

## CHURCH HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

Published by: Advocate John Joseph Nalloor

**1 July, 1899:** Three traveling businessmen meet in a YMCA building and decide to form an organization to distribute Bibles. The Christian Commercial Men's Association of America, later renamed the Gideon's, and placed their first Bibles in a hotel nine years later. Gideon's started their work in India in 1961. The 33rd annual convention of Gideon's International (India) was held at Tiruvalla in May, 2002.

**1 July, 1957:** K. I. Joseph Kathanar (b.27 Jun.1879), Elakkattu Kaduppil, Ancheri passes away. Before his ordination Achen was a teacher at the M. T. Seminary School, Kottayam. Rev. E. J. George and Bishop Joseph Mar Barnabas are his brother's grand children.

**1 July, 1896:** Abolitionist writer Harriet Beecher Stowe dies (14 June 1811 – 1 July 1896). She averaged nearly a book a year, but *Uncle Tom's Cabin* remains her legacy. Even one of her harshest critics acknowledged that it was "perhaps the most influential novel ever published...a verbal earthquake, an ink-and-paper tidal wave". It made the political issues of the 1850s regarding slavery tangible to millions, energizing anti-slavery forces in the American North. It angered and embittered the South. The impact is summed up in a commonly quoted statement apocryphally attributed to Abraham Lincoln. When he met Stowe, it is claimed that he said, "So you're the little woman that started this Great War!"

**2 July, 1987:** P. I. Jacob Kasseesa (b.26 May, 1889), Mandapathil, Puthencavu, Chengannur passes away. Achen served as the Central Travancore Missionary for 34 years. He was a Homeopathic doctor and treated the poor for free. He edited and published a magazine called "Athmaprakashini" and is known as the Apostle of the Gentiles.

**2 July, 1505:** A rain storm in Germany helps launch the Protestant Reformation. While returning from a trip to visit his parents, Martin Luther (then a law student) was caught in a violent thunderstorm near Stotternheim. Fearing for his life, he cried, "Help me, St. Anne! I will become a monk!" Within two weeks, he made good on his promise.

**2 July, 1752:** The first English Bible published in America rolls off presses in Boston.

**3 July, 1893:** Birth of Rev. C. M. Thomas (d.21 Oct.1956), Kochuparampil, Kuriannoor. For nine years Achen taught at the Nicholson Girl's School in Tiruvalla. He was the headmaster of the Mar Thoma English Middle School in Vadasserikkara.

**3 July, 1909:** Birth of Rev. A. C. Zachariah (d.3 June 1991) Athinilkunnathil, Kuriannoor. Achen was a teacher at Mar Thoma Schools in Kuriannoor and Kottayam. After completing his theological studies at the Kolar Bible Institute, he along with Mr. M. T. Joseph (Manon, Maramon) established the Mission Medical Centre in Hoskote in 1947. He served more than 18 parishes. He was the Field director of the Karnataka Navajeevan Smithy and Superintendent of the Dharmagiri Agathimandiram in Kumbanad.

**4 July, 2000:** Rev. K. M. George M.A., B.Ed. (b.8 Jul.1932) Kinattumkara, Niranam passes away. Achen was the Bombay Delhi diocesan Secretary for many years. Much of his time was spent in serving the North Indian Mar Thoma parishes. He was the Principal of the St. John's School in New Delhi.

**4 July, 1906** Birth of Rev. V. J. Joseph (d.5 Nov. 1991) Thekkattil, Karikulam, Ranny. After his training in the Kottayam Seminary, he became Deacon on 27 Sep.1928 and priest on 16 June 1929. He served 37 parishes.

**5 July, 1915:** Birth of Rev. John Varghese (d.7 Mar.1997), Sihora Valetu Thoppil, Puthencavu. He was a teacher at the Ashram School in Perumbavoor. With the influence of Rev. Dr. C. E. Abraham, he, along with Rev. K. T. Thomas and Rev. M. P. Mathew established the Sihora Ashram in 1942 in Madhya Pradesh. Being a member of the ashram he remained unmarried.

**5 July, 1415:** Jan Hus, Bohemian preacher and forerunner of Protestantism, is burned as a heretic in Constance, Germany. John Huss was a religious thinker and reformer. He initiated a religious movement based on the ideas of John Wycliffe. His followers became known as Hussies. The Catholic Church did not condone such uprisings, and Hus was excommunicated in 1411, condemned by the Council of Constance, and burned at the stake.

**5 July, 1865:** William Booth starts the Salvation Army. William Booth started "The Christian Mission" in London to work among the poor and the unchurched people. Later he changed the mission's name to Salvation Army. Salvation Army started its work in India on 19 September 1882.

**7 July, 1054:** Church legates (Pope's ambassadors) of the Roman pope march into the church of Michael Cerularius, Patriarch of Constantinople, and place a bull on the altar, excommunicating him. So began of the Great Schism (division) between the Catholics and the Orthodox.

**6 July, 1535:** Sir Thomas More (b.1478), who had resigned as Lord Chancellor of England, is executed for treason. He had sided with the pope against Henry VIII in the matter of the king's divorce. He was sentenced to be hanged, but Henry commuted the sentence to beheading.

**6 July, 1944:** Titus Mar Thoma II passes away. He was born in 1866, consecrated as the bishop on 9 Dec.1898 and Metropolitan on 5 Nov.1909. He was called to eternal rest

on 6th July 1944 and buried the following day at Tiruvalla. During his long tenure as the Metropolitan, he consecrated three bishops. A large number of our church buildings were constructed during his time. Organizations like Mar Thoma Theological Seminary, Mar Thoma Students Conference, Teachers-Students Fellowship, Mar Thoma Sevika Sanghom (1919), Voluntary Evangelists Association (1924), were started during his time. He took the initiative to translate many of our prayer books into Malayalam.

**7 July, 1867:** Birth of Rev. K. M. Varghese Kathanar-Cherukakkassery, Kunnamkulam (d.4 June 1897). He became a priest on Feb 2, 1896 and got married at the age of 13, to an 8 year old girl. After the death of his first wife he remarried, after which he never celebrated Holy Qurbana. According to his conscience, a remarried priest shouldn't officiate such sacraments. But he was a man of faith and many sick people were cured with his prayers.

**7 July, 1982:** P. M. Varghese Kasseesa (b.21 Feb.1905) Perangattu, Attachakkal, Mallasserry, passes away. 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.

**7 July, 1909:** Birth of Rev. K. C. George (Sr) Karayathu, Thumpamon. After passing B.A, B.D exams he became the Asst. Missionary in the Central Travancore Mission. For many years he served the Evangelistic Association as Travelling Secretary, Correspondence Secretary and General Secretary. He served many parishes in India and in Malaysia. Achen was called home on his birthday, 7 July 1982.

**8 July, 1978:** Rev. K. T. Chakkunni (Pazhanji) passes away. Rev. Chakkunni (b.2 Oct 1910) became a deacon on 5 April 1938 and priest on 12 Nov 1938. He was the vicar of the Chalissery, Chennamkerry, Pathanapuram, Chengannur, Kuriannoor and Niranam Parishes. He was the secretary of Easow Mar Timotheos Episcopa. He was a gifted writer and published 15 books on different subjects.

**8 July, 1951:** M. V. Philipose Kasseesa (b.24 July 1885), Meppurathu, Mallappally passes away. Bishop Abraham Mar Thoma (Rev. M. N. Abraham) and Achen are the first University graduates who became priests in the Mar Thoma Church. Achen was the Principal of the St.Thomas School in Honavar. For many years he was the president of the Honavar (Karnataka) Municipality and also the district local board president in Honavar.

**9 July, 1228:** Stephen Langton, greatest of the medieval archbishops of Canterbury, dies. He had formulated the original division of the Bible into chapters in the late 1100s, and his name appears on the Magna Carta as counselor to the king (though he supported the English barons in their pursuit for more freedom).

**9 July, 1900:** Birth of Rev. K. I. Thomas (d.10 June 1993), Kakkudiyil, Trivandrum (Kaviyoor Njalbhaghom). He became a deacon on 18 Oct.1925 and priest on 31 May 1931. He served 28 parishes including Chathannur and Perimedu. He led the

construction of Mundakkayam Parsonage, and the Church buildings in Elappara, Pazhavangadikkara, Edayaranmula and Kavumgumprayar. The plot for the Pullad Mar Thoma Convention was purchased by him for the Church.

**9 July, 1959:** Rev. K. M. Mathai (b.26 March 1899), Kuttamathayyathu, Pattazhi passes away. After graduating from the Seminary in Kottayam, he became priest in 1927. He was one of the few Mar Thoma Priests who showed a keen interest in agriculture. He was the owner of a big agriculture farm in Thalavoor.

**9 July, 1983:** Very. Rev. C .G. David (b.14 Aug.1919) passes away during his flight to attend the World Missionary conference in Amsterdam. Rev. David a member of the Charivukalayil family of Kavumgumprayar near Tiruvalla became a deacon on July 22, 1944 and Vicar General on July 28, 1981. Achen died of a heart attack during the flight and his body was brought to Tiruvalla from Paris on July 22, 1983 and buried in the St. Thomas church cemetery on the next day.

**9 July, 381:** Nestorius, the first patriarch of Constantinople, is born in what is now Maras, Turkey. Nestorius attained fame for his teaching that Christ had two natures in two persons (rather than two natures in one person), which the Council of Ephesus in 431 condemned as heresy.

**10 July, 1919:** P.V. Thommy Upadeshi passes away. Thommy Upadeshi was born in a very poor family of the Kunnamkulam Mar Thoma Parish in 1881. After his basic education he became a teacher. But after few years of teaching he became a full time evangelist in the Mar Thoma Church. Rev. C.M. Joseph, Vicar of the Kunnamkulam Parish encouraged him in his Gospel work. Titus II Metropolitan appointed him as evangelist in Trichur and Perumbavoor He was a blessed Hymn writer. In 1905 he published a Hymn Book "Vishudha Geethangal" comprising of 136 hymns. His language is simple and even the illiterate persons can enjoy his hymns. The following hymns in the book *Kristheeya Keerththanangal* are written by him: 3 (3), 11(10), 12(11), 30(28), 56(56), 61(61), 67(67), 70(70), 71(71), 73(73), 96(96), 130(111), 35(126), 145(136), 243(221), 247(225), 286(286), 295(281), 345 (345), 351(351), 366(242), 368(251). In 1919 there was an outbreak of Cholera in Kunnamkulam and many persons died. Thommy Upadesi volunteered to serve the cholera patients and was finally infected with cholera. He passed away on Wednesday 10 July 1919 at the age of 38.

**10 July, 1899:** Geevarughese Kathanar (b.1850), Vadakkedathu, Kidagannur passes away. He became priest in 1869. During those days there was no church building for the Mar Thomites in Mezhuveli. He conducted Mar Thoma worship services in the Mezhuveli Jacobite Church on alternative Sundays. He continued that practice till 1890. Achen and his followers conducted marriages on Thursdays only (At that time Jacobites never conducted marriages on a Thursday).

**10 July, 1952:** Beginning of the Mar Thoma College, Tiruvalla. The College started with strength of 50 students and 12 teachers. Rev. M. G. Chandy (Alexander Mar Thoma) was its first principal.

**10 July, 1509:** Birth of John Calvin. John Calvin was one of the leaders of the Protestant reformation. Calvin's brilliant mind, powerful preaching, many books and large correspondence and capacity for organization and administration made him a prominent leader of the reformation. Calvin died on 27 May 1564.

**11 July, 1533:** Pope Clement VII excommunicates England's King Henry VIII for remarrying after his divorce.

**11 July, 1886:** Protestant missionary Horace Underwood secretly baptizes Mr. Toh Sa No in Korea, the first recorded Protestant baptism in that country. However, an underground church was probably already active in Korea, begun by Korean workmen who had heard the gospel in China.

**12 July, 1863:** Birth of Kochukuzhiyil Bahannan Kasseesa (d.7 Oct.1938), Vennikulam. After his studies from the CNI (Cambridge Nicholson Institute) he became a deacon in 1879 and priest in 1889. He established the parishes in Mallappally, Punnaveli, Anicadu, Keezhvaipur, Thurithikkadu, Pariyaram, Thelliyoor, Thonippara, and Vennikulam. He was an expert of Malayalam, Sanskrit and Syriac. For 32 years he was the president of the Mar Thoma Evangelists Association. For many years along with Ayroor C.P. Philipose Achen he led the Maramon Convention.

**12 July, 1889:** Seminary case Judgment. In 1879 a case was filed in the district court of Alleppey by Bishop Joseph Mar Dionysius against the then Metropolitan of the Church Thomas Mar Athanasius. Mar Dionysius prayed to the court to declare him as the rightful Metropolitan of the Malankara Church and also requested the court to evict Mar Athanasius and his followers from the Old Seminary building in Kottayam. The final verdict of this case came on 12 July 1889 from the Royal Court of Travancore. Two Judges decreed that Joseph Mar Dionysius was the rightful Metropolitan of the Malankara Church as he expressed allegiance to the Patriarch of Antioch. One Christian judge gave the verdict in favour of Thomas Mar Athanasius because of his conviction that the Malankara Church has been an independent Church from the beginning. The Majority view prevailed and Thomas Mar Athanasius had to leave the Old Seminary and the properties of the Church, because he upheld the autonomy of the Church.

The followers of Mar Athanasius got the Kottarakkara church without a duel, they got the Maramon and Kozhencherry churches through court decision, and was given the right to conduct services on alternate Sundays in five other churches. They put up small sheds in other places to hold worship services.

**13 July, 1939:** Haripad Achen passes away. Rev. P.T. Geevarghese, also known as Haripad Achen (23 Feb.1892-13 July 1939) of Thundiyl, Haripad, passes away. He was a Jacobite priest, but joined the Mar Thoma Church on 27 Aug.1923. He was the founding president of the Punalur YMCA and was one of the first Mar Thoma priests in the Punalur area.

**13 July, 1987:** Rev. K.C. Cherian (b.14 Oct.1923) Puthenpurayil, Paippadu, passes away. After theological training from the Kottayam Seminary he became priest in 1950. He served 16 Parishes. For three years he was the Sea Coast Missionary of the Evangelists Association.

**14 July, 1947:** PUNCHAMANNIL MAMMEN UPADESHI passes away. Mammen Upadeshi was born in the Vadasseri house of the Punchamannil family in Maramon on 25 Nov.1868, as the son of Mathai and Achiyamma. Upadeshi's mother was from Kallarakunnel family, a branch of the famous Malayil family of Punnakkad near the Aranmula Temple. Mammen's elder siblings all died while they were still infants. So Mammen was baptized at home when he was very young by the Parish Priest Rev. Titus (Later Rt. Rev. Titus I Mar Thoma). Mammen Upadeshi trusted the Lord like the Old Testament Prophet Elijah and lived like Elijah, spoke the messages of the Lord like Elijah, fought against evil forces like Elijah and even performed miracles like Elijah.

**14 July, 1948:** K.I. Varkey Kasseesa (b.5 Aug.1877), Kizhakkethalakkal, Edathua passes away. After passing his L.T.T. Examination he became priest on 15 April 1931. He served the Kuriannoor St.Thomas, Kannamangalam, Karipuzha Salem, Payippadu Immanuel, Aanaparampal parishes. There is an endowment deposit in our Church (HQ) in name of Achen and Kochamma for the benefit of the retired clergy fellowship.

**14 July, 1968:** Rev. M.J. Koshy (b.1901), Mavilazhikathu, Ayroor passes away. Achen became a deacon of the Jacobite church in 1920 and joined the Mar Thoma Church in 1925, and became a priest of the Mar Thoma Church in 1926. He established the Ayoor Mar Thoma Church and was its vicar till the end of his life.

**15 July, 1995:** Rev. V.M. Mathen B.A; L.T.; M. Div (b.4 Aug.1908) Vadakkenadayil, Vadavathoor passes away. 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 Episcopal jubilee Institute of Evangelism 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.

**15 July, 1886:** Birth of M.G. Zachariah Malpan (d.13 Sept.1947), Maliyekkal, Karthikappally. He was ordained in the Jacobite Church in 1911, but in 1912 joined the Mar Thoma Church along with a number of his followers. From 1927-1947 he was the Malpan (Syriac Teacher) in the Kottayam Seminary. He translated the Order of worship for Marriage, Baptism, Burial, House warming, etc. from Syriac to Malayalam and published it in 1929 with the permission of the Metropolitan Titus II.

**15 July, 1910:** Birth of Rev. K.M. Mathew (d.7 Oct.1910), Punnamoottil, Kuzhikkala. After training at the Seminary in Kottayam he became a deacon on 28 April 1938 and priest on 12 Nov.1938. He served 24 parishes including Adoor, Kannamkode and Kochi.

**16 July, 1877:** Mathews Mar Athanasius, Palakunnathu, passes away. He was the Metropolitan of the church from 1843-1877. As the head of the church he worked hard

for the education of the clergy and raising the moral standards of ordinary people. He was one of the ablest bishops the Syrian Church ever had.

**17 July, 431:** The Council of Ephesus adjourns, having rejected Nestorianism (the idea that Christ had two persons, not two natures) and condemned Pelagianism (a doctrine refuting human depravity).

**18 July, 64 A.D.:** The Great Fire of Rome begins. The Great Fire, which started on 18 July A.D 64, burned down the City of Rome. It was believed that Emperor Nero himself was behind this incident. To keep suspicion away from him, Emperor Nero put the blame on the Christians living in Rome. A persecution followed in which Christians were burned alive.

**19 July, 1931:** Kottarathil Thomas Kathanar passes away. Rev. Thomas (b.1848) a member of the Kaaduvetoor Kottarthil family of Chengannur was the main person behind the formation of the Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association. The first meeting of the association was held on 5 Sept.1888, in the Kallissery Kadavil Malika. Achen and 11 laymen attended that meeting.

**19 July, 1945:** Rev. T.P. Mathew (b.25 Dec.1911) Thazhamon Thundiyl, Ayroor passes away. After passing B.A, B. D., and L.T. degrees he became priest in 1942. His wife Sosamma was the daughter of the famous evangelist Karimpil Cheriachen. He taught at the Ashram High school, Perumbavoor; M.T. Seminary School, Kottayam; Theological Seminary in Kottayam, and Union Biblical Seminary in Kannanmula, Trivandrum.

**19 July, 2001:** Rev. T.V. Thomas (b.5 Aug.1920) Thanuvelil, Memala, Vennikulam (Kochi) passes away. After passing his M.A., B.D he became priest in 1947. For few years he was the travelling secretary of the Evangelists 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.

**19 July, 1848:** More than 300 men and women assemble in the Wesleyan Chapel at Seneca Falls, New York, for the first formal convention to discuss "the social, civil and religious condition and the rights of women". The event has been called the birthplace of the women's rights movement.

**20 July, 1993:** Death of Rev. P.T. George (b.1 Oct.1916) Padingattathil, Keezhuvaipur. After passing the ESLC examination he joined the Kottayam Seminary for theological training. He became a deacon on 21 May 1940 and priest on 14 Nov.1940. He served 41 parishes including Vazhoor, Vadasserikkara, Konni, Pala and Pathanamthitta.

**21 July, 1773:** Pope Clement XIV dissolves the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), which was founded in 1534. Clement did not condemn the Society, but explained it was an administrative move for the peace of the church. Pius VII restored the society in 1814.

**21 July, 1922:** Birth of Very. Rev. K.V. Jacob (d.21 Sep.1991), Kalappila, Peringallur. After his education from M. T. Seminary, Kottayam; Leonard Theological College, Jabalpur; Kolkatta University and Princeton University in USA, he became a deacon on 23 Jun.1957, priest on 10 Oct.1957, and Vicar General on 24 Mar.1984. For many years he served as Kollam-Kottarakkara diocesan secretary and Vicar General of the Trivandrum – Kollam diocese.

**21 July, 1925:** Biology teacher John T. Scopes is fined \$100 for teaching evolution. He lost his trial, but because of it, fundamentalists lost respect.

**21 July, 1944:** Death of K.M. Mathews Kathanar, Kariyadiyil, Kattanam (b.27 Oct, 1880). He became a deacon at the age of 15 (12 Jun.1895) and priest at the age 18 (4 Nov.1898). For many years he was the vicar of the Kattanam and Thamarakulam parishes. During the final years of his life he joined the Orthodox Church.

**22 July, 1930:** Birth of Rev. M. I. Alexander (d.7 Nov.1992), Oruvumkara Madathil, Karunagapally. He became a deacon on 22 June 1957 and priest on 19 Oct 1957. He started his career as the Asst. Missionary of the Central Travancore Mission and served many parishes including Thalavady, Niranam, Alleppey, Abu Dhabi and Manganam. Rev Alexander M. Isaac is his son.

**23 July, 1742:** Susannah Wesley, mother of John and Charles, dies. Born as the twenty-fifth child in a clergyman's family, she became one of the most notable mothers in church history. "Although she never preached a sermon or published a book or founded a church, she is known as the Mother of Methodism. This is because two of her sons, John Wesley and Charles Wesley, as children consciously or unconsciously applied the example and teachings and circumstances of their home life." (Pellowe)

**July 23, 1923:** Yunan Kasseesa, Pallichira, Niranam passes away. (b.22 May 1888). He became a deacon on 10 Nov.1910 and priest on 12 May 1911. He later joined the Mar Thoma Church. He was the vicar of the Kottayam Jerusalem, Manganam, Nakkada and Niranam Jerusalem parishes.

**24 July, 1921:** C.I. Scofield, (b.19 Aug.1843) editor of the Scofield Reference Bible and defender of dispensational premillennialism, dies in Douglaston, New York. The *Scofield Reference Bible* is a widely circulated annotated study Bible edited and annotated by the American Bible student Cyrus I. Scofield. Published by Oxford University Press and containing the traditional King James Version text, it first appeared in 1909 and was revised by the author in 1917. The Scofield Bible had several innovative features. Most important, it printed what amounted to a commentary around the text of the Bible itself instead of in a separate volume. It also contained a cross-referencing system that tied together related verses of Scripture and allowed a reader to follow biblical themes from one chapter and book to another.

**24 July, 1931:** Thazhathu Chandapilla Kathanar, Punnathra, Kottayam (b.13 Nov.1845) passes away. He became a deacon at the age of 9 (1854) and priest on 1 Aug. 1861. For



24 years he was the vicar of the Cheriya pally in Kottayam. He was the founder of the Jerusalem Mar Thoma Church in Kottayam. Achen's courageous stand made it possible for the consecration ceremony of Bishop Titus I Mar Thoma to be held in the Cheriypally in Kottayam.

**24 July, 1954:** Death of T.G. Abraham Kasseesa, (b.2 Nov.1879) Thenguvilayil, Mannady. He became a deacon on 25 Aug 1905 and priest on 1 Nov 1912. He established the Mannady, Enathu, and Kannamkode parishes and the primary school in Mannady. He was an expert in Malayalam, English and Syriac.

**24 July, 1851:** Birth of Cheriyaamadathil Valiya Yacob Kathanar (d.13 Mar.1924), Vazhoor. He became a deacon at the age of 13. He was a close friend of Metropolitan Mathews Mar Athanasius (1818-1877). He established more than 20 parishes and schools in the Kottayam region. He was one of the founding leaders of the Mar Thoma Theological Seminary in Kottayam. He was a social reformer and supporter of English Education. During his final days he returned to the Jacobite Church.

**24 July, 1958:** Death of P.M. Mathai Kasseesa (b.1 Feb.1884) Palakunnathu, Maramon. After his studies in CNI (Cambridge Nicholson Institute) in Kottayam, he became a deacon on 12 Oct 1913 and priest on 17 June 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.

**24 July, 2001:** Rev. P.I. Chacko (b. 15 Nov 1902) Kathedathu, Adoor passes away. He became a deacon on 14 April 1934 and priest on 2 March 1935. He served more than 30 parishes. After his retirement, he worked as an honorary missionary of the Mar Thoma Evangelists Association.

**24 July, 1885:** Birth of M.V. Philipose Kasseesa, Meppurathu, Mallappally (d.8 July 1951). Bishop Abraham Mar Thoma (Rev. M.N. Abraham) and Achen are the first University graduates who became priests in the Mar Thoma Church. Achen was the Principal of the St.Thomas School in Honavar. For many years he was the president of the Honavar (Karnataka) municipality and also the district local board president in Honavar.

**25 July, 325:** The Council of Nicea closes. The first ecumenical council, convened by Constantine, rejected the Arians (which denied the full divinity of Christ) as heretics. The First Council of Nicaea, held in Nicaea in Bithynia (present-day İznik in Turkey), convened by the Roman Emperor Constantine I in 325, was the first Ecumenical council of the Christian Church, and most significantly resulted in the first uniform Christian doctrine, called the Nicene Creed.

**25 July, 2000:** Rev. K.V. Varghese (b.26 Sept 1897) Thirumoolapuram passes away. After passing B.A., L.T., degrees he became a deacon on 29 Nov 1949 and priest on 29 April

1950. He was a teacher for many years and led many to Christ through his teaching ministry.

**26 July, 1603:** James VI of Scotland becomes James I of England. Among his many acts affecting English religious life (it is he for whom the King James Version is named) was the issuing of the Book of Sports, approving sports on Sunday.

**26 July, 1833:** Having abolished the slave trade in 1807, Britain's House of Commons bans slavery itself. When William Wilberforce, who had spent most of his life crusading against slavery, heard the news, he said, "Thank God I have lived to witness [this] day." He died three days later.

**27 July, 2002:** Death of Rev. P.M. Thomas (Sr) (b. 18 Oct 1902) Pulivelil, Maramon. He became a deacon on 23 July 1932 and priest on 5 Nov 1932. He served more than 40 parishes. He was the Secretary of the Niranam Maramon Diocese.

**27 July, 1886:** Birth of K.M. Philipose Kasseesa, Kolekulangara, Kattanam (d.22 March 1951). He became a deacon on 1905 and priest on 1907. He served many parishes including Pallikkal, Kattanam, Kappil, Chunakkara and Kurathiyadu.

**28 July, 1869:** Birth of T.O. John Kasseesa, Thuralayil, Venmony (d.27 Oct 1942). He became a deacon at the age of 14 (20 April 1883) and priest in 1891. He was an expert in architecture and helped in the construction of many church and school buildings. He was a good doctor for rabies.

**29 July, 1955:** Mr. Daniel files suit against Mar Thoma Metropolitan. On 29 July 1955 Mr. Nina Daniel, of Kurumthottikkal, Melukara Pathanamthitta District and three others filed a civil suit in District Court of Kottayam against the then Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Church Most Rev. Juhanon Mar Thoma and six others. According to Mr. Daniel, the Metropolitan favoured and accepted the faith of the Jacobite Church and as such he had no right to enter any Mar Thoma Churches and that he should not be allowed to continue as the Supreme Head of the Church. This case is known as the Daniel case. This litigation lasted for almost 10 years and the final judgment from the Supreme Court of India came on 7 Jan 1965. In all the three courts (The District court- Kerala High Court and the Supreme Court) verdicts were against Mr. Daniel. This case was an unfortunate event in the history of our Church and resulted in the formation of the St. Thomas Evangelical Church of India on 26 January 1961.

**29 July, 2000:** Rev. K.T. Mathew (b.21 Jan 1930) Keecheril, Venmony passes away. He became priest on 21 May 1981 and served more than 15 parishes including Naranammoozhy, Perunadu, Channapettah, Chembur and Venmony. He retired from active service in 1987 due to ill health.

**30 July, 1775:** The U.S. Army founds its chaplaincy, making it the Army's oldest division after the infantry.

**30 July, 1918:** Birth of Rev. Dr. Ninan A Kallumpurathu, Kuzhikkala (d.2 Jan 1991). After passing L.Th; B. A., M. A., Th. M., Th. D he became a deacon on 14 Nov 1939 and priest on 1940. For seven years he was the Principal/ administrator of the Industrial Training Institute in Cherukole-Kozhencherry. He served more than 15 parishes and taught at the M. T. Seminary in Kottayam.

**30 July, 1919:** Birth of Rev. O.V. Joseph- Olikkal, Kanam (d.22 July 1998). He became a deacon on 30 June 1951 and priest on 16 Oct 1951. He served more than 15 parishes including Mepral, Chathenkerry, Thumpamon and Kutrapally.

**30 July, 1956:** "In God We Trust" becomes the official motto of the United States by an act of Congress signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

**31 July, 1556:** Ignatius of Loyola, Spanish Roman Catholic reformer and founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), dies in Rome. During his life he saw 1,000 men join his order and 100 colleges and seminaries established. Apart from his order, Ignatius's greatest legacy, he left in his *Spiritual Exercises*, a devotional guide that has been in constant use for over 460 years.

**July 31, 1890:** Birth of C.K. Varghese Kasseesa, Cherukara, Ayroor (d.21 March 1957). He became a deacon on 19 Aug 1926 and priest on 12 Feb 1927. He married Sosamma, daughter of Thumpamon Chruthuthiyil Kandamma (Kandamma was the first General Secretary of the Sevika Sanghom). He taught in the English School in Nedumprayar (Maramon) and worked with the Scripture Union for 10 years. Very Rev. C.G. Alexander is his son.

**31 July, 1931:** Birth of Rev. K.V. Thomas, Koippallil Vadakkethil, Karippuzha (d.4 Dec 1998). After passing his B.Sc., B.D. exam he became a deacon in June 1958 and priest on 25 Oct 1958. He served many parishes including Nilambur, Pooyappally, Kollam, Karunagapally, Eraviperoor and Chathannur.

