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NEW PARISH HALL AT USAN

There was a festive gathering at the Usan Church Centre when the Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar, Bishop of the Diocese of the C. S. I. declared open and dedicated a new Parish Hall at Usan on Saturday the 2nd of November at 9.30 a.m. Mr. J. Sinnadurai, Worker in Charge at Usan had worked hard in the midst of all the handicaps at present to complete the structure. The spacious Parish Hall has also two rooms to facilitate the various programmes at the Centre. The community appreciates very much the Day Care Centre serving more than fifty children below the age of five. It is also intended to start a Vocational Training Centre and Adult Literacy Classes there.

At the public meeting which followed the dedication, Mr. K. J. Selvarajah, Retired teacher and treasurer of the Usan Church welcomed the gathering. Mr. Joseph Janepittai, the Principal of the Catholic Maha Vidyalaya at Mirsuvi spoke in appreciation of the work done by the Diocese through the string of Day Care Centres. He described vividly of what he had seen at the Velanai Day Care Centre some time ago when he by chance had to be there for protection for a day during the military operations. He said, he was highly impressed by the quality of the service both in feeding the body and the mind of the young ones.

Mr. S. Balasubramaniam, a Retired Teacher and a leader in the Hindu community recounted

the long service of the American Ceylon Mission in Usan and particularly in the field of education. He said the general community welcomes the efforts of the Diocese in this new field of caring for poor children prior to their entering schools. He said as a resident of Usan, he has seen the loyal and devout work carried out by the Day Care Centre staff and that the village was truly grateful for their service of love.

Mrs. Soosai Maryathan, the President of the Usan Women's Development Society and also a Teacher said that all mothers deeply appreciate the service done by the Day Care Centre and in fact the Centre itself is an institutionalised form of mothers' service to children. Mr. K. Sivanandan spoke as a representative of the parents of the Day Care Centre children. He said, all the parents were convinced that it was a privilege for their children to be at this Day Care Centre. A fellowship tea followed the public meeting and Mr. J. Sinnadurai, Worker in Charge, proposed the vote of thanks.

The Rev. A. Jeyakumaran, Secretary of the Diocesan Council, Mr. N. A. Vimalendran, Treasurer of the Diocesan Council, Mr. Suresh Thampoe, Project Officer and many others from the Diocese were also present at the function.

It is expected that with the completion of the Parish Hall more service oriented activities will be initiated at Usan.

The Rev. Daniel Thiagarajah Returns

The Rev. Daniel S. Thiagarajah a Presbyter of the Jaffna Diocese of the C. S. I. who left for the U. S. in August 1990, joined the Christian Theological Seminary at Indianapolis Indiana where he followed a year's post graduate course in the field of New Testament for the S. T. M. degree. He has completed his S. T. M. very creditably and received Magna cum Laude. He was also honoured at the Honours Day Celebrations at the end of the course for showing highest achievements in Biblical Studies. This was the award of the American Bible Society.

Mrs. Thaya Thiagarajah also spent the year at the same

Seminary following a course in Religious Education. Both of them returned to Jaffna in September. The Rev. Thiagarajah has assumed work as Pastor of the Uduvil Church. He is also a visiting lecturer at the Christian Theological Seminary and Institute for Lay People at Chunnakam.

Director of the Religious Education Board

Mrs. Thaya Thiagarajah, wife of the Rev. D. S. Thiagarajah has been appointed by the Jaffna Diocese of the C. S. I. as the Director of Religious Education. She will also be in charge of the Religious Education Resource Centre at the Library in the Seminary. This ecumenical resource centre will serve the needs of all the Churches.

Mrs. Thiagarajah has already started work for the publication in Tamil of a few essential hand — books for Christian students and teachers.

Reprint of Hymn Book

The Jaffna Diocese's Tamil Hymnal was last published in 1980. Since the book is now out of print and there is a great demand for new ones, a reprint is now being undertaken. It is hoped that the new Tamil Hymnal will be available for sale by the first week of December. The books will be available at the subsidised price of Rs. 100/- per copy until the 31st of December 1991. Orders may be placed through the Pastors of Churches.

Jaffna College Institute of Technology

The Acting Director of the Jaffna College Institute of Technology Mr. S. A. P. Thurai-ratnam is following a post graduate course in Computer Engineering at the University in Colombo.

Mr. S. A. Gnanendran, B. Sc. in Engineering of the Peradeniya University has been appointed as Lecturer in Civil Engineering at the Jaffna College Institute of Technology from the 1st of December 1991. He will also be responsible for administration until the return of Mr. Thurai-ratnam.

Festival of Carols

The 44th Annual Festival of Carols, conducted by the schools of the North was held once again at Peto Memorial Hall at St. John's College, Jaffna on Saturday the 9th of November at 9.30 a.m. Despite the great hardships in transport and the frequent curfew it is remarkable that the schools went through their practices and were able to participate in the festival. Mr. S. Thanapalan, the Acting Principal of St. John's College is to be congratulated on carrying through this programme so successfully. The Rev. G. D. Anandarajan, Pastor of the Cathedral Church, Vaddukoddai and Dr. Robert Porter of the staff of Jaffna College acted as Conductors at the festival.

The Rev. S. P. Nesakumar, Vicar of St. John's Church said the opening prayers. The Rev. Daniel S. Thiagarajah, Presbyter of the Uduvil Church gave the Christmas message. Prof. Chandrakantham, a Roman Catholic Priest and Head of the Depart-

ment of Christian Civilisation at the Jaffna University said the closing prayers and benediction. Most of the leading schools in Jaffna took part at the festival including a select choir from the Jaffna University and choirs from the Kopay and Tinnevely Training Colleges. The excellent singing of the young people provided a much needed inspiration and hope for our people at this time.

M. E. Marnicam

We regret to record the death of Mr. Marathar Edward Marnicam probably the oldest member of our Diocese on the 4th of November just three weeks before his 97th Birthday. Mr. Marnicam was in the Ceylon Railways and Retired as a Station Master. In his retirement he lived in his home at Alaveddy and was an ardent and active member of the Alaveddy Church. He held various offices in the Church and was often its delegate to the Diocesan Council.

During the last few years he lived with his daughter Mrs. Grace Kanapathipillai, in Batticaloa, and his death occurred at her home in Batticaloa.

The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Earl P. Solomons the Pastor of the St. John's Church, C. S. I. in Batticaloa along with the Rev. Miss A. Vaithilingam of the Methodist Church. Rev. Solomons also preached the sermon and spoke about the late Mr. Marnicam's long life and services to the Church and the Community. Mr. Marnicam's wife predeceased him some years ago. He leaves behind his daughter Mrs. Grace Kanapathipillai and son Mr. M. D. Jesuratnam, Retired High Court Judge.

A service in memory of the late Mr. Marnicam was held in his daughter's home at Batticaloa on his 97th Birthday on 30-11-91 where a beautiful tribute was paid to his life by Mr. W. K. Thevathasan a retired Worker of the Diocese who had been Worker-in-Charge of the Alaveddy Church some years ago.

A New Venture in Batticaloa

PUHALIDAM

A Home for mentally handicapped children and young people has been a crying need in the Tamil areas. The Methodist Church has opened such a Home in Batticaloa named 'Puholidam'

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The American Ceylon Mission 175TH ANNIVERSARY (1816 - 1991)

Saturday 21st September to Monday 23rd September

"Tell them, that they go forward", was the cable Bishop Kulandran received as a greeting during the 150th Anniversary Celebrations of the A. C. M. in 1966, from a member of our Church who was out of the country at that time. Those words from God to Moses in Exodus 14:15 were spoken at most critical juncture in the liberation march of the people of God from Egypt. When the people began to cry in their frustration, "it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness" the Lord's message was "go forward".

The last 25 years since the 150th Anniversary in 1966 have been the most trying and testing period in the history of the Mission and of Jaffna Diocese. Hardly had we emerged from the effects of the take over of schools in 1961 then came the mounting ethnic conflict coming to a new peak in 1977 and then in 1983 and deteriorating rapidly thereafter. These experiences could have hardly been conducive to the Church's mission and service but the Church did hear the Lord's message "Tell them that they go forward".

The 175th Anniversary Celebrations from the 21st to the 23rd of September at Uduvil and Vaddukoddai would have gladdened the hearts of our forebears. People came from the seventy three Church Centres in the Northern and Eastern Provinces and also from Colombo to thank God for the great pioneer missionaries and all those who followed them and for the diverse ministries through which they set out to serve our community.

The celebrations began in Uduvil on Saturday the 21st of September with a praise service at the Church. The service in Tamil was beautifully planned by the Principal and staff of Uduvil Girls' College. Most of the lyrics and lyrical responses were specially composed for the occasion and there was wide participation including voices from the congregation giving thanks and praise for various aspects of the services of the mission from 1816 onwards. The Rev. Dr. Ralph Quellhorst and Dr. Robert Holmes were present representing the U. C. C. and the U. C. B. W. M. and the Trustees of Jaffna College respectively. The presence of these guests for all three days of the celebrations was a source of great strength and encouragement for our people. It was a powerful symbol of the vitality of the historical links between Christians in America and the Church their ancestors helped to plant

in this country. It was also an evidence of the fellowship and partnership that characterises the relationship today.

The service was followed by a procession of the people marching from the Church to the Mission Graveyard opposite to lay wreaths at the tombs of the missionaries there. "Fragrant memories of those who laboured" was the title given to this programme. After a Bible lesson and prayer led by the Pastor of the Uduvil Church the Rev. Daniel S. Thiagarajah the guest from America, the Bishop and other leaders of the Diocese and Bob Porter and our old friend Ben Bavinck laid wreaths and paid the respects of the community to the memory of the devoted missionaries who laid down their lives in this soil. The names of Rev. G. G. Brown and Rev. John Bicknell are still living memories for the older generation. This function was followed by a Tree-planting ceremony at 10.30 a. m. The climax of the programme at Uduvil was the cultural programme from 11.00 a. m. to 1.00 p. m. at the School Hall. It was certainly an experience to remember, characteristic of the thoroughness and perfection of the Uduvil programme. Through dance and song, the actors brought back to our consciousness the sacrifice, devotion and services of the missionaries. A fellowship lunch followed.

The Tellippallai Church and Union College have been closed for several months now, coming within the security zone around the KKS harbour and the Palaly Airport. The Church building and a greater part of Union College have also been badly battered by shells. Special permission was obtained to make a pilgrimage to the original Mission Graveyard at Tellippallai to lay wreaths at the graves of the pioneer missionaries like James Richards and Daniel Poor. This was done at 2.30 p. m. on Saturday the 21st with Dr. Quellhorst and Dr. Holmes also participating. The Principal of Union College and other Hindu leaders from the community braved it to the "war zone" to pay respects to the pioneer missionaries. After this function a large gathering congregated at the Christian Theological Seminary and Institute for Lay People at Chunnakam at 3.30 p. m. for the formal dedication of the Hall of Residence at the Seminary, commemorating the name of James Richards. The James Richards Hall at the Seminary is a fitting tribute to the memory of one of the five young men of the Haystack group who decided on founding the first Foreign Missionary

Society in America and the only one of those five who went out as missionary arriving in Jaffna in 1816. Dr. Quellhorst declared open the building and Bishop Ambalavanar said the prayer of dedication. A public meeting followed at which both Dr. Quellhorst and Dr. Holmes spoke. The Principal, the Rev. T. S. Premarajah and the Register Mr. A. Kadirgamar also outlined the brief history and progress of the Seminary which was started in 1983, reviving a long history of theological education in Jaffna, beginning with the Batticotta Seminary itself. The students at the Seminary made a dramatic presentation of some aspects of the history of the Mission. The full and busy programmes of the day closed with a fellowship Tea at the Seminary grounds.

Sunday the 22nd of September marked another aspect of the celebration. There was a widespread feeling that these celebrations should not be just concentrated at one or two places, but spread throughout the Churches. That Sunday therefore all the Churches observed as a Special Day of Thanksgiving for the A. C. M. and raised special collections for the 175th Anniversary Fund. Many of the Churches published brief histories of the Mission as it developed at their own congregations' areas. The services were followed by local public meetings at which the Principals and staff members of the former Mission Schools and other leaders of the general community participated. This was an effective way of making the event meaningful to the total community. Dr. Quellhorst preached at the service in Pandateruppu and participated in the events there while Dr. Holmes preached at the service in Manipay.

Events at Vaddukoddai

The third and final day's celebrations was at Vaddukoddai on Monday the 23rd of September, beginning with the Thanksgiving Holy Communion Service at the Cathedral Church at 8.30 a. m. Bishop Ambalavanar was the celebrant, assisted by the Revs. S. Jeyanesan, D. S. Thiagarajah, Sam Alfred and T. S. Premarajah.

The Rev. Dr. Ralph C. Quellhorst preached the sermon in English and it was interpreted into Tamil by the Rev. Dr. S. Jeyanesan. The Litany of praise and thanksgiving was led by five lay leaders in the Diocese: Mr. A. Kadirgamar, Mr. W. D. Kulathungam, Miss Chelvi Selliah, Dr. (Mrs.) Joy Canagarajah and Dr. (Mrs.) Chandra Ambalavanar. The lessons were read by Miss Sunetha Sivagurunathan, Mr. V. Pathmathayalan and the Rev. Earl P. Solomons.

The Thanksgiving Service was followed by a Mission meeting

at the Ottley Hall. The meeting was chaired by Miss Chelvi Selliah and three speakers, a youth, a lay person and a young Presbyterian spoke on the theme "Looking to the future". The youth was Mr. Devanandan Jesuthasan, a student who has just entered the Jaffna University, the lay person was Mrs. K. Bhavasingam, a Government School teacher and the Presbyterian, the Rev. T. Thevanesan, Worker in Charge of the Mankulam Church and Mission Centre. All the speakers looked to the future with confidence and hope. Greater participation of women and youth at the decision making level in the Churches and a ministry that is directed to the poor, with the poor having the major say in the planning of development programmes, and the programmes themselves aimed at changing structures was emphasised by the speakers.

This was followed by a cultural programme which consisted of Pageants by Jaffna College students and Uduvil Girls' College students and by the girls from the Harriet Winslow Girls' Home, Pandateruppu. Jaffna College also enacted a play. All these were portrayals of the history of the Mission. The songs composed on the theme of the Anniversary were sung by the respective Church choirs which won first places in the competitions at the Children's Follies.

At the fellowship lunch which followed at the Levi Spaulding Boys' Home Dining Hall and the Pandals specially erected for the purpose more than three thousand people joined.

The public meeting again in the Cathedral Church at 2.30 p. m. was the other important event of the day. The Bishop presided at the function and Mrs. A. Rammi Tambiyappa, Worker in Charge of the Pandateruppu Church led the meeting in prayer. It was planned in such a way that there could be a wide participation from the general public. Besides the Church leaders who brought greetings, most of the other speakers were leaders from the Hindu Community.

The Government Agent of Jaffna, Mr. Manickavasagar spoke appreciating the service of the American Ceylon Mission to the general uplift and development of the Tamil community. Three professors at the University of Jaffna spoke of the contributions of the A. C. M. in the fields of Social Uplift, Education and Medicine. They were Prof. K. Sivathamby, Prof. K. Balasundarampillai and Dr. N. Sivarsajah.

The Rev. Dr. Quellhorst and Dr. Robert Holmes, our guests from the U. S. brought the greeting of the U. C. B. W. M., U. C. C. and the Trustees of

Jaffna College. The Most Rev. B. Deogupillai, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Jaffna, the Rev. K. P. Govindarajah of the Methodist Church and Mr. S. Thanabalan a leading Anglican Layman brought the greetings of their Churches. The text of these addresses and greetings will be included in the Souvenir that will be published soon.

The special messages of greetings sent by the Rev. Dr. Scott Libbey, the Executive Vice-President of the U. C. B. W. M. and the Rev. Eric A. Gass, Secretary for Asia at the U. C. B. W. M. were read by the Secretary of the Diocesan Council the Rev. A. Jeyakumaran who also proposed a vote of thanks. The Uduvil Girls' College choir rendered a Special Anthem.

Bishop Kulandran

It was a happy coincidence that the 23rd of September was also the 91st birthday of our former Bishop (1947 - 1970) the Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Kulandran. He was present at these functions and Bishop Ambalavanar honoured him with the Tamil tradition of putting round his shoulders a "Ponnaadai". His presence at the celebrations was a pleasing and satisfying experience for all. He had participated as a young boy at the centenary celebrations in 1916 and at the 125th as Chairman, of the Church Council and at the 150th as Bishop of the Diocese.

The Garden Party at the Jaffna College Quadrangle at 4.30 p.m. was a fitting climax to the three days celebrations. The Quadrangle was tastefully decorated and the guests packed every available space including the verandahs of the rows of class rooms. Bishop Kulandran slowly made his way to the beautifully made cake in the design of the Diocese's seal and cut it ceremoniously. It was significant that members of the public in Voddukoddai and from other parts of Jaffna joined in large numbers to join at the Public Meeting and the Garden Party. The late Archbishop Ramsey once remarked "A Church which lives for itself will die by itself". The American Ceylon Mission had always concerned itself with the welfare of the total community. These celebrations helped to remind the present generation of that rich and noble tradition and to pose the even greater challenges of the future.

175th Anniversary Fund

The Diocese is raising a 175th Anniversary Fund to enable it to continue its diverse service and outreach programmes without being over dependent on the grants from agencies abroad. In recent years it has spent

several millions of Rupees on Housing for Refugees, Rehabilitation projects for Refugees Children's Homes (now ten in number catering to over 550 children), a Home for Physically Disabled Children, Day Care Centres (now 57 in number catering to over 3000 children), Vocational Training Centres (now seven in number taking in over 200 young people) Projects to rehabilitate "War Widows", Self-Support Project for Women, Free Medical Clinics and other similar projects and development programmes. It hopes to raise a large enough fund to initiate at least a few programmes on its own.

During the celebration week in September a Flag Day was observed in all the former Mission Schools and the two Schools now run by the Diocese.

The Sunday School children in all the Churches are using Collecting Cards to collect for this fund.

The Churches are now approaching all the members, friends and those who have had family links with the Mission in the past to give liberally towards this fund.

The members and friends in foreign countries are also being approached. Our readiness to build for the future is the best way we can be truly thankful for the blessings of the past. It is encouraging that many have come forward to give one month's salary towards this fund. It is hoped the desired target will soon be realised.

Colombo Church

Celebrates A. C. M. 175th Anniversary

When the American Ceylon Mission's centenary was celebrated in 1916 at Vaddukoddai, the Rev. J. K. Sinnathamby one of the younger leaders of the then Church Council challenged the Churches of the Council as they moved into the Second Century of the Mission, they should move out in Mission and establish Churches in Colombo, Batticaloa and even Malaysia. It took another 27 years for the work of the A. C. M. Churches to begin in Colombo in 1943 and it took another 73 years for the Diocese that followed the Church Council to begin work in Batticaloa and the Eastern Province in 1989.

It is therefore of significance that in 1991 when the 175th Anniversary of the Mission is being celebrated, they were celebrated in a significant way in Colombo and Batticaloa as well.

The celebrations in Colombo were well planned by the Pastor of the J. D., C. S. I. Colombo Church the Rev. S. Jeyanesan and the members of the Church Committee. A public meeting was held on Wednesday the 25th of September at 5.00 p.m. at

the B. M. I. C. H. The Bishop of the Diocese the Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar presided over the meeting and introduced individually all the speakers. Mrs. Vasanthy Rajaratnam the Secretary of the Colombo Church welcomed the gathering of over 500 people.

Mr. Lloyd Devarajah another member of the Colombo Church took pains to publish a brief history of the American Ceylon Mission 1816-1991 and also of the history of the Colombo Church 1943 to the present.

The Guest of honour at the function, His Excellency Mr. Marion Creekmere the U. S. Ambassador in Sri Lanka released the first copy of this booklet to our distinguished guest from the U. S. the Rev. Dr. Ralph C. Quellhorst, Conference Minister of the Indiana Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ in the U. S. A. Ambassador Creekmere then spoke looking back with admiration at the spirit of dedication and service that led the pioneer American Missionaries to come to Ceylon. We should ask what led them to undertake their long and arduous journey, many of them knowing they may never see their home country again. If we can find the answer to that question perhaps we can derive the right inspiration and guidance for our times.

The Ambassador was followed by Dr. Quellhorst who represented the United Church of Christ and the United Church Board for World Ministries (U. C. B. W. M.) at the occasion. Seated on the platform with the distinguished guests was Sue his wife who also made the trip to Sri Lanka to participate in the celebrations. Dr. Quellhorst emphasised the long link of 175 years which has united Christians in America and Christians in Ceylon in a common task of an ongoing Mission. He was bringing the greetings of the more than Two Million Christians in the U.C.C. and the Six Thousand Congregation. He also brought the greetings of the United Church Board which is the continuation of the Board that sent the missionaries from 1816 onwards. He said he was moved by the celebrations he had attended in Jaffna and felt it was a privilege to pay his respects at the tomb of James Richards in Tellippallai truly a Saint of the Church. It was fitting he said that he was invited at the Seminary to declare open the Hall of Residence named after James Richards. Dr. Quellhorst went on to challenge the present generation of the Church here to look forward to what it would be 175 years hence in the 2166 and live and work to realise the vision. He hoped the partnership between the Church in the U. S. and in Sri Lanka

would continue even at that time. Ms. Caroline Elms, the Acting British High Commissioner and Mr. Douglas Henderson, a representative of Canadian High Commission also spoke. The Deputy Ambassador of the German Embassy was also present.

Leaders and representatives of Sister Churches then brought messages of greetings from their respective Churches. The Rev. Chater the pioneer Baptist Missionary to Ceylon was already in Colombo when the first American Missionaries arrived in Colombo in 1816. It was he who gave them a warm welcome and helped them to find their way with the required formalities before their departure to Jaffna. The Rev. Dr. W. G. Wickremesinghe brought the greetings of the Sri Lanka Baptist Sanghamaya. He said he hoped that the close friendships that existed between the leaders and members of the Churches would continue in the future for greater co-operation and fellowship.

The Bishop of Kurunegala the Rt. Rev. Andrew Kumaraage in a moving manner referred to some of the outstanding contributions of the American Missionaries. Their contributions in the field of Education, Medicine and Social Uplift was truly a blessing to the whole country. He said there were many similarities between the Dioceses of Kurunegala and Jaffna and hoped the ecumenical relationships will continue to grow. The Rev. Fr. Mervyn Jayakody brought the greetings of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Colombo.

The Rev. C. T. Janz and the Rev. Premasiri Fernando brought greetings from the Dutch Reformed Church and the Methodist Church respectively. Mr. Atma Ganandar of the Ramakrishna Mission gave his message of greetings representing the Hindu Community.

Two others who spoke were Mr. Shirley Peiris, General Secretary of the National Christian Council and Mr. Elmo Wijesinghe, General Secretary of the Bible Society.

The last speaker to bring greetings was Dr. Robert Porter who as a Missionary on the staff of Jaffna College is a living link with the Missionary tradition. He spoke on behalf of the Trustees of Jaffna College in Boston, the other Board in the U. S. with which the Church here has a historic connection.

The Bishop gave his closing remarks and the Rev. S. Jeyanesan proposed a vote of thanks.

All those who attended felt they had participated in a great event in the long history of our Church. The organisers have to be congratulated for their excellent work.

Carl H. Holdridge

We regret to record the death of Mr. Carl H. Holdridge, for a long time a member of the Trustees of Jaffna College at Boston on Sunday the 22nd of September '91 at the age of 87. He was for many years Treasurer of the Trustees and later its Chairman. Earlier in life, he has also served as Treasurer of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions and also as Treasurer and Business Manager of the United Church of Christ Conference in Connecticut. He was also for some time the Controller of Andover Newton Theological School. In his capacity as a member of the Trustees of Jaffna College, he has visited Jaffna twice. On the first occasion, he declared open in 1973 the first block that was completed at the Jaffna College Institute of Technology. He was a close friend of the College and kept in touch with its progress. His wife predeceased him a few years ago. He leaves behind a son and daughter, six grandchildren, four great grandchildren and two brothers.

Professor K. Nesiah is Ninety

We congratulate Prof. K. Nesiah who celebrated his ninetieth birthday on the 13th of November 1991. Prof. Nesiah after obtaining his Master's Degree from Madras Christian College, Tambaram, joined the staff of St. John's College, Jaffna, where he was for many years. He later served on the staff of St. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia and finally was Lecturer and Professor of Education at the Ceylon University. He obtained his Diploma in Education, London when he was on the staff of St. John's College, Jaffna. Prof. Nesiah

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A Home for Residential Care of Children and Young Adults with Needs. The Rev. S. S. Karunairajan who underwent special training in such a ministry in England is in charge of the Home assisted by a team of dedicated young people. The Staff had a service of dedication at the Koddaimunai Methodist Church, Batticaloa on Wednesday the 4th of December evening followed by the official opening of the Home by the President of the Methodist Conference, the Rev. Dr. Kingsley Muttiah. Along with the President were present three Methodist Missionaries, the Rev. Hans J. Beyer, Mr. Ben Bavinck and Miss Jill Newsham. Clergy and a large number of friends and well-wishers attended the function. There are now ten children at the Home and it hopes to take in up to twenty five.

will always be remembered as one of the leading Educationists in this country and has written widely on the subject. He was also from his youth an ardent nationalist who was active in the Jaffna Youth Congress and was a powerful exponent of the principles of Mahatma Gandhi.

A Prayer Meeting to mark his 90th birthday was held at his home in Somasundaram

LONDON TAMILS MARK A. C. M. ANNIVERSARY

The 175th Anniversary of the American Ceylon Mission (predecessor of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India) was celebrated by Jaffna Christians in London. A Service of Thanksgiving was held on the 21st September at the Putney Methodist Church. This was followed by a public meeting and fellowship tea.

In spite of the many other events taking place on the same evening, over one hundred and fifty dedicated J. D., C. S. I. members attended the Service. The Communion Service which followed the C. S. I. order of worship was led by Rev. J. Samraj, a minister of the Vellore Diocese currently in London. He was assisted by Rev. Xavier Soosainayagam. The message was delivered by the Rt. Rev. Lesslie Newbigin, retired Bishop of Madurai and later Madras. It was appropriate that he should deliver the message as the pioneering work in the Madurai Diocese was done by the same American board that sent missionaries to Jaffna. In fact Dr. Daniel Poor who founded Jaffna College subsequently also founded the American College in Madurai. There is also a link with the Vellore Diocese. Dr. John Scudder who started medical work in Pandaruppu in 1820 subsequently worked in the Vellore area and it was his grand-daughter Ida who founded Christian Medical College in Vellore.

The Service began with a welcome by Mr. J. Ratnarajah. During this he also read out a message from the Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar, Bishop in Jaffna. Many senior and less senior members of the J. D., C. S. I. participated in leading various sections of the Service. The message by Bishop Newbigin was appropriate. He pointed out the sad fact that though the work of these missionaries was being remembered with gratitude in the countries they went to, the countries that they came from were now denying them as misguided imperialists who destroyed many native cultures. Bishop Newbigin pointed out that we knew differently the positive impact that these missionaries had on our cultures. In closing the Bishop urged Tamil Christians to reciprocate

Avenue in Chundikuli, where the service was conducted by the Rev. S. P. Nesakumar, Vicar of St. John's Church. The Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan offered a prayer of thanksgiving and the Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar gave the blessing at the close of the service. A fellowship tea followed. Many of Prof. Nesiah's friends and admirers besides his family and relations were present.

by witnessing to their faith in Britain, which he pointed out was now a 'pagan land'. Though he preached in English it was evident from his lapses into Tamil that he had lost nothing of his mastery of the Tamil language.

Many of those who participated in the Service were themselves the children and grand children of ministers in the J. D., C. S. I. Amongst the ministers thus represented were the late Revs. Sugunarah, Ratnarajah, Mills, Kadirgamar, Kathiravelu and Bishops Kulanran and Ambalavanar. Many others who had held positions in the Diocese were also present.

This Service marked the first occasion on which members of the J. D., C. S. I. got together for such an occasion.

The meeting that followed was addressed by Mr. R. J. Gunaratnam who gave a brief account of the varied nature of the work that the J. D., C. S. I. is now involved in. He urged people here to support this work both in their prayers and financially. D. Thayalan Ambalavanar then gave a slide show depicting various aspects of the work the Diocese was now involved in. To many that was new as they had left Jaffna before the eighties when most of this work was commenced. Dr. Ambalavanar also brought to the attention of those present the fact that the Morning Star was a hundred and fifty years old this year and urged them to support its work. After a vote of thanks the meeting concluded with fellowship tea.

Christians in Batticaloa Celebrate

A. C. M. 175th Anniversary

Although the Jaffna Diocese of the C. S. I. the successor of the American Ceylon Mission started work in the Eastern Province only in 1989, the Mission has had links with the Eastern Province for a much longer period. Generations of students from the E. P. have studied at Jaffna College and Uduvil and a large number of Nurses from the Eastern Province have been trained at Green Hospital, Manipay and at McLeod Hospital, Inuvil. Both the late Rev. S. Selvaratnam and the Rev. I. T. Yesusahayam

who spread the Ashram movement to the East were Presbyters of the Jaffna Diocese of the C. S. I. The work of the Diocese is now established in nine different centres and Christians from these centres and many more friends and well wishers gathered at the St. John's Church Centre at Uranee, Batticaloa to celebrate the 175th Anniversary on Tuesday the 1st of October at 3.00 p.m. Bishop Ambalavanar presided over the function. He was accompanied by the Revs. A. Jeyakumaran and S. Jeyanesan. Mr. A. T. Ariyaratnam the Secretary of the St. John's Church welcomed the gathering and the Pastor the Rev. Earl P. Solomons led the meeting in prayer.

Bishop Kingsley Swampillai the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Batticaloa-Trincomalee Diocese was the Chief Speaker on the occasion. He said he was grateful for the opportunity of participating at the function and to express the appreciation of his people for the long and distinguished services of the American Missionaries in Ceylon. He was glad the Diocese has now extended its work into the Eastern Province and was happy about the ecumenical co-operation and good will that prevailed between his Diocese and the American Mission. He said he was greatly encouraged by the community service programmes started by the Mission in the Eastern Province.

The Rev. Miss Ariamalar Vaithilingam bringing greetings from the Methodist Church said she herself was a product of the American Mission since she was born and bred at Vaddukoddai and had all her schooling at Jaffna College. The Bishop introducing her said she was specially welcome as a grand daughter of a leading Pastor of the American Mission the Rev. S. Veerakathy. Mr. Somanader, also a Methodist layman, and the Education Officer at Batticaloa spoke in appreciation of the Educational, Medical and Spiritual contributions of the Mission and praised particularly the co-operation and good will that existed between the missionaries of the different denominations from the earliest times. He thanked the Jaffna Diocese for its assistance for Y. M. C. A. Housing Programme in Batticaloa soon after the cyclone disaster some years ago. The Rev. Hugh Canagasabai and representatives of the Y.M.C.A. and the Hindu Community also spoke.

The good function was marred only by the torrential rain that came through the Pandal towards the end of the meeting. There was also a fellowship Tea.