

CHURCH HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

Published by: Advocate John Joseph Nalloor

August, 1890: First paid evangelist is appointed by the Evangelistic Association. The first paid evangelist of the Malabar Mar Thoma Syrian Christian Evangelistic Association was Chakkalayil Cherian Upadesi. His salary was 8 rupees per month. By 1894 there were 4 paid evangelists and by 1903 the number increased to 17. Now (2008) there are 52 Mission Fields, 198 Evangelists, 52 Missionaries (Clergy), 350 Field Staff, Covering 2000 villages in India, 3 Ashrams & 5 Destitute Homes, 2 Colleges, and 3 Evangelist Training Institutes.

1 August, 1848: Birth of Yakkob Kathanar, Adangapurathu, Puramattom (d.Aug 1923). He became a deacon at the age of 11. He was an active supporter of the Reformation movement. He led the construction of the Mar Thoma church buildings in Kalloopara, Kaviyoor, Kavumgumprayar and Eraviperoor.

2 August, 1100: William the Conqueror's son and successor Rufus, a wicked king who delighted in torture, seizing church property, and blasphemy, is mysteriously killed while hunting, by an arrow that flew out of nowhere. No one mourned, and England took his eternal damnation for granted.

3 August, 1845: Birth of Thomas Kathanar, Kurumthottical Kozhencherry (d.18 Feb 1890). He became a deacon in 1866 and priest in 1873. For many years he was the vicar of Kozhencherry, Kottayam St. Thomas and Kottayam Jerusalem parishes. Rev. K.T. Thomas who led the construction of the Kozhencherry St. Thomas Church building was his son.

3 August, 1981: Rev. K.G. Oommen (b.27 Nov.1901) passes away. Born as the son of Geevarghese and Mariamma of Kattunilathu family of Niranam, he became a priest in 1940. He was in charge of our Boys Home in Punalur for many years. He led the establishment of mission fields in Tamil Nadu. He was also a blessed and gifted convention speaker.

3 August, 1492: Christopher Columbus sets sail from Spain for the "Indies." Though the explorer was in part driven by a quest for gold and glory, he also saw himself as a missionary. He thought, if there were a shortcut to the East by sea, missionaries could be sent there faster, thus enabling Christians to meet the provision for world evangelization before the Lord could return.

4 August, 1890: Birth of Rev. P.C. Thomas, Paruthimoottil, Kayamkulam (d.8 Feb 1967). Achen was a Jacobite priest who joined the Mar Thoma Church due to the influence of Bishop Abraham Mar Thoma. Achen was an active supporter of the reformation movement in the Church.

4 August, 1908: Birth of Rev. V. M. Mathen B.A., L.T., Vadavathur, Kottayam (d.15 Jul 1995). He became a deacon on 15 April 1938 and priest on 6 June 1940. He was a teacher of the Ashram High School in Perumbavoor and also the principal of our E. J. Institute in Tiruvalla. He was a gifted author and wrote many books. For many years he was one of the official translators of the Maramon Convention.

4 August, 1959: Mathew Kathanar, Thekkattil, Kallisseri passes away (b.25 Nov 1866). He became a deacon in 1905 and priest in 1913. His father Ninan Abraham Kathanar was a prominent priest. He served many parishes including Umayattukara, Othara, Mangalam, Edanadu, and Pandanadu.

4 August, 2000: Rev. C.K. Mathai, Chittappasseril, Thuruthicadu passes away (b.15 April 1909). He became a deacon on 4 May 1935 and priest on 24 Nov 1935. Before his ordination he worked as a teacher and evangelist. He served many parishes including Madras, Kattanam, Kayamkulam and Kuriannoor.

5 August, 1877: Birth of K.I. Varkey Kassessa, Kizhakkethalakkal, Edathua (d.14 July 1948). After passing his L.T.T. (Licentiate Teachers Training) examination became a priest on 15 April 1931. He served the Kuriannoor St. Thomas, Kannamangalam, Karipuzha Salem, Payippadu Immanuel, Aanaparampal parishes. There is an endowment deposit in the Church HQ in the name of Achen and Kochamma for the benefit of the retired clergy fellowship.

5 August, 1920: Birth of Rev. T.V. Thomas, Thanuvelil, Memala, Vennikulam (Kochi) (d.19 July 2001). After passing his M.A., B.D he became priest in 1947. For a few years he was the travelling secretary of the Evangelistic Association and also the South Travancore Missionary. He was the founding vicar of the Calcutta Mar Thoma Parish and led the establishment of the Janatha Hospital, Rescue Mission and Mar Thoma Hostel in Calcutta.

6 August, 1929: Death of Geevarghese Kathanar, Valiyathundiyl, Kozhencherry (b.9 Sep.1865). Following the footsteps of his father Valiyathundiyl Mathai Kathanar, he became a deacon in 1880 and priest in 1887. For many years he was the vicar of the Kumbanad and Kozhencherry parishes.

6 August, 2001: Death of Rev. K.V. John, (b.27 Aug 1937), Kurumbikkal Peace Villa, Punthala, Kulanada became a priest in 1960 and served many parishes including Melppadam, Payippad, Trivandrum, Bhilai, Kidagannoor, Enathu, Mannady, Pallikkal, Punnamudu, Kattanam, Kannamangalam, Venmony, Mavelikkara and Dubai. For a few years he was the chaplain for the Kattanam Mission Hospital.

6 August, 258: Emperor Valerian executes Bishop of Rome Sixtus II for preaching a sermon in a cemetery. The emperor originally tolerated Christians, but switched to persecuting them because he believed they were responsible for the plagues, earthquakes, and other disasters that disturbed his reign.

7 August, 1893: Birth of Juhanon Mar Thoma Metropolitan. Dr Juhanon Mar Thoma was the metropolitan of our Church from 1947 to 1976. He provided the Church with the emblem having the motto "Lighted to Lighten". This has been appreciated by many Christian church leaders.

7 August, 1990: Rev. P.M. Mathew, Plamkkoottathil, Kadammanitta (b.12 May 1914) passes away. He became a deacon on 13 Dec. 1941 and priest on 7 April 1942. He served 32 parishes as vicar. For many years he was the Central Travancore Missionary of Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association.

7 August, 2000: Death of Rev. K.C. Thomas, Karimpil, Kalloppaara (b.14 Dec 1909). Achen's father Karimpil Cheriyaachen was one of the famous evangelists of the Mar Thoma Church. He became a deacon on 28 April 1945 and priest on 1 Sept 1945. Rev. Mahesh Thomas Cherian is his son.

8 August, 1980: Titusji, Christian Freedom fighter (b.18 Feb 1905) passes away. Titusji (member of Maramon Mar Thoma Parish) and his wife Annamma were members of Gandhiji's Sabarmati Ashram. Gulzarilal Nanda (one of the former Prime Ministers of India) and Titusji were the secretaries of Sabarmati Ashram. He was a close friend of Gandhiji and Gandhiji even visited his house in Maramon during his visit to Aranmula Temple in Travancore. Titusji was the only Christian who took part in the Dandi March (to break the salt law) in 1930. On one of his visit to Kottayam, Titusji burnt British clothes and hats and gave a fiery speech to thousands of Keralites. After Independence, Titusji went to Bhopal and could help hundreds of youngsters to find jobs in Madhya Pradesh. He was a dynamic figure in the social and church life of Bhopal for many years.

8 August, 1471: Thomas a Kempis, Dutch mystic and devotional author of *The Imitation of Christ*, dies at the age of 91. In his classic, Thomas wrote, "We must imitate Christ's life and His ways if we are to be truly enlightened and set free from the darkness of our own hearts. Let it be the most important thing we do, then, to reflect on the life of Jesus Christ."

8 August, 1991: Rev. K.P. Philip, Karuvelil, Tiruvalla passes away (b.11 Jan.1916). He became a deacon on 11 Sept 1943 and priest on 10 Feb 1944. He was the Traveling Secretary, Correspondence Secretary, and General Secretary of the Evangelistic Association, President of the Yuvajana Sakhyam, General Secretary of the Voluntary Evangelists Association, Principal of the Bible Institute in Kompady, etc. For many years he was the director of the Dept. of Sacred Music and led the Maramon convention Choir.

8 August, 1898: Birth of K.C. Mathew, Kolathu, Kozhencherry (d.17 Oct 1981). After serving the Scripture Union and the Sunday School Samajam as a lay missionary for many years he became priest on 1 Jan 1944. His wife Achamma was the daughter of Mrs. Kandamma Varghese (One of the founders of Sevika Sanghom). He served many parishes including Edayaranmula, Punalur and Kozhencherry.

9 August, 1883: Robert Moffat (b.21 Dec. 1795) pioneer missionary to southern Africa and an inspiration (and father-in-law) to David Livingstone, dies. He worked in Africa for over 50 years. He opened mission stations in the interior, translated the Bible into the language of the Bechuanas, and wrote two missionary books on South Africa: *Labors and Scenes in South Africa* and *Rivers of Water in a Dry Place*. His eldest daughter Mary married David Livingstone.

10 August, 1886: Death of Joseph M. Scriven. Joseph, Irish Plymouth Brethren hymn writer, died on 10 Aug 1886. He spent most of his life performing menial work for the destitute. His best known hymn is the uplifting “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”- “Enthu nallor sakhi Yeshu” (Hymn no.173 (164) Krishtheeya Keerththanagal.

10 August, 1891: Birth of Rev. C.I. Abraham, Cheppanalil, Venmony (d.4 May 1982). After his training in CNI (Cambridge Nicholson Institute) Kottayam, he became a deacon on 17 Sep 1916 and priest on 10 Jun 1917. For fourteen years he was the North Travancore Missionary of the Evangelistic Association. He led the establishment of many Schools and Parishes in North Travancore including the Perumbavoor Ashram High School.

10 August, 1910: Birth of Rev. C.V. Abraham (d.2 May 1995). Rev. C.V. Abraham was a member of the Palamoottil Family of Mallappally, became a deacon on 20 July, 1946 and priest on 16 July, 1947. He served more than 26 parishes and was also a teacher of Palghat Ashram School. He wrote Bible Reading notes in the Church publications and trained Theological students.

10 August, 1913: Birth of Rev. Dr. M.A. Thomas, Bangalore (d.26 Jun 1993). Achen was a member of the Madathethu Family of Ayroor Salem Parish. He was ordained on 14 Jan 1950. In addition to his parish duties he led youth movements and Ecumenical programmes. From 1963-1980 Achen was the founder president of the Ecumenical Study centre in White Field, Bangalore.

10 August, 1893: Thomas Mar Athanasius Metropolitan passes away (b.7 Oct 1837). He was our Metropolitan from 1877 to 1893. It was during his time that we lost all our physical properties except a few church buildings, through the case known as the “Seminary Suit”. The Evangelistic Association was established in 1888. Though the episcopate of Thomas Mar Athanasius was a period of trial and suffering for the church it was also one of great spiritual promises for the future.

10 August, A.D. 70: Roman troops, sent by Roman Emperor Vespasian to put down a Jewish rebellion, break through the walls of Jerusalem and destroy the temple. “Some of the disciples were talking about the Temple, how beautiful it looked with its fine stones....Jesus said, “All this you see – the time will come when not a single stone here will be left in its place; every one will be thrown down” (Luke 21:5-6). Jerusalem and the Temple was destroyed by the Roman Commander Titus; with 70,000 soldiers from the

Fifth, Tenth and Fifteenth Legions. It is said that the event occurred on the same day of the year as the earlier destruction of Solomon's temple by Babylonians.

11 August, 1519: Johann Tetzel, the German Dominican priest whose peddling of indulgences inspired Martin Luther to write his 95 Theses, dies. Throughout Germany he infamously preached, "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs." Even the papal envoy eventually criticized him. As for Luther, though he once called Tetzel "the primary author of this tragedy," when he heard Tetzel lay dying, wrote the friar a letter of comfort: "Don't take it too hard. You didn't start this racket".

11 August, 1778: English clergyman Augustus Montague Toplady (b.4 Nov 1740), author of the hymn "Rock of Ages," dies. No other English hymn can be named that has laid so firm and broad a grasp upon the English speaking world as "Rock of Ages". Hymn No 149 (140) – *Pilharannoru paarraye* in our Book- Kristheeya Keerththanangal.

12 August, 1912: Birth of Rev. Dr. V. P. Thomas, Vadakkenazhikathu, Kundara. Following the footsteps of his father V. I. Philipose Kassessa became a deacon on 27 June 1947 and priest on 7 Jan 1948. After serving few parishes he worked with the Leonard Theological College in Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) for many years. He was one of the prominent members of the Serampore University Senate. He was the Principal of the M.T. Seminary in Kottayam and the Clergy Trustee of our Church.

13 August, 1859: Laying of the foundation stone for the Cambridge Nicholson Institute (CNI) in Kottayam. This institute was established by the CMS missionaries for the Theological education of the Clergy. Many of our priests were graduates from this institution. The Mar Thoma Theological College in Kottayam was established in 1926.

13 August, 1908: Ira D. Sankey (b.28 Aug 1840), best known as the music leader in D. L. Moody's evangelistic crusades, dies.

13 August, 2004: Rev. C. S. Joseph, Cheruvathoor, Kunnamkulam passes away (b.6 Jun 1917). He became a deacon on 21 May 1953 and priest on 28 Nov 1953. He served many parishes in North Kerala. He was the headmaster of the Nandavanam U. P. School. He wrote many books including the "Pilgrims Bible".

13 August, 1897: Birth of K. J. Jacob Kasseesa, Kizhakkethalakkal, Edathua (d.19 May 1959). He became a deacon in 1923 and priest in 1924. During his 36 years of career as vicar, he served the Parishes in Trichur, Mepral, Niranam, Mallappally, Kattanam, Anamprampal, etc.

14 August, 1937: Birth of P. D. John, author of "Praatthanakk- uththaram nalkunnone" (Hymn no. 375). Born as the son of David and Annamma of Plakkal house in Kangazha, he was a communist party worker. In 1952, he attended a gospel meeting of Evangelist Unni Upadeshi, and during that meeting became "a new creation". For the next 14 years he assisted Unni Upadeshi in his Gospel work, and after his theological education

he joined our Yuvajana Sakhyam Office as the Music assistant. He has written more than 150 Hymns. About 100 of his hymns are published in the Maramon Convention Song books.

14 August, 1919: Birth of Very Rev. C. G. David (d.9 July 1983). Rev. David a member of the Charivukalayil family of Kavungumprayar near Tiruvalla became deacon on July 22, 1944 and Vicar General on July 28, 1981. He passed away during his flight to attend the World Missionary Conference in Amsterdam and his body was brought to Tiruvalla from Paris on July 22, 1983 and buried in the St. Thomas church cemetery the next day.

15 August, 1930: Kunchandy Kathanar, Plathara, Kannamcode (b.1847) passes away. After the primary education he learned Syriac and became a priest in the Jacobite Church. Till 1892 he served the Kannamcode Orthodox Church and later joined the Mar Thoma church. From 1893 to 1930 he served many Mar Thoma parishes as Vicar.

15 August, 1950: K. P. Thomas Kassessa, Kovoov, Tiruvalla (b.1871) passes away. After his training from the CNI in Kottayam he became priest and was the vicar of Tiruvalla, Chathankerry, Karakkal, Varikkadu and Thirumulapuram parishes. He was a teacher in M. T. Seminary High School, Kottayam and S. C. Seminary School in Tiruvalla. Achen's daughter Aley Thomas was the Headmistress/ Manager of the Nicholson Girl's High School in Tiruvalla for many years.

15 August, 2006: Death of Rev. George K Daniel. Kizhakkedathu, Manakkodu (b.28 April 1954). He became a deacon on 12 June 1987 and priest on 25 June 1987. He was an evangelist in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Few years he was the South Travancore Missionary and the director of the De-addiction Centre in Malayalapurza.

15 August: Being Independence Day, we remember, with gratitude, all who labored for our freedom from the foreigners.

16 August, 1863: Abraham Lincoln (12 Feb 1809 – 15 April 1865) signs the Emancipation (The Act setting free from slavery) Proclamation. He was the sixteenth President of the United States, serving from March 4, 1861 until his assassination.

16 August, 1904: Birth of Rev. K. M. Thomas, Kottakkal, Ayroor (d.3 Mar 1962). After passing the senior Cambridge examination he worked in Malaysia for few years and then joined the Bishop's college in Calcutta for theological training. He became a deacon in 1947 and priest in 1948. For a few years he taught at the M. T. High School, Ayroor.

17 August, 1761: William Carey (d.9 June 1834), who would become a tremendously successful Baptist missionary to India, is born in Northampton shire, England.

17 August, 1954: Very Rev. V. T. Chacko Kassessa, Kuriannoor (b.28 March 1888) passes away. A member of the Vadakkethu family of Kuriannoor, he was a very able administrator. While he was the Vicar of the Trichur Parish, he conducted the Sabha

Mandalam (which usually meets at Tiruvalla) in Trichur. He was one of the Division Secretaries and Sabha Secretary of our Church.

17 August, 1959: N. T. George Kasseesa, Nalamvelil, Niranam (b.11 Nov 1889) passes away. After his studies at the Cambridge Nicholson Institute (CNI) in Kottayam he became a deacon on 17 Sept 1916 and priest on 21 April 1919. A primary health centre and a post office were established in Niranam with Achen's efforts. He was a celibate priest. The parsonage building of the St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church in Niranam is Achen's memorial.

17 August, 1987: Death of Rev. Dr. T .C. Thomas, Kunnukuzhiyil, Puthupally (b.21 Nov 1913). After passing his M.A., L.T., and B.D exams he became a deacon on 28 May 1949 and priest on 18 Feb 1950. He was the principal of Titus II Teachers Training College, Tiruvalla, Mar Thoma College, Tiruvalla and St. Thomas Residential School, Trivandrum. He was the clergy trustee of the Church. Retired Supreme Court Judge K.T. Thomas is his son in law.

18 August, 1688: John Bunyan, author of *Pilgrim's Progress* preaches his last sermon, in London. The *Pilgrim's Progress* from "This World to That Which Is to Come" by John Bunyan (published, Feb 1678) is a Christian allegory. It is regarded as one of the most significant works of English Literature and has been translated into more than 100 languages.

19 August, 1960: Death of Yohannan Kasseesa, Chemmarapally, Manganam (b.16 Feb 1874). He became a deacon in 1902 and priest in 1903. He was the vicar of Thalappady Nazareth, Kollad Bethlehem and Manganam Bethel Parishes.

19 August, 1983: Death of Rev. P .E. Mathew, Neduvelil, Keezhukara, Kozhencherry (b.8 Oct 1902). After his theological training in the Serampore Theological College he became a deacon on 28 Aug 1935 and priest on 12 Oct 1935. For a few years he was a teacher in Vazhoor School. The Church historian Mr. N. M. Mathew, who wrote the History of the Mar Thoma Church in three volumes, is his son.

20 August, 1939: Birth of Rev. Abraham Lincoln. Born as a member of the Vadakkethu family of Kuriannoor, he was a gifted hymn writer and singer. He was the General Secretary of the Yuvajana Sakhyam, Asst. Secretary of the Sunday School Samajam and Director of the Dept. of Sacred Music and Communication. He was called home on 19 April, 2004 while serving as director of the Spirituality Centre in Adoor. He was buried on 22 April, 2004, in Kuriannoor at the St. Thomas Church Cemetery.

20 August, 1912: William Booth, founder and first General of the Salvation Army, dies. Frederick St George de Latour Tucker, of the Indian Civil Service, took the Indian name of Fakir Singh and commenced Salvation Army work in Bombay on 19 Sept 1882. The adoption of Indian food, clothes, names and customs gave the pioneers ready access to the people, especially in the villages. In addition to evangelistic work, various social

programmes were inaugurated for the relief of distress from famine, flood and epidemic.

20 August, 2001: Rev. Dr. K. P. Mathai (b.24 Mar 1928) passes away. Rev. Mathai was a member of the Karimpanammannil Family of Anicadu, near Tiruvalla. For 32 years he was a teacher in the South Indian Biblical Seminary at Bangarapet in Karnataka. He was ordained in 1987 and till his retirement worked with the Hoskote Medical Mission Centre in Karnataka.

20 August, 1925: Birth of Rev. C. M. Thomas Chelikuzhimalayil, (Kozhencherry) Kochi (d.17 Nov 1997). He became deacon on 2 June 1956 and priest on 28 July 1956. He was the General Secretary of the Yuvajana Sakhyam, Sea Coast Missionary of the Evangelistic Association, and the Manager of the Mar Thoma Book Depot.

20 August, 2005: Death of Rev. P. T. Mathew, Chirakkadavil, Kadamaanitta (b.8 Nov 1929). He became a deacon on 20 Jan 1964 and priest on 24 Aug 1964. He served more than 28 parishes as vicar. He was the Manager of the Mar Thoma High School in Mekkozhoor and the Boarding Superintendent of the Mar Thoma High School in Pathanamthitta.

21 August, 1991: Death of Rev. C. V. Kurian, Vettathu Pulithirakunnil, Puthupally, Kottayam (b.28 June 1921). He became a deacon on 26 May 1956 and priest on 25 December 1956. He served more than 25 parishes. For a few years he taught in Mar Thoma Schools in Kottayam and Keezhillam.

22 August, 565: Celtic missionary and abbot Columba reportedly confronts the Loch Ness Monster and becomes the first recorded observer of the creature. "At the voice of the saint, the monster was terrified," wrote his biographer, "and fled more quickly than if it had been pulled back with ropes".

23 August, 1948: The "fellowship of churches which accept our Lord Jesus Christ as God and Savior"- the World Council of Churches- is formally constituted in Amsterdam. The World Council of Churches (WCC) is an international Christian ecumenical organization based in Geneva; at it has a membership of over 340 churches and denominations, and those churches and denominations claim about 550 million Christian members throughout more than 120 countries.

23 August, 2000: Death of Rev. K. M. Thomas. Konnanilkunnathil, Kuriannoor (b.10 April 1911). He became a priest on 28 April 1952. For 12 years he was a member of the National council of YMCAs in India, Burma and Ceylon. He worked with the CSSM ministry in Kerala for three years. He served as the General Secretary of the Mar Thoma Voluntary Evangelists Association and authored many books.

24 August, 1953: Birth of Rev. Thomas Mathew, Thachilethu Mulakkuzha (d.27 June 2006). He became a deacon on 23 April 1978 and priest on 22 May 1978. He served

many parishes including Karunagapally, Roorkala, Jamshedpur, etc. He was a member of the Central Committee of the Mar Thoma Yuvajana Sakhyam.

24 August, 1957: Koshy Kasseesa, Chekottu Poikayil, Elanthoor (b.1880) passes away. Following the footsteps of his famous father Philipose Kathanar, he became a deacon in 1894 and priest in 1907. He was the Vicar of Elanthoor Vliya Pally and surrounding parishes for many years. He was an expert in Syriac and taught the clergy Syriac Hymns.

25 August, 1960: Death of Rev. Abraham Mathew, Elamittethu (b.25 Mar 1902), Valakom. After his education at Madurai College, he became a deacon on 24 Nov 1927 and priest on 28 Sept 1928. Mukkola mission field was established by his ardent efforts. He led the reconstruction of the Thekke Angadi Pally in Kunnamkulam.

26 August, 1901: The American Standard Version of the Bible is first published by Thomas Nelson and Sons. The A.S.V. spun off from the 1881 English Revised Version, the first nondenominational English revision since publication of the King James Version in 1611.

26 August, 1938: Birth of Rev. John Varkey, B.Sc. B.D. Kannamplavil, Pazhavangadikara, Ranny (d.24 Sep 1990). In addition to his services as vicar of various parishes he was the General Secretary of the Mar Thoma Voluntary Evangelists Association for 8 years and was Manager of the Church Magazine Malankara Sabha Tharaka. He was called to his eternal home while serving as the Vicar of the Kuriannoor Mar Thoma Parish on 24 Sep 1990.

27 August, 1727: Count Nicolaus von Zinzendorf's Moravian community at Herrnhut, Germany, begins a round-the-clock "prayer chain." Reportedly, at least one person in the community was praying every minute of the day—for more than a century.

27 August, 1873: Birth of K. T .Thomas Kasseesa, Kurumthottical, Kozhencherry (d.2 Oct 1968). Achen was one of the ablest priests of our Church. He led the establishment of St. Thomas High School, Kozhencherry; St. Mary's Girls High school, Keezhukara; St. Thomas College, Kozhencherry; and the Industrial Training Institute, Cherukole. He constructed the St. Thomas Church Kozhencherry (largest Mar Thoma Church Building). For many years he was the clergy trustee of the Church.

27 August, 1910: Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu is born to an Albanian couple in Yugoslavia. At age 18, Agnes entered an Irish convent. She later became known worldwide as Mother Teresa.

27 August, 1937: Birth of Rev. K. V. John, Punthala (d.6 Aug 2001), Kurumbikkal Peace Villa, Punthala, Kulanada. He became a priest in 1960 and served many parishes including Melppadam, Paippad, Trivandrum, Bhilai, Kidagannoor, Enathu, Mannady, Pallikkal, Punnamudu, Kattanam, Kannamangalam, Venmony, Mavelikkara and Dubai. For a few years he was the chaplain for the Kattanam Mission Hospital.

28 August, A.D 430: St. Augustine passes away. Augustine was born on 13 Nov 354, in Tagaste, Numidia, in Roman North Africa, of a mixed marriage. His father was a pagan, but his mother, Monica, was a Christian. It was because of her prayers that Augustine became a church leader and later a saint. Nobody before Martin Luther (reformation Leader) has influenced the Church as much as Augustine.

28 August, 1440: (Chinghom 12, 616 M.E) Beginning of the Maramon Mar Thoma Parish. Members of the Niranam Parish who were staying in Maramon found it extremely difficult to attend Church services in Niranam regularly. Those days country boats (Kettuvallams) were the only mode of transport (There were no road facilities). So one grandmother, her children (we do not know their names), and the members of the Kulathakkal Family who stayed in the Maliyekkal Purayidam, led the establishment of the Maramon Mar Thoma Parish

28 August, 1828: Leo Tolstoy, Russian novelist and social reformer, is born. Though the Russian Orthodox Church excommunicated him in 1901, his later works emphasized Christian love and the teachings of Jesus.

28 August, 1840: Ira D. Sankey, who for 25 years led the music when D.L. Moody preached, is born in Pennsylvania. He was called home on Aug 13, 1908.

29 August, A.D 29: Herod kills John the Baptist. Since the fifth century, this has been the traditional date for the beheading of John the Baptist.

29 August, 1979: Death Rev. Thottunkal Abraham John, Varikadu (b. 31 Dec 1911) passes away. After obtaining his B.A; B.D., S. T M., and M.A degrees he worked with the American School in Sholapur and served as the Unit secretary of the Western India SCM. He became a priest on 19 Jan 1950. He was the secretary of Bishop Abraham Mar Thoma for few years. He has written many books and articles. He was also the General Secretary of the Yuvajana Sakhyam, Vice- Principal of the AMM Bible institute, and the General Secretary of the Voluntary Evangelist Association.

30 August, 1901: Birth of Rev. P. V. Abraham- Aalaa Achen Valakam (d.19 Sep 1990). After passing his B. A., B. D. and L.T he became a deacon on 27 Sep 1928 and priest on 29 Aug 1929. He was the headmaster of the Valakam High School. For many years he published a magazine called "Athma Prakashini" He had written many books and articles. His wife Saramma was the sister of Alexander Mar Thoma Metropolitan.

31 August, 1688: John Bunyan dies. English Puritan writer and preacher John Bunyan, author of "Pilgrim's Progress" dies at the age of 69. Though one of England's most famous authors even in his own day, he maintained his pastoral duties to his death, which was caused by a cold he caught while riding in the rain to reconcile a father and son.

31 August, 1937: (Chinghom 15, 1012 M.E) Abraham Malpan celebrated the First Holy Communion in Malayalam (it was in Syriac till then), in the Maramon Mar Thoma Parish. Malpan had translated the liturgy into Malayalam, as Syriac was unknown to most of the congregation and sometimes even to the celebrants.

31 August, 1535: Pope Paul II excommunicates English King Henry VIII, who had been declared by an earlier pope as "Most Christian King" and "Defender of the Faith". This later led to the creation of the Church of England (Anglican Church).

31 August, 1905: Birth of Rev. T. G. Samuel, Thandasseril, Karunagapally (d.29 Nov 1989). After his training in the Mar Thoma Seminary in Kottayam, he became a deacon on 21 May 1940 and later priest. He served more than 41 parishes including Thevalakkara, Kottayam and Kozhikode. He led the re-construction of church buildings in Cherukole, Chanthannur, Kalluvathukkal, Nakkada and Thevalakkara.

