



THE FATH JOURNEY
MGSOSA MISSIONS

IT'S TIME TO LOVE, SERVE, GO.
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
07.03-07.09 2011

He brought us from there to here.
Now let us go from here to there for Him.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others. Faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" -1 Peter 4:10

MALANKARA ARCHDIOCESE OF THE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

Dominican Outreach Mission Trip 2011

AUSTIN, TEXAS

IN THIS ISSUE

Catching Fish & Making Wine

by Mission Team

A renewed spirit of organizing, action, and devotion is sweeping the youth of the Malankara Syriac Orthodox Church in North America. Parish programs are multiplying. Regional conferences are attended with enthusiasm. More youth are answering the call for ordination. More young people are asking questions.

The best way to deepen our common faith in Jesus Christ is to display it. To strengthen our spirit, our Archbishop, His Eminence Mor Titus Yeldho, authorized a group of clergy and laity to put together a transformative spiritual exercise. Having come across the work of Dominican Outreach, we have arranged to go "off the grid" for a few days to labor among some of the world's most materially poor. However, we have a feeling we shall find some of the world's most spiritually rich.

The Work

The mission has several programs that directly benefit the locals of Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic and the eastern border area of Haiti. Most initiatives are work oriented, designed to give recipients tools necessary to lift themselves out of poverty.

The Haitian earthquake of 2010 caused tremendous strain on those already impoverished. Dominican Outreach stepped into action, building a school and medical clinic to serve inhabitants of whatever stripe on the Haitian side of the border. The clinic is designed to especially serve HIV/AIDS patients.

God Gives the Increase

Dominican Outreach programs have helped many find their way in Christ. Short term missionaries find fulfillment. Contributors share in the blessings. Very importantly, locals respond to the message, turning from darkness and toward the Light. We hope to share in this experience, not only casting our nets wide, but lending a hand in producing sweet fruit of a pleasant vintage. We expect a roller coaster of emotions and challenges. The conditions will be rough. The support of our families, parishes, and clergy will be required. Fortunately, we may thank God for His presence!



MGSOSA North America

Learn about Mor Gregorios Malankara Syriac Orthodox Student Association, the youth oriented ministry of the Malankara Syriac Orthodox Church in North America.

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Dominican Outreach

What's going on in the Dominican Republic? Learn about how one priest's vision has made a practical difference for local inhabitants of the DR and Haiti. Find out how you can help!

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Mor Gregorios Syriac Orthodox Student Association

by Mission Team



Mission Statement: We, the Mor Gregorios Syriac Orthodox Student Association, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, strive to uphold the Syriac Orthodox faith by providing support, service, education, and fellowship for Malankara (Kerala, India) youth and the greater community.

Origins of the Mor Gregorios Student Association: In 1907, the Malankara Syriac Orthodox Church felt it was necessary that the youth of the church strengthen their relationship with God and therefore created a Syriac Students Conference. The Malankara Syriac Orthodox Church under the Holy See of Antioch established a student's organization on May 6, 1922, with the guidance of St. Paulose Mor Athanasius. The organization was first called "Mor Gregorios Students' Association", which was the first organization in Malankara named after Mor Gregorios of Parumala.

FAST FACT

Currently there are around 50 parishes throughout the USA and Canada. Each parish has a youth wing affiliated to MGSOSA. Youth secretaries are elected by each parish youth league under the guidance of the parish Vicar. These are then organized by region with Regional Coordinators and an advisory clergy council. Directing and overseeing from the national level are the Youth Secretary, Vice-President, and our Archbishop who serves as President of MGSOSA.



Southern Lenten Retreat 2011, Austin

The Youth are not the future -> they are the PRESENT!

Malankara Syriac Orthodox Youth Today:

During the 2002 Annual Family Conference, Rev. Fr. Abraham O. Kadavil recognized that the youth needed a sense of belonging and a name they could stand by. Therefore, Rev. Fr. Kadavil proposed the name Mor Gregorios Syriac Orthodox Student Association (MGSOSA), which was instituted by the diocese. This association comprises of all the Malankara Syriac Orthodox youth leagues across the North American archdiocese given the task of enhancing spiritual growth and developing a Christian character among the youth. This organization will also enable interaction

among the parishes and provide a voice that represents the youth in the diocese. Youth members are given the opportunity to actively participate in diocesan, regional, and local ministries. MGSOSA strives to contribute new ideas in order to incorporate activities that will reinforce the faith of the ancient Syriac Orthodox Church and instill a close relationship with God. MGSOSA enthusiastically embraces spirituality, fellowship, and unity, creating the foundation to guide this association into the future. We all hope and pray this association will grow and our youth in North America and Canada will unite to remain a very strong unit in the Syriac Orthodox Church.



Some of our young deacons about to engage in sports activities at 2010's Jubilee Convention

FAST FACT

At Our 25th Jubilee Conference in 2010, there were ~ 500 registered youth and over 2000 registered individuals. It turned out to be one of the largest gatherings of Keralites in North America



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.MALANKARA.COM

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.dominicanoutreach.webs.com

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Dominican Outreach

Fr. Dale Johnson, a Syriac Orthodox priest, founded St. Ephrem's Mission in the Dominican Republic in the 1990s. In accord with his welcoming heart, he also called it "Dominican Outreach." Over time, the schools, orphanages, refugee centers, clinics, and economic projects supported by Fr. Dale have helped countless thousands.



An area of work that has risen to prominence has been the documentation of human trafficking. Unfortunately, a modern "slave trade" still exists throughout much of the world, and the islands of the Caribbean are no exception. The mission gives voice to those abused in trafficking schemes, gaining the attention of media such as CNN's Anderson Cooper.

The mission is active on both sides of the Haitian border. Especially after the devastating earthquake of 2010, the needs in Haiti have been tremendous. Mor Polycarpus



Augin, Archbishop of the Netherlands, generously made a donation large enough to open a school along the Haitian border. This school also houses an HIV/AIDS clinic which combats the devastating disease.

While Fr. Dale believes in social action, he does not encourage a dependent mentality among those he serves. A hallmark of Dominican Outreach is the development of self-reliance and entrepreneurship. To this end, the mission has devised micro-credit loan facilities and agricultural initiatives designed to lift recipients out of poverty and become productive members of society.

Fr. Dale has many interests, from history to biodiversity. He has published numerous treatises and partnered in various scientific endeavors, recently being awarded a



National Science Grant in conjunction with Lewis & Clark University (Portland, Oregon). Photographers from National Geographic have included him in a publication on spiders.

Ordained a priest by H.E. Mor Athanasius Y. Samuel, the first archbishop of the Syriac Orthodox Church in North America (and possessor of the first of the "Dead Sea Scrolls"), Fr. Dale has spent considerable time teaching Syriac and performing mission work in various places. Many illustrious church dignitaries have received instruction from him.

Fr. Dale is married to Martha, who maintains the mission's American office in Washington state.



FAST FACT

Check out some of Fr. Dale's essays at Shroo: The Syriac Orthodox Digest.

www.socdigest.org/author.html

FAST FACTS

The Syriac Orthodox Church is the Church of Antioch found in the book of Acts. Syriac refers to a dialect of Aramaic, the closest surviving language to that which was spoken by Jesus and His Apostles, and the language (along with Greek) spoken in the region of Antioch and Edessa of old. It is believed that the Apostle Thomas, traveling from this region in the AD 50's, arrived in India seeking the Jewish diaspora and gained the first converts. From AD 325 on, the Council of Nicea formally recognized the Patriarchate of Antioch's ultimate jurisdiction of the entire East, including India.

Now grouped into the Oriental Orthodox family of Eastern Christians, the church enjoys full communion with the Coptic, Armenian, Ethiopian, and Eritrean churches, as well as partial communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

Due to persecution in the Middle East, the majority of church members hailing from the Middle East actually live in Western Europe and other Western nations. The heaviest concentration of believers is in southern India which has an autonomous Catholicate that administers through a local synod. Worldwide, the church has perhaps 5 million members.

"This is the demanding work of God!"

His Eminence

Clemis Eugene Kaplan

Patriarchal Vicar Western USA

Meet the Team!



Lispin Kuruville, teacher, obtaining a Masters in Education, Denver, Colorado



Shana Kadavil, college student, Baltimore, Maryland



George Aramath, M.Th. MBA, obtaining Ph.D. in Education, organizer Grand Rapids, Michigan



Rev. Dn. Shiry Mathai, MPH, MBA, current Secretary of MGSOSA, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Rev. Dn. Zach Varghese, M.D., physician specializing in behavioral and public health, Team Coordinator, Austin, Texas



Christy Andrews, college student, organizer Dallas, Texas



Monai Karuthalackal, LPN, practicing nurse Chicago, Illinois



Rev. Dn. Belson Kuriakose, medical student, organizer, Plainview, New York



All Members, especially, H.E. Mor Titus Yeldho, Archbishop & President, and Rev. Fr. Bijo Mathew, Vice- President

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Pray for us July 3rd -9th 2011