

**MESSAGE TO THE FIRST EDITION FROM ANTONY CARDINAL
PADIYARA, ARCHBISHOP OF ERNAKULAM**



I am very happy to know that the history of Marattukalam family is being published. I wish all success for this noble venture. Let the information from this history book, that fathoms the depth of family relationship, lead the members of the Marattukalam family association to a life of oneness and amity.

(Signed)

ANTONY CARDINAL PADIYARA
Archbishop of Ernakulam.



**MESSAGE TO THE FIRST EDITION FROM MAR JOSEPH POWATHIL,
METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP OF CHANGANACHERRY**

If the transformation that takes place in the family domain is not properly understood and appropriate steps not taken, it is not unlikely that it will bring about a jolt in the community itself. It is on the realization of this feeling that the proposal has been mooted to observe an international family year. This has given impetus to many to devote their attention to their family. There are many who doubt whether the unclear families of the present day promote a sense of selfishness. A good section of the intelligentsia observes that it leads to some aberrations in the upbringing of the new generation. Viewed in this background, a get together of all the members of the different branches of a large family will, to a certain extent at least, help in solving the problems of small families. A family of illustrious eminence in Changanacherry is the family of Marattukalam. It is most appropriate that they hold a get together meeting of their family. I sincerely hope that, it will accentuate historical and social oneness among the members of the family. I am extremely delighted in the publication of the family history. I extend my warm felicitations to this noble venture.

(Signed)

Joseph Powathil
Metropolitan Archbishop of Changanacherry

**MESSAGE TO THE FIRST EDITION FROM VERY REV. FR. GEORGE
ALENCHERRY, VICAR GENERAL**

It gives me pleasure to know that the Marattukalam family association is publishing the history of the family. Knowledge about the history of the family goes a long way in the promotion of unity among the members. The communion of members having blood relationship is an inspiration for exemplary family life.

Needless to say, the present generation is more epicurean than our predecessors. Our forefathers took pains to earn their livelihood by hard work and set apart a due share for their children. They took in their stride the trials and tribulations of life. We who enjoy the fruits of the labour of our forefathers and accept the heritage of faith from them, derive inspiration from our family history to toil and moil for the future generations and to jealously preserve the religious faith.

The family associations have to be the nourishing factors for the larger family of the parish. The association must make it a point not to trumpet the fame or specialties of their family and thereby sow the seeds of jealousy or unhealthy rivalry among the parishioners.

Great family associations can lend a helping hand to the needy in the same family and also extend yeoman service to the poor parishioners and other people in the locality. Thereby they can witness the Christian faith in the world.

Mutual help in the spiritual growth of the members is another mission of the family association.

I am happy to congratulate the members of the Marattukalam family association who took the initiative for the publication of the family history. I wish that the family ties as evinced in the family history make a useful contribution to the healthy activities mentioned above.

(Signed)

Very Rev. Fr. George Alencherry
Vicar General



**MESSAGE TO THE FIRST EDITION FROM REV. Fr . GEORGE
MARATTUKALAM, CMI**




My hearty felicitations to the brothers and sisters of the Marattukalam family. With deep love and respect I reminisce about the earliest and reverend fathers of the Marattukalam family, late Vicar Rev. Fr. Thoma and Rev. Fr. Chacko S.J.

There is many an occurrence that we proudly recollect, learn, observe, celebrate and make an assessment of. We happily remember the commencement, growth, history and tradition of our Holy Church. We do the same about the Kerala Syrian Church which is our own. But for some unknown reason, we have not recognized the importance of a timely survey of the beginning, growth, history, achievements and contributions of some of the ancient families in the church. We can single out Marattukalam family as the first in Changanacherry that has come out of oblivion, that has come into the limelight, for objective accomplishments.

Any family is something to be proud of for the Holy Church. It is established by the Almighty. God has his scheme, protection and love for it. Hence the family gatherings are very significant. When the brothers and sisters of a family congregate, Jesus promises to be among their midst. When two or three assemble in my name, I will be there, assures our Lord. Let our family gathering be such a harmonious one.

Individuals grow when they know, communicate and share. Those who are selfish keep aloof from others. Those who are well off may cultivate a tendency to remain detached. The have-nots may keep aloof in a kind of resentment. Both sets of people make their individuality distorted. It is the union out of love that makes individuals grow and thereby better the families. It is Christ who unites us, not mere mortals. Let such a union last till eternity through this family association.

I am very happy to dedicate for the public an integrated history of Marattukalam family, celebrated among Kerala Christian families and having an honourable



position in strength as well as tradition of service in Changanacherry.

Let the members of a family know one another and promote good relationship. Relationship is not confinement. Selfless relationship encourages mental and spiritual health; provides joy, establishes the kingdom of God and promotes mutual encouragement and growth. When we get together, the tendencies of competition and discord must be consciously avoided. When the members of the family assemble, the fragrance of fraternity and pure love must fill the air. It is inappropriate to keep aloof. Let us devote some precious time once in a month, for the association with this good intention. It is not a loss. No one gains anything from mere existence or proclamation of relationships. It is when we live in and maintain good relationship that life gets meaningful and fruitful.

Man must not separate what is joined by God. A branch of a family comes into being by the union granted by God. Let our family assembly be a sacrament of such a divine union.

(Signed)

Fr. George Marattukalam, CMI

FOREWORD TO THE FIRST EDITION

The history of Marattukalam family is being published. It is almost twenty years since the family assembly (Kudumbayogam), which has as its motto 'we are one family', has been revived a second time. Those who took the lead in it are the Founder President Sri. Antony Scaria (Swapna Thankachan) and the Founder Secretary, the late M.J. James (Kanianchira Jameskutty). After that, the activities have gone on uninterruptedly. Monthly and yearly meetings have not met with any serious interruptions. The main goal is to promote and nourish unity and love among the members of the family. With this goal in view, physical, aesthetic, cultural, social and economic activities have been organized.

From the outset, the initiative was taken by the yogam to fulfill the earnest desire of the members to write a history of the family. To this end, a history committee was constituted and they have been entrusted with the activities in this regard. Collecting the details of the family units scattered all over the planet could not be done in a day or two. So was the collection of ancient historical documents. It was a laborious task of many years for the editorial board to make a thorough investigation of all the records and give them final shape. But for their firm determination, perseverance and tenacity, this enterprise could not have been fulfilled.

The editorial board consists of Messrs M.O. Mathai (Chief Editor), Issac Cherian and Joseph G.Marattukalam. In the visits to the families, research, collection of various documents, gathering detailed information from the family units, close examination of these records, writing of the book, construction of the family tree, collating the manuscript with various records, final compilation of the book and the ultimate arrangements for the publication, they offered selfless sacrifice and service. The Chief Editor himself did the linguistic composition. The invaluable services rendered by them will never fall into oblivion in the minds of the members of the family.

The successive office bearers of the Kudumbayogam have lent their helping hands in its composition. Some of the members have made generous financial contributions. Some have come forward on their own to assist the editorial board. We here remember with gratitude all those who have, in one or the other form, cooperated with the editorial board, especially Messrs G.M. Georgekutty, M.S. Varghese, M.J. Joseph, M.G. Thomas and Thomas Kuruvilla.

Many of those who yearned to see the publication and sweated for it, have

bidden farewell to us. I remain with folded hands before the sacred memory of our permanent patron Fr. Chacko S.J., Founder Secretary Sr. M.J. James and all other departed souls.

Our very sincere gratitude to Prof. C.Z. Scaria who wrote a dignified preface to the book.

The members of our Kudumbayogam extend to the eminent Archbishop Antony Cardinal Padiyara their heart-felt thanks for the invaluable message he conveyed to us.

We express our thanks to His Excellency Mar Joseph Powathil, who gave an appropriate message for the book.

For the learned and thought-provoking communication provided by the Vicar General Very Rev. Fr. George Alencherry, we offer a bouquet of thanks.

We gratefully acknowledge the valuable message of the present patron of our family assembly Rev. Fr. George Marattukalam, C.M.I.

Our sincere gratitude to the proprietor and staff of Lilly Printers who did the printing work of this book in an elegant manner. Our thanks to Cejo Offset Printers who printed attractively the photo pages and the cover page.

Expecting a warm response from all the members of the family.

(Signed)

M.A. Chacko (Thankachan)
President

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

The detailed history of Marattukalam family, very celebrated and holding an enviable position in number as well as tradition of service in Changanacherry, is hereby dedicated for the attention of the common people.

Some men in the family stood like Colossus in the field of agriculture, commerce, industry, education and medical service. Ruby Nagar, the place of my domicile and Marattukalam Bazaar raise memories about the family. That tradition continues uninterruptedly even now. The tabs in the family history reveal that some have left Kerala and India and extended their domain of service to other countries and continents. More than being a united family, they have become a big society by themselves. The family units have spread far and wide to the nook and corner of our country and to even the wide world. Hence it is now a difficult proposition to discover the roots of each family either in India or abroad. In this background the relevance of a family history is really great.

In order to take a Ph.D. in social anthropology, a research fellow of Cambridge University tried to find out the branches of a reputed Nair family in central Travancore. I remember that his efforts at last came to a wild goose chase.

It will be a great boon to such research fellows if the family history is prepared taking great care and pains.

While congratulating the patriarchs of the Marattukalam family who blazed the trail in this great venture and with the fervent hope that this enterprise will be an inspiration to other Syrian Christian families, let me present this family history before the general public.

(Signed) C.Z. Scaria

Cheruvallath, Ruby Nagar, Changanacherry.
Retired Professor, S.B. College.
Former Member, Syndicate, Kerala University.
Former Dean, Faculty of Social Science, M.G. University.

DEDICATION – TO THE FIRST EDITION

Beloved parents, loving brothers, sisters and darling children,

The editorial board has boundless pleasure in presenting the history of the Marattukalam family which was completed after hectic and arduous toil.

Many a member of our family who yearned to see this book published is no more with us. Our prayers and good wishes for them. The good fortune to see it published is ours.

Let us at the outset, remind you that we put our shoulders to the wheel in the composition of this chronicle. But help and encouragement came from each one of you. You have a share in the merits and defects of this book.

An integrated history of Marattukalam family shows that among the Christian families in Kerala it holds an honourable position.

The glimpses of ancient events recorded are made available to us mainly by the grand old Kavalayil Kochuthomachan, Kadmanchira Outhachan and Chethipuzha Outhachan.

History is not a beautiful garland made out of fragrant flowers of imagination. The pulse of human life throbbing with activities has to be presented in the proper perspective and correct background. For this the chronicler gets spoken and written records. It is really hard labour to glean facts, to make a comparative study of them and give them proper concrete shape. Continuous and unending research is needed for this.

The Marattukalam Kudumbayogam commenced in 1905 at Changanacherry. In course of time, it became defunct. But in 1955 it was restarted. The activities did not last long, even then. It is not found that anybody on both the above occasions seriously thought of writing a family history. Perhaps it was not then considered a necessity. This is the second attempt at reviving the Kudumbayogam.

By the year 1975, three generations of our forefathers and most of the fourth generation had left for their heavenly abode. We must realize that only a very few of the fourth generation remain to experience earthly life. In addition to this, many members of our family who resided in Changanacherry town have since moved to the villages, other towns, other states and even to foreign countries. Reaching the eighth generation, we have become a vast society. When, with the whirling of time, the older generation has expired and new ones have spread

far and wide around the globe, the knowledge of past events and personalities and the collection of historical details have become Herculean task. With justifiable pride, we wish to note that we have tried our best in gleaning the information gathered as accurately as possible and preserving it in an unerring manner.

Great pains have been taken to see that the book is free from factual errors. However, it is possible that some errors have crept in. Kindly bring them to our attention or that of our Kudumbayogam. We solicit your valuable suggestions to bring about improvements in future.

In loving memory of the departed souls of our family, for the delight of those who are fortunate to read this, for the information and contentment of posterity and expressing our sincere gratitude to the Almighty, we present this book in all humility before you.

Editorial Board

1. M.O. Mathai (Chief Editor) (Signed)
2. Issac Cherian (Signed)
3. Joseph G.M. (Signed)