

## Christmas Wishes and a Family Tribute

**By: Prof .A.N Thomas affectionately know as Somi ,Retd Principal ,Government Engineering College Karaikudi.  
(Dated 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2012)**

In the month of December we look forward for celebrating Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ in a stable in Bethlehem .The angels sang "***Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth and goodwill towards men***". We should not forget during the celebrations that God became a man, the virgin became a mother, heaven and earth are united and the invisible became visible. This is a total reversal of earthly values.



As spoken by Prophet Isaiah –***For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given and the Government will be upon his shoulder and his name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*** .God became man that man may become divine. Christ is the light that overcomes darkness.

I have read all the articles published by our family members at our website and I would like to add mine as well in to its fold and I would like to write about my dad. I am the

eldest son of my father late Ninan Thomas ( Keevarchen), born in 1900, who was the eldest of 8 children of late A.N Thomas Appachen of Azhikkakathu Puthen Veedu, Edappavoor. My father after passing his SSLC exam from Kozencherry High School somewhere around 1916 or so, left Ayroor for higher studies in Tiruchi and Madurai. He passed B.A and L.T and was doing a high school teaching job for some time. After he passed D.P .Ed from Chennai (Madras) he shifted to Government Service in Government Brennen College in Tellicherry. Later he did his M.Ed and also worked for sometime as Head Master of Junior Certified School, Ranipet, Tamil Nadu .He retired from Service in 1956 and passed away in 1986 from Chennai.



**My dad Mr. Ninan Thomas (1900-1986)**

My father was a straight forward and harmless person with a strong Christian spirit. He has helped his own family members and his youngest brother (A T Thomas Oopappan) used to say that he was like a father to him. He had a charitable disposition and he used to be a regular Church goer. He used to be part of prayer fellowships at different places and some of the members of his fellowship who are still around even today talk about his Christian faith .

I was born in Kerala and my baptism was at Ayroor when my father was working in Tellicherry. I did my B.E and M.E and joined Tamil Nadu Government Service as

Associate Lecturer in Government Engineering College, Coimbatore .After serving the Government for 36 years I retired in 1991 and settled in Chennai. Although I had my schooling in Palghat . I had not studied Malayalam. I studied in English medium and took Sanskrit as second language following my maternal Aunt who was Lecturer in Sanskrit in a Government College ( QMC) in Chennai. I had not visited Kerala before I passed by B.E degree.



I 'm married to Ammini and my marriage was at Pathanamthitta ,where my father- in law had settled from Ayroor .Though my grandparents and paternal aunts were settled in Kerala, three of my father's younger brothers were working in Tamil Nadu ( Madras Presidency) who used to visit us in Palghat and Chennai. They were Mathaichen Ooppappan, Avarachen Ooppapen and Thomachen Ooppappan, the last named was Station master at Trichi.

I have 2 children Santosh and Annie both are Engineers married to Engineers and settled in Chennai and Bangalore respectively. I have 2 brothers and one sister now. One brother Joshi is settled in USA and other brother Nena settled in Chennai after retirement from Dept of Statistics. Elizabeth, the youngest of us is staying in Chennai as well.

Let me conclude this short article to wish everyone of our Azhikkakathu Family members a meaningful Christmas and a wonderful New Year to come.

**Prof :A.N Thomas**