

CHURCH HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Published by: Advocate John Joseph Nalloor

February, 1917: Sadhu Sunder Singh preaches at Maramon Convention. Sadhu Sunder Singh (b.3 Sep.1889) was one of the speakers of the Maramon Convention in 1917. He spoke in Hindi and the translation was done by Mr. M. O. Oommen, Chief Conservator of Travancore. Sadhu drew crowds greater than previous conventions, so much so that before the end of the week the Pandal had to be enlarged and at the final meeting about 32,000 people gathered to hear his message.

1899-1912: Rev. Thomas Walker was one of the main speakers at the Maramon Convention. He was a Church Missionary Society (CMS) missionary from Tirunelveli. He gave importance to the study of the Word of God (Bible) and to missionary work of the Church. His inputs were instrumental for the beginning of many Mar Thoma Missionary works.

1916: Restriction for women to attend the Maramon Convention evening meetings imposed. From 1895–1916 women used to attend the night meetings (8.00–9.30pm) of the convention. Taking into account the social norms of the day, a ban was imposed in 1917 and night meetings are only for men.

1926: The Mar Thoma Church purchases a plot for a Retreat Centre in Maramon. In 1926, the land of the present Maramon Retreat Centre was purchased from a Hindu family. Rt. Rev. Mathews Mar Athanasius constructed an Aramana there with financial help from Dr. Stanley Jones. To commemorate the memory of great Ayroor C. P. Philipose Achen the Aramana was renamed as Ayroor Achen Memorial Retreat Centre.

1930: Fourteen meals for one rupee. During the early years of the Convention, restaurants and hotels were not in existence. Tea shops (Kappi Kadas) and Chottu Kadas (Rice shops) were the only available eating joints in the Manalpuram (River Bed). One of the famous chottu kada's was managed by Kunjan Varkey Chetten from Edathua. He would serve 14 full meals for just one rupee and 228 full glasses of coffee (Chakkara Kappi) also for Rs.1 in the early 1920's.

1940: Land Tax for Convention Plot. Government authorities were always helpful in the organizing and running of the Maramon Convention. With the help of C. K. Mathen Peshkar, (District Collector), the river bank (venue of the convention) was registered in the name of the Mar Thoma Church and a yearly tax of Rs.100/- is being paid every year as registration renewal fee.

1946: Loud speaker and mike comes to Maramon Convention. Until 1946, messages of the main speaker were repeated in relay by persons standing in between the

participants of the convention. It was a time consuming process for the message to reach the back from the front. In 1946, a loud speaker and mike set was brought to Maramon from USA by Rev. Dr. Stanley Jones. It was donated by one of the Christian Churches in USA.

Final Hymn From 1895: The Hymn “Sthuthippin sthuthippin Yesudevane, Halleluiyah paadi sthuthippeen sthuthippen yesudevane” written by Rev. Yustus Joseph (Vidhuwan Kutty Achen (1835-1887) is sung by the complete congregation at the close of the final meeting of each year’s convention. This may be a world record for the same hymn being sung every year at the same time.

1 February, 1884: Birth of P. M. Mathew Kasseesa, Palakunnathu, Maramon (d.24 July 1958). After his studies at CNI (Cambridge Nicholson Institute) in Kottayam, he became a deacon on 12 Oct.1913 and priest on 17 Jun.1917. The Mar Thoma Schools in Maramon are established by him. He visited the Mar Thoma parishes all over India to raise funds for the construction of the VGM (Vicar General Memorial) hall in the SCS (Syrian Christian Seminary) compound in Tiruvalla. He was one of the leaders who worked for the construction of the bridge in Kozhencherry and for the establishment of a post office in Maramon.

1 February, 1887: Birth of Rev. P. K. Jacob, Polachirakkal, Mavelikkara (d.25 May 1972). Jacob Achen was a student of the CMS College Kottayam. He had his theological education from the Cambridge Nicholson Institute (CNI) in Kottayam. He served the Mavelikkara Parish continuously for 55 years!

1 February, 1880: Dedication Service of Rt. Rev. J. M. Speechly, first Anglican Bishop of the Travancore-Cochin Diocese. In 1814, Rt. Rev. Middleton was appointed as the First Anglican Bishop of India with his Headquarters in Calcutta. In 1835, Rt. Rev. Daniel Carrey was appointed as the Bishop of Madras, who controlled and supervised the Anglican Church activities in Travancore and Cochin. On 25 Jul.1879, Rev. J. M. Speechly was consecrated as the Bishop of the newly formed Travancore Cochin Diocese. He came to Kottayam on 27 Jan.1880 and his dedication service was held in the Cathedral Church in Kottayam on 1st Feb.1880. He returned to England in 1889.

2 February, 1910: (Makaram 20, 1085 M.E) Inauguration of Nicholson School, in Tiruvalla. The Nicholson School was established in Tiruvalla with the help of Mrs. Nicholson and Miss. Mckibbin. The complete cost for the construction of the school buildings were donated by Miss. Mckibbin. Its inauguration was held on Wednesday, 2 Feb 1910, by Metropolitan Titus II. For many years Miss. Mckibbin continued helping the School, financially.

2 February, 1948: Rev. C. P. Philipose, Cherukara Naranathu, Ayroor, passes away (b. 25 May 1868). Rev. C. P. Philipose (Ayroor Achen) was elected the General Secretary of the Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association in 1890 and continued that post for more than fifty

years till he stepped down due to poor health. He led the Maramon convention and for many years was the translator for the Convention.

3 February, 1910: Birth of Rev. K. J. Philip, Niranam (d.15 Sept.1968). Rev. K. J. Philip became a deacon on 26 Apr 1941 and priest on 20 Jun 1942. From 1933-37 he was the Secretary of the Alappuzha YMCA. He taught at the United Biblical Seminary, Kannanmoola, M. T. Seminary Kottayam and Episcopal Jubilee Institute Tiruvalla. He was the Sabha Secretary from 1969-1975.

4 February, 1814: Birth of Hermann Gundert. Hermann Gundert was born in Stuttgart, Germany. It was his desire to become a soldier, but the sudden death of one of his sisters made radical changes in his life. He became a Missionary for the Basel Mission and came to Illikunnu near Tellicherry, in North Kerala and translated the Bible into Malayalam. He started his translation on 25 Jan.1843 and finished it on 23 June 1884. He was called home to be with the Lord in the year 1893 in Germany.

4 February, 1906: Lutheran pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer is born in Breslau, Germany. He opposed the Nazis as one of Germany's Confessing Church leaders. Believing that Hitler was acting as a madman, he joined a plot to kill him, but the plot was discovered and Bonhoeffer was arrested and eventually hanged by the Nazis in 1945.

5 February, 1597: Twenty-six Japanese Christians were crucified for their faith in Nagasaki, Japan. By 1640, thousands of Japanese Christians had been martyred.

5 February, 1837: Birth of D. L. Moody. Moody, the greatest evangelist of his day and one of the greatest revivalists of all time, was born in Northfield, Massachusetts. Speaking to 10,000 or 20,000 at a time he presented his message by voice or pen to at least 100million people during his life time.

5 February, 1945: Birth of Rev. M. S. Varghese, Pallipad (d.23 Sep.2006). Rev. M. S. Varghese became a deacon on 25 Apr 1978 and priest on 13 May 1978. He was a gifted singer. For a few years he was the Asst. Secretary of the Mar Thoma Sunday School Samajam.

5 February, 1864: Having already established herself as a poet, 44-year-old Fanny Crosby pens her first hymn. She wrote more than 8,000 hymns. Hymn Nos. 91, 171(162), 251(229), 282(359) and 350 in the Malayalam Hymn book, Kristheeya Keerththanangal, are written by her.

5 February, 1900: Birth of Rev. K. A. Varghese, Chiramel Karuvelil, Thalavady. While Rev. Varghese was the Vicar of the Pattoor Parish in Trivandrum, he led the formation of the Youth League movement in the Church which later helped the formation of the Yuvajana Sakhyam. He had written many books including biographies of Abraham Mar

Thoma Metropolitan and Very. Rev. V. P. Mammen. Karuvelil Achen passed away in 1958.

6 February, 1873: Birth of A. G. Thomas Kassesha, Anicadu, Edayaranmula (d.14 Sept.1948). After his training in CNI, Thomas Kassesha became a deacon in Jan.1895 and priest in Nov.1895. He established primary schools in Malakkara, Erumakkadu, Edayaranmula and Kalarikodu.

6 February, 1906: Birth of Rev. T. K. Chacko, Lappalathil, Kaviyoor (d.30 Nov.1986). After passing his B.A., L.T., and B.D exams he started his career as the headmaster of the St. Stephen's High School. Due to the influence of Abraham Mar Thoma, he became a deacon on 8 Dec 1946 and priest on 21 Sep.1947. He served 14 parishes including Edayaranmula, Eraviperoor and Maramon. He was the Travelling Secretary of the Evangelist association for a few years.

7 February, 1938: After years of being closely watched by the Nazi secret police, Lutheran pastor Martin Niemoller was put on trial. He was subsequently confined in a concentration camp, but survived and went on to provide valuable leadership at the World Council of Churches from 1948 -1968.

7 February, 1883: Birth of Mahakavi K. V. Simon. Mr. K. V. Simon was a member of Kunnumpurathu family at Edayarnmula near Chengannur. He became a teacher of the Edayarnmula Mar Thoma School at the age of 13, and after 21 years of teaching he resigned the job and spent the rest of his life for gospel and literary work. He was one of the greatest Malayalam Christian poets. He was a master of many languages including English, Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, Greek, Latin, Hebrew and Syriac. Hymns written by him are used by all groups of Kerala Christians for their worship services. His book "Veda Viharam" (Maha Kaaviyam) based on the first book of the Bible - Genesis made him one of the prominent poets of the Malayalam language. Hymn Nos.2, 58, 62, 69, 80, 84, 163, 413, and 414 in our Hymn Book are written by him.

8 February, 1929: Birth of Rev. K. C. Samuel, Kaniyampampil, Elanthur (d.27 Sep. 1988). After his education in Poona University and Union Biblical seminary, he became a deacon on 6 Aug 1963 and priest on 30 Oct.1963. He served more than 30 Parishes including Vazhoor, Kaanam and Elanthur.

8 February, 1967: Rev. P. C. Thomas, Paruthimuttal, Kayamkulam passes away (b.4 Aug.1890) Achen was a Jacobite priest who joined the Mar Thoma Church because of Bishop Abraham Mar Thoma's influence. Achen was an active supporter of the reformation movement in the Church.

8 February, 1989: Rev. K. T. Thomas, "The Saint of Sihora" passes away. Rev K. T. Thomas was a member of the Karimparampil family of Anaprampal near Tiruvalla. Achen along with Rev. M. P. Mathew and Rev. John Varghese established the Sihora

Ashram in 1943. The average salary of a parish priest those days was Rs.15 per month and an evangelist Rs.3 or a little more. Our Church was not in a position to send out missionaries or evangelists outside Kerala on a salary basis. But these Achens depended only on the promises of God and started the Sihora mission.

8 February, 1975: The Consecration of Joseph Mar Irenaeus (b. 27 Jun.1931) and Easow Mar Timotheos (25 Nov.1932 to 11 Apr.1988) was held in Tiruvalla. Mar Irenaeus belongs to the Palakunnathu family in Maramon. Easow Mar Timotheos who is from the Thazhayil Family of Elanthoor (Thonniyamala) was a member of our Sihora Ashram for 21 years.

9 February, 1982: Formation of the Mar Thoma Retired Clergy Conference. The retirement age for the clergy (65 years) was introduced in the Church in 1965. The first meeting of the retired clergy was held on 9 Feb. 1982 in the Poolatheen Hall in Tiruvalla under the leadership of Metropolitan Alexander Mar Thoma. From 1984 onwards this conference has been recognized by the Sabha Mandalam as an organization of the Church entitled to send a representative to the Sabha Mandalam.

9 February, 1882: Birth of E. K. Mathew Kasseesa, Inchakalethu (d.22 Sept.1963). Mathew Kasseesa became a deacon on 13 Jun 1900 and priest on 16 Nov 1903. He was the vicar of Kidagannoor, Mulakkuzha and Thumpamon parishes. He led the construction of the Mar Thoma Church building in Kidagannoor.

10 February, 60A.D: Traditional date of Paul's shipwreck. The Apostle Paul was shipwrecked at Malta on his way to Rome as a prisoner on 10 Feb. 60.

11 February, 1929: The Lateran Treaty is signed by Mussolini and the Holy See, recognizing Vatican City as a sovereign state. At a mere 109 acres (0.4 Sq km), it became the smallest nation in the world. (Present population: 870).

12 February, 1809: Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth president of the United States and author of the Emancipation Proclamation, is born near Hodgenville, Kentucky. (d.15 Apr.1865). He was an outspoken opponent of the expansion of slavery. He introduced measures that resulted in the abolition of slavery, issuing his Emancipation Proclamation in 1863.

12 February, 1915: Blind hymn writer Fanny Crosby dies at age of 95 (b.24 Mar.1820). Frances Jane Crosby commonly known as Fanny Crosby was an American lyricist best known for her Protestant Christian hymns. She was one of the most prolific hymnists in history, writing over 8,000 hymns despite becoming blind shortly after birth. Also known for her preaching and speaking, Fanny Crosby was one of the best known women in the United States. To this day, the vast majority of American hymnals contain her work. Some of her best known songs include "Blessed Assurance" "Jesus Is Tenderly Calling You Home" "Praise Him, Praise Him" and "To God be the Glory". Since some publishers

were hesitant to have so many hymns by one person in their hymnals, Crosby used nearly 100 different pseudonyms during her career.

13 February, 1633: Trial of Galileo. Called to trial by the inquisition, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei arrives in Rome ready to explain his belief that the earth revolves around the Sun. He was compelled to recant the view, and was placed under house arrest until his death in 1642.

13 February, 1905: Birth of Sara Chacko (b.25 Jan 1954) was a member of the Mazhuvancherriparampathu family of Ayyanpally. Her father M. A. Chacko was the Diwan-Peshkar, of the Kingdom of Cochin. In 1945 Sara became the Principal of the Isabella Thobourn College, Lucknow. In 1947 she was the World YWCA Vice President. In 1951 she became President of the World Council of Churches (WCC). She died of a heart attack while playing basket ball at the college stadium. She was buried at Lucknow.

14 February, 1919: Formation of the Sevika Sanghom. The Mar Thoma Suvisesha Sevika Sanghom was formed in 1919 in a meeting held at the Maramon Convention Pandal under the leadership of Dr. Abraham Mar Thoma Suffragan Metropolitan. On the next day a committee with two secretaries and 15 members were selected for the running of the Sanghom. Polachirakkal Puthiya Veettil Mariamma and Anjilivelil Rachelamma were its first secretaries.

14 February, 1843: Consecration of Mathews Mar Athanasius Metropolitan Mar Thoma XIII (23 Apr.1818 - 15 Jul.1877). Mathews Mar Athanasius, Palakunnathu, Maramon was the nephew of the reformation leader Abraham Malpan (1796-1845). His first teacher was the famous Christian poet "Chekottu Aasan". Mathews became a deacon at the age of 13 and after his education at Kottayam and Madras (1837-1840) he was sent to Mardin in Syria by his uncle Abraham Malpan. During his two year stay and study in Mardin with the Patriarch, he was consecrated as Bishop at the age of 23, on 14 February 1842 with the name Mathews Mar Athanasius. He returned to Cochin in 1843 and became the Malankara Metropolitan in 1852 through the Royal declaration of the Maharaja of Travancore.

14 February, 1934: The CMS starts its first Floating Dispensary in India. Church Missionary Society started its medical board in Travancore in 1933 to provide medical aid to the Central Travancore and Kuttanadan villages. During that time only big cities had Government Hospitals. It was very difficult to provide medical aid to the Kuttanadan villages, which were surrounded by water. Thus the CMS started a floating Dispensary on 14 February 1934. The dispensary was actually a big Kettuvallam (country boat) with a doctor, a compounder and a boatman working on it. The first floating dispensary was a big success. In the first year itself, they treated 15,000 patients and conducted 250 operations. So a second floating dispensary was started on 1st January 1937.

15 February, 1996: Rev. K. V. Samuel, Koikkavadakkethil, Cheppadu (b.30 Jun.1926) passes away. Rev. K. V. Samuel became a deacon on 2 Apr. 1953 and priest on 12 Dec. 1953. He served 37 parishes. He was secretary to Juhanon Mar Thoma Metropolitan, and superintendent of Ravi Varma Agathimandiram, Trichur, and Chaplain of the Kattanam Mission Hospital.

15 February, 1954: John Easow Mullasseril, Author of “Nalla devane njangalh ellaavareyum” (Hymn No. 199(186), Kristheeya Keerththanangal) passes away. Easow was born on 12 Oct. 1874 in Mullasseril House, of Pandanadu near Chengannur. For a few years he was the health inspector in Ootty, Kodaikanal, and then became the manager of the Spencer Company in Trichur. In addition to his secular work he was fully involved in Gospel work. In 1914, based on Psalms 23, he wrote the Hymn “Nalla devane ...”.

15 February, 1907: Birth of Rev. P. V. George, Pallikkaparampil, Mallappally (d.15 May 1964). Achen’s father T. J. Varkey Ashan was a famous hymn writer. Before his ordination, George worked with the Sunday School Samajam and the CSSM, and was the manager of “Our Magazine”. He became a deacon in June 1949 and priest on 2 Nov.1949. Vicar general, Very Rev. P. George Zachariah is his son.

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

16 February, 1993: Rev. O. M. Mathew, Ancherry passes away (b.13 Oct. 1932). He became a deacon on 7 Aug 1960 and priest on 1 Nov 1960. He served 15 parishes including Ancherry, Konni, Vennikulam and Chunakkara.

17 February, 1546: Martin Luther, (b.10 Nov 1483) leader of reformation, passes away. The reformation was a rediscovery of a lost gospel, a fresh realization that man is saved by faith alone, through grace alone. Luther died of a heart attack on 17 Feb.1546 while he was on a preaching tour at his birth place Eisleben in Germany.

17 February, 1879: (Kumbham 5, 1054 M.E) Birth of Mr. Poikayil Yohannan. (Poikayil Shri Kumara Guru) Poikayil Yohannan was born on 17 Feb. 1879 in Eraviperoor in Tiruvalla Taluk in a slave family. His masters gave him the name Yohannan and made him a member of the Mar Thoma Church. He studied the Bible thoroughly and became an evangelist of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church. His messages were against the social injustice and evils such as slavery, untouchability etc. The Church wouldn’t accept his teachings. He left the Mar Thoma Church and later founded the organization PRDS - Prathyasha Raksha Daiva Sabaha. Shri Kumara Guru passed away on 29 June 1939.

17 February, 1897: Birth of Rev. M. O. Koshy, Mulamannil, Karakkal (d.21 Dec.1961). Rev. M. O. Koshy became a deacon on 31 Mar. 1918 and priest on 25 Dec. 1919. For a

few years he taught in the Neerettupuram School. He was a man of prayer with healing powers.

17 February, 1923: Birth of Rev. P. V. George Paduthodu, Narakathani (d.4 Sept.2004) After passing B.A. (Azusa College, California) and B.D. (Temple University, USA) he became a deacon on 4 Oct. 1969 and priest on 1 Nov 1969. He served many parishes including Pullad Sehion, Bhilai, Puthencavu and Poovathoor. Rev. Dr. P. G. George is his son.

17 February, 1936: Birth of Rev. K. O. Mathew, Kayyambattil, Pathanapuram (d.19 May 1998). He became a deacon in 1971 and served many parishes including Thevalakkara, Attachakkal, and Andamans.

18 February, 1995: Death of Mr. M. T. Joseph (b.21 Oct.1910), Co-founder of the Hoskote Mission. Joseph was the son of Ipe Thomas and Rachelamma of Manon, Maramon. He was an Anchel Master (Post Master) who left his lucrative government job and home town, to go to an unknown village far away in rural Karnataka, with the sole purpose of spreading the Gospel. The Hoskote Mission Medical Center was established in 1947 in Hoskote, Bangalore Rural District, Karnataka.

18 February, 1678: John Bunyan publishes the "Pilgrim's Progress". Puritan preacher John Bunyan publishes "The Pilgrim's Progress" the best selling book (apart from the Bible) in history. The allegorical tale, which describes Bunyan's own conversion process, begins "I saw a man clothed with rags....a book in his hand and a great burden upon his back".

18 February, 1843: Birth of Titus I Mar Thoma. Titus I Mar Thoma (son of Abraham Malpan) was widely recognized as a saintly Bishop. During his time as Metropolitan of the Church, the well known educational institutions, Mar Thoma Seminary Kottayam and S.C. Seminary Tiruvalla came into being. The Sunday School Samajam was established during his time. Titus I Mar Thoma escaped death narrowly twice. The first instance was when the Maramon church building collapsed while he was resting inside. The other was when the roof of the room in which he was sleeping was set on fire by some miscreants. He was called to his eternal home on 20th Oct 1909.

18 February, 1890: Death of K. Thomas Kathanar (b.3 Aug.1845) Kurumthottical, Kozhencherry. K. Thomas Kathanar 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.

19 February, 1969: Dr. Juhanon Mar Thoma writes in support of the Publication of the Mar Thoma Church Directory. For many of our leaders the publication of a Directory was "an impossible and unwanted" task. Some even claimed it would invite God's curse like

that of King David's time when he counted his people (2 Samuel Ch.24). But Metropolitan Juhanon Mar Thoma strongly supported the idea and the first Mar Thoma Church Directory was published in 1969.

19 February, 2008: Death of Rev. J. Joseph (b.12 Oct.1912) Padijattidom, Edayaranmula) Rev. J. Joseph became a deacon on 16 Sept.1950 and priest on 23 March 1951. For many years Achen was the Missionary of the Church in the Malabar area. He is known as the Apostle of Malabar (North Kerala) because he established many Mar Thoma Churches in Malabar. He served more than 30 parishes.

20 February, 1916: Mosha Vatsalam passes away. The famous Christian Hymn writer Mosha Vatsalam (b.1843) was the son of Arunanandh, an Evangelist from Trivandrum. He started writing Hymns at the age of 29 and wrote more than 250 Hymns and few books connected with music. Some of his famous hymns are "Aashwaasame enikkerre thingeedunnu" and "Yerrushalemin impa veede".

20 February, 1934: A. V. Philipose Kasseesa, Ampikulangara (b.1880) passes away. Philipose Kasseesa became a deacon in 1896 and priest in 1903. He was the first vicar of the Kayamkulam Mar Thoma parish. He took the initiative to construct the Church buildings in Kayamkulam and Pallikkal.

21 February, 1905: Birth of Rev. P. M. Varghese, Attachakkal (d.7 July 1982). After passing ESLC he worked as an evangelist in Palghat and assisted in the establishment of a school in Kuzhalmandam. He served 21 Parishes including Pulinthitta, Attachakkal and Konni.

21 February, 1811: The beginning of the Bible Society work in India. The History of the Calcutta Auxiliary of Bible Society coincides with the history of the Bible Society of India in its beginning. It was established on 21st Feb 1811. In later years, in post independence era, the Calcutta Auxiliary became one of the auxiliaries to function within the jurisdiction of the operation of the Bible Society of India. Significantly the Auxiliary still functions from the same old stately building on Jawaharlal Nehru Road (Chowringhee Road) in Calcutta, as it had done 197 years ago.

22 February, 1912: Birth of Rev. T. I. Thomas Venmony (8 May 1982). After passing L.Th from the Kottayam Seminary, he became a deacon on 27 Apr.1938 and priest on 12 Nov.1938. He served 30 Parishes including Pathanapuram, Kayamkulam, Ranny and Ayroor. For a few years he taught at the S.M.V.E.M School.

22 February, 1936: First Ordination service outside Kerala. The Mar Thoma congregation in Madras was formed in 1915. As there were no resident priests in Madras, the spiritual needs of the members were fulfilled by visiting priests and evangelists. Many requests were sent to Titus II Metropolitan for a resident Priest. Deacon C. K. Mathai, who completed his Theological studies at the Kottayam seminary, was sent to Madras to look

after the spiritual needs of the congregation. Bishop Titus II even made arrangements for his intermediate studies at the Madras Christian College. To fulfill the long cherished desire of the Madras Congregation, Titus II decided to conduct the ordination ceremony in Madras itself. Titus II ordained Deacon C. K. Mathai and another person as priests in the St. John's Church in Madras. Very Rev. V. P. Mammen, Rev. M. G. Zachariah Malpan, and Rev. V. I. Philipose and priests from sister churches were present for the Ordination ceremony.

23 February, 1455: (traditional date) Johannes Gutenberg publishes the Bible, the first book ever printed on a press with movable type. Gutenberg (.1400 – 3 Feb.1468), was a German goldsmith and printer, who is credited with inventing the movable type printing in Europe and mechanical printing globally. His major work, the Gutenberg Bible, also known as the 42-line Bible, has been acclaimed for its high aesthetic and technical quality.

23 February, 1892: Birth of Rev. P. T. Varghese (Haripad Achen). Rev. Varghese was a member of the Orthodox Church. He was ordained as a deacon by His Holiness Chathuruthil Mar Gregorious Thirumeni (Parumala Thirumeni) and later as priest by His Holiness Abdul Messiah Patriarch. On 23rd Aug 1923, Rev. Varghese joined the Mar Thoma Church. He was the founder President of the Punalur YMCA.

24 February, 1208: Francis of Assisi experiences a vision in the Church of Portunicula, Italy. Though not his first vision, it convinced him to begin a mission of preaching, repentance, singing, caring for lepers, and aiding the peasants. Most notably, he and his followers renounced wealth and followed absolute poverty.

24 February, 1908: Birth of Rev. P. J. Jacob, Pooyappally (d.19 Sept.1987). Rev. P. J. Jacob became a deacon on 29 Aug 1934 and priest on 1 Oct 1934. During his 50 years of service he served more than 25 parishes including Kottarakkara and Maramon.

25 February, 1925: Inauguration of Vanitha Mandiram. To train the women workers of the Mar Thoma Suvishesha Sevika Sanghom, Vanitha Mandiram was established in Tiruvalla in 1925. A Church Missionary Society (CMS) missionary Miss. Kellaway from Australia was willing to give training and necessary leadership. After serving the Vanitha Mandiram for 20 years she returned to Australia in September 1946.

25 February, 1905: Formation of Mar Thoma Sunday School Samajam. In a meeting held on Saturday 25 Feb.1905 in the Maramon Convention Pandal under the leadership of Rev. C. P. Philipose the following decisions were made: **1.** All the Sunday Schools (52 Schools) which were run by various parishes of the church are to be included in this Samajam. **2.** The name of this association will be "Malankara Mar Thoma Suriyani Christiyani Sunday School Samajam." **3.** Headquarters of the Samajam will be in Tiruvalla. **4.** Mr. V. P. Mammen will be first secretary **5.** A committee is to be formed for the running of the Samajam.

25 February, 1925: Consecration of Bishop E. A. L. Moore - Fourth Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Travancore and Cochin. He was consecrated in England by the Archbishop of Canterbury. He came to Kottayam on 10th August, 1925. He had a great concern for the people from the backward community. He ordained Rev. P. J. Isaac and Rev. C. I. Mathai – both from backward communities. He served the diocese for 12 years. He was a very generous man and donated his entire salary for charitable work in the diocese.

25 February, 1913: Birth of Rev. A. C. Mathew, Amprayil, Tiruvalla (d.31 Mar.1996). Rev. A. C. Mathew became a deacon on 14 Nov.1939 and priest on 6 Jun.1940. He served 17 parishes including Ernakulam and Tiruvalla. For a few years he was the North Travancore Missionary of the Evangelistic Association and The Chaplain of the Nicholson Girls High School. Achen wrote two books on Baptism (Christian Baptism & Child Baptism) which are very popular among Syrian Christians.

26 February, 1876: Birth of C. M. Joseph Kathanar, Cheruvathur, Kunnamkulam (d.28 Feb.1943) was ordained a deacon on 17 Nov.1900 and priest on 5 Jan 1901. During his 40 years of service as vicar of various parishes he had not taken any salary or monetary benefits. It was total voluntary service! With ten of his friends he formed an association "Kunnamkulam Mar Thoma Suriyani Suveshesha Prasangasangam" and was its president for 35 years.

27 February, 280: Constantine, the first Roman Emperor converted to Christianity, is born. Though, some scholars question the authenticity of Constantine's conversion (which came after he saw a vision on the battlefield), the Emperor did seek to settle church controversies, and he called the Council of Nicea in A.D. 325.

27 February, 1881: (M.E. Kumbham 15, 1056) Metropolitan suspends Vicars solemnizing a marriage on Sunday morning. One of the Vicars of the Maramon Parish solemnized the marriage of his son a deacon on a Sunday morning with the help of another priest. All three of them were suspended from official duties for violating the fourth Commandment (Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy).

27 February, 380: Roman Emperor Theodosius makes Christianity the official law of the land. "It is our will," he decreed, "that all the people we rule shall practice that religion that Peter the Apostle transmitted to the Romans".

28 February, 1847: Birth of K. G. Koshy Kathanar, Kochalumplakkal, Aarattupuzha (d.15 June 1911). After becoming an expert in the Syriac language he became priest. He was the first vicar of the Lakha Mar Thoma Church in Edayaranmula. He took the initiative for the establishment of the Edanadu Salem, Mulakkuzha St. Thomas, and Puthencavu Mathilakam Parishes. He taught many young priests the Syriac language.

28 February, 1945: Death of K. C. Zachariah Kasseesa, Karayathu, Thumpamon (b.1882). He became a deacon in 1990 and afterwards priest. He was the vicar of parishes in Thumpamon, Othera, Mannamaruthy, Ranny, and Kumbanad. Rev. K. C. George (Sr.) is his son

29 February, 1528: Patrick Hamilton, a follower of Martin Luther who had returned to his country, Scotland to preach the Reformation, is burned at the stake on orders from Cardinal David Beaton. In retaliation, Protestant nobles assassinated the cardinal. This event effectively began the Scottish Reformation.

