

## **CHURCH HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF JULY**

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**July 1, 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, 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.

**July 1, 1896:** Abolitionist (a person who wants to put an end to slavery) writer Harriet Beecher Stowe dies. 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"

**July 2, 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.

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

**July 6, 1415:** Jan Hus, Bohemian preacher and forerunner of Protestantism, is burned as a heretic in Constance, Germany.

**July 6, 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.

**July 6, 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.

**July 6 1944:** Titus Mar Thoma II passes away. He was born in 1866, consecrated as the bishop on 09 December 1898 and Metropolitan on 05 November 1909. He was called to his eternal rest on 06 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) etc. started during his time. He took initiative to translate many of our prayer books into Malayalam.

**July 7, 1867:** Birth of Rev. K. M. Varughese Kathanar-Chrukkakkassery, Kunnamkulam. He became a priest on Feb 2, 1896 and got married at the age of 13, to an 8year 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 by his prayers.

**July 8, 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.

**July 9, 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).

**July 9 1983:** Very. Rev. C .G. David (b. Aug 14, 1919) passes away during his flight to attend the World Missionary conference in Amsterdam. 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. 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 the next day.

**July 9, 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.

**July 10, 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.

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

**July 11, 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.

**July 12, 1889:** Seminary case- Judgement. 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 he also requested the court to evict Mar Athanasius and his followers from the Old Seminary building in Kottayam. 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, 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.

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

**July 14 1947:** Punchamannil Mammen Upadeshi passes away. Mammen Upadeshi was born in the Vadasseri house of the Punchamannil family in Maramon on November 25, 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.

**July 17, 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).

**July 19, 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 Sep5, 1888, in the Kallissery Kadvil Malika. Achen and 11 laymen attended that meeting.

**July 19, 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.

**July 21, 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.

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

**July 23, 1742:** Susannah Wesley, mother of John and Charles, dies. Born the twenty-fifth child in a clergyman's family, she became one of the most notable mothers in church history.

**July 24, 1921:** C.I. Scofield, editor of the Scofield Reference Bible and defender of dispensational premillennialism, dies in Douglaston, New York

**July 25, 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.

**July 26, 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.

**July 26, 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.

**July 29, 1955:** Mr. Daniel Files suit against Mar Thoma Metropolitan. On 29 July 1955 Mr. Nina Daniel, of Kurumthottikkal, Melukara Pathanathitta 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 judgement from the Supreme Court of India came on 07 January 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 it resulted in the formation of the St. Thomas Evangelical Church of India on 26 January 1961.

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

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

**July 31, 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.