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Vaddukedai.

THE MORNING STAR

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Recognition of Christian Theological Seminary

A team of three theologians visited Jaffna on 30th May 1994 to inspect, examine and submit their recommendations about Christian Theological Seminary at Chuanakam to the Senate of Serampore College (University).

The team comprised of the following :

1. The Rev. Dr. Gnana Robinson, Principal of United Theological College, Bangalore. He was also the Principal of Tamilnadu Theological Seminary, Madurai and wrote many books.
2. The Rev. Dr. P. Kambar Manickam, Principal of Tamilnadu Theological Seminary. He is attached to the Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church.
3. The Rev. D. S. Sathyarajan. He is the Registrar of Serampore College.

Our Bishop - The Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan also accompanied them.

Students' Enlightenment Day

Sunday 5th June 1994 was observed as Students' Enlightenment Day in Northern Sri Lanka. The day started with hoisting of National Flag and School flag at 8.30 a.m. Special songs composed for the day were sung in all schools. This was followed by a variety entertainment and speeches.

In the afternoon functions were held at circuit levels.

Evangelistic Meeting at Varany - Kudathanai

A team of J. D. C. S. I. Evangelistic Committee comprising of the Rev. V. N. Tharmakulasingam, Rev. S. I. Anandarajan and Rev. Milten Solomon Mr. D. S. Mathiappan with two youth from the Sathiyapuram Church, Mr. T. Sathianathan, Mr. S. Uthayaratnam and Mr. S. Jeyachandran with two members from the Nanavil Church visited Varany and Kudathanai areas on evangelistic mission from 23rd May evening to 25th May 1994 evening. They were hosted by the Rev. A. V. Jesuthasan and Mr. N. T. Jayaseelan, Presbyter Varany Church and Kudathanai Church.

The team will submit its recommendations to the Senate when it sits in February 1995. It is believed that the Seminary will be recognized as an affiliated College of the Senate of Serampore College.

Serampore College was established by William Carey and received its charter to award degrees such as B. Th., B. D., M. Th., and Ph. D.

The Christian Theological Seminary was established in 1983 to prepare and train ministerial candidates. This has fulfilled the dreams of pioneer American Missionaries who established Jaffna College under the name Batticota Seminary in 1823.

Hitherto, the students passing out of the 'Seminary' were awarded a 'Diploma.' Some have sat for the B. Th. exter-

nal and passed with high marks. More than twenty have graduated from the Seminary and are working with the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India.

One past student is now working in Nuwara-Eliya District for Lanka Lutheran Church. The following past students have been ordained as Deacons and some will soon be ordained as Presbyters.

Rev. J. Thevaarud Selvam B. Th., Rev. Benjamin Jeyarajah B. Th., Rev. S. I. Anandarajan (will be completing B. Th.), Rev. S. Thevakaran, Rev. J. Gnanaorugam, Rev. Anton Sawerimuttu, Rev. T. H. Vasanthakumar.

Our former Bishop The Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar felt the need for a Seminary in Jaffna when our ministerial candidates could not proceed to India for Theological education because of difficulties faced in obtaining visas. Further, it has become necessary for our ministers to study Contextual Theology.

The Morning Star wishes; The Principal, Staff and Students of Christian Theological Seminary all success. May God bless them and use them.

School Children participate in the extra Curricular activities enthusiastically

The Chankai Educational Circuit conducted Tamil-Day competitions, Sports meet and Netball Matches in the recent past. Many Schools in the circuit participated. Winning teams will participate at zone level soon. Netball matches at zonal level have already started.

Under 17 and 19 teams from ten schools in the Jaffna District have entered the Cricket tournaments conducted by Jaffna Schools Cricket Association. The matches are now being played during weekends.

SHELLING AT JAFFNA

The Army at Mandaithivu buried mortar shells at residential area in Gurunagar, Jaffna killing three and injuring a few. Mean while an Air Force plane Surveyed the entire coastal area in the Valligamam West Division which (includes) Vaddukedai, Chankai and Chulipuram areas. People were Panicked. It was reported that three days prior to this a naval bowser was caught to the landmine in Karainagar.

UNDERNOURISHMENT IN JAFFNA

The Health Authorities in Jaffna claim that many, especially the school going children are undernourished. If this goes on unchecked, children will very soon develop complications due to undernourishment. This will also impede their education.

Parents, teachers and children are therefore, warned of impending threat and are advised to use locally available herbs to supplement the diet.

Nutrition week is observed by Chankai A. G. A. Division and an exhibition on nutrition was held at Victoria College, Chulipuram from 6th to 12th June, 1994.

More ships to Jaffna

ICRC is now plying more ships between Point Pedro and Trincomalee. As a result, it is reported that, at least one ship calls on Point Pedro harbour every week.

Kerosene for Farmers

Farmers are issued with more kerosene at Rs. 30/- per litre. This has resulted in slump in kerosene prices in the open market. Kerosene is now being sold between Rs. 40/- and Rs. 50/- per litre.

STUDENTS PROTEST TWO SESSIONS IN SCHOOLS

Jaffna Educational District Zones I and II decided that all schools in Jaffna should go two sessions.

The parents and students of Jaffna Hindu College were the first to protest. A boycott was triggered off by Jaffna Hindu College students. The boycott then spread to other schools as well. As a result, a meeting was summoned by the Director of Education Zone I on 4th June. The Principals, Teachers,

Land mine explosions in East

Altogether eight Sri Lankan security men were killed in Trincomales and Polonaruwa when land-mines exploded on 9th June 1994. Two were killed in Trincomales and six in Polonaruwa. There was also exchange of gunshots at Trincomalee. It should be noted that both these areas are claimed to be under government control.

Shelling & Cannoning from Madagal Camp

Cannons were fired along the coastal area from naval gunboats anchored off Madagal shores from early morning till late night. Sri Lankan Army stationed at Madagal also fired mortar shells towards residential areas. A few shells fell inside a refugee camp at Chankai killing a 28-year-old familiend man.

Canberra Tamil Association

The Canberra Tamil Association has donated Eight hundred Australian Dollars for the Relief Rehabilitation Ministry of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India.

The Morning Star

Diocesan Office, Vaddukoddai.

17 - 06 - 1994

EDITORIAL

Christian Witness In The Context of Asian Pluralism

'The Church being peoples' Church and being responsible for the Gospel should be a worshiping, sharing & serving community by getting involved in peoples' struggle'.

The above underlines the basis on which the Church should bear witness to Christ, in the pluralistic Asian Society. Asian Society includes many ethnic groups. There is a variety of languages and dialects. Asian people adapt diverse cultures and follow different religions. Although many common factors try to bind these people of varied cultures and ethnic identities together, there are many barriers which keep them apart.

Refusal to accept others views is on the increase. Fundamental rights are denied to many. Religions of the majority try to exert pressure on their own governments to oppress the minorities. People fight because of their language differences and often sinister moves are adopted to force the language of the majority on the minorities. The Cultural religious & ethnic pluralism has become a confusion. It prevents people from uniting in building up God's Kingdom on earth.

If Christians are to bear witness they should first be united and form one Church of Christ. For this we should recognize the various gifts the fellow Christians posses. St. Paul in his first letter to Corinthians says 'There are varieties of gifts, but the same spirit, there are varieties of service, but the same Lord, and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God' (1 Co 12:4-6). Our gifts should not be used to bring about divisions within the Church. Unfortunately, because some individuals & groups claim superiority & insist that only their gifts are 'Charisma'- gifts of the Holy spirit Church is disintegrating into fragments. It is the same spirit who gives different people and groups various gifts. Therefore, they all should be used for the common good (1 Co 12:7). If we are not united, we cannot bring together the warring factions to common understanding. The God in Trinity work is unison in creation, redemption and consummation. So we should work unitedly in establishing the 'Kingdom of Christ' on earth.

The second basis for our Christian witness should be our faith in one God. It is said in the letter to the Ephesians 'There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God and Father of us all'. Because it is the 'one God' who created all living beings all are children of the same God. Ben Gurion, the 1st Prime-minister of Israel said, 'before Americans or Russian, before Israelites Arabs or before every thing that separates man from man were formed God created man in his own image'. We should therefore be able to see the image of God in others.

When God created man he blessed the entire mankind and said Be fruitful, multiply and subdue the earth.' Therefore each man by his birth right has the claim for equality in all respects. All resources should therefore be shared equally; the wealth should be distributed evenly and all men should be treated equally. Therefore the caste system which makes one superior over another, the uneven distribution of wealth which makes a section of mankind rich and others poor or any form of exploitation is abhorrence to God. God involves himself in the struggles of the oppressed. We find that God saw the infliction of Hebrews and heard their cry. Therefore he came down to liberate them. When Ahab deceitfully annexed Naboth's vineyard to his own, God demanded justice from Ahab. We Christians too should share in the struggles of people whose rights are denied.

It is the duty of the Church to work among the down trodden, the poor and the marginalized and try to lift them up from the State they are in. Jesus never turned away those who came to Him. He fed them; showed them the way of life. He taught them the meaning of life; He lifted them up from their miserable State and healed their infirmities. More than all, He gave His own life to those whom He worked for. We should likewise show the light to those in darkness. Counsel the lost; Comfort the comfortless, console the bereaved.

Indian Theologians at Jaffna College

The Rev. Dr Gnana Robinson, Principal, United Theological

Ben Bavinck in Jaffna

Mr C B Bavinck, former Supervisor Primary School, Jaffna College has come again to live in Jaffna. He will work for the Methodist Church in Jaffna and will be here for one year.

Farmers Commit Suicide

Increasing number of farmers in Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa areas are committing suicide according to BBC report. The farmers have to borrow loans at very high interest rates and those unable to repay commit suicide. Farmer's subsidy is withdrawn and they have to buy fertilizers at higher prices and the income from harvest is not sufficient to repay loans. The Government is seriously studying these suicides, for they feel it may turn into a political issue.

We watch over

(Last week continuation)
a more convenient time, but the family wanted to give us their report. I think they felt less at risk for further reprisal due to our involvement."

As Mark was leaving, the Sri Lanka team had large 'bibs' (squares that hang front and back (printed with the PB logo on them.) This is to make it obvious during an observation who is a PBI observer. The project is dealing with the issue of 'racism' within PBI: we do not depend on skin colour to distinguish us from the surrounding community. We have always included Sri Lankans on the Project Committee and are dealing with how to lessen the gap in the nonviolence movement between different communities

College, Bangalore, The Rev. Dr. P. Kambar Manickam, principal Tamilnadu Theological Seminary, Madurai and The Rev. D. S. Sathyarajan, Registrar, Senate of Serampore College (University) visited Jaffna College on 1st June 1994.

Dr. Kambar Menickam addressed the students at a special assembly. He based his theme on Luke 2:52 and said children should grow physically and mentally and should receive grace from God and good name from men.

Rev. Sathyarajan addressing the Staff, enumerated the problems that could be faced by teachers and urged teachers to be prudent.

Dr. Gnana Robinson citing examples from Old Testament, preached on Liberation Theology".

A Thanksgiving Service to mark the 150 years of service

Lively discussion followed. The Northern Regional council of YMCAs held a Thanksgiving Service to mark the 150 years of the foundation of the YMCA on Sunday the 12th of June 1994 at 4.30 pm at the Uduvil CSI Church. The Chairman the Northern Regional Council and the President of the Uduvil YMCA Sevak Sam T Alfred led the Service assisted by the Rev V. Rajkumar and the Rev. A. Jayakumaran. The Rev. Fr. Dr. Henry Gnanapiragam Rector St. Heady's Ilavai gave the message for the day. Scripture lessons were read by Mr S P Jeevanantham of the Jaffna YMCA and Mr N Anuprajah of the Naval YMCA Mrs. K. Bavasingam of the Uduvil YMCA sang a Thevaaram and the Uduvil Church choir rendered a special anthem. The Service was followed by a tea Party in the Uduvil Church lawn. Many representatives from all the YMCAs in the North attended this Service

ved; feed the hungry; clothe the naked and give life to the lifeless.

The words of St. Paul 'There is one faith, one Lord, one baptism, and One God' reminds us to renew our faith in Christ. Our commitment should be to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. The saying 'All religion Lead to the Same God and all religions are different paths of redemption,' doesn't hold good. It is true that all religions have veiled revelation of God in them. Even St. Paul says "God has revealed himself from the beginning of creation, through every thing he Created but men not honouring the creator started to worship the created beings instead of God" (of Rom 1: 18 - 23.) Yes there are elements of truth in all religions but all have become oppressive in nature. Casteism is justified in the name of religion.

Jesus by his deeds broke all barriers. He broke the wall that was between the Jews and gentiles, thereby all people are granted direct access to God. He was never a respector of persons. He humbled those who thought very high of themselves but praised the Samaritans and gentiles. He drank water from Samaritans ate with publicans and sinners, and treated the pharisees and sinners alike. The same Jesus is now working among the oppressed, the marginalized and the rejected through his Holy Spirit. It is our duty to reveal this Jesus to all. For this, we must bear witness to Christ in words and in deeds.