moving to a new Campus the Metropolitan has plans for a theological college to teach the theology of our Church and the liturgical language of our Church which is the language of our Lord Jesus Christ spoke 2000 years ago. Unfortunately many Christians do not know that Jesus Christ did not speak Greek or Latin. The language of Jesus is not taught in most of the theological colleges even today. It is our duty to propagate the language of Jesus which some scholars call Syriac and others call Aramaic.

When the movie captioned *The Passion of The Christ* was released the BBC in London telephoned me from England asking for an interview about the language of the movie. I was in Arizona at that time and told them I was planning to visit my sister in England and I would be happy to sit in the recording studio of the BBC in London. When I was interviewed in the central recording studio of the BBC in London I was asked where one can study this language. I told them that the main place where one could study for Ph.D. in Syriac is at Oxford University in England. That was new information to that Englishman.

The second University where a Ph.D. degree is offered is in Kerala at the Mahatma Gandhi University in Kottayam. St. Ephrem Ecumenical Research Institute (SEERI), Kottayam is the prestigious institution which started the M.A. and Ph.D. degree courses in Syriac language. Prof. Sebastian Brock, an Anglican layman who trained many scholars in Oxford, helped us to start it in Kottayam. In Australia, Prof. Rifaat Ebied, a Coptic Christian layman from Egypt has helped to guide the research of Metropolitan Mar Meelis Zaia, Bishop Mar Benyamin Elyas of Melbourne and Cor-episcopa Narsai Youkhanis of Sydney. Prof. Ebied also guided the Ph.D. thesis of Rev. Dr. Sr. Jincy Othottil to earn her Ph.D. from Mahatma Gandhi University.

It is my sincere prayer that St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College, Sydney will grow as a University where scholars from all over the world will be attracted for research in the Syriac language and literature.

In this age and time, let Sydney be to the history of our Holy Church what the great cities of Edessa and Nisibis were in yesteryear.

Mar Aprem Metropolitan

International News

**His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin
Attends a Meeting Organised by Dr. Odisho Khoshaba**

On Thursday September 14th, 2017 His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Diocesan Bishop and Deacon Dadway Daniel attended a meeting that was organized by Dr. Odisho Khoshaba at Hilton Hotel, Northbrook IL.

The purpose of this meeting was to clarify the actual political spectrum presented by Mr. Joseph Pennington, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Iraq Bureau of near Eastern Affairs accompanied by Mr. David Staples. Luncheon was followed after the meeting.

The meeting was attended by:

- Chaldean Syriac Assyrian Popular Council,
- Assyrian American Federation
- Capni Organization
- Abna Nahrain Party
- Assyrian Universal Alliance (AUA)
- Assyrian Democratic Movement (ZOWA)
- Bet Nahrain Party
- Nineveh Plain Defence Fund

On behalf of His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin the diocese would like to extend thanks to Dr. Odisho Khoshaba for organizing the meeting.

Indian Archdiocese News

**Trip to Canada, USA and the Gulf
(August 2 to October 7, 2017)**

Bishop Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph, India

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On Sunday August 6th I celebrated Holy Qurbana at Toronto, the Cathedral Church of St. Mary. Next Sunday 13th Holy Qurbana was at Mar Thoma Shleeha Church at Windsor in the morning and in the evening at Mar Zaia Church at London, Ontario.

I was staying with our Bishop Mar Emmanuel Yosiph. Tony Emmatty and wife were in the Cathedral Church for the Holy Qurbana. Next day I went with Francis Palissery to see the Niagara Falls. After that we went to Mr. Tony Emmatty and family, Mr. Dharmo was there with Mr. Tony Emmatty's family. I went to Mr. Paul Johnson's home with Mr. Francis and blessed Paul Johnson's new home. Mr. Babu and family were there. We visited Mr. Jolly Palissery and family. Next day I was with Stanley Johnson. We went for sightseeing and supper was with Stanley's family.

Next Sunday I met Mr. Padavan Wilson and family and Sabu and family at London. 14th morning I went to Hamilton and stayed in a Hotel and on 15th I did Holy Qurbana at Mar Mari Shleeha Church at Hamilton. Mar Thoma Geevarghese Metropolitan was there in Hamilton. After the Holy Qurbana I returned to Toronto.

20th August I did Holy Qurbana at St. Peters Church in Phoenix, Arizona. H.G. Mar Aprim Khamis announced there previously about my visit and purpose of my visit.

On 21st we went to Los Angeles. On 23rd August we went to San Diego and in the evening we attended evening-prayers at Rabban Hurmizd Church. After the prayer there they

conducted a reception. Bishops of Chaldean Church were there in San Diego at Rabban Hurmizd Church. Next day we went to Orange County and stayed in a Hotel and attended the evening prayer at Orange County Church. 26th Saturday we returned to Los Angeles and attended the evening prayer in St. Mary's Church and next Sunday I Celebrated Holy Qurbana at that Church and after that we had a reception there also they announced about our Orphanages.

On that Day I G Joy and family attended the Holy Qurbana there. Next Day we visited Santa Barbara Mission and after that we went to Ligio's home. Joy Chettan's son's home we had our Lunch and for supper we went to Orange county, Dr.S ajil's home and after that we went to San Diego again to attended the installation of Mar Emmanuel of Chaldean Catholic Church. 30th we returned to Arizona by flight and 2nd September we went to Las Vegas and on 3rd I celebrated Holy Qurbana there in a Armenian Church. On 4th I returned to Arizona and 5th I went to Florida and 6th early morning I reached in Tampa on the same day we went to Orlando and on 7th we had the prayer meeting at the home of Liju.

On 8th September I went to Chicago and stayed with H.G Mar Poulouse. On 10th I celebrated Holy Qurbana at Mar Geevarghese Cathedral where I had attended the consecration of Bishop Mar Poulouse in 2012 and also attended the funeral service of our Late Holy Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV in April 2015.

On 11th I went to Vinu's home and blessed that home.

On 12th I went to San Francisco and from there I went to H.G Mar Awa's residence at Modesto. 12th evening we attended the evening prayers and in the next morning we had the *Lilya* and *Sapra* prayers. On 13th I attended the ordination of Shammasha Yohanna as Qasha with H.G. Mar Awa and I did the Holy Qurbana there. It was in the evening.

On 15th we went to San Jose and stayed in Susy's home an Assyrian Family. On 16th we went to Mittu Maliekkal's home and the next day I did Holy Qurbana in the San Jose Mar Yosip Church. H.G. Mar Awa announced about my visit and after the Holy Qurbana we had breakfast and reception. The same day I went to my niece Ashy and Timmy's home with H.G. Mar Awa.

On 18th September I flew from San Francisco to Dubai to visit our UAE Parish. We had Holy Qurbana on 21st at Abu Dhabi and 22nd at Sharjah and after the Holy Qurbana the parish members celebrated *Onam* there in a Hotel. On 24th I went to Abu Dhabi again with Fr. Sachin Timothy and visited the houses of our Church members. We have around 16 families there and 8 bachelors too. 29th we had Holy Qurbana in Sharjah and the same day evening we had prayer meeting at the home of John Neyyan in Dubai. I also visited some of our Church member's homes too.

On 2nd October I went to Muscat. On 5th evening we had a prayer meeting at Ruwi Mar Thoma Chapel and the next day we had Holy Qurbana too. After Holy Qurbana there was Sunday school's anniversary celebration and in the evening a prayer meeting at Jiju Davis' home too. On Saturday 7th I returned to India.

Mar Geevarghese Building

A nine-million-Rupee College building was blessed on 27 October 2017 in the premises of the Mar Geevarghese Sahada parish in Cheroor, Thrissur. This Mar Geevarghese Building is owned by the Mar Geevarghese Sahda parish in collaboration with an Agency providing College education in our parish area. Fr. Nipun Arackal, Vicar, Deacon Freddy Don (assistant Vicar), parish trustees Advocate Baby P. Antony, Joby Jos and others of that parish deserve congratulations for leading this achievement. Special thanks to the office bearers of the last term who negotiated and initiated this Mar Geevarghese Building. This parish was started by the late Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan in 1929. The Maitri Hall is an auditorium in the same compound built by the previous committees which is used for many social and marriage functions.

Holy Qurbana in Qatar

Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose, assisted by Fr. Simon Emmatty will conduct the Holy Qurbana in the Emmanuel Mar Thoma Church in Doha on Friday 17 November 2017 at 11am. It is the same church in Doha where Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Mar Awgin Kuriakose conducted Holy Qurbana on 18 November 2016.

If any of the readers of the *Voice of the East* know of any Assyrians working in or visiting Qatar, please let us know.

Baptism in Mumbai

On Sunday September 10, 2017 Mar Aprem Metropolitan flew to Mumbai and conducted the baptism of two grandchildren of Dr. Inasu Chakola. Dr. Inasu has two sons, both are doctors, the eldest Dr. Zubin works in Sydney, Australia and the youngest son Dr. Rabin works in New York. Mar Aprem Metropolitan had conducted the marriage of Dr. Inasu Chakola some four decades back. Some years ago his son Dr. Zubin's marriage also was solemnised by the same prelate. After the baptism the Metropolitan celebrated Holy Qurbana assisted by Fr. Michael Pazhumalil, honorary priest of Mumbai parish and Deacon Alex who came all the way from Trichur to assist at the Qurbana.

Visit to Mar Sleeva Parish, Cochin

Mar Aprem Metropolitan was chief celebrant at Mar Sleeva Church, Cochin on Sunday 17th September 2017. It was the annual festival for the Cochin parish. After Holy Qurbana there were entertainment programmes during the time between the breakfast and the lunch. As this is a small parish there was a closer fellowship among the members of the parish. This was formerly a part of the St. Thomas Church parish in Ernakulam. Even after the separation of the parishes there is only one common cemetery. This part of Cochin is where our forefathers in 1653 A.D. revolted against the Portuguese when they heard that a Metropolitan named Ahatallahad arrived in a Portuguese ship via Goa and was reported drowned in Cochin before he landed in Cochin. About thirty thousand believers of our Church revolted at this tragic news and took an oath at the Coonan Cross (Bent Cross).

50 Years a Metropolitan

On 29 September many dignitaries from various walks of life came to the Metropolitan Palace in Trichur to congratulate Mar Aprem Metropolitan on entering the 50th year of his service as a Metropolitan. In the history of Trichur no bishop has served the Church in any Christian denomination for 49 years. The present record in Trichur area is that of Mar Abimalek Timotheos Metropolitan of Mar Bhisho who died at the age of 66 and a half years after being a Metropolitan for 37 years and 5 months. Even in Kerala State or the whole of India there are not many who experience the Golden Jubilee of their consecration as Bishop or Metropolitan.

Metropolitan Philipose Mar Chrysostom, retired Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church, is the holder of record for longest reign as a prelate. He became a bishop at 35 and retired as the head of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church at 54 and a half years later. Now he is in the centenary year and still going strong. He celebrated his 100th birthday in April 2017. For a long life among bishops in India the record is that of Bishop T.B. Benjamin of the Church of the South India who retired at the age of 69 and died only at the age of 104.

The Malayalam edition of *Voice of the East* is publishing a special supplement issue of 130 pages with a lot of photos and articles about Mar Aprem Metropolitan. The publication will have both English and Malayalam pages. It will be released on 25th December. Those who have old photos or impressions about the Metropolitan to be published in this issue, please send it to hgmaraprem@gmail.com before 15 November.

Noori Barka Ph.D. of Tel Kepe, Iraq Visits Trichur

Dr. Noori Barka Ph.D. (originally from Iraq and now living in San Diego, USA) visited Trichur on 28 September along with his wife. When he heard that there is a 'Chaldean Syrian Church' in Trichur he expressed his desire to visit that Church. I told my friends that he was going to get a surprise. In India the 'Chaldean Church' is the Assyrian Church and his Church is known as the Syro-Malabar Church in India. He had sent information stating that he was born in a small village in Iraq. So I took in my hand a Manuscript of Kashkul prayer book copied in the village of Tel Kepe. I read it to his wife and noted that Tel Kepe is not an unknown village as it is mentioned in the manuscript that it was copied by Yosip, son of late Khanna, son of Babosha from Beth Kathulas, Tel Kepe in 1875 A.D. It has 618 pages, size 30.4 cm x 22 cm.

As I saw the interest of his wife in this manuscript I presented them the 14 DVD copies of all the Syriac MSS in our library. I had presented the same to Pope Benedict at the Vatican in 2012. I also gave my book **Assyrian Manuscripts in India** which has a Foreword by H.H. the late Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos Patriarch. I told them that I knew his former bishop Mar Sarhad Jammo before he became a bishop. He was a member of the Assyrian-Vatican Dialogue committee when I was the co-chairman of that committee. I told him that his present Patriarch Mar Louis I Raphael Sako was known to me when he was a priest. I do not know whether he believed me or not when I told him that I had met the Chaldean Catholic Patriarch Mar Paulus Sheikho in 1962 when I was only a deacon! I again met the same Patriarch in Baghdad in 1968.

YMCA Secretaries Annual Conference

The annual conference of the Professional Secretaries of all YMCAs in India was held at the YMCA Conference Centre in Alwaye, Kerala on 20-22 October 2017. Dr. Lebi Philip Mathew, National president of YMCA inaugurated the function. The National President and Chairman of the Kerala YMCA garlanded and congratulated Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan and offered best wishes for this archiepiscopal Golden Jubilee year. The Metropolitan gave an inspiring message recalling his days of studying with the YMCA professional secretaries in 1964 to 1966 while he was a student doing M.Th. degree in the United Theological College, Bangalore.

Youth Conference in India

The 3rd International Youth Conference is going to be held at Thrissur on 20th to 23rd August 2018. Youth from the Indian Archdiocese would like to invite young people from various diocese of our Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East and it will be a great experience for everyone. Those who are interested please mail to hgmaraprem@gmail.com



ASSYRIAN CHURCH NEWS

His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin pictured with Assyrian community members at a meeting organized by Dr. Odisho Khoshaba at the Hilton Hotel, Northbrook, Chicago on 14 September 2017

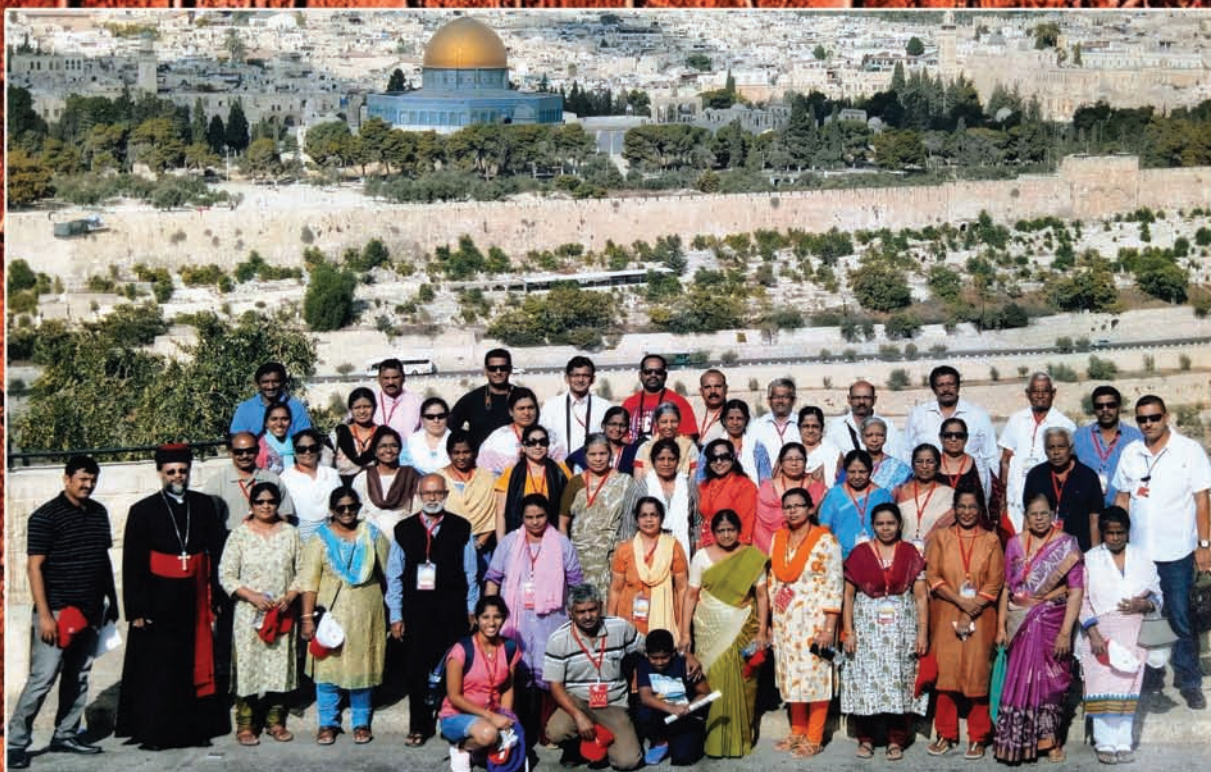


Mr. Noori Barka Ph.D. and his wife from Tel Kepe, Iraq Visiting Mar Aprem at the Metropolitan Palace, Trichur

H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan Pictured with Central Trustees and Office Staffs on His 50 Year Service as Metropolitan at Metropolitan Palace, Thrissur – 29 September 2017



The National YMCA Secretaries Conference. National President Dr. Lebi Philip Mathew and Mar Aprem Metropolitan Inaugurate the Meeting in Alway, Ernakulam on 20 October 2017



Indian Church Members Visit Jerusalem in September 2017



Paurasthyanadam Magazine Committee Congratulate H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan on his 50 Year Service as a Metropolitan on 29 September 2017



Agriculture Minister Adv. V. S. Sunilkumar with Mar Aprem Metropolitan Inaugurates the Computer Lab of Chaldean Syrian L.P. School, Thrissur. The Kerala Government has donated Rs.4,00,000/- for computers and its accessories



Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan Honoured by Adv. Therambil Ramakrishnan MLA on His 50 Year Service as Metropolitan at Metropolitan Palace, Thrissur on 29 September 2017

Three Assyrian Church of the East Pilgrimages to the Holy Land

Three tours to the Holy Land took place by faithful of our Holy Church (from three different Dioceses recently):

1. **Tour from India:** Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose, Fr. O.A. Abimalek, Fr. Jacks Chandy, Deacon V.V. Joseph and others went to the Holy Land from 23 September to 2 October 2017. They celebrated Holy Qurbana in Bethlehem.

2. **Tour from Australia:** Bishop Mar Benyamin Elya of Melbourne and a large group of faithful from Sydney and Melbourne took a tour of the Holy Land in September 2017.

3. **Tour from USA:** Bishop Mar Aprim Khamis of Arizona and others went to Jerusalem in October 2017. In Jerusalem, the Bishop ordained two deacons from his diocese (Los Angeles parish) as priests. They are Deacon Dr James Darmo and Deacon Nenos Pera who holds a Master's Degree. Both deacons passed examinations and are qualified to be elevated and ordained priests. There are around 100 families of our Church living in Venetia, a suburb of Los Angeles. It has been over a year since Venetia was made a mission parish. God willing, the newly ordained Fr. James Darmo will be the official priest to this new parish. Fr. Nenos Pera will serve as an assistant to Cor-epicopa George Bet-Rasho in Los Angeles and serve St. Mary's Church in that city.

International Jingjiao Symposium - China

Mar Aprem Metropolitan of India was invited to read a paper at the International Jingjiao Symposium of 2017. The details are as follows:

The Centre for the Study of Christianity, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, and the Institute for Ethics and Religions Studies, Tsinghua University, also in Beijing, asked Mar Aprem Metropolitan to extend their invitation to attend and participate at the International Jingjiao Symposium of the 2017 Conference on the Study of Christianity:

Theme : *The Practice of Faith for a Jingjiao Follower in China*

Date : *November 17-20, 2017*

Venue : *Cuiyuan Plaza Hotel, Central Institute of Socialism (4A, Wanshousi Road), Beijing.*

Cities Evangelized by Thomas in South India (Duration and Years)

**Translation 'Thomas Fonde L'Eglise en Chine' (French)
by Pierre Perrier and Xavier Walter**

Pages 276 & 277 by Fr. Dr. Raphael Akkamattathil, Trichur

Southwest Coast

Maliankara: 8 months (52-53); 1 month (54); 5 months (55); 2 weeks (59)

Quilon: 1 year (55-56)

Chayal: 1 year (56-57)

Triepalesuram: 2 months (55), 2 months (57)

Niranam: 2 months (57); 1 year (60-61)

Kokkamangalam: 1 year (57-58)

Kottakavu-Parur: 1 year (58-59)

Palayur: 1 month (59)

Maleatur: 2 months (60)

Southeastern Coast

Meilapouram and surroundings: 4 months and ½ (53); 1 month (54); 2 months (59); 3 years (70-72)

South Coast and Ceylon (Tamilnadu) Trivandrum and Tabropane (61-64)

Cities evangelized in China: the dates are approximate, except beginning and end, following expectations on the ground of favorable winds; previously Thomas made preparations and attempts (from summer 53 to Kalah and Malacca, then to 59); finally, he had a trained interpreter, probably from Tabropane, the busiest port for his sales facilitating the circumvention of India on the sea route.

The sabbatical years 61-62 and 68-69 did not give chance to go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem being in latent insurrection which was to be aggravated, but there were exchanges of letters carried by the merchants.

Cities evangelized by Thomas in China

Lianyungang (65)

Xushou (65-67)

Kaifeng (67)

Luoyang (67-68)

The one-year long evangelization was from Pentecost to Pentecost:

- 8 months of Tents at Pentecost

- 4 months or 4 months or more from Pentecost to Yom Kippur

- 2 months or less on a summer mission or in a trip

The cycles of three passages made it possible to install a bishop who was trained during winter session and by his collaboration with the missions of the apostle according to the model of the teaching of Jesus himself. Thus Thomas formed in India two bishops whose names have been preserved by tradition, more than seven priests and thirty deacons. At least two of the priests are rabban, that is, successors capable of forming deacons and priests. The same structure must have taken place in China. Baptisms took place at Easter or Tents after raising a mission cross, and ordinations at Pentecost after edification of a church at the feast of Dedication. The liturgical cycle is that of Matthew and the liturgical language Aramaic, with simultaneous translation into vernacular language by the deacon-translator, in this case the collaborator of Thomas called Shofarlan.

South coast and Ceylon (Tamil country)

Trivandrum and Tabropane (61-64)

Cities evangelized in China: dates are approximate, except beginning and end, following expectations on land of favorable winds; previously Thomas made preparations and attempts (from summer 53 to Kalah and Malacca, then to 59); finally, he has a trained interpreter, probably from Tabropane, the busiest port for his sales facilitating the circumvention of India on the road to the sea.

Preface to the English Translation of the Malayalam Prayer Book 'Prarthanakramam'

This is the English translation of the Malayalam Prayer Book, 'Prarthanakramam' published by the Church hundred years ago. This Malayalam Prayer Book was written by the late His Grace Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan, who was the Head of the Church of the East in India from 1908 to 1945. His Grace collected these Prayers from such Prayer Books as the 'Khudra', and other Prayer Books of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Church of the East and translated them into Malayalam. This English translation is therefore the translation of the translation from Aramaic originals.

For the Church of the East in India, this occasion is an occasion of fulfilment; for it has published the English translation of a great Malayalam Prayer Book written by a great Metropolitan, who had made strenuous efforts towards enlightening the faithful on the Faith and Doctrine of the Holy Church. His Grace gave the Church several valuable books in the form of original works and free translations. The Malayalam Prayer Book, 'Prarthanakramam', his second Book, was published in 1917. It is a great collection of

translations of Aramaic Prayers. This English translation is thus the translation of a great Malayalam Prayer Book, which contains gems of Aramaic Prayers in translation. It was the author of this Malayalam Prayer Book, who showed the members of the Church of the East in India the Tree of true Faith, and taught them how they should follow it and preserve it in its original purity.

I congratulate the Committee that examined the draft translation and produced the final Text under my personal direction, and I thank the members most warmly. My special thanks are due to Sri. K. Jacob Samuel, who translated the Malayalam Prayer Book into English.

Sri. Jacob Samuel is a member of the Church of South India, and son of Rev. K. C. Samuel who was a senior priest of the North Kerala Diocese of the Church of South India and a well-known evangelist of his times. He was a Bank Officer, who retired from the Central Bank of India as a Senior Executive.

Sri. Jacob Samuel has translated many celebrated books on Christian faith, which includes 'Baptism And Holy Spirit' by Dr. John R. W. Stott, 'Faith's Check Book' by Charles Haddon Spurgeon and, 'The Light Of A Lamp' by C.S.I. Bishop Michael John. He has also associated himself with 'Indian Bible Literature' for translating and editing their Malayalam Publications.

I take this opportunity to convey my profound gratitude to Prof. K. A. Ignatius Kanimangalam, a senior member of the Church, a member of the Committee for Translation, a former Central Trustee of the Church and a former President of Mar Timotheus Metropolitan Memorial Fellowship of Thrissur. He wrote out the whole draft of the translation, incorporating the versions of his choice, and reformed and refined the text, section by section in close consultation with the Co-ordinator of the Committee, Dr. C. K. George, who submitted the revised draft, part by part, to the Committee. Prof. Ignatius did not merely pay meticulous attention to the language aspect of the translation, but edited it and helped greatly in transforming the translation into a structurally compact and finished piece.

I would fail in my duty if I do not express my warm appreciation of the co-ordination carried out by Dr. C. K. George Chakola, who is a former Central Trustee of the Church and a former President of Mar Timotheus Metropolitan Memorial fellowship of Thrissur. I have really no words to describe the thoroughness with which Dr. George co-ordinated the work of the Committee by explaining certain usages and choices and by convincing the Committee of the acceptability or otherwise of certain structures used. In his own inimitably pleasing way he convinced the Committee that all acceptable views and suggestions were accepted. It was the ardour of Dr. George's co-ordinating efforts and the earnestness of the Committee's efforts that made the translation of the 'Prathanakramam' as faithful as possible to the original. I congratulate them all most warmly.

Rev. David K. John Kuttikadan, Rev. T. O. Ignatius Thekkanath, Rev. Sunny S. Koola, Rev. Binu Joseph Ponnokkaran (Secretary, Clergy Council), Rev. Runo Varghese Poolon and Bishops Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph and Mar Awgin Kuriakose have done their part as members of the Committee admirably well. I thank them all most warmly. I also thank Sri. Johnson T. John Thazhtha, who did the DTP work for the Prayer Book with inimitable efficiency. My thanks are also due to Mar Narsai Press of Thrissur, the Printer and Publisher of this English Prayer Book. It may be recalled that this Press was established by the late His Grace Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan in 1926.

Several generations of the faithful in India have used the Malayalam Prayer Book. Some of our children who study in English-medium Schools and who find it difficult to read Malayalam cannot read the Malayalam Prayer Book. I hope that this English Prayer Book

Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan

June 13, 2017 (Published in November 2017)

{Translation of the poem given on last page; metre and tune the same; it's a translation of a Malayalam lyric, a language of Kerala, India. The three versions have been written by Rev. P K Varghese, Vicar General Emeritus}. Mob No:+919061806036

Eradicator of sins
O! Saviour
Remission impart on me
A sinner am I
Curse in all sense
Remission impart on me

All the rights of a son dear
With Your mere grace
Bestowed in Son's name on me Favour
rejected I;
Evil took I instead;
Remission impart on me

A good healer You are
Casting right out
Variety of ailments
A sick am I; Weak thorough;
Heal me by Your grace O! Lord



ܩܕܝܫܬܐ ܕܡܪܝܢܐ ܕܡܬܠܚܬܐ ܕܡܬܠܚܬܐ ܕܡܬܠܚܬܐ ܕܡܬܠܚܬܐ ܕܡܬܠܚܬܐ
HOLY APOSTOLIC CATHOLIC ASSYRIAN CHURCH OF THE EAST
ܩܕܝܫܬܐ ܕܡܪܝܢܐ ܕܡܬܠܚܬܐ ܕܡܬܠܚܬܐ ܕܡܬܠܚܬܐ ܕܡܬܠܚܬܐ
DIOCESE OF WESTERN USA

Office of the Diocesan Bishop

His Eminence Mar Aprem
Metropolitan of India
Your Eminence:

Sep. 29, 2017

I wish this letter meets you in the best of health, condition and happiness.

I am extremely delighted to learn that our holy Church in your Archdiocese is celebrating golden jubilee of Your Eminence. It is with great honor, on behalf of the priest, deacons, and the faithful of Western Diocese to offer heartfelt congratulation to Your Eminence at this blessed occasion.

Your Eminence: You have dedicated your life laboring in the Lord's vineyard. Indeed, you have been pillar of progress, prosperity, and unity of our holy Church in India. Your administration made it possible together with brethren prelates and supported by all the faithful and brought an end of the division of our Church in India. I am confident that our Lord will rewarding you abundantly for your faithfulness, Jesus says "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Matt: 5:9).

Your Eminence through the journey of your laboring in His vineyard has joined on behalf of our Holy Church in international Church Conferences, as an author, you have written tens of books concerning our Church doctrine and your journeys worldwide. In fact, this is minimal to write about your life's journey and your faithfulness adhering for His call, but, we the Assyrian has MOTTO in which we say "You has perfected and paid" for your vocation.

Conclusion: Beseeching our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ to accept all of your dedication laboring in the vineyard for His glory. May He shower you with His heavenly blessings now and forever and ever: Amen.

Fraternal brother in Christ

+ *Mar Aprim Khamis*

+Aprim Khamis

Bishop Western USA



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Continuing from the Previous Issue

Sam Higginbottom University

The visits to villages were revelations. The farmers used centuries-old implements and their yields, in spite of the naturally rich and fertile soil, were among the lowest in the world. The visits also defined his future to devote his life to teaching the Indian farmer progressive methods of agriculture. He was now in his mid-30's, had no education in agriculture and owed responsibility to his wife and a growing family. But his wife, Ethelind, gave him her full support and persuaded him to go to the United States to study agriculture. Taking leave, Higginbottom returned to the United States and enrolled at the Ohio State College of Agriculture in Columbus, Ohio.

During these years in United States, he assimilated as much knowledge of scientific agriculture and animal husbandry as he possibly could. But even more than the degree that he earned, he needed financial backing for his mission. He met friends and strangers, lectured to various groups, making impassioned pleas for donations. At one meeting, he told his gathering, "It is only the abundance of America's good will, of her resources and her conscious ability to help that justify her in giving this assistance to India." He finished his lecture and waited.

A young domestic servant in her teens came forward with some trepidation and handed him a \$ 5 note. At another meeting, a shabbily dressed worker passed him a soiled \$10 note saying, "Take this and use it for me over there." He collected \$30,000 (most of it coming from donations of under \$10), persuaded two American agricultural experts to join him and returned to Allahabad.



*Dr Sam Higginbottom
A Farmer
A Teacher
A Servant of God*

The Beginning

Dr. Sam Higginbottom bought the same patch of dismal land-some 125 hectares, where he stood eight years earlier, to show that there was no land in India so bad that it could not be put under the plow. The land was reclaimed with the help of about a dozen American hillside plows. A small brick dam was constructed and soon a lush, green demonstration farm stood where nothing had grown before. The farm, which was used for giving practical training to students, excited the curiosity of neighbouring farmers, providing them their first introduction to modern farming practices. Thus was born the Allahabad Agricultural Institute (AAI), the result entirely of one man's passion and compassion. The front veranda of his residence served as a classroom-cum-lab and the back veranda as a dining-room-cum-dairy.

The Higginbottoms regularly made fund-raising trips to the United States, and with each new donation the institute grew, both in size and in the number of disciplines taught. In 1914 the government accorded recognition to his institute and sanctioned an annual grant of Rupees 20,000. From then on there was no looking back.



After Holy Qurbana at St. Mark Syrian Orthodox Church, Bethlehem on 27 September 2017. L-to-R: Deacon V.V. Joseph, Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose, Fr. O. A. Abimalek and Fr. Jacks Chandi



After Holy Qurbana in St. Mary's Assyrian Church of the East, Los Angeles: H.L. Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph & H.G. Mar Aprim Khamis with clergy - 27 August 2017



**After Holy Qurbana on 3 September 2017
Bishop Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph and Bishop Mar Aprim Khamis with the
faithful of Mar Benyamin Shimun Parish in Las Vegas, Nevada.**



**Fr. Vinod Timothy, Vicar of Mar Yohannan Mamdana Parish Presenting
Ma'apra (Vestments) to H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan marking his
Archiepiscopal Golden Jubilee – 8 October 2017**