



St. Thomas Malankara Orthodox Church Of Los Angeles

124 North 5th Street Montebello, CA 90640 (323) 838 0353; <http://stthomasla.com> ; mailto: news@stthomasla.com
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Catholicose H. H. Moran Mor Baselios Marthoma Didymos I and Catholicose Designate H.B. Paulose Mor Milithios during the Malankara Association held on October 12th.

a sick relative, then wanting their illness to be as short as possible is an honest response to the love we have for them. However, God works in the timescales of eternity, and His time frame can be different from our own. Even when Jesus was on earth, he spent forty days being tempted in the desert - I suspect that we might have been inclined to claim that we could have learned all the lessons within a week, and that the remaining 33 days could have been used to get on with the ministry!

IV. Fourthly, we need to look at ourselves. There may be something that is not right in our own lives that prevents God from honoring our prayers. Bill Hybels, in "Too Busy not to Pray" lists several prayer-busters :

- **Prayerlessness:** "You do not have because you do not ask God." *James 4:2.*

- **Unconfessed sin :** "Your iniquities have separated you from your God." *Isaiah 59:2*

- **Lack of forgiveness :** "Since God has forgiven us, we should forgive others." *Ephesians 4:32*

- **Selfishness :** "When you ask, you do not receive because you ask with wrong motives." *James 4:3*

- **Uncaring attitudes :** "If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered." *Proverbs 21:13*

When we look at ourselves, sometimes we may feel that it is a miracle that any of our prayers do get answered! But since our heavenly Father has a deep love for each and every one of His children, he gives gifts of answered prayer to those who ask. Nevertheless, He will parent us as He will. He is the Supreme Creator, whose rule is sovereign. There are some prayers that He may choose not to answer in the way that we would like. But turn this into a positive.

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Special Topic

Does God Answer?

Whilst answered prayer is something to celebrate, and to be thankful for, one of the major reasons why people stop praying is that God appears not to answer their prayers. "What's the point? They argue, if He's not going to respond."

We have no easy responses to this charge - it is a well known part of Christian experience that in some situations there is little evidence of our prayers being answered. Here are some thoughts on why this might be the case.....

I. Sometimes what we ask for is not part of God's plan for our lives. If we pray "Lord, please make me a millionaire," we may not get an immediate and favourable answer. O.K., so that's an obvious one, but



what about this prayer, "Lord, protect my children at school", if they are then bullied. This leads onto a second reason why prayer seemingly isn't answered.

II. The bible is clear that living life as a Christian is not free from problems. Prayer is not a simple remedy to remove the challenges of interacting with the world. What prayer can do is give us God's perspective on the problems, and help us to develop the strength to work through them with Him.

III. A third important factor is a difference in perception of timescale. We can be impatient for our prayers to be answered - and this is not necessarily a bad thing - if we are seeking the recovery of

Children's Corner

The Philippian Jailer

Paul again visited the place of worship by the riverside. This time he saw a slave girl whose body had been taken over by a demon, an evil spirit. She was able to tell people what was going to happen in the future.

Her owners saw they could make some money by having her tell people what was going to happen to them. They were glad the poor girl was possessed by a demon.

As she followed Paul and the others around, the demon in her recognized who they were and shouted, "These men are servants of the Most High God who are telling you the way to be saved."

This went on day after day. Paul felt sorry for the girl and turned around, and in the name of Jesus commanded the spirit to come out of her. (Jesus had told them earlier, when he was teaching them, that they would be able to cast out devils.)

Immediately the evil spirit left her, and she was in her right mind, but she could no longer foretell the future. Her masters could not use her anymore to gain money for them. You can imagine their anger at Paul, who had ruined their fortune telling business.

They grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities, accusing them of causing an uproar and teaching against their way of life. Then the crowd was stirred up and became angry, and the magistrates (Magistrates), or judges ordered them to be stripped of their clothing and beaten.

They were unmercifully flogged and then, weak and bleeding, they were thrown into an inner cell of the prison and their feet were put in stocks. Their legs were spread wide apart and their feet put through holes in the wooden device which was used for torture as well as for securing the prisoners.

Then a jailer was commanded to guard them.



If he failed to keep them in the prison, he would be killed. He had a great responsibility.

Did Paul and Silas moan and complain about being beaten and put in prison? No, the Bible says that about midnight they were praying and singing hymns to God. There were other prisoners in the cell listening to them.

Suddenly there was a great earthquake, and the prison shook. The doors opened and the chains came off all the prisoners, but nobody tried to escape.

However, when the jailer woke up and saw the doors opened, he started to take his own life because he knew he would be killed if his prisoners had escaped. Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"



Memory Verse

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

First Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV



The jailer was so frightened he was trembling. He called for some lights so he could look inside the cell. He fell down at the feet of Paul and Silas. He said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

They told him to believe in Jesus, and they preached about the Lord to the jailer and the people of his household.

That same hour he took the two men and washed the wounds they had received in the beatings. He knew he had been wrong, and he wanted to do right.

Immediately the jailer and his family were baptized. He brought Paul and Silas to his house and fed them. The whole family was so happy! They were now believers in God.

The next day officers were sent to the jail to tell them to release Paul and Silas. When the judges learned that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed. It had been against the law for them to beat and imprison the men. They thought they could just quietly take care of it. But Paul thought differently. "No!" he said, "Let them come themselves and lead us from the prison."

The judges went to the prison and apologized. They led the men out and begged them to leave the city.

Paul and Silas went back to Lydia's house and met with the believers there. Then they left to go preach elsewhere.



Paul and the Philippian Jailer

Church Column

Successor to the Catholicos of the East and Malankara Metropolitan (Catholicos-Designate).



Until today HB had audience with God Almighty only. HB was not willing for an audience so far, as most of the audiences are not sincere. They are aimed for certain interests that might lead to controversies and unnecessary arguments. Metropolitan expressed that HB will take up and meet what all are the responsibilities and assignments, and they will be treated as the personal vision in the new position.

H. B. PAULOSE MAR
MILITHIOS

Orthodox Center



Parumala Thirumeni Please pray for us

"Parumala Thirumeni shines in the cloud of witnesses as a bright luminary giving rays of hope to millions in their suffering and struggles. Who is the saint of the 21st century, the power generator for the devotees, and a refuge for millions of dependents and a model even to the great leaders? It is nobody else other than St. Gregorios of Parumala".



Mr. WILLIE JOHN JACOB, member of **St. Thomas Malankara Orthodox Church Los Angeles**, is **Elected as New President for "Kerala Association of Las Vegas"** the only organization for Malayalees in Las Vegas. He migrated to USA in August 2004. Within this short period he started his social activities in Las Vegas, the position that he acquired is an acceptance for his public activities. Born and brought up in Chengannur (Aleppey Dist) Kerala, India; He is very interested and active in doing social works. He started his public life with different social activities when he was in 10th grade at Government Boys High school /Christian College, Chengannur, & M.S. University of Baroda, through Student Politics (like KSU, NSU, and Akila Kerala Balajana Sakyam). He lived in the Gulf Countries for more than 25 years. He was very active in the Indian Community in Saudi Arabia, specially Riyadh (Capital City of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) He has held positions for President, General Secretary for many organization like, World Malayalee Council, Indian Overseas Congress, Riyadh Indian Friendship Association, Kairali Arts, Cherathu Sahithya Vedi, Alapuzha Dist NRI Welfare Forum, Chengannur Pravasi Association, Orthodox Christian Movement, Etc. He enjoys writing an articles and expressing feelings in a creative way. His several articles were published in several news Papers and magazines specially in the Gulf Countries.

Mr. Willie resides in Las Vegas with his wife Grace, Son Suraj, and daughters, Mekha & Indulekha. Very Rev Jacob Johns Cor-eppiscoppa (Former Principal Secretary to Late Catholicos His Holiness Moran Mar Baslios Marthoma Mathews II) is his sibling..

Paid Column from Family of Mr. Willie John Jacob:

Does God Answer?

Continued from Page 1.....

For every one of your prayers that is answered, the Almighty, Creator God has altered the course of the universe, just because you asked him to.

So, keep on praying, and trusting in the One who made us, who loves us, and who brought us back to himself through the death of His Son.

from Prayer Guide

prayerguide.org.uk/alone.htm

Member Announcements:

Obituary:

Mr. Daniel Cherian Vadasseril (March 21, 1918 - October 5, 2006), father of Mr. Raju and Mohan Daniel entered Heaven on Thursday, October 5th. He is survived by Thankamma (wife), sons Raju, Babu, Mohan and daughters Annamma and Mariamma.

Brother of Fr. Mathew Philipose and Susan Varughese (Bellflower) has passed away on October 29th in India.

Fr. Yohannan Panicker's mother Sosamma Panicker - 81 has passed away on Oct 19th in India.

St. Thomas Orthodox Church gives our condolences to the families and prays for the departed souls.

Sunday Service:

Namaskaram : 9.00 am – 9.45 am

Holy Qurbana : 9.45 am onwards

English : 1st & 2nd Sunday

Malayalam : 3rd, 4th & 5th Sunday

Sunday School:

Sunday School every Sunday after the Holy Qurbana.

11/19/2006: Food drive Ends/ Feed the needy.

12/03/2006: Sunday School Quiz

Church Events:

Stay tuned for church events every Sunday during the announcements after the Holy Qurbana.

- **Choir Practice on Sunday's After Holy Qurbana.**
- **Coming up in November Annual retreat. Details to follow.**
- **Young Adult Retreat is on Nov 10th -12th at Wrightwood camp and Conference Center.**
- **All Members are invited to participate in the food drive organized by Sunday school children.**



Prayer Corner

Church Activities:

- **The Martha Mariam Samajam meeting will be held at Church on 2nd Sunday of every month after the Holy Qurbana.**
- **Christmas Carol House visit will be during the first and second weekend of Dec 2006. Details to follow soon. Please plan your calendar accordingly.**

Meanings of Words Often Used in Church

Kahanoosa	: Priestly Job
Kaseeso	: Priest
Kolos	: Hymns / Songs
Kukilion	: A Verse of Psalm
Kymtha	: Resurrection
Luthiniya	: Petition responding with corresponding words
Maneeso	: Song of Praise
Masumoor	: Psalm
Mavurba	: Glorification



Have any Questions?

OR

Your comments may be directed to the Editorial and Communication Board

Rev. Fr. Yohannan Panicker
Dr. Sheba George, Mr. Thomas Phillip,
Mr. John P. Varghese, Mr. Mathew Varughese,
Mr. Jijo Koshy and Mr. Gigi Kurian