

ܡܠܚܝܬܐ ܕܡܕܢܚܐ

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Bishop Mar Narsai Benjamin of Iran, Catholicos-Patriarch H.H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Bishop Mar Abris Youkhanan of Erbil and Fr. Eilosh Azizian of Urmi Pictured in Erbil

VOICE OF THE EAST



His Grace Mar Benyamin Elya, Bishop of Victoria and New Zealand speaking at the launch of Ms. Sarah Lindenmayer's new book, Debt of Honour, at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance on 8 September 2018



Bishop Mar Narsai Benjamin of Iran visiting Bishop Mar Ishaq Yosip in Dohuk after his treatment in USA

VOICE OF THE EAST

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Voice of the East

Vol. 65

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Editorial

Nobel Prize for Peace

The 2018 Nobel Prize for Peace was jointly awarded to the following two individuals “for their joint efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict”:

1. Dr. Denis Mukwege of Congo

2. Miss Nadia Murad of northern Iraq

Dr. Mukwege is the son of a Pentecostal pastor. He is a gynaecologist helping many women cruelly raped in Congo. Miss Murad is a young girl from Iraq’s Yazidi community who had escaped the terror of the Islamic State. Her efforts in raising awareness and advocating for the Yazidi people led to her appointment as a United Nations Good will Ambassador.

When I first read the name Murad I thought that she was an Assyrian girl. I have met members of the Murad family in Detroit and Phoenix in the United States and also in Germany.

In my lifetime, I have been fortunate enough to personally meet three Nobel Laureates of Peace:

1. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. of USA

2. Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta, India

3. Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa

All three were members of different Christian Churches. My meeting with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a great challenge. I walked with him to the United Nations headquarters in New York after listening to his soul-stirring speech at the Riverside Church on 120th Street in Broadway, New York City. That was in 1967 when I was a student at Union Theological Seminary in New York.

My meeting with Mother Teresa was by divine guidance. I had planned to meet her in 1979 when I went to Calcutta to preside over the triennial assembly of the Church History Association of India. In the exact time of our visit with Mother Teresa came the announcement that she had been awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace. Foreign newspaper reporters came to Calcutta. Hence all interviews with Mother Teresa were cancelled; I had to be satisfied by seeing the Sishu Bhavan and Buda Bhavan. I later got the opportunity to meet her in Thiruvananthapuram in January 2003 when the great Mother Teresa kissed my episcopal ring.

My opportunity to meet Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa came when I was an observer at the Anglican Communion’s Lambeth Conference in 1988 in London, England.

I have not met the two recipients of the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize. But I congratulate them wholeheartedly. I recognize the sacrifice they made to help their people. The courage and dedication of these two people should be a shining example for others to follow in similar paths. May God bless them abundantly.

MarAprem Metropolitan

International News

Moscow Patriarchate Hosts Summer Institute for Assyrian Church of the East Delegation

Between October 5-11, 2018, an official delegation from the Assyrian Church of the East visited Moscow, Russia to participate in a Summer Institute programme organized by the Moscow Patriarchate's Saints Cyril and Methodius Theological Institute of Postgraduate Studies.

The 8-member delegation visited Moscow at the invitation of the Russian Orthodox Church, Holy Synod, Department for External Church Relations and by the Apostolic blessing of His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East. Assyrian delegates from Iraq, India, the United States, Sweden and Australia reflected a number of key backgrounds including ordained serving clergy, theological students, educators, youth ministry workers, parish administrators and charitable workers.

The existing Bilateral Dialogue between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Assyrian Church of the East was first established during a meeting between His Holiness the Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia Kirill and His Holiness Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV, of thrice-blessed memory, on 28 May 2014.

The First Session of the Commission for Dialogue met on 18 May 2016 in Moscow, Russia and the Second Session met between 23-26 October 2017 in Modesto, California. The Third Session will be hosted in Moscow, Russia in late October 2018.

The Commission had earlier agreed on the exchange of students and mutual participation in theological studies between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Assyrian Church of the East with students, scholars and experts from the two communities to collaborate and share their respective traditions with each other. The hosting of the Summer Institute marked the fulfillment of this earlier agreement.

The 7-day intensive Summer Institute programme featured interactions with Russian Orthodox Church leaders, programs and initiatives along with visits to important religious and historical sites, including monasteries, churches, higher educational institutions and Russian landmarks.

Of particular note were visits to The Trinity Lavra of St Sergius (Sergiyev Posad), the Museum of the Very Reverend Alexander Men, the Mount Athos Metochion, St Daniel of Moscow Monastery, and the Butovo Church of New Martyrs and Confessors.

The delegation also met with the Russian Orthodox Synodal Department for Catechising and the Department for External Church Relations for important collaborative dialogues.

During the visit, the delegation attended the Divine Liturgy consecrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Department of External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate at the Church of Our Lady The Joy of All the Sorrowful on Bolshaya Ordynka Street in Moscow. The delegation enjoyed a private lunch with the Metropolitan and clergy following the Liturgy.

This historic programme has affirmed the deepening of dialogue and collaboration between the two traditions.

The immense success of the Summer Institute has also underscored the need for ongoing interactions that strengthen and broaden the existing bilateral relationship.

Sydney's Assyrian Schools Council Publishes New Assyrian Language Curriculum of 12 New Textbooks

The Assyrian Schools Council of the Assyrian Church of the East in Australia under the leadership of His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia has published the Assyrian Language Curriculum, which includes twelve textbooks from kindergarten to the tenth grade, as well as a book for beginners who are recently enrolled in the schools. The course is written by Assyrian Language Coordinator Anwar Atto and designed by Mr. Ashur Harmis. Each book is divided into four units of work. Each covers a topic that reflects students' interests, suits their age and meets their language needs using the modern standard Assyrian language in a communicative and comprehensive method of teaching the language including listening, understanding, speaking, reading and writing skills as well as the Assyrian culture, heritage and history integrated in the teaching of the topics.

His Grace Mar Benjamin Elya Attends Launch of Sarah Lindenmayer's New Book, *Debt of Honour*

On Saturday 8 September 2018, His Grace Mar Benjamin Elya, Bishop of Victoria and New Zealand attended the launch of Ms Sarah Lindenmayer's new book, *Debt of Honour*, at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance.

This important new book tells the remarkable and almost unknown history of how one of Australia's great military heroes, Lieutenant General Sir Stanley George Savage became instrumental in saving tens of thousands of Assyrians in 1918 while a Captain in the Australian Imperial Force.

The Diocese once again congratulates Ms Lindenmayer on this major and original achievement and looks forward to broader community awareness of this incredible link between Australia's ANZACs and the Assyrian people.

Patriarchal Visit to England

His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East has visited the Assyrian community in London, United Kingdom in late October. His Holiness was accompanied by His Grace Mar Odisho Oraham, Bishop of Europe, His Grace Mar Aprim Khamis, Bishop of Western USA and His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Bishop of Eastern USA. During the visit, the Catholicos-Patriarch met with many faithful of the Assyrian Church of the East in London where a welcome was given at St Mary's Church of the Assyrian Church of the East in Ealing. On Thursday October 25, His Holiness and prelates also called upon The Most Rev'd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace, London where they discussed relations between the Assyrian Church of the East and the Church of England and the present condition of Christians throughout the Middle East.

Abdisho of Nisibis Conference, Rome

His Holiness will visit Rome to attend '*Syriac Christianity at the Crossroads of Cultures: A Conference Commemorating the 700th Anniversary of Abdisho of Nisibis*' hosted by Pontificio Istituto Orientale between 8-9 November. His Holiness and other Assyrian Church of the East prelates attending the Conference and will meet with His Holiness Pope Francis on 9 November.

Accompanying His Holiness will be Dr Mar Aprem, Metropolitan of India and Dr Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California who will present papers at the Conference.

His Beatitude Mar Louis Raphael I Cardinal Sako, Patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic Church will also be in attendance.

The following noted scholars will present valuable papers: Dr. Sebastian Brock from Oxford, Dr. Hubert Kaufhold from Munchen, Germany, Dr. Istvan Perczel from Budapest, Dr. Hidemi Takahashi from Japan, Dr. Helen Murrenvan den Berg from Holland, Dr. Helen Younan-Sardaroudf from Berlin.

St. Narsai Christian College Students Break the Code

There is a secret code at St Narsai Christian College – it its seven letters and starts with the letter 'S'.

Can you guess it? Yes, that's right: success.

Students Alana Sellanes, Georgis Ishak, Carmen Dawood, Lana Lazar and Melis Cherie excelled at the recent National Computer Science School (NCSS) Python Coding Competition.

From the more than 20,000 students from Australia and New Zealand who participated in the NCSS Challenge Alana, Georgis and Carmen finished at the top of the leader board with perfect scores.

Not to be outdone Lana and Melis finished with scores of 409/410 and six other students received a high distinction (scores of 380 plus) in the competition.

The students competed for five weeks, learning to code by solving interesting and engaging problems.

“Eight questions were released for students to use the python programming language to solve. Python is considered as the base language for computer programming,” Technology and Applied Studies Faculty teacher Laura Stewart said.

“This term students have been studying software development and programming and worked collaboratively to complete each question.

“By completing each challenge from a project-based approach and with little prior knowledge to computer programming prior to entering this competition, all students have done not only themselves but also the school very proud.”

The NCSS Challenge is collaboration between Grok Learning, The University of Sydney and the Australian Computing Academy.

Co-founder of Grok Learning, Dr Nicky Ringland said: “The future is built with code, and it’s wonderful to see so many students getting involved. The NCSS Challenge is a key force in transforming Australian students from tech consumers, in to tech creators.”

By Chris Boulous

Source: Fairfield Champion

ADMONITION

Translated from Old Syriac to English

Marganitha (1955 Edition, Mar Narsai Press, Trichur)

by Fr. Justin Neelankavil. M.A.(Syriac)

We are always responsible, to be careful and to be industrious, for the profit of your souls and for the growth of your blessed life in Christ. It is virtuous and beneficial for the strong faith of all beloved children of the Apostolic Church of the East. Learning only from the School is not enough but should be fruitful according to the profitable scriptures also. Now we extend our helping hands to your learning in Spirit. We persuasively and earnestly request you to meditate them peacefully and discerningly for their perception which is full of awesome treasure: the water-like assistance and consolation of the soul and the body. Then they will be like a lamp which enlightens your mind. And like a lighted candle it may constrain your desires for the true way of life. When you compare your good manners and deeds with the rules and the admonitions of this book, which is full of life, you can understand and distinguish good from evil and acceptable and great from contemptible and abominable.

You hear its counsels and observe the statements and exhortations about the truth of the faith. The fear of God will be perfected by the good deeds, righteousness and mercy. By the continuous reading I could be able to learn and to teach those things which are excellent and proper to all Congregations. By the contents of this spiritual book we can find remedy for the recovery and the healing of our body and soul. Because they rejuvenate the soul of the true teaching of Jesus Christ, our God and hope of our lives. And you will learn to live a pure and beautiful life. Especially you will become a mirror, a good model to the world and a sign of the true faith to the country far and near. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ abide in all of you for ever and ever.

Ishai Simon XXI.

By the grace of God, Catholicos Patriarch of the East.



Top scoring Assyrian Schools students in the National Computer Science School (NCSS) Python Coding Competition in Sydney, Australia



12 new textbooks published by the Assyrian Schools Council of the Assyrian Church of the East, Australia in the Assyrian Language



After the meeting with Hieromonk Stephan (Igumnov), Secretary for the Department of External Church Relations, at the Department for External Church Relations on 10th October 2018. Dn. Gvargis Yaco (California), Sr. Jincy Othottil (Thrissur), Sub-Dn. Peter Azzo (Chicago), Fr Ephraim Alkhas (California), Hieromonk Stephan (Secretary DECR Moscow), Fr Martin Niqola (Erbil Iraq), Fr John Piro (California), Mr Joseph Haweil (Melbourne) & Miss Domarina Youkhana (Sweden).



During the first prayer conducted in the 22 cents of land purchased for the 12 houses for the poor of the Mart Mariam Cathedral, Thrissur on 30 October 2018. Left to Right. Fr. Binu Ponnokkaren (Vicar), Dr. Yohannan Mar Yoseph Episcopa, Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa.



Mar Aprem Metropolitan with Vicar of Marth Mariam Cathedral Fr. Binu Ponnokkaran and Asst. Vicar Deacon Alex blessing the Marth Mariam Arcade in Kannankulangara, Thrissur on 28 October 2018.



Assyrian Church of the East Summer Institute Delegates Pictured with His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, Chairman of the Department of External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate at the Church of Our Lady the Joy of All the Sorrowful on Bolshaya Ordynka Street in Moscow (After Holy Qurbana and Lunch on 7 October 2018)



Assyrian Church of the East Summer Institute Delegates pictured at Marth Mariam Church of the Assyrian Church of the East Moscow following Ramsha [Evening] Prayers with Parish Priest Cor-bishop Samano Odisho, Dn Roland Bidjamov and other parish members on Tuesday 9 October 2018



Chaldean Syrian Higher Secondary School receives the best PTA (Parents, Teachers Association) trophy in the Trichur East Sub-District. Principal Dr. Aby Paul and Headmistress Mrs. Remy Chungath are also seen



Mar Aprem Metropolitan hoisting the flag in Mart Mariam Big Church assisted by Vicar Fr. Binu Ponnokkaran, Asst. Vicars Fr. Sijo Johny and Dn. Alex T Tony on 28 October 2018 in connection with the '*Qudash Edtha*' Festival, which will be celebrated on November 3,4, & 5, 2018.

The church members have participated in this ceremony after the Holy Qurbana. There will be a three day convention from 31st October to 2 November 2018 before the festival at the Mart Mariam Cathedral ground. The arrangements for the festival will be led by the Kaikars Mr. Raju Emmatty, K J Davis and the Convener Mr. Charles Chittilappilly

News from the Archdiocese of India

Holy Land Trip from India

Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose led a group of 51 pilgrims to the Holy Land from October 16-24, 2018. Fr. Lazar Madathumpady accompanied the Bishop in this trip. A tour was also organised and conducted by the Archdiocese of Australia in October. For many Christians a visit to Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth is the great experience of their life time.

September 21 at the Seminary

Mar Aprem Metropolitan was felicitated at the Seminary of the Church of the East on 21 September 2018 to mark the 50th anniversary of the consecration of Fr. George Mookan as Episcopa at Mar Qardagh Cathedral in Karradat Maryam, Baghdad. It was the birthday of Mar Thoma Darmo Metropolitan who had started this 52 acre spacious Seminary in Thirur near Trichur. September 21 was also the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary according to the Julian Calendar.

New Executive Secretary at NCCI

Rev. Dr. Abraham Mathew was installed as the next Executive Secretary of National Council of Churches in India at NCCI's Office in New Delhi on October 1, 2018. Rev. Dr. Mathew belongs to the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church and holds a Ph.D. from Trinity College, Bristol. He has worked extensively in Churches, seminaries and the mission field. Having had several responsibilities in various forums, having published several books and articles, and having represented the Church in important national and international events, his vast experience is useful for the Church in India.

Ecumenical Youth Assembly (NEYA) of 2018

NEYA will be held at the Mar Thoma Youth Retreat Centre, Adoor, Kerala from November 7-9, 2018. NEYA is the quadrennial youth assembly organized by NCCI – Youth Concerns. The theme for this assembly would be “Fostering Responsible Citizenry” keeping in mind the impending Indian General Election 2019.

NEYA is a unique occasion to celebrate the diverse expertise of the youth by acknowledging their worth in society. NEYA is a unique occasion to celebrate National Ecumenical Solidarity, to understand the opportunities and challenges faced by churches in their own context. Through NEYA the youths respond to call not given by the powerful but given by themselves in becoming a responsible citizen; a call to reshape and remould in rebuilding up the nation; a call to re-establish the constitutional rights and justice to all the people. This is not just a call that the Youth take but is a faith affirmation that they make to deconstruct the deconstructions, constructions of gender, caste, class, hierarchy, fascism and intolerance. This faith affirmation is a symbol of love, peace, solidarity, faith, just, inclusivism, transparency, accountability and responsibility. Through NEYA, youth are gathered by the Youth Concerns to make their faith affirmations and enable them to make their faith affirmations realistic by building them in individuals with perspectives.

The NCCI department on the youth observes:

The youth have fallen short of space, fallen short of love, of opportunities and they have fallen short of space, which they can utilize in a socio-political reasoning and sustaining the diversity of nation in creed, culture, tradition, language and gender by strengthening the “SOVEREIGN; SOCIALIST; SECULAR; DEMOCRATIC; REPUBLIC” state of the nation. When it comes to space within the Church, their talents has been used within the four walls often. The youth know that they are able to bring change, a sustainable that can change the society in turn.

Let us pray for our youth to come away from their laptops and Facebook and Whatsapp to provide useful hours daily to get involved in real situations and mould their fellow youth to work for the progress of our society.

Objectives of NEYA 2018

- To provide youth a platform for mutual learning form the ecumenical exposure;
- To encourage the youth into the ecumenical movement;
- To challenge the youth to transform structures that are oppressive, discriminatory and unjust;
- Bringing together youth of all faiths to have a dialogue and to encourage them to explore and improve ways and means to improve the society;
- To reiterate the role of youth in the church and society;
- To expose them to the realities of the present day context and to encourage them to take the call of transforming the society;
- To be the responsible citizen with a discernment to combat against injustice, fascism, violence, intolerance, xenophobia and global warming;
- Contribute for the local, national and global ecumenical networking among young people.

World Syriac Conference, Kottayam

The 9th World Syriac Conference was held at SEERI, Kottayam from September 8 to 15. The St. Ephrem Ecumenical Research Institute was founded in Kottayam with Fr. Dr. Jacob Thekkeparambil as the founder Director. It brings together scholars from the Catholic and Orthodox Churches. It holds a Syriac conference once every four years. Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa presented papers in this conference. They were also assisted by Fr. Justin Neelankavil, a graduate from SEERI and celebrated Holy Qurbana of Mar Addai and Mar Mari on September 14.

Youth Conference in India - 2018

The Youth Conference – 2018 will be held in Trichur, India on 26 December to 28 December 2018. This was postponed due to the flood in Kerala from August to December 2018.

Churches' Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA) in Kerala

Travel to Thrissur District of Kerala will give you a sense of how big is the devastation and the rebuilding challenge. Around 42 villages were fully submerged in Kerala floods in the district. In an effort to help flood victims, CASA along with Act Alliance chose and packed all the relief material based on the recommendations of the affected communities in the flood-ravaged district. Essential materials like sanitary napkins to antiseptics are helping them immensely fight post flood conditions.

Dr. Sushant Agrawal Director of CASA came from Delhi to visit Church leaders affected by floods in Kerala especially Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, the founding member of the CASA Society in 1974 and Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose member of the executive of the Southern Zonal Committee. They distributed emergency materials to the affected families in Trichur and Chalakudy area. Mar Aprem Metropolitan thanked the CASA Director and the staff who worked hard in different parts of Kerala State helping the flood effected victims. Mar Aprem recalled that he rushed to Andhra Pradesh in November 1977 when the Killer Cyclone hit the Andhra coast such as Bapatla and CASA helped the victims in a massive way even before the Government and other voluntary agencies reached the spot.

Mar Aprem's New Travelogue: *Russia to England via U.A.E*

The 76th book written by Mar Aprem Metropolitan is available in Trichur. Those who are interested may write to **hgmaraprem@gmail.com**. This is the travelogue of Mar Aprem Metropolitan with the late Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV and present Patriarch Mar Gewargis III Sliwa as well as Bishop Mar Isaac Joseph and Bishop Mar Awa Royel who visited Russia in May – June 2014. This book has a good foreword written by Metropolitan Dr. Yakob Mar Irenaios, Diocese of Kochi, Malankara Orthodox Church.

New Publication from China: Yearbook of Chinese Theology 2018

Edited by Paulos Z. Huang

The Yearbook of Chinese Theology is an international, ecumenical and fully peer-reviewed annual that covers Chinese Christianity in the areas of Biblical Studies, Church History, Systematic Theology, Practical Theology, and Comparative Religions. It offers genuine Chinese theological research previously unavailable in English, by top scholars in the study of Christianity in China.

The 2018 volume highlights the five-disciplines of Jingjiao theology and its guest editors are Prof. Xiaofeng Tang from China Academy of Social Sciences and Donghua Zhu from Tsinghua University. Further contributions are from: Paulos Huang and Donghua Zhu, David Tam, Chengyong Ge, Daniel Yeung, Melville Stewart, **Mar Aprem Metropolitan**, Xiaofeng Tang and Yingying Zhang, Fuxue Yang and Wenjing Xue, Donald Wang, Xiaoping Yin, Zhu LiLayec, Lanping Wang and Qiaosui Zhang.

When the conference on Christianity in China was held in China in the year 2017 Mar Aprem Metropolitan of India was invited to be a speaker in the Seminar. As he was the only bishop invited among the professors who participated in this scholarly exercise in China the visa was neither rejected nor granted. Hence Mar Aprem could not go to read this paper specially prepared for this Seminar. The organizers decided to include his paper in this volume that was published by the scholarly publishers E.J. Brill, Leiden & Boston.

In conclusion, I would like to see that more scientific research is conducted in China to dig deeper for more archaeological evidence to support the missionary labours of St. Thomas in China from 64 AD to 68 AD. We need to find out more of the activities of these early Christians after Apostle Thomas had departed from China back to South India in 68 AD.

We do not know whether the Christian church in the first century ever attempted to write prayer books in the Chinese language. Had the first century Christian church in China ever attempted to translate Bible or holy Books to the Chinese language as Alopen attempted in 635 AD? I do not find a single Syriac book connecting it to the Church in China in the archives of the Metropolitan's Palace, in Trichur, India which has several Syriac books copied in Iraq and Iran.

Was there an exchange of bishops and priests between India and China? How was the end of the Nestorian Christianity in China? After the arrival of the Portuguese in China in the 16th century, were the Nestorian Christians persecuted by the non-Christians as happened in India?

During the 2nd international conference on “the history of Early Christianity in India with parallel developments in the other parts in Asia” sponsored by the Institute of Asian Studies in Chennai held in Chennai in 2008 some participants requested us to research and find out the activities of St. Thomas outside the Kerala State. They wanted to know more details about his activities in Tamilnadu where he was martyred in 72 AD. Had St. Thomas established the Church of the East in China (Jingjiao) before he was martyred? Now, I feel that the students of Church history of St. Thomas have to search for the churches which St. Thomas established not only in Kerala and Tamilnadu but in China also.

In the Hudra (Syriac Prayer Book of the Church of the East printed in Trichur in 1960) volume III, page number 336 we read in the prayers for the Rogation of the Ninevites on the prayer on Wednesday: “*Receive our Lord requests of the Chinese and the Indians [Sienaye Vad Hinduvaye] in the language of their land, honouring thy name and to thee they worship*”. As these prayers were composed in the sixth century we can believe that there were Christians in China at that time. This should lead us deeper in searching for Christianity in China prior to the arrival of Alopen in 635 AD.

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New Publication from Russia: "Explanation of the Mysteries"

A young Russian scholar Nikolai N. Seleznyov has published a research volume on Yohannan Bar Zobi, an East Syrian scholar of late 12th and early 13th centuries. He has provided the Syriac text along with a Russian translation of that poem entitled *PUSHAQ RAZE* which explains history from the creation to the redemption in Christ. This book will create interest in the Church of the East among Russian Christians.

Nikolai Seleznyov is a good friend of our Church. He was present during my two visits to the University of Moscow. As we have three parishes in Russia I hope that there will be interest in the people of Russia and the Russian Orthodox Church to study about the faith of our church.

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Nikolai N. Seleznyov

Yōhannān Bar Zō'bī

and his

"EXPLANATION OF THE MYSTERIES"

CRITICAL TEXT, RUSSIAN TRANSLATION
FROM SYRIAC, AND INVESTIGATION

Moscow
2016

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Seeds and Weeds

[Translation of the Syriac Poem]

Rev'd P K Varghese, India

Sower is the Son of Man Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of the Virgin

Sows seeds on the field which is the world on earth

The world the habitat Global Society with all men

Jesus the Messiah really sows not the grains of the wheat

But the Sons of the Kingdom of the Lord of all

The Children of the Kingdom are those whom

He has saved with His blood and erased their sin.

With the blood He has shed on the Tree at mount Golgotha

And those who have died along with our Lord

in the baptismal water in the name of Trinity

And raised them of the baptismal water

and in them resides the Holy Spirit

On the Harvest Day at last in the End of Time

Angels receive the order from the Son of Man;

And as harvesters pick out first the Weeds from the field,

lapses children of the Wicked, the Satan.

And the angels put them in the furnace of fire

Thereof come the gnashing of teeth and lamentation

The Crops gathers the Angels,

the just from the edges of the earth

And enter the blessed the children of the Kingdom to Heavens

to their beloved Father in the highest;

They would rejoice, be exceedingly glad

And sing along with Angels Halleluiah ;

(And they shine like the Sun.)

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Dr. Paul O. Raphael speaks at the Life Saving Training Class hosted at Mart Mariam Big Church, Trichur by the Indian Anesthesia Society and Indian Residential Council. H. G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Vicar Fr. Binu Joseph listening to the presentation.



H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan inaugurating the Carroms competition arranged by the committee of Bishop Dr. Poulse Mar Poulse Sport Fest, Church of the East, Thrissur



The Mayor of Thrissur Mrs. Ajitha Jayarajan along with Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Bobby Chemmanur and I. P. Paul (former Mayor) leading Cake Mixing Ceremony at Casino International Hotel in Thrissur



Mar Aprem Metropolitan distributes domestic utensils, blankets, bedsheets, sarees, dhoti, plastic mats, hygiene kits, mosquito nets, food items etc. to the victims of the Kerala floods in Chalakudy under the auspices of Churches' Auxiliary for Social Action, New Delhi. Dr. Sushant Agrawal, presides over the function. Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose, member of the CASA Southern Zonal Committee is seated on the dais