BATTICALOA METHODIST CENTRAL COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION (UK)

CENTRALITES' NIGHT 2017

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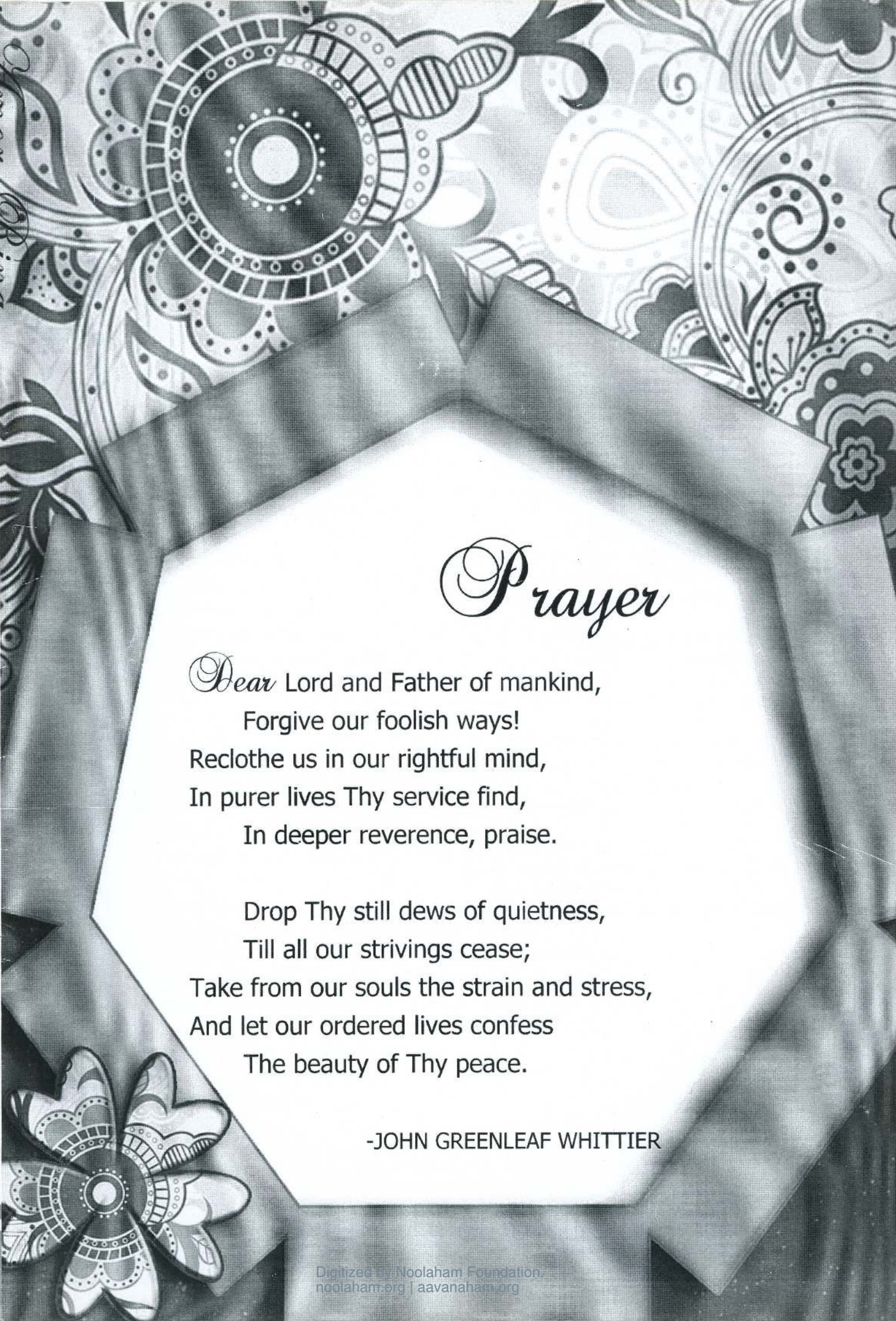

Prayer

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.

-JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER

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The College Song...

Land of our birth, we pledge to thee
Our love and toil in the years to be;
When we are grown and take our place ,
As men and women with our race.

Teach us to bear the yoke in youth,
With steadfastness and careful truth;
That in our time; thy grace may give
The truth whereby the nations live.

Teach us to rule ourselves always,
Controlled and cleanly night and day,
That we may bring, if need arise,
No maimed or worthless sacrifice.

Teach us to look, in all our ends,
On thee for judge, and not our friends;
That we, with thee, may walk un cowed,
By fear or favour of the crowd.

Teach us the strength that cannot seek
By deed or thought to hurt the weak;
That under thee we may possess,
Man's strength to succour man's distress,

Teach us delight in simple things,
And mirth that has no bitter springs;
Forgiveness free of evil done,
And love to all men 'Neath the Sun'.

Land of our birth, our faith our pride,
For whose dear sake our fathers died,
O motherland we pledge to thee,
Head, heart, and hand through the years to be.

- Rudyard Kipling.

கல்லூரிக் கீதம்...

பல்லவி

மட்டு நன்நகரின் மத்திய கல்லூரி
மாநிலம் புகழுற வாழியவே - மட்டு.....

அனுபல்லவி

அட்டதிக்கும் புகழ் சமரசமும்
ஆங்கிலம் தமிழ் சிங்களமொழியும்
மட்டுநன் நாடுறு கலைவளமும்
வளர்குமிக் கலை நிறை வாழியவே !
வாழ்க! வாழ்க!! வாழியவே!!!

சரணம்

மெதடிஸ்த சபை நலம் விளக்க வந்த
வில்லியம் ஆலட் கண்ட முதல் நிலையம்
அதற்குறு பணியெனும் அருங்கலைகள்
அனைத்தும் வளர்ந்திட வாழியவே!
வாழ்க! வாழ்க!! வாழியவே!!!

தன் நிறைவடைதல் நமதிலக்கு
தாம் பெறும் செல்வம் பொதுவினுக்கு
என்றும் பொது நல் சேவையின்றி
எதுவும் வேண்டாம் வாழியவே!
வாழ்க! வாழ்க!! வாழியவே!!!

மாணவர் தனித்துவம் வளருகவே
வானவரும் நம்மை மதிக்குகவே
ஞானமுயர் கல்வி தொழில் செல்வம்
நம்மிடை நிறைந்திட வாழியவே!
வாழ்க! வாழ்க!! வாழியவே!!!

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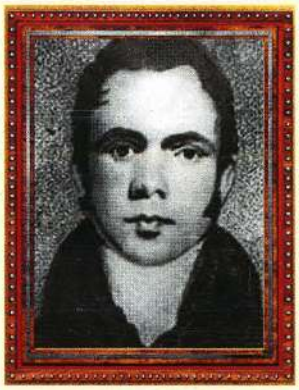

Rev. William Ault,

The first and the founding principal of Batticaloa Methodist Central College.

Rev. William Ault was born in West Bromwich, Warwickshire in 1778. From his young age, he had read the Bible and he was jointly conducting a Sunday School in his home town. He was called to do God's work and he entered Ministry in 1808.

Ault expressed his interest to assist the Rev. Dr. Thomas Coke in the overseas Ministry work. When Rev. Coke was selecting Ministers as missionaries to Ceylon, he included Rev. Ault and his wife, Sarah. They all made their way to Portsmouth and went on board ship on 30th December, 1813 and set sail for Ceylon, the next day.

Dr. Coke sailed on "Cabalva" with Benjamin Clough and Mr & Mrs William Harvard. Lynch, Erskine, Squance and Mr & Mrs Ault sailed on " Lady Melville". It was a difficult journey on the stormy seas. Ault's wife who was already showing signs of pulmonary disease died on 10th February 1814 and was buried at sea. It was unfortunate, Dr. Coke suddenly appeared weak on May 2nd. Though he took medicine, he was found dead on the floor of his cabin at 5.30, next morning. The death of their revered leader shattered the hopes of their Mission. Though the out-look for the Mission was gloomy to the young and inexperienced missionaries, yet they with all "FAITH" proceeded on the journey.

When their ship was sighted three miles off-shore from Galle harbour, the master attendant sent two boats to meet it. It was on Wednesday June 29th 1814, Lynch, Squance and Clough reached ashore in one of those boats. Ault and Erskine who were in the other boat were carried away by strong winds and tides to the open sea in darkness, but they landed unhurt at Weligama at 2.30 a.m.

On Monday, July 11th , the missionaries drew lots to choose their stations. Ault was to proceed alone to Batticaloa and the journey proved to be perilous. He was to travel almost over 200 miles by sea in a dhoney (a small sailing vessel). The expected three days' journey took almost eight days. The crew in the dhoney were lazy and they sailed in a haphazard manner. An anchor was lost in a strong wind. Food and water nearly used up, almost all Ault's books, and some of his other belongings were spoilt by drenching seas. Once he fell over the side of the boat, and when at last he arrived at his destination, the boat capsized.

Batticaloa at that time, had suffered a drought for two years and was painfully affected with sickness. Soldiers were dying daily in the crowded hospitals; the temperature was 94 degrees in the shade. The people were in a state of fear due to an earthquake which happened a fort-night before.

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When the Rev. William Ault, the first Methodist Missionary to Batticaloa arrived on the 12th of August 1814, Mr. Simon Sawyers, the Collector of Revenue at that time welcomed him and encouraged him to open an English school. Ault opened his first school (eventually grew into Batticaloa Methodist Central College) in a large store room granted by Mr. Sawyers which was probably one of the Customs Warehouses in the town. There were just five students at the inception, three of them were orphan sons of two British soldiers who had died of an epidemic of fever, while two others were boys of the locality — one of them was Rajakarier Daniel Somanadar who is the great grandfather of Dr. S.V.O Somanader (The first Sri Lankan principal of Batticaloa Methodist Central College).

Rev. Ault taught the English language and the first principles of the true religion. He learnt Tamil and preached freely. Altogether he established eight Schools and he visited them with great enthusiasm; preaching to both Hindus and Muslims and was joyously ministering to a congregation of 150.

Ault's health was already deteriorating. Though he was suffering from high fever, he was in perfect possession of his reason till the last moment. At his request, his only attendant read the Scripture-Jeremiah 3: 4-22. At the start, he listened with attention and then saying "It is enough", turned aside on his bed and breathed his last.

When Ault died on April 1st 1815, there were 40 Students in the first School he founded. Just before Ault died, he wrote a hymn which was sung on June 29th to mark the early years of the Methodist Mission. The 12th of August 1814 is a significant day for Batticaloa Methodist Central College, for it was on this date that the founder of the School, the Rev. William Ault arrived in Batticaloa. Though the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka will be celebrating its Bicentenary on 29th June 2014, Batticaloa Methodist Central College will be completing its 200 years of existence only on 12th August , 2014 and this day can never be forgotten by the past and present students of the college.

Rev. Ault was the first to join the Dr. Coke's band of Missionaries and he was the first to die on the Asian soil. Today, the Church and the School he founded continue the noble work of a long line of selfless missionaries and they remain as his fitting memorials.

References:

1 A history of the Methodist Church in Ceylon (1814 -1964)
2 Ceylon and its Methodism.

Compiled by, Mr. A. A. Arulannarajah B.Sc. Dip-in-Ed. S.L.E.A.S.
(Former Principal of Batticaloa Methodist Central College)

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Manickam Sanjeevan
Batticaloa Methodist Central College OBA (UK)

Dear Centralites, Friends and Family,

It is a pleasure and undeniable privilege to be a part of this historically remarkable school – Methodist Central College, Batticaloa. As the serving president of the UK branch of Old Boys Association, I take immense pride in writing this message for this year's souvenir.

First, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to everyone attending this Centralites Night - 2017. It is always a great occasion when past pupils come together for a worthy cause. Bt/MCC OBA (UK) was set up to bring all past pupils living in UK together as a united group and by doing this to look after the interests of our school. This evening's proceeds will therefore go towards projects that are to be carried out in our school in future. It is indeed a price worthy achievement for Batticaloa Methodist Central College, to reach its 203rd year celebration, and that itself is an indication of the value of its educational philosophy, its vision and its mission. The spread of the institution in overseas speaks volumes about its commitment and its contribution to the field of education.

Since inaugurating our UK branch of the OBA in 2014, we have worked tirelessly and wholeheartedly to alleviate the needs of our beloved school. Many projects have been carried out this year to develop education, sports and scout movement in our school. OBA has had a successful year in major sporting events in UK too. We played cricket tournaments with Wesley College, Colombo for John Wesley Cup and with St. Michaels College, Batticaloa for Ault-Bonnell Trophy. Both tournaments were inaugurated this year and I'm happy that this initiative will continue in coming years between our schools. OBA's cricket achievements in TSSA and FOC tournaments are remarkable. We have had a successful year building relationships with other branches of the OBA especially a meaningful relationship with Parent OBA in Sri Lanka and North American OBA. I have no doubt that this cooperation will lead to a close working relationship on a major project that will be carried out in the coming months.

This magazine has been carefully edited with our school's rich heritage and traditions in mind. Articles have been re-printed from our first school magazine the 'Centralite' dating back to 1946 and a brief history of school obtained from North American OBA's 2016 souvenir. These invaluable articles will enlighten the readers of our College's standards that have been passed on through many generations for the last 203 years.

In conclusion, as the president of the Batticaloa Methodist Central College Old Boys Association, UK, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone who has contributed towards this day and to all committee members who have worked tirelessly to make this event a great success. Let me wish everyone an enjoyable and a most memorable evening. We've done the utmost to make this evening a glittering one for you!

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GREETINGS FROM THE METHODIST CENTRAL COLLEGE OLD BOY'S ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

Paul Dharshan Nithianandan (President)
Batticaloa Methodist Central College
Old Boy's Association of North America

It's with great pleasure that I congratulate and wish you on your upcoming Dinner & Dance on September 16, 2017.

It has been my great pleasure over the past years to be associated through the Old Boy's Association of North America and help our Alma Mater. The Association in Canada and the UK have helped the College by their independent projects. It is a fact that the many projects done by both OBAs have developed the school immensely.

We believe that getting together in the future, and working as one will bring much more in terms of achievements. Through the leadership and commitment of many, we are bound to make a bigger contribution and thereby, a lasting impact on our School - for as quoted by "Voltaire" - "The biggest reward for a thing well done is to have done it"
Once again, I wish you all the best on the Dinner & Dance.

GREETINGS FROM CENTRALITES SPORTS CLUB - PPA METHODIST CENTRAL COLLEGE BATTICALOA *Eng.Y.Gobinath* (President)

Dear Brothers,

Batticaloa Methodist Central College, a school with 203 years of dedicated service to education in Sri Lanka especially to the Tamil community is a phenomenal achievement and contribution. As a proud child of this school like you all, wishing and hoping it will continue its journey with pride. Few schools in Sri Lanka have active alumina society and very few have its branch in other countries. We are proud that our school has very active and enthusiastic alumina societies in United Kingdom and North America. We are so grateful to OBA-UK for their trust in us and the support they have given in right times. We are looking forward to work to gather in future for the betterment of the school sports, especially cricket.

The Centralite Sports Club, formally named as Central Light Sports Club, started in 1991 with the name of Central Light Sports Club by group of grade 9 school boys to self-support their need to play cricket and with time it grown bigger and later it became the biller of support to the school management in the absence of PPA. Centralite Sports Club played a vital role in reforming the parent PPA and bringing a new life to the school. As a president of this club I am proud of its achievements and the commitment shown by its members. The future of cricket looks good in Sri Lanka for Tamils and we are trying our best to use the first opportunity that opens for a player from East. We are working hard with the limited resources available to us with greater hope.

Thank you OBA-UK for this opportunity and wish you a successful evening.

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THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Melvin A Arulannarajah
Batticaloa Methodist Central College OBA (UK)

Dear Friends,

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." Henry Ford. It would not be an exaggeration to say that these powerful words of inspiration is a representation of the journey of the Central College Old Boys' Association, UK. As the Secretary of the OBA UK, I feel genuinely happy and honoured to pen a few words of appreciation in our annual Souvenir Magazine 2017.
It is admirable to see the unrelenting progress that our OBA has made within a few years. As I reflect on the successful journey of our association, I embrace this chance to say that I am very proud to be a part of this organisation, which represents one of the long-established and accomplished educational institutions in Sri Lanka.

This is a very momentous occasion which symbolize the relationships that have been built, strengthened and expanded between the members of the OBA UK and other OBAs both nationally and internationally. I am truly inspired and humbled to greet members who represent other OBAs and would like to take a moment to express my gratitude to each and everyone who are in attendance at our annual "Centralites' Night 2017". Thank you for having spared a few hours of your busy schedules to share in our celebration. I wholeheartedly feel that this gathering will open up opportunities for you to not only go down the memory lane but also to build up new interactions with fresh anticipations.

I am extremely obliged to thank my wonderful fellow members of the committee who have strived to do their utmost to make this day happen. We have worked long and hard towards our goals, and we have accomplished them! Appreciably in Cricket, this year had been an exceptionally triumphant year. Our Cricket team has showcased their excellence and outstanding performance in all the matches they have played, namely the Festival Of Cricket 2017(Runners Up), The Big Match - Ault Bonnell Trophy (Winners), TSSA (Champions)! To be precise, these prominent victories have placed our OBA UK's Cricket Team in the pinnacle of our school's extensive listing of remarkable cricketing success.

As a goal to broaden the boundaries, some of our team members voluntarily travelled to France to help launch a new OBA in Europe. The French delegates enthusiastically welcomed this initiative. We have also undertaken and accomplished various educational projects successfully in Sri Lanka. The foundational intension with all our endeavours is to provide support for our beloved school. All these successful achievements are undoubtedly the result of the unanimous effort, perseverance and support of every single member of our organisation! So I want to thank you all again for your love, loyalty and continued support in making this organisation more valued and more distinctive year on year. Moreover, I wish to encourage and welcome every past pupil of Methodist Central College, Batticaloa, to join us and become a part of this marvellous community, as I honestly believe that every one of us has a meaningful contribution to offer.

As a concluding thought I would like to encourage you, my friends, to always see the obstacles as opportunities and work together in unity, high intensions, passionate efforts and skilful executions as we continue to serve and uphold the dignity of our Alma Mater!

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Pioneers of education

By Prince Casinader

Today marks the 183rd anniversary of the coming of Methodism to Sri Lanka.

The scene commences at Portsmouth harbour in England where several passengers are waiting to undergo the rigours of an approximately 7,000 mile Sea Journey to various parts of the East. Most of them are Englishmen waiting to take up jobs as Governors, Magistrates and other Colonial posts in India, Burma and Ceylon with high salaries.

But among these passengers in strange contrast is a group of men and women also waiting to embark to Ceylon. They however have no assurances of high salaries, housing and other perks.

The leader of this group was Dr. Thomas Coke, Doctor of Civil Laws, a Bachelor of Arts of Oxford and a member of the Judiciary who moved in high circles in England. He at the Liverpool Methodist Conference had pleaded that he be allowed to go to then Ceylon to serve the people there. With tears pouring down his cheeks, thumping the conference table, he said "please allow us to go Ceylon for I am prepared to be even naked once I am set in Ceylon and I am prepared to be there without a single friend." Finally he said that he was quite prepared to spend his savings of 8,000 pounds on this mission. The Conference stunned into silence granted this old man, described as no longer raven haired and in his sixties, his wish.

In this group was a 25 year old lady, wife of Revd. Ault. While our local fishermen were out all night fishing off the coast of Weligama, they saw some 'White faces' in a boat trying to come ashore on or about the 28th of June 1814. On arrival they were taken to the then Magistrate's bungalow at Weligama where the Magistrate was none other than the forebear of our late leader Pieter Keuneman, also a Keuneman. They had left "Bush Hotel" at Portsmouth on December23rd 1813, the team consisting of Dr. Thomas Coke Revs. William Ault, Clough, HowardLynch, Ersaine, Squance and the wife of Revd. Ault. Dr. Coke had high connections with the Lord Chancellor of England Lord Eldon, Lord Liverpool and Lord Addington who, were all his personal friends. But the journey was so tragic that before the ships could reach Ceylon Dr. Coke was found dead while kneeling in his cabin.

The second blow was when some time later once again before the ship could reach Ceylon Mrs. Ault died on board and she too had to be buried at sea in her 25th year.

The team had prepared themselves learning Portuguese and Dutch and had brought a printing press with them.

On arrival in Ceylon, lots were cast as to which areas of the Island these missionaries were to be posted.

Revd. William Ault was to go to Batticaloa and one of the oldest schools in Sri Lanka is Methodist Central College, Batticaloa which he initially founded the same year in 1814 with five pioneer students.

In a letter to his mother Revd. Ault writes "With regard to accomodation I am not very pleasantly situated. I scarcely ever see bread. I have been housekeeper nearly two months and the meat had only been two peacocks which had been shot. One was sent to me as a gift and for the other I had to pay. There has scarcely been any rain for two years, The cattle have died and almost a famine is apprehended on this side unless we get rain. I dwell presently in a hut with mud walls thatched with leaves, and I pay a rent of Rs. 10 per month, I have seldom a good night's rest as the mosquitoes sting and sting very badly. He adds how he gets up very early and learns the language of the place.

But within eight months of his arrival, on the 1st of April 1815 , lonely and bereaved with only a Tamil servant standing by him, Ault breathed his last but not before he asked his servant to read a portion from the Bible. When he died on 1st April 1815 his coffin was carried to the grave by the soldiers of the British garrison and Ault was buried in a tomb in this church and bore a stone inscription.

The inscription commemorated the landing of the first Methodist missionaries at Weligama, but it remains uncared for today. One member of this group Revd. Harward established the Wesley Press in Colombo and printed a Sinhala Dictionary and a Pali Grammer. Asia's Oldest Methodist Church was founded by one in this team, the Revd. Clough and is situated at Pettah.

The Mission founded several schools - Wesley College Colombo, Methodist College Colombo, Batticaloa Methodist Central College, Jaffna Methodist Central College, Southlands Galle, Richmond College Galle, Kingswood College Kandy and Newstead Negombo. At a time when we are beginning to awake to the need of Vocational and Technical Education, this mission were pioneers in inaugurating Industrial Schools as at Wellawatte, and even in far away Bintenne in the 1880s. In the early nineteenth century records show Industrial Schools were functioning in Kallar in the East where students underwent a course of training in Brass foundry, Carpentry and Blacksmith's work and it is stated that more orders were received than the school could cope with.

Extract from "Sunday Times" 29th June 1997

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THE TREASURER'S REPORT

Arunagirinathan Sritharan
Batticaloa Methodist Central College OBA (UK)

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure and honour, as the Treasurer for the Old Boy's Association of Methodist Central College, UK to write this message. The rich heritage and traditions of the college has been passed on through many generations over the last 203 years. I am certain that we as the past students being part of this great heritage can help our school to maintain and deepen its past traditions by our little contributions from wherever we live.

We have had three major fund raising events since our inauguration in 2014. All the profits made from the fund raising events have been utilised to carry out projects at our school for various activities. I'm proud to share that we have carried out some essential projects this year and have been most active this year in identifying the needs and helping out.

Some of the contributions are:

- We have sponsored Rs 175,000 to William Ault Education Development Fund (WAEDF) for the year 2017. This fund is used by the organisation to help children who come from financially difficult families but are performing well in education. We are glad that the organisation is using the funds to support nearly 15 students who are either studying in GCE (O/L) or GCE (A/L).
- This year we have gifted cricket materials worth Rs.100,000 to Centralites Sports Club (CLSC) which will be used by talented young cricketers. This will encourage boys to practice regularly and will be an invaluable aid for tournament training. This was a gift from us to them to honour their achievement in this year's big match tournament against St. Michaels College. MCC team was crowned as the champions in the Battle of the Singing Fish tournament in 2017.
- We sponsored Rs.27,000 for extra tuitions to aid children sitting GCE (A/L) this year. Tutors were recruited for Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. We are sure that this extra help will be an added advantage to our boys and we wish them good luck in their exams.
- College t-shirts were printed in UK with the help of sponsors from the committee and all proceedings will go towards our fund.

We aim to deliver a major project in coming months to enhance the quality of our school's education and teaching.

Old boys are an inspiration and can help the school that is contributing a good service to the betterment of the young in the field of education. This will only be achieved if all Centralites unite together. I wish you all an enjoyable evening!

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Principal's Message

Mr. J. R. P. Vimalraj
Batticaloa Methodist Central College

It is my delight and honour to contribute to this souvenir magazine issued by the Old Boys' Association in the United Kingdom. As the present principal of Batticaloa, Methodist Central College, I am greatly impressed by the continual growth and the progress in the activities and to see our school's rich history brought into limelight internationally by events conducted by the Old Boys' Association of Batticaloa Methodist Central College, UK.

I really appreciate the fact that in this busy world where everyone minds their own business, a group of past pupils sacrifice their time and effort to support and sustain their Alma Mater, which paved the way for their futures.

The gratitude that you have shown to your school by maintaining a close relationship and helping both financially and voluntarily, has not been in vain. We have been able to complete various projects through the support of the UK OBA this year, who have kept in touch with the school by helping with educational, sport and scout movement needs.

I sincerely wish that the UK, Old Boy's Association of Methodist Central College, Batticaloa, will move from strength to strength in the coming years.
Though I cannot be in person to share in the celebration, I whole heartedly wish the you all a wonderful evening.

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A NOTE ON THE COLLEGE CREST

- By Past Principal S.V.O.Somanader

I do not know if all of us are aware of the significance of our College Crest, wich was my pleasurable privilege to design at the special request of the Rev. R.W.Holtom, B.Sc., during his principalship. I thought a note on it, in this our first issue of the College Magazine, would not be out of place, so that we might all understand and appreciate its meaning.

cont ...

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First of all, you have in the bottom half of the crest the wide concerned before you, and in the background, on the Eastern horizon, you see the sun rising in its splendor and diffusing its rays of light to brighten up the surface. In the same way, Batticaloa Central College – through its students – should 'shed light' to illumine the 'darkness of the land' – especially Batticaloa which can be regarded as 'the land of the Rising Sun', so far as our Ceylon is concerned.

Then you have, on the top left, an open book, signifying that the student of Central should love books (study), and especially the book of life, valuing knowledge for its own sake, and ordering his life according to the Book of Books. All our learning and our thinking should not lead us to sin and wrong but-as the dove flying over the book signifies – to purity, innocence, simplicity of character, and reverence for all that is noble. This is all very important especially at this time when the knowledge that we gain is being directed towards evil ends – crime, selfishness, bribery, corruption and other similar vices.

"Let knowledge grow from more to more,
But more of reverence in us dwell;
That mind and soul, according well,
May make one music as before,
But vaster" .....

The Coconut palm on the top right has alwo a great meaning. While it is typical of our pretty East Coast, it indicates that our growth should be "tall" and "straight" and just as every part of the palm is of use to man, the student of Central should not only be "straight-forward" but useful-every part of him being used for unselfish service in the cause of humanity around.

If we live and set like the palm, the dove, and the book, and the rising sun over the sea of ignorance, then, and then only, can we grow-up to be good citizens and shed lustre. But no light that we radiate upon the world around us is worth anything if it is not reflected from the light of God who is the Source of all light.

All these, then in a broad sense, sum up the meaning of our school Motto "In Lumine tuo Lumen" (In Thy Light is light) found at the bottom of our Crest.

Let us all remember, therefore , what our school-crest stands for, and strive – with God's grace-to shed light and lustre, and thus live up to its great and noble significance.

From the First College Magazine - 'The Cetralite'-1946

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Parent OBA President's Message

Mr. S. Sasiharan
Batticaloa Methodist Central College
OBA Sri Lanka

Dear Centralities of United Kingdom,

It's my great pleasure to mark this message to all centralities of United Kingdom carrying on a meaningful mission to celebrate the 203 years of our Alma Mater.
If I say it in a sentence, MCC is an efficient school which enabled to position us appropriately in life.

Our college is doing well in all fields, especially in academics, sports and scouts.
His Excellency, the President of Sri Lanka was the chief guest in the celebration of last year's college day. This happened first time in school's history which gave us an opportunity to celebrate our colours with the first person of the country.

Our present PPA is doing well in the midst of many hardships and changes. We have been placed as one of the best PPA of all other schools in the province. The leadership of new principal Mr. J.R.P. Vimalraj and the Vice Principal Mr. R.Baskar, develops a new culture of teaching and learning process which would produce competent children whose attitude developes with knowledge and skills. We have been strengthened with the support and encouragement of all of you in the past, and let's experience the same continuously.
Our frontrunner PPA is closely walking with our school and being as first shoulder in all statures and failures.

Wishing and blessing you all again on this glittering evening full heartedly, for all your endeavors to be a success. Gathering as Centralities brings new energy and boost in the memory of good old days. Let's make it as profit and build on for the future mission of our Alma Mater.

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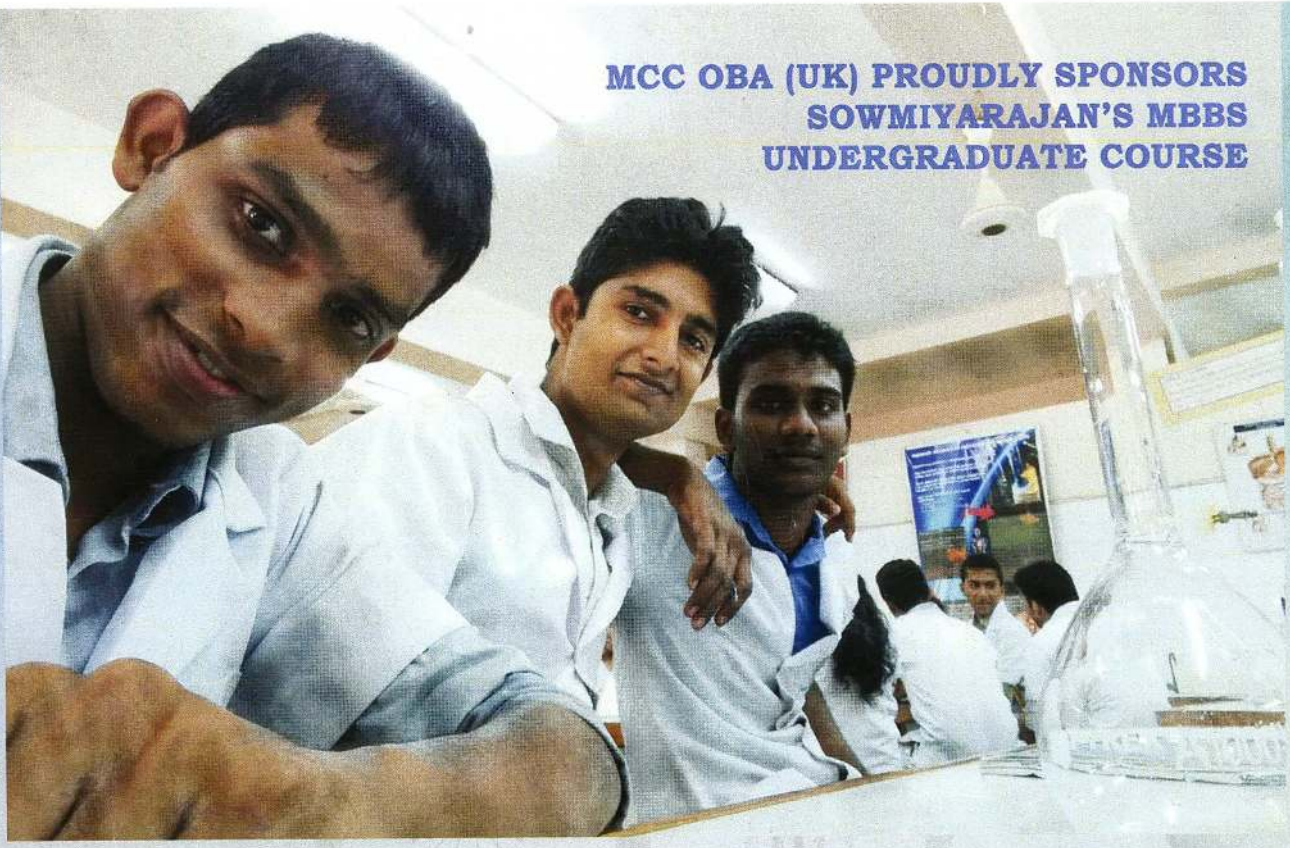

சந்திரபாலன் சௌமியராஜன் ஆகிய நான் யாழ்ப்பாண பல்கலைகழகத்தில் மருத்துவ பீடத்தில் கல்வி பயின்று வருகிறேன்.எனது தந்தை ஒரு விவசாயி தாய் ஒரு இல்லத்தரசியும் ஆவார். எனது குடும்பத்தின் மாதாந்த வருமானம் பல்கலைக்கழக கல்விக்கு போதுமானதாக இருக்கவில்லை.பலரிடம் உதவி கோரியும் கிடைக்க வில்லை. தாங்கள் முன்வந்து உதவி செய்தமையால் எனது பல்கலைக்கழக கல்வியை இடையூறின்றி தொடர முடிகின்றது.மாதாந்தம் தங்களால் வழங்கப்படும் 8000 ரூபா பணமானது எனது கல்வி நடவடிக்கைக்கு மிகவும் பயனாக உள்ளது.இவ் உதவியை செய்ய முன்வந்தமைக்கு மனமார்ந்த நன்றிகளை தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கின்றேன்.

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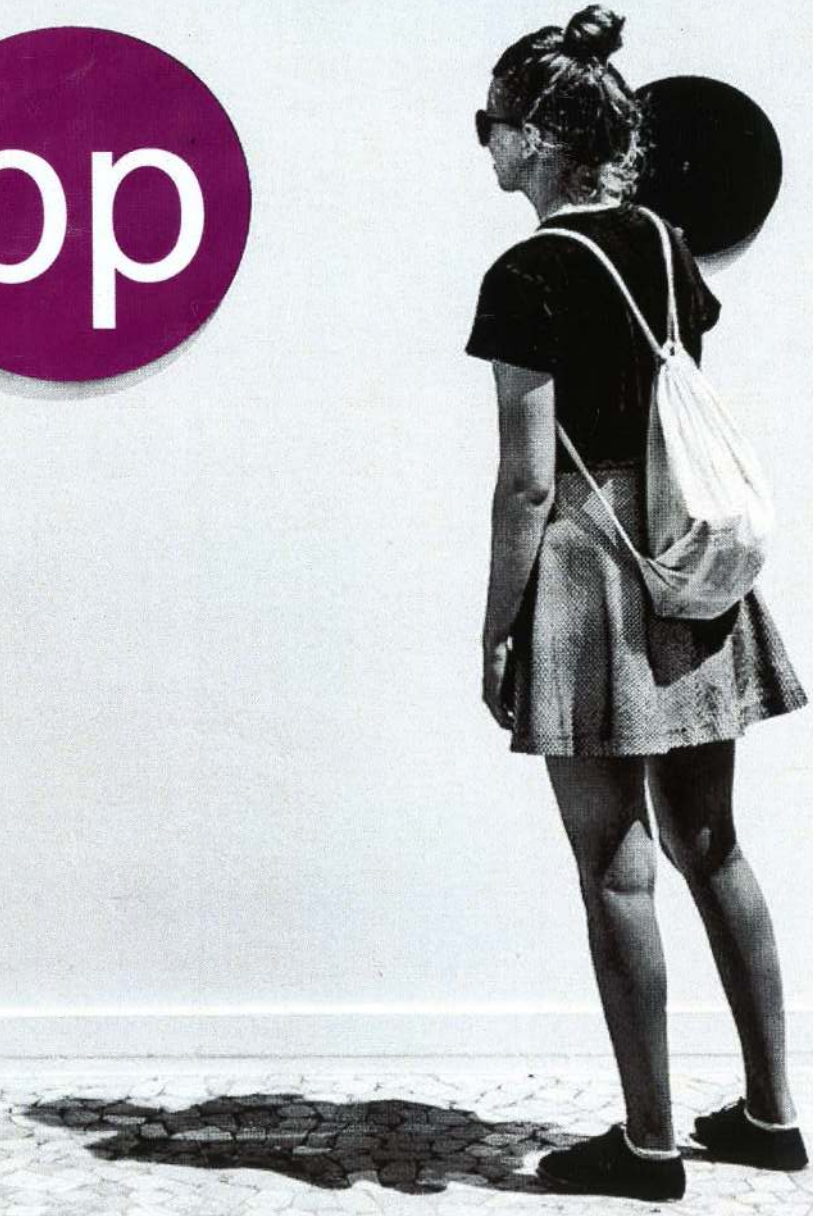

With Best Wishes to

METHODIST CENTRAL COLLEGE BATTICALOA

From

Tyrone Namasivayam

President
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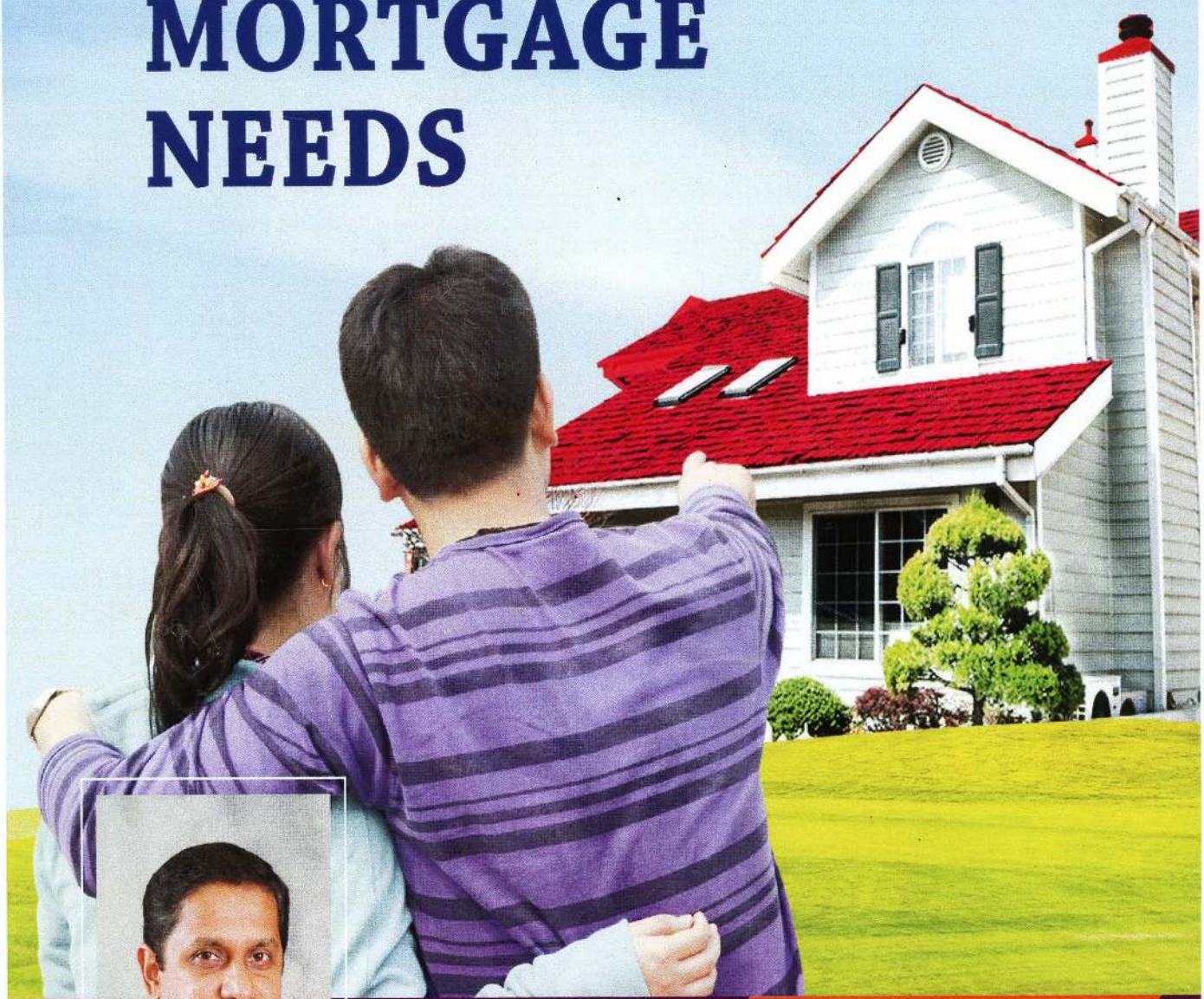

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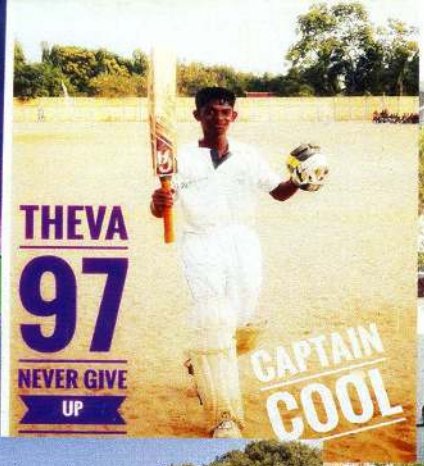

2017 Memories

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Methodist Central College - Batticaloa

United Kingdom Branch

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Your beloved

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(09.08.1969 - 16.09.1985)

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Blessing

YOUR MEMORY A

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and MISSED BEYOND

Measure

Loving Brother,

Kamadchisundaram Rajkumar & Family

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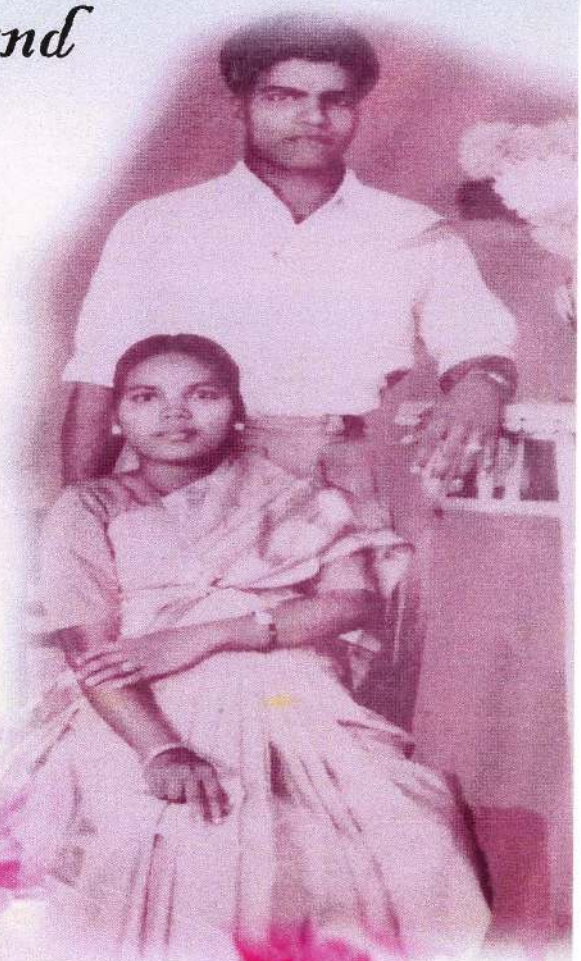
May the winds of Heaven
blow softly
and whisper in your ear
How much we love and
miss you
and wish that
you were here!



In Loving memory of

Mr. & Mrs. Selvadurai

From Loving Son

SELVARAJAH & FAMILY

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WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS

IN MEMORY OF

DAVID ARULANANTHAM

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EVERY DAY IN SOME
SMALL WAY
WE MISS YOU MORE THAN
WORDS CAN SAY.
IN OUR HEARTS YOU WILL
ALWAYS STAY
LOVED AND REMEMBERED
EVERY DAY.

David Family
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With Best Compliments
In memory of

Kalikuddy Somasundaram

Fond memories Dad,
Through the mists of time
It seems so long,
since we met last
But happy times are remembered yet.

K.SOMASUNDARAM FAMILY
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You left me **beautiful** memories
your love is still my guide,
and though we cannot see you,
you're **always at my side.**

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Beloved Son,
Kailaivasan—Liverpool

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Best Wishes on your glittering evening.....

In Loving Memory of

Late Mr. & Mrs. Sambanthamoorthi

You left us beautiful memories
your love is still our guide,
and though we cannot see you,
you're always at our side.

Family of
Sampanthamoorthy
Indravilla
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WILLIAM AULT EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT FUND
METHODIST CENTRAL COLLEGE
BATTICALOA

I have great pleasure in conveying my best wishes to the Old Boys Association of the Methodist Central College/UK-Branch on behalf of the William Ault Education Development Committee (WAEDC). We are very grateful to the Old Boys Association of the Methodist Central College/UK-Branch for their donation of LKR 175,000.00 on May 2017 to the William Ault Education Development Fund for its educational activities for the year 2017. The WAEDC offers scholarships annually for the students who has financial difficulties but performing well in education. So far the WAEDC offered scholarships about 30 students for their educational activities. The scholarships are regularly given to the students in each month and their progresses are monitored by the school Principal and the teachers in charge for this fund. The Old Boys Association of the Methodist Central College/UK-Branch also sponsored the extra classes for the students who sat the G.C.E. (A/L) examination in this year. WAEDC is very happy and grateful to this association for all the supports given by your association to us. We enjoy working with this association for the development of our *alma mater*.

We are very happy to have this active and dedicated association in UK who work for the development of our *alma mater*. We are very proud to be your side while you rock achieving many successes in all the things you do for the development of our *alma mater*. The hard work done by each and every member of your association is remarkable. The WAEDC expect more support from your association and the members for the educational development activities. I extend my greetings and best wishes to all the members of this association and congratulate all the success for this association.

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Best Wishes.

Dr. P. Elango
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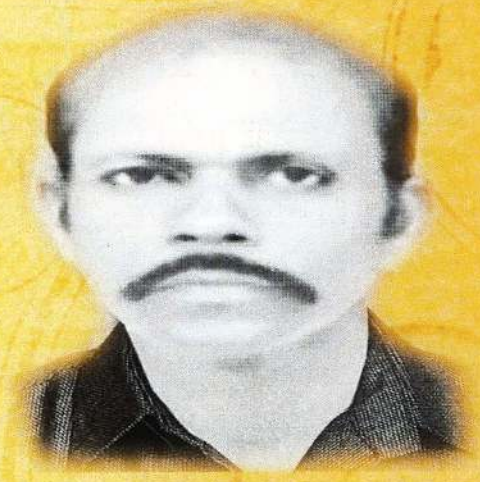

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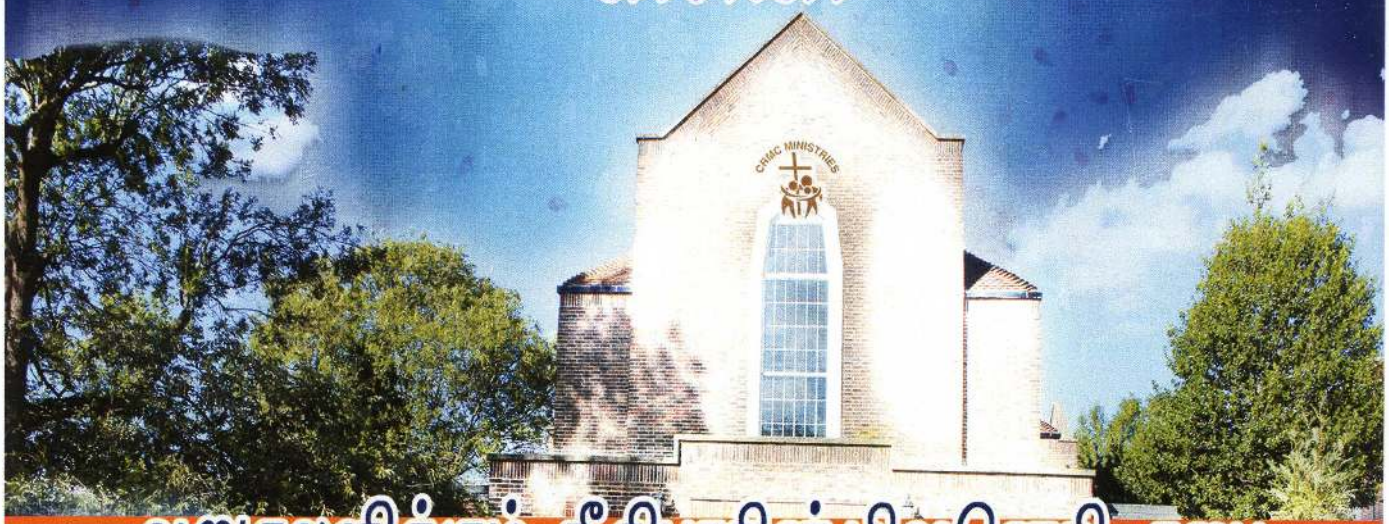

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Extracts from the Government Inspection Report:

"Central College is a well organized Senior Secondary School with a total of 307 pupils on roll and a Stall of 12 teachers. The class rooms are spacious, well ventilated and tidy. The premises were well kept and clean. The discipline and tone of the school were good. There was co-opration between the stall and the Principal. The general organization and administration were good"

"The leave granted to the members of the staff, casual as well as medical, totals 54 days in all. The teachers in general have shown a commendable sense of responsibility in not applying for casual leave except for very urgent reasons"

"The Inspecting officers who visited the school are all agreed that the written exercises given and corrected were on the whole very satisfactory"

"Arrangements are being made by the teacher to provide for the recreational reading of the pupils. This commendable step will supply a long felt need"

The boys were very well behaved not only during the hours of work but also during those of relaxation. This is commendable. The tone of all the classes was thoroughly healthy. In short there was the esprit-de-corps. This spirit existed in its intensest form in 5 A.

The work in all the classes was on the whole satisfactory.

Printed on 'The Centralite' Magazine - 1946

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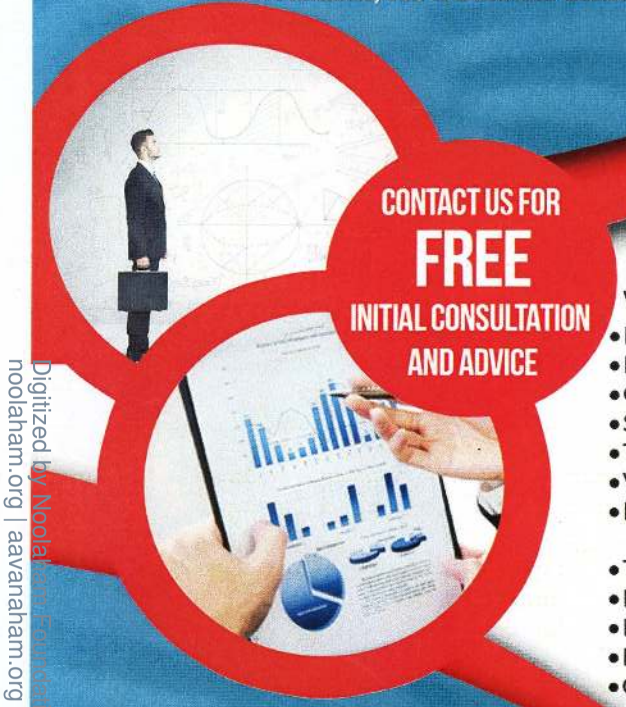

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Best Wishes
In Loving memory of

Senathirajah Vasanthakumar

Beloved Brother

No farewell words were spoken,
no time to say goodbye,
you were gone before we knew it,
and only God knows why!
Words and times
we can no longer share,
but in my heart you
are always there!

Loving Brother

Senathirajah Sureshkumar

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR SCHOOL

by Rev.Viveganathan

Methodist Central College was the first educational institution in Batticaloa and the first English Boys School in Ceylon (established). It was founded in 1814 by the Rev. William Ault, one of the pioneer Methodist Missionaries who came from England to Sri Lanka (Ceylon).

According to the history of the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka (Ceylon), the first Methodist missionaries landed in Weligama - Galle on the 29th of June 1814. Rev. William Ault, one of the first five missionaries, left Galle on the 14th of July in a small boat to Batticaloa and arrived after eight days. He lived only eight months and died in April 1815. During that eight month period he started eight schools. The first one is the Methodist Central College. He started the school with just five students. They gathered every morning on the cow dunged floor of a veranda in a small one roomed Kadjan thatched house to learn English alphabets from the missionary.

After the death of Rev. William Ault, until Rev. Elija Jackson arrived from England in July 1816, Mr. Thomas Johns, an army Captain, helped to run the school. The school students helped in singing of songs at the worship services.

1816 to 1820

There were swift changes in the teachers. According to the information given by the manager of schools, Mr. Thomas Osborn, in 1820 there were 21 students, most of them were children of European Parents and some of them were Tamil children.

The parents objected to conducting the school in an old Holland Church veranda which belonged to the British Government, because there was a cemetery. Therefore, an arrangement was made on the 29th of March 1820 to build a suitable bungalow for an English school.

1830 to 1837

During these years, according to the school report there were boys and girls, but from 1838 there were only boys in the school.

1839

Honorable Governor-general visited Batticaloa and donated building materials of the old Holland Church and 25 Sterling pounds to Rev. George Hall, the Superintendent Minister of Puliyantivu in order to make the necessary arrangements for a school. With these donations Rev. Hall put up two verandas in both sides of the Puliyantivu Methodist Church, and conducted the school.

1857 to 1859

Number of students increased up to 72. Till 1858, the school was conducted in the Church veranda. Since it was inadequate to run the school, Mrs. Deen, the wife of Rev W.H. Deen, the Principal collected money for a school building and a Cadjan building was built with the cost of 356 Sterling Pounds. Major portion was collected by Mrs. Deen. In 1859 the School was moved to the new building.

1877

There were 140 students in the College. Equipments for the Science lab were given by the friends in England and with their encouragement and help a library was established.

1882

The College was affiliated with the Madras University and registered as High School by the Ceylon Education Board. On this year, the students sat for the Cambridge Junior Examination for the first time. Madras Matriculation Exam was also held in the school. In January 1882, the total number of students in the college was 126 and it increased to 150 in December.

1886

Rev. G.G. Trimmer, the Superintendent Minister of Batticaloa Circuit brought a decision to the North Ceylon Synod of the Methodist Church to build a new building with a large hall to the Central College as there were no large halls in Batticaloa to conduct public meetings.

1887-1889

July 21st, the foundation stone was laid for the new building and it was completed in April 1889. The practice of caning punishment in the school was stopped when Rev R.N. Setukavalar was the head master but it was restarted in 1889 during the time of Rev J.G. Appapillai.

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1890

Rev. James D. Canagasabai was the Headmaster. Football was introduced to the college. Methodist festival was also celebrated and the students of Central College participated in the games for the first time.

1894

Rev Canagasabai drowned in the Batticaloa lagoon in April.

1895

Two students got through the Colcatta University admission exam. Two teachers took active part in establishing a reading room and the Junior students literature association.

1897

There were 160 students registered in the student register.
In the period from 1877 to 1930 the School gradually developed in many aspects. The number of students also increased during the time of Rev. Setukavalar.

1939 -1942

Rev. Cartman served as Principal. During his period, new life was given to the sports. He encouraged the students to participate not only in the regular activities of the school but also in extracurricular activities such as sports and games. He organized a sports week and he included football, volleyball, cricket and tennis. He also renewed the Past Pupil Association of the school. He believed that the aim of a good school should be to create a student with good qualities and character than a student with qualification.

1942

The 2nd world war was active, Mr.S.V.O. Somanathar was appointed as the first Ceylonese Principal.

1945

Joint classes were held with Vincent Girls School in subjects like History, Physics, Latin and Botany and the teachers were shared between the schools.

The College stepped into the Free Education Scheme. On the 4th of October 1945 High School Certificate (Arts) class commenced in the college and the students got excellent results in the examination.

1946

Acting was encouraged among the students. Plays like 'Jenma Poomi', 'Rajamanokara' and 'Bishop's Candles' were staged by the S.S.C. students in Tamil and English. At every annual Prize Giving, the College staged plays in Tamil and English one of which will be Shakespeare's Play. Scout Group, Senior Literature Society (English) and Science Society functioned very actively. A magazine called 'The Science Digest' was also published by the Science Society.

In 1946 the College had a very high standard in games like football and volley ball. Educational tour was also one of the regular activities in the College. Many activities were planned for the benefits of the students in order for them to live a useful life in and outside the college. To achieve these aims Tamil and English Literature Societies, Scout Groups were sustained. Discipline was maintained. Debates, Sports and Competitions were organized among the College Houses. Geography Society, Science Society and the Tamil Literature Society published their periodical magazines. Christian Student organization, Social Service Groups and Youth Fellowship actively functioned.

1947

There were remarkable numbers of Muslim students studied in the College. The administration board of the College made proper arrangements in order to respect their feelings. Muslim teachers were appointed and in some occasions, the Principal even conducted two sessions on a Saturday in order to give a holiday on the previous day for Mohamed Nabi's birthday.

According to the report of the Assistant Director of Education the teaching standards of English and Math in the S.S.C classes were very high between 1930 and 1950. According to the J.S.C Examinations results between 1949 and 1953 the Central College students got more Distinction passes than the other College students.

1955

On December 31st, Mr.S.V.O. Somanader retired after 35 years of valuable service to the College.

1960

A new educational scheme was introduced in the country and schools were taken over by the Government. Under this scheme, on 25th February 1962, the full control of Central College was also handed over to the Government. At that time there were 400 students and 15 permanent Teachers in the College and Mr. V.T. Gnanasooriam was the Principal.

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1860

After take over there were many changes took place in the school administrations. Because this was a part of the very big education scheme and it was the first step to bring renewal and changes, the Methodist Church gave its full support and co-operation to the new management of the Government. In the beginning this change slowed the administration and the college faced some difficulties in filling the vacancies of teachers and recovered the expansion of the college.

1966 -1968

The language of teaching changed from English to our mother language Tamil and the College library was also renewed according to the need.

1974 -1977

By the help and support of Mr Rajan Selvanayagam, an old boy of the College and the M.P. and the authorial of the District Govt., the foundation stone was laid for a two story building on 4.11.74 and was opened on 11.7.77. On 24.02.76 a team from the Ministry of Education visited the college and gave permission to conduct H.N.C.E. classes.

1978

As a result of the cyclone on November 23rd, the roof of the College building and bedroom of the hostel were damaged and most of the valuable books in the library and all historical books and documents of the College were destroyed. This was a great loss in the history of the College.

1982

After a long interval, the prize giving celebration was held again on 15.11.82. Rev. J. Cartman the retired last missionary Principal who served in the College from 1939 to 1942 participated in this celebration.

1986

Mr. Prince G. Casinader, who served the College as a teacher and Vice-Principal for 26 years, and as Principal for 11 years retired on 21.7.86, after his long, excellent service in the College.

During his period he helped and uphold the discipline of the college and tried to create every student who goes out from the College buildings and involve in the national life should not only show his capability but also live as a n paradigm for good character. He inaugurated Social Service organizations like "Path Finders Club" and "Inter act Club' and encouraged the students to take part in the social service activities.

The College was built up by the care, nurture and selfless, dedicated service of generations of English Missionary Principals from different countries and (Sri Lanka) National Principals, teachers and student belonging to different communities such as Tamil, Muslim, Sinhala, and Burgher, worked and sat side by side in class in a happy national fraternal. This College of ancient vintage boasted of producing prominent and cultured men who were highly respected in every aspect of life and professions like Doctors, Engineers, Professors, Teachers, Sports men, Members of Parliament belonging to the Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim communities, some of whom even served as Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers and Ministers of Religion who were highly respected in society and had great influence in the community at large. The College taught its students that their duty should be to their neighbor and community.

Like any other institution Batticaloa Methodist Central College which had its moments of triumph and glory had also gone through unfavorable period for its progress and expansion. But it has survived the strain and trauma and as it is in the College motto 'Lumine Tuo Lumen', the College scattered its light of Truth and Knowledge in the time of trials and troubles.

As it was said by our Lord Jesus Christ in the Parable of the Mustered Seed, a seed was planted nearly 200 years ago by Rev. William Ault at Batticaloa in the Eastern Cost of Sri Lanka has now grown as a huge tree of thousand branches.

Very few Colleges can boast of long time service in the field of education but there is no College other than Methodist Central College that can boast of nearly 200 years of service of education in this Island.

Methodist Central College is going to become a national school very soon. I am very proud and happy that I am one of the past students of this ancient, historical and prestigious College.

Wrote by Rev. Viveganathan materials Collected from different Articles

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LIST OF PAST PRINCIPALS

FOUNDED by Rev. William Ault in 1814

1. Rev. G. Hole	1840 - 1842
2. Rev. R. Pargiter	1844 - 1845
3. J. Wallace (Bar at - Law)	1845 - 1847
4. J. Kilner	1852 - 1855
5. W. H. Dean	1856 - 1863
6. H. Hornby	1863 - 1864
7. E. Rigg. Inter B. A	1865 - 1870
8. J. M. Brown	1870 - 1871
9. J. D. Rhodes	1871 - 1872
10. J. G. Pearson	1872 - 1873
11. E. Martin	1873 - 1877
12. G. J. Trimmer	1877 - 1879
13. T. Little	1879 - 1882
14. J .West	1882 - 1884
15. E . M. Weaver	1890 - 1891
16. G. B. Robson	1898 - 1899
17. W. M. P. Wilkes, B .A, B.D, L.C.P.	1901 - 1903
18. J .T. Harris	1903 - 1905
19. J. W. Garforth	1905 - 1907
20. E. T. Selby	1907 - 1910
21. C. A. Green	1910 - 1914
22. G. F. Thompson	1914 - 1921
23. A. Haw, M. C , B. A	1922 - 1927
24. E. A. Bastian	1927 - 1928
25. R. W. Holtom, B. A, B. Sc.	1928 - 1935
26. C. A. Smith B. A, L.Th	1935
27. Mr. H. N. Saunders, B. Sc , A.I.C , M.R.S.T	1936 - 1939
28. Rev. J. Cartman, B. A.	1939 - 1942
29. Mr. S. V. O .Somanader, M.R.A.S. , M.R.A.S, F.R.G.S Evans Teaching Prizeman	1942 - 1955
30. Mr. V. T. Gnanasuriam, B.A (London) Trained	1956 - 1964
31. Mr. B. T . Chinnaiyah, B.A. Hons. (Lon) , Dip - in - Ed.	1964 - 1974
32. Mr . P. G. Casinader, (S.L.E.A.S)	1975 - 1986
33. Mr. A.A Arulannarajah, B. Sc. Dip - in - Ed	1987 – 1994
34. K.G.Arulanantham B.A.Dip.in.Ed;Dip.in.sec.Mgt;	1994–2007
35. I.Kamalarajah S.L.P.S	2007–2014
36. J. R. P. Vimalraj	2014 -

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