

MARAMON CONVENTION 2017

DID YOU KNOW THESE FACTS ABOUT THE GREAT MARAMON CONVENTION?

By **Grace John Nalloor**,

- ◆ In 2017, the Maramon Convention will be conducted for the 122nd time from 12th -19th February.
- ◆ The 1st Maramon Convention was held in 1895. It was for 10 days starting from 9th to 18th March.
- ◆ The first convention was held on the Manalpuram (river bank) opposite to the Aranmula Temple. It then shifted to Parapuzha Kadavu near Maramon Church and then finally to its present location.
 - ◆ The hymn "Sthuthippin sthuthippin Yesudevane, Halleluyah paadi sthuthippeen sthuthipeen Yesudevane" written by Vidhuwankutty Achen (Rev. Yustus Joseph 1835 - 1887) is sung at the end of the final day of the convention. This practice which started in 1895 still continues!
- ◆ In the early days, people from Kuttanadan Parishes would come for the convention in their Kettuvallams (large country boats) on the River Pampa along with provisions to stay for a week in Maramon.



- ◆ Abraham Mar Thoma was the first Mar Thoma Bishop to become a speaker of the convention.
- ◆ Thomas Walker was the main speaker of the Maramon Convention from 1899 to 1912. He was born on 9th August 1859 and died on 26th August 1912.
- ◆ The Mar Thoma Sunday School Samajam was established on 25th February 1905 at a special meeting held in the Maramon Convention Pandal.
- ◆ Mrs. Nicholson and Miss. McKibbin used to conduct special meetings and Bible classes for women during the convention. They were also responsible for the establishment of Nicholson School in Kattode, Tiruvalla in 1910.
- ◆ Sadhu Sunder Singh was one of the main speakers of the Maramon Convention held in 1918. He was born in 1889 and it is believed that when he was on his way to Tibet (in 1929) he disappeared, never to be seen again!
 - ◆ Dr. Stanley Jones was one of the main speakers of the Maramon Convention from 1921 to 1970. He was born on 3rd Jan 1884 in Baltimore, Maryland. USA. He died on 25th Jan 1973.
- ◆ In 1925, there was a Chottu Kada (hotel serving rice and curry) at Maramon Manalpuram. The charges were One rupee for 14 full meals and One rupee for 228 full glasses of coffee (chakkara kappi).

