

JAFFNA COLLEGE

PRIZE - GIVING

1984



Chief Guests:

MR. K. POORANAMPILLAI,

B.A. (Lond) & Post Grad. Cert. Selly Oak,  
Birmingham.,

and

MRS. P. POORANAMPILLAI.

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - PRIZE GIVING - 1984

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr & Mrs. Pooranampillai, Chairman and members of the Board of Directors, Parents, Alumni and Friends:

We at Jaffna College extend to all of you a cordial welcome to our Annual Prize-Giving again and do hope very much that you would welcome this time of fellowship with us, reviewing our work, our hopes and our fears - for fear and anxiety has become so much a part of our life in this country, so much so, we have to hold this function at this odd hour inside the Ottley Hall where the last Prize-Giving was held as far back as 1947. Almost all the annual prize-givings that followed were held as very pleasant evening functions in the open air quadrangle. We are grateful however, that we could still hold this function in this form and even though crowded up in this Hall. We thank you for your presence and encouragement.

Mr. Pooranampillai, it is certainly a very pleasant privilege to have a Christian gentleman of your calibre as our chief guest today, at a time when you are relishing a well-earned period of retirement after serving as a brilliant, dedicated and successful school master and Principal in two of the foremost educational institutions in this country - Hartley College, Point Pedro and St. John's College, Jaffna. That we in a school are still not tired of a school master is sufficient proof of the regard we have for you, and for the almost half a century you spent as a school master. Your image as a school master, a Principal and a great Christian gentleman has to be maintained and set high before the younger generation both students and teachers as a worthy example to be followed. You inherited a great tradition in education in the Methodist Mission in North Ceylon beginning with the Methodist Mission Tamil School, the Methodist Girls' High School, Point Pedro and finally as a student in the prestigious Hartley College where your maternal grandfather, Mr. J.C. Sherrard and later your father, Mr. S.S. Kanapathipillai served as Headmaster and Principal respectively at different periods. You then entered the University College of Ceylon and secured the B.A. London degree at a time when four subjects were offered for the degree, your subjects being English, Latin, History and Economics. These subjects of great cultural and educational value offered in 1930 would have been a great intellectual exercise in depth, breadth and quality and we may not have anything to compare with it here today as that degree would be more than equivalent to the many postgraduate degrees in Sri Lanka today, and therefore, you could not have asked for more in your preparation for a career as a school master. You were able to proceed to England later in your career as a Principal to obtain the Post-Graduate Certificate in Education at Selly Oak College, at the Birmingham University. With your experience in the field of education then, you would have contributed more than what you gained at Selly Oak.

You began your teaching career in 1929 in the Christ Church School, Matale and after three years there joined Hartley College, Point Pedro in 1932, became Vice-Principal in 1943 and served as Principal from 1944 to 1967 and then responded to the call from St. John's College, Jaffna serving as Principal there from 1967 to 1976 serving a total thirty-two years as a Principal which is a unique record. In the eyes of your colleagues in the Head Masters' Conference you were regarded as one of the most successful headmasters ever produced in Sri Lanka and we have the opportunity to endorse that compliment again today. Besides your school work you took a very keen interest in the professional organisations of teachers and principals and was a President of the Northern Province Teachers' Association in 1945 - 46; the Secretary of the Headmasters' Conference in 1952 - 54 and its President for two separate terms in 1963-1965 and later 1972 - 74. As a Christian layman you took a great share of your work in the Church and was honoured by the Methodist Conference as a Vice-President the third in succession and the highest honour available to a layman in that Church and Conference.

We want to congratulate you for what you have been and for your splendid contribution to education in general and to education in Jaffna in particular. We also want to thank you for the very considered and wise counsel you were able to give from time to time to many of us who are school masters and principals. Your guidance was also available to us as a very effective member of the Board of Directors of the College in the past. The buildings, libraries and even the Pooranampillai Block at Hartley College may be destroyed, but your indomitable spirit and your inspiring influence through generations of brilliant, grateful and devoted students at Hartley College and St. John's College will remain eternal and beyond any fickle human destruction. With your utter dedication to teaching, thoroughness in administration, and charismatic qualities as a man you personified teaching as a truly noble profession and nobility was writ large in your demeanour.

Mrs. Pooranampillai, you are no stranger to us and we have seen you participate as a violinist in many of our functions in Jaffna. As first lady at Hartley and St. John's who were a charming and hospitable hostess, ever smiling and ever willing to help out. You have become a much sort after social worker not only in Jaffna but to the entire Tamil Christian community at large here and abroad.

We are familiar with the firm pastoral admonition at wedding services - "Whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder" and we are also familiar with the good old saying that "Marriages are made in Heaven" - and so in this heavenly task you have become a very creative co-worker with God. Jaffna College is an enchanting place for the meeting of boys and girls - I mean the meeting of boys and girls for study, social, cultural and sports activities together, under the watchful eye of the Principal and the staff - and yet in the later life of many of our students we have had to bless many a pleasant and lovely wedding, where the bridegroom and bride met for the first time in no other place than at Jaffna College - and where the invisible heavenly

communication that evaded even the watchful eyes of the Principal and staff. This aspect of life at Jaffna College has now been captured beautifully in a pretty video-film and so we can still give you Mrs. Pooranampillai a tip or two in this field. However, we who have daughters will always be deeply interested in your activity and wish more strength to you. This, I assure you ladies and gentlemen was not the motive for my inviting Mrs. Pooranampillai here today.

We know you have been a great source of strength to your worthy husband and children and you deserve our congratulations and thanks as well, for the splendid example of a good Christian family in our midst. Our students are privileged in having a wife and mother of your gracious qualities to distribute the prizes today.

Thank you very much Mr & Mrs. Pooranampillai.

#### IN MEMORIAM :

As usual, it is our duty to record at least briefly the names of those who have passed beyond the veil since our last Prize-Giving.

Mr. Lyman S. Kulathungan departed this life on 5th May, 1983. A Memorial Service was held by the College in October 1983. Mr. Kulathungan was eighty years at the time of his death. He entered Jaffna College as a student in 1915 and began his teaching career here in 1922; was appointed Vice-Principal in 1953; retired in 1963 and served for a few years as a member on the Board of Directors being also its Vice-Chairman. Besides being an efficient teacher of English and excellent producer of English plays, he was also an outstanding preacher, orator, editor and historian. He succeeded Mr. J.V.Chelliah as editor of the College Miscellany and served for thirty-two years. He was also editor of the 'Morning Star' for forty-two years. He was a member of the SIUC & JBCSI Council for fifty years. He also served briefly as the pastor of the Vaddukoddai Cathedral Church. His contribution to the college, the church and community stands out as a beautiful and solid monument. We remember him with much gratitude and affection.

Mrs. E.G.David succumbed to the shock and injuries incurred in the July, 1983 riots in Colombo and passed away on the 4th August in Jaffna. She was a jubilarian and served the college for almost thirty years from 1920 to 1950, being a pioneering lady teacher of English in the Primary School. She did a splendid job with the little children to make their education attractive, joyful and bright, and came into the teaching profession at a time when the popular slogans in education were "a brighter and better childhood" and "More and better English". Generations of students will remember her with gratitude and praise.

Mr. K.A. Selliah passed away on 5th October, 1983 and a memorial service was held for him by the College on 6th October, 1984. Mr. Selliah's association with Jaffna College remains unparalleled ever since he entered the portals of Jaffna College as a student in 1918. He was appointed teacher

in 1926, Vice-Principal in 1939, Principal in 1947, Co-Principal in 1964 and retired in 1966. From 1966 to his death he was Welfare Officer; was Treasurer of the Board from 1974, and a senior member of the Board from 1939 till the time of his death. He was also for a period the Manager of the College. He was an excellent sportsman, a brilliant teacher of Physics and a benevolent administrator. Besides his devoted and committed services to the College he was one of the strongest pillars of the SIUC & JDCSI Church being in the Council for about half a century - serving also as Chairman of the Diocesan Medical Board administering the hospitals and also served as the Treasurer of the Diocesan Council. He has carved out a unique place in the annals of this institution a place which will serve as a beacon of light of selfless devoted service for several years to come. We remember him with much gratitude, pride and affection.

Mr. C. R. Ratnasingham passed away on 10th May, 1984. He was also one of our very devoted teachers and a former supervisor of the Primary School. He belonged to a worthy band of English Trained teachers who could be considered the very back bone of education in Jaffna. He was a well trained, efficient and versatile teacher and concentrated in teaching Grades 6 - 8. Third form students under the care of the trained teachers of Mr. Ratnasingham's calibre were able to read, speak and write English and Tamil well; they knew the elementary rules of health; they could appreciate Art and Music, and were well mannered. In fact they knew the art of good living. These students imbibed all these qualities from teachers like Mr. Ratnasingham. Mr. Ratnasingham deserves the well-known traditional and classical salutation to an able and conscientious teacher, "Good-bye Mr. Chips". We remain grateful to him for his services to the college.

Mention must be made of two of our humbler workers who died during the course of this year - the retired ground-boy, Nagamuttu was a legendary personality here having lived through several decades. He could relate episodes and anecdotes of missionaries, principals, sports masters and sportsmen which knit together our hoary history to present day people. There was a dignity about his composure, and in his own humble way was a pillar of strength to all of us, particularly to the sportsmen.

Cook Manickam died very suddenly without any warning. He was head cook and a jubilarian among the minor staff. He was known and appreciated by a large group of missionaries and visitors from USA for his excellent house-keeping and cooking. He catered for all the major functions in the College and every meal was a work of art. We certainly will miss him;

We regret to record the deaths of the following students - S. Kumaran, V. Kaneshanathan and M. D. Savarion. They were very loveable students and made their presence felt by their commendable qualities. We miss them much.

We convey our sympathies to the members of all the bereaved families.

## STAFF:

There are sixty-three members on the staff, 46 in the Secondary School and 17 in the Primary School, and 14 members on the non-academic staff making a total of 77. Of the 63 members on the academic staff, 39 are graduates 14 of them holding post graduate qualifications; 20 are trained or specialist teachers and four with Advanced Level qualifications. Three of these teachers are undergoing further studies - one at the Jaffna University, one at Women's Christian College, India and one at Voochrees College, India. 17 of the present members on the staff are jubilarians, many having served the college for thirty years or more. Of the 63 members on the academic staff 36 are men and 27 women.

Messrs. G. Jeyasingham, Chief clerk, P.A. Amirthanathan and S.A. Paulraj have been re-employed for stipulated periods after retirement.

Mr. N.A. Vimalendran and Miss R.A. Ariaratnam obtained their B.Sc degrees as external candidates from the University of Peradeniya. Miss S.S. Selvadurai returned from the University of Wales, Cardiff, U.K after obtaining her M.Ed degree. Her thesis being "An Investigation into the English pronunciation of Tamil speakers in Sri Lanka." Miss M.S. Elias, the supervisor of the Junior Secondary School who was away in USA on an assignment in Missions by the UCBWM returned in June, 1983; Mr. G. Nadarajah who was on study leave at Bishop Heber College, Trichi, India returned to us after obtaining first classes in B.A (Econ) and B.Com. degrees; and Miss B. Anton returned after completing her B.Sc degree at Madras Christian College, India. Miss S. Benjamin, Asst. Librarian returned to us after a course of studies in Library Science at the University of Colombo doing her practical training at the British Council Library.

We welcome the following new teachers who joined us during the course of this year - Mr. M. Sivagnanaratnam B.Sc (Lond); Miss S. Balasubramaniam, B.A. Special, University of Sri Lanka; Mr. P.G. Gnanaseelan, M.Sc. (Sri Lanka); Mrs. D.I. Ganesan with Ordinary Level and Montessori training; Mrs. I.C. Patrick, a specialist teacher with Art and Ceramics qualifications; Mrs. K. Thuraiaratnam, trained teacher; Mr. M.D. Thambirajah with sports coaches qualifications. On the non-academic staff we welcome Mr. L.B. Thambyrajah as the Accountant; Mrs. S. Cassiere as clerk in the senior school; Miss S. Jesudasan as the junior school clerk and Mr. M. Jeyaranjan with Advanced Level qualifications as Lab. Assistant in Physics.

We wish all our new members, many of whom are old students of the college, a very happy and useful stay at Jaffna College.

Mr. J.A. Chelliah who served us as a teacher of English and Assistant Librarian left us during the course of the year and we convey to him our gratitude for a very effective and useful period of service here.

My thanks to Mr. A.M. Brodie for acting as supervisor of the Junior Secondary School when Miss Elias was on leave.

Two more members of our staff have joined the large band of jubilarians.

Mr. A. I. Sinniah joined the staff soon after Agriculture was introduced as a subject in the curriculum. He is an agricultural science graduate with Diploma in Education of the University of Ceylon, and has taught this subject in the Grades 6 - 10 during this period. He is also an author of agricultural books for these grades and concentrated on the theoretical and examination aspects of Agriculture. He is also an experienced examiner and is at the moment functioning as an additional chief examiner for the G.C.E. Advanced Level examinations in Agriculture and chief examiner for the G.C.E. Ordinary Level examinations, and is also an external examiner for Guru Vidyalayams. Besides teaching Agriculture he also served as a House Master of Abraham House; warden of the Howland and Chelliah hostels, and is presently the warden of the Sanders Hostel. He was manager of the Miscellany for a while and also took a keen interest in the religious activities of the college. He is presently the head of the department of pre-vocational studies for boys, and Health Education. He takes an active part in the affairs of the Northern Province Teachers' Association and the Round Table of the staff here. We congratulate and thank him for his long years of service and wish him well in the years ahead of him.

Mr. P. A. Amirthanathan needs no introduction to any Jaffna audience. He has been our most versatile artist and his handiwork adorns many a home and institution. In photography, painting, sculpture, ceramics and wood-carvings his contribution has been most impressive. Next to the Library, the Art room has been a show piece at Jaffna College to visitors, particularly to those from abroad who have a deep sense of appreciation for Art. He has contributed much to exhibitions in and outside the college. Besides being an artist he has been a very pleasant, social mover and has worked hard for the progress of the institution. The portraits in the Library, the halls of residence and in all our publications were brought to life by his skill. As an expert in ceramics and art he was in great demand by the Department of Education and in Y.M.C.A. camps. Even though he reached the retirement age of sixty last year, the Board of Directors re-employed him for a further year as his services were required by the institution. We congratulate and thank him for his splendid services and we will have opportunities soon of felicitating him on his retirement.

The usual thanksgiving service was held for both these teachers at the end of 1983 and the college entertained the staff and visitors to tea after the service.

Mr. T. Visuvanathan, one of our very senior teachers and head of the Science Department and special post holder was felicitated and honoured by the Northern Province Teachers' Association with the title 'Sahayamani' for the invaluable services rendered to the N.P.T.A., and its Benevolent and Provident Fund Associations. His hard work and integrity in these matters have won him a place of honour in all these teacher associations and also within the college where he is President of the Benevolent and Provident Fund Associations. He has become the most forceful spokesman for all professional matters concerning teachers in private schools in general and to teachers at Jaffna College in particular, and we thank him for his devoted services to the teaching profession.



ON ROLL :

The number on roll is 1,312 with 826 in the Secondary School and 486 in the Primary School, and this is 274 more than at this time last year.

ADMISSIONS :

During the year the admissions had to be made in two stages - one immediately after the July disturbances and the other at the beginning of this year. Immediately after the July disturbances we admitted 147 boys and 70 girls making a total of 217 - 106 in the Primary School and 111 in the Senior School. Some of these students had to be accommodated till they returned to the schools in the South. At the beginning of this year we admitted a total of 183 students - 126 in the Primary School and 51 in the Secondary School. The following organisations helped us considerably by donating furniture, books, shoes and other material to the displaced students. We want to express our gratitude to the following organisations for the help rendered - Norwegian People's Relief Association, the International Human Assistance Programme (IHAP); The Department of Education, Northern Region and the Board of Trustees in U.S.A. With this aid we were able to grant immediate relief to a very large number of displaced students and we could carry on the school without any inconvenience.

LONDON ADVANCED LEVEL, ORDINARY LEVEL & ASSOCIATED EXAMINING BOARD CLASSES:

These English medium classes prove to be very relevant and useful to a variety of students, and we prepare on the average about fifty students per year. During certain times of the year the number sometimes reaches almost a hundred. Not all these students take the examinations, because many of them after qualifying at the local advanced level examination want the additional experience of doing their subjects entirely in English. Therefore, with regard to statistics of examination results, it is not possible for us to keep upto date records as most of the students appear as private candidates and the results are not communicated to the college. The student population again is a floating one as many of them come from outside Jaffna and Sri Lanka, and they return home immediately after the examinations. However, we receive information from some of the students who have left us, and we are happy to note that they have all found these examinations and classes most useful. Five students obtained distinctions in Pure Mathematics and three students obtained distinctions in Applied Mathematics. J. C. Loroy obtained three distinctions in the Associated Examining Board examination which is a creditable performance. These results have encouraged our teachers and students and we intend to do still better in the years to come. These classes conducted in English also serve as an excellent preparation for many students who want to continue their education in India and other countries where the medium of instruction is English. There are requests from parents that we provide English medium classes for a few more grades lower down and we are exploring possibilities of providing this service.

## EXAMINATION RESULTS :

Since the Prize-Giving last year was held early in March, I could not report fully the results of the 1982 GCE Ordinary Level and Advanced Level examinations, and hence I include some of those details here.

### G.C.E. O/L Examination, December, 1982:

103 sat for the examination, 84 passed in five or more subjects with 73 qualifying for the A/L classes, 47 for science and 26 for Arts and Commerce. The results you would note were certainly above average.

### G.C.E. A/L Examination, August, 1982 :

132 sat for the examination; 52 passed in four subjects and 25 passed in three subjects and 17 students entered the University, the details being: Medicine 2, Engineering 2, Bio Science 4, Agriculture Science 1, Physical Science 7 and Arts 1.

### G.C.E. O/L Examination, December, 1983:

107 sat for the examination and 94 passed in five or more subjects and 65 qualified for the Advanced Level classes; 52 for Science and 13 for Arts & Commerce. The results again were encouraging as there were hardly anyone left over to repeat the Ordinary Level classes in the college. The so called Upper 10 class in recent years has become so depleted as most students qualify on the first attempt and the rest find some useful post Ordinary Level course in our Technical and other Institutes.

### G.C.E. A/L Examination, August, 1984:

100 sat for the examination, and 62 passed in three or four subjects and 43 received the initial forms for admission with aggregates of 175 or more and 20 were admitted to the Universities in Sri Lanka, the details being: Medicine 4, Engineering 2, Bio Science 7, Agriculture Science 2, Physical Science 4 and Arts & Commerce 1.

There is certainly an advantage in keeping our numbers limited in the Ordinary Level and Advanced Level classes and it is encouraging to note that a large percentage of our students in the Ordinary Level and Advanced Level classes obtain at least the minimum qualifications to enable them to continue their education usefully elsewhere. The scholarship schemes through the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India has been a great service to many and these students have done creditably well, many obtaining first classes in their final examination. We are grateful to the Trustees in the USA for the enhanced grant given to the Diocese for this purpose. Most of our students higher up in the order of merit, who were admitted to Universities in Sri Lanka, have obtained admission to professional courses in Indian Universities. This exodus has grave consequences to the academic potential of our own universities.

It is with some satisfaction that we note that the School drop-out rate, if there is any, is most negligible. With the wide educational opportunities provided here and our scholarship schemes and facilities our students are able to find useful avenues of employment or further education here or abroad.

CURRICULUM

We have introduced Computer Science in the regular timetable for the Grade 11 and 12 classes and an extra course is also available for school-leavers after school hours. We are grateful to Mr. M. Thavajothyrajah, an old boy of ours who is in the computer business in Peking and USA for the generous gift of a computer which is worth more than US\$15,000 in memory of his father the late Mr.T.C. Mageswaran. We hope to have the computer installed in an air-conditioned room soon, and to use it for computerising the library and for other similar services in the college. Mr. N.A.Vimalendran of our staff is pioneering in the teaching of Computer Science, and our thanks to him for introducing this very useful course of studies to our students and teachers.

Political Science and Business Studies have also been introduced for the London A/L classes.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

SPORTS:

Cricket :

Our Cricket team under the captaincy of B. Ganesan played seven inter-college matches, of which it won one, drew three and lost three. The Under 17 cricket team captained by G.J. Gunathilagan played four inter-college matches, won one and lost three. The Under 15 team played five matches but were not very successful.

We are happy that the subsequent cricket teams this year have done remarkably well.

Athletics :

The senior Inter-House Athletic Meet was held at the end of July with Dr & Mrs K. Ratnasabapathy as the chief guests. Dr. Ratnasabapathy was one of our most popular soccer players. The Hastings House emerged champions. The individual champions are as follows:

- Post seniors - N. Jayakumar (Hastings)
- Seniors - (B. Ganesan (Hitchcock)
- (M. Paramalingam (Hastings)
- Under 17 Boys - G.J. Jesurajah (Abraham)
- Under 16 Boys - S. Augustine (Hastings)
- Under 14 Boys - (R. Sothilingam (Hitchcock)
- (R. Arasingham (Brown)
- Under 13 Boys - T. Murugathas (Hitchcock)
- Under 12 Boys - R. Ratchagan (Hastings)
  
- Senior Girls - A. Marina Vathany (Hastings)
- Inter Girls - S. Suntharavathany (Hastings)
- Under 14 Girls - J. Suganthini (Brown)
- Under 13 Girls - K. Navodna (Abraham)

Tug-of-War Champions - Hastings House  
Relay champions - Hastings House.

### Cross Country Festival :

The Cross Country Festival and the races were held this year. Various competitions such as the talent contests, western and oriental music competitions, Tamil and English elocution contests, the Inter-House soccer, cricket tournaments, and cycle races and the Cross Country races for both girls and boys were all held. Mas. G.J. Jesurajah won the Senior Cross Country event.

### Tennis:

The Tennis Club is most active and there are several students on the courts. The tournaments were held by the YMCA and the student Tennis Club for students and teachers. A notable achievement was the championships gained by our girls at the tournament held by the North Sri Lanka School of Tennis played on the Fort Club Courts. M. Jeyanthi won the Women's Singles championship, T. Romela and R. Kajani won the Women's doubles championships and D. Keshini and M. Jeyanthi were the runners up at the Women's doubles event, and in the mixed doubles T. Romela and her partner won the championship. We are happy we can provide these facilities to our students.

### Badminton:

Many students play badminton and the YMCA conducted some good tournaments. The Technical Institute students also participated.

### Hockey:

The Under 19 team captained by B. Ganesan played four matches - winning three and drawing the other. The Under 17 team captained by D. Balashankar played two matches, drawing one and losing the other.

### Basketball:

Attempts are being made to revive Basketball and the response is good.

### Soccer:

Due to the unsettled conditions in this part of the country, we could not play a single inter-college match. We had several friendly matches. The first team was captained by B.L. Mohanakumar and the second team by Robert Kennedy.

### Quadrangular & Zonal Meets :

We could not conduct the quadrangular and zonal meets due to the unsettled conditions.

### Netball:

The Netball teams had a very successful year. The Under 15, 17 & 19 teams entered the circuit level competitions and won the championships. The Under 17 team came up to the semi-finals at the district level, and the Under 19 team captained by R. Kajani became the Jaffna District Champions. The Under 15 team was coached by Miss B. Anton, and the Under 17 & 19 teams by Miss S.P. Alasingam.

Our students, with the enthusiasm of the displaced students from the South also had an enjoyable game of rugger with St. John's College.

It is sad to see that the enthusiasm for sports in Jaffna schools has dwindled down very much and in some of the games such as basketball, hockey and tennis, rugger and in athletics we have very few schools to play or compete with, and generally these games mentioned are only between St. John's College, St. Patrick's College and Jaffna College.

I want to place on record my thanks to all the coaches - Messrs. T. Nithiaratnam, A. Jeyarajan, G. Rajanayagam, S. Jesuthasan and Miss B. Anton and Miss S.P. Gulasingha, and to the Physical Director, Mr. T. Anandaratnam.

### Religious Activities :

As usual we are blessed with a tradition of regular worship through the daily morning chapel services, SCM and YMCA meetings, staff prayers and vesper services. The students take a very great share in conducting the morning chapel services. The members of the SCM meet on Tuesday mornings for discussion and worship; the vesper services on Sunday evenings are conducted in English and Tamil; the Christian Teachers' Guild has been active in Jaffna and this has helped our staff members too. Many of our staff members participate actively in the programmes of the Study Institute. During Christmas the SCM staged a musical play 'No Vacancy' in the Ottley Hall along with other musical items. At the Christmas Vespers a playlet called 'A Special Gift for Hans' was put up.

I am grateful to Messrs. G. Rajanayagam, S. Jebanesan, Mrs. J. Ratnasabapathy, Mrs. L.B. Thanbyrajah, Miss S.P. Gulasingam, Mrs. S. Jebanesan and Dr. R. Porter for all the enthusiastic help rendered in carrying out our religious activities. Mr. S. Jebanesan was elected to serve on the Synod Theological commission by the Church of South India Synod which met in Hyderabad this year.

Mr. G. Rajanayagam deserves our sincere gratitude for his devoted services as an unofficial chaplain and pastor of the Cathedral Church, Vaddukoddai. This is a good example to all of us of what a dedicated layman can do in his spare time.

### Choir & Western Music:

Regular practices were conducted and great enthusiasm is shown in Western Music because of the availability of musical instruments. The college band played at important functions and had arranged special programmes. Our choir participated in the Combined Carol Service at the end of the year. Mr. Lylie Godridge, the well-known Colombo singer and the Director of Music of the Colombo YMCA spent a few days with us conducting seminars and singing sessions to our choir and to all those interested in singing. These sessions proved to be very enjoyable and useful. In the Western Music K. Premala obtained the first place in the Piano contest conducted by the Department of Education, Jaffna and could not participate in the All-Island contest due to the July disturbances.

My thanks are due to Mrs. S.V. Jebanesan, Miss S. Brodie and Dr. R. Porter for their very energetic support to the choir.

### Literary Associations:

The Lyceum, the Forum, the Brotherhood, the Academy and the London Advanced Level Union met regularly. The Lyceum, Forum and Brotherhood had their very popular and colourful annual socials at the end of the year. The Academy and the London A/L Union dinners did not take place for obvious reasons. The Commerce Union has been meeting regularly and conducted its annual social.

The Tamil Manrum had a very successful year and has been very creative in its activities. The Manrum edited a student journal in Tamil which is released every term, and Mas.S.Nesanather won the first place in the Gan Udawa essay competitions in Tamil. Nesanather's foremost contribution was the production of a Tamil video film titled "Kalluri Vasanthathil" which was released to the public at a special function on 24th May with Professor Sivathamby as the chief guest. For an amateur production the film is very creditable as it portrays life within the College gathering together several interesting activities. We congratulate Nesanather on his very creative and artistic production and wish him well in the future. It will be of some interest to you to note that one of the finest cinematographers in the South Indian film industry is Mr. Balu Mahendran, who is an old student of Jaffna College. Mr. Mahendran while a student here was very active in the Tamil Manrum and the Photographic Club, and participated actively in several dramatic performances and in a film produced by the college - 'PASANILLA'. We also have in South India another old student of ours who is a producer of films - Mr. V. Kuganathan. The Tamil Manrum can be proud of having produced extremely good artists through the years.

I want to thank all the staff advisers who have helped with the literary associations - Messrs. T. Anandaratan, R.K. Rajasenan, A.M. Brodie, N. Thatparanathan, G. Rajanayagan, S. Jebanesan, K. Thangarajah and Mrs. S. Kesavarajan for all the time and guidance given to their respective groups and associations. Our students have also participated in a variety of competitions held by the department of Education and other organisations and won places of merit.

### PUBLICATIONS:

We have several publications to our credit. The 'Young Idea' the student journal continues its publications and serves its purpose. The Miscellany is published regularly and a special issue called the Selliah-Kulathungam Memorial Number was published this year. It has been highly commended by alumni, friends and Principals of schools. Mr. S. Jebanesan's thesis - 'The Contribution made to Tamil by the American Missionaries who served in Sri Lanka' was published in Tamil and released at a special Assembly. Bishop Kulandran's very commendable work - 'The History of Jaffna College 1923 - 1980' was also released at a well conducted special assembly this year. Mr. J.V. Selliah's 'A Century of English Education' and Rev. C.D. Velupillai's 'A History of American Ceylon Mission' were reprinted and made available to the general public. We owe a deep sense of gratitude specially to Bishop Kulandran and Mr. S. Jebanesan for all the efforts made to have these books reprinted and seen through the Press. Our thanks are also due to Mr. A.M. Brodie, the Manager of the Miscellany and to Mr. S. Jebanesan, the editor.

At a time when libraries and books are being burnt, we at Jaffna College continue to emphasise the importance of books and continue to publish books. The following quotation on "Book Burning" by the well-known novelist, John Steinbeck is not out of order - "It is wonderful that even today, with all the competition of radio, television, motion pictures and records, the book has kept its precious character. A book is somehow sacred. A dictator can kill and maim people, can sink to any kind of tyranny, and only be hated. But when books are burned the ultimate in tyranny has happened. This we cannot forgive."

#### THE BUNKER MEMORIAL LECTURE :

The Bunker Memorial Lecture this year was delivered by Professor John Bicknell on the subject - "Reflections on the Humanities in a Democratic Culture". The lecture took place at the Trimmer Hall, Jaffna, and Mr. S. Kadirgamar proposed the vote of thanks. The lecture was published and is now available to a wider audience.

#### MARTIN LUTHER ANNIVERSARY:

The 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther was celebrated at a special assembly in the college with songs and speeches made on the life and work of the great protestant reformer.

#### THE DANIEL POOR LIBRARY:

The Daniel Poor Library is now one of our brightest spots on the college campus, and it is growing to be the heart of our campus as the library has always been at Jaffna College. I reported last year that we had 21,000 volumes, and the number has gone up to 29,000 this year, this was possible because a further 3,650 books were returned to us by the Jaffna University and a few hundreds were received as gifts from alumni and friends and a major portion was purchased by us. Special mention must be made to our good friend and an alumnus - Dr. Durai Raja Singam who says in his letter that "the longer he lives the greater will be the number of books he will be able to donate". A few days ago he celebrated his 80th birthday and we sent him our good wishes and congratulations. He has been a great lover and collector of books and has inspired the building up of several libraries around the world. He continues to send some of the rare books from his collection from time to time and also helps us to purchase new books. Besides these gifts his affection and loyalty to the college knows no bounds. We remain deeply grateful to him.

Miss Ruby Appadurai, a very loyal alumnus of the college donated 85 books in memory of her parents, Mr & Mrs. J.N. Appadurai who served on the staff of the college for several years.

Mr. A. Shanmugarajah, the former Director of Telecommunications and Mrs. Shanmugarajah donated about 90 books to the college recently.

We are grateful to all these donors.

The task of cataloging the books began with the help of Miss T. Kandiah, the Asst. Librarian at the Jaffna Campus and an alumnus of ours. We now hope to complete that work with the help of Miss S. Benjamin, our Asst. Librarian who had been trained at the University of Colombo with practical experience at the British Council Library. We welcome Miss Benjamin back after her eight months stay in Colombo. We are also grateful to Mr. J. A. Chelliah who served us briefly. He also helped us in the teaching of English.

A number of our students and friends make use of our Library. Many of these students are University students and the closure of the campuses for various reasons has necessitated the use of our library by our former students. Many scholars and teachers engaged in post-graduate studies are doing (directed by people in charge) their dissertations here. Therefore, the Daniel Poor Library meets a very important need in the life of our community and we take pride and joy in seeing the Library grow from strength to strength.

14,032 volumes and 3,933 periodicals have been returned to us so far by the University of Jaffna and we expect several thousands more to be returned soon.

I want to thank the Librarian, Mr. N. S. Ratnasingham and his assistants for the great service they are rendering.

#### SCOUTS, GUIDES & LITTLE FRIENDS :

These groups have not been as active, mainly due to the disruption of our extra curricular activities due to the disturbances in the country. We hope that times would change and the students could stay on in school longer for such activities.

#### SCHOOL COUNCIL :

The School Council as usual conducted all its functions very well. Mas. K. Muralatharan was President from September, 1982 to August, 1983, and Mas. B. Ganesan took over from August, 1983 and served through the first two terms of 1984. I want to thank the Presidents and members of the Council and the adviser, Mr. T. Anandaratan for their efforts in maintaining student discipline and in helping to organise the college functions through a very difficult period.

#### HOSTELS:

We have nearly a 100 students resident in the hostels on the average through the year. The boarders continue to be an active group in the campus in all the sports, cultural and religious activities of the college. The Boarders' Day was celebrated on a low tone this year. There were slight changes in the administration of hostels. Miss M. S. Elias was appointed Warden of the Howland Hall. It may be remembered that Miss Elias was the first warden of this hostel, then called Women's Hostel when it was newly built in 1956 as part of the Undergraduate Department then.



Our thanks are due to the former warden, Mrs. L.B. Thamby for her services. Mr. G. Nadarajah was appointed sub-warden of the Bunker Hall. My thanks are also due to the Vice-Principal, the wardens, the sub-wardens, Mr. V. Ganeshar ratnam and to the library monitors and supervisors for all the services rendered to the resident community.

#### CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S FUND OF CANADA:

We have been able to help many needy students with hostel and other facilities for education this year due to the generous contribution through the Christian Children's Fund of Canada. We were also happy to have Mr. Peter Harris of this fund visit us. The affairs of this fund are being administered by a special committee that looks into the needs of the students concerned.

#### SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY:

The Parent Teachers' Association now called the School Development Society had a very successful annual meeting with more than 400 parents present. An Executive committee was elected at this meeting; a social was held for the parents of the displaced students along with the members of the alumni association. We thank all parents for the interest shown in the life of the college.

#### KILINOCHCHI PROJECT :

A five acre plot of land very close to the main road and adjacent to the Paranthan Railway Station was purchased in order to house a suitable extension project of Jaffna College beyond Elephant Pass. We hope to implement this project soon and a special committee has been formed by the Board of Directors to plan out the project. It will be an educational project with facilities for residence.

#### PRIMARY SCHOOL :

The Primary School that was in existence till the end of 1968 which later was incorporated into the Junior School including Grades 6 & 7 is now functioning again as Primary School this year. It has a School Council with Mas. W. Mathitharan as President and Miss R.A. Ariaratnam as the staff adviser. The Primary School children also participated in the Cross Country Festival. It also has a separate English room and Mrs. L.B. Thambyrajah is in charge of that room. Special efforts have been made to improve hand-writing and spelling. Some audio visual equipment has been added to improve the educational programmes. Special assemblies were held to commemorate some important events. A hand-written Tamil magazine was produced this year. A Christmas programme was also organised at the end of the year. A separate scholarship examinations was conducted for the Grade V students and the following students were declared as scholars - V. Thayalan, S. Thayalan and W. Mathitharan.

The annual Inter-House athletic meet had as its chief guests, Mr. K. Gunaratnam, J.P.U.M., Deputy Dist. Governor Lions International Dist. 306 B and a distinguished old boy of the College and Mrs. Gunaratnam. The meet was a very

colourful one and Abraham House emerged champions winning also the relay championship. The Best performance cup in Long Jump went to Miss T. Shirala. The Junior Champions were S. Muralitharan (Abraham House), M. Sivakanthan (Hastings House and S. Mathini (Hitchcock House).

I want to thank the supervisor, Mr. W.N. Thevakadacham for the very efficient handling of the Primary School and for making the life of the children there very colourful and enjoyable.

#### WELFARE ASSOCIATION :

On the death of Mr. K.A. Selliah, Mr. N.S. Ratnasingham, our Librarian was appointed as the Welfare Officer. Mr. Ratnasingham is the retired Principal of a very large institution - Jaffna Central College and with his experience as an alumnus of the college was most helpful in the Welfare work. He also possesses the necessary temperament and geniality necessary for a public relations officer in the college. We had to admit about 233 students after the July holocaust and only nominal contributions were taken. Most parents have been very cooperative and we were able to meet our budgets. I want to express my gratitude to Mr. Ratnasingham for the services rendered in an honorary capacity. We remain grateful to the late Mr. K.A. Selliah for the several years of devoted work in the Welfare Officer.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS & DONATIONS TO PRIZE FUNDS :

Since my last report more than Rs. 75,000/- has been donated towards endowments to scholarships and prizes. A minimum contribution towards memorial and other prizes is Rs. 1,000/- and you will note from the brochure that several alumni have contributed towards these prizes. Special mention must be made of the larger sums donated towards special scholarships and these sums again have come voluntarily. Dr. N. Ethirweerasingham, the Olympic athlete, even though not an old student of Jaffna College donated Rs. 15,000/- in memory of his parents, and also in memory of his brother, the late Mr. N. Pararajasingham who was an old student and sportsman at Jaffna College. It may be relevant to quote from Mr. Ethirweerasingham's letter - "I was saddened to hear the death of V.G. George and W. T. Sanders. They were my friends and had in their own way encouraged me to do well in sports. Mr. George's high jump records at JSSA and Public Schools were high targets that I aimed at. His presence as official at sports meets were always an encouragement. W. T. Sanders, after he won the 100 yards National Championship visited Jaffna Central college and led us through exercises and generally gave pep talks. As a 12 or 13 year old all the impressions he made was very helpful in my athletic career. I mourn their death with their families and your college".

Mr. S. Kula Singam (M.B.E.) of Malaysia contributed a sum of Rs. 10,000/-. Dr. K. Poologasundaram donated a sum of Rs. 15,000/- in memory of the late Mr. K.A. George and Mrs. Elsie Thurairatnam and children Rs. 15,000/- in memory of the late Mr. K. C. Thurairatnam, our former Junior Vice-Principal.

We want to express our thanks to all those donors and to all others who keep our prize funds expanding year to year. We have almost come to a stage where we can run the Prize-Giving entirely on the investments from these funds and another note-worthy feature about the list of memorial prizes is that almost every name that needs to be memorialised has found a place. We are conscious that there are a few gaps in the list and hope that the families, friends and former students concerned may fill those gaps soon.

#### K.A. SELLIAH MEMORIAL FOUNDATION :

The Board of Directors at its last meeting initiated this foundation in memory of the late Mr. K.A. Selliah and we have very ambitious target of US\$100,000. The proceeds of this foundation will go mainly towards scholarships.

#### A L U M N I :

The Alumni Associations in Colombo and Jaffna organised very lively social functions to felicitate Professor and Mrs. John Bicknell. The Parent Association has been meeting regularly in Jaffna, while the Colombo Association suffered a very severe blow with the July, 1983 holocaust. Several of our prominent active members have left the country, while many had their houses and property destroyed, and a few lost their lives. We record with deep regret the Alumni who were killed during the disturbances. They are - Messrs. D. Ganesh, Science graduate, attorney-at-law and Law Librarian at Hultsdorp; Mr. N. Sivanesan, Senior Technical Assistant at the Tyre Corporation, Kelaniya; Mr. M. Arumainayagam, Senior Assessor, Inland Revenue and former lecturer at Jaffna College and Mr. S. Chandramouli, Technical Assistant at Kotmale. We want to express our deepest sympathies to all the families affected. The Colombo Association is recovering slowly and the Executive Committee plans to meet soon even though depleted in numbers.

We want to record the honour bestowed on three of our alumni of the past in whose memory the Government issued postage stamps during the last two years. All three stand out in our history as very accomplished, outstanding men. They are Rao Bahdur C.W. Thamocharampillai, the Tamil scholar of the Batticotta Seminary and the first graduate of the Madras University with the B.A. and B.L. Sir Waitilingam Duraisamy, the first speaker in the House Representatives, and the Hon. K. Balasingham, member of the Legislative Council and its Executive, and one who was so intimately associated with the College as Chairman of the Board of Directors continuously for 22 years from 1920 to 1942. Mr. Balasingham was also the first Manager of the college appointed during Rev. John Bicknell's administration.

Mr. A. Selvaratnam, an engineer and Barrister-at-Law and an active member in the London Alumni Association was honoured by the Queen of England and the House of Lords with the British Empire Medal and the Justice of the Peace respectively for meritorious service rendered to his community in UK. We congratulate him most heartily and remember him with great affection.

More than three hundred alumni gathered together for lunch on the 28th of July this year to celebrate Jaffna College Alumni Day in London. All first hand reports and letters about this social gathering say that it was a colourful and grand re-union. The Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. J.M. Sabaratnam was present at this function and was invited to speak on behalf of the college, while Dr. K. Shanmuganathan, a don in engineering and a former President of the School Council responded. The Principal's message of greetings and circular letter were printed and circulated to all those present. We owe a deep sense of gratitude to the alumni in London for the loyalty shown and for the expression of solidarity with the college, and thank all those who helped to organise the function - the chief of them being Mrs. Rancee Kulanyagam (nee Welch) and Messrs. A. Selvaratnam, S. Anandarajah and Noel Rajaratnam.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

There have been changes in the composition of the Board of Directors. With the death of Mr. Selliah and the sabbatical of Bishop Kulandran, and the going abroad of Professor J.B. Selliah, the staff representative, and Mr. R.D. Karunairajan, the Alumni Representative, vacancies were created on the Board. My thanks are due to the members of the Board who had to leave us and a special word of thanks is due to the Chairman, Bishop Kulandran for another six years of service rendered to the Board. It was almost a full-time job for him and I think he fully enjoyed the work and gave his utmost in conducting the affairs of the Board, though I had to live with his daily interruptions in the college office. It was an invaluable experience to be so closely associated with one of his experience, spiritual and intellectual calibre. I am more than conscious of the fact that this was a privilege given to a very few and I am certainly richer for this meaningful relationship, with not only the Chairman of the Board, but also my pastor and later Bishop for almost my entire life of 56 years. It is therefore, my pleasant duty to record here that I owe much to Bishop Kulandran personally and in my official capacity as Principal. Bishop's book the "Concept of Transcendence" has been reviewed by Prof. Max Stackhouse of the well-known Theological Seminary - Andover-Newton in USA. The learned Professor says that the Bishop's book is the most profound contribution by any third world theologian during the last ten years. We are also happy that Bishop is now working on his magnum opus - his writings, sermons, articles on wide ranging subjects and is presently engaged energetically on this task at the Study Institute in the Ashram. It will be without doubt an impressive collection of one of our finest and most dynamic scholars and theologians. May God grant him continued good health and strength and many more years of service in our midst.

My thanks are also due to Prof. J.B. Selliah, the staff representative. He had to resign his place on going abroad.

I want to welcome Mr. J.M. Sabaratnam, one of our senior and most committed members of the Board as the new chairman. We are also grateful to the Board of Trustees in USA for holding a special meeting of the Trustees in June this year

in order to accommodate Mr. Sabaratnam who was on holiday in UK. This meeting of the Trustees we understand was a very meaningful and useful one. We wish Mr. Sabaratnam many more years of service to the Institution. Mr. A.C. Ganagarajah, is the Vice-Chairman, Mr. S.S. Selvadurai the new Treasurer and we also welcome into our midst the new Board members who are all loyal alumni of the college - Mr. Leslie Bartlett, Attorney-at-Law; Miss C.V. Selliah, Principal, Udavil Girls College; Dr. K.E. Chandrapal who is also our new Secretary and Mr. K. Gunaratnam, JPUM and Deputy District Governor, Lions Club as representative of the alumni. Mr. S. Rajanayagam, our former very dynamic chairman of the Board is now on the Board as representative of the staff. I want to thank the Chairman, the Treasurer, the Secretary, the Manager and the members of the Executive committee for the guidance and concern shown through this year.

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES :

Mr. Carl Holdridge continues to be the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Telfer Mook the Secretary and Mr. R. Edmunds the Treasurer. We want to thank the Trustees for the very kind hearted gesture of sending to us Mr. C.B. Bavinck as a personal envoy of the Trustees to visit us and show their concern immediately after the July, 1983 disturbances in September. Mr. Bavinck also made another longer visit during Christmas time. This visit was followed by Dr. W.A. Holmes, Rev. Eric Gass and soon after that of Dr & Mrs. Telfer Mook. Dr. Mook on his retirement as General Secretary of United Church Board for World Ministries (UCEWM). Dr. Mook preached at the Cathedral Church, Vaddukodai, and the Round Table entertained the Mooks to lunch, and the Diocese also felicitated them at a garden-party at Udavil Girls' College. The ties between us and the Trustees have grown much stronger in recent years and we want to express our gratitude to them for all what they have done to us and are willing to do.

#### JAFFNA COLLEGE TECHNICAL & AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTES:

I want to place on record the excellent progress the Technical Institute has made under the direction of Mr. M.G. Pillainayagam, the Director and his very efficient staff. The institute has expanded beyond recognition with several new buildings, houses and playing fields. There is something new being added every year. We are grateful to the Trustees and the ICCO and particularly to Dr. M. Abels for all the help rendered. We wish the Director, the staff and the students well as they continue this good work.

I want to welcome Mr. C. Jeyaratnam as the new Principal of the Jaffna College Agricultural Institute at Marathanamadam. Mr. Jeyaratnam is an alumnus of the college and has served as Asst. Director and additional Deputy Director of Agriculture in the Department of Agriculture. He holds a M.Sc degree in Agriculture from the University of Sri Lanka and has thirty years of experience in the Department as Farm Manager, Farm School officer, Project Manager to Youth Schemes and finally as Deputy Director of Agriculture. We look forward to a very effective contribution from him in developing the Agricultural Institute. A new administration block has been put up recently to house the offices and the classrooms.

## VISITORS:

We had several visitors in the college during the course of the year. Rev & Mrs. D. Shire; Mr. S. Kula Singam of Malaysia; Professor & Mrs. Parker Rossnan; Mr & Mrs. John Guyer of the Asia Foundation; Miss Mary Lou Alba, Mission Interpreter from UCBWM; Mr & Mrs. Johnson Bose; Dr. Neelan Thiruchelvan; Mr. A. Selvaratnam BEM from UK; Dr. & Mrs. Porter Sr.; Professor & Mrs. Allen H. Barton of Columbia University; Rev & Mrs. N. Knoll; Mr. Navan Ponnambalam of Zambia; Messrs. Eraj Wijeyasinghe and Boyd Perera of the National Council of YMCAs; Mr. Elmo Wijeyasinghe of the Christian Educational Unit and Professor Hans Reudi Weber.

Special mention must be made of Professor Allen Hoisington Barton, Professor of Sociology at Columbia University, New York. He is the great-grandson of the Rev. H.R. Hoisington, Principal of the Batticotta Seminary in 1836. Rev. Hoisington is still remembered for his outstanding scholarship in Tamil and we understand his books are still being reprinted in South India. Professor Barton brought with him a pencil sketch of the College and the Cathedral Church as it stood in 1836. He also stated that Rev. Hoisington brought back with him to USA several water colour paintings of scenes in Jaffna of the mid 19th century. These paintings are now in the possession of Professor Barton and we hope to have these published in the near future. We remain grateful to the Bartons for their brief visit to see the areas where their fore-fathers lived in the 19th century.

The year under review has been a very traumatic one to all of us in every way. It does not need elaboration to this audience. In situations like this a discreet silence is golden. Someone has said "be silent, or say something better than silence"! Silence therefore has its peculiar eloquence and dignity. However, I would take refuge in the significant words of Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Christian martyr and modern saint in Hitler's Germany who portrays life as he saw it which in many ways reflects our own predicament here most effectively. I select at random little snippets of thought and experience from Bonhoeffer's papers written in Hitler's prisons more than four decades ago. They speak to us with some poignancy and also reassures us that what we experience here and now is not new in human history. I quote: "...Every conceivable alternative seems equally intolerable. We try to escape from the present by looking entirely to the past or the future for our inspiration, and yet, without indulging in fanciful dreams, we are able to wait for the success of our cause in quietness and confidence ..... We have been the silent witnesses of evil deeds. Many storms have gone over our heads. Bitter conflicts have made us weary and even cynical. Are we still serviceable? It is not the genius that we need, not the cynic, not the misanthropist, not the adroit tactician, but honest, straightforward men. Will our spiritual reserves prove adequate and our candour with ourselves remorseless enough to enable us to find our way back again to simplicity and straightforwardness? ..... Who can stand his

ground? Only the man whose ultimate criterion is not in his reason, his principles, his conscience, his freedom or his virtue, but who is ready to sacrifice all these things when he is called to obedient and responsible action in faith and exclusive allegiance to God. The responsible man seeks to make his whole life a response to the question and call of God".

How relevant these words sound to us today! Responsible living and action, simplicity and straightforwardness, quietness and confidence - we need all these in ample measure to live out these days. I would rather conclude with a message of hope, as expressed in one of our much loved Christmas hymns, "O Holy Night" -

Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till Christ appeared on the sin weary earth,  
A song of Hope, the weary world rejoices,  
For now there breaks a new and glorious morn.

The resurrection experience of a new and glorious morn is ever with us and we should therefore, go forth in confidence, faith, and hope, for we still believe in the victorious and triumphant Easter Morn that arose out of suffering, hopelessness and even death.

T H A N K S :

I want to place on record my gratitude to all the members of the staff - academic, clerical, minor and to the students for another year of useful work in the cause of the college, at a very difficult period in our history.

A special word of thanks to the Vice-Principal, Mr. A. Rajasingham; the Supervisor of the Junior Secondary School, Miss M.S. Elias; the Supervisor of the Primary School, Mr. W.N. Thevakadacham; Mr. T. Anandaratanam and Mr. T. Visuvanathan; the Treasurer of the Board, Mr. S.S. Selvadurai; the Manager, Mr. I.P. Thurairatnam; the Chairman, Mr. J.M. Sabaratnam; the Chief Clerk, Mr. G. Jeyasingham; the Accountant, Mr. L. B. Thambyrajah and private Secretary, Mrs. N.A. Vimalendran.

To God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit - in Him in whom we live and move and have our being we commit the life and work of this college, its hopes and fears with gratitude and praise.

\*\*\*\*\*

