



THE OTTAWA MAR THOMA CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2008

INTRODUCTION:

As a church, we have enjoyed a very peaceful year in 2008. However, we have witnessed much hardship in many countries around the world due to war and natural calamities, observed alarming trends in the financial sector, and painful realities in and around our cities in the employment sector. Yet, we as a Parish, as families and individuals, were blessed and mostly spared from all those hardships not by our own virtue but by the Grace of God Almighty. Let us therefore thank God for all His blessings and remind ourselves to remain strong in our union with God.

WORSHIP SERVICES AND PRAYER MEETING:

During the reporting year we had 6 services conducted by our Vicar Rev. Manoj M. Zacharia. An average of 50 people attended the services and majority of them took part in the Holy Communion. We did not have an Episcopal visit during the reporting year.

In September, our Vicar joined the University of Toronto as a full time student to pursue his Doctoral studies. However, as per our Diocesan Bishop's kalpana, we were fortunate to have Achen continue as our Vicar and that of three other small churches in the area.

Our Quarbana services were conducted generally on the third Sunday of every alternate month. We also had prayer meetings on Saturdays during Achen's visit. I like to express our sincere thanks to our Achen and Kochamma for their commitment to this Church and their spiritual guidance. Thanks to all the families who hosted Achen & Kochamma during their visits as well.

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 also to members who volunteered to prepare those meals and refreshments.

MEMBERSHIP:

We currently have 20 registered members in our Church. This year, our membership was reduced by one family as George Mathew, Jaya and their children Shruthi and Sangeeth moved out of Ottawa. They are now members of a MarThoma Church near Philadelphia.

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

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETINGS:

A Annual General Body meeting was held on March 24, 2008, at St. Mark's Anglican Church. Rev. Manoj M. Zacharia presided over the meeting. Secretary Mr. Paul Kuruvilla presented the Annual Report and Treasurer Mr. Mathew Thomas presented the annual accounts for the year 2007 and the budget for the year 2008. Both were approved unanimously during the meeting.

The following office bearers elected during the General body meetings held on October 21, 2007 and on Feb 24, 2008* took over the responsibilities as the new office bearers.

- Vice-President : Dr. John Zachariah
- Secretary : Mr. Reji Alex*
- Treasurer : Mr. Paul Kuruvilla
- Accountant : Mr. Koshy Oommen*
- Lay-Leader : Mr. John Kompithra
- Auditor : Dr. Philip Mathew*
- Refreshment Coordinators : Mrs Suzy John & Mrs. Leela Varki

A general body meeting was held on December 28, 2008, at St. Mark's Anglican Church. Rev. Manoj M. Zacharia presided over the meeting. The following office bearers were unanimously elected for the year 2009.

- Vice-President : Dr. John Zachariah
- Secretary : Mr. Reji Alex
- Treasurer : Mr. Rajiv Thomas
- Accountant : Mrs. Mercy Thomas
- Lay-leader(s) : Mr. John Kompithra, Mr. Mani P. Mani
- Sevika Sangam Secretary : Mrs. Suzy John
- Auditors : Mr. John M. John, Mr. Koshy Oommen

Mrs. Suzy John, Mrs. Sobha Koshy and Mrs. Asha Alex were also named as the Refreshment coordinators.

During the reporting year, our MarThoma Metropolitan has nominated Dr. John Samuel as a member of the Prathinidhi Mandalam. This is the first time a member of our church is nominated to that position. Mr. Mathew Thomas served the church as our Diocesan Assembly representative.

We sincerely thank all the outgoing office bearers for their time and commitment throughout the year. Let us pray that God's guidance be upon the newly elected members as they carry out their responsibilities on behalf of the church.

ECUMENICAL CHRISTMAS CAROL PROGRAM:

Our sixth Annual Ecumenical Christmas Carol program was held on December 28, 2008 following the Qurbana service. This year again, the event was attended by well over a 100 people from our community, which was both encouraging and helped reaffirm our commitment to continue the program in the years to come. Members of the Orthodox Church and the Catholic Church actively participated in the organization of the program and for the Christmas dinner served after the program. On behalf of the Church, I like to take this opportunity to acknowledge their cooperation, while soliciting their continued support in the future as well.

I would also like to thank all the choir groups and other participants who presented programs on that evening. The evening ended with a pot-luck Christmas Dinner coordinated by Mrs. Suzy John, Mrs. Leela Varki, Mrs. Elizabeth Kuruvila and Mrs. Thresiyamma Luiz.

DONATIONS

This year Ottawa Mar Thoma Church donated to Karmel Mandiram, Ayroor, Jyothis Puthiyakavu and to St. Thomas Mission Hospital, Kattanam.

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 Worships 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.

Feb 22, 2009