

# ZERA

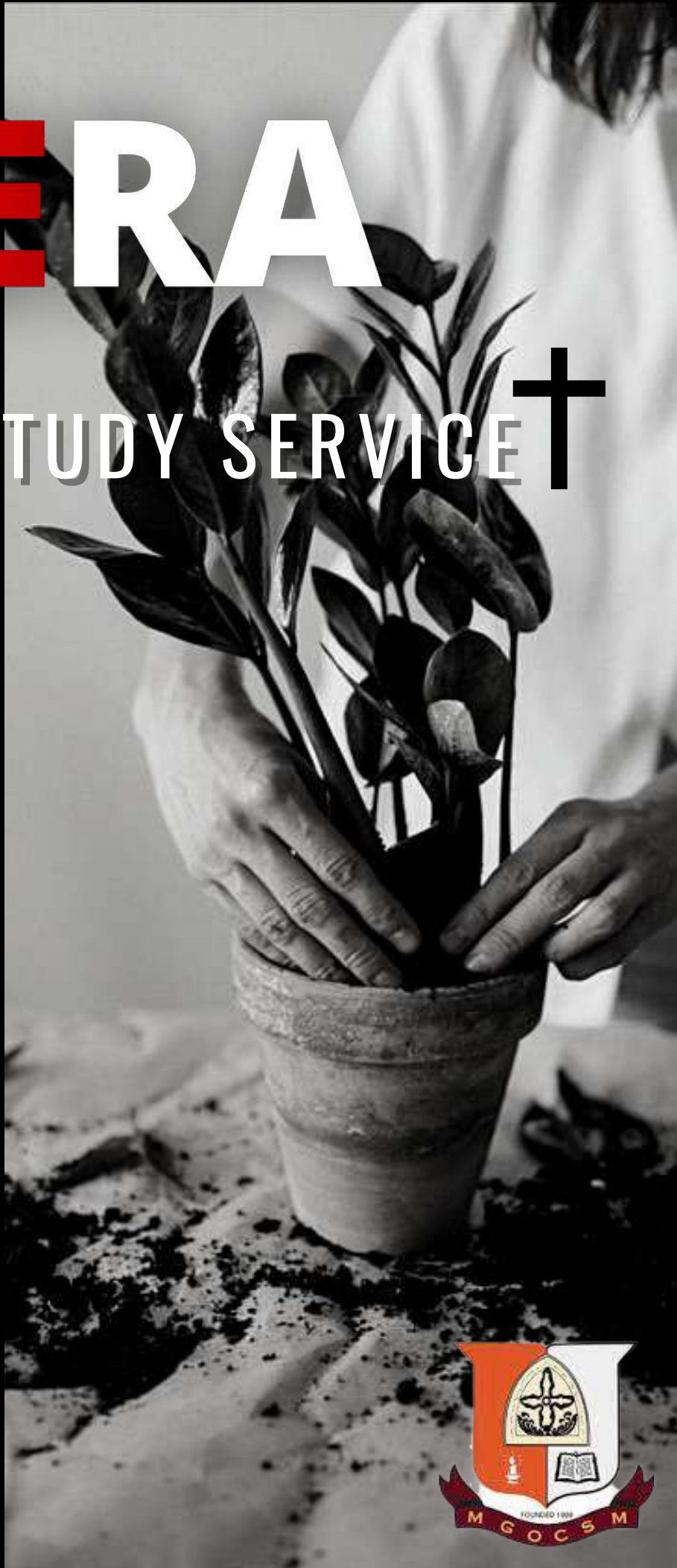
## WORSHIP STUDY SERVICE †

'22

MGOCSM  
ST. GEORGE  
ORTHODOX  
CATHEDRAL,  
ABU DHABI



Art in the  
Pandemic



# St. George - Our Patron Saint





## **His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan**

The Late President and Founder of United Arab Emirates





**H.H. Baselios Marthoma Mathews III**  
Catholicos of the East and the Malankara Metropolitan





**H.G. Yakob Mar Elias**  
Metropolitan of Brahmavar Diocese



**H.G. Dr. Zacharias Mar Aprem**  
Former President of MGOCSM



**H.G. Dr. Abraham Mar Seraphim**  
President of MGOCSM



# Hope

THERE IS

for a tree that has been cut down; it can  
come back to life and sprout.

Even though its roots grow old, and its  
stump dies in the ground, with water it  
will sprout like a

young  
PLANT.

JOB 14:7-9

## Our President's Message

Rev. Fr. Eldho  
M. Paul



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

'MGOCSM' - the student wing of Indian Orthodox Church, intended for the spiritual growth of the student community of the church, aimed at the Motto - 'Worship, Study and Service' to mold the students in the path of the orthodox faith, as the future faithful leaders and responsible citizens of our church.

It's a proud moment for St. George Orthodox Cathedral, Abu Dhabi to release the first-ever E-Magazine of our MGOCSM unit- 'ZERA' 22. 'ZERA' literally means 'SEED'. A seed is an essential element of transmitting life and it carries new life within itself. I bless the tremendous efforts of our young energetic minds to illuminate the radiance of light from the heavenly father to attract many other young souls to God. May this venture help to deepen the spiritual life of its members, to prepare them to be responsible citizens in our church and society. Encourage each other for sacrificial service in the church and society.

As 'Proverbs 16:3' says 'Commit your work to the Lord and your plans will be established'.

I take this opportunity to appreciate the MGOCSM office bearers and editorial team for their sincere efforts to publish this e-magazine.

May God bless you all.

Eldho Achen  
President

## Secretary's Message

Mr. J. Thomas



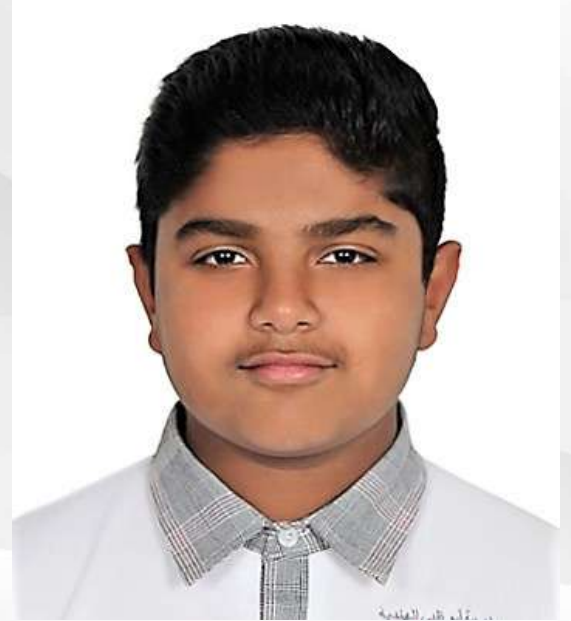
**It is an immense moment for the Mar Gregorios Orthodox Christian Students Movement (MGOCSM) of St George Orthodox Cathedral, Abu Dhabi, on the release of their e-magazine. The presence of youth and teenagers keeps the vibrancy and spirit of the parish alive. MGOCSM serves as a lighthouse in the lives of the students. As the main purposes of lighthouses are to serve as navigational aids and to warn boats of danger, this Movement clearly serves both purposes during the growing stage of each of its members. These spiritual organizations of the Church help us to understand where we belong and what our true faith is. Our learning and experiences from these movements should be for our spiritual growth. As our Lord puts it, "You are the salt of the earth," let our lives be a "flavor enhancer" for others where we enhance the experience of God in their lives. May God guide you all throughout the initiatives that you take upon and help you to achieve pleasantness before God through "Worship, Study, and Service," our MGOCSM motto. Wishing you all the very best and all blessings for your future endeavors.**

**Yours in Christ,  
I. Thomas**



## MGOCSM Secretary's Message

Mr. Thomas  
Roshan



Greetings to all in the name of our Lord

Time and tide wait for no man. Generations bloom and fade leaving a myriad of kaleidoscopic impressions in the sands of time. With Almighty's bountiful blessings, it is a wonderful privilege for me to write these few lines for the first-ever MGOCSM E-Magazine- 'ZERA' for the year 2022.

As the MGOCSM Secretary, I am happy to extend my hearty greetings to all readers, committee members, members of various spiritual organizations, and well-wishers of our church. It is a matter of great pleasure to note that our MGOCSM Abu Dhabi Unit is progressing well with the guidance and support of our Vicar Rev. Fr. Eldho M Paul. We are grateful to our Metropolitan H.G. Yacob Mar Elias for his blessings.

Children have various talents. Some like to write stories and some would like to write poems or click photos. Some are good at the artwork and some have taste in sketching or preparing comic stretch and cartoons. Some are often good at writing essays or articles. This shows that students possess a great variety of talents and potential which are either hereditary or self-acquired through encouragement and guidance of teachers, parents, and their well-wishers. I am sure our first E-magazine has given chance to our members to display their talents which will bring a smile to your faces.

I would like to thank our MGOCSM Committee Members for their editing work; from the cover design to the last page. Huge applause to the editorial board for their tireless efforts put in the publishing and the creative design of 'ZERA'.

Yours in Christ,  
Thomas Roshan George

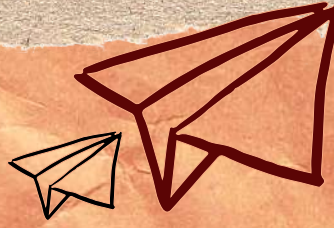
# Acknowledgements

- **A sincere note of thanks to our respected Vicar and President, Rev. Fr. Eldho M. Paul for sparing time to guide us and taking the greatest interest in this project to enable us to go forward.**
- **We humbly thank our church Managing Committee for their unwavering support and especially Hon. Secretary, Mr. I. Thomas for his co-operation. We also thank the 2021 committee for all their support.**
- **A sincere gesture of appreciation goes out to Mrs. Neena Thomas for the finest suggestions she gave us.**
- **We express our wholehearted gratitude to Mr. Roshan George and Mrs. Sneha Thomas for being our mentors and giving us timely advice and support.**
- **A special mention to Mr. Sam Thomas for helping us with the screening of articles and his valuable suggestions.**
- **A special wholehearted thanks to all our former mentors for guiding MGOCSM to what it has become today.**
- **We are grateful to all our MGOCSM members for their contribution and for making this project a success.**
- **We are indebted to our Sunday School unit, Headmaster, Mr. Saji Oomen, Asst. headmaster, Mr. Varghese Daniel, former headmaster, Mr. George Eapen, and all our dear teachers who molded us into what we are today.**

Pardon us for any names we may have failed to mention. We express our gratitude to each and everyone of you for making our dreams into reality.



# From the Editor's Desk



*"The tiny seed knew that to grow it needed to be dropped in dirt, covered in darkness, and struggle to reach the light."*

**WELCOME! WELCOME!**

Setting the age-old tales of procrastination, the last-minute rat race and the n number of seen zones apart, I along with the editorial board 2022 present to you the fruit of this harvest, 'ZERA'.

We must often learn to accept and manage the dark, dirty, and difficult aspects of life just as the seed. Eventually, we emerge into the light by growing our talents like the tree that grows from the seed anchored in the soil.

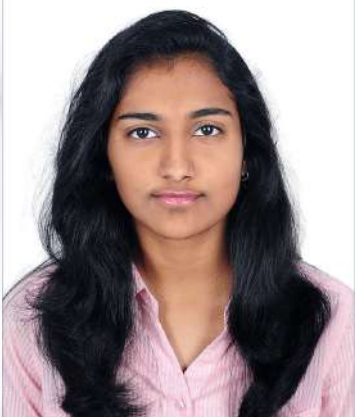
In our struggle to survive and thrive in this world, we are constantly challenged to grow and become more than we were before. As we grow, just like seeds, we transform. We move from a potential to an actualized being who knows its power and worth, and who can fulfill its destiny in God's creation.

I am proud to announce the release of our first e-magazine. I shall not brief you about the rest of the magazine, rather leave it for you to discover. Each bunch of this harvest would surprise you with its rich quality. It would awaken your thoughts, discover your creative self and be bliss to your eyes.

Once you have had enough for the day, keep it safe as it would age well and grow richer in time as the proverb goes *"old is gold"*.

Yours in Christ,  
Kenisha Mary Biju  
MGOCSM COMMITTEE MEMBER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/ IN-HOUSE

# THE MANAGING *Committee*



**KENISHA MARY BIJU**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/ IN-HOUSE



**JENY MARIA MANOJ**  
EDITORIAL MEMBER



**JOHN ABRAHAM**  
EDITORIAL MEMBER

the **EDITORIAL** board





# CONTENTS

↳ Tribute to our Late Lamented Bava Thirumeni	9
↳ Our Parish	10
↳ Faith in God: Like an anchor	11
↳ Participation in Holy Qurbana	13
↳ Word search	14
↳ Christian witnessing in a pluralistic society	15
↳ The festival of Purim	17
↳ Modern peace	18
↳ Holy Matrimony	19
↳ Holy Qurbana	20
↳ A poem of thanks	21
↳ Take the Quiz!	22
↳ Voices of experience	23
↳ Light to our Path	26
↳ Late H.G. Geevarghese Mar Osthathios	27
↳ Biblical places in Jordan	31
↳ Partner power	32
↳ Artistic creations	33
↳ Extracts	36
↳ Thank you	37



**“Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith” (Hebrews 13:7)**

**Our departed clergy stand as a stronghold for us in our spiritual journey. The letter to Hebrews reminds us to remember them, the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith.**

**Our much loved Bava Thirumeni was a great source of support to the destitute students. Scholarships were extended to the downtrodden students, leading by example to take care of our fellow beings. His Holiness was a great humanitarian and was also a votary of social justice and equality. Thirumeni’s spiritual calling was strengthened during his college days.**

# *A Tribute to our Late Lamented Bava Thirumeni*

**During his student days, he was an active member of the MGOCSM in church. In his tenure as Catholicos, Bava Thirumeni gave importance to bilateral relations with other Churches and his philanthropic interests gave new dimensions to the Church’s activities. His Holiness was plenteously revered and was a beloved of his flock, particularly for his judicious administration and leadership skills with which he shepherded the Church in the spiritual and the secular realm.**

**As each day pass by, memories about you O Holy Father, have made our minds stronger as they were captured by the heart. Your smile and simplicity made us feel you were Our Aboon.**

**MGOCSM ABUDHABI UNIT will always uphold the faith and traditions that you have guarded and built for us. Your absence in this world is a great loss for each one of us... but we are at peace, that we find intercession, before God through your prayers...**

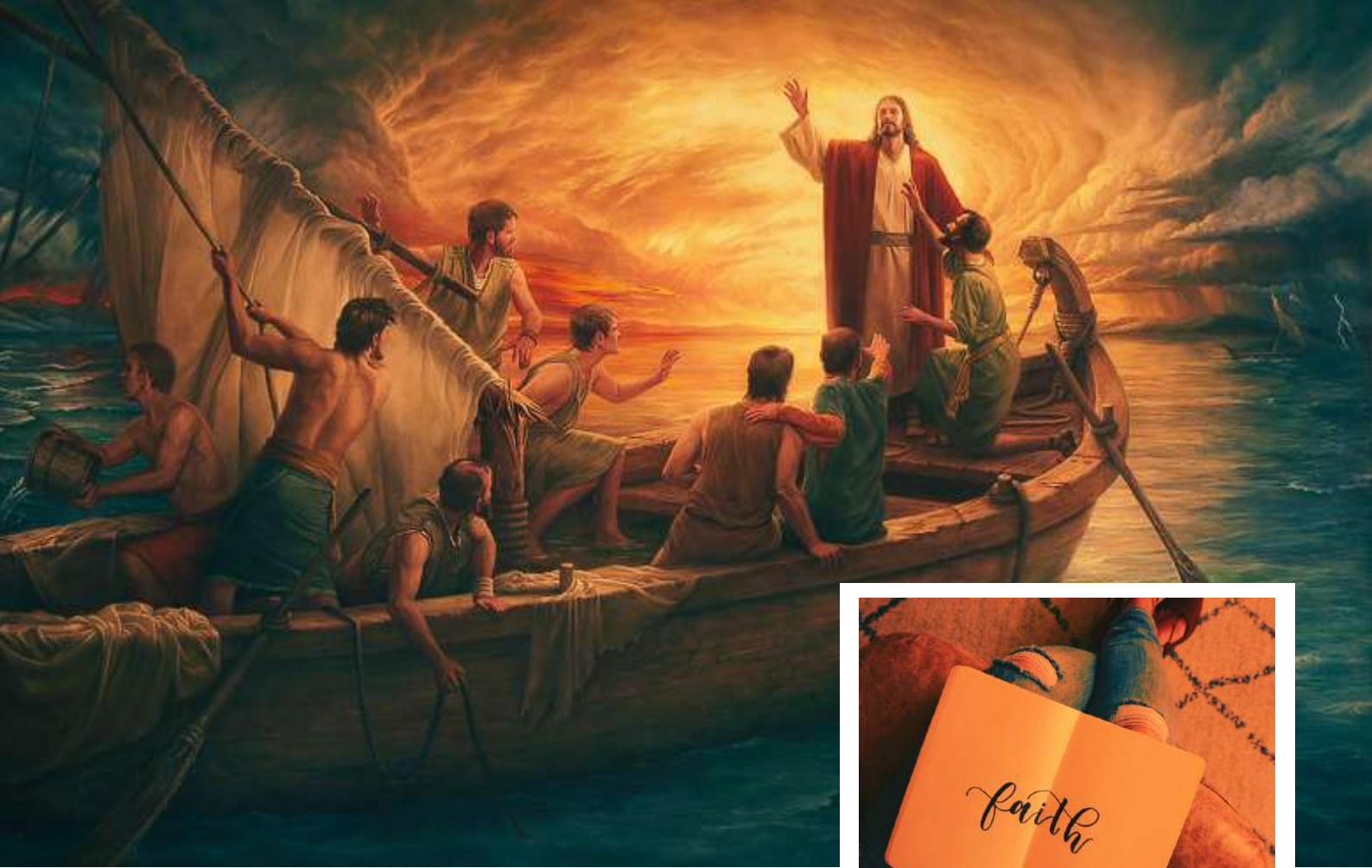


# St. George Orthodox Cathedral, Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi St. George Orthodox Cathedral is one of the parishes under the Brahmavar Diocese of Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church of the East. The construction of the first Church was completed within one year and on 1st December 1971 the Church building was sanctified and Holy Qurbana was celebrated by H.G. Dr. Philipose Mar Theophilos Metropolitan. This eve coincided with the formation of the United Arab Emirates as an independent country on 2nd December 1971 and H.H. Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan became the first President of U.A.E. The joy of our parishioners multiplied as the leader who laid the foundation stone of the Church became the leader and the father of the United Arab Emirates.

Article by Sandra Santhosh





**HOLD ON**

# ***FAITH IN GOD: LIKE AN ANCHOR***

**Sure of what we hope for  
and certain of what we do.**

St. Augustine, the most renowned theologian once quoted, "Faith is to believe what you see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe."

In today's world, people lose faith easily because they disagree with religious teachings on current issues. It can be also due to personal trauma, natural disasters, diseases, and evil, or the conflicts caused by religions. Well, faith is a great element that can influence someone's life. Even if you have little faith, things can go very different in your life.



Without faith, it is impossible to please God because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

We need only a little faith to be united to the Christ who saves. But we need more than a little faith to walk comfortably with Christ.

The life of Bishop Kuriakose Mar Gregorios, affectionately called Pampady Thirumeni' depicts how his faith in Christ gave new hope to his followers.

It was during the disastrous epidemic plague that Pampady Thirumeni had visited Kunnamkulam. As soon as he entered the place, he raised the cross and prayed. People of Kunnamkulam still believe that



# CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS

St. Matthew 17:20

with that incident, a divine power flowed into their star crossed town. There were no more deaths after Thirumeni's arrival. He had given the citizens a new beginning and courage in Lord.

God never loses faith in us. So even if we feel we have lost our faith, God hopes in us, always. The Lord burdens us with more and more troubles definitely, because he knows and believes that we are stronger to overcome them and walk in his way.

Living the life of a faithful steward is surely a tremendous challenge but not to forget, faithfulness is to be a hallmark of a true Christian.



So, are we upto the challenge?



The Church and the Holy Qurbana are one of the most important things in Christianity. We can't just come up to the Church, we have to actively participate in the Holy Qurbana along with the Priest and Deacons. First of all, we should respond when necessary, this could be just saying "Amen" or "Kurielaison" to bowing your head when the prayer for all to bow heads is recited.

Personally, I carry my Living Sacrifice (Qurbana Kramam), it helps me follow along with the prayers and hymns. Along with responding, singing hymns and praying, you should try your level best to intake Holy Qurbana (Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. {John 6:56}). We must also learn and understand the Evangelion recited by the Priest during the Holy Qurbana

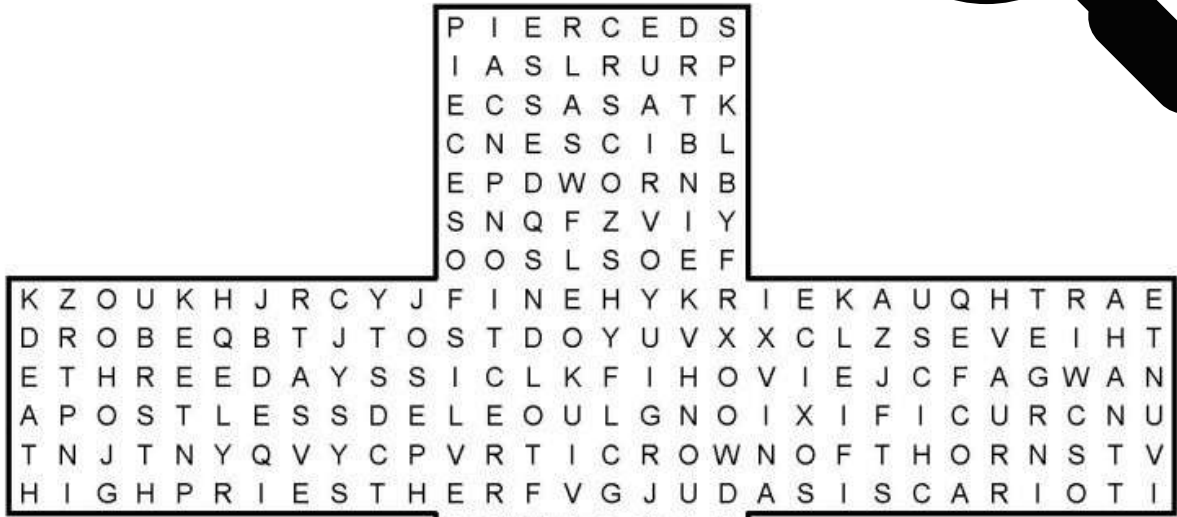
## ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE CONGREGATION DURING THE HOLY QURBANA

Secondly, Sing along to all the hymns and recite the required prayers when necessary. Third of all, Listen to the Word Of God. As Christians, our duty in our religion is to follow the words of our Lord. When we attend the Holy Mass, we should not come in clothing that you would wear to a high end party, this is to respect the place of God.

And finally, The most important thing, at least what I say, is to do the sign of the cross whenever it is needed, doing the sign of the cross is a non verbal way of praying. "It would be easier for the world to survive without the Sun than to do so without the Holy Mass" (Wise words by Saint Pio of Pietrelcina)



# WORD SEARCH



ANGELS  
 APOSTLES  
 BETRAYAL  
 BLOOD  
 CALVARY  
 CROSS  
 CROWN OF THORNS  
 CRUCIFIXION  
 DARKNESS  
 DEATH  
 EARTHQUAKE  
 EASTER  
 GOLGOTHA  
 HIGH PRIEST  
 JESUS CHRIST  
 JOSEPH  
 JUDAS ISCARIOT  
 KING  
 LAMB

MARY  
 NAILS  
 PASSOVER  
 PIECES OF SILVER  
 PIERCED  
 PILATE  
 RESURRECTION  
 ROBE  
 ROMANS  
 SACRIFICE  
 SIMON OF CYRENE  
 SOLDIERS  
 SON OF GOD  
 SPEAR  
 STONE  
 TEMPLE  
 THIEVES  
 THREE DAYS  
 TOMB



# CHRISTIAN WITNESSING IN A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY

Our church believes in freedom, freedom assigned to man by God. In our prayers through Holy Confession, the freedom of God to man is described as the covenant, the constitution given by God to man. Romans 2:15," the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them."

For most religious traditions, religious pluralism is essentially based on a non-literal view of one's religious tradition, hence allowing respect to be endangered between traditions, especially on core principles rather than marginal issues.

It is perhaps summarized as an attitude that rejects focus on immaterial differences and gives respect to beliefs held in common.



Photographed by Kenisha

**ACT 4:12 SAYS,  
"SALVATION IS FOUND IN  
NO ONE ELSE, FOR THERE  
IS NO OTHER NAME UNDER  
HEAVEN GIVEN TO MANKIND  
BY WHICH WE MUST BE  
SAVED."**



It is alleged that because we live in a pluralistic society, we have no moral right to try to change a person's beliefs. Rather, we should pursue dialogues in a multi-faith context on the assumption that all beliefs are equally valid.

We live in a highly pluralistic society, which encourages the virtue of religious harmony and tolerance. On the other side, we receive the Great Commandment from Christ to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" Matthew 28:19-20

To deal meaningfully with the complex issue, we must understand the nature of Christian witness in the context of today's society. Of his nosological principle, Paul wrote, "To those under the law I

became as one under that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law, I became as one outside that I might win those outside the law" (1 Cor. 9:20-21).

So, what do the Christians have to offer to a pluralistic society? Following Paul, we should answer pluralistic portrayals of Christ and context-sensitive knowledge of our pluralistic society.

In John 1:29 John The Baptist exclaims, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John was using priestly vocabularies, yet the meaning extends beyond the priestly context. True Christian witness does believe in grand biblical story but never oppressive. In this regard, Christians need not fear the accusation of being threats to religious harmony. God's love for the world is greater than our fear. As the word of God says, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear."



# THE FESTIVAL OF PURIM



For these very reasons, PURIM has long been one of the most beloved holiday on the JEWISH calendar!

## PURIM IS THE FIRST EXPLICITLY HUMAN-MADE FESTIVAL IN THE BIBLE.

I. While the pilgrimage festivals of Passover, Sukkot, and Shavuot have their roots in agricultural practices and historical commemorations of the Iron Age, the festival of Purim was first celebrated by the Jews for centuries later, in the times of the Second Temple.

II. While the pilgrimage festivals, as well as Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, are commanded by God in the Torah, Purim is said to be the invention of the Jews and their leaders under the Persian Empire.

III. The annual celebration on the 14th of Adar (the last month in the Jewish year) is said to commemorate the salvation of the Jews from the genocidal plot of the royal advisor Haman.

IV. “Purim” is derived from the Persian (originally Babylonian) word for “lottery”.

V. Haman cast lots to decide on which day to massacre the Jews.

The thunderous beat of the  
dilapidated drums  
A mother's cry  
As she receives yet another flag  
for a fallen son

Canons and rifles fly  
A gruesome battlefield  
Both heavens and earth weep  
For the soldiers used as shields

War leaders seen everywhere  
Masters of puppetry  
Man and woman forswear  
Every ounce of jocundity

A walking contradiction  
So fertile, yet so barren  
Giving birth to more wars  
Leaving civilizations desolate  
again

A string of skeletons  
Some marked, some not  
Violence their last memory  
Death their last friend

Peace be unto them  
Sayeth' the preachers  
Woeful choirs hum  
Graves infested with leeches

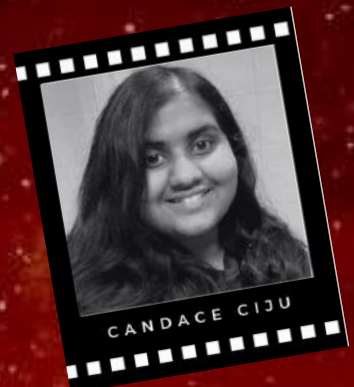
Tis the modern peace, they say  
You misunderstand, they say  
I don't comprehend surely  
How Fratricide brings glory

Ship the next batch of boys  
Clear some space  
Move around the soil  
At least they will be marked  
graves.

# MODERN PEACE

---

*(FREE VERSE)*



# Holy Matrimony



PHOTO VIDEO

Originally, the Sacrament of Matrimony was founded in the garden of Eden, the constituents of the union in marriage are love and faithfulness.

The Orthodox Church marriage is neither a treaty nor an agreement between a man and a woman, it is a Sacrament. God commands that man shall not separate what God has joined, thus the sacramental nature is evident from this.

There are two parts to the sacrament of marriage, namely:

1. Liturgy of Blessing the Rings
2. Liturgy of Blessing with the Crowns

In Orthodox Church normally only one marriage is permitted. However, if a partner dies, remarriage is permitted but the blessing of the crowns will not be repeated as it can be administered only once. There is also a special liturgy created for second marriage which has a special emphasis on repentance.

Marriage is a sacrament and requires preparation and a spiritual environment. All forms of luxury and ostentation shall be avoided in the details of the sacrament of marriage.



Holy Qurbana was established by Jesus Christ during the Last Supper, that is the Feast of Passover, in Mark's house. The prayers in our Holy Qurbana have the background of deep theological insights used from ancient times and they contain the unadulterated faith of the Church. There are separate prayers to be said by the Priest, the Altar Assistants, and the congregation, thus ensuring the participation of the entire Church in the Sacrament.

By participating in the Holy Qurbana, we become participants in the salvific history and proclaim the fundamental elements of the Church. The following factors are important facets in this proclamation:

- a. The Holy Qurbana is the participation in the worship of the Holy Trinity
- b. The Holy Qurbana gives forgiveness of sins
- c. Holy Qurbana is a sacrifice without blood
- d. Through the Holy Qurbana, we participate in the salvific activities of our Lord
- e. In the Holy Qurbana, all creation, the heavenly beings and the earthly ones all come together

The Holy Qurbana we celebrate today is mainly divided into three parts, namely:

1. The Order of Thooyobo
2. The Public Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
3. Anaphora

# Holy Qurbana



# A Poem of Thanks

Waking up every morning to thank god  
I don't know but today seems kind of odd  
No worry, no tears, no fears of tomorrow  
Did not even have to care about my sorrows

Working hard to feed my family  
God's grace is the only thing I need as a salary  
He showers me with blessings for my grind  
Through thick and thin He is with me every time

When I was in pain, and my energy was drained,  
I lost hope in him, and so my life was in vain  
Now seven times a day, I sit and pray,  
I used to be silent, but now I have so many thanks to saying

The world is crumbling, traitors plotting to get me  
Will I live? Will I die? God resolve my anxiety  
Your word is my shield, keeping my enemies sealed  
Your light is my guide, please help me survive

Temptations to stray, from your gracious ways  
Lead us away from The Devil, grant us the power to stay vigil  
You opened my eyes, to see through his lies  
You forgave my sins, gave me redemption to win

Oh Lord thank you for this beautiful life  
With all its joy throughout the strife  
Thank you for the birds that sing  
Thank you, God, for everything



# TAKE THE QUIZ!

1. Which day of Creation is not mentioned as good?
2. When did the ark rest?
3. What is the meaning of the name Noah?
4. Who was the king of Salem?
5. Where did Solomon construct the temple?
6. Which mountain is known as the mountain of God?
7. Who was the guardian of Esther?
8. Who wrote the book of Numbers?
9. Who was the leader of Israel after Moses' death?
10. What is the meaning of the name Zechariah?
11. Which prophet anointed Saul as king?
12. Which prophet was fed by a raven?



## ANSWERS

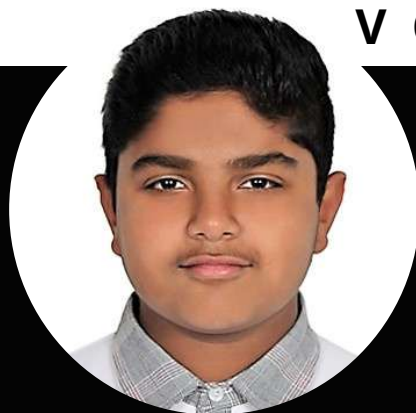
1. 2nd day 2. 7th month 17th day 3. Comfort 4. Melchizedek 5. Mount Moriah 6. Horeb 7. Mordecai 8. Moses 9. Joshua 10. The Lord remembers 11. Samuel 12. Elijah

I can do all things  
through him who  
strengthens me.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13



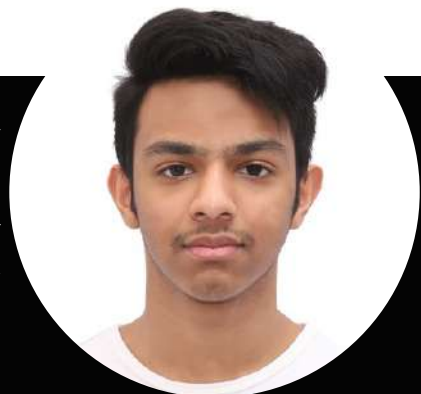
## VOICES OF EXPERIENCE



**THOMAS ROSHAN**  
SECRETARY

MGOCSM taught me more than anyone can ever expect and this wouldn't have been possible without faith and trust in God and the Church. Humility and dedication were always my footsteps. With the help of our Lord, we could bring up many events through our church that could benefit ourselves and other members. Of course, the journey wasn't easy but facing each situation without fear will mold us to be great individuals for society.

"Coming together is the beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is a success." Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, being a part of the MGOCSM committee was truly a wonderful opportunity to engage with other students of our church and to learn about Christianity. Through teamwork, MGOCSM has taught me to help and uphold others to prosper.



**JEFFIN JOHN**  
JOINT SECRETARY



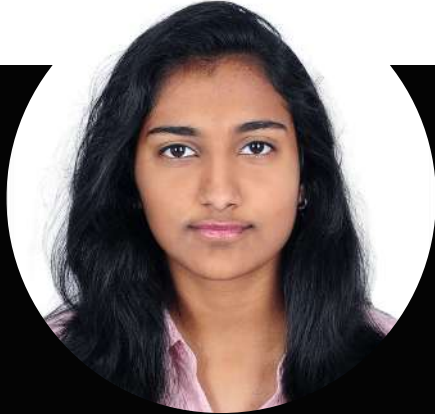
**ALAN MATHEW**  
TRUSTEE

Feeling proud and glad to announce our magazine ZERA on behalf of MGOCSM. ZERA is a journey of talents, ideas, and thoughts of our members. As a reader, we hope you appreciate the effort we put into this. At this moment I'd like to thank our Achen, editors, committee members, and the members of MGOCSM who worked hard to make this possible.

MGOCSM has always been and will be a guiding light to present each of our distinct talents. We are thankful to all members who solemnly stood by our side and cooperated at every step in making this organization successful, especially during the global pandemic. The visual platform undoubtedly has endless possibilities, and that is what led us to cherish our hidden talents and bring a moment of happiness to others.



**ALEENA SUSAN GEORGE**  
COMMITTEE MEMBER



**KENISHA MARY BIJU**  
COMMITTEE MEMBER

'Growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together'. MGOCSM has helped in deepening student's spiritual life and creating in them a livelier sense of fellowship. It led us to discover ourselves, to try something new and to go beyond our comfort zones. We were the art of the pandemic.



**NEHA ANNA BINO**  
COMMITTEE MEMBER

MGOCSM has always been an active organization, it has enabled us, students, to showcase our talents and responsibilities. It has always shown us the right path. Due to the pandemic, there were many limitations to the activities we conduct, but amidst all of these we have tried to include all students and put up our best.



**ABIN ROBINSON**  
COMMITTEE MEMBER

"We are experiencing all kinds of trouble, but we aren't crushed. We are confused, but we aren't depressed." (2 Corinthians 4:8). Being with this committee has helped me to work as a team to overcome obstacles and trust one another in the work provided. I believe that if one puts their heart, mind, and soul they can accomplish anything with the Grace of God



**JOEL VARUGHESE**  
COMMITTEE MEMBER

"You cannot change what you are, only what you do." The MgoCSM Committee gave me new experiences and has made me more responsible. MgoCSM supports teenagers like us to grow, make their own identity and find what's within them. I am very grateful to the whole team for giving me this opportunity.

Being an MGOCSM member is an auspicious point in my life. It only has been a year but it has helped me change in many aspects. To start, the meetings have been filled with many valuable messages which I still keep to my heart. The highlight was when I got the opportunity to assist this remarkable project- ZERA. The coordination with my fellow members taught me what a team is.



**JOHN ABRAHAM**  
EDITORIAL MEMBER

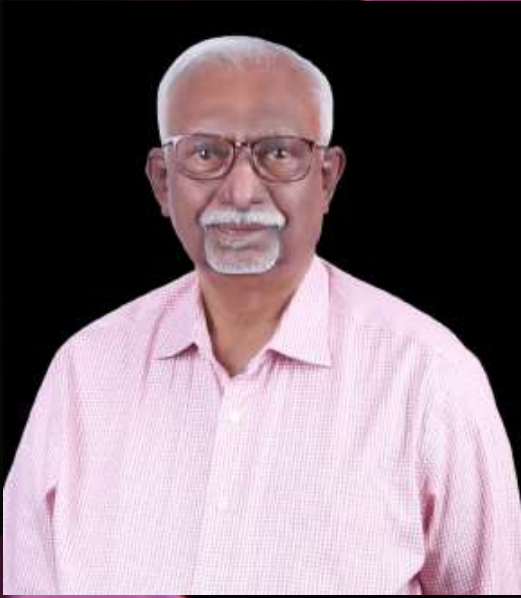


**JENY MARIA MANOJ**  
EDITORIAL MEMBER

Being a part of the MGOCSM was a blessing honor upon me, to get trained in one of the most profound principles of life - responsibility. Every day it taught me a new lesson. Being in the team to cherish and uphold each other. I believe that, if you are praying for a miracle and God does not give you that miracle, then you are the miracle. Be the change you want to see in others.

*Faith*  
**IS LIKE A**  
*Seed*  
**if planted**  
**IT WILL GROW**





# Light to our Path

*A good teacher is like a candle, it consumes itself to light the way for others.*

Our former Headmaster Mr. George Eapen was a person who found the best in all of us. No matter how old we grow, the lessons taught by him can never be forgotten. They build the foundation for our moral values.

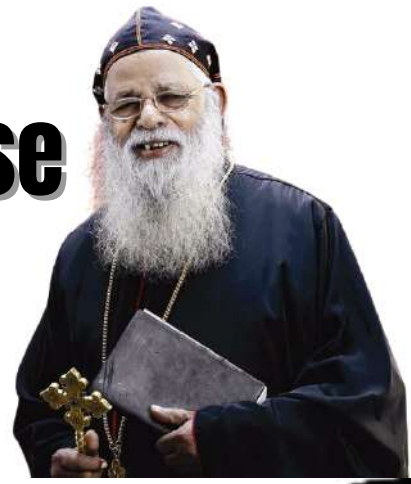
He has been in this respected position and service for around seventeen years now. He had spent time imparting the right knowledge and skills to the students appropriately. We are so grateful to him as he always taught with sincerity, passion, and zeal. He was a man of optimism.

Throughout his tenure, he was an excellent headmaster and responsible for his commitments in promoting the best techniques in the teaching sector. Sir, your outstanding qualities have inspired everyone. You have remained the most favorite, and we believe that your tenure in our Sunday school would never be forgotten. No one can erase your professionalism, affectionate gestures, and sweetness to us that are engraved on our hearts.

Last but not the least, the memories you have given us will always be cherished and you will always occupy a special place in all our hearts.

Sir, you might be leaving us, but your teachings will remain in our minds. Farewell, Sir.

# Late H.G Dr. Geevarghese Mar Osthathios



Geevarghese Mar Osthathios Metropolitan (Sabharathnam) of the Malankara Orthodox Church is widely known in India and abroad as a prophet of social justice and as a propagator of the Universal Religion of Love. He founded St Paul's Ashram and Children Home. He is the founder of Mission Training Centre, Mavelikara which gives the training to lay missionaries of love and evangelism. He also started more than 40 humanitarian institutions, movements, and projects all over India for poor people, HIV-positive patients, and their children, cancer patients, leprosy patients, and their children, and orphan, old age homes for men and women.

He has written about 59 books of which 13 are in English. He preached that it is a sin to be rich in a poor society and about One Religion of Love. He has participated in so many national and international conferences as a leader, preacher, and resource person. He was a member of the Faith and Order Commission and World Mission and Evangelism and was the advisor of the WCC assembly in Nairobi in 1975.







JOHAN JOSE



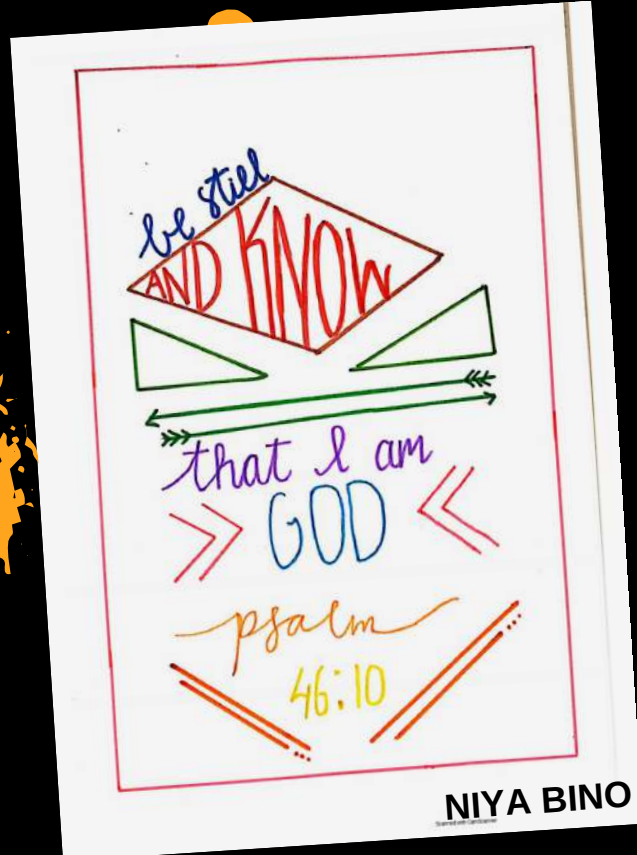
NIYA BINO



JOHAN JOSE



WHAT WE HAVE SHOWCASED TODAY IS ONE OF OUR REMARKABLE AND GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS. IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT OUR MEMBERS, WHO SOLEMNLY STOOD BY OUR SIDE AT EVERY STEP OF THIS BIG PROJECT. THE VISUAL PLATFORM UNDOUBTEDLY HAS ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES, AND THAT IS WHAT LED TO THE CREATION OF ZERA. WE ARE ALL BORN WITH DISTINCT TALENTS AND GIFTS THAT MAKE US UNIQUE. ZERA CHERISHES THESE TALENTS SO THAT WE CAN INSPIRE AND BRING A MOMENT OF HAPPINESS TO OTHERS.



NIYA BINO



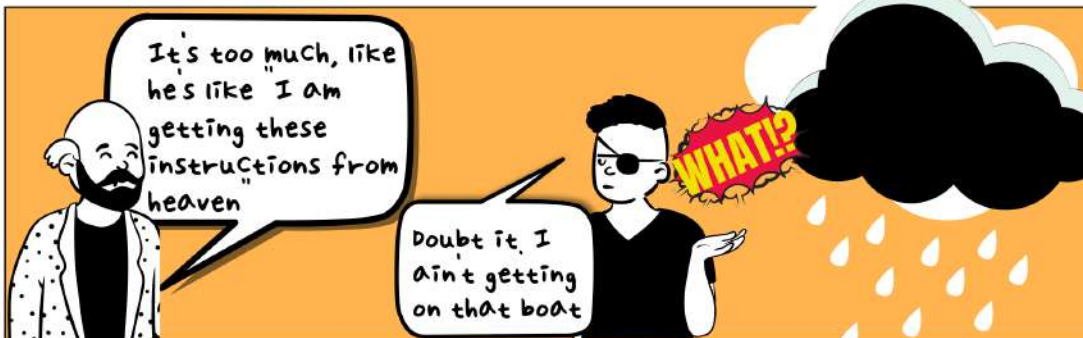
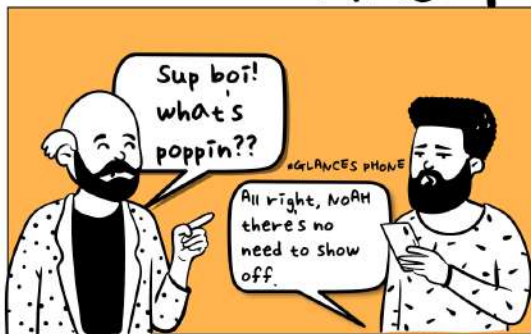
For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go.

Psalm 91:11

let your **FAITH** **BE BIGGER** than your **fear**



# IF BIBLE CHARACTERS HAD PHONES



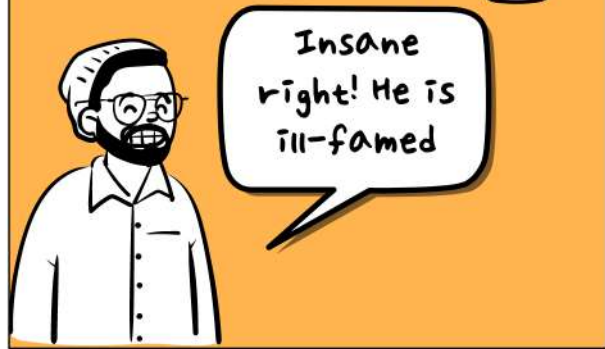
KENISHA BIJU



How it all started

Meeting of the day  
Late for the exact day  
Then pops an idea  
Why not Zera  
I went through it all  
Yet am not twenty in all  
Each page is like a fingerprint  
Common but unique in every imprint  
My fingers moved across the touchpad  
Flexing and tapping mad  
Cropping and contrasting stops  
It's all black n white oh, red pops  
Now we present Zera  
It's just the ordinary-extra

# IF BIBLE CHARACTERS HAD PHONES



KENISHA BIJU



# BIBLICAL PLACES IN JORDAN

By Abel Mathew Biju



## BETHANY BEYOND JORDAN

In 1996, this settlement site on the east bank of the Jordan River was rediscovered and verified as the place where John the Baptist lived and performed baptisms (John 1:28). Adding to the sacred significance, Jesus was baptized by John (Matthew 3:13-17) and began his ministry by enlisting his first disciples - Simon, Peter, Andrew, Philip, and Nathaniel there. This is also the area where scripture says that the prophet Elijah ascended into heaven on a chariot of fire (2 Kings 2).

## DEAD SEA

The Dead Sea is mentioned in the prophecy of the Seer Ezekiel. The Book of Ezekiel recalls how he foresaw a time when the Dead Sea would be transformed from saline waters that cannot host life into freshwaters teeming with sea life. He prophesized that "Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows".

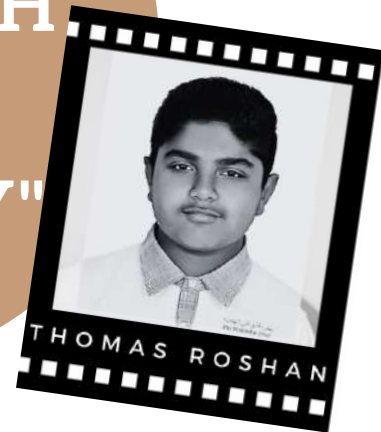
## MOUNT NEBO

Mount Nebo is a high, windy outcrop in Jordan that overlooks the Dead Sea and much of the Holy Land. This was Moses' last stop on the Exodus from Egypt. He could see the Holy Land of Canaan - on a clear day you can see Jericho and Jerusalem. He died on Mount Nebo. It's also believed that the prophet Jeremiah hid the Arc of the Covenant in a cave on Mount Nebo, but that has never been found either.



# Partner Power

"NO ROAD IS LONG WITH GOOD COMPANY"



*Tolerance and collaboration are two very important factors that make up partner power.*

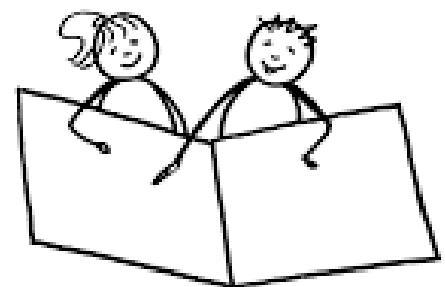
Partner power is centered on the idea that you consider your partner's success as your success. It basically increases your sociable and emotional thinking and helps you to conquer triumphs as a team and can thus create a sustainable environment. It increases your trust. It is a total game-changer. When you choose a partner, you should not only focus on their potential but also consider factors like their capability and cooperation with you, and most importantly whether they are patient with you.

Partner power should never depend on age, gender, religion, nationality, etc. It improves you and your partner's caliber in doing work and it allows each other to gain self-respect and mutual understanding. It also supports each other's opinions to be valued and careful decision-making will help them create wonders in life.

In today's competitive world you will not be able to move on properly without a backup and that's where God can help you. You need strong support or at least encouragement and prayer and spirituality is really good solutions to this. It has the unique power of stepping - up your thoughts and can lead you forward and free from tensions, difficulties, taxation, fear towards doing something new, etc.

Our Lord Jesus Christ was the greatest example of Tolerance. Tolerance is giving room for each other in their opinions, thoughts, vision, mission, etc. It is very important as it helps each other's thoughts to be highlighted and share their viewpoints freely. In taking an important decision or working out something new, an important factor which will help you out is "collaboration". It helps in effective thinking and improving creative skills.

Thus, prayer and spirituality have the potential to enhance this unique character of Partner power. Let's hope that our MGOCSM ensures to be a boon for every student thereby creating an environment that empowers each one, their families, and communities.

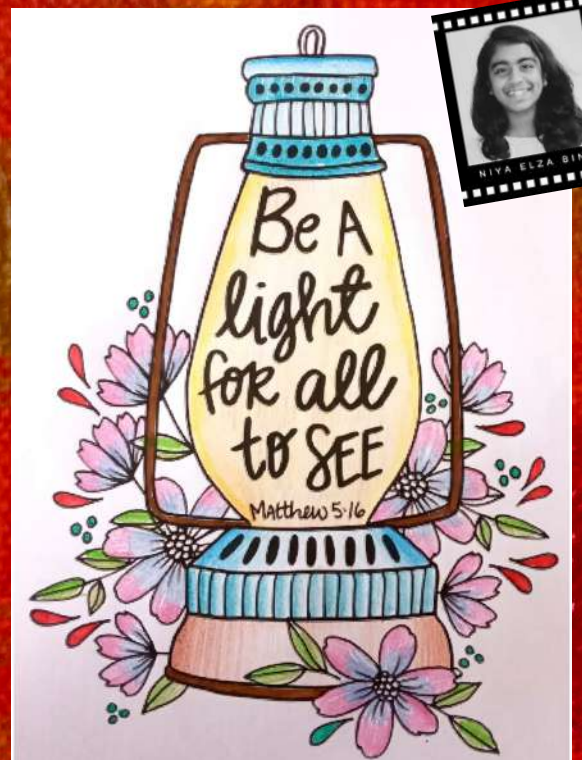
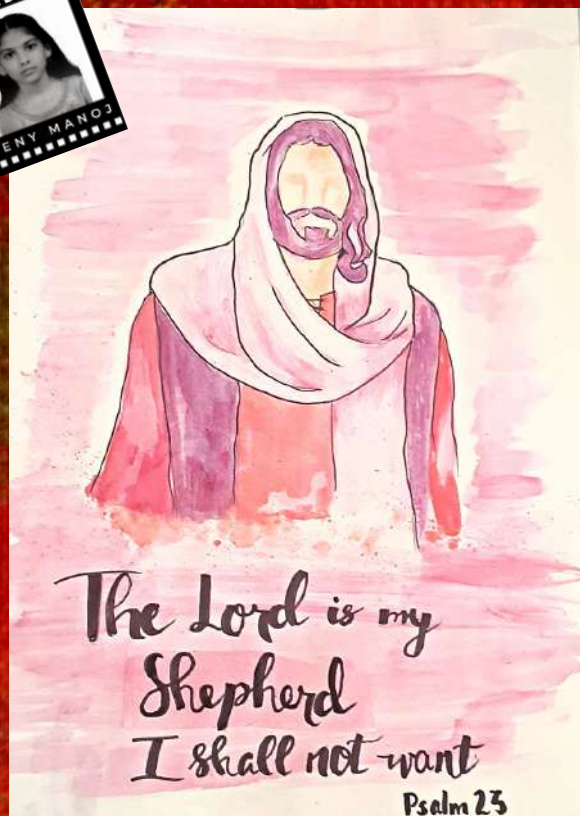
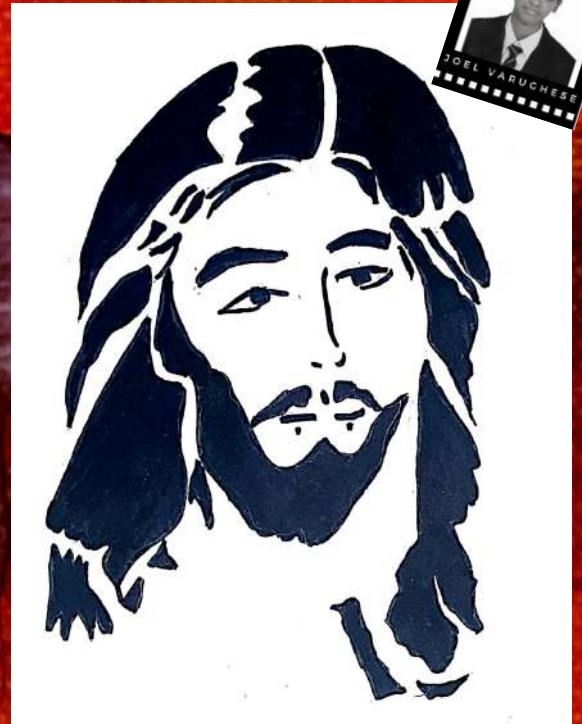


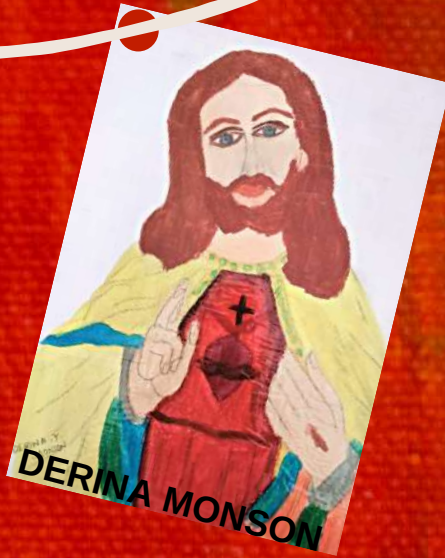
*We have partner power.*

“C is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep.”

- Scott Adams

C  
R  
E  
A  
T  
I  
V  
I  
T  
Y



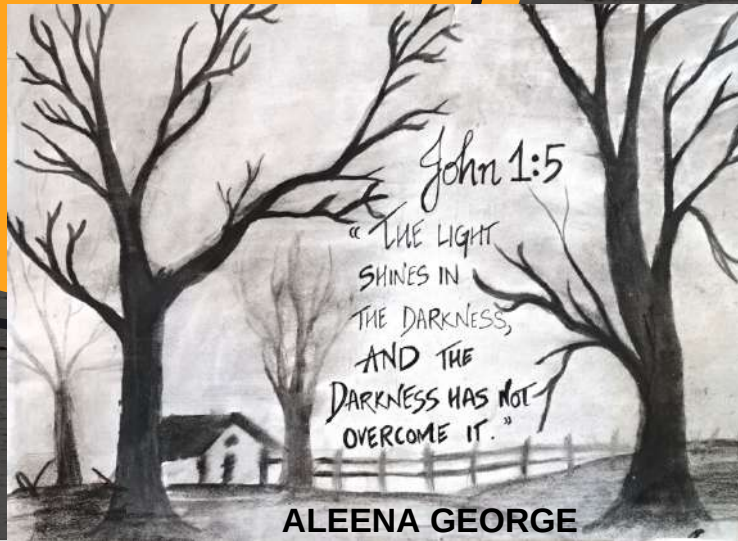


# Art of discovering creativity in you...



**ART**

*is the expression of the profoundest thoughts in the simplest way.*



ALEENA GEORGE



KESYA SACARIAH



NIYA DANIEL





# EXTRACTS



ABIYAH JOJI



NIYA BIN



KENISHA BIJU



*Arise, shine,  
for your light has come, and  
the glory of the Lord rises upon you.  
Isaiah 60:1*

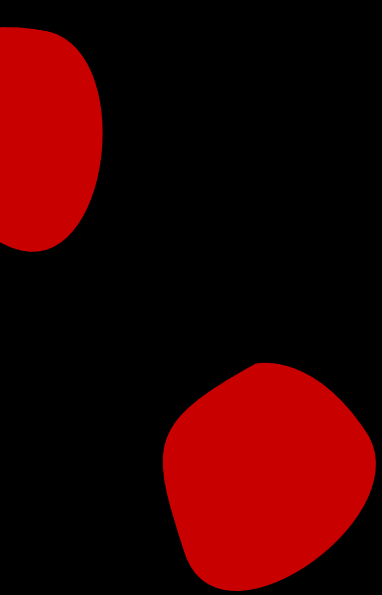


NIMISHA SAJI

We have come to an end. How can I close it without thanking those who worked wholeheartedly with me to give this beauty an existence.

# Thankyou

- My parents, for all the ideas they instilled in me and for guiding, supporting, and popping up last-minute suggestions to perfect the minute details.
- Thomas, for being the most cooperative secretary.
- Jeffin, for being there at the need of the hour, keeping up with deadlines, and your unconditional enthusiasm to get this done.
- Aleena and Neha, for all the last-minute work and for your valuable suggestions and comments at the right time.
- Alan, Joel, and Abin for the thoughts contributed during committee meetings.
- John and Jeny, my editorial board members for frequently enquiring and supporting in the best way possible.
- Chris Cyril, for his humble cooperation.
- To all those who made this possible by giving out your talents.



**ZERA**