

Proverbs 19:21

MANY ARE THE PLANS IN A MAN'S
HEART, BUT IT IS THE LORD'S
PURPOSE THAT PREVAILS.



Diocese of North America and Europe

The Mar Thoma *Besorah*

The *Besorah* is an Official Publication of the Diocese of North America and Europe.

Message from the Diocesan Bishop

The Ebola virus epidemic in Africa is a growing and scary concern for everyone. Such a crisis in any corner of the world is a matter of anxiety for people everywhere. As children of God, we are expected to reach out to our less privileged fellow beings with the love of God. Such outreach has its challenges and risks. We must note that Dr. Kent Brantly and Mrs. Nancy Writebol went to Liberia in West Africa as missionaries to serve with love and in obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions may arise as to what extent one can sacrifice one's life for the cause of helping others. To a Christian, there is no limit! The needs of the other will become more important than one's own needs. Jesus is our role model. He emptied Himself for the salvation of all of humanity. Others like St. Stephen (the first martyr), and Father Damien (who gave his life by identifying and serving with lepers), have touched the conscience of the whole world through their selfless sacrifice. One's life is fulfilled and content when, like a ship, they sail through turbulent waters and face the storms rather than staying safe at a harbor. God-given talents are to be used for the benefit of all. Dr. Brantly and Mrs. Writebol are to be perceived as such moral leaders who have selflessly labored on the front lines of the Ebola epidemic, thereby serving Africans and everyone else alike.

I was tremendously impressed when Dr. Bruce S. Ribner of the Emory University Hospital said that it is his primary responsibility to serve the two Ebola victims, brought from Liberia to Atlanta, in the best way possible and with the best medicines. I was touched when I read that two medical nurses cancelled their vacation plans and came back to attend to these individuals at the Emory University Hospital. Protecting life and adding more to life are Christian virtues. A ministry of catering to the humanitarian needs and global interests paves the way to redeem the world.

–Mar Theodosius +

Europe Region Family Conference



The 32nd UK & Europe Region Family Conference was hosted by the Tabore MTC, Manchester, and was conducted at the Yarnfield Park Training Centre, Staffordshire, UK from August 29 - 31, 2014. The theme was "Christian Family Life in a Migrated Context". The conference was conducted under the leadership of Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius. Rev. Alexander Tharakan, Vicar, Tabore MTC, Manchester, welcomed everyone. Rev. Jaisen A. Thomas, Vicar of Immanuel



MTC, Virginia, led the general session, Rev. Canon Dr. Jules Gomes led the youth session, and Rev. Dr. Thomas Philips provided leadership. All the Aghens in Europe and about 560 delegates attended the conference, which was an enriching and blessed experience for all.

Lake George - Northeast Region Clergy Family Retreat



The clergy of the Northeast Region and their families held a retreat on August 14 & 15, 2014, at the Legacy Inn, Lake George, located at the southeast base of the Adirondack Mountains, in New York. Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius led the retreat. Thirumeni's message was based on Luke 6: 20-26 and on the theme "Freedom for Justice." The thoughts were correlated with India's 68th Independence Day anniversary. It was a refreshing experience for the clergy and their families. Rev. Shibu Mathew made the arrangements.



The *Mar Thoma Echo*, a new official publication of the Council of Mar Thoma Parishes in Europe (COMPE) was released by His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan on August 16, 2014 at the St. John's MTC Hounslow, London. The digital version of the *Mar Thoma Echo* and the distribution of the print media were inaugurated by our Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius on August 31, 2014, in a public meeting held at the Yarnfield Park Training Centre, Staffordshire, UK, the venue of the 32nd UK & Europe Family Conference hosted by the Tabore MTC, Manchester. The mission of the journal is to enrich lives through the message of the Bible, liturgical studies, Christian witness, and experiences that engage, inform, and inspire with vision to build a cohesive society within Europe with Kingdom values. In addition, it is intended to help in the faith formation of our children, youths, and adults through providing access to theological discourses and in the context of modern life situations.

Southwest Regional Sunday School Jr./Sr. Conference

The Junior Senior Conference of the Southwest Region was conducted at the MTC of Dallas, Farmers Branch on August 30 & 31, 2014. The theme was, "Treasures in Clay." Ms. Sini Jacob from Immanuel MTC, Houston led the juniors' session, and Mr. Joji Koshy from St. Paul's MTC, Dallas, led the seniors' session. Various leaders worked together to organize the Praise & Worship, Dedication, games, food, and other arrangements, so that the 72 registrants could have an enriching experience. The attendees enjoyed the conference, and the common refrain was that they are eagerly awaiting the next one.



"Do Something" Mission Activity by Northeast Region Youth Fellowship



The Northeast Region Youth Fellowship initiated a mission activity named, "Do Something," in New York City, which has almost 80,000 homeless people; the highest in any city in the entire United States. The region's youths decided to go into the city once in a month to work amongst the homeless people. Every month the New York Rescue Mission provides their facility from where our youth operate. The mission work extends to four areas: Gospel meetings, cooking and serving, hygiene awareness, and medical assistance. 25 youth volunteers participate in the mission work each month. This mission activity is organized by the youth, funded by the youth, and conducted by the youth and has been in operation for the past three months, thereby extending the love of God to many homeless people in New York City.

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else." ~ C. S. Lewis



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