

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2008

1. From Vicar's Desk

Dear and beloved Brethren,

By the grace of God we were able to pass yet another year and enter into a new year. This is the time to evaluate our past and make diligent decision to make our future life blessed and successful. In this evaluation, we should configure not only our demerits or flaws, but also our merits and success. Figuring out the demerits will help us to correct our weakness and figuring out the success will boost our confidence. So, both are important in our future. I would like to remind you a passage from St. Paul. *Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus* (Philippians 3: 12-14). We may have had lot of bitter experiences in the past year. Do not worry about that, because lot of holy men like St. Paul suffered more than us. St. Paul said *“therefore, I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong”* (2 Corinthians 12: 10, 11). Moreover, Jesus Christ said, *“If the world hates you, you know that it hated me before it hated you.”* (John 15: 18). Some of them, even, lost their life on the earth. But they had a great hope, that is, life with God.

I would like to share some important things that we need to remember in 2008:

1. Have a confidence in mind, that every failure, every misfortune and every bitter experience has made me bold, courageous and has strengthened my faith in God. He has guided me in all tribulations in my life without any harm.
2. Do not blame anybody for our flaws.
3. Do not justify our faults (Is.5: 20-30).
4. Take the responsibility of our flaws and try to correct it in future.
5. Do not cling (over worry or over joy) on the past (Run for the future: Philippians 3: 12).
6. Be creative and positive (Take Hope in God: Colo. 1:27, 1Thes. 1:3)
7. Take refuge in God (Ps. 27:1).
8. Always, be thankful to God. (We should be always thankful to God because, without the grace of God we cannot do anything 1 Cor. 15:10, Ps. 127:1).
9. Do not hurt anybody under any circumstance.

Some parameters for deciding failure and success:

1. Aim for success only through the right way.

2. Do not worry about failure when we go through the right way.
3. Be careful, there are lot of temptations that compel us to do unjust things.
4. Earning wealth is not the only measurement of success.
5. Success is not the victory over our enemy by defeating them with our muscle, money, intelligence, or our position. But defeat them with love and care.
6. Success is not what we have received from others, but success is how much we have given.
7. Success is peace, joy and eternal bliss.
8. Success is gaining a friend/ soul.
9. Success is obeying the will of God.
10. Success is not how much we talked but how much we kept in silence.

11. BUILDING UPDATES

11.1. IMPORTANT DAY IN THIS MONTH

- Jan. 1. New Year, Chelakarmam, Memory of Mar Basil the Great and Mar Gregory of Nazianzus
- Jan. 3. Devalokam Perunnal (Blessed Memory of H.H. Baselios Geevarghese II
- Jan. 6. Theophany of our God
- Jan. 7. Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist
- Jan. 8. Martyrdom St. Stephan
- Jan. 13. First Sunday after denaha
- Jan. 14. Nineveh Lent Beginning
- Jan. 15. Feast of St. Mary for seeds
- Jan. 17. Nineveh Lent ends
- Jan. 18. Memory of St. Antony
- Jan. 20. Memorial day of all priests

Jan. 26. Second memorial day of H.H. Baselios Mathews II (Sasthamkotta). Memory of Paulos Mar Athanasios (Alua)

Jan. 27. Memorial day of all departed

IV. PRAYER MEETING

This month's prayer meeting will be conducted at Shibu Varghese and Sinobiya's Residence on Saturday 19th at 7pm.

V. BIRTHDAY

Sony Paul

Thomas Varghese (gigimon)

Robin Varghese

Renu Thomas

Jicin Koshy

Johan Thomas

Isaac John

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Abraham Varghese & Anu Mathew

Rajan Yohannan & Remani

Sheelu Varghese & Preetha

Abraham Yohannan & Mariamma

Thomas Varghese & Mercy