

Mar Thoma Church
of San Francisco

MTCFSF Newsletter

September 2023

From the Vicar's Desk



Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. "Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

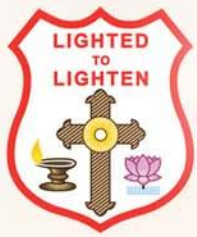
I thought the Christian life was going to be easier than this. Have these words ever entered your mind? Sometimes we come into the family of God thinking that our heavenly Father will fix all our problems and devote Himself to our happiness and comfort. However, that is not the reality portrayed in Scripture. Paul was a man whom the Lord used greatly, and yet his life was anything but easy.

In fact, at one stage, the apostle Paul thought his pain was too much to bear, and he pleaded God to remove it. There's nothing wrong with asking the Lord to relieve our suffering, but what should our response be if He doesn't? Paul probably had no idea that His experience would find its way into the Bible, to comfort and guide believers throughout the ages. The promise God gave him applies to us as well: **"My grace is sufficient for you" (v. 9).**

God's grace could be defined as His provision for us at the point of our need. The problem is that sometimes it doesn't seem as if He truly is meeting our needs. But He frequently sees faults, outcomes, and obstacles that we don't. His goals for us involve spiritual growth, the development of Christlike character, and strong faith. And trials play a vital role in achieving these.

The important issue is how we respond. If all you want is relief, you could descend into anger and doubt. But if your desire is to become the person God wants you to be, you'll see each trial as an opportunity for Christ to display His character and strength in you.

Have a blessed day, Sajiachen.



Mar Thoma Church of San Francisco

Secretary's Note



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Praise the Lord for his presence, blessings and the guidance we received throughout our worship services and events in the month of August.

Give thanks to having our Summer Parish Picnic conducted very successfully. Your presence and participation meant a lot to us, as we came together, I hope you had a wonderful time. I just want to say thank you to all of the amazing people who helped out.

We are approaching very eventful days in the coming months, all the way to Christmas and New year. I have included some special events and services in this Newsletter for your information. Please mark your calendar and request your prayerful presence and whole hearted cooperation during those days.

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Cor 10:31

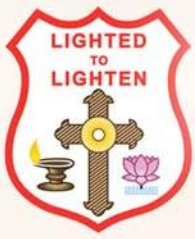
Lord, we ask for your wisdom, for your strength, and power to be constantly present with us during the coming days.

Requesting your continued prayers and support,

With Prayerful Regards,

Philip Roy,

Secretary, MTCSF



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Worship Schedule

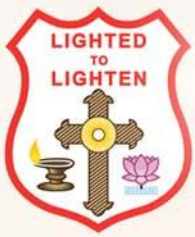
	Time	Service	Celebrant(s)
Sept 3	10:00 AM	Holy Qurbana (Mal) Beginning with Praise & Worship	Rev. Saji Thomas
Sept 10	10:00 AM	Holy Qurbana (Mal) Beginning with Praise & Worship Sevika Sanghom Day	Very.Rev.Dr.C.K Mathew
Sept 17	10:00 AM	Holy Qurbana (English) Beginning with Praise & Worship Senior Citizens' Day	Rev. Saji Thomas
Sept 24	10:00 AM	Holy Qurbana (English) Beginning with Praise & Worship	Rev. Saji Thomas

Sunday School

Sunday School : 09:00 AM

Edavaka Mission Bible Study

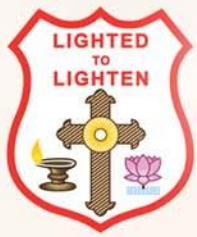
Bible Study: 09:15 AM



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Area Prayer Groups Organization Meetings, Events (In person or via Zoom)

- Friday , Sept 1
 - Tri-Valley area prayer at 8 PM at the residence of Ansu & Sam John
- Saturday, Sept 2,
 - Edavaka Mission fasting prayer at church at 10 AM Saturday,
- Sunday, Sept 3,
 - Onam Sadhya at Church after Worship Service
- Saturday, Sept 9,
 - Fremont area prayer meeting via Zoom at 6.30 PM
- Sunday, Sept 10,
 - Sevika Sanghom Day Special Service with Holy Qurbana service
- Saturday, Sept 16,
 - Choir Fellowship at Church at 11 AM
 - Central Valley prayer at 6 PM at the residence of Shiny & Vipin Thomas
- Sunday, Sept 17,
 - Senior Citizen's Day Special service with Holy Qurbana Service
 - Sevika Sanghom Sandwich making for Homeless after ASR
- Saturday , Sept 23,
 - Sevika Sanghom cottage Prayer via zoom at 11 AM
 - San Francisco & South Bay area combined Prayer at 5.30 PM via zoom
- Sunday, Sept 24,
 - Sevika Sanghom intercessory prayer at Church after ASR
- Tuesday, Sept 26,
 - Senior Fellowship Prayer Meeting at 6.30 PM via Zoom



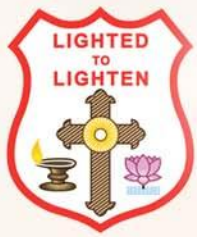
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Upcoming Events - October & November

Sunday, October 1	Edavaka Mission Day & Harvest Festival, Day 1
Sunday, October 8	Yuvajana Sakhyam Day & Harvest Festival, Day 2
Sunday, October 15	Youth Fellowship Day
Sunday, October 22	Family Sunday & One Day Income
Fri- Sun, Nov 10-12	Parish Convention, Main Speaker Rev. Prince Varughese Madathileth, PhD candidate in Practical Theology, Princeton.

Recurring events

Sundays 9.15 AM	Edavaka Mission Bible Study
Tuesday's 9PM	Youth Fellowship Prayer call
Wednesday's 8.00 PM	Western Regional Edavaka Mission meeting Via Zoom
1st Monday 5:30 PM	Diocesan Edavaka Mission prayer meeting Via Zoom
1st Thursday 8 PM	Western Regional Sevika Sangham meeting Via Zoom
1st Friday 8:00 PM	Tri-Valley Area Prayer Meeting
1st Saturday 10 AM	Edavaka Mission Fasting Prayer
1st Saturday 6:30 PM	San Francisco Area Prayer Meeting
2nd Saturday 11:00 AM	Yuvajana Sakhyam meeting
2nd Saturday 6:30 PM	Fremont Area Prayer meeting
3rd Saturday 11:00 AM	Choir Fellowship
3rd Saturday 6:00 PM	Central Valley Area Prayer Meeting
3rd Sunday	Sevika Sanghom Sandwich making for Homeless after ASR
4th Saturday 11AM	Sevika Sangham Cottage Prayer
4th Saturday 6:30 PM	South Bay Area Prayer Meeting
4th Sunday	Sevika Sanghom Intercessory Prayer after ASR
4th Tuesday 6:30 PM	Senior Fellowship Prayer meeting



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Lanah Alexander, Sept 1

Indravati Joe, Sept 3

Shweta Sujit, Sept 3

Aleyamma Thomas, Sept 4

Andrew Anish, Sept 6

Susan Mathews, Sept 7

Paul Johnny, Sept 8

Smita Mathews, Sept 8

Johannah George, Sept 12

Mathew John, Sept 12

Ann Jubin, Sept 12

Christina Nibin, Sept 12

Mary George, Sept 13

Elizabeth Anish, Sept 14

Binu Chacko, Sept 14

Sheba Isac, Sept 14

Mintu Alexander, Sept 16

Jimmy Philipose, Sept 16

Nathan Thomas, Sept 16

Michelle Mathew, Sept 18

Santhosh Abraham, Sept 19

Mathew George, Sept 20

Joel Mathews, Sept 21

Sheena Palachuvatil, Sept 21

Timothy Philip, Sept 21

Chrissen Joseph, Sept 22

Leejo Jacob, Sept 23

Delicia Saji, Sept 23

Anisha Thomas, Sept 23

Nell Thomas, Sept 23

Sunil Cherian, Sept 24

Shabu Eapen, Sept 24

Abel John, Sept 24

Tanya Reuben, Sept 24

Ammal Jackson, Sept 26

Binesh George, Sept 28

Mani John, Sept 28

Joanna Thomas, Sept 28

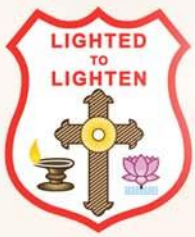
Naomi Alex, Sept 29

John Chankaramangalam, Sept 29

Mathew Thomas, Sept 29

George Zachariah, Sept 29

Johan George, Sept 30



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Asha & Renji Puthenpurackal, Sept 2

Lisha & George Thomas, Sept 4

Sunita & Philip Mathew, Sept 5

Shanu & Santhosh Cherian, Sept 6

Lija & Liju John, Sept 12

Preetha & Biju Soman, Sept 14

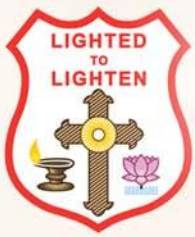
Anu & Gigi George, Sept 16

Sidhima & Aakash Jacob, Sept 20

Valsa & Raju Issac, Sept 22

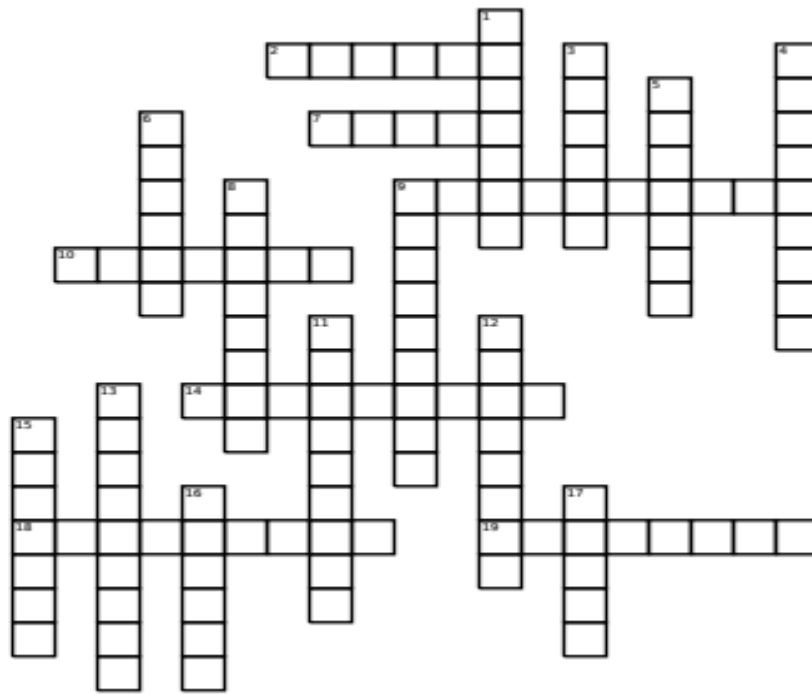
Sheryl & John Abraham, Sept 24

Anu & Jojoy Mathew, Sept 25



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Crossword Zechariah 7-9 NIV



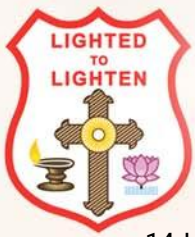
Across

2 "I will rouse your sons, O Zion against your sons, O ___". Partial fulfillment during the Maccabean revolts.

7 The Lord will take away the war horses from Jerusalem and the battle bow will be broken and He will proclaim ___ to the nations. Isa. 2:3-4 His rule will extend from sea to sea and to the ends of the earth.

9 The word of the Lord came to Zechariah: "Administer true justice, show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the ___, or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other."

10 The Lord will destroy the enemy nations of Israel on the North and South and never again will an oppressor ___ His people.



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14 In the future, ten men from all __ will take firm hold of one Jew because they have heard God is with them (Israel will be the means of drawing the nations to the Lord).

18 Jesus' triumphal entry prophecy: "Rejoice greatly, your King comes to you, righteous and having __, riding on a donkey, on a colt"

19 Before the exiles began to rebuild the temple no one could go about his business safely, for He had turned every man against his __.

Down

1 God was not pleased with the exiles mourning and fasting for the __ years as it had become mere ceremonial.

3 In the ancient Near East, if the rulers rode on a __ meant they came in peace, but they rode horses into war.

4 The Lord will return and dwell in __ and it will be called the City of truth.

5 God is very __ for His people that He wants to protect His people and wants them to maintain their loyalty to Him.

6 The people of __ sent a delegation to entreat the Lord whether they should continue to fast in the fifth month as the Lord is enabling them to rebuild the temple.

8 The Lord will free the prisoners from the waterless pit like Joseph and __.

9 The exiles observed the fasts of the 4th (breaching the wall), 5th, 7th, and 10th month, but once the Lord restores His kingdom these fasts will become joyful __ for Judah.

11 "The Lord Almighty says: "I will bring my people from the East and the West back to live in Jerusalem and they will be my people and I will be faithful and __ to them"

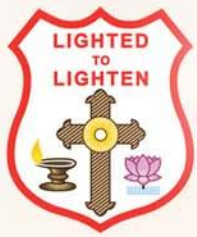
12 The Lord promised not to deal with the remnant of His people as He did in the past. Their fields would be productive and instead of being an object of cursing among the nations, they would be a __.

13 The Lord scattered his people with a __ among all the nations because they didn't obey His words.

15 Just as the Lord determined to discipline His people when they angered Him, the Lord determined to do good again to Jerusalem but they would need to do these things: speak the truth to each other, render true judgment in their courts, do not plot evil against your neighbor and do not swear __.

16 One of the prophets who encouraged His people to rebuild the temple.

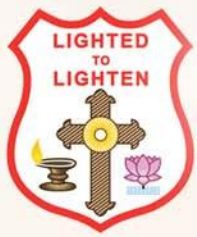
17 In the __ month of the 19th year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Babylonians destroyed the temple. 2Ki. 25:8 Israelites mourned and fasted in the fifth month to commemorate it.



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Parish Picnic



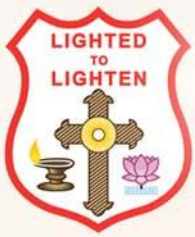


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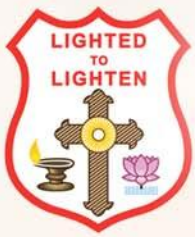
Best Parish Award 2022





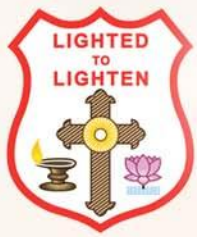
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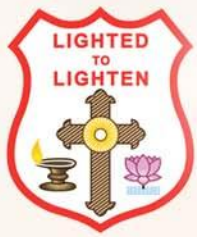




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Pazham Pori (Banana Roast) Hit of the Day





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