



THE OTTAWA MAR THOMA CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2010

INTRODUCTION:

The year 2010 was another memorable year in many respects. The year started with the horrific news of the earth quake in Haiti which claimed the lives of thousands of people, followed by several natural and manmade calamities including the oil spill, the devastating flood in Pakistan and Iceland Volcanic eruption. Later on we also witnessed the triumphant rescue of the Chilean miners. All those events once again demonstrated the vulnerability of mankind and the strength of human spirit often bonded by their faith in the divine spirit.

As a church, let us thank God for all the blessings and remember that it is God's love and care that ushered us through another year devoid of such distresses and difficulties.

WORSHIP SERVICES AND PRAYER MEETINGS:

During the reporting year there were six Holy Communion services conducted generally on the second Sunday of every alternate month, at the St. Mark's Anglican Church. Vicar Manoj M. Zacharia visited us from Toronto to conduct the services. Averages of 60 people were in attendance and majority of them took part in the Holy Communion. Family prayer meetings were also conducted on Saturdays during Achen's visit.

The congregation would like to extend our sincere thanks to Achen and Kochamma for their leadership and their commitment to attending the needs of this Parish. We would like to also thank our lay-leaders Mr. John Kompithra & Mr. Mani P. Mani for their support in the worship services & our food co-ordinators Mrs. Suzy John & Mrs. Leela Varki for organizing the after service receptions. Our thanks to St. Mark's Anglican Church for allowing us to use their Sanctuary and other facilities for conducting worship services and other programs throughout the year.

MEMBERSHIP:

This year new memberships were granted to Varghese & Chris Kottagiri and their two children Sarah & Jonathan bringing the total membership to 22 registered families.

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING:

Annual General Body meeting was held on February 14, 2010, at St. Mark's Anglican Church. Rev. Manoj M. Zacharia presided over the meeting. Secretary Mr. Reji Alex presented the Annual Report. Treasurer Mr. Rajiv Thomas presented the annual accounts for the year 2009 and the budget for the year 2010. Both were approved unanimously.

The office bearers for the year 2011 were elected during the annual general body meeting held on October 03, 2010. Accepting a unanimous request from the general body, members of the previous year's committee agreed to continue for one more year.

❖ Vice-President	: Mrs. Aleyamma Samuel
❖ Secretary	: Mr. Reji Alex
❖ Treasurer	: Mrs. Sobha Koshy
❖ Accountant	: Mrs. Susha Zachariah
❖ Lay-leader(s)	: Mr. John Kompithra, Mr. Mani P. Mani
❖ Sevika Sangam Secretary	: Mrs. Suzy John
❖ Auditors	: Dr. Philip Mathew, Mrs. Asha Alex

Mrs. Suzy John and Mrs. Leela Varki were named as the Refreshment coordinators.

Dr. John Samuel will continue his responsibilities as member of the Prathinidhi Mandalam and Mr. Mathew P. Thomas will continue his role as the Diocesan Assembly member, both until March 31, 2011.

We sincerely thank all those who serve the Church in various positions, for their dedicated service.

ECUMENICAL CHRISTMAS CAROL PROGRAM:

On December 04, 2010 our Parish hosted the eighth Annual Ecumenical Christmas Carol program. Once again overwhelming support and participation from the three main Malayali churches in Ottawa made the event a huge success.

This year the program ended with a catered Christmas dinner instead of home-cooked meal as in previous years. The dinner expenses were fully covered by the generous contributions from those who attended the event. We were also able to make donations to the Food Bank and Shepherds of Good Hope using the additional proceeds received over and above the fund that was required to meet the dinner expense.

On behalf of the Church, I like to take this opportunity to appreciate the support of the Secretaries and the members of the St. Thomas Orthodox Church and the Ottawa Malayali Catholic Community for their dedication and continued commitment to this program.

We want to also convey our special appreciation to Sarah Zachariah for her initiative in collecting non-perishable items for the Food Bank during the Carol program. Thanks to all those who contributed; a box full of non-perishable items were collected and donated to the Food Bank, to support the less fortunate.

BAPTISM & BIRTH

This year, two babies were baptized and brought to the fellowship of the Church. Savina Ann Samuel, daughter of Sunil (Jacob) and Sobha Samuel and Jonathan Varghese

Kottagiri, son of Varghese and Chris Kottagiri were both baptized by Rev. Manoj M. Zacharia on April 11, 2010.

Special congratulations to our Achen and Kochamma on the birth of their first child. A baby girl named Abigail Aleya Zacharia was born on July 26, 2010 in Toronto. Let us pray for these children to grow up and be blessed with God's grace and guidance.

A gift basket was delivered to Kochamma on behalf of the Ottawa Mar Thoma Church.

REMEMBERING

This year, a long time member of this parish, Mrs. Mary Mathew (Ammal), departed from this world to be with the Lord on Oct 04, 2010. Mrs. Mathew was an active member of the church and supported the church in many ways. Mary's strong faith in God and her endearing love to participate in church activities was remarkably evident throughout her life. Her gentle smile and caring love will always keep her in our memories.

We also remember Mrs. Jessie Sarah John of Whitby, ON, who was also called to her eternal abode on July 28, 2010. Mrs. John was an active member of this parish for many years before she moved with family to Whitby, 13 years ago. Memories of Jessie's endearing smile and affectionate laughter will always continue to warm our hearts.

Members of the Ottawa Mar Thoma Church express our deepest condolences to the bereaved families of both Mrs. Mary Mathew & Mrs. Jessie John.

FINANCE

With an opening balance of \$8365.94 and total revenue of \$13,631.19, we closed the accounts of the reporting year with a balance of \$8739.85 carried over to 2011.

DONATIONS

This year approximately 26% of the total revenue was dispensed as charitable donations. Agencies that received our assistance include Food Bank, Shepherds of Good Hope, Vimalambika Public School, Konnappara Salem Mar Thoma Church building fund, Carmel Mandiram in Ayroor and educational support fund for Jinu James, a nursing student. Thanks to all those who contributed to these various causes.

CONCLUSION:

As we close the books on 2010, once again let us thank God for all His blessings in the past year and let us seek His continued care and guidance for a wonderful year ahead.

Mr. Reji Alex
Secretary.

Feb 13, 2011