



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

(Dated 24th Dec 2013)

Kunjumonchayan's (Shri A.G Oommen) exemplary article "*Random memories-Part 2*" a few months back , captured in great details of our family generations across our branches and helped all of us to get to know a lot of new members from across the branches as well as our family across the globe. As it is the Christmas season I would like to greet all of our family members and share a couple of Christmas anecdotes with all of you.

The young coffee maker cum bearer at the most popular bakery in the small town of Tiruvalla was finding it a very busy day as the customers are more than treble the usual number. The coffee cum juice parlor is annexed to the bakery main hall. I had just entered the parlor on the last leg of my very tiring long drive from Ernakulum to Ayroor yesterday to get some Xmas cakes and then the refreshing coffee. On entering the coffee parlor I found this bearer extremely busy being the only staff other than the juice maker.





Shri. Samuel Thomas
Kudumbayogam President

The parlor was full with customers in a great hurry. He was finding it hard to maintain a calm and pleasant face. I also joined the fray by ordering a coffee and a bite with some special instructions as to its freshness. I was not sure, he would give it in time. I saw him putting the kettle on the stove as I settled down for the long wait. To my surprise the coffee was served hot and fresh in less than five minutes along with a warm honey –butter filled mini bun. As I started tasting the coffee and bun, I found myself getting very relaxed.

My tiredness was suddenly gone and I found myself taken up by the mood of Christmas. I started thinking about this boy. A youngster in his early twenties, he should have been with his family on this Christmas eve on vacation from college, may be listening to the latest discourse in TV regarding the Aam Admi Party forming Government in Delhi or getting ready to go to Church to attend the Carol Service. But here he is, away from family, away from loved ones, on his call, dutiful at that. Breaking my trance he appeared again when I asked for the bill. The bill came in a moment and it was less than twenty rupees, although the whole experience was worth much more given the circumstance surrounding Christmas. Had it been in a fashionable city restaurant it would have been much more. Suddenly I decided to pay the city price and asked him to keep the balance as a small Christmas gift. A pleasant smile appeared on his face as he looked at his tip. This made my Christmas.



Let me move to another interesting Christmas play in our Church. The Christmas play would include the angels, shepherds and the wise men. There were volunteers ready to play Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds and wise men. There was a scene in which the pregnant Mary on a very tired donkey's back, with Joseph walking by the side searching for a place to deliver the



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child and the innkeeper would turn them down. No one came forward to play the role of the hard inn keeper who refused places for Mary and Joseph. At last a boy came out willingly to play the role. On the day of the program before the large audience, this boy as the inn keeper, was listening patiently to the woes of the fully pregnant woman about to deliver a child. The man accompanying her looks very tired. The donkey about to fall down with the heavy load. The boy got into great empathy. This woman looked like his elder sister. He was greatly moved and asked Mary and Joseph to “Come in! there is plenty of place here “. The play director was horrified !. The play lost its real plot. There was a roar of laughter from the audience. But the Vicar Achen did not mind it. In his message of the night he said, the boy had just taught us what Christmas really is.

Wish this year’s Christmas bring us great joy with loving concern to others especially the less fortunate. This is a time to take care and love others. Love will be more meaningful when we forgive and seek forgiveness as the Jains do during their yearly ‘Kshama Parv’.

God has given us a good family which is spread far and wide around the world. Let us all make our contributions to make it better. Please do reach out and communicate regularly on our Website and Facebook group by writing anecdotes of fond memories, sharing photos, publishing stories, poems, drawings, paintings, by making our presence felt.

Let me take this opportunity to greet all of our family members a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous year 2014.

May the Good Lord Bless us and keep us all as a family !