

THE OTTAWA MAR THOMA CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2002

First of all let us thank God Almighty, for his guidance and blessings showered upon us to continue as a parish during the year 2002.

During the reporting year we had one worship service conducted by our newly appointed Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev Euyakim Mar Coorilos and 5 other worship services conducted by our Vicar Rev. T.S. Thomas. We like to extend our thanks to Thirumeni for taking the time to visit us and for his continued leadership and spiritual guidance. Let us also extend our appreciation to our Achan for visiting us on a regular schedule and keeping us closely as part of his ministry. An average of 45 people attended the services and majority of them took part in the Holy Communion. Let me express my gratitude to all members and friends from our sister parishes for their regular attendance and support offered to this church through out these services. Church services always ended with an after-service reception or dinner which gave us an opportunity for further fellowship. Let me take this opportunity to thank all those who participated in the preparation of the meals and refreshments, and especially to Mrs. Susha Zachariah for cheerfully arranging those receptions.

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2002:

The office bearers for the year 2002 were elected during the General body meeting held on December 29, 2001, at the residence of John & Susy John. Rev. T.S. Thomas presided over the meeting. The following members were elected:

- Vice-President : Mr. Mathew Thomas
- Secretary : Mr. Reji Alex
- Treasurer : Mrs. Susy John
- Accountant : Mr. John Zachariah
- Auditor : Mr. C.O. Thomas
- Lay-leader : Mr. Mathew Thomas
- Diocesan Assembly Member : Dr. John Samuel
- Youth Representative : Ms. Suja Thomas

We sincerely thank all of the office bearers for their time and effort expended for the nourishment of our parish.

A General body meeting was held on March 02, 2002, at the residence of Mathew & Kunjumol Thomas. Rev. T.S. Thomas presided over the meeting. The annual report was

read by the Secretary Mani P. Mani and the audited Financial statement for the year 2001 was presented by Susy John and both were approved during the meeting.

We currently have 25 registered members in our church. This year, a member of our church, Susan John, daughter of John & Susy John was married to Jason Joseph, a member of the Toronto Mar Thoma church. I like to extend our congratulations to the married couple on behalf of the parish. This year, a baby girl named Crista was born to Koshy & Sobha Oommen; a baby boy named Sanjeev was born to Rajiv & Shiela Thomas. Congratulations to both families as they enjoy their gift of joy from God.

As in the previous years we had regular monthly prayer meetings on Sundays and on Saturdays during Achan's visit. Let me thank each family for hosting our Thirumeni and Achan & family during their visits, as well as inviting others in to their homes for prayer meetings.

20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY:

This year we have conducted a short ceremony to mark the 20th Anniversary of our Ottawa Mar Thoma church, on July 21, 2002. Rev. T.S. Thomas presided over the function. First of all, let us praise God for providing us the freedom and opportunity to establish and grow as a church in this beautiful country away from our native land. Let us also extend our thanks to the founding members of this church for their wisdom and harmony to grow together as a church from its humble beginnings as a small prayer group that was started many years ago.

CHRISTMAS CAROLE:

This year also we conducted a Christmas Carole Service on December 15, 2002, immediately following the Holy Qurbana at the St. Mark's Anglican Church. It was a blessed evening of Carol singing and Bible reading, well received by a large audience. Let me thank all the participants who came forward to participate in the event and for taking time off from their busy schedule to practice for the same. A special thanks also goes out to Mr. Mani P. Mani for organizing the group and to Dr. & Mrs. John Samuel for facilitating their home for the choir practice.

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2003:

A General body meeting to elect the office bearers for the year 2003 was held on December 15, 2002, at St. Mark's Anglican Church. Rev. T.S. Thomas presided over the meeting. The following office bearers were elected:

- Secretary : Mr. Reji Alex
- Treasurer : Mr. John Zachariah
- Accountant : Mr. Paul Kuruvilla

- Auditor : Mr. C.O Thomas
- Lay-leader : Mr. Mathew Thomas
- Diocesan Assembly Member : Dr. John Samuel
- Sevika Sangam Secretary : Mrs. Sushmitha Pothen
- Youth Representative : Mr. Philip Pothen

Mrs. Ammu Thomas and Mrs. Mercy Thomas have volunteered to serve as the Food Co-ordinators for the coming year. Let us pray that God's guidance be upon all these newly elected members as they engage in their tasks on behalf of the church.

We, the members of the Ottawa Mar Thoma Church extend our sincere thanks to St. Mark's Anglican Church for allowing us to use their sanctuary and other facilities for conducting all our programs throughout the year.

On behalf of the Executive Committee:

Rev. T.S. Thomas
Vicar

Reji Alex
Secretary.

February 09, 2003
