

# THE MAR THOMA CHURCH OF DALLAS FARMERS BRANCH

## CHURCH

11550 LUNA ROAD  
DALLAS, TX 75234  
TEL: (972) 830.9300



## PARSONAGE

3621 CANYON OAKS  
CARROLLTON, TX 75007  
TEL: (972) 939.0699

Items to be included in the lifetimes should be submitted to the Secretary or Joint Secretary by the 3rd Sunday of each month. If information is incorrectly printed, please contact the Vicar and Secretary to make the corrections. Please feel free to contact the Vicar or Secretary with any questions or comments. Your feedback is appreciated.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

President	Rev. Minoy N. Kuruvilla	(972) 939-0699	minoyatchen@gmail.com
Youth Chaplain	Rev. Jaisen Thomas	(972) 495-5393	revjathomas@yahoo.com
Vice President	Mr. K.S Mathew	(972) 226-9529	rajupullad@yahoo.com
Secretary	Mr. Thomas Mathew	(972) 906-7224	ttmathew@aol.com
Treasurer	Mr. Thomas Zachariah	(972) 394-9971	zachariah01@hotmail.com
Accountant	Mr. Cecil Cherian	(972) 691-5801	cecilmerry@msn.com
Adult Lay Ldr.	Mr. Varghese Abraham	(469) 556-6835	mohankoodal55@yahoo.com
Youth Lay Ldr.	Mr. Arun Varghese	(214) 208-1055	asv001@gmail.com
Sun School Sup.	Mr. Thomas Andrews	(817) 498-9372	thomasandrews81@hotmail.com
Facility Manager	Mr. Philip Thomas	(214) 415-5688	punalurthampy@yahoo.com
Mission & Outreach	Mr. Abraham Mathew	(214) 321-7561	saraabe2000@yahoo.com
Sound Engineer	Mr. Chacko N. Mani	(214) 215-6158	cbaby@mail.com

**Mar Thoma Life Times, Volume III, March 2010**, Published by Thomas Mathew the Secretary, Mar Thoma Church of Dallas Farmers Branch on behalf of the Executive Committee

### February 11, 2010..Heaviest snow fall on record for Dallas.

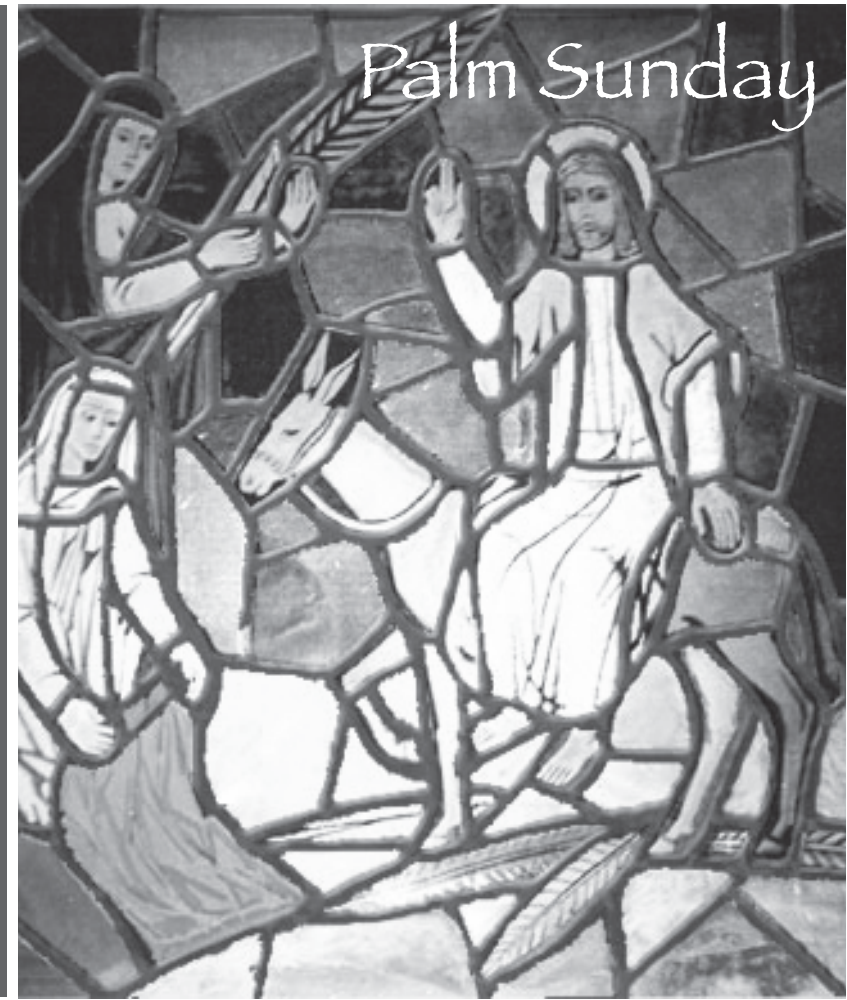
Showers of blessing...or inconvenience, but it made history, and in case you missed it, this is what it looked like at our Parish..



# MAR THOMA LIFE TIMES

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MAR THOMA CHURCH OF DALLAS, FB

MARCH 2010



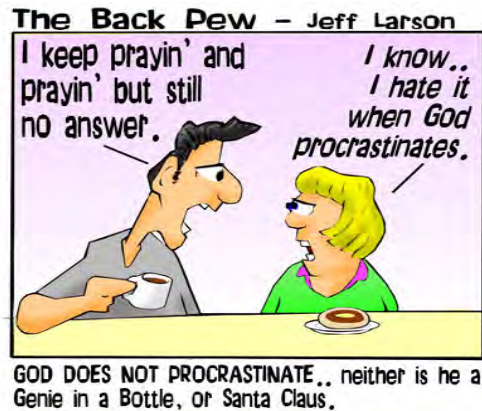
## The Mar Thoma Church of Dallas Farmers Branch

11550 Luna Road, Dallas, TX 75234  
972.830.9300  
www.mtcDallasfb.org

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Date and Theme	Schedule	Area
<b>March 7</b> <i>Jesus who honors faith</i>  <b>(4th Sunday in Lent)</b>	<b>9:00 AM - Sunday School, Bible Study</b> <b>10 :15 AM - Holy Qrbana (Malayalam)</b> <b>1st Lesson - Isa. 45: 1-8</b> <b>2nd Lesson - Gal. 2: 11-21</b> <b>Epistle - Acts 16: 6-16</b> <b>Gospel - Mat. 15: 21-28</b>	<b>Fort Worth/ Mid Cities</b>
<b>March 14</b> <i>Christ's victory over the evil powers</i>  <b>(5th Sunday in Lent)</b>	<b>9:00 AM - Sunday School, Bible Study</b> <b>10 :15 AM - Holy Communion (English)</b> <b>1st Lesson - Isa. 59: 12-21,</b> <b>2nd Lesson - Eph. 6: 10-20</b> <b>Epistle - Rom. 8: 31-39</b> <b>Gospel - Luke 13: 10-17</b>	<b>Garland</b>
<b>March 21</b> <i>Faith proclamation that removes darkness</i>  <b>(36th day in Lent)</b>	<b>9:00 AM - Sunday School Bible Study</b> <b>10 :15 AM - Holy Qrbana (Malayalam)</b> <b>1st Lesson - Isa. 42: 1-9,</b> <b>2nd Lesson - 1 Pet. 3: 8-22</b> <b>Epistle - Acts 12: 1-11</b> <b>Gospel - Mark 10: 46-52</b>	<b>Irving North</b>
<b>March 28</b> <i>Theological seminary day</i>  <b>(Palm Sunday)</b>	<b>9:00 AM - Sunday School Bible Study</b> <b>10 :15 AM - Holy Communion (English)</b> <b>1st Lesson - Zech. 9: 9-17</b> <b>2nd Lesson - Phil. 2: 5-11 ,</b> <b>Epistle - Col. 1: 15-23,</b> <b>Gospel - Mark 2:1-11</b>	<b>Irving South</b>

Area	Date	Residence of	Time
<b>Carrollton North</b>	TBA TBA Mar. 21(Sun.) Mar. 28 (Sun.)	TBA TBA Kurian Ninan Sosamma Mathew	TBA TBA 6:30 PM 6:30 PM
<b>Carrollton West</b>	Mar. 6 (Sat.) TBA Mar. 20 (Sat.) Mar. 27 (Sat.)	Jose Thomas TBA Josen George Reg. Conf - Houston	6:30 PM TBA 6:30 PM
<b>Carrollton East</b>	Mar. 6 (Sat.) Mar. 13 (Sat.) TBA Mar. 27 (Sat.)	House visit John Thomas TBA Reg. Conf - Houston	6:00 PM 6:30 PM TBA TBA
<b>Coppell</b>	TBA TBA TBA Mar. 27 (Sat.)	TBA TBA TBA Reg. Conf - Houston	TBA TBA TBA TBA
<b>Dallas/Mesquite</b>	Mar. 7 (Sun.) Mar. 13 (Sat.) Mar. 20 (Sat.) Mar. 27 (Sat.)	George P. Varghese Sunny Jacob Mathew K. Mathew Reg. Conf - Houston	6:30 PM 6:30 PM 6:30PM TBA
<b>Fort Worth/ Mid Cities</b>	Mar. 6 (Sat.) Mar. 14 (Sun.) Mar. 20 (Sat.) Mar. 27 (Sat.)	House Visit George A. Thomas Sajan John Reg. Conf - Houston	6:00 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM
<b>Garland</b>	Mar. 6 (Sat.) Mar. 13 (Sat.) Mar. 20 (Sat.) Mar. 27 (Sat.)	Chacko N. Mani T.P. Mathew John Sunny Reg. Conf - Houston	7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM
<b>Irving North</b>	Mar. 6 (Sat.) Mar. 13 (Sat.) Mar. 21 (Sun.) Mar. 27 (Sat.)	Alex Chandy Skariah T. Philip Varughese Joseph Reg. Conf - Houston	6:30 PM 6:30 PM 6:00 PM 6:30 PM
<b>Irving South</b>	TBA Mar. 13 (Sat.) Mar. 20 (Sat.) Mar. 27 (Sat.)	TBA Eipe Skariah Joseph P. Varghese Reg. Conf - Houston	TBA 6:30 PM 6:30 PM TBA
<b>Plano</b>	Mar. 6 (Sat.) Mar. 13 (Sat.) TBA Mar. 27 (Sat.)	House visit Kurian Varghese TBA Sojan Easo	6:30 PM 6:30 PM TBA 6:30 PM



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

### What is prayer? Is it just talking to God? Or is there more to it?

Prayer, is one of the most blessed privileges that God has granted humanity. In fact, its depth and potential is beyond measure as it is the channel between the earthly and divine, the mortal and immortal. However, we often misunderstand the power of prayer and assume it to be just a “listing of our wants or needs” to God. Thus, we don’t effectually communicate and our prayers are seemingly fruitless.

Therefore, prayer must move beyond communication to the experience of *communion*. Communion, is essentially a mysterious union between humanity and the divine (God) in prayer. It is the depth of relationship where true communication takes place. That is, prayer becomes more the revelation of God and His plans, as well as, of the self than simply a wanton list of our desires. It is in this experience that the voice and will of God may be greater discerned (Ex.33:11, Matt. 26:39).

Prayer is also the faith proclamation and witness of the believer of *complete dependence* upon God. It is the *humility* and supplication to express praise and gratitude to God for His numerous blessings. Additionally, it is the awareness and *obedience* to confess our weaknesses before the Almighty One. And, it is *wisdom* to realize that in our lives all credit begins and belongs to God, without whom we have and are nothing.

It is in and through this relationship of prayer that God works in humanity. Let us remember Moses who cried out to the Lord in prayer on behalf of rebellious Israel in Numbers 14:13-19. God had made His decision in Numbers 14:12 to destroy Israel. However, after the humble prayers of Moses God responded in Num. 14:20, “I have pardoned them as you have requested”.

Throughout this Lenten season, may we grow in the true understanding of prayer and witness the miraculous power of God in our lives more and more!

Your Brother in Christ,  
Jaisen Achen

### Vicar's Message

We have entered into the lent season. Why church observes lent or what is the relevance behind its observation, such questions often comes into our mind. As per Eastern churches, lent is a period of repentance, transformation and above all a preparation for the resurrection day. In short it is the time to recognize ones priority and do certain rectification wherever needed.



Marthoma church observes five Lents.

These are as follows.

1. Eruvatthanju lent (1st Dec.- 25<sup>th</sup> Dec.)
2. Munnu Lent  
( 3 week prior to the big lent, starts from Monday to Thursday)
3. Valiaya Lent (Changes every year)
4. Sliha Lent (16<sup>th</sup> June to 29<sup>th</sup> June)
5. Pathinachu Lent (1<sup>st</sup> Aug. to 15<sup>th</sup> Aug)

Fasting & praying are the two important components of lent through which one tries to understand God's plan for him or her, by drawing closer to God with a humble heart. Prophet Isaiah Chapter 58: 2-14 explains how to observe it and regarding its benefits. Simplicity in life, in food patterns, talk, controlling self as well as every aspect of life should be touched ....not for the time being but making it a way of one's life.

26<sup>th</sup> March we will be observing the 40<sup>th</sup> day of lent where we meditate how Jesus overcome the worldly temptations.

28<sup>th</sup> Sunday will be observed as Hosanna Sunday, meditating about the triumph entry of Jesus in Jerusalem.

From 29 onwards we will be having Passion Week services at church and I request all of you to attend the service with the fear of the Lord. Easter Sunday we will celebrate with great joy His resurrection.

We will be observing World day of Prayer on March 6<sup>th</sup> and as Diocesan Sunday on March 7<sup>th</sup>. I urge all members to contribute generously to the diocese and its causes.

We are blessed to have Sister Joan Chunkapura among our midst on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. She will speak to us about Christian family life. Be a part of the blessed moment.

27<sup>th</sup> Regional Parish Mission will meet at Houston. All parish mission members are requested to be a part of the great spiritual meeting.

Let this lent and all these meetings help us to spent more time with Him and enable us to move as well as work for Him.

- **Minoy Achen**

## PARISH NEWS

### Parish to observe second week of March as 'Family week'

**Joan Chunkapura gives talks on Family .** We are planning to dedicate the week of March 7-14 as family week . Sr. Joan Chunkapura, the director of TRADA Kottayam, is a well known counselor on addiction and family relationships. She spoke at our family conference in 1995 and then at several of our meetings. Sister Joan is going to lead a seminar on Saturday March 13 at our church. We are planning to have two sessions on Saturday, one in the morning starting at 10 AM and another in the afternoon. Please free up March 13 and make use of the opportunity to listen to Sr. Joan. Special emphasis will be given to issues young families face.

**Sunday March 14 will be observed as Family Sunday.** Please remember this event in your prayers. Please spread the news and invite people from other Churches and community to join the seminar.

### Youths in Service

For the past several weeks members of youth fellowship in our parish have been assisting with ushering. The best display of kindness was last Sunday, when they went outside with umbrellas to fetch people from parking lot, helping them not to get soaked in the rain. Please encourage the youngsters when you see them.

### Parish held Annual General Body on Feb. 21

The annual General body was held on Sunday March 21, after service. During this meeting major decisions were taken for year 2010. The General Body approved annual report and audited statement of accounts for 2009 and passed budget for 2010 with expenses of \$662,400 and revenue for the same amount. The highlight of this meeting was the active participation of youth members, about 40 of them attended and several participated in the discussions very actively. The discussion on worship time was very lively and participatory. The general consensus that evolved after discussion was to continue the same way we do now, to have two worships in Malayalam and two in English, maintaining

### Altar Flowers

A signup sheet is available in the fellowship hall if you would like to donate altar flowers. Please write your name for the date you would like to donate. If the date is taken by someone, please choose another day.

### Parish lacks child care facility

It has been brought to the attention of the officers that child care is a major problem in the Church. This turns several young families away from church as they cannot attend the service and take care of toddlers. This was discussed in the meeting of the General Body. We need to find an interim solution until we can build additional facility. If you have an idea, please feel free to contact the Secretary or Sandy.

## Phase II Feasibility Committee

Following are the members of the Phase II feasibility Committee.

### Elected by General Body

C.M.Mathew, Raju George, Sam John, T.P.Mathew, Thomas Mathew

### Area Representatives

Carrollton East:	Ponnachen K.Thomas
Carrollton North:	Jacob Mathai
Carrollton West:	Philip Thomas
Coppell:	M.J.Andrews
Dallas/Mesquite:	Sunny Jacob
Forthworth/Midcities:	Thomas Andrews
Garland:	Cherian Alexander
Irving North:	To be selected
Irving South:	George Varghese
Plano:	To be selected

### Organizational Representatives

Sevika Sangham:	Annamma Mathew (Garland Prayer Group)
Sunday School:	P.T.Mathew
Yuva Jana Sakhyam:	To be selected
Parish Mission:	To be selected
Choir:	To be selected
Youth Fellowship:	To be selected

*Area and organizations that have not elected their representative to this committee, please do so and give name to the secretary.*

## Diocesan News

March 7, Sunday is to be observed as Diocesan Sunday . On this Sunday, Rev. T.S.Philip of Emmanuel Mar Thoma Church, Houston will visit our parish as part of pulpit exchange. The main reason for this observance is to highlight activities of the diocese and to participate in its financial needs. Please participate in the best way possible.

## SABHA NEWS

### Maramon convention concludes

Maramon convention concluded with a week of blessed messages last Sunday. CD's containing songs from the convention are now available at our parish. Please contact Yuva Jana Sakhyam members to get a copy of the CD. Several speakers including our diocesan bishop, Mar Theodosius spoke at the convention. More information is available on line at the following link.

<http://2010.mtconvention.com/mtc20101/current.php?category=messages>

### Three more bishops to be consecrated

The Sabha Mandalam that met in the second week of February decided to consecrate three more bishops for our Church. This will make the total number of bishops to thirteen. The Sabha Mandalam elected a committee to nominate suitable candidates.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS (cont..)		
Date	Name	Prayer Group
30	Mathew C Varughese	Coppell
	Som Cheriyan Thomas	Coppell
	Merlin S Varughese	Dallas / Mesquite
	Lizy Jacob	Carrollton North
	Jacob Mathai	Carrollton North
	Aisley Susan George	Plano
31	Blessen Varghese	Carrollton East
	Saji Raju	Carrollton North
	Karen Susan Joby	Carrollton North

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES			
Date	Anniversary	Names	Prayer Group
1	3/1/1990	Sam Alex and Lilly Alex	Coppell
2	3/2/1987	Varughese and Susan Daniel	Carrollton East
	3/2/1980	Mathew V Thomas & Mariamma Mathew	Carrollton East
3	3/3/1984	Alexander Varghese & Asha Alexander	Coppell
5	3/5/1973	George & Mary Oommen	Other Area
6	3/6/2004	Bobby Mathews & Renny Easow	Irving
15	3/15/1999	Shibu & Anita Zachariah	Plano
	3/15/1995	James Abraham & Saramma James	Carrollton East
17	3/17/1997	Thomas & Anu Mathew	Coppell
20	3/20/1999	Sajan John & Sunila John	Irving
21	3/21/1983	Roy & Valsa Varghese	Carrollton East
	3/21/2009	Joffe & Carmen Abraham	Garland
21	3/21/1998	Saji M & Rincey Daniel	Carrollton North

### Elizabeth Mathew 's Contribution to Maramon Convention

Our member Elizabeth Mathew, wrote a song that was selected among several for the convention. We are blessed by talents of this kind in our parish and pray that God continues to bless. Congratulations to Elizabeth Mathew of Garland prayer group for this recognition.

### Birth

Aby and Ajitha George of Plano prayer group are blessed with **twins!** Aylen and Ayden born on 2/8. Congratulations to the George family.

### Condolences

- Mrs. Mariamma Varghese (87 years), mother of Liezy Varghese (wife of George Varghese-Jayan) of Coppell/Flower Mound/Lewisville prayer group passed away on 2/13.
- Suraj Jacob 19 year old nephew of Varughese P George Irving south prayer group passed away in Bangalore on Feb 20th following a motor cycle accident.

A prominent achen and a missionary in our Church, Rev M. P Thomas passed away on 2/23. Achen was the uncle (maternal) of Philip Kochiyil of Plano prayer group.

### Thought of the month

“Don’t measure the size of the mountain, talk to the one who can move it”:

### Sevika Sangham News

Committee members for 2010

Vice President: Sosamma Mathews  
 Secretary: Lila Alexander  
 Trustees: Rachel Thomas  
 Bamini Thomas

Upcoming events

March 6<sup>th</sup> : World Day of Prayer at  
 -Mar Thoma Church of Dallas, Carrollton  
 March 21<sup>st</sup>: Bake Sale  
 March 27<sup>th</sup>: Regional Sevika Sangham Conference  
 Trinity Mar Thoma Church, Houston

Your prayerful participation is requested in these events.

Secretary,

-Lila Alexander

### Parish Mission News

March 27th Southwest Regional Conference at Trinity Mar Thoma Church, Houston.  
 Time: 9am-4pm, Registration: \$15 (food included..breakfast, lunch, and snacks)  
 -Parish Mission, Secretary

### OTHER NEWS

#### Mar Thoma Church of Dallas-Carrollton, hosts World day of Prayer

This year’s World Day of Prayer will be hosted by Mar Thoma Church of Dallas, Carrollton on march 6th. This is a special event for which all are invited to attend. Sr. Joan Chunkapura will be the leader at this event

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Date	Name	Prayer Group
1	George Varghese	Irving
	Alice L Thomas	Carrollton North
	Mary Mathew	Carrollton North
	Sandy Mathews	Dallas / Mesquite
	Christina Susan Mathews	Coppell
2	Erene Elizabeth Abraham	Other Area
3	Jaden Thomas	Irving
4	Ligimol Mathew	Carrollton East
	Megan George	Irving
	Jibin Ninan	Carrollton North
	Manju George Maliakal	Carrollton North
	Ponnamma Samuel	Carrollton East
	Kunjamma Mathew	Carrollton North
5	Mathai Panachakunnel	Carrollton East
	Joyce Abraham	Garland
6	Hannah Thomas	Garland
	Mathew Samuel	Carrollton North
	Susamma Chacko	Garland
7	Tobin Abraham	Carrollton East
	Merline Mary Mathew	Coppell
	Mariamamma Rajan	Carrollton East
	Sam Chandy	Irving
8	Josen George	Carrollton West
	Ryan Varghese	Carrollton East
9	George P Varghese	Dallas / Mesquite
	Stacy E Mathew	Carrollton East
	Sheena Philip	Irving
	M Philipose	Garland
	Gracy George	Coppell
10	Daniel Abraham	Carrollton North
11	Sangeetha George	Carrollton North
	Raji Abraham	Carrollton North
	C M Mathew	Coppell
	Kurien Mathews	Dallas / Mesquite
	Neethu George	Carrollton East
	Bini Thomas	Carrollton East
12	Saramma Verghese	Plano
	Rajita Mathew	Garland
	Prathibha Susan Princely	Carrollton North
	Sunil Varghese	Plano
	George V Samuel	Carrollton West

13	George Oommen	Other Area
	Mariamamma Joseph	Carrollton North
	Alvin Abraham Jose	Irving
14	Jessy Thomas	Irving
	Neethu Cherian	Garland
15	Dr. Jacob George	Other Area
16	Susela Varghese	Carrollton East
	Justin George	Dallas / Mesquite
18	Rajana K Mathew	Irving
	Rincy Sunny Mathew	Carrollton North
19	Sudha R Mathew	Irving
	Krystiann Elizabeth Andrews	Irving
	Zachary Thomas	Carrollton West
	Jessie George	Carrollton East
20	Jeffrey John	Carrollton West
	Beena Varughese	Coppell
21	Dillon K. Mathew	Carrollton North
	Manorama Abraham	Other Area
	KT Andrews	Irving
22	Sunila John	Irving
	Jyoti Joseph	Irving
	Thomas Chacko	Coppell
	John Mathew	Plano
23	Ruth A Andrews	Irving
	Betson M Mathew	Dallas / Mesquite
	Rishi Abe Mathew	Coppell
	Stanley M Mathew	Coppell
	Saira George	Other Area
	Joanne John	Garland
24	Johann Thomas Cherian	Coppell
	Sybil Jacob	Dallas / Mesquite
	Jessie Sajan John	Irving
	Alex Jacob	Carrollton West
25	Steven Daniel	Carrollton North
	Tom Philip	Irving
	Santosh Skariah	Irving
26	Jubin George	Irving
	Vinod Mathew Abraham	Carrollton North
	Molly George	Other Area
	Sosamma Mathew	Plano
	Sherlyn Skariah	Irving
27	Mariamamma Abraham	Irving
28	Jini E Mathew	Plano
	Liji George	Plano
29	Nevin Easow	Other Area