

CHURCH HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

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September 1854: Slave Daivathan Becomes Habel. Kaipattayil Daivathan was a slave of Modayil Family in Mallappally. He was the first member of the Pulaya Community to be baptized by the CMS missionary Rev. John Hoxworth and he was given the name Habel.

1 September, 1947: Abraham Mar Thoma (b. 03 Nov 1880) passes away. Abraham Mar Thoma was the Metropolitan of our Church from 1944 to 1947. His chief contribution lay in the promotion of evangelistic work and the encouragement of lay leadership in the Church.

2 September, A.D 459 (traditional date): Death of Simeon Stylites. After spending 36 years on top of a pillar praying, fasting, and occasionally preaching, Simeon Stylites dies. At first he sat on a nine-foot pillar, but he gradually replaced it with higher and higher ones; the last was more than 50 feet tall. After his death, the Syrian ascetic—who had won the respect of both pope and emperor - inspired many imitators.

2 Sep 1979: Death of Rev. C. V. John (b.10 April 1909). Former Principal of the Mar Thoma Seminary, Kottayam. Rev C. V. John Thottakkadu Chirapurathu, Manganam was the second defendant (Dr. Juhanon Mar Thoma was the first defendant) in the Daniel case which was filed in District Court of Kottayam on 29th July 1955. This case lasted till 7th Jan 1965. Achen suffered a lot for our church. For many days, he was tried in the court and he sincerely defended the faith of our church.

3 September, 1889: Birth of Sadhu Sunder Singh. Sunder Singh was a member of an ancient, aristocratic, and wealthy Sikh family in the village of Rampur in the State of Patiala. He was very religious. Jesus appeared to him in a vision in the early hours of 18th December 1904. Like Paul he heard a voice “Why do you persecute me? Remember that I gave my life for you upon the Cross”. On Sunday, the 3rd of September, 1905, on his sixteenth birthday, he was baptized in St. Thomas Church at Simla according to the rite of the Anglican Church.

3 September, 1752: Calendar Changes. This day and the next 10 days never happened in Great Britain as the kingdom adopts the Gregorian Calendar (developed by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582) to replace the inaccurate calendar created by Julius Caesar in 46 B.C. Riots break out as Brits argue the government just stole 11 days from their lives.

4 September, 1847: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847) writes the Hymn “Abide with me” (Malayalam – *Koode paarkka neram vaikkunnitha*, No.8 (7) in *Kristheeya Keerththanagal*). Lyte wrote this hymn at the end of his life, just two

months before he died. The text for this Hymn was taken from Luke's Gospel Ch.24 v. 29 "Abide with us; for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent".

4 September, 1736: Birth of Robert Raikes founder of Sunday Schools. Robert Raikes, an English News paper editor who founded Sunday School to educate poor children was born in Gloucester, England. He started the first Sunday School in 1780. Mar Thoma Sunday School Samajam was established in 1905.

4 September, 1965: Albert Schweitzer, German theologian, organist, and medical missionary, dies in what is now Gabon. He wrote *The Quest of the Historical Jesus* (1910) and received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953.

5 September, 1997: Mother Teresa, winner of the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize and founder of the Missionaries of Charity (now with 517 missions worldwide) dies in Calcutta.

5 September, 1888: Formation of the Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association. Kottarathil Thomas Kasseesa and eleven other God fearing persons gathered together in Kallisseri Kadavil Malika (a place near Chengannur) for prayer and decided to form this association for the propagation of the Gospel and for the spiritual enrichment of the church members.

5 Sep 1888: Birth of Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was India's vice president from 1952 to 1962 and president from 1962 to 1967. His birthday (05 Sep) we celebrate as Teachers Day and the first Sunday of September the Mar Thoma Church celebrates as Education Day.

6 September, 1835: Birth of Vidhuvan Kutty Achen. Ramayyar (Vidhuvan Kutty-Rev. Yousthoos Joseph) was born in Manipuram village of Palghat district in a Brahmin family. His parents were professional temple singers. They became members of the CMS Church in 1861. Later Vidhuvan Kutty became one of the best known Hymn writers. His famous Hymn "*Sthuthipin Sthuthipin Yeshu Devane*" (Hymn No 49 in *Kristheeya Keerthanaga*) is so popular that it is still sung at the final meeting (Sunday afternoon) of every Maramon convention.

7 September, 1845: Death of Abraham Malpan Born in 1796 in Palakunnathu family at Maramon. Became a Deacon in 1811 and Priest in 1815. He was a Malpan (Teacher) in Kottayam Theological seminary. He gave able leadership for the reformation in the Syrian Church. He is known as the Luther of the Malankara Church. Our Bishops Thomas Mar Athanasius (1837 –1893) and Titus I Mar Thoma (1843-1910) were his sons. He conducted the first Malayalam Holy Communion service in 1837 in the Maramon Mar Thoma Church. It was a historical event, till that time in all the churches communion services were conducted in Syrian Language. He was called to his eternal home on 7th September 1845 and was buried in the Maramon Mar Thoma Church

10 September, 1819: Birth of Joseph Medlicott Scriven (1819-1886). "Poets learn in suffering what they teach in song". Such a truth is simply illustrated from the circumstances surrounding the writing of the well-loved hymn "What a friend we have in Jesus" (Song No 173 (164) in our Malayalam Hymn Book). It's author Scriven was born in Ireland. The girl he was to marry accidentally drowned on the previous day of marriage. Afterwards he married another lady, who also died within a short time. After her death, same year, he wrote this famous hymn.

10 September, 1946: Jesus Speaks to Mother Teresa. While Mother Teresa was traveling in a train to Darjeeling for her holidays, she heard Jesus telling her "I want you to serve Me in the poorest of the poor". The sisters of the "Missionaries of Charity" keep this day as "Inspiration Day".

14 September, 1905: Sara Chacko passes away. Sara Chacko (b. 13 Feb 1905), daughter of M. A. Chacko (former Divan Peshkar of The Kingdom of Cochin) was the principal of Isabella Thoburn College in Lucknow. In 1947, she became the Vice President of World YWCA and in 1951 she was elected as the president of the World Council of Churches, and was a great leader of the Ecumenical Movement.

14 September, 1858: Mulanthuruthy Chathuruthiyil Geevarughese becomes deacon at the age of ten. Malankara Metropolitan, Maramon Palakunnathu Mathews Mar Athanasius (MarThoma 13) gives "Koruyo Pattam" (an order just below the full deaconship) to Geevarughese at the Karingashraya Church, Mulanthuruthy. Geevarughese became a full deacon in 1865 and in the same year he became priest and Cor Episcopa. At the age of 28 he became bishop with the name Geevarghese Mar Gregorios who was later known as Parumala Thirumeni.

14 September, 407: Early church father John Chrysostom, the greatest preacher of his age, dies in exile when, in poor health, he is forced to travel on foot in bad weather.

15 September, 1853: Antoinette Brown becomes the first female minister ordained in America.

17 September, 1917: Birth of M. E. Cherian, author of "Anugrahaththin Adhipathiye". Cherian was the son of Kuriannoor Thannikkapurathuttu T. M. Easow (Kunjachen Upadeshi) and Ayroor Kanjeettukara Panamthottathil Aleyamma. At the age of 9 he accepted Jesus as his personal saviour. He taught in the Noel Memorial School in Kumbanadu for a few years and from 1943 onwards he started full time gospel work. He has written more than 300 hymns and 13 books. Hymn nos. 92, 93, 94, 95, 233, 236, 238, 239, 241, 245, 248, 304, 364, 365, 379, 385, 386 and 409 in our song book are written by him. He was called home on 2 October, 1993 while he was on a Gospel trip in Muthukulathoor Village near Madurai in Tamil Nadu.

21 September, 1522: Martin Luther's Translation of Bible. First edition of Martin Luther's German translation of the New Testament is published.

25 September, 1985: Vettamala Philipose Upadeshi, author of "*Vaazhum njaanen rekshithaavin koodeyepozhum*" (Maramon Convention, 2002, song no.: 69), passes away. Born, in 1900, to a very poor family he could only study up to 2nd standard. But his extreme devotion for his Master enabled him to write many Hymns. He traveled all around Kerala doing Gospel work.

27 September, 1947: The formation of CSI. The idea of Church union was proposed in 1919 at a conference held in Tranquebar. After 28 years of discussions, various denominational churches in South India established by different Missionary societies, agreed to the formation of the Church of South India in 1947 and the inaugural ceremony was held in St. George Cathedral Madras.

27 September, 1931: T. J. Varkey Assan passes away. Varkey was born as the son of Yohannan of Thekkeparampil house, in Anjilithanam near Mallappally. He became a teacher at the age of 17. He learned Tamil and Sanskrit. He was actively involved in the work of Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association. Hymn Nos. 26, 38, 55, 60, 63, 64, 65, 66, 68, 72, 164, 166, 167, 169, 184, 198, 369 and 373 in our book are written by him.

27 September, 1947: Formation of CSI Church of South India in 1947, as a union of Anglican, Presbyterian, Congregationalist and Methodist churches.

12, 13 Kanni M.E 1092(28, 29 September 1917): First Mar Thoma Clergy Conference. The first annual conference for the priests of the Mar Thoma Church was held in September 1917 at Syrian Christian Seminary in Tiruvalla under the leadership of Bishop Titus II. It was a two-day conference. Priests from Anglican Church also attended this Conference. Rev Dr L P Larsen Principal of the Bangalore Theological College was the main speaker.

30 September, 1952: The Revised Standard Version of the Bible, containing the Old and New Testaments, was published on September 30, 1952, and has met with wide acceptance. The Revised Standard Version Bible (RSV) seeks to preserve all that is best in the English Bible as it has been known and used through the years. It is intended for use in public and private worship, not merely for reading and instruction.

30 September, 420: Death of Jerome –the great Bible translator. Jerome, (340-420) was a great Biblical Scholar of the Church. His Latin Version of the Bible, known as The Vulgate served as the 'Authorised Translation' of the Bible in the Roman Catholic Church for many years.

