



# KOINONIA

MAY-JUNE 2025

Issue 3

ENGLISH, MALAYALAM



A bi-monthly newsletter of the  
**Madras Mar Thoma Syrian Church**

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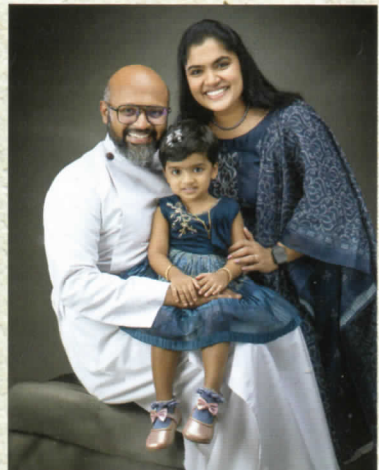
*Welcoming  
Our New Vicar  
Rev. Shaimon Elias  
& Family*

*Welcoming  
Our New Asst. Vicar  
Rev. Jince P. Koshy  
& Family*



*Farewell to  
Rev. Vinoy Daniel  
& Family*

*Farewell to  
Rev. Noble Abraham  
& Family*



# MESSAGE



## **A Message of Hope and Gratitude**

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of our Risen Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

As we journey through this blessed Easter season, our hearts are filled with the assurance of resurrection hope. Easter is not merely the commemoration of an event in history, but the celebration of a living truth: "He is not here; He has risen!" (Luke 24:6). The resurrection of Christ proclaims that death is defeated, fear is conquered, and every ending marks the beginning of something new.

This message of Easter holds special meaning for us as we prepare to bid farewell to this parish. In every transition, the promise of Christ remains: "Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19). As we step into a new phase of ministry at Ranny Nazareth Mar Thoma Church, we do so with the assurance that the Risen Lord, who leads and provides, goes before us and remains with you.

As Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" With this hope, we entrust this parish, its organizations, and each of you into the hands of our faithful Lord who promises, "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

The past three years have been a season of immense grace and deep joy for us as we ministered among you. We are profoundly grateful to God for the opportunity to serve this vibrant and spiritually nurturing congregation. Each moment spent here has been a chapter of learning, fellowship, and growth - for which we give thanks.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the organizations of our parish - Sunday School, Yuvajana Sakhyam, Sevika Sangham, Edavaka Mission, Senior Citizens' Fellowship, and the Choir. Your dedication and active participation have not only enriched the life of this parish but have also been a great support to our ministry.

We are especially thankful to the office bearers of the past three years, whose leadership, cooperation, and sincere efforts have played a crucial role in the smooth functioning of our parish. We also wish to acknowledge with gratitude those who assisted faithfully in the church

and the office - Mr. Roy Philipose, Revathy, Naresh, and Anand. Your quiet and consistent service behind the scenes has been a true blessing to us and to the parish.

A special word of thanks to the prayer group leaders who consistently and prayerfully arranged cottage prayers in as many homes as possible, fostering fellowship and spiritual unity within our parish. Your commitment is deeply appreciated.

We also wish to express our sincere thanks to each of you - those who encouraged us, those who constructively criticized us, and those who stood beside us in prayer and support. You have helped shape our journey in ways we will always carry forward.

Over these years, we had the privilege of working alongside three assistant vicars and their families, whose companionship and service have been invaluable. Rev. Renju Thomas Raju and family, who moved to Erode; Rev. Sanju Varughese and family, who continue their commendable work as Director of Asha Bhavan and School in Sriperumbudur; and Rev. Noble Abraham and family who will now begin a new chapter at Bristol Mar Thoma Church in the UK. We are deeply thankful to each of them and their families for the warmth and strength they brought into the life of this parish.

As we prepare to take up our new responsibilities, we gladly welcome Rev. Shaimon Elias, who will be stepping in as your new vicar, and Rev. Jince P.K., who will join in place of Rev. Noble Abraham. We pray that God's wisdom and grace will abound in their ministry among you.

Dear members, saying goodbye is never easy. But in the resurrection hope of Christ, we know that all goodbyes are but the beginning of a new journey under God's guidance. We carry with us memories filled with affection, laughter, tears, and testimonies of God's faithfulness. You will always have a special place in our prayers and hearts.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May His peace guard your hearts. Let us continue to serve the Risen Christ, wherever we are, until we meet again.

With love and gratitude,

***Rev. Vinoy Daniel and family***

**Vicar, Madras Mar Thoma Syrian Church**

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

### 1. Maj. JOY KORUTHU

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## NEW MEMBERS

### 1. Mrs. REGI ALEX

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Prayer Group: Chetpet

## OBITUARIES


Name	Age	Prayer Group	Date of Demise
1. Mrs. Lilly Mathew	88	Aminjikarai	March 10, 2025
2. Dr. Mathew Samuel Kalarickal	77	Santhome	April 18, 2025

*Our heart-felt condolence to the Bereaved Families*

## PROGRAMMES

1. Sunday School : Every Sunday after the 1st Service
2. Yuvajana Sakhyam : Every Sunday after the 1st Service
3. Monthly Meeting of Sevika Sangham : Every 4th Saturday at 4:30 p.m.
4. Edavka Mission : Every Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.
5. Fasting Prayer : Every Friday at 10:00 a.m.
6. Choir Practice : Every Saturday at 6:30 p.m.
7. Elder's Fellowship : Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. (Church)
8. Sevika Sangham Bible Study : Every Friday from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Online)




**WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS**

May 2025 : **Virugambakkam**

June 2025 : **Aminjickarai**


**WORSHIP TIMINGS**
**MAY 2025**

04-05-2025	8.00 A.M.	Holy Qurbana in Malayalam
11-05-2025	8.00 A.M.	Holy Communion in English
18-05-2025	8.00 A.M.	Holy Qurbana in Malayalam
24-05-2025	8.30 A.M.	Holy Qurbana in Malayalam (Senior Citizens)
25-05-2025	8.00 A.M.	Holy Communion in English

**JUNE 2025**

01-06-2025	7.30 A.M.	Divine Service in English (Yuvajana Sakhyam)
	9.30 A.M.	Holy Qurbana in Malayalam
08-06-2025	7.30 A.M.	Holy Communion in English
	9.30 A.M.	Holy Qurbana in Malayalam
15-06-2025	7.30 A.M.	Divine Service in English (Sunday School)
	9.30 A.M.	Holy Qurbana in Malayalam
21-06-2025	8.30 A.M.	Holy Qurbana in Malayalam (Senior Citizens)
	9.30 A.M.	Holy Qurbana in Malayalam
22-06-2025	7.30 A.M.	Holy Communion in English
	9.30 A.M.	Holy Qurbana in Malayalam
29-06-2025	7.30 A.M.	Divine Service in English (Sevika Sangham)
	9.30 A.M.	Holy Qurbana in Malayalam

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,  
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,  
plans to give you hope and a future."*

*- Jeremiah 29:11*



## LECTIONARY



## MAY 2025

Date	Lessons	Epistle	Gospel
04 Sunday	<b>Metropolitan's Fund</b> <b>Jesus Christ who restores to the rightful place</b> Genesis 18:1-10 Acts 4:32-37	Romans 12:9-16	John 21:1-14
11 Sunday	<b>The commission of the risen Lord :</b> <b>The shepherding of the people of God</b> <b>The third Sunday after Easter</b> 2 Kings 4:27-37 Acts 20:17-28	2 Corin. 4:7-15	John 21:15-19
18 Sunday	<b>Jesus Christ, the co-traveller. Fourth Sunday after Easter</b> Exodus 40:34-38 Acts 8:26-40	Philip. 3:4-14	Luke 24:13-33
25 Sunday	<b>Sacred Music Sunday</b> <b>Divine music that rejuvenates life. Fifth Sunday after Easter</b> Judges 5:1-12 Revelation 15	Ephesians 5:9-20	Luke 1:46-55

## JUNE 2025

Date	Lessons	Epistle	Gospel
01 Sunday	<b>Beginning of the school year</b> <b>Education: Grow in the grace of God and humans</b> 1 Kings 4:25-34 James 1:1-8	Romans 11:33-36	Luke 2:40-52
08 Sunday	<b>Holy Spirit, Renew us</b> <b>(Offertory for the Medical Aid Fund of Clergy)</b> <b>Day of Pentecost - Environment Sunday</b> Joel 2:28-32 Acts 2:1-21	Galatians 5:16-26	John 16:7-13
15 Sunday	<b>Trinity Sunday - Trinity: Fellowship of love</b> <b>First Sunday after Pentecost</b> Deut. 6:1-12 2 Corin. 13:1-14	Romans 8:26-30	John 10:22-30
22 Sunday	<b>Body and life that need to be kept in purity</b> <b>De-Addiction Day. Second Sunday after the Pentecost</b> Proverbs 20:1-13 1 Thessa. 4:3-8	1 Corin. 6:9-11	Luke 6:39-45
29 Sunday	<b>Discipleship: With Jesus, on the path of the Cross</b> <b>Day of Apostles St. Paul and St. Peter/</b> <b>Conclusion of Apostles' Lent. Third Sunday after Pentecost</b> Joshua 1:1-9 Gal. 2:1-10	2 Peter 3:14-18	Matthew 20:25-28

**NEW BIBLE QUIZ SERIES - 20**  
**(1 Samuel 21 - 25)**



1. Who was the chief of Saul's herdsmen?

ശൗലിന്റെ ഇടയാന്മാർക്ക് പ്രമാണി ആരായിരുന്നു?

2. Whose sword did Ahimelech give to David?

അഹീമേലെക്ക് ആരുടെ വാൾ ആണ് ദാവീദിന് കൊടുത്തത്?

3. Which prophet told David to depart his stronghold and go to the land of Judah?

ദാവീദിനോട് തന്റെ ശക്തികേന്ദ്രം വിട്ട് യെഹൂദാ ദേശത്തേക്ക് പോകാൻ പറഞ്ഞ പ്രവാചകൻ ആരാണ്?

4. What did Saul tell the guard and servants of the king to do to Ahimelech and the priests of the Lord?

അഹീമേലെക്കിനോടും യഹോവയുടെ പുരോഹിതന്മാരോടും എന്തു ചെയ്യാനാണ് ശൌൽ രാജാവ് അകമ്പടികളോടും ഭൃത്യന്മാരോടും പറഞ്ഞത്?

5. With how many men did David depart from Keilah?

ദാവീദ് കെയിലയിൽ നിന്ന് ഏകദേശം എത്ര പുരുഷന്മാരുമായാണ് പുറപ്പെട്ടത്?

6. When David and his men saved the inhabitants of Keilah, what did they bring from the Philistines?

ദാവീദും അവന്റെ ആളുകളും കെയിലാ നിവാസികളെ രക്ഷിച്ചപ്പോൾ അവർ ഫെലിസ്ത്യരിൽ നിന്ന് എന്താണ് കൊണ്ടുവന്നത്?

7. Where did Saul take three thousand men to seek David?

ദാവീദിനെ അന്വേഷിക്കാൻ ശൌൽ മൂവായിരം പേരെ എവിടേക്കാണ് കൊണ്ടുപോയത്?

8. As the ancient proverb says- 'out of the wicked comes' what?

പുരാതന പഴഞ്ചൊല്ല് പറയുന്നതുപോലെ -  
'ദുഷ്ടനിൽനിന്ന് എന്ത് പുറപ്പെടുന്നു.'

9. What did David's young men ask Nabal to give them?

ദാവീദിന്റെ ബാല്യക്കാർ നാബാലിനോട് എന്ത് നൽകാനാണ് ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടത്?

10. Abigail made haste and took how many loaves of bread and skins of wine and laid them on donkeys?

അബീഗയിൽ വേഗം ചെന്നു എത്ര അപ്പവും, എത്ര തുരുത്തി വീഞ്ഞുമാണ് എടുത്തു കഴുതപ്പുറത്തു വെച്ചത്?

**ANSWERS TO NEW BIBLE QUIZ SERIES - 19**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. 1 Samuel 16:1 - Jesse of Bethlehem<br>(1 ശമുവേൽ 16:1) -<br>ബേത്ത്ലൈഹെമ്യനായ യിശ്ശായി                      | 7. 1 Samuel 19:11 - Michal<br>(1 ശമുവേൽ 19:11) - മീഖൽ  |
| 2. 1 Samuel 16:7 - Heart<br>(1 ശമുവേൽ 16:7) - ഹൃദയം  | 8. 1 Samuel 19:20 - Prophesied<br>(1 ശമുവേൽ 19:20) - പ്രവചിച്ചു  |
| 3. 1 Samuel 17:4 - Gath<br>(1 ശമുവേൽ 17:4) - ഗത്ത്   | 9. 1 Samuel 20:16 - May the Lord call<br>David's enemies to account<br>(1 ശമുവേൽ 20:16) - ദാവിദിന്റെ<br>ശത്രുക്കളോട് യഹോവ ചോദിച്ചു<br>കൊള്ളും. |
| 4. 1 Samuel 17:16 - 40 days<br>(1 ശമുവേൽ 17:16) - 40 ദിവസം   | 10. 1 Samuel 20:40 - Weapons<br>(1 ശമുവേൽ 20:40) - ആയുധങ്ങൾ  |
| 5. 1 Samuel 18:11 - Twice<br>(1 ശമുവേൽ 18:11) - രണ്ടു<br>പ്രാവശ്യം   |  |
| 6. 1 Samuel 18:25 - A hundred Philistine<br>foreskins<br>(1 ശമുവേൽ 18:25) -<br>ഫെലിസ്ത്യരുടെ നൂറ് അഗ്രചർമ്മം |  |

**New Bible Quiz Series (14 to 18)**

**Prize winners for the year 2024 - 2025**



**1st Prize (2 nos)**

*Mrs. Jai Alexander*

*Mrs. Saramma Thomas (Jessa)*



**2nd Prize**

*Mrs. Mary Oommen*

**3rd Prize**

*Dr. Aleyamma Thomas (Sophy)*

*Keep your life free from love of money,  
and be content with what you have,  
for he has said,  
'I will never leave you nor forsake you'*

*- Hebrews 13:5*



## PRAYER MEETINGS



### MAY 04, 2025

#### CHOOCLAIMEDU

**Mr. SAMSON DANIEL**

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### MAY 11, 2025

#### AMINJIKARAI

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### MAY 18, 2025

#### AMINJIKARAI

**Mrs. REYA AJIT BALAN**

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### JUNE 08, 2025

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You may send your  
suggestions/inserts  
for future issues of Koinonia  
with your Name, Address,  
Prayer Group & Contact Number to:  
[chetpetvicar@gmail.com](mailto:chetpetvicar@gmail.com)

# VICARIOUS CHRIST TO RISEN CHRIST

- C.K. Cherian,  
Kilpauk Prayer Group

*In these times of lent season let us meditate on the vicarious Christ and the risen Christ. The word vicarious originated from the Latin word 'VICAR' which means substitute.*

*There are several passages in the Bible which points to this vicarious nature of Christ. The entire gist of all the passages in the Bible with reference Christ's crucifixion refers to the below salient points.*

## **Christ bore our sins on his body**

*He became our substitute suffering where we should have suffered. The purpose was to redeem the entire world so that we become a redeemed humanity.*

## **Christ's death on the cross is both sacrificial and substitutional**

*Sacrifice means to give up something that is important or valuable in order to get or do something that seems more important.*

*For Christ His sinless life was very valuable. He gave up this life which was very valuable to redeem us. Thus for God the father and God the son our redemption was far more valuable than their own lives. To that extend they loved us.*

*Let us probe the need for Christ to die on the cross.*

## **God created Adam and Eve in His own image**

*God created garden of Eden distinct from the outside world and placed Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden where He had daily communion with Adam and Eve. Garden of Eden was a death free zone. This was the perfect world and perfect relationship God designed when He created man and woman.*

## **God's characteristic of His nature gave Adam and Eve a choice**

*Adam can keep on living in the garden of Eden for ever or stop living with God in the garden and return to dust.*

*God told Adam not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil as eating fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil means rejecting God and believing in ones own wisdom and abilities.*

**WHAT DID ADAM AND EVE DO?**

*Adam and Eve were enticed to eat from the forbidden tree and thus sinned against God.*

**WHAT DID THIS FIRST SIN DO TO MAN?**

*It did the most tragic thing in separating man from God thus losing the daily communion with God.*

**WHAT DID GOD DO AGAINST THE FIRST SIN?**

*God hates sin and thus man's access to God's presence was debarred and like any other creation death became the end of man.*

*But God loved man too much to abandon him to this fate.*

*Hebrews 13:20 talks about the ETERNAL COVENANT.*

*From this eternal covenant evolved the plan of Vicarious Christ where God the son was to enter this outside world at an appropriate time and die for our sins as a substitute.*

**WHEN WAS THE APPROPRIATE TIME?**

*The appropriate time was when the world is ready to accept and understand this process and relevance of substitution.*

*From then on all through the Bible this process and relevance of substitution is being taught.*

**EDUCATION ABOUT THIS SUBSTITUTION**

*God providing ram as a substitute was teaching Abraham and descendants thereafter, that a substitute can save the life of a man here in this case that of Isaac.*

*Establishment of feast of Passover was teaching Jews and their descendants that blood spilled out of a perfect spotless entity can save them from God's judgment.*

*After the consecration of the temple in Jerusalem the high priest sacrificed a spotless perfect animal and carried the life blood to the holy of holies to intercede for the people of Israel. Thus God was teaching Israel and the generations thereafter that a sinless perfect substitute has to spill His blood and thus enter the presence of holy of holies to intercede for us.*

*Hence as part of eternal covenant God the son joins man outside the garden of Eden and has to experience death.*

**SO WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOD'S DEATH AND OUR DEATH?**

*Our death is because of our sin.*

*God the son was sinless. Bible says if you have not sinned you need not die. He chose to die the most excruciating death on the cross to redeem us.*

*When Christ died on the cross the veil guarding the way into GOD'S presence ripped into half from top to bottom thus once again opening our access to the presence of God.*

### **CHRIST'S DEATH ON THE CROSS BROUGHT THE GREATEST HEALING OF SIN**

*- Till now man in his sinful nature could not stand in the presence of God.*

*From now on Access to God's presence in the garden of Eden is restored.*

*- Till now death marked the ultimate end of life.*

*From now on death is only a passage from this life into eternity.*

*- Till now man's fate was similar to any other creature-BIRTH-LIFE-DEATH.*

*But from now on man is unique and distinct from all other creations.*

*- Till now there was no hope for man in this hopeless world.*

*From now on there was the greatest hope-Hope of eternity.*

*- Till now man tried to save himself by deeds and works.*

*From now on it is not by deeds or works but by God's grace alone we are saved.*

*- Till now fear of death dictated every action of man.*

*From now on there is no fear of death -Eternity is the focus.*

*- Till now Satan was victorious- He had man under the power of death.*

*From now on death has been overcome and Satan has been defeated.*

*The story of Christ does not end with His death on the cross. The story begins with his resurrection on the third day, where He has now entered into God's presence to intercede for us.*

*Christ's death on the cross*

*- This is the greatest event ever occurred.*

*- This is the greatest story ever told.*

*- The greatest transformation ever occurred.*

*- The greatest healing of sin that has ever happened in the history of mankind.*

*During this lent season let us imbibe within us this greatest healing of sin and live a life worthy of living eternity with God.*

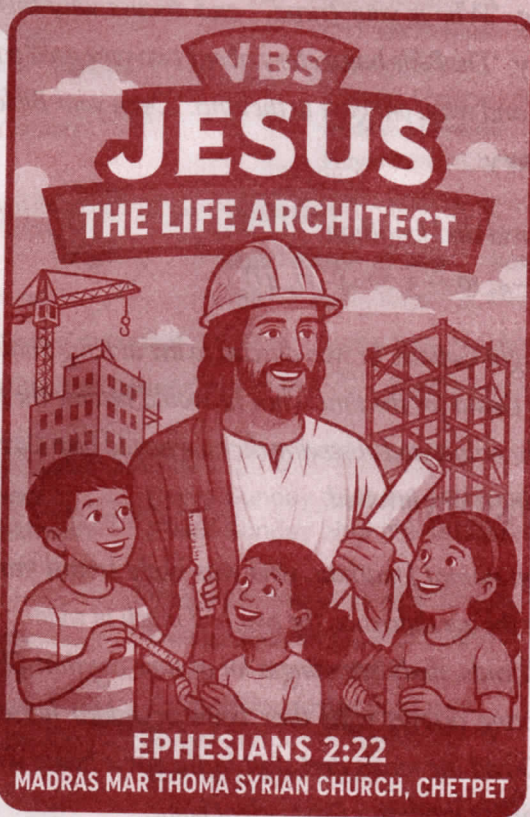
### **FINAL THOUGHTS**

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.*

MADRAS MAR THOMA SYRIAN CHURCH,  
CHETPET

# Vacation Bible School

28TH APRIL TO 3RD MAY 2025



VBS Director: Alan Mathew Cherian

## DAVID AND JONATHAN

KID'S  
CORNER

*All through David's life, we see that he followed God's leadership. Sometimes, choosing good friends does not rank high on our list of important choices, but the reality is that our friends have a powerful influence in our lives—even as adults! This week's study from the life of David offers us a great opportunity to talk about choosing and being good friends.*

*Begin by asking, "Who is your friend?" and discuss why this person is a friend. Then say, "The Bible has a story about two very good friends. Listen for their names and what one gave to the other." Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 18 and tell the story.*

### *Bible Story: David and Jonathan*

*(1 Samuel 18:1–4; 19:1–3; 20:14–17, 41)*

*After David fought Goliath, he was directed to live at King Saul's house. God was preparing David for the time when he would become the king of Israel, and living in the palace and observing the king would help David learn more about what being a king involved.*

*Saul had a son named Jonathan, who was likely several years older than David. Despite the age difference, the two had much in common and quickly became close friends, likely spending a lot of time together. They may have practiced shooting arrows with their bows or ridden horses around the countryside. David ate meals and slept in the same house where Jonathan lived, and Jonathan made sure David felt at home.*

*Often, people show appreciation for a friend by giving them gifts. Jonathan*

decided to give David some items that were special and important to him—his coat, his sword, his bow, and his belt. These gifts were surely very meaningful to David.

David and Jonathan made a promise to each other: they vowed to remain friends no matter what happened. They promised to always help each other and to care for each other and their families. The Bible tells us, "A friend loves at all times" (Proverbs 17:17), and David and Jonathan were truly examples of what it means to be true friends.

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.



- |          |             |         |
|----------|-------------|---------|
| COVENANT | KING        | PRINCE  |
| DAVID    | LOVE        | ROBE    |
| FRIEND   | PALACE      | SAUL    |
| JONATHAN | PHILISTINES | SERVANT |

# DAVID & JONATHAN





**CHOIR  
PASSION  
RECITAL  
ON  
13.03.2025**

**Book on journey of  
CMC Vellore launched**



**The Hindu Discern**  
CHANNAI

A book on CMC Vellore - 75, the centennial journey, the journey of Christian Health Care College Vellore, was launched here on Wednesday.

The book was written by V.J. Mathan, who was the hospital's director from 1994-1997.

The first copy was received by the present director and Superintendent Vikram Mathew and the second copy was received by V.S. Rathi, director of Institute of Cardiac Sciences and senior consultant cardiac diabetologist, surgeon at ICMR, Vellore.

Dr. Mathan had spent 30 years of his life at the institution, where he joined as a student and entered as its director.

Dr. Vikram said Dr. Mathan had chronicled the history of the evolution of the hospital and was one of the few persons who had known J.A. Couckler, the hospital's founder.

"Shaped career"  
Dr. Rathi said he had wanted to work in Christian Medical College and grabbed the opportunity when it came his way, even if it meant losing the chance of getting an MCh degree.

This means at the hospital from 1960 to 1992, not only taught him valuable lessons as a surgeon but also shaped his career, he said.

Chief Usha Jonakannan read out a few passages from the book.



**SENIOR CITIZENS'  
FELLOWSHIP MEETING**



**SEVIKA SANGHAM MISSION FIELD TRIP TO  
DINDIGUL-AMBILIKKAI, FEB 28TH TO MAR 2ND**



**REV. TJ MATHAI  
MEMORIAL LECTURE**

**VBS AT MAR THOMA SCHOOL, SRIPERAMPUDUR**





**FAREWELL TO  
REV. VINOY ACHEN  
& FAMILY  
AND  
REV. NOBLE ACHEN  
& FAMILY**



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