



THE OTTAWA MAR THOMA CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2005

INTRODUCTION:

As a church, we have enjoyed a very peaceful year in 2005. However, the year began and ended with war and with uncertainties about the peace and tranquility of the world in general. We have seen much natural calamities and disasters in the form of Hurricanes and Tornadoes all around us. Yet, we were spared from all those adversities not by our own virtue but by the Grace of our protector and savior, Jesus Christ. Let us thank God for all His blessings and guidance throughout the past year. Let us also remind ourselves, that our responsibility as members of the church is to build a community, a community that finds God and Savior as its centerpiece.

WORSHIP SERVICES AND PRAYER MEETING:

During the reporting year we had 6 services conducted by our Vicar Rev. Mathew M. Thomas. An average of 50 people attended the services and majority of them took part in the Holy Communion.

I like to express our sincere thanks to Rev. Mathew M. Thomas for his spiritual guidance and his commitment to this Church. Achen always made special efforts to provide Qurbana service for us consistently on the third Sunday of every alternate month. As in the previous years we had prayer meetings on Saturdays during Achen's visit. Thanks to all the families who hosted our Achen & family during their visits.

Our Church services always ended with refreshments or dinner which gave us an opportunity for further fellowship. I would like to express our thanks to the food coordinators Mrs. Suzy John and Mrs. Leela Varki, and other members who volunteered to prepare those meals and refreshments.

MEMBERSHIP:

We currently have 25 regular members in our Church. As always, this year also we have enjoyed the company and support of members of our sister churches in all our Church activities through out the year and we sincerely thank them for the support.

Congratulations to Paul & Susan Kuruvila on the birth of their baby girl, Liya Kuruvila. Liya Kuruvilla was also adorned with crown, through baptism and brought to the fellowship of the Church at St. Mark's Anglican Church by Rev. Mathew M. Thomas on

April 08, 2006. Let us pray that God's guidance be upon this child to grow up in the Christian spirit and values.

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2005:

The office bearers for the year 2005 were elected during the General body meeting held on October 17, 2004, at St. Mark's Anglican Church. Rev. Mathew M. Thomas presided over the meeting. The following members were elected:

- Vice-President : Mr. John M. John
- Secretary : Mr. Reji Alex
- Treasurer : Mr. Paul Kuruvilla
- Accountant : Mr. Mathew Thomas
- Lay-leader : Mr. John K. John
- Sevika Sangam Secretary : Mrs. Suzy John

- Auditor : Dr. John Samuel
- Food Coordinators : Mrs. Suzy John, Mrs. Leela Varki

During the reporting year, Mrs. Aleyamma Samuel from our parish was also nominated to the Diocesan Assembly by our Diocesan Bishop. We also have Dr. Philip Mathew as our elected member. Therefore we currently enjoy the privilege of having two Diocesan Assembly members.

We sincerely thank all the office bearers and Committee members for their time and commitment throughout the year, in conducting the operations of our church

An Annual General Body meeting was held on February 20, 2005, at St. Mark's Anglican Church presided over by Rev. Mathew M. Thomas. The annual report for the year 2004 was read by Secretary and the audited financial statement for the year 2004 was presented by Treasurer John Zachariah and both were approved unanimously during the meeting.

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2006:

A General body meeting to elect the office bearers for the year 2006 was held on February 19, 2006, at St. Mark's Anglican Church. Rev. Mathew M. Thomas presided over the meeting. The following office bearers were elected:

- Vice-President : Mr. John M. John
- Secretary : Mr. Paul Kuruvilla
- Treasurer : Mr. Biju Abraham
- Accountant : Mr. John Zachariah
- Lay-leader : Mr. John K. John & Mr. Mani P. Mani

- Auditor : Mr. George John
- Food Coordinators : Mrs. Suzy John & Mrs. Leela Varki

Let us pray that God's guidance be upon these newly elected members as they carry out their responsibilities on behalf of the church.

ECUMENICAL CHRISTMAS CAROL PROGRAM:

Our third Annual Ecumenical Christmas Carol program was held on December 10th following the Qurbana service. Accepting our invitation, the event was well attended by a large audience. It was a blessed evening of Carol singing and Bible reading. Fr. Sebastian Payyappilly delivered a felicitation speech followed by a Christmas message by Rev. Mathew M. Thomas. Carol songs sung by choir groups from Mar Thoma church, Orthodox Church and Catholic Church brought out the true spirit of Christmas in everyone's mind that evening.

On behalf of the Church I would like to thank all the participants who presented programs during that evening. The event ended with a pot-luck Christmas Dinner coordinated by Mrs. Suzy John, Mrs. Leela Varki, Mrs. Leesa Kallumkal and Mrs. Annie Panickar. We look forward to the next opportunity to come together as a community to praise our Lord for all His blessings throughout the year.

DONATION TO LILLY SREEDHARAN:

Donations were collected to support the family of Lilly Sreedharan, a mother of three, who was fighting a losing battle against poverty and hardships in an attempt to educate her children and secure a better future for them.

Thanks to the overwhelming response of the members, we were able to send a donation of \$1000.00 to assist her in arranging a wedding for one of her daughters. Since then, we have received a letter from Lilly Sreedharan expressing her deepest gratitude for our generous support.

CONCLUSION:

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to St. Mark's Anglican Church for allowing us to use their Sanctuary and other facilities for conducting Worship and all of our other programs throughout the year.

I want to thank each of you for your participation and contribution to the work of our Parish and may God continue to keep us all in good health and Bless our life together as a church community in the coming year.

Mr. Reji Alex

Secretary.

April 08, 2006