

CHURCH HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Published by: Thomas John Philip Nalloor

Malayalam Year 1012 Kanni – October, 1836: Abraham Malpan starts Reformation in Maramon: Members of the Maramon Parish used to celebrate the festival of “Muthappan” every year. Muthappan was a wooden doll in the shape of a human, made in memory of a foreign Bishop who came to Kerala in AD 1685. Offerings and prayers were conducted in front of this idol. The people of Maramon believed that the cause of all their prosperity and blessings was because of this semi-god, Muthappan. Large crowds used to attend this yearly festival, which was a good source of income for the Maramon Parish. In 1836, the day before ‘Muthappan Festival’, Abraham Malpan threw “the god Muthappan” into the well situated in the Church compound and put an end to this festival forever, starting the reformation process.

1 October, 1921: Birth of Rev. K Abraham (Shastri Achen) Elanthur .After his preliminary education, Achen passed the Shastri examination (same that of our Late Prime Minister. Lal Bahadur Shastri) and many examinations in Hindi language and was a scholar. He had written many books including one poetry book. Achen was called to eternal rest on April 27, 1995.

2 October, 1968: Rev. K. T. Thomas Kozhencherry passes away. Achen was one of the ablest priests of our Church. He gave leadership for the establishment of St. Thomas High School, Kozhencherry; St. Mary’s Girls High school, Keezhukara; St. Thomas College, Kozhencherry; and the Industrial Training Institute, Cherukole. He constructed the St. Thomas Church Kozhencherry. For many years he was the clergy trustee of our Church .He was called home on 02 October 1968.

2 October, 1993: Mar Thoma Church consecrates three more Bishops. Rt. Rev. Joseph Mar Barnabas, Rt. Rev. Thomas Mar Timotheos and Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxinos were consecrated as Bishops on 2 October, 1993 in Tiruvalla.

2 October, 1881: Second coming of Jesus. From 17 May 1875, onwards Rev. Yustus Joseph (Vidhuwan Kutty Achen) started preaching that Jesus Christ will come on 02 October 1881. On that day he and his followers all gathered together and waited for the second coming of Jesus Christ. But nothing happened. On that night, with a broken heart, in the presence of his followers, he wrote the famous Hymn “Kantha Thamasam Enthaho” (No 388 (266) in our Hymn book).

2 October, 1792: Formation of Baptist Missionary Society. Baptist Missionary Society was formed in England on 02 October 1792. William Carey (1761- 1834) who came to India in 1793 was a Baptist missionary. Carey’s motto was “Expect great things from God; attempt great thing for God”.

3 October, 1226: Francis of Assisi, preacher and mystic who created monastic communities for men and women devoted to poverty and serving the poor, dies

4 October, 1890: Catherine Booth, English "mother of the Salvation Army," dies of cancer. Besides preaching as a Salvation Army minister, she persuaded her husband, William, to make women an integral part of Salvation Army leadership and work. Salvation Army started its activities in India on Sep 19, 1882.

6 October, 1536: Church executes William Tyndale The first English version of the Bible made by direct translation from the original Hebrew and Greek, and the first to be printed, was the work of William Tyndale. He met bitter opposition. He was accused of willfully perverting the meaning of the Scriptures and his New Testaments were to be burned as "untrue translations". He was finally betrayed into the hands of his enemies and on 6 October 1536, was publicly executed and burned at the stake.

7 October, 1837: Hermann Gundert arrives in Trivandrum. Hermann Gundert, the German Missionary born on 04 Feb 1814 came to Trivandrum, on 07 October 1837. He worked in various parts of South India for 23 years (1836- 1859) He published a grammar book for Malayalam language in 1851 and one dictionary in 1872. He also translated Bible into Malayalam Language.

7 October, 1837: Birth of Thomas Mar Athanasius Metropolitan .Thomas Mar Athanasius, the first son of Abraham Malpan was born in Palakunnathu family of Maramon on 07 October 1837. He was the Metropolitan of our Church from 1877-1893. It was during his time we lost almost all our churches and properties in a court case called "Seminary Suit". The main events during his episcopate are the formation of "The Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association" in 1888 and the beginning of Our Church Magazine "Malankara Sabha Tharaka" in 1893. Though the episcopate of Thomas Mar Athanasius was a period of trial and suffering for the Church it was also one of great spiritual promise for the future. Thirumeni was called to his eternal home on 10 August 1893

9 October, 1888: Birth of Rev. M. C. Thomas, Malayil, Ettichuvattil, Ranny. Achen gave leadership for the establishment of Ebenezer High School, Ranny and was its manager for many years. In addition to his spiritual work, he took keen interest in the construction of public roads and the establishment of a post office in Ranny. Achen passed away on 03 March, 1960.

11 October, 1985: Pastor C. S. Mathew, author of "Enn priyanepol sundaranaye areyum njaan ulakil" (Maramon 2004, Song 70), passes away. Born to a very poor Hindu family as the son of Omal and Perukkam of Kariyampalvu, he could only study up to class 4. He lost his father when he was very young. Later his family became Christians. He wrote more than 250 hymns.

11 October, 1904: Birth Of Very Rev P. J. Thomas – Perumbavoor (1904- 1990)
Very. Rev. P. J. Thomas was a member of the Parumoottil Family of Anaprampal near Tiruvalla. In addition to his services as vicar of many of our parishes, he was also the travelling secretary of the Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association, General Secretary of the NMS (National Missionary Society) and teacher in the Kottayam Theological Seminary. For 28 years he served as a missionary in our Ankola Mission Field in the North Karnataka Area, He was a prominent writer, who wrote 14 books in Malayalam, two in English and four in Kannada. .His book got first prize in a competition for the Kannada writers held by the Kannada Literature Parishathu (Society). From 1967-1981 he was the Vicar General of our Church. He passed away on 07 March 1990.

13 October, 1917: Three shepherd children near Fatima, Portugal, report visions of the Virgin Mary.

17 October, 1979: Mother Teresa is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

17 October, 1874: Birth of John Easow, author of “Nalla devane njangalh ellaavareyum”. He was a member of the Mullasseril family of Pandanadu, near Chengannur. After his education he became a health inspector in Nilgris. And after that he became the manager of Spenser co. in Trichur. Along with this secular job he did Gospel work. He was called home on 15 Feb, 1954. Hymn Nos. 59, 170 and 199 in our book are written by him.

18 October, 1931: Birth of Rev. M. M. Abraham (Sihora). Achen was a member of the Chirakkadavu family of Elanthoor. After passing his intermediate examination, he went to Bhopal and along with his friends he established the Sehatganj Mission Field. In 1958, he joined our Sihora Ashram and became a priest in 1966. He was the vicar of our Sihora, Katni and Ittarsi parishes. He was called home on 22 September, 1997.

18 October 1821: CMS Missionary Mr. Benjamin Baily starts Malayalam printing in Kerala .The printing press sent to Mr. Benjamin Baily by the Church Missionary Society from London arrived in Kottayam on 18 October 1821, via Bombay and Alleppey seaports. Mr. Baily is the first person to print Malayalam in Kerala. He got the Bible translated into Malayalam and the whole Bible was published in 1841.

18 October 1662: Birth of Matthew Henry- the Great Bible Commentator. Matthew Henry was so frail at his birth that he was baptised when he was only a day old, lest he died within the week. As a boy he was physically weak, but mentally and, indeed, spiritually strong. He is said to have read aloud a chapter of the Bible when he was only three years old. He began his Commentary in 1704. His commentary is a valuable aid for all those who study the Bible.

19 October, 1856: A Sunday evening service led by Charles Haddon Spurgeon turns tragic when someone shouts "Fire!" in London's enormous Surrey Hall.

There was no fire, but the stampede left 7 people dead and 28 more hospitalized. Though the episode plunged Spurgeon into weeks of depression, it also catapulted him to overnight fame.

20 October 1909: Titus I Mar Thoma Metropolitan (born on 8 Feb, 1843) passes away. Titus I Mar Thoma was consecrated as bishop after the death of Thomas Mar Athanasius by the Metropolitan of the Thozhiur Church at Kottayam Cheria Pally. He was our Metropolitan from 18 January 1894 to 20 October 1909.

20 October, 1971: Pastor M. K. Varghese, author of “Kunjaattin thiru rakthathhaal njaan” (Hymn No 254), passes away. Born in Edayaranmula in Nov. 1893, he was a close friend of Mahakavi K. V. Simon. Later he shifted his residence to Kumbanadu and became a full time evangelist.

22 October, 4004 BC: According to James Ussher, the well-respected and scholarly Anglican primate of the Irish Church in the early seventeenth century, God created the universe on this date at 9:00 a.m. GMT.

22 October, 1811: Pianist Franz Liszt, known for his Romantic orchestras and songs, but also the author of more than 60 religious works (including the song known today as "Fairest Lord Jesus"), is born in Raiding, Hungary.

22 October, 1844: Between 50,000 and 100,000 followers of Baptist lay preacher William Miller prepared for "The Day of Atonement"—the day Jesus would return. Jesus didn't, and though Miller retained his faith in Christ's imminent return until his death, he blamed human mistakes in Bible chronologies for "The Great Disappointment." Several groups arose from Miller's following, including the Seventh Day Adventists.

23 October, 1979: Very Rev. T. N. Koshy (Born 13 Dec, 1901) passes away. Achen was a member of the Ureyepadikkal family of Kumbanadu. After getting his B.D. Degree from the Bishops College, Calcutta, he was ordained on October 12, 1935 and sent to Malaya, to organize the parishes there. Traveling through the length and breadth of Malaya and Singapore, he established 27 parishes, which later formed the Diocese of Malaysia and Singapore. He came back to India and worked as our Sabha Secretary for 6 years. This ecclesiastical statesman passed away on 23 October, 1979, at the age of 78.

23 October 1923: Death of Maliyekkal M C George Kassessa. Maliyekkal M C George Kassessa was born on 17 April 1874 in Kuriannoor. For many years he was the main translator of the Maramon convention messages. Once it so happened that the proposed main speaker of the Maramon Convention couldn't attend the convention, church selected Rev M C George as the main speaker and he spoke in almost all the meetings of that year's convention. He was below thirty when this incident happened. Our late Metropolitan Alexander Mar Thoma, was his son.

26 October, 1751: Hymn writer, Rev. Philip Doddridge passes away. Rev. Philip, an English priest from Leicestershire is remembered for the large number (about 500) of Hymns he wrote and for his scheme to distribute Bibles at home and abroad. Song No. 250 (228) in our book “En rakshakaa! En Daivame! Ninnil aaya naalh” (O Happy Day!) is written by him.

26 October, 1950: Mother Teresa founds the first Mission of Charity in Calcutta, India.

26 October, 1966: The first World Congress on Evangelism opens in West Berlin, attracting approximately 600 delegates from about 100 countries. Our Alexander Mar Theophilus (Alexander Mar Thoma) led the opening ‘Procession of nations’.

27 October, 1978: The complete New International Version (NIV) of the Bible is published.

28 October, 1992: The Korean Hyoo-go (Korean for "rapture") movement, led by Prophet Lee Jang Rim, predicts that this is the day of the rapture.

29 October, 1909: Death of Titus I Mar Thoma Metropolitan .Titus I Mar Thoma (born on 08 Feb 1843) was the fourth son of Abraham Malpan The main events that happened during his episcopate are: Beginning of Maramon Convention, Establishment of Theological Seminary at Kottayam, Formation of Sunday School Samajam and the beginning of Mission work out side Travancore (in Karwar in North Canara)

29 October, 1562: Birth of George Abbot. George Abbot who translated the Gospels, Acts and Revelation for the King James Bible was born in England on 29 October 1562. He became the head of the Church of England in 1611, but his popularity and his health declined sharply after he killed a man in a hunting accident in 1621.

31 October, 1517: Martin Luther starts reformation in Germany. On October 31, 1517 Luther posted his famous ninety-five theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenburg. The theses included statements challenging “Indulgences (getting forgiveness of sins by payment of money to the Church). Luther believed that Indulgences degraded the forgiving grace of God and weakened the Church itself. This event is considered as the beginning of Luther’s reformation.

31 October, 1992: Pope John Paul II formally admits the Roman Catholic Church's error in condemning Galileo Galilei in 1633 for believing the sun, not the earth, was the center of the universe.

