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JAFFNA 1890-1990

THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE

Young Men's Christian Association

Jaffna

**Souvenir
To Commemorate the
Centenary**

1890 - 1990

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JAFFNA Y. M. C. A. BUILDING



**Message from
The President - Y.M.C.A. Jaffna.**

Greetings to you all. Today is an epoch making day and we all thank you for your participation. Battle scars do remain but the atmosphere in Jaffna is no longer tense. Ours is a global Movement and at different stages this Movement has celebrated its Centennial, taking just a few - World Alliance of Y.M.C.As in 1955, Colombo 1982, Jaffna College in 1984 and we now in 1990.

Our ambition has carried us forward with sights lifted high. Painful at times has been our advance with disappointments at every stage, but we have forged on. We have our faith and courage. We foresee better things ahead and hence we must advance. But true advance should be taken now. God has given us foresight. We should not temporise but must begin with God's help - let us do so.

*Our lives are God's gift What we do with them
is our gift to God.*

Sam S. Sathaseevam



**Message from
1st Youth Work Secretary
Jaffna Y.M.C.A.
Executive Director
Asia Evangelistic Fellowship
(CANADA)**

It was the year 1964. I remember resigning from a position as teacher at Jaffna College, and embarking on a pioneering mission of serving a larger community in Jaffna as the first Youth Work Secretary.

25 years ago, I remember walking into an almost empty new building, with the Board backing me up with the words, 'Begin Youth Work'. The Business Secretary and I shared a desk between us, and that was how it started.

This is 1989, as I send these greetings. Very recently while on my Mission travels. I had the privilege of meeting some of the Founder members of the Jaffna YMCA Youth Department. Naturally they are married and with families. We were reminiscing on past years at the YMCA. You can be much encouraged by the fact that many lives have been shaped and moulded by the Youth Department.

The Jaffna YMCA stands as a beacon of light in the community of Jaffna particularly at times such as these. You face different challenges than what we faced years ago. But this beacon of light must be a reflection of the 'Light of the world' - Jesus Christ, who though separated from the world. Yet was not isolated and He was very much a part of the community where He lived and taught.

I congratulate you on considering 7 worthwhile projects in 1990 to meet the needs of the community. I pray that the Jaffna YMCA will be both the 'Light' as well as the 'salt' of the community as Jesus instructed.

I wish the Board of Directors, the staff, and the entire membership, God's guidance as you serve Him through this noble organisation which George Williams established during the time of the Industrial revolution in London. Your centenary focus and vision is therefore a timely one for Jaffna.

Marcus Navaratnarajah

**Message from
Hon. President of Sri Lanka**

I am happy to note that the Jaffna Young Men's Christian Association reaches its Centenary in May 1990. It is indeed a notable event in the history of any institution. During these long years large numbers of men and women have been influenced and fashioned by the high ideals of this institution.

The Jaffna YMCA has a proud record of service. It has moulded the character of its members to lead disciplined, orderly and useful lives. It has been able to render yeoman service to the community as well as to the whole country.

I wish the Jaffna YMCA another hundred years of dedicated service to our country and our people

9th December 1988

R. Premadasa

Hon. Prime Minister's Message Jaffna Y. M. C. A. Centenary

I am glad to hear that the Jaffna Y.M.C.A will shortly be celebrating its hundredth anniversary, The Centenary year is an important landmark in the history of an institution and it is gratifying to note that it is being marked in a worth-while and fitting manner by all those who are associated with this Association.

The Y.M.C.A movement has made a remarkable contribution to the Social, Cultural and Religious Development of this country. A unique feature about these associations is the fact that they do not promote, as their name would imply, only sectarian and parochial interests. They welcome people from all religious, all races and all classes. They spread the spirit of brotherhood and good will amongst all.

The contribution that the Y.M.C.A s have made for the skill development training and disciplining of the youth of our country is immense. Indeed at this critical juncture in the history of our country when the youth are being misguided by interested individuals and groups, institutions similar to the Y.M.C.As can play a notable part in weaning them away from such evil influences.

On this happy occasion of your centenary I send you warm greetings and good wishes. May the future of this institution be as fruitful and eventful as the past hundred years.

04th December, 1989

D. B Wijetunga
Prime Minister.

**Message from
The Bishop of Colombo**

I am proud and happy to send this brief message of congratulations and good wishes to the Y.M.C.A., Jaffna on the occasion of their centenary celebrations this year

The Jaffna 'Y', as far as I can recollect, was inaugurated in 1870 with Sri William Twynam as its President and the Revd. W. T. Garret as its first General Secretary. 100 years and yet how short a time in God's reckoning!

During my ministry in Jaffna I had the opportunity of coming in close contact with many of the leaders of the Jaffna 'Y', and I always had the privilege of a close and happy relationship with the 'Y'.

I thank God for its dedicated leaders and for the splendid record of its services during the past one hundred years, and I pray that God will bless and guide its work as it moves into an open future

+ Jabez J. Guanapragasm

**Message from
The Bishop of Jaffna**

One hundred years of Christian Fellowship and Community Services is certainly a remarkable achievement for any Organization. We congratulate the Y.M.C.A. for its 100 years of service to the people of Jaffna. We remember with gratitude the sacrifice and contribution made by many Founding Fathers and Christian leaders who had built and nurtured this Organization and left to future generations the legacy of a continued and dedicated service to the people of Jaffna. Such committed undertakings are possible only when the members are inspired by Christian Faith and respect for human values.

We are living in a period when our Christian witnessing has to be far more visible and available to every one around us. Therefore, let us re dedicate our lives and activities through Organizations like the Y.M.C.A. We pray God to bless the members and all the undertakings of the Y.M.C.A. and we wish all concerned, success in all their ventures and God's blessings.

+ **B. Deogupillai**

Message from The CSI Church in Jaffna

It is with joy and thanksgiving we send you our greetings and good wishes, as you celebrate the centenary of the Jaffna YMCA.

Centenary celebration is an occasion for looking back and to recall the past - Praising God for His faithfulness, and to remember with gratitude all those who laboured before you, to build this Institution from its inception.

When you look backward to the past, it gives you an opportunity to gain new life and new inspiration for the future, and it will lead you to recommit yourself, in faith and hope, for the task ahead of you.

At this occasion, we are deeply grateful to God, that many of our Church members, were fully involved in the life of this YMCA, and some of them have served as Chairmen and General Secretaries. We also remember with gratitude, the Late Mr. J. M. Sabaratnam a member of our Church, through his dynamic vision and leadership, involved himself greatly in guiding the "Y" especially during the period of the ethnic troubles. His untiring and unreserved efforts made the "Y" look what it is today. He richly deserves our grateful recognition and deep appreciation.

We do appreciate very much the significant contribution made by the "Y" in the recent years, by starting several Community development projects, Relief and rehabilitation programmes for the underprivileged and the poor people of the Tamil Community. We are also delighted to note that you are planning to inaugurate several other projects in this Centenary year.

We wish God's abundant blessings for all the programmes and projects of your YMCA. May God continue to give you strength, power and wisdom for your future work. May the Grace of our Lord continue to guide you, in your Service to the Community.

It is our wish that the joy of these festive days, should strengthen you to proceed further on the way God has ordained for you and to enable you to march towards the goal of your path which He has set for you.

Finally, I on behalf of my Bishop, (who is away on sabbatical leave), the C.S.I. members in Jaffna, and on my own behalf, wish and pray that this event may prove a blessing to all the participants and a memorable occasion in the life of the Jaffna Y.M.C.A. We pray that God through His Spirit to guide your work and your vision for the years to come

D. R. Ambalavanar
Bishop's Commissary.

Message from The President of the Methodist Church Sri Lanka

I am deeply thankful for the opportunity given me as President, Methodist Church, Sri Lanka, to send a message to the Souvenir to be published in connection with the Jaffna Y.M.C.A. Centenary Celebrations.

It is gratifying to note that the Jaffna Y.M.C.A. which has now developed in so many ways to be one of the largest Y.M.C.A.'s in Sri Lanka has done yeoman service to the community. It is noteworthy that it has initiated a number of Social Service Projects for the betterment of the lot of the common man. We thank God for having used this Y.M.C.A. for the furtherance of His purposes for this part of our country.

We pray for God's choicest blessings on the Jaffna Young Men's Christian Association in the years ahead so that, while it continues its meritorious services to the community, it may be used of God abundantly to foster peace and reconciliation, racial harmony and co-operation, and friendship and fellowship among all groups of people in Jaffna,

On this happy occasion I heartily send my felicitations and best wishes for a successful programme of Centenary Celebrations

8th February, 1990

Revd Harold A. Fernando
President.

**Message From
the President of the Y. W. C. A. of Sri Lanka**

It gives me great pleasure to send a message to the Y.M.C.A. of Jaffna on its centenary.

One hundred years of service to the community in Jaffna is very commendable, and the Y.M.C.A. could be glad of its achievements and thankful to God for His many blessings.

I am aware that it has been responsible for organising many programmes for the physical mental and spiritual development of people, especially men and youth, and they have included sports, housing, rehabilitation, vocational and leadership training, prayer and Bible Study.

The Y.M.C.A. has participated in joint programmes with the Y.W.C.A. of Jaffna especially during the YM - YW World Week of Prayer, and the running of Nursery schools have helped the parents and catered to the needs of children.

On this happy occasion as we remember with gratitude all those who have served the Association in the past with vision and dedication; I take this opportunity of wishing the present Board of Management, Members and Staff of the Jaffna Y.M.C.A. all success in your centenary celebrations and God's blessings as you embark on your second century of service to the people of Jaffna.

Mrs. Sita Perera
National President

**Message from
The Retired General Secretary, Y.M.C.A. Colombo**

In 1962 I was privileged to propose the Toast of the Jaffna Y.M.C.A. at the Dinner which was held to mark the opening of your new building. I did so with a warm feeling in my heart for the future of the Jaffna Y.M.C.A. and the mood took me to quote from the Prayer offered by King Solomon at the Dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem. God has indeed kept His eyes on you and prospered you. That is why, inspite of adversity in the recent past you have risen like the Phoenix out of the ashes. In this 2nd Centenary of your History you are planning to expand your activities by embarking on seven projects worthy of Y.M.C.A. ideals. God help you to achieve them.

I cannot conclude this message without referring to the privilege God gave the Colombo Y.M.C.A. to train your present General Secretary Mr M. Thambithurai, who in every way proved himself worthy of being a Y.M.C.A. worker.

God bless the Jaffna Y.M.C.A.

L. G. G. Wijesinghe



**Message from
Prof. Ernest A. Champion
Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies**

When I look back on my life, one of the most rewarding experiences has been the years I served on the Board of Directors of the Jaffna Y.M.C.A. and also as the Honorary General Secretary (April, 1961 to April, 1966). During this period, it was my pleasure to work with a very dedicated group of men, because the Y.M.C.A. for a long time was more an idea worthy of our support than an institution with a physical identity. It was given to us during this period to give shape and form and a physical location, which is the Y.M.C.A. as it exists today.

Mr. J. M. Sabaratnam, who was the President, having succeeded Mr R. C. S. Cooke, was totally dedicated to providing a home for the Y.M.C.A. At one stage, we had exhausted all funds collected, and the roof of the building was incomplete. Mr. Sabaratnam was able to persuade the Board of Directors to sign a promissory note to the Bank of Ceylon, Jaffna, for a sum of 50,000 rupees. This is significant because it was made clear that, if for any reason the Y.M.C.A. defaulted in payment the Bank could recover from the members of the Board, individually and collectively. I sometimes wonder how Mr. Sabaratnam was able to generate this kind of commitment from twelve different people.

It has also been my pleasure to work with Dr. G. N. R. Nathaniel and Mr. C. A. W. Edwards, who provided great leadership as President. Mr J. G. Arasararatnam, as Treasurer, had the most difficult task of finding the money and husbanding the resources. He practically was asked to make hay without straw. The Jaffna Y.M.C.A. owes a great debt to all these men.

A hundred years in the life of an institution can only be measured by what it has meant to the life of a people. To me, the YMCA, though openly Christian and always proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, has also, in an ineluctable way, been a symbol of unity. Non-Christians found, in our YMCA, a fulfilment for their lives without actually having to accept the cross, or kneeling at the altar. The most Christian thing that the YMCA

can do is keep open its doors, regardless of patrons religious affiliation. This must be the continuing task of the YMCA for the next hundred years. I have met, in my life, several non - Christians whose lives have been touched and enriched by their association with the YMCA, though they continue to maintain their own religious affiliations.

My wish for the Jafna YMCA is the same as that wished by Mahatma Gandhi when he visited the Madras YMCA in South India. Gandhi, it is said looked around and finally remarked 'My great prayer for the Madras YMCA is that you shall always be in want.' The Mahatma was right. The Jafna YMCA is what it is today because we were always in want. And because we were in want, it brought out the best in all of us.

Ernest A. Champion



**Message from
Government Agent Jaffna District**

I am happy to send a message of felicitation on the occasion of the Y.M.C.A.'s Centenary Celebrations. Continuous and sustained service both to the society and to the young men of Jaffna for hundred years is by any standard a historic achievement. In the fulfilment of its role the Y.M.C.A. has given opportunities to many generations of youth to attain the fulness of their potential talents. The Y.M.C.A. has offered for the past century opportunities in very vital areas of human development like studies, sports, leadership, community service, etc. which have helped both the youth and the people of Jaffna to develop both their society and the talents of its members. The Y.M.C.A. has throughout this period upheld the highest traditions of Christianity whose main thrust has been self-effacing service to those in need. I am sure that the Y.M.C.A. would continue to inspire, lead and transform our society within the framework of the Christian ethic.

I wish all success to the Y.M.C.A. in its future role and I am certain that it will flourish for more than another hundred years.

Anton Alfred

Centenary Celebrations

Mr. George William was responsible for the establishment of the YMCA in 1844 in England, which has spread so far and wide through out the world in about 82 countries with a membership of over 30 million. The YMCA has reached the four corners of the world and touched the minds and hearts of millions of people. The motto of the association is "It is not how little, but how much we can do for the others." Besides rendering help in every angle possible, the Association works for equal benefits and justice for all. I am proud to say that the Christian spirit has gained admiration at all quarters.

The Jaffna YMCA has not failed to live up to these qualities.

As Municipal Commissioner, Jaffna, I must not fail to place on record the assistance rendered by the Jaffna YMCA both financially and physically, for the improvement of the Library services of the Jaffna Municipal Council.

I am happy to have been invited to give a message on the occasion of the Centenary Celebrations of the Jaffna YMCA, and I wish the Jaffna YMCA every success in their celebrations.

V. P. Bal singham
Municipal Commissioner
Jaffna.

Message from the Governor, Northern - Eastern Province

It gives me great joy to write a message of felicitation on the occasion of your centenary celebrations early next year. I am particularly happy that you are an association of youth motivated by religious ideals. Only associations such as yours could best serve our motherland in this period of crisis that we find ourselves in today! Many of us are not aware of the extent of the trouble. Many others are alarmed but do not know what to do about it. There is murder, arson, looting, and other capital crimes being committed, if I may say so, in gay abandon. The 1980's, without a doubt, has been a decade of isolation.

There is one power, and one power alone, that can help us achieve lasting peace and sanity - SPIRITUAL POWER. That is why an association such as yours has the potential of being a beacon of light in a dark world. A caring community of committed christian youth can provide strength and encouragement to those around. You have the capacity to be powerful witnesses to a way of life that could redeem our country from the grim situation that we are placed in. You strive together towards a goal - not just for financial rewards, but for the joy of the effort itself. You motivate each other towards excellence in the building of mutual relationships which, in essence is the christian way of life.

I believe therefore with a faith that is proof against all disappointments that spiritual power is our only source of deliverance from the present morass.

I believe that our generation is hanging right now in the balance. I believe our generation is faced with a choice - repentance or judgement. We have to change our attitudes our hearts and minds. The Sinhalese must change - the Tamils must change not only our attitudes but our perspectives - the way we look at a problem and our interpretation of what we see.

“OUR COUNTRY IS PASSING THROUGH ITS GRAVEST CRISIS”

It needs unity not divisiveness, constructive assistance, not destructive rancour: harmony, not racial hatred. It needs the help of associations such as yours. It needs my help and yours.

May your association prosper & grow in the years ahead and prove to be a worthy instrument of Gods love to mankind.

Lt. Gen. G. D. G. N. Seneviratne.

Message from the Rotary Club of Jaffna

It is with great pleasure that I send these wishes to the Souvenir of the Young Men's Christian Association on the occasion of celebrating its Centenary in 1990

Your Association has right through - out given its time and labour to help mankind with humility and faith. With the Change of pattern of life in the recent years, it would be more appropriate to extend your interest beyond the traditional virtue of Social service & Social welfare amongst the poor, and embark yourself on more meaningful ventures, with the objective of motivating the youth to take up to self - employment.

I deem it a privilege to have had this opportunity of sending a message in the name of the Rotary which practices "Enjoy Rotary"

Rtn P. Selvanathan
President
Rotary Club of Jaffna Dist. 322

Message from the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society Jaffna Division

We are very happy to be associated with you in your Centenary year celebrations.

Jaffna Y. M. C. A. has been in the forefront of leadership amongst the Youth in our areas for the past one hundred years. Your organisation has withstood the trials and tribulations, such organisations are faced with during difficult situations in our country.

We have been particularly happy about that the relief and rehabilitation work that was done by you, specially during the past few years.

We congratulate you for this unique event which you all can justifiably be proud of. Our best wishes go to you and other members of the Y. M. C. A. for a bright and more rewarding future.

Dr. R. Theivendran
Chairman

**Message from
the Lions Club of Jaffna**

Y.M.C As are looked upto in the community for their services not only in the field of religion but also for their services to humanity in times of peace as well as in times of war. The Jaffna Y.M.C.A. which has a proud record of a Centenary of continued dedicated service to the community certainly needs cheer and appreciation. Your yeomen services by way of relief and rehabilitation during these turbulent years are certainly praiseworthy.

I, as President of the Jaffna Lions Club a member club of the largest service organisation in the world Lions Clubs International; committed to the philosophy of 'The Serve' - deem it a pleasure to send to you my personal greetings as well as that of my club members, through this souvenir and and wish you many more, centenaries of dedicated service to humanity.

With Lionistic Greetings,

Dr. V. Yoganathan
President.

**Message from
the Regional Director
Y's Men International - Sri Lanka Region**

It gives me genuine pleasure to contribute this short message to the Jaffna YMCA on the occasion of its centenary.

I am aware that the Jaffna YMCA and the Y's Men's Club of Jaffna have worked very closely with, and been a source of strength to one another over the past many years. They have been a true example of "PARTNERS IN PROGRESS" and prove once again that the PARTNERSHIP WORKS.

I take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Jaffna YMCA and wish them all God's Blessings in their future endeavours.

Jean Godlieb



**Message from
Former Fraternal Secretary**

It is difficult to believe that it has been 27 years since I stood in front and was a part of the opening of your present building and it was most exciting to realize the fact that you are celebrating your CENTENARY.

I remember the splendid effort you all made to raise the funds to build this functional and important building, that in the 27 years has meant so much to your community and the YMCA movement in general.

Over the years you have endured unbelievable obstacles and yet in spite of these you have provided services to your youth and community that have carried you forward to ever increasing heights and helped to strengthen your community and give positive direction to your young people and help them grow physically, mentally and spiritually.

Please accept our heartfelt feelings for what you have been these past 100 years, and our prayers are that you will achieve even more in the next 100 years.

Boris & Helen Kazimiroff

**Message from
The President of
Refugees Rehabilitation Fund — 1983**

On behalf of the Refugees Rehabilitation Fund - 1983, I extend the warmest greetings and best wishes to the Young Men's Christian Association, Jaffna, on its completion of a century of service to the youth community at large in Jaffna,

The leaders of the Y.M.C.A were very closely associated with our Organisation from the inception - when it was formed to afford relief to the refugees who were coming to Jaffna from the South of Sri Lanka after the ethnic riots of July 1983. In fact we were housed in the Y.M.C.A. Building for about four years before we were "shelled" out of it by the military operations in the latter part of 1987.

The late Mr. J. M. Sabaratnam represented the Y.M.C.A. in the Council of Management of RRF - 1983 and was the live-wire of the Organisation till his sudden passing away while on a visit to U. K. Mr. Sam Sathaseevan, the President of the Y.M.C.A., now functions as our Treasurer. (We now deal with the 'refugees' from the North itself).

One of the most successful rehabilitation projects in the Jaffna District is the Yakkachchi Housing Scheme for refugees. It was our privilege to be associated with the Y.M.C.A. in this project.

The Y.M.C.A., Jaffna, is one of the service Organisations in Jaffna to which the people always look for succour in times of crisis and distress and this succour has unfailingly been given in the midst of its multifaceted other functions.

May the Lord Almighty bless the YMCA - Jaffna with many many more years of service to fellowmen.

S SIVAGNANAM
President,

**Message from
The President Jaffna Y W C A**

It is most fitting for an organisation claiming sister status and having the same objectives as the Y M C A in interpreting the Christian Message in its Service to the Community to be asked to give her blessings to a Brother Organisation at its Centenary Celebrations. It is with great pleasure and a sense of pride that I as the President of the Jaffna Y W C A with my Board of Directors share the rich fellowship that our movement offers.

To be a successful Centenarian is a wonderful achievement despite all the trials and tribulations our community had to face in recent times. During the hundred years of your existence, we have witnessed many changes, we have experienced common difficulties and it should be our earnest desire to work hand to hand towards harmony, peace and reconciliation.

We heartily congratulate you on your successful completion of the CENTURY inspite of the sticky pitch and wish you God's Blessings and Guidance during your Centenary celebrations and thereafter.

May all your efforts in your service to the community be always crowned with SUCCESS.

WELL DONE, DEAR BROTHER.

R. Ariaratnam

**Message from
The Former Fraternal Secretary**

Heartiest congratulations to the Jaffna Y M C A on their long and outstanding history of service. During my years as a Fraternal Secretary in Sri Lanka, it was my privilege and pleasure to visit the Jaffna Y M C A on numerous occasions, and I have many happy memories of those visits.

During recent years I have been deeply concerned about the situation in Sri Lanka in general and in Jaffna in particular, and my thoughts and prayers have often been with all of you. Now it seems that there is hope of returning to normal in your beautiful country, as evidenced by the plans to observe the Centenary of the Y M C A in Jaffna, and the hosting of the Annual General Meeting.

Your friends in the United States rejoice with you on this historic occasion, and wish for many more years of service to the good people of the Jaffna area.

Edgar C. "Ed" Torrence'

**Message from
The National Council Y M C A of Australia**

Y M C A's throughout Australia join the National Board in extending hearty and fraternal greetings to the Jaffna Y M C A on the occasion of its Centenary.

It is most fitting that your National Council's Annual General Meeting should be held at Jaffna to mark this historic event.

We pray that the celebration and the meeting will both be successful and serve to demonstrate the truth of our Philosophy that we all can be one.

E. A. Robertson

Message from The National Council of Y M C A s of Sri Lanka

On the occasion of the Centenary of the Jaffna YMCA, I have great pleasure in sending this message.

The Centenary of any organization is surely a historic occasion. The YMCA Movement came into Sri Lanka within 50 years of its birth in Europe and has made a significant contribution to the life of the people of our country. In fact, the Colombo YMCA is the oldest YMCA with a continuous record in Sri Lanka. It is also on record that many YMCAs were formed in Jaffna in and around this period, of which the Jaffna College YMCA was the first, and the second was the Jaffna YMCA.

The YMCAs in Jaffna under the leadership of Jaffna YMCA had during the early part of this century, formed the first union of YMCAs in Asia. The example was imitated by many other regions and the YMCA Movement in Jaffna later became part of the larger YMCA family. The Jaffna YMCA has the distinction of having a continuous history of service to the community though it did not have a permanent home till 1962, when it constructed the present building.

The leaders of the YMCA of Jaffna should be congratulated for having been consistent in carrying on the work of the YMCA form any years with missionary zeal though they had to move from place to place renting buildings to carry on its work.

Over the years your YMCA has made a significant impact on the life of the people of Jaffna. As a Movement we have from time to time, had to respond to new challenges and new situations. I am sure it would be correct to say, the last 10 years have been one of the most trying for your Association. With the leadership given by your successive Boards you have been able to keep your head above water and ride the storm. You have during this period of crisis continued to serve the people who have suffered. You have been tested to your limits and have come through with flying colours.

We all hope that this last decade of the 20th Century will see a restoration of peace in our nation when we will re-discover the values we have always stood for. Undoubtedly there are new opportunities of service and new challenges to be met.

I take this opportunity to wish your Association every success as you face up to your responsibilities.

Exsith C. Fernando
President

**Message from
The London Central Y M C A**

The founding Association of our World -wide Movement salutes the YMCA at Jaffna on the occasion of its centenary in May 1990.

We congratulate you on your hundred years of service to the people of Jaffna and beyond.

We delight in having you as companions on the way.

As you enter upon your second century of service, we wish you God's blessing on all you do and may the love of Christ shine in each one of you.

Colin A. Mawby
General Secretary



**Message from
The National General
Secretary of
Y M C As of Sri Lanka.**

*Come, let us praise the Lord !
Let us sing for joy to God who protects us !
Let us come before Him with thanksgiving
And sing joyful songs of praise.
For the Lord is a mighty God
A mighty King over all the gods.*

— Ps. 95, vs. 1-3

The YMCA Movement in our country is pleased to join the Jaffna YMCA in the act of celebrations on completing a Century of Service to the people of our land. This is a time for Praise and Thanksgiving to God who is our Great King. He gave the strength, the vision and the leaders to the Associations and guided them to fulfil His mission. The Jaffna YMCA overcame great obstacles, the biggest being an existence without a home of its own for many years. The YMCA used rented buildings for over sixty years, yet influenced people and kept the spirit of the YMCA alive.

The YMCA initiated the formation of a Union of YMCAs in the North, which was the first of its kind in Asia. Its example influenced the YMCA Movement which today has a formal and constitutional body, the National Council.

The programme conducted by the YMCA included a variety of activities. As a student I have attended programmes of worship and public lectures by leading personalities, which was a great need of the time.

The YMCA owes a great deal of to the late Tambapillai Reginald who laboured for many years as the Hony. Secretary. He attended every meeting of the Regional Committee and even

represented the YMCA Movement at the Centennial celebrations of the World Alliance of YMCAs. He was planning a new building with the Late Mr. R. O. Buell then Regional General Secretary, when he was removed from our midst by a tragic motor accident. The YMCA Movement salutes him for his leadership, devotion and dedication. Dr. Ernest Champion succeeded Reginald in this position and it was during his term of office that the new building was constructed. Dr. Champion was a well known Athletic Coach and Official in our country. The first Athletics Coaching Camp organised by the YMCA in Sri Lanka was held in Jaffna in 1953 organised by the Jaffna YMCA under the leadership of Ted Arnold of the YMCA College of Physical Education, Madras. There are many landmarks during the past years which stand out as a tribute to the Jaffna YMCA. They are too many to mention,

Many leaders of the Jaffna YMCA gave their time and expertise to the National Movement. The Late Mr. J. M. Sabaratnam was one of the outstanding leaders in recent years and played a significant role in the development of the present building and programme. He also gave leadership to the National Council.

The YMCA Movement is based on a partnership of lay and full time of workers. The Jaffna YMCA for many years solely depended on volunteer workers in key positions. Many Secretaries served full time but for short periods. Mr. M. Thambithurai the General Secretary of the Jaffna YMCA is the first full time General Secretary. He has served the YMCA Movement for more than 20 years. It is fitting that he should hold this office during the Centenary.

Mr. Sam Sathaseevan, the President had many years with the YMCA in different parts of the country. He has been a traditional and loyal leader, perhaps the remaining active representative of the last generation of YMCA leaders.

As your YMCA commences its work in the new Century, may new leaders with commitment come forward to guide the destinies of the Movement. There is a great challenge before you especially in the present context. May God give the vision and the strength to find and work His will that men may see your good works and praise God in Heaven.

God bless you.

ALAGAN S. KADIRGAMAR
National General Secretary

Message from Immediate Past National General Secretary

It gives me great pleasure to send these sincere congratulations and warm greetings on the occasion of the Centenary celebrations of the Jaffna YMCA

With my knowledge of, and association with, the leaders of the Jaffna YMCA during the 20 years I served as a Professional in the National Council, and 20 years prior to that as a layman of the Moratuwa YMCA, I became aware of the steadfast loyalty and firm commitment of the YMCAs leadership to serve in His vineyard by making the YMCA the focal point in the development process of the community I recall, inter alia, with pleasure, the conduct of the 1st National YMCA Youth Conference held in Jaffna, continuously with the 5th A.G.M. of the National Council in 1970, at which Mr. Profecto Yasey of the Philippines, then youngest Vice President of the World Alliance of YMCAs, who while giving the key note address, expressed deep appreciation of the potential and power of the youth of our movement. I cannot forget the dignity and decorum that prevailed at the formal dinner hosted by the Jaffna YMCA that night, at which Justice V. T. Thamothersham was Chief Guest, with covers laid for 200 persons, and where the 20 young adults of the Jaffna YMCA rendered yeoman service thereat. Its a desirable coincidence that the 15th National Council A.G.M. in Jaffna, was held after 10 years in 1980, and the present one, the 25th, to coincide with the centenary celebrations is also being held after 10 years.

Due to lack of space I would like to refer to 4 of the many leaders of the Jaffna Y - 2 laymen and 2 Professionals, whose contributions to the Movement were outstanding: (a) Mr Sam Sathaseevan, President of the Jaffna and Amparai YMCAs, who represented Sri Lanka at the Paris Centennial of 1955, and whose doors were always open to us whenever we visited Jaffna & Amparai (b) late Mr. J. M. Sebaratnam, whom I came to know when we worked together as laymen in the Buildings for Brotherhood B4B Finance Campaign of 1960, and raised funds for the Jaffna YMCA Hostel and Moratuwa YMCA Buildings, (c) Mr. Marcus Navaratnarajah who having initially served as Youth Work Secretary of the Jaffna YMCA, made a tremendous impact on the National Training scene during the period he served as National Leadership Training Secretary with his wide expertise of skills and from where he moved on to the International scene, (d) Mr. M. Thambithurai, General Secretary, whom I had the pleasure of knowing for a quarter century and who has not only been dedicated to the cause of the YMCA, but is one who works relentlessly to the end - never taking 'no' for an answer.

Be proud of your past, but do not live in the past. Tomorrow with all its challenges, lies ahead and it is to the future to which you must now turn. At times the road will seem long and difficult and the past will become even more attractive, bathed as it will be in the rosy glow of nostalgia. Let your successes of the past be your spur for the future, and should spirits ever flag or enthusiasm wane momentarily seek inspiration from those glorious words in Isaiah:

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength
They shall mount up with wings as eagles
They shall run, and not be weary
But they shall walk and not faint."

In closing may I pay tribute to the support given over the years by the Jaffna YMCA to the National Council of YMCAs. This tribute carries with it my thanks to those dear friends from your YMCA with whom I found it a pleasure and a privilege to work during my association with the YMCA Movement.

May God continue to bless you, individually and collectively.

Boyd Perera,

WE REMEMBER



The Late Mr. R. O. Buell
(The First National General Secretary)



The Late Mr. E. T. R. Reginald
(Hon. Secretary 1952 - 57)

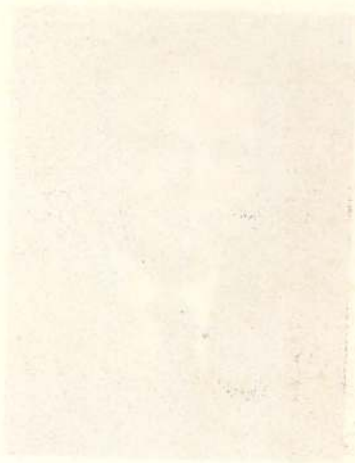


The Late Mr. J. M. Sabaratnam
(President 1961 - 62 & 1980 - 82)

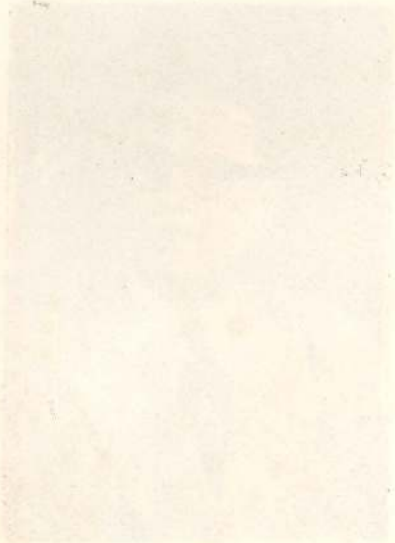
WE REMEMBER



The late Mr. J. C. [Name] (1910 - 1980)



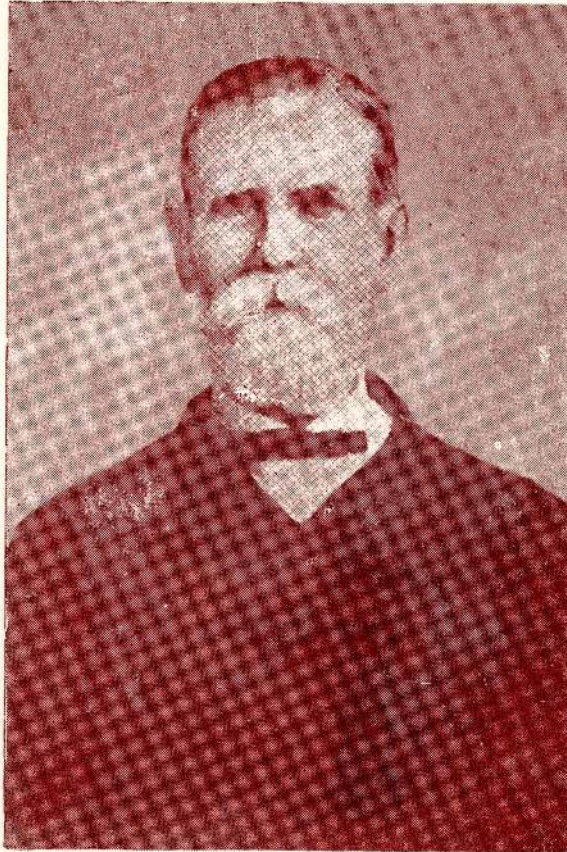
The late Mrs. J. C. [Name] (1910 - 1980)



The late Mrs. J. K. [Name] (1910 - 1980)

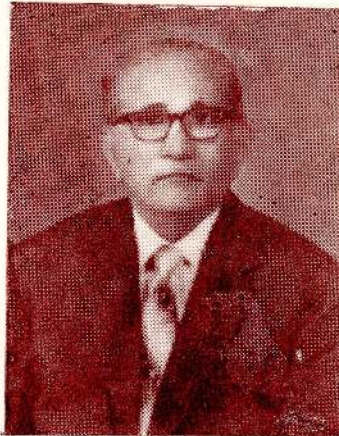
PRESIDENTS

Founder President



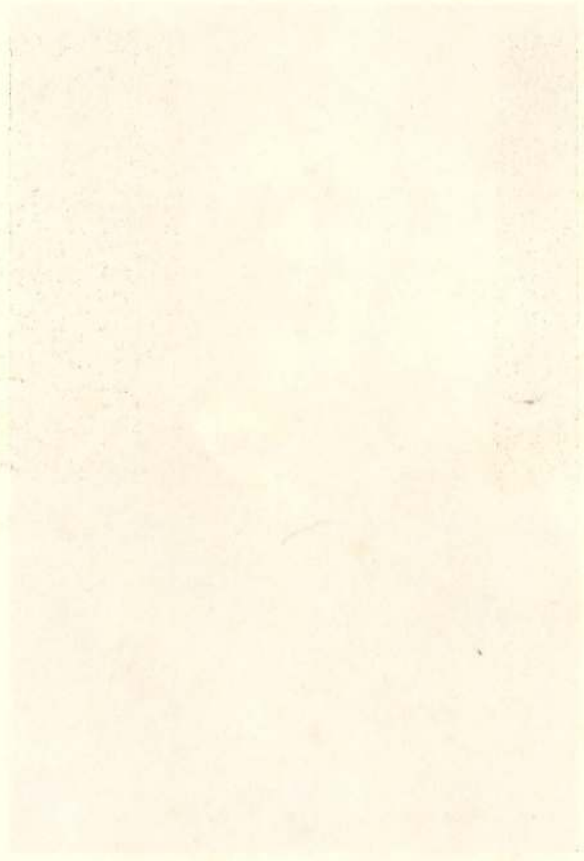
Sir William Twynam
(1890—1911)

Centenary President



Mr. Sam S. Sathaseevan
(1988—1990)

RESIDENTS
Pondicherry



RESIDENTS
Pondicherry

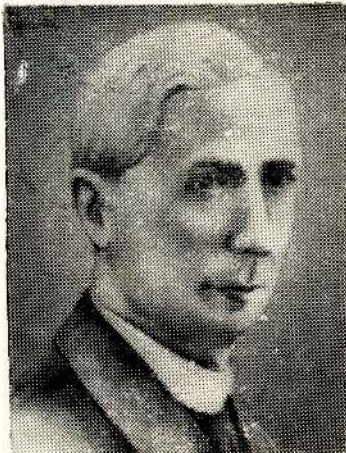




The Rev. P. I. Cash
(1931)



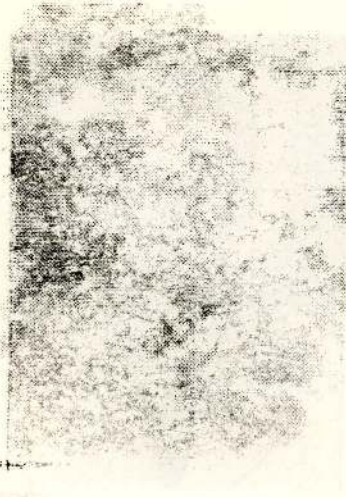
The Rev. Henry Peto
(1934—1938)



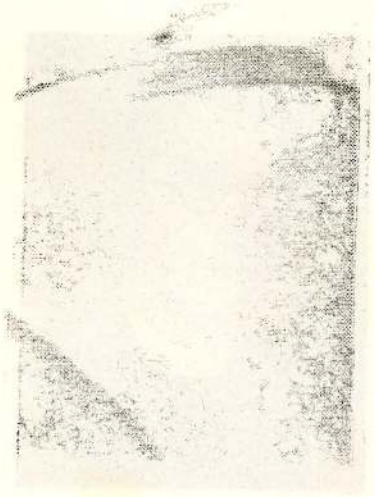
The Rev E. M. Weaver
(1932 — 1933)



Mr. Lewis Subramaniam
(1939 — 1941 & 1944)



1971-1972
1971-1972



1971-1972
1971-1972



1971-1972
1971-1972



1971-1972
1971-1972



Mr. A. J. R. Vethavanam
(1942 — 1943)



Dr. H. R. Saravanamuttu
(1948 — 1952)



Mr. J F. Ponnampalam
(1945 — 1947)



Mr. W D. Spencer
(1953)



Mr. J. W. Robinson
1912 - 1913



Mr. J. W. Robinson
1912 - 1913



Mr. J. W. Robinson
1912 - 1913



Mr. J. W. Robinson
1912 - 1913



Mr. R. C. S. Cooke
(1954 & 1 60 — 1961)



Mr. E. J. Jeyarajah
(1957 — 1959)



Mr. A. E. R. Corea
(1955 — 1956)



Mr. J. I. Sabaratnam
(1961 — 1952 & 1980 — 1982)



1901 - 1902



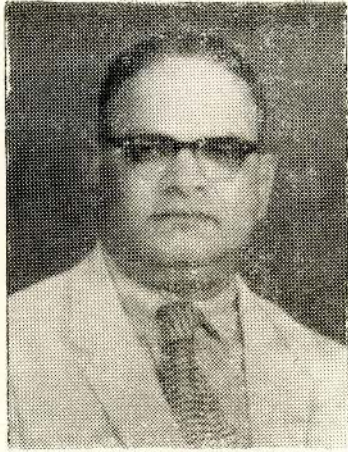
1901 - 1902



1901 - 1902



1901 - 1902



Dr. G. N. R. Nathaniel
(1963)



Mr. J. G. Arasaratnam
(1970 1972)



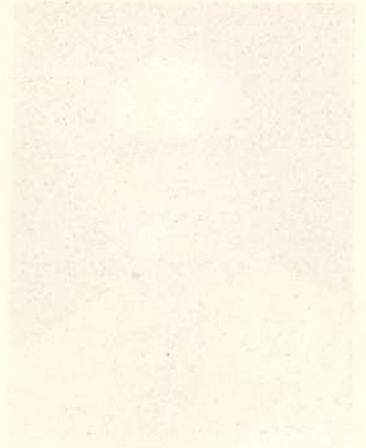
Mr. W. A. Walton
(1968 — 1969)



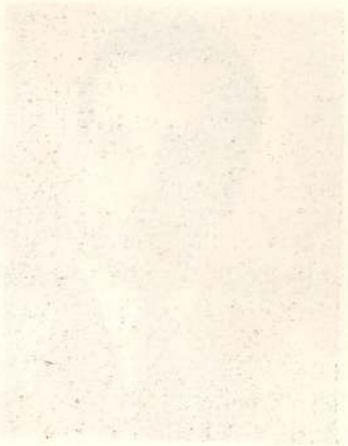
Mr. J. I. Rajaratnam
(1973 — 1975)



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noolaham.org | aavanaham.org



Mr. C. E. Anandarajan
(1976 - 1977)



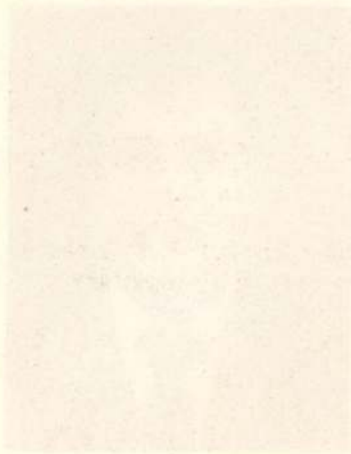
Mr. S. M. V. Tissainayagam
(1983)



Mr. S. Paramanathan
(1978 - 1979)



Mr. M. C. Francis
(1984 - 1986)



1921-22
(1921)



1921-22
(1921)



1921-22
(1921)



1921-22
(1921)

Message from The Colombo Y. M. C. A.

We of the Colombo Y M C A send you fraternal greetings and goodwishes on this historic occasion of your Centenary.

To be 100 years old is good ... to be 100 years young and still eager to serve your fellowmen and women through the teachings of Jesus Christ, as you do in Jaffna is even better.

Whilst this is a time to look back with happiness and with some measure of pride, to the distinctive role that you have played in your own society, it is also a time for confession and repentance. You have good cause to indulge in some nostalgia as you consider your successes, your achievements and your growth over the years. But, at the same time, this is also a time for you to take stock of your omissions and mistakes too. Learn from them to be more meaningful and relevant in our mission in the future. We congratulate you on your achievements and successes and assure you of our prayers and solidarity for your renewed mission.

As elder brothers in the Sri Lankan 'Y' family, Jaffna and Colombo YMCAs have a historical task to perform that of healing the broken communities that exist in our dear land. On this historic occasion, let us dedicate ourselves to this great task and do our mite to extend the Kingdom of God on earth.

Santha Fernando
General Secretary

C. T. Jansz
President

Message from The Rev. A. J. C. Selvaratnam

Let me congratulate the Y M C.A as it prepares to celebrate a century of its existence in Jaffna.

The old YMCA was opposite the present Christ Church, Jaffna and it had become just a hostel where visitors spent a few days. The lawyers from the Jaffna Courts preferred to go to the Rest House rather than enter the precincts of an institution like the Y where teetotalism was the rule. In 1948 when I became the Honorary Secretary, while working at St. John's College, Jaffna as Senior English Teacher and Chaplain, Mr. R C.S. Cooke, Mr. P.T. Mathai (Treasurer) and myself with the consent of Board decided to explore possibilities of transferring the activities of the YMCA to the Kachcheri - Chundikuli area. The site where the present Secretariat is had adjoining the Kachcheri - Nallur Road an old Tennis Club, at one time a popular Tennis Court, which was not being used. We negotiated with the Government Agent, Mr P.J. Hudson, the lease of the grounds and he gladly agreed. The YMCA Tennis Court was opened by Mr R. O. Buell, the General Secretary of the YMCA - Colombo and thus began a new era in the life of the Jaffna YMCA which had become almost moribund - this was in 1948.

We also negotiated for the land which is now the site of the YMCA with the Government Agent. The land was a vacant site, originally used by Pensioners to park their carts and untie their bulls when they came to draw their monthly pensions. There was also Mr J Backkus Ariyanayagam who had an iron cage in a corner of the land helping people write petitions in English.

In 1950 I left for Colombo and Mr. E.R. L. Reginald worked hard and long to make our dream become a reality. When I returned in 1971, as Vicar of St. John's Church, Chundikuli, I was glad to see that the YMCA was firmly established near the Secretariat and serving the youth of Chundikuli, Nallur and further afield.

May God bless the YMCA as it steps into the new century. May He who guided in the past continue to use it to serve all communities in establishing 'Mens sara in corpore sara' - a healthy mind in a healthy body, centred on Christian values.

With kind regards and best wishes to all in the Y, especially the Committee as it implements its vision and makes it become a reality.

**Message from
President of the Kallar Y. M. C. A.**

We are very happy to be associated with centenary of the Jaffna YMCA. We are proud of the Jaffna YMCA for the one hundred years of YMCA service to the peninsula metropolitan.

One hundred years services is a great achievement in the history of any organisation.

At this time of mirth and happiness we think of all the great leaders who voluntarily devoted their time and energy, toiled hard and laboured for the Jaffna YMCA to achieve the happy occasion of celebrating the one hundred years of service.

We pray the Almighty to lead and guide the Jaffna YMCA in all its work and bless all its leaders with devoted service.

We wish to congratulate the Jaffna YMCA on this happy occasion and express our sincere wishes for her prosperity.

S. O. Jeyanandan.

**Message from
President of the Batticaloa Y. M. C. A.**

It gives me immense pleasure to be able to send this message of felicitations on the occasion of your centenary celebrations. We are all aware of the tremendous work that you have done for the last 100 years through the YMCA to the community in an around your area, and the dedication of your past leaders which has gone a long way in helping and uplifting those in need.

My Board of Directors join me in sending you our warmest felicitations, best wishes and prayers for another century in your endeavour to be witness to Jesus Christ our Saviour, who has said: "For I was an hungered and you gave me meat. I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in; Naked, and ye clothed me: I was in prison, and ye came to see me. (Mathew 25:35, 36)

Ellison T. Williams

**Message from
The President of the Navaly Y. M. C. A.**

It gives us great pleasure to send you these Greetings on the occasion of the Jaffna YMCA's Centenary Celebrations, 1890-1990

It is indeed a matter of profound thanksgiving to our Lord for the magnificent services rendered in the past by the YMCA to the thousands and thousands of youth of the area.

While congratulating you on achieving a proud milestone we extend to you our sincerest best wishes for the future.

It is our earnest hope that you will now go forward in greater strength to be an even more positive force and that God will bless you in all that you seek to do HIS name.

J. I. Thambirajah

**Message from
The President of the Nugegoda Y. M. C. A.**

It gives me great pleasure to send this message on the occasion of your Centenary celebrations.

It is indeed a great occasion and is a tribute to all those who have gone before and contributed their mite to the YMCA.

On behalf of the Nugegoda YMCA, I wish to convey our sincere good wishes to you and wish you all the best for the best for the future.

Douglas L. Wijesinha

**Message from
The President of the Ka'munai Y. M. C. A.**

Jaffna 'Y' had stood firm for the last 100 years like a beacon to all the other 'Y's of the North. Withstanding the attacks and hindrances caused to the area by the militants' confrontations and the attacks of the forces in the recent years it had moulded men and women to serve the poor and needy with efficiency, zeal and self sacrifice contributing much to the 'Y' movement. Your achievements are high-lighted by the results of your 100 years of service.

We wish the Jaffna 'Y' a progressive and successful future and more than everything God's blessings to all its members.

**K. S Arulrajah,
President.**

**Message from
The President of the Kandy Y. M. C. A.**

On behalf of the Members of the Board of Directors of the Kandy YMCA, it gives me great pleasure and feel privileged to send you this message of felicitation on the occasion of your Centenary year 1990. Let me first send you my warmest congratulations in reaching the Century mark and all good wishes for the future and in Years to come. At various periods in the history of your YMCA, there would have been difficult times and more so in the recent past when all were weighted down by tragic events without any hope of a solution, but by being faithful to the traditions of the Y movement you have survived in a spirit of faith and prayer. Likewise your future growth and resilience will largely depend on your dedication and faithfulness to God.

Today you have every reason to rejoice and we are one with you in your task of bringing together youth of all creed and communities into one family in instilling in them a common sense of belonging to one another being fellow-citizens of the same country.

We share in no small measure in the jubilant festive spirit that pervades the memorable occasion of your Centenary. You have been a tower of strength to all and we pray that the Lord preserve you from all evil and make the Jaffna YMCA an exemplary active agent of hope, justice and peace in God's Mission in this part of the World.

**Clarence J. Senanayake
President.**

**Message from
The Uduvil Y. M. C. A.**

On behalf of the members of the Uduvil Y. M. C. A. I am deeply thankful to you for having been afforded the chance to send this message of goodwill and felicitation on the occasion of your Centenary year 1990. May I humbly bring to your notice that the Uduvil Y. M. C. A. too intend to celebrate a similar occasion during the latter part of this year. With your lead and guidance we hope to emulate at least in a small measure in the jubilant and festive spirit that is bound to grace the memorable occasion of your Centenary.

It is fitting that the National Council's A.G.M. should be held at Jaifna to mark this historic event.

We pray that the celebration and the meeting will both be successful and serve to demonstrate the truth of our philosophy that we all can be one in spite of the external appearance of belonging to distinct caste, creed and religion.

Please accept our heartfelt greetings for which you have been so far, and our prayers for true christian endeavour in the future.

President and Members of the Board of Directors

**Message from
The Kayts Y M C A**

We praise the Lord and congratulate the Jaffna Y M C A for its devoted and selfless service to the people of North and specially for those in Jaffna over a span of One Hundred years.

The Kayts Y M C A being the youngest in the North takes pride in associating itself whole heartily in your centenary celebrations, still cherishing the indelible memories of your guidance and assistance in our formative period that resulted in the affiliation to the National Council of Y M C A s in Sri Lanka.

May the Lord abundantly shower His Grace on the Jaffna Y M C A to continue the good work in His Vineyard with more Vigour and enthusiasm

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

**M. Linus
President.**

**Message from
The Manipay Y M C A**

Congratulations Jaffna YMCA. It is really a proud achievement to have gone through a century of YMCA work. These greetings come to you from the first YMCA started in Sri Lanka (1881) but cannot boast of continued activity for a hundred years. During the latter part of the Nineteenth century, many YMCAs flourished in the North, but only Jaffna College, Jaffna and Navaly have stood the test of time.

Wishing you another century of fruitful service.

**W. G. Annappah
President**

**Message from
The Trincomalee Y M C A**

We have observed that the Y M.C.A. Jaffna is a very live organisation in every sense of word. It has done a great deal to channel the enthusiasms and interests of the young people in Jaffna irrespective of differences in creed and caste.

Jaffna particularly is in need of organisations such as this. We have to congratulate the Y.M.C.A. Jaffna for the excellent work they have done in this town and we wish them all success in the future.

**G. David
General Secretary**

**Message from
The Pandatterippu Y M C A**

It gives me great pleasure to hear from you that this is your centenary year and I hasten to convey to you our felicitation and to wish you many more years of fruitful service to the community around you.

**K. Sinnathamby
General Secretary**

மன்றார் வை. எம். சி. ஏ. யின்
வாழ்த்து

கிறிஸ்தவ வாலிபர் சங்கங்களின் வளர்ச்சி முழு இலங்கையிலும்
சரித்திரப் பிரசித்தமான தொன்றாகும்

வளர்ச்சிப் பாதையில் 100 ஆண்டுகள் என்னும் போது இது மகிழ்
வுக்குரியதும், போற்றுதற்குரியதும், வரவேற்புக்குரியதுமான நிகழ்
வாகும். வரலாற்று ஏடுகளிலே பொறிக்கப்பட வேண்டியதொன்றாகும்.
சமுதாயத்தால் மறக்கப்பட முடியாத செயலாகும்.

மக்கள் பணியில் அவர்களின் ஆன்மீக, சரீர, சமுதாய, பொருளா
தார மேம்பாட்டுப் பாதையில் யாழ் கிறிஸ்தவ வாலிபர் சங்கம் 100
ஆண்டுகளைக் கடந்து மேலும் மைல் கற்களை நோக்கி ஓட ஆரம்பித்
துள்ளதில் நாம் மகிழ்கின்றோம்.

சங்கத்தின் பணி தொடர வாழ்த்துகின்றோம்.

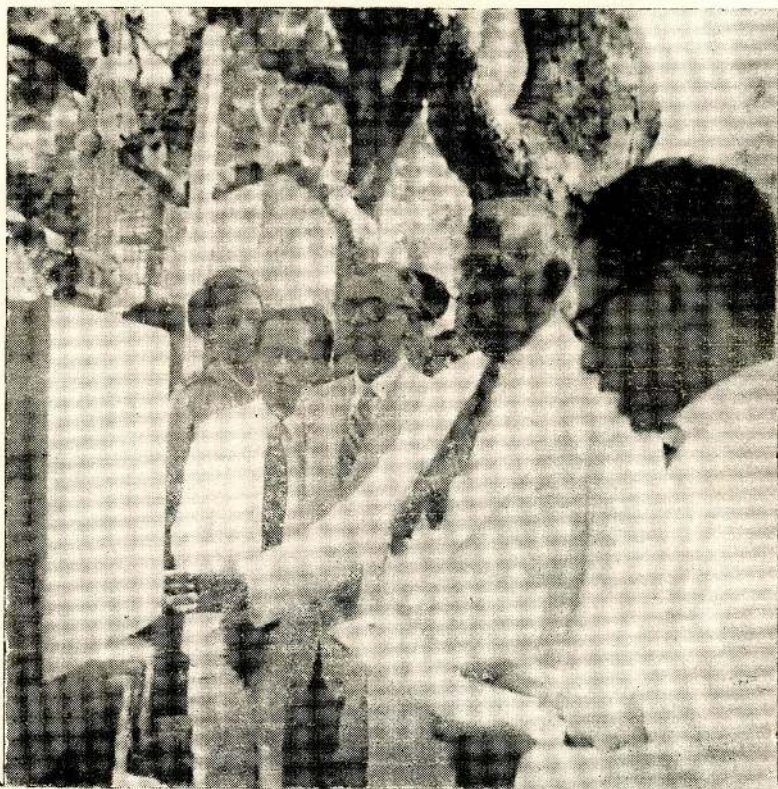
உள்ளத்தில் உவகையோடே

வாழ்த்துகின்றோம்.

வளர்க நின் பணி

தொடர்க உன் பணி

க. அ. சந்திரலயா
பொது செயலாளர்,



The Rt. Hon. D. S. Senanayake Prime Minister Laying the Foundation Stone for the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. Building on 26th January 1952. Others in the Picture are Rt. Rev. S. Kula dran and Dr H R. Saravanamuttu. President Jaffna Y. M. C. A. 1952.



The Board of Directors of the Noolaham Foundation
is pleased to announce the formation of a
new committee to oversee the foundation's
operations. The committee will be led by
President John Y. M. C. A. 1999.

Centenary Year Office - Bearers



S. M. V. Tissainayagam
(Vice - President)



K. N. Y. Maurice
Vice - President



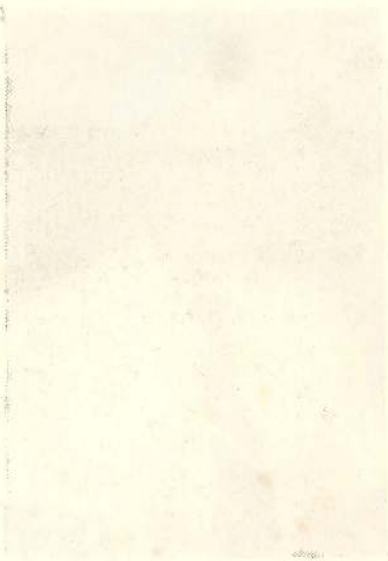
Sam S. Sabhaseevan
President



M. Thambithurai
General Secretary



S. K. Suntharalingam
Hony. Treasurer

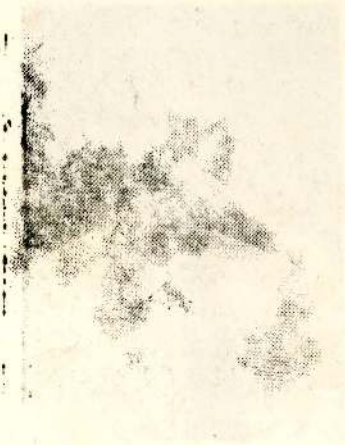


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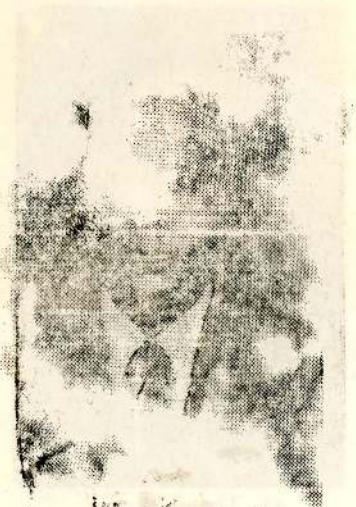
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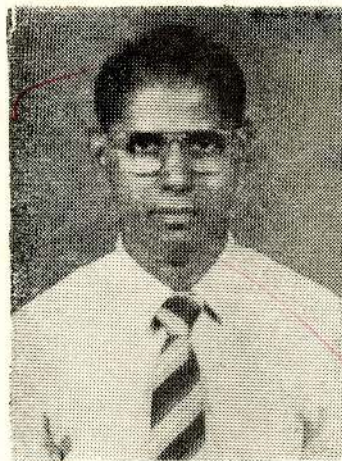


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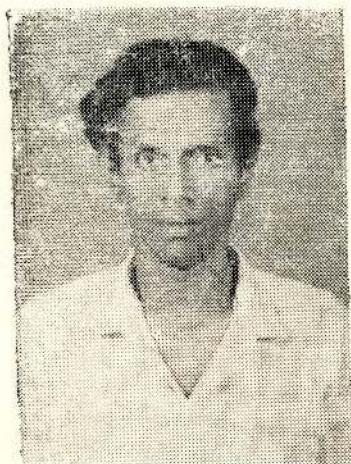
Centenary Year Staff



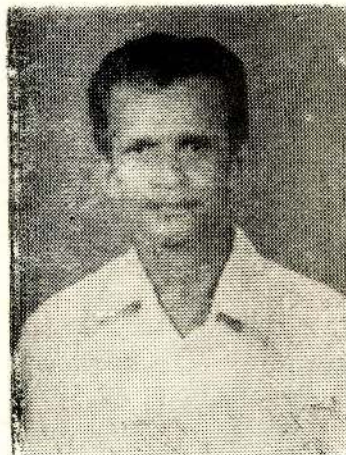
M. Thambithurai



Walter Ratnasingham



C. R. Manorajan



S. S. D. Alfred

Company Year 2011



Attachment M



Attachment N



Attachment O

The Jaffna Y M C A

A Century of Service

The Jaffna Y M C A completes a century of service in 1990. A hundred years may not be a very long time as time periods go, but when compared to the 146 years of existence of the YMCA in our world, a Century for the Jaffna YMCA assumes major proportions of which we all can be proud.

The YMCA movement was started in London in 1844 by a few young men under the leadership of George Williams. These young men got together to look into the possibility of doing something useful in their spare time, and wean away the youth from undesirable pursuits during their leisure. How this movement caught on and spread to almost every country in this World is part of YMCA history.

The Jaffna YMCA was inaugurated in 1890 by Sir William Twynam, the Grand Old Man of Jaffna, who was Govt. Agent in Jaffna from 1869 to 1896. It was located in a building on Main Street. From very humble beginnings, the Jaffna YMCA had to go through many vicissitudes - trials and tribulations good and bad times until it reached its present stature. We pay tribute to those great gentlemen, who down the years had laboured and given of their best to further the cause of the Jaffna YMCA. A general history of the growth and development of our YMCA, its work and achievements, the stalwarts who helped to build it up are found elsewhere in a series of articles in this Souvenir.

It is necessary here to view the YMCA movement in general, and the Jaffna YMCA in particular, objectively. The history of many great cities is inextricably intertwined with that of rivers. For example we find that London cannot be

separated from the Thames, in its development and historical connections. Similarly Paris and the Seine, New York and River Hudson, Cairo & the Nile, Peking & the Yangtze and closer home, Benares & the Ganges and our own Colombo & the Kelani provide examples of the influence of rivers in the development of not only the history and geography of the cities founded near their banks but also of the art, literature and culture of its inhabitants. In similar vein though not to the same extent, I like to think that the YMCA of a particular town sets the tone of its character. Certainly no one can deny that without a YMCA, any town worth its salt could be considered complete. In many far-off places, a tourist will find that the YMCA is the only place that may be relied to take him on and the YMCA Secretaries the only people who can be relied on to pull him through various difficulties.

The YMCA is of course has a Christian foundation. But under its auspices there provided a meeting-place where men of different occupations, interests, races and creeds may meet together and talk to one another, and so come to know and understand one another. It has thus helped to break down some of the barriers which divide men. This is perhaps the greatest service that it offers at present, with particular reference to our Country.

The Jaffna YMCA is lucky to possess a large and well planned building, strategically located close to the Kachcheri & various other Govt. Offices, mercantile establishments and Schools. It has been the venue of a number of important meetings, seminars, religious conventions and other functions.

But has the Jaffna YMCA been true to its symbol? The red triangle symbolises the body, mind & spirit of man; that it is essential to develop all three simultaneously for the full development of the personality of the whole individual. Our YMCA has striven over the years to do just this, especially in the development of our youth. The greatest asset of any community is its youth. It is, therefore, both the duty and the privilege of the community so to care for their youth as to make it possible for them to have the highest development in body, mind and spirit. The Community can do so by giving its support in every possible way to institutions like the YMCA which inspire and assist youth to seek and follow the highest ideals. The progress of this Association housed in this fine building will indicate not only how effective its Board of Directors is, and how keen and loyal its members are but also how public-spirited is the Community in which it is placed.

I think we can be proud of the impact our YMCA has had on the general public. During the turbulent years between 1984 and 1987, the Jaffna YMCA was one of the very few places that visitors from outside the peninsula could come and reside with some degree of safety. It was one of the few centres where organised Sports took place. In the aftermath of the 1983 riots our YMCA was one of the first non-governmental organisations to do repair and rehabilitation work in the Northern Province. The construction of 67 houses at Iyakkachchy and settling of 67 families which is now a self contained village is one of the achievements of which we can justly be proud of. YMCA also houses other rehabilitation bodies like the RRF within its building and helped in the amelioration of several victims, who had suffered during the ethnic conflict.

Soon after the IPKF operations of Oct-Nov 1987, the YMCA building was used by the Red Cross in looking after the sick and injured while another section of the building was used for distribution of foodstuff. It is difficult to describe the sense of horror, fear and hopelessness that people in Jaffna under-went during those dark days, but one of the few shining lights was the Jaffna YMCA being the centre of aid.

I believe our Organisation has kept pace with the changing World, and had been sensitive to the many needs that face the youth and provided them opportunities for development of moral fibre leadership, initiative and compassion for others. We have shown our willingness to share the rich experience of inter-denominational, inter-religious, inter cultural and inter-racial activities. We have tried to inculcate in our youth the symbol of good service, character building and leadership training and friendliness, hope, justice and improvement. This of course is a common heritage of all YMCAs in Sri Lanka. One yardstick by which we can judge whether the YMCAs have successfully fulfilled their role is this - if imitation is a sign of appreciation, the proliferation of similar associations like the YMBA, YMHA, YMMA (last I be accused of discrimination by women's lib, let me hasten to add YWCA and sister institutions of the above movements to this list) should dispel any doubts about our image on the country as a whole.

As we bask in the glory of a 100 years, let us think of the future. Much more has to be done. Just like Don Bradman after reaching his 100 taking fresh guard to go on to his next century let us re-dedicate ourselves to the tasks ahead of the next Century. Let us carry on the good work where so many had given of their time

and talents and be true to the aims of its founder Sir George William's whose legacy states :-

"My last legacy and it is a precious one - is the YMCA. I leave it to you beloved young men of many countries to

carry on and extend. I hope you will be as happy in the work as I have been and more successful. for this will mean blessedness to your soul and to the souls of multitudes of others".

S. M. V. Tissainayagam

What is the Young Men's Christian Association ?

It is not the building, but something that built it;
It is not the membership, but something that wins it;
It is not the budget, but something that raises it;
It is not the organization, but something that achieves;
It is not anything on earth, but a spirit on earth that lifts things heavenward;
It is the spirit of brotherhood, uniting men of faith in fellowship and service;
It is the spirit of responsibility confessing: "I am my brother's keeper;"
It is the spirit of service choosing "not to be ministered unto, but to minister;"
It is the spirit of sacrifice, preferring rather to "fall to the ground and die" than to "abide by itself alone;"
It is the spirit of unity, "giving a new evidence, and releasing a new energy of Christianity"

— C. K. Ober

The Meaning of the Symbol

Twelve young men met in England, London to be specific in 1844 to look into the possibilities of doing something in their leisure time. These young men were all from villages outside of the metropolitan city of London in fact most of them were farmers who having got tired of living in the cloistered boundaries which village living permits and were looking for adventure, excitement and fortune. As soon as they were established in the various business concerns, they quickly realized that there was a great deal of free time on their hands and that most of them were getting drawn to cards and wine and other nefarious activities. George Williams, one of those young men, who came out of a strict Christian background, quickly became concerned with this trend and brought these twelve young men all friends together and suggested that they made more use of their lives than just throwing it away on frivolities. Bible Study was suggested. This caught on like a house on fire and these young people became dedicated to the cause of young men away from home.

This was the start of the Young Men's Christian Association. From there it spread out all over the world and today is active in some 80 countries. No matter where you are, all you have to do is utter the magic letters "Y.M.C.A.!" and recognition becomes apparent in the form of a nod, smile and the pointing of the finger in the direction leading to this great organization that has become well-known throughout the length and breadth of the world. An organization that stood and

stands for progress with youth for Christian standards and beliefs, and for the *Red Triangle*. The *Red Triangle* the *Symbol*; the symbol of god service character building and leadership training and friendliness, hope, justice and improvement.

The triangle which Dr. Luther Gulick of Springfield College envisaged as the mark of this growing movement at that time. He realized that it was impossible to isolate the spirit of the body or the mind and that effective results only came about when the individual was treated as a whole. The development of these three aspects of human growth had to be on parallel planes. Thereby the triangle with equilateral sides, symbolizing the whole man!

This symbol is the sign of a dynamic organization that is keeping pace with this rapidly changing world. An organization that is ever sensitive to the many needs that face the youth and through these needs provide opportunity for development of moral fibre, leadership, initiative and compassion for others.

Today the Jaffna Y.M.C.A. is opening its door to the community and at the same time declaring to its youth that this Y.M.C.A. is ready to offer the rich experience of inter-denominational, inter-religious, inter-cultural and inter-racial sharing.

The Jaffna Y.M.C.A. is prepared to unite young men for the development of physical, social, intellectual and spiritual manhood: to inspire youth in the world

with Jesus Christ's ideals of service which is a direct call for social economic and spiritual concern for men

The Y.M.C.A. is not :

1. A welfare agency dealing with dependency disease, disability, delinquency and other maladjustments. While the 'Y' does deal with some youth who are delinquent, its major contribution is in the area of prevention, providing constructive programmes for "normal" youth

2. Primarily a recreation agency. While the 'Y' believes in recreation and carries a wide variety of sports activities and physical education, it is not primarily a recreational agency

3. A Church. It does not have a creed to which members must subscribe. its membership is open to all, regardless of religious background. It supplements, but does not supplant the church. It encourages its members to be loyal to the church of its choice

The Y.M.C.A. is a world - wide organization involving boys, girls men and women of all races, all Christian confessions and those of many other faiths. Although each Y.M.C.A. is independent in organization, the Y.M.C.A.s the world around are bound together in common underlying purpose and mutual support.

The Y.M.C.A. of yours is there for you to use, to support, to help and to talk about. This is only a building and unless the people of Jaffna and of the Northern Province become enthusiastic about the place of this great organization in your lives this Y.M.C.A. will remain just brick and mortar instead of the moving influence in the community and in the country.

Boris M. Kazimiroff,

Associate National General Secretary

3rd October 1962

The Mission of the Y M C A

The Young Men's Christian Associations seek to unite those young men who regarding Jesus Christ as their God and Saviour, according to the Holy Scriptures, desire to be his disciples in their faith and in their life, and to associate their efforts for the extension of his Kingdom amongst young men.

Physical Education and the Y. M. C. A.

By **W. M. S. Kingsbury,**

Secretary, Physical Education Department, Colombo Y. M. C. A.

From the inception of the Y. M. C. A. by Sir George Williams in 1844 one of the foremost objectives of the Y. M. C. A. was the healthy use of leisure time; and physical Education was certainly the most Pleasurable and useful way to promote health. At the time the Y. M. C. A. was founded in England the young men who were mostly clerks and workers in Industrial Centres found very little time to pursue physical activities as they had to work long hours. It is not generally known that the Saturday half holiday in England was mainly due to the influence and agitation of the Y. M. C. A. that employees should be granted a half holiday for games and physical activities at the end of the week

But the emphasis on Physical Education on a scientific basis was originated by the American Y. M. C. A. s, especially in the great American cities. Springfield College, which was founded in 1885 by the National Council of Y. M. C. A. s of the United States, gave particular emphasis to the study and propagation of Physical Education. All officials of the Y. M. C. A. s in the United States were sent for training to Springfield College to be appointed as Physical Directors, coaches and leaders of all branches of Sports and Athletics

Springfield College is most famous for the introduction of the game of Basketball in 1891 by Dr. James Naismith. Basketball is now played in more than one hundred countries of the world and it was given Olympic status in 1932 at Los Angeles.

When the Y. M. C. A. Movement was introduced to India and Ceylon in the last

two decades of the 19th century, Physical Education was the main feature that brought young men and boys within the orbit of influence of the Y. M. C. A. National Council of India, Burma and Ceylon. Men of the standing of Dr. J. H. Gray, Dr. Noehren and Dr. H. C. Buck in India, and Dr. R. W. Cammack in Ceylon laid the foundation of Physical Education Programmes on a sound scientific basis. Dr. Gray started the first Y. M. C. A. Training School for Secretaries in 1912 at Bangalore in which Physical Education found a prominent place. Dr. Noehren who was attached to the National Council Headquarters at Calcutta, visited all Y. M. C. A. s in India and organized Training Camps for Physical Education Leaders as well as coaching camps for Athletics. Dr. R. W. Cammack, who arrived in Ceylon during the first World War, was attached to the Colombo Y. M. C. A. and was largely responsible for the encouragement given to Physical Education in schools and colleges. Dr. Cammack was also instrumental in starting the Municipal Playground Movement in Colombo through the Colombo Municipal Council. Sixteen playgrounds were planned and laid out in the city of Colombo where Athletics, Football, Basketball and Volleyball were taught on scientific lines to the underprivileged boys who did not have the opportunity of going to the big public schools. Dr. Cammack trained Mr. P. G. de Silva, a master of Wesley College, who was appointed Instructor at Price Park Playground, and he was later Chief Playground Instructor. Mr. P. G. De Silva was succeeded by Mr. D. S. Abraham, an Old Boy of St. John's College, Jaffna.

Though Dr. Cammack has been often referred to as the father of Physical Education in Ceylon, mention should be made of the pioneers who had laboured in this field in the early years. The Rev. Louis Hieb, who was the first full time American General Secretary of the Colombo Y.M.C.A., gave all encouragement to the Physical Education Programme of the Colombo Y.M.C.A. Mr. Donald Obeyesekere, Sir Edwin Hayward, Dr. David Rockwood, Sir John Rockwood, Sir John Farbat, Mr. H. Freudenberg, Mr. W. A. Cole, Sir Herbert Dowbiggin, Mr. Sam J. C., Kadirgamar, Mr. N. Sathasivam, Mr. Jackson Kadirgamar, Mr. Charlie Hoole, Mr. Gordon Kadirgamar and Mr. George Atkinson were most prominent in the Y.M.C.A. Physical Programmes in the early part of this century. Mr. Donald Obeyesekere introduced Boxing, the Rockwood brothers encouraged Athletics. Mr. H. Freudenberg was the Honorary Gymnastics Coach and Sir Edwin Hayward was the Chairman of the Y.M.C.A. Football Club, the first civilian Football Club started in 1902. Mr. N. Sathasivam introduced Wrestling to the Physical Department activities and he holds the proud record of having won the Y.M.C.A. Gymnastics Gold Medal for sixteen years, from 1908 — 1924.

The Y.M.C.A. organised Athletic Sports Meets on the Galle Face Football Grounds, which had been leased out by the Y.M.C.A. and these Athletic Meets aroused considerable enthusiasm among the Sports-loving public of Colombo as an important Sports event and get-together of all people interested in Sports and Athletics. Very often the Governors of Ceylon were the chief guests and, before the Ceylon Amateur Athletic Association was started in 1911, the Y.M.C.A. Athletic Meet was the unofficial Championship of Ceylon.

Dr. R. W. Cammack, when he arrived in Colombo, gathered all these Sports enthusiasts and inaugurated the first Physical Education Council with these high talented sportsmen. He staged a number of exhibitions and lecture demonstration in various parts of Ceylon and the impact of Physical Education began to be felt as a motive force of Y.M.C.A. work. He reorganized the Athletic Programme and founded the Ceylon Amateur Athletic Association in 1911 with Mr. W. H. D. Perera as the Honorary Secretary. When Mr. Cammack's period of service was drawing to a close, he selected one of the Y.M.C.A.'s finest sportsmen, Mr. Gordon Kadirgamar, to be his successor and Mr. Gordon Kadirgamar was sent to the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education in Madras which had been established in 1942 at the Royapettah Y.M.C.A. Mr. Kadirgamar, who was an expert gymnast, athlete, soccer and basket-ball player, learnt much from Dr. H. C. Buck and returned to Ceylon in 1952 when he was appointed the first Ceylonese Physical Director of the Colombo Y.M.C.A. and succeeded Dr. R. W. Cammack in June 1925 just before his departure.

Mr. Gordon Kadirgamar was a man of tireless energy and carried the good tidings of Physical Education not only in the city of Colombo but to the various outstation schools, colleges and community centres.

In 1932, Mr. Kadirgamar joined the staff of St. John's College, Jaffna, and the young men of Jaffna benefited enormously from his experience and trained leadership. Mr. Kadirgamar was later appointed Secretary of the Jaffna Y.M.C.A. and through the medium of the Jaffna Y.M.C.A. helped to establish a Physical Education programme in Jaffna.

In the meanwhile at the Colombo Y.M.C.A. Mr. J. V. Hill, an old Trinidadian

who had taken his degree at the University College and who had obtained his Diploma in Physical Education at the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education in Madras, was appointed Physical Director of Colombo Y.M.C.A. With his youth, highly skilled training and zest for physical activities, games and sports, John Hill played a useful role in Physical Education programmes in Colombo, Kandy, Galle and Jaffna, through the Y.M.C.A.'s schools and colleges. In 1939 just before the War, John Hill joined the Education Department and Mr N. Sathasivam, a veteran member of the Colombo Y.M.C.A. since 1907, was appointed Honorary Physical Director. Mr. Sathasivam who had excelled in Gymnastics, Wrestling, Athletics and Soccer, had a wide and a versatile knowledge of Physical Education Programme. With the help of a number of other experienced members he raised the standard of the Colombo Y.M.C.A. Programme in Boxing, Wrestling, Basketball, Hockey Athletics, Judo and Weightlifting. Mention should be made of the valuable contribution to the Physical Department work made by Mr. D. G. Obeyesekere, the Cambridge University Boxing Blue, who captained Cambridge. Mr. Obeyesekere was for fifteen years the Chairman of the Colombo Y.M.C.A. Physical Department. Mr. Egon Bodtner, an Olympic Athlete, was Chairman of the Athletic Committee and coached for many years.

Mr. Obeyesekere was succeeded as Chairman of the Physical Department by the fabulous Mr. T. Rudra, a mighty man gifted with enormous natural strength, and he performed amazing feats at the Harbour Lights Carnival in aid of War Charities and numerous other Carnivals in aid of charity. He performed an almost unbelievable feat in the presence of Sir Andrew Caldecott, Governor of Ceylon, when he

allowed a full grown elephant to walk along the bridge placed on his chest! Rudra, who had been a member of the Physical Department for many years, gave much of his time to the administration of the Physical Department. Even when he was Deputy Mayor of Colombo and later Mayor during the Queen's visit to Ceylon, he was present at the Gym at least twice or thrice a week, either wrestling on the mat or a work-out on the bars. He retained his locker with his Gym kit until his untimely death.

Just after the War, the Colombo Y.M.C.A. initiated a Recreational Facilities Conference in which a number of delegates from Sports Associations and Institutions interested in community work, as well as officials in charge of school programmes, participated. A delegation from the Y.M.C.A. interviewed the Education Department officials and the Y.M.C.A. delegation also gave evidence before a Commission on Physical Education appointed by Sir John Kotelawela, when he was the Prime Minister.

The Y.M.C.A. Movement in Ceylon, which was under a Regional Committee affiliated to the Indian National Council of Y.M.C.A.s, formed the Ceylon National Council in 1962 with Mr. R. O. Buell who had served the Colombo Y.M.C.A. for nearly forty years as the first National General Secretary.

In 1959, Ceylon was fortunate when Mr. Boris Kazimiroff, who had taken his Master's Degree in Physical Education, was appointed as Fraternal Secretary to Ceylon Boris, who had been a Physical Educational Consultant in Hong Kong and other parts of South East Asia, gave all his leisure time to coaching Basketball, Swimming, Athletics and in holding Coaching Camps. He was also a specialist

in Boys' Work and established a number of Boys' Clubs in existing Y M C A s. He revived the Annual Boys' Camp and Older Boys' Camp and gave a great filip to Boys' Work in Ceylon. During his last year in Ceylon, Boris inaugurated the Physical Education Course in which seven men and three women were trained for Physical Education work.

It may be mentioned that the first All-Ceylon Inter Y M C A Basketball Championships for the Cammack Cup were held in August, 1965, when ten teams representing seven Y M C A s and three Boys' Clubs played in the Tournament held at the Army Basketball Court, Colombo. The Moratuwa Y M C A won the Championship, with Colombo second, Jaffna Y. M. C. A. third and Mt. Lavinia Y. M. C. A. fourth.

At the Jaffna College Y. M. C. A., physical activities were first encouraged by Mr C. W. Phelps, who in 1921 started coaching Basketball and Athletics. After he left Ceylon this was taken over by Mr. R. J. Thurairajah. After the second World War, Jaffna was fortunate in having Dr. Robert Holmes, revived Basketball all over the Peninsula and organized Island-wide Basketball Tournaments at Vaddukodai.

Mr. E. A. Champion Honorary Secretary of the Y. M. C. A., has done much for the Physical Education Programme, both at Jaffna Y. M. C. A. and Jaffna College Y. M. C. A., particularly in Athletic and Athletic Coaching Camps, Basketball, Badminton and Table Tennis.

There is much more to be done to put Physical Education in its rightful place in the Y. M. C. A s of Ceylon, but lack of funds, lack of trained leaders and the need for modern equipment have prevented the Ceylon Y. M. C. A. s from making a more worthwhile contribution.

The greatest service that the Y. M. C. A. Movement in Ceylon has done to the cause of Physical Education is the unobtrusive leadership with which the Y. M. C. A. has nurtured and fostered various branches of Sports. As mentioned earlier, the Y. M. C. A. Football Club was the first civilian Club founded 1902. Gymnastics was taught and practised at the Y. M. C. A. where it is still one of the regular features. Wrestling was introduced at the Y. M. C. A. and in 1939 the Y. M. C. A. sponsored the inauguration of the Amateur Wrestling Association with Mr. G. G. Ponnampalam as its first President and Mr. N. Sathasivam and Mr. Herbert H. Reid as Vice-Presidents. Table Tennis began to be played in the Y. M. C. A. from 1924 and for twenty years the Y. M. C. A. Championships were virtually the Championships of Ceylon till 1944 when the Y. M. C. A. initiated the Ceylon Table Tennis Association. Badminton was introduced to the Y. M. C. A. by Mr. P. Sivalingam and Mr. A. Vythialingam, both of whom excelled in the game as students in Malaya and the Ceylon Badminton Association was formed in 1947 with Sir Charles Collins as its first President and Mr. A. Vythialingam as the Honorary Secretary. Mention has already been made of Dr. Cammack founding the Ceylon Amateur Athletic Association in 1921, Basketball which had been introduced to Ceylon by Dr. Cammack was played and taught by the Y. M. C. A. members in all parts of Ceylon and in 1949 the Ceylon Basketball Association was founded with Mr. John Exter as its first President and Dr. J. J. Sarangapany as the first Honorary Secretary. Even to this day the Y. M. C. A. s of Ceylon are fostering all these games and many of the Governing Bodies and District Associations of Sports hold committee meetings in the Y. M. C. A. s at Colombo, Kandy, Jaffna and Galle. □

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The Y. M. C. A. Movement in Jaffna

By Lyman S. Kulathurgam

(Reprinted from the 1962 Souvenir)

The story of the Y.M.C.A. Movement in Jaffna starts with the founding of the first Student Y. M. C. A. in Asia at Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai. It was inaugurated on the 15th of March, 1884, by Dr. Frank K. Sanders and Mr. W E Hitchcock, two American professors of the College at that time. Within a few months of the inauguration of this Association we find an invitation from the Rev. A. E. Restarick, the Principal of Jaffna Central College to Dr. Sandres to help in the founding of a 'Y' there, and so in 1885 was founded the second Y. M. C. A. in Jaffna in that school. In the same year was also founded the Association at St. John's College, Jaffna.

Before inauguration of the Movement in Jaffna, there were existing in Ceylon two Associations - one in Colombo originally started in 1859 but soon going out of existence and revived in 1882, and the other in Kandy founded in 1861. The Association at Galle was also started in 1884. The Movement was already forty years old, when it was introduced into Jaffna. The International Federation of the Y M C. As, had already been formed in Paris in 1885, and, as far as records go, four Associations had commenced working in India - Calcutta from 1851, Trivandrum from 1873, and Lahore and Bombay from 1875.

The Movement in Jaffna began quickly to gather strength. In 1885, the year after the inauguration of the Movement, in North Ceylon Y.M.C.A. Union was launched, consisting of seven Associations. No records are available as to exactly where the other four Associations, beside the ones at Jaffna College, St. John's College and

Central College were. In the History of the Y.M.C.A. in North America, published in 1957, we read that in November, 1885 Dr. Sanders, as Editor of the Bulletin of the Jaffna College Y.M.C.A. reported the formation of the Jaffna Union of seven Associations, one of them mentioned as at Tellippalai. He also is reported to have remarked that there were then eleven Associations in Ceylon, inclusive of the seven in Jaffna.

1889 & 1890 are important milestones in the Movement's history in Jaffna. In December of 1889 we read of a Y.M.C.A. Convention held in Vaddukoddai for three or four days, which was attended by representatives from South Ceylon too. This was the first regularly organised 'Y' Conference in the East. At that time there are reported to have been three Y.M.C.A. Unions the Colombo Union the South Ceylon Union and the North Ceylon Union. Mr. G. A. Wille, who was one of those present at the Convention, in an article he contributed to the Special Golden Jubilee Number of the 'Ceylon Men' of the Colombo Y M C A published in November, 1932, refers to the interesting two and a half days journey he made by train to Matale thence by horse coach to Anuradhapura, and finally by bullock omnibus to Jaffna. He also records in the same article that Jaffna was very strong in Young Men's Christian Associations. This Convention owed its inspiration to the visit of Mr. L P. Wishart, the inter Collegiate, Secretary of the Y. M. C. As. in America.

In 1890 the first adult Y. M. C. A. in Jaffna was started in the town with the grand Old Man of

Jaffna, at that time the immensely popular Government Agent of Jaffna Sir William Twynam, as its first President. It must have been about this time — records are not available to give the exact date — the Uduvil Y.M.C.A. was started with Mr. T. C. Changarapillai, Proctor as its President. The Naval Y.M.C.A. too was started in 1890, with Mr. S. P. Lawton as its President. The exact number of the Associations and where they were, I have not been able to find out with any definiteness. The old numbers of the *Morning Star* speak of Associations during the last years of the nineteenth century in, beside places mentioned already, Manipay, Pandaterrunpu, Point Pedro, Kaddaively, Atchuvely, Uduppiddy, Nallur and Kopay. The reports of the North Ceylon Y.M.C.A. Union appearing in the *Morning Star*, speak of 17 Associations in 1895 (8 in colleges and 9 in town and villages), 23 years later and of 18 in 1900 (11 of them village Associations, 5 of them were conducted in English and 11 in Tamil).

The North Ceylon Union which lasted for over twenty years, appears to have been very active holding regular annual, semi-annual and public meetings and in addition, conferences for secretaries. It was also responsible for holding of Conventions. Four more Conventions, the first was in 1889, were held: in 1891 at Nallur, in 1894 at Chundikuli, in 1895 at Vaddukoddai and in 1897 in the Fort Church, Jaffna. These Conventions were largely attended and proved extremely useful. The Convention in 1895 had as its chief speaker, Dr. John R. Mott, then Secretary of the World's Christian College Federation, and Mr. Robert Wilder, of the Kolapur Presbyterian Mission of India and of the Student Volunteer Mission. The Rev. G. S. Eddy, Secretary of the Student Movement spoke at the last Convention, which was held under the joint auspices of the

Inter-Collegiate Department of the Y. M. C. A. and the Student Volunteer Movement of India and Ceylon. The Movement derived strength and inspiration from frequent visits by Mr. Louis Hieb, the Secretary of the Colombo Y.M.C.A., Dr. Mott and Mr. Eddy. Among the indefatigable workers in the cause of the Movement the following deserve mention: the Revs. A. E. Restarick, J. Thompson (Principal of St. John's College) and Mr. W. E. Hitchcock, who were Presidents of the Union; the Rev. J. W. Fall and the Rev. J. Carter (Principals of St. John's College), Rev. W. M. P. Wilkes (Principal of Jaffna Central College), and the Rev. J. Bicknell (Principal of Jaffna College), who were Vice-Presidents; the Secretaries, the Rev. G. Lease, Messrs. A. A. Ward and W. S. Vyramuttu; and the Rev. C. C. Handv, who was the Treasurer for most part of this period of 20 years.

In passing, it may be mentioned that Dr. Mott made this observation of the Jaffna College Y. M. C. A. after his first visit to Jaffna in 1895: "This is not only the oldest of the foreign College Associations, if but also one of the very best. Few, if any, Associations in America or Britain are doing a broader or deeper work".

Another significant fact about this Union was that it laid the greatest emphasis on the religious work of the Y.M.C.A. At most of the public meetings held under its auspices the lectures were on religious subjects like "Study of the Bible", "Sin and Salvation", "Conversion", and "Personal Work". As early as 1894 a prize was offered by the Rev. S. Knapp of Point Pedro on the best essay written by a young man on "The Method of Salvation". This Prize was won by Mr. C. S. Rajaratnam, who was at that time studying in the Junior F. A. class of Jaffna Central College and who later became the well-known advocate of Kandy. Most of the missionaries

working in Jaffna and the pastors of our churches appear to have shown a great interest in and enthusiasm for these Associations. That was clearly one of the potent reasons for the spread of the movement and for the virility it showed in these years.

However, after the first decade of the twentieth century the number of Associations registered a progressive decline, though a few new Associations were started like the ones at Chavachcheri and Chankanai. Those at Navaly and Uduvil were happily very much alive. The Association at Navaly, it must be recorded, has had an almost unbroken existence up to the present time. It was very fortunate to have at its helm men like Messrs. S. T. Arnold, S. P. Lawton, and S. C. Arnold. Of special interest is one of its activities — editing of a paper. In its early years this paper was called "Young Men of Manipay" and since 1953 "Young Christian". It was the first 'Y' in Jaffna to build a home for itself. This was opened for use in 1914. The Uduvil Association has had its ups and downs. For several years till the twenties of this century it was very active, showing progress in every aspect of its work. Messrs. T. C. Changarapillai, A. A. Ward, the Rev. S. Eliatamby, his son John Eliatamby were its chief live wires. In 1926 it was resuscitated and continued to function till about five or six years ago. Mention may be made of the following who gave it dynamic leadership: Messrs. D. S. Seevaratnam, T. C. Rajaratnam, J. C. Stickney, R. C. Canagasingham and W. P. A. Cooke. I myself have enjoyed working in it as Secretary for seven years and President for ten years. It has also a building of its own, opened in 1930. In 1940 it had the privilege of acting as hosts to the Area Conference of the Ceylon Y. M. C. As.

During these years the Movement in Jaffna gained a lot of stimulus by the visits of inspiring world leaders like Dr. Mott and Dr. Eddy, and great Indian leaders like Mr. K. T. Paul.

The Jaffna Y. M. C. A.

The Jaffna Y. M. C. A. whose building is being opened today, had its origin in 1890 but it appears to have gone to sleep soon. Eight years later it was revived and reorganised at the initiative of Mr. Louis Hick, the Secretary of the Colombo Y. M. C. A. It was very fortunate to have again as its President, Sir William Twynam. Its Vice-President that year was Mr. T. C. Changarapillai, its Secretary the Rev. W. T. Garret, the Principal of Jaffna Central College, and its Treasurer Mr. T. M. Thampoe. The members of the first Board of Directors were, in addition to the officers, the Revs. G. J. Frimmer, H. Horstey, Dr. Rajasinghe, Messrs. T. P. Olagasegaram, De Kretser, T. S. Cooke, E. B. Hunt and A. Arulampalam. Mr. W. S. Vyramuttu was the Assistant Secretary. The Association got busy at once and organised itself into good working order. At the very start, the Board decided to open a Reading and Reception Room, and for this purpose commenced raising a fund. Almost immediately a sum of Rs 600/- was raised. Mr. R. W. Ivers, the Government Agent, leading the list of subscribers with a donation of Rs 50/-. More was raised soon and a good house on the 1st Cross Street was engaged, with accommodation for 10 young men to lodge, a reading room, a meeting and social room and an office. The services of an experienced Assistant were also secured in the person of Mr. W. S. Vyramuttu. Records have it that the rooms soon became fully engaged and the building proved attractive to young men. However this

building was not to be with the Association for long; it had to shift to new premises in the Main Street, opposite the Christ Church in two years, and later to another site. The Association became irritated at having to rent new places in quick succession; hence, the Board decided to buy a building plot and put up its own building. For that purpose an appeal for raising a sum of Rs 15 000/- was launched in September 1901. This appeal, copied from the *Morning Star*, appears elsewhere in this Souvenir. The list of subscribers was headed by Mr William Mather, who gave Rs 250/- on his account and another Rs. 100/- on his Company's account. In 1914 plans for the building were got ready and preparations were made for the laying of the foundation for it in the site on the Lotus Pond Road near the Esplanade. It was about one acre in extent and had been gifted by the Government. Nothing concrete seems to have come out of these plans, but some time later the Association bought a house and property in the Main Street, opposite the Christ Church probably one of its earliest rented homes.

In spite however, of its preoccupation with securing a house for itself, the Association was alive with its religious, literary and sports activities. It also ran a hostel which had to be moved from one site to another with the following helping its management in turn: Mr W.S. Vyramuttu, the Rev N G. Nathaniel, and Messrs. W.A. Collette, C.A. Hannibalz, R. R. Alexander and A. V. Charles. The Association owed its strength during those days principally to the following: Sir William Twynam, who remained its President for over twenty years, the Revds. G. J. Trimmer, Jacob Thompson, Messrs Isaac Tambyah, Tambyah S. Cooke and T. H. Crossette, names to be reckoned with in the history of

Jaffna; and to Mr Murray Brookes, the Secretary of the Colombo Y.M.C.A., who paid Jaffna frequent visits, and Mr A. C. Harte the General Secretary of the National Council. Quite obviously the Association then faced the same problem which the 'Y' now in Jaffna faces and which the 'Y' all over the world faces: the pre-dominance of older men in its councils of management. For that reason one of the earliest reports of the Jaffna Association reminded people that "when it is said that the Association is for young men, it means for everybody who does not think himself to be an old man".

The period of the next thirty years saw the Association alive, though not always marked with the same virility as before. Two attempts were made to strengthen and expand its activities by the appointment of paid Assistant Secretaries in 1932 and 1939, but the experiment did not succeed. The first one to be so appointed, Mr S. S. Arulampalam, worked for less than a year and the other, Mr R. S. Seevaratnam appointed in 1939, remained in office for two years. In 1934 the Board was called upon to consider the proposal of one of its members to close the 'Y' sell its building and with the interest of the sale to help young men from Jaffna in Colombo. The Board made the one decision possible and that was to reject the proposal. The hostel, run in the building was placed now under the charge of the Rev. (Ven) J. A. R. Navaratnam, who as its warden managed it very acceptably for a few years. In 1936 the decision was taken to sell the property because the Board felt, and felt rightly, that its site and state of disrepair were no assets to the Association. Several negotiations made for its sale failed to materialise. At one stage

the Board contemplated buying the Percival Hall. There was later an offer for the property for Rs. 8000/- and the Board was disposed to accept it but fortunately the National Council stepped in and disallowed it. Thus it was that finally in 1942 the building was sold for a sum of Rs 13,150/-.

The 'Y' during these years carried on several activities like Study Circles, Literary Meetings Reading Room and some religious services. A very noteworthy feature of its activities in 1945 was its Social Service programme. The Group in charge of it was very much alive to the social issues of the day and campaigned for the removal of drink evil reduction of crime, and the eradication of the beggar problem. It called upon the contestants at the Urban Council Elections to give up the habit of influencing their voters with bottles of liquor. It also carried on a campaign of educating the voters on their rights and privileges. Under the auspices of the Association a Conference of 'Y' workers was held at the Jaffna Central College, led by Mr. J. S. Aiman, the Secretary of the National Council. In 1944 it celebrated the centenary of the founding of the Y. M. C. A. Movement, with a public meeting held at St John's College. Beside Mr. Aiman, Messrs. R. O. Buell and J. H. Dunderdale, the Secretaries of the Colombo Y.M.C.A. and Dr Stanley Jones were among the visitors the Association welcomed during this time.

There is almost a complete list of office bearers of the Association during this period, appearing in another page in this publication; hence, I wish here to single out for special mention just a few, to whom the 'Y' is obliged a great deal: the Revds E. M. Weaver, H. Peto Dr. A. N. Coomarasamy, Dr. R. E. W. Jehorathnam, Messrs. L. P. Spencer, Sam. Seevarathnam, and parti-

cularly Mr. J. Lewis Subramaniam, whose one concern was to drive the Association into perpetual activity, no matter whether he held any office in it or not, and what office it was.

The Y.M.C.A. then ran into a lean period of a few years, but somehow its work was kept going through a Reading Room maintained at the bungalow of Mr. C. H. Cooke. Sports activities were continued on the grounds leased from the Ladies' Recreation Club. A fillip was given to the Association with the opening of these Grounds by the Government Agent, Mr. P. J. Hudson, on the 10th of September, 1949. It was about this time that the Association first thought of leasing from the Municipal Council the Kachcheri Gala land, on which the building is now sited. The idea originated with Mr. R. O. Buell, the Secretary of the Colombo Y.M.C.A. and he started the ball rolling for negotiations with the Council. The final decision of the Municipal Council was taken on the 14th of October of that year to lease the grounds to the Association for a period of ninety-nine years. It was a unanimous decision, and reflected the general conviction in the Town for the need of such a building for the expansion of the Association's work. It also reflected the appreciation of what the 'Y' was attempting to do. The plan for a building was soon mooted and on the 26th of January, 1952, the foundation stone of the new building was laid by the Rt. Hon. D. S. Senanayake the then Prime Minister of Ceylon. The Bishop of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India, the Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Kulandran, offered the prayer of dedication. From then onwards the Association has been concerned chiefly about bringing the building scheme into fruition. Ten years are not a long period for the scheme to have materialised. During the period the Board on several occasions thought of temporary structures and

partial completion, but, thanks to the generosity of the World Alliance and of the people at large, who gave liberally towards the building, it is a reality today.

Much of the credit of what the 'Y' has been able to achieve in recent years must undoubtedly go to Mr. E. R. T. Reginald, who became its Secretary in 1951. For seven years he threw himself into the Y.M.C.A.'s work with indefatigable energy and burning enthusiasm. He it was that galvanised the Association into real life. His untimely death under tragic circumstances in 1958, was therefore a stunning blow to the 'Y'. Mr. R. O. Buell is another person to whom the Association cannot render adequate thanks. He has been all these years behind the Association, supporting all its efforts, and awakening and driving it to action, when it was disposed to be inactive and dejected. It has also been fortunate in the Presidents it has had during these important years: Dr H. R. Saravanamuttu, Messrs. R. C. S. Cooke, A. E. R. Corea, E. J. Jeyarajah, and J. M. Sabaratnam.

The Association has been identifying itself with the work of the Movement in the Island generally. It has kept its vital connections with the Regional Committee and is now a constituent of the much longed for National Council of the YMCAs. in Ceylon. It has been able to send representatives to international conferences. In December, 1948 its Secretary, the Rev. A. J. C. Selvaratnam attended the Conference of Christian Youth held at Allahabad,

India; Mr. Lyman S. Kulathungam went from the Jaffna Association to the Third Asian Leaders' Conference, held in December, 1953, at Baguio, Phillipines and in 1955 the following had the privilege of representing it at the World Y.M.C.A. Centennial Conference held at Paris: Messrs: E. R. T. Reginald, J. G. Ascervatham and A. C. Yogarajah.

The Association also benefited greatly by the visits of Y.M.C.A. leaders like Dr. S. C. Leung, the Rev. Franklin, Mr. T. D. Santwan, Mr. Allan Andrew, Mr. Richard Fitts, Mr. C. Eddy, Dr. Paul M. Limbert, General Secretary of the World Alliance of Y.M.C.As, Dr. D. S. Malaliperumal, the General Secretary of the National Council of the Y.M.C.A. in India and Ceylon, and Mr. P. C. Miraflores of the Phillipines Y.M.C.A.

The Building, looked forward to and worked for almost since the beginning is now a reality. It is hoped that this will inaugurate a new era of really solid and worthwhile work not only in the Jaffna Town but also throughout the North. The founder of the Movement, Sir George Williams, said sixty years ago at New York; "The demand of the new century is for men of strong Christian character, men of dauntless courage and unfaltering faith; men filled with the spirit of Christ, and self-sacrificing love for their fellowmen". That demand is still there. Our prayer is that the Jaffna Y.M.C.A., which begins a new era today, will meet that demand.

The Y. M. C. A. and the Church

THE Church which has tended to withdraw inwardly, preoccupied with its own interests is increasingly realising the need to move out into the world, which is its true field of witness and service. Jesus Christ is Lord of the whole world. The earlier limited view about evangelism and an over emphasis on the individual and pietistic life of Christians is being altered

In this context the role of the Y. M. C. A. as a serving agency of the Church, in its mission to the world is vital. There is the mutual dependence of the Y. M. C. A. and the Church. The Y. M. C. A. derives spiritual strength from the Church and the Church through the Y. M. C. A. movement is able to have a wider outreach in the community. The work of the Y. M. C. A. as a serving agency of the Church has special significance in a country of diverse religions, races, and cultures. The Y. M. C. A. movement is a great force for unity and cut across barriers of caste, race, and religions. It is an agency through which all sections of society could co-operate for community service. In this way it could help to break down the communal and introverted life of the Church.

The Y. M. C. A. movement is a means of mobilising the lay people in a specific way to support the work of the Church. If the Church is to be effective and relevant in the present world it has to work increasingly through its lay people. The Church has to enter through its laity, the workshops, offices, farms and factories and face up to the problems in society. In this the Y. M. C. A.

has an important contribution to make. It could train lay people to demonstrate the nature and purpose of the Church in the world, through their vocation

The Y. M. C. A. fulfills an important need in the training and nurture of youth. The future of the Church depends to a large extent on the youth of today. The Christian message has to be made relevant to the problems that youth face in the modern world. The Church is dependent on the Y. M. C. A. for the task of awakening youth to live their religion in their day to day lives. There is a varied programme that the Y. M. C. A. movement offers to young people, the recreational and sports activities, the literary activities, the studies and discussions, and the devotional programmes. All these contribute to the development of the full personality. The Y. M. C. A. confronts youth with wider areas of service affords opportunities for training in citizenship and instills in youth a sense of responsibility to their nation.

Today there is increasing realisation of the need for the Church to play a positive role in the task of nation building. This is particularly a need in the newly independent Asian countries. The Church should be concerned with political, social, and economic issues that affect the nation. It should be a force for social reconciliation and injustice in the nation. For the fulfilment of this responsibility the Y. M. C. A. provides an invaluable forum for thinking and action.

The Y. M. C. A. has its own contribution to make in fostering unity and understanding among the different chu-

rich denominations. Too often the Church is ineffective because of its narrow divisions of denominationalism. At a time when the Church is striving towards union, in a sense this is already a reality in the life of the Y. M. C. A.

The Y. M. C. A. has an important frontier work in assisting the Church to reach out to areas where the Church has not been able to enter effectively hitherto, due perhaps to conservatism and adherence to traditional patterns of service. The Church has been hesitant to reach out to people of other faiths. It needs to enter into a dialogue with the other religions and consider common issues, that confront man in society. There is also the challenge of "secularism" which the Church in its "ghetto" existence is not able to meet effectively. There are many who have ceased to belong to any church. They do not attend church services. The Y. M. C. A. could be one avenue through which they could still be drawn into the Christian fellowship. The Church that is out of touch with the secular world cannot understand fully the doubts and difficulties that beset "secular" Christians. The Y. M. C. A. through its residential hostels, counselling services, and welfare programmes is in a position to assist the Church in this task.

In times of rapid social change as the present, the Church needs to respond

more positively to meet the needs of a changing world. Too often the Church has been a bewildered spectator. The Church needs to be involved in the whole process of change both in the urban and rural areas. The Church in Ceylon has been more representative of the middle class and has not sufficiently reached out to include the lower middle class and the working classes. It has not contributed sufficiently to the betterment of the rural communities. There are instances in other countries where the Y. M. C. A. has undertaken responsibility for rural development programmes and has worked side by side with government and other voluntary agencies. There have been rural training centres sponsored by the Y. M. C. A.'s for the specific task of training voluntary lay workers, who would help in the rural welfare work of the Church.

The Church needs to enter as never before new, and unredeemed areas of society and through the life and witness of its laity make the Gospel of Jesus Christ relevant to the present time and situation. It needs to express itself with a new dynamism and in indigenous terms. In all this the contribution that the Y. M. C. A. could make is significant and it is in a very real sense the right arm of the Church.

*Contributed by the Christian Institute
for the Study of Religion and Society,
Jaffra.*

Looking Forward

By E. A. Champion

(Reprinted from the 1962 Souvenir)

Hony, General Secretary, Jaffna Y. M. C. A (1962 - 65)

'He comes to us as of old, by the lakeside, He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word. "Follow thou me" and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time. He commands, And to those who obey Him, He will reveal Himself in toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is'

— Albert Schweitzer

When the history of the Jaffna town comes to be written, perhaps some future historian will have at least a passing remark to make about a small group of people who met at the request of Sir William Twynam to inaugurate, in remote Jaffna, a little branch of a Worldwide Brotherhood. In this article, it is my intention to look forward and perhaps to dream of all the things this institution must be heir to. What we see in achievement today are the dreams of that small group 75 years ago. What we dream today, perhaps, will be the fulfilment and achievements of our children, of the young men and boys who are the rightful heirs of all that is good and noble.

The future of men and institutions necessarily depends on the past and the present. The Jaffna Y. M. C. A. these 75 years has had its period of trial, its period of triumph and today in its 75th year is placed in a most challenging position. The years before the 2nd World War were years of experimentation, of successes and failures, culminating in the sale of the building situated in the town. But, right through the period, the Christian leadership in Jaffna was actively associated with the Y. M. C. A., leadership coming from all denominations.

Names such as, Dr. Isaac Thambiah, P. T. Cash, E. M. Weaver, Henry Peto, T. S. Cooke, Dr. A. N. Coomarasamy, Sam Seevaratnam, Ven. J. A. R. Navaratnam, A. J. R. Vethavanam, Lewis Subramaniam, Dr. R. E. W. Jehoratnam, occur time and again in the records. With such leadership the Association could not but succeed. With the sale of the building the Y. M. C. A. was without a home, but not without friends. Even though at times only two or three gathered in his name to keep alive this great ideal, the Association was kept alive because of the zeal and enthusiasm of a few. Once again the names that appear are: Dr. H. R. Saravanamuthu, Rev. A. J. C. Selvaratnam, Lewis Subramaniam, W. G. Spencer, R. C. S. Cooke, Rev. T. K. Curtis, P. T. Mathai, R. M. Devadasan, Dr. R. E. W. Jehoratnam, E. J. Jeyarajah, E. R. T. Reginald, J. G. Arasaratnam, J. M. Sabaratnam, Dr. G. N. R. Nathaniel, C. A. W. Edwards, and so on the leadership comes to us in a never ending line. It is the consciousness of this trust that has been placed with us, that makes the leadership of today all the more important, because we must never fail those that have gone before.

Ever since the new building was dedicated, and opened its doors to the youth of Jaffna, the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. has entered into a new field of work and activity, and it is at this time when so much needs to be done that it is so very essential that the vision of those at the helm of affairs must necessarily be a vision towards the fulfilments not only of the primary abjective 'That they all may be one, that the world may believe that Thou hast sent me' but also a vision that will unite and bind the youth of this land in common weal and common woe. Wherever the red triangle is seen in whatever remote corner of the world it has always been not only a symbol of the unity of body, mind and spirit, but a unity symbolising the common brotherhood of man. It is in this perspective that whatever is planned, whatever goes forth from this building, must always proclaim that the Y. M. C. A., in a world torn into such fragments symbolises the brotherhood of man in Christ Jesus.

The primary objective of the Jaffna Y. M. C. A., as we see it, will, therefore, not merely be work in the Jaffna town but in promoting and strengthening Y. M. C. A. s through the length and breadth of the Jaffna Peninsula. The Jaffna Y. M. C. A. will be called upon to use its resources of men and material to respond to the call of the rural units. In doing so, the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. must be prepared to re-orientate its outlook, to be able to adjust itself to the needs of the rural youth. This will mean an understanding of the needs of the youth in rural areas and also an appreciation of the particular environment in which the Y. M. C. A. is set. This approach is all the more important because of the recent changes in the National organisation. In 1962 the Na-

tional Council of the Y. M. C. A. s of Ceylon was established. If this Council is to grow, the peripheral units — North, South, East and West — must be fostered. Today the Y. M. C. A. Movement is largely an urban movement, meeting the needs of urban population, but the Y. M. C. A. as a National organisation will be very much isolated and out of touch if it does not derive its strength from rural and urban areas. We trust that the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. will give the lead in this sphere of work.

*'This money goes to the Y' said he,
For the man I should like my son to be,
This money goes for the things I've
learned,
To my sorrow by getting my fingers
burned,
This money goes for the old, old truth,
I wish I had known in my early youth
It goes for the things of the long ago,
Which I've said I wanted my boy to
know''*

This building is primarily dedicated to the youth of this land and to serve them must always be our primary aim. The National Council of Y. M. C. A. s recently resolved that all Y. M. C. A. units should have an active Boys' Department. The Jaffna Y. M. C. A., however, has shown great vision in that, even before the resolution was passed in the National Council, the Board of Directors had decided that the Boys' Department should be an essential feature of our Y. M. C. A. To give meaning to this, we employed a full time Secretary and have sent him abroad for specialized training in youth work. We are confident that this far reaching policy will one day prove our greatest asset. For not only are we meeting the particular problems of our youth today, but we are building no longer with brick and

mortar but with men Young men and boys who will cherish the ideals of this Movement and foster the spirit of Brotherhood

Our Boys' Department is composed of Christians and non-Christians from all walks of life They come and we hope will keep coming, and learn in this place to be in the words of the poet, "The man I should like my son to be".

In planning for the future this aspect of our work has to be always given prime importance The Y M C A. must be in a position to meet the needs of Youth and their aspirations as they seek guidance from us. In this the Y. M. C. A. has to work in close co-ordination with the schools and churches. This is all the more important because of

the large numbers and the school cannot devote the attention which such large numbers require. The Y. M. C. A. is thus in a position to help and must not be found wanting.

The Y. M. C. A. has also a role to play in the Social and Cultural spheres. In this task, the role of the Y. M. C. A. will not be an easy one because of the different levels from which its membership is drawn. While the Y. M. C. A. Movement is essentially an International Movement it has always identified itself with, blending and becoming a part of, the national texture. In Ceylon this task is all the more difficult because we are not a homogeneous community. The task, therefore, will be to strive for a unity which must be found in diversity.

From the Y. M. C. A Log Book

"I am happy to come to Jaffna to lay the Foundation Stone of the Jaffna Y M. C. A. Building. I am glad that the Christian Community here is taking steps to look after their younger generation & keep them steady in their religious and social activities. I have myself been greatly benefited by the Y. M. C. A. of my school days. It is a happy augury to see so many elders of Jaffna taking part in this Movement."

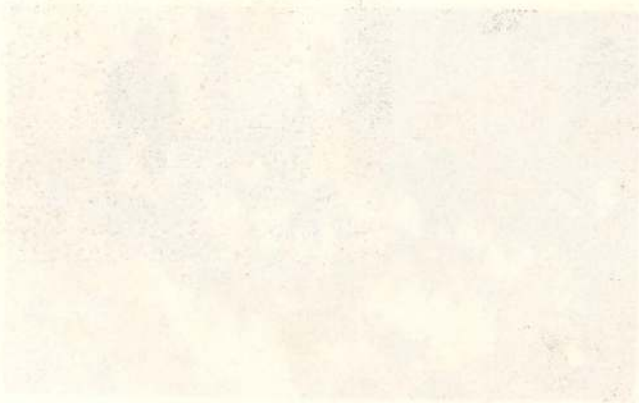
Sgd D. S. Senanayake
Prime Minister of Ceylon
26th Jan. 1952



Tiny Tots at Nursery Sc'ool



Vocational Training for Women

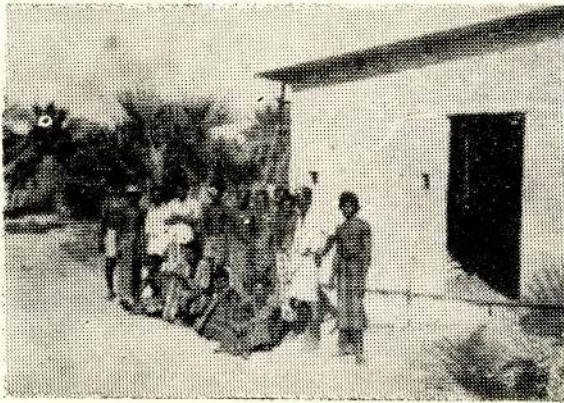
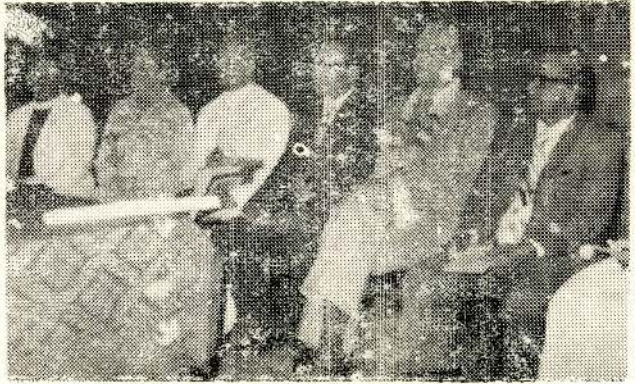


Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.



Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.

Mr. & Mrs. Ed. Wybourn in
our midst. Ed laid the
foundation for a
Gymnasium in 1977.



Housing Scheme for
Refugees

Youth in Action





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யாழ்ப்பாண வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கம்
JAFFNA Y. M. C. A.

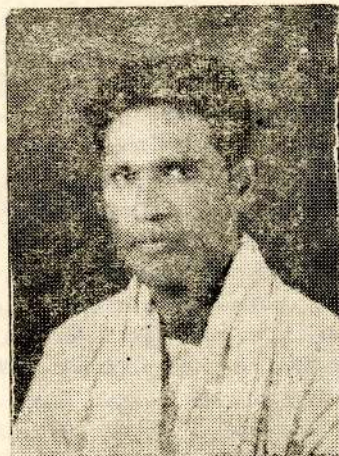
நூருவது ஆண்டு விழா (1890 — 1990)

S. P. Jeevanantham
(Chairman, Religious work Committee)

நூற்றாண்டு விழாவை வெகு விமரிசையாகக் கொண்டாடும் யாழ்ப்பாண வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கத்தின் சரித்திரத்தில் அது தனது கடந்த காலத்தில் ஆற்றிய சேவைகளை நன்றியோடும், பெருமையோடும் திரும்பிப் பார்க்கவேண்டிய நிலையில் உள்ளது. இன்று இந்த இயக்கம் அரும் பெரும் சாதனைகளைச் செயல் மூலம் சாதித்து முடித்த 100 ஆண்டுகளின் எல்லையில் மிகவும் மகிழ்ச்சியுடன் தனது நூற்றாண்டு விழாவைக் கொண்டாடுகிறது.

1844ஆம் ஆண்டில் இலண்டன் மாநகரிலே சேர் ஜோர்ஜ் உவில்லியம்ஸ் என்பவரின் தலைமையில் பன்னிரண்டு வாலிபர்கள் ஒன்று சேர்ந்து தங்கள் ஓய்வு நேரங்களைப் பயனான வழிகளில் செலவிட வேண்டுமென்றும், தங்களுடைய ஜீவியம் பிறகுக்குப் பிரயோசனமுடையதாக அமைய வேண்டுமென்றும் அதற்கு வேதாகமப் படிப்பு மிகவும் இன்றியமையாதது என்று செய்த தீர்மானத்தின் விளைவாக வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கம் முதன் முதல் அங்கு ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டு வைக்கப்பட்டது. இந்த இயக்கத்தின் கிளைகள் உலகின் பல பாகங்களிலும் நிறுவப்பட்டு இன்று சிறந்த முறையில் இவைகள் செயலாற்றி வருகின்றன.

1884ஆம் ஆண்டில் வட்டுக்கோட்டை, யாழ்ப்பாணக் கல்லூரியிலும், 1885ஆம் ஆண்டில் யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரியிலும் இந்த இயக்கம் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டுச் செயல்படத் தொடங்கின. 1889ஆம் ஆண்டு வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கத்தின் மகாநாடு ஒன்று யாழ்ப்பாணக் கல்லூரியில் மிகவும் சிறப்பாகவும், எடுப்பாகவும் நடைபெற்றது. இந்த மகாநாட்டில் இலங்



கையின் பல பாகங்களிலுமிருந்து பிரதிநிதிகள் பெருமளவில் கலந்துகொண்டனர். இம் மகாநாடு யாழ்ப்பாணத்துக்குப் பெரும் புகழ் ஈட்டிக் கொடுத்ததுடன், யாழ்ப்பாணச் சரித்திரத்தில் முக்கிய இடத்தையும் பெற்றது.

யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் 1890ஆம் ஆண்டு யாழ். நகர வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கம் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டது. அக்காலத்தில் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் அரசாங்க அநிபராக இருந்த சேர் உவில்லியம் குவைனம் என்பவரே காரணகர்த்தாவாக இருந்து இதனை நிறுவுவதில் அயராது உழைத்தார். இந்த இயக்கம் சேர் உவில்லியம் குவைனம் அவர்களின் தலைமையின் கீழ் நன்கு வளர்ச்சியடைந்து, நல்ல செல்வாக்குப் பெற்றமை குறிப்பிடத்தக்கதாகும். இந்த நிறுவனத்தில் இதற்காக உழைத்து வந்த அநேகர் இந்த இயக்கத்தின் தலைவர்களாகவும், செயலாளர்களாகவும், பொருளாளர்களாகவும் ஆளுனர் சபையின் நிர்வாக

உறுப்பினர்களாகவும் கடமையாற்றி வந்துள்ளனர். நூற்றாண்டு விழாவின் தலைவராக திரு: சாம். எஸ். சதாசிவனும், செயலாளராக திரு. எம். தம்பித்துரையும், பொருளாளராக எஸ். கே. சுந்தரலிங்கமும், நூற்றுண்டு விழாக் குழுவின் தலைவராக திரு. எஸ். வி. திசைநாயகமும் கடமையாற்றி வருவது மகிழ்ச்சிக்கூறியதாகும்.

1949ஆம் ஆண்டளவில் கொழும்பு வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கத்தின் செயலாளர் நாயகமாகக் கடமையாற்றிய திரு. R. O. பியூவல் அவர்களின் ஆலோசனைப்படியாழ்ப்பாணம் கச்சேரியை அண்டியுள்ள நிலப்பரப்பை (தற்பொழுது வை, எம் சி ஏ. ஸ்தாபனம் நிறுவப்பட்டுள்ள காணி) 99 வருடங்களுக்குக் குத்தகைக்குப் பெற்று இந்தக்காணியில் தனக்கென ஒரு பணிமனையை அமைக்கும் முயற்சியில் அதிதீவிரமாக ஈடுபட்டது. இப் புதிய கட்டடம் அமைப்பதற்கான அடிக்கல்லை 1952ஆம் ஆண்டு தை மாதம் 26ஆம் திகதி இலங்கையின் முதலாவது பிரதம அமைச்சரான அதி மதிப்பிற்குரிய கௌரவ D. S. சேனனாயக்கா அவர்கள் நாட்டி வேலையை ஆரம்பித்து வைத்தார். இந்தக் கட்டடம் 1962ஆம் ஆண்டு கட்டி முடிக்கப்பட்டது. இக்கட்டிடத்தை அமைப்பதற்கு வேண்டிய நிதியைச் சேகரித்து வழங்கும் பணியில் லைபீரியா (LIBERIA) வைச் சேர்ந்த கலாநிதி சான்ஸ் ஷேர்மன் என்பவரும், உலக வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்க நிர்வாக சபைக் குழுவைச் சேர்ந்த அமெரிக்கா, கனடா, ஆகிய நாடுகளைச் சேர்ந்த சிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கங்களும் முன்னின்று உழைத்தமை குறிப்பிடத்தக்கதாகும்.

இதே காலத்தில் யாழ்ப்பாண வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கத்தின் தலைவராக திரு. K. C. S. குக் அவர்களும், செயலாளர் நாயகமாக திரு. நவம் அப்பாத்துரை அவர்களும், பொருளாளராக திரு. J G. அரசரத்தினம் அவர்களும், ஆளுநர் சபை உறுப்பினர்களாக வைத்திய கலாநிதி G. N. R. நத்தானியல், திருவாளர்கள் E. A. சாம்பியன், ஹட்சன் செல்வராசா,

ரி. பாலச்சந்திரன், சாமுவேல் தம்பையா, ஜேர்ஜ் சபாபதிப்பிள்ளை, K. பூரணம் பிள்ளை, A. A. குக், I. P. துரைரத்தினம் ஆகியோர்களும், இன்னும் பலரும் இந்த நோக்கங்களுக்காக உழைக்க ஒன்று கூடினர். இவர்களுள் நூற்றாண்டு விழாவைக் கண்டு களிக்கும் வாய்ப்பை திருவாளர்கள் J. G. அரசரத்தினம், K. பூரணம் பிள்ளை ஆகியோர் பெற்றமைக்கு இறைவனுக்கு நன்றி கூறுகின்றோம். ஏனையோர் மறுமைக்குள் பிரவேசித்துள்ளனர். இவர்கள் எல்லோரும் இந்த ஸ்தாபனத்தின் வளர்ச்சிக்காக ஆற்றிய சகல சேவைகளுக்கும் நாம் இறைவனுக்கு நன்றி செலுத்துகிறோம்.

மேல் மாடியுடன் இன்று காட்சிதரும் இக்கட்டிடத்தைக் கட்டி முடிக்க எல்லோரும் கொடுத்த ஒத்துழைப்பும், சேகரித்துக் கொடுத்த நிதியும் கைகொடுத்துதவியது. இக்கட்டிடத்தைச் சிறந்த முறையில் கட்டி முடித்த பொறியியலாளர் திரு: G.S. அருளம்பலம் அவர்கள் ஆற்றிய அரும் பெரும் சேவையை நாம் என்றும் மறந்துவிட முடியாது.

சமீப காலமாக யாழ்ப்பாண வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கம் அடைந்துள்ள அனுசூலங்கள், வளர்ச்சிகள், என்பவற்றிற்குக் காரண கர்த்தாவாக இருந்தவர் காலஞ்சென்ற திரு. E. R. F. ஜெஜினோல்ட் அவர்களே ஆவார். 1951ஆம் ஆண்டு இவ்வியக்கத்தின் பொதுச் செயலாளராகப் பதவியேற்று தொடர்ச்சியாக ஏழு வருடங்கள் இந்த இயக்கத்தின் வளர்ச்சிக்காக விடா முயற்சியுடன் அயராது உழைத்த இவரின் திடீர் மறைவு இவ்வியக்கத்திற்கு ஈடு செய்ய முடியாத இழப்பாகும். இவரின் திடீர் மறைவினால் இவ்வியக்கம் சோர்வடைந்திருந்த காலத்தில் இதற்குப் புத்துணர்ச்சியூட்டித் தொடர்ந்தும் சேவை செய்ய இவ்வியக்கத்தை வழி நடத்திய பெருமைக்குரியவர் திரு R. O. பியூவல் அவர்கள்.

இக்காலகட்டத்தில் இவ்வியக்கத்தின் முன்னேற்றத்திற்கு உதவியாக இருந்து

அதன் தலைமைப் பதவியை அலங்கரித்த வைத்திய கலாநிதி H. R. சரவணமுத்து, திரு. R. C. S. குக், திரு. A. E. R. கொறியா, திரு. E. J. ஜெயராசா, திரு. J. M. சபாரத்தினம் ஆகியோர்களின் சேவையை என்றும் மறக்க முடியாது.

1962ஆம் ஆண்டளவில் நூறு அங்கத் தவர்களைக் கொண்டிருந்த இவ்வியக்கம் இன்று நாநூறுக்கு மேற்பட்ட அங்கத்தவர்களைக் கொண்டிருப்பதன் மூலம் இதனது அளப்பரிய சேவையை நாம் அறியக் கூடியதாகிவிடுகிறது.

நூற்றாண்டு விழாக் குழுவின் தலைவராகப்பணியாற்றி வரும் திரு. S. M. V. திசையாசகம் அவர்களுக்கும், ஆளுநர் குழுவினர்களுக்கும், ஏனைய குழுக்களின் தலைவர்களுக்கும், அக்குழுக்களின் நிர்வாகிகளுக்கும், செயலாளரின் உதவியாளராக இருந்த களைப்படையாது பணிபுரிந்து வரும் திரு. வொல்டர் இரத்தினசிங்கம் அவர்களுக்கும் எமது வாழ்த்துக்களையும், நன்றியையும் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறோம்.

கிறிஸ்துவின் வழிநடத்தலினால் நாளுக்கு நாள் வளர்ச்சியடைந்து புதுப் பொலிவு பெற்று வளர்ந்து வரும் இவ்வியக்கம் கடந்த இருபத்தைந்து வருடங்களில் தனது சேவையின் இலக்கை மிகவும் விஸ்தரித்து வியாபித்து சேவையாற்றி வருவது மகிழ்ச்சிக்கூரியதாகும்.

1970ஆம் ஆண்டில் பரந்தனில் நிறுவப்பட்டு இன்றுவரை சிறப்புறச் சேவையாற்றிவரும் இளைஞர் பயிற்சி நிலையத்தின் ஆளுநர் குழுவாகவும், முக்கிய நிர்வாகக் குழுவாகவும், யாழ்ப்பாண வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கம் இருந்து செயலாற்றி வருகிறது. இந்தப்பயிற்சி நிலையம் விவசாயம், மாட்டுப்பண்ணை, ஓட்டுநர் பயிற்சி, ரகரர் பயிற்சி ஆகியவற்றில் இளைஞர்களுக்கு பயிற்சி அளித்து வருகிறது. இன்றுவரை சுமார் ஆயிரத்துக் கதிகமான இளைஞர்கள் இங்கு பயிற்சி பெற்று வெளியேறியுள்ளனர். இவர்களில் அநேகர் அரசாங்க சேவைகளிலும், சிலர் வெளிநாடுகளிலும் வேலை வாய்ப்புப் பெற்று தமது வாழ்க்கையில்

மேம்பாடடைந்துள்ளமை குறிப்பிடத்தக்கதாகும். இப்பயிற்சிக்குக் காலத்துக் காலம் தெரிவு செய்யப்படும் இளைஞர்களுக்கு இலவசமாக உணவு, தங்குமிட வசதியும் செய்து கொடுக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது. இந்தப் பயிற்சி நிலையம் கொழும்புவாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ தேசிய இயக்கத்தின் நேரடி நிர்வாகத்தின் கீழ் இயங்கி வந்தாலும், இதன் நிர்வாகப் பொறுப்பையும், ஆளுநர் பொறுப்பையும் யாழ்ப்பாண வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கம் கொண்டிருப்பது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கதாகும்.

கொழும்பு வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கத்தின் பொதுச் செயலாளராகப் பணிபுரிந்து வந்த திரு. R. O. பியூவல் அவர்களின் மறைவை யொட்டி அவருடைய ரூபகார்த்த மாக ஒருமண்டபம் கட்டவேண்டும் என்று திரு. ஜிம்மி இராசரத்தினம் அவர்கள் வழங்கிய ஆலோசனையின் பேரில் வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்க மண்டபத்திற்கு வடக்குப் புறமாக திரு. R. O. பியூவல் ரூபகார்த்த மண்டபம் நிறுவப்பட்டது. மண்டபத்தின் கீழ்ப்பாகம் திரு. G. T. R. நெஜினோல்ட் ரூபகார்த்த விளையாட்டரங்காகவும், மேற்பாகத்தின் மேற்குப் பகுதி பொறியியலாளர் G. S. அருளம்பலம் ரூபகார்த்த நூல் நிலையமாகவும், மேற்பகுதியின் கிழக்குப் பக்கம் பிளைக் குடும்பத்தாரின் ரூபகார்த்தமாக வை. எம். சி. ஏ. சிற்றாலயமாகவும் அமைக்கப்பட்டது. யாழ்ப்பாணம் பொதுசன நூல்நிலையம் தீயினால் அழிக்கப்பட்டதனால், சிற்றாலயம் தவிர்ந்த ஏனையபகுதிகள் எல்லாம் பொதுசன நூல்நிலையமாகப் பாவிக்க யாழ்ப்பாண மாநகராட்சி மன்றத்திற்கு வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. திரு. R. O. பியூவல் ரூபகார்த்த மண்டபத்திற்கான அடிக்கல்லை 30-12-1977 ஆம் ஆண்டு திரு. E. S. Wybooran அவர்கள் நாட்டி வேலையை ஆரம்பித்து வைத்தார்கள். இம் மண்டபத்தை 16-9-1981ஆம் ஆண்டு உலக ஐக்கிய திருச்சபை குருத்துவ சபைச் செயலாளர் Rev. Dr Telfer mook அவர்கள் திறந்து வைத்தார்கள். இந்த வைபவம் நடக்கின்ற காலத்தில் இந்த இயக்கத்

தின் தலைவராக காலஞ் சென்ற J. M. சபாரத்தினம் அவர்கள் பணியாற்றியமை குறிப்பிடத்தக்கதாகும்.

1983ஆம் ஆண்டில் வடபகுதியில் ஏற்பட்ட இராணுவப் பிரச்சனைகளால் யாழ்ப்பாணம் கந்தர்மடம் பழம் வீதியைச் சேர்ந்த பல வீடுகள் எரித்து நாசஞ் செய்யப்பட்டன. இப்படியாக வீடுகளை இழந்த எட்டுக்குடும்பங்களுக்கு அவர்கள் குடியிருந்த காணிகளிலே புதிய வீடுகளைக் கட்டிக் கொடுத்து அவர்களை மீளவும் அங்கு குடியேற்றி அவர்களுக்கு புதிய வாழ்வு அளிக்கப்பட்டது.

1983ஆம் ஆண்டில் இலங்கையில் ஏற்பட்ட இனக்கலவரத்தால் மிகவும் பாதிக்கப்பட்டு வீடு - வாசல் - பொருள் பண்டங்களை எல்லாம் இழந்து அநேக குடும்பங்கள் தென்னிலங்கையிலிருந்து அகதிகளாக யாழ்ப்பாணம் வந்து சேர்ந்தன. இவர்கள் ஆங்காங்கே நிறுவப்பட்டிருந்த அகதிகள் முகாம்களில் வைத்துப் பராமரிக்கப்பட்டனர். யாழ்ப்பாண வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கத்தின் முன்னாள் தலைவரும் அதன் முக்கிய ஆலோசனை நிர்வாகியுமாகப் பணியாற்றிய காலஞ்சென்ற திரு J. V. சபாரத்தினம் அவர்கள் தாம் அங்கம் வகித்த அகதிகள் புனர்வாழ்வுக் கழகம் 1983இல் வழங்கிய நிதியின் மூலம் இயக்கச்சிப் பகுதியில் வேண்டி அன்பளிப்புச் செய்த 40 ஏக்கர் காணியை 64 குடும்பங்களுக்கு தலா 1/2 ஏக்கர் வீதம் பகிர்ந்தளித்து அக்காணியுள் ஒரு வீடும் அமைத்துக் கொடுத்ததுடன் பொதுமண்டப மொன்றை நிறுவி அதில் தையல் பயிற்சி நிலையம், பாலர் பாடசாலை, சமூக அபிவிருத்தி மண்டபம் ஆகியவற்றை அமைத்து அப்பகுதிக்கு "சாந்தி புரம்" என்று பெயரிட்டு அதனைப் பராமரித்து வருகிறது.

பொது மண்டபத்தில் தையல் பயிற்சி, பாலர் பாடசாலை, இரவுப் பாடசாலை, ஆகியவற்றை நடாத்துவதுடன், அங்கு குடியேறிய மக்களின் பொருளாதார விருத்திக்காக கோழிப்பண்ணை, வீட்டுத் தோட்டம் என்பவற்றை ஒவ்வொரு குடும்பமும் மேற்கொள்ள நிதியுதவி வழங்கியது. அவர்

கள் சுய தொழில் செய்து சீவனம் நடாத்தவும் நிதியுதவி வழங்கியது. இப்படியாக குடிபேற்றஞ் செய்யப்பட்ட 64 குடும்பங்களுக்கும் தனித்தனி மலகூடங்கள் அமைக்கவும், கிணறுகள் கட்டிக்கொள்ளவும் நடவடிக்கைகள் மேற்கொண்டுள்ளது.

1987ஆம் ஆண்டின் நடுப்பகுதியில் வடபகுதியில் ஏற்பட்ட பாதிப்பினால் பாதிக்கப்பட்ட குடும்பங்களில் சமார் ஆயிரம் குடும்பங்களைத் தெரிவுசெய்து அவர்களுக்கு உடனடி நிவாரணமாக உணவுப் பொருட்கள், உடுபிடைவைகள், சமையல் பாத்திரங்கள் என்பவைகளை வழங்கி அவர்களின் துயர் துடைத்தது.

இதே காலப் பகுதியில் குடும்பத்தலைவனை இழந்த 18 குடும்பங்களுக்கு 18 வீடுகளைக் கட்டிக் கொடுத்து அவர்களின் துயர் துடைத்து வாழ்வளித்தது. இந்த வீடுகள் இணுவில், உடுவில், சுண்ணாகம், தீவுப் பகுதிகள், யாழ் குருநகர் பகுதி ஆகிய இடங்களில் நேரடிக்கண்காணிப்பின் கீழ் கட்டிக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டமை குறிப்பிடத்தக்கதாகும்.

1987ஆம் ஆண்டில் நடைபெற்ற 5ஆம் ஆண்டு புலமைப் பரிசில் பரீட்சையில் சித்தியெய்திய மாணவ - மாணவிகளுக்கு அடுத்த படியாகப் புள்ளிகளைப் பெற்ற மூன்று பிள்ளைகளைத் தெரிவுசெய்து அவர்களுக்கு வருடமொன்றுக்கு ரூபா 1080/- வீதம் வழங்கி வருகின்றது. இப்பரீட்சையில் தெரிவு செய்த இரு ஆண்பிள்ளைகளில் ஒருவர் யாழ். இந்துக் கல்லூரியிலும் மற்றொருவர் தெல்லிப்பழை யூனியன் கல்லூரியிலும் கல்வி கற்று வருகின்றனர். ஒரு பெண்பிள்ளை யாழ் இந்து மகளிர் கல்லூரியில் கல்வி கற்று வருகின்றார்.

1987ஆம் ஆண்டில் ஏற்பட்ட பாதிப்பினால் குடும்பத்தில் உழைப்பாளிகளை இழந்த குடும்பத்தைச் சேர்ந்த 85 பிள்ளைகளுக்கு மாதம் ரூபா 150/- வீதம் கொழும்பு சொம்சா நிறுவனத்தின் மூலம் உதவி பெற்று வழங்கி வருகிறது.

யாழ்ப்பாண வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கம் யாழ். மாநகரத்தைச் சேர்ந்த கலைமகள் வட்டாரத்திலுள்ள காந்தி சன

சமூக நிலையப் பாலர் பாடசாலையை, ஸ்ரீ கலைமகள் சனசமூக நிலையப் பாலர் பாடசாலையை, இயக்கச்சி சாந்திபுரம் பாலர் பாடசாலை ஆகிய மூன்று பாலர் பாடசாலைகளையும் பொறுப்பெடுத்து நடாத்தி வருவதுடன் இப்பாடசாலைகளில் கற்பிக்கும் 7 ஆசிரியைகளுக்கு மாத வேதனமாக தலா ரூபா 350/ வீதம் வழங்கி வருவதுடன், இப்பாடசாலைகளில் கற்கும் பிள்ளைகளுக்கு பிஸ்கட், பால் வழங்குவதற்கு மாதாந்தம் தலா ரூபா 250/- வீதமும் வழங்கி வருகிறது. சுமார் 150 பிள்ளைகள் வரை இங்கு கல்வி கற்று வருகிறார்கள்.

பாடசாலைப் படிப்பை முடித்து பாடசாலையை விட்டு வெளியேறித் தொழில் வாய்ப்பின்றி இருக்கும் வயது வந்த இளம் பெண் பிள்ளைகளுக்குத் தொழிற் பயிற்சி வழங்குவதற்கு அரியாலை கலைமகள் வீதியில் ஒரு தையல் பாடசாலையும், இயக்கச்சி சாந்திபுரத்தில் ஒரு தையல் பாடசாலையும் நிறுவி நடாத்தி வருவதுடன் இப்பயிற்சி நிலையங்களுக்கு வேண்டிய தையல் இயந்திரங்களையும், இன்னும் தேவையான பொருட்களையும் வழங்கி உற்சாகப்படுத்தி வருவதுடன் இங்கு தையல் பயிற்சியை பயிற்றுவிக்கும் ஆசிரியைகளுக்கு வேதனமாக தலா ரூபா 350/- வீதம் மாதாந்தம் வழங்கிவருகின்றது. அரியாலை தையல் பயிற்சிப் பாடசாலையில் கற்கும் பிள்ளைகளுக்கு தையல் பயிற்சியுடன் வாரத்தில் இரண்டு நாட்கள் மனையியல் பயிற்சியும் அளிக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது. சுமார் இருபது பிள்ளைகள் வரையில் இப்பயிற்சியைப் பெற்று வருவது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கதாகும்.

யாழ்ப்பாண வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கத்தின் மாதாந்த வருமானத்தை பெருக்கிக் கொள்ளும் நோக்கமாக ஒரு கடைத் தொகுதியை அமைத்தல் நல்லது என்று 1985ஆம் ஆண்டு தலைவராக இருந்த திரு. M. C. பிரான்சிஸ் அவர்கள் கூறிய ஆலோசனைக்கேற்ப போசனசாலையின் வடக்குப் பகுதியைப் பிரித்து ஒரு கடையும், மண்டபத்தின் மேற்குப் புறமாக இரு

மாடிகளைக்கொண்ட கடைத்தொடர் ஒன்றும் கட்டி முடிக்கப்பட்டது. அவைகள் வாடகையடிப்படையில் கொடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

பொது மண்டபமும், மேல்மாடியிலுள்ள சில அறைகளும் கிறிஸ்தவ ஸ்தாபனங்களுக்கும், கிரியோன் வேதாகம சங்கம், யாழ்ப்பாண கிறிஸ்தவ ஐக்கியம், ஸ்கோப் நிறுவனம், யாழ் திருச்சபை நற்செய்திக் கழகம், செஞ்சிலுவைச் சங்கம், அகதிகள் புனர்வாழ்வுக் கழகம் 1983, ஆகிய ஸ்தாபனங்களின் கூட்டங்கள் நடாத்துவதற்கும் மண்டபத்தையும் தமது பணியைச் செய்வதற்கான காரியாலயமாகப் பாவிக்க அறைகளையும் காலத்துக்குக் காலம் கொடுக்கப்பட்டு வருகின்றது.

இராணுவத் தாக்குதலினால் பெருஞ்சேதமடைந்த மண்டபத்தின் மேற் கூரையைப் பெருந்தொகையான நிதியைச் செலவிட்டு திருத்த வேண்டிய துர்ப்பாக்கிய நிலைமை ஏற்பட்டது. மேல்மாடியில் இருந்த அறைகளில் பாவனைக்கிருந்த கட்டிடங்கள், மேசைகள், மின் விசிறிகள், மெத்தைகள், கட்டிலுக்குரிய விரிப்புகள், தலையணைகள் எல்லாம் நெருக்கடியான காலத்தில் தொலைந்தும், பழுதடைந்தும் போய்விட்டன. டன் டப்டீன் மேற்கூரையை புதிதாக அமைக்கவும், அறைகளுக்கு வேண்டிய சகல பொருட்களையும் வேண்டுவதற்கும் வேண்டிய நிதியை கொடும்பு வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ தேசிய இயக்கம் பெருமனதுடன் வழங்கியது. இதற்கு தேசிய இயக்கத்தின் முக்கிய நிர்வாகிகளுக்கு நாம் நன்றி கூறக் கடமைப்பட்டுள்ளோம்.

நூற்றாண்டு விழாவின் ரூபகமாக திருநெல்வேலிப் பகுதியில் பல அபிவிருத்தி வேலைகளை மேற்கொள்ளப் பல திட்டங்கள் தீட்டப்பட்டுள்ளன. அதன் முன்னோடியாக அங்குள்ள மகாத்மாஜி சனசமூக நிலையத்தினால் நடாத்தப்பட்டு வந்த பரலர் பாடசாலையை 1990ஆம் ஆண்டு தை மாதம் தொடக்கம் பொறுப்பேற்று நடாத்தி வருவது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கதாகும்.

யாழ்ப்பாண வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கத்தின் 75ஆவது ஆண்டு விழா மலரில்

திரு. W. H. தேவகடாட்சம் அவர்கள் எழுதிய கட்டுரையிலிருந்து பல ஆதாரங்களைப் பெறக் கூடிய வாய்ப்புக் கிடைத்தது குறிப்பிடக் கூடியதாகும்.

இவ்வாறாகக் கடந்த 100 வருடங்களாக இவ்வியக்கம் பல இன்னல்களுக்கு மத்தியிலும் கடவுளின் கிருபையால் வழி நடத்தப்பட்டு இன்று பல முன்னேற்றங்களை அடைந்த நிலையிலே காணப்படுகின்றது. புதிய காலத்துக்குள்ளே இன்று பிரவேசிக்கும் யாழ்ப்பாண வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கம் மக்கள் சேவையை மனதில் கொண்டு இறைவனின் வழி நடத்தலில்

நடந்து கிறிஸ்தவ சேவையை மக்களுக்கும் நாட்டுக்கும் ஆற்ற வேண்டும் மென்று இறைவனைப் பிரார்த்திக்கிறோம். இவ்வியக்கத்தைச் சேர்ந்த சகல நிர்வாகிகள், அங்கத்தவர் எல்லோரினதும் முயற்சிகளும் சேவைகளும் மென் மேலும் விருத்தியடைந்து எமது நாட்டிலே சேவை மனப்பான்மையும், தியாகசிந்தையும் கொண்ட புதிய சமுதாயம் தோன்ற வேண்டு மென்றும், ஆண்டவரின் ஆசீர்வாதங்களும், வழிநடத்தலும் தொடர்ந்தும் இந்த இயக்கத்தின் மேல் இருக்க வேண்டுமென்றும் நாம் எல்லோரும் இறைவனிடத்தில் மன்றாடுவோமாக.

அடிப்படை நோக்கம்

திருமறையில கண்டுள்ளபடி இயேசுக் கிறிஸ்துவை தமது ஆண்டவராகவும் இரட்சகராகவும் ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு,

தமது நம்பிக்கையிலும் வாழ்க்கையிலும் அவரது தொண்டராய் இருக்க விரும்பி,

அவரது ஆட்சியை விரிவு படுத்தும் பணிக்குத் தம்மைக் கொடுக்க முன்வரும் இளைஞர்களை ஒன்றுபடுத்துவதே வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ சங்கத்தின் நோக்கமாகும்.

From the Archives of the Morning star

**Ninety years ago
An Appeal for Rs. 15,000**

*Y. M. C. A. Room,
Jaffna Town
July, 1901*

Dear Sirs,

In bringing before your notice our urgent appeal on behalf of the above Institution, we would earnestly request your attention to the following facts in connection with our work.

1. The Town of Jaffna is the chief town in the Northern Province. While Colombo is the capital of the Island, Jaffna is and always will be the headquarters of the Ceylon Tamil. Our Y.M.C.A. was organised in September, 1898, as an endeavour to meet the needs of the young men who naturally are flocking to the town in large number for commercial and educational purposes, and to provide them with the moral advantages of a Christian home-life combined with the social and educational advantages (Reading-room, Lectures, Entertainments, and so forth) which the Literary and Social branches of the Y. M. C. A. from time to time organize. Kindly note in passing that this is the only institution of the kind in the Town.

2. During the three years that are past we have endeavoured to fulfil the purposes which have been just enumerated, but our pathway has been strewn with many obstacles. At times these have been so great that they appeared almost insuperable. Let us mention one or two. Through the generosity of our many friends Rs. 600 was contributed to give us a start. This fund, while amply sufficient to provide us with furniture and all necessary equipment, was altogether inadequate as a building fund. The consequence has been that our career at every step has been hampered by the lack of permanent abode. Since our establishment, owing to various exigencies we have been compelled to change our residence no less than four times. 'A rolling stone gathers no moss.' Then again the rent-charges have been a serious item in our expenditure. Our current income - never too large has frequently been swallowed up in rent. Let it also be mentioned that our present accommodation is of a most unsatisfactory kind. The rooms are bare and dark, and must be far from attractive to the young men. Indeed, unless we speedily improve them we shall have to abandon all hope of further advance. The wonder is that working as we have been with such exceedingly poor plant, we should have as many as 56 enrolled members on our books and a community of young men who frequent our premises of not far short of 200. What could we not do had we well-arranged, suitable, permanent premises? It is also to be remembered that the Town Y. M. C. A. is the centre and uniting link to some thirteen other Y. M. C. A.'s forming the North Ceylon Union. They are capable of great development and might be made far greater spheres of usefulness. Owing to the lack of central

buildings, etc. they are too often looked upon as mere School and College Associations, and those who do not attend Mission schools or have left these institutions drift away, so that something on a wide basis is much needed.

3. The total cost of the building scheme including site in a central part of the Town will not fall short of Rs. 15,000. Of this sum we earnestly appeal to our numerous friends in the Jaffna Peninsula to give us at least Rs. 7,500 while the remainder we hope to raise amongst our outside friends, including those in Colombo, Madras, and the Straits Settlements, as well as those in England and America. We confidently appeal to your generous help and sympathy. Our need is great, and unless your response is equally so, our scheme is sure to fail. Contributions will be gratefully received, on behalf of the members of the Board of Directors, by the Rev. E. O. Martin, the Hon. Treasurer. Cheques should be made payable to the credit of the Hon. Treasurer.

Yours very faithfully,

W. C. TWYNA I, — *President*

G. J. TRIMMER — *Vice-President*

ISAAC TAMBLY H — *Hon. Secy.*

E. O. MARTIN, — *Hon. Treasurer,
Building Scheme*

From the Log Book

"I am glad to find the Jaffna Y.M.C.A. so active and vigorous today. They have launched on a scheme to put up a magnificent building, which is worthy of this Town. With faith and perseverance I have no doubt that they will achieve their object.

It is with gret that I learnt that the present President Mr. Spencer, who has done so much for Y.M.C.A. is leaving Jaffna on transfer but I am certain his place will be taken by another with equal enthusiasm and zeal so that with the assistance of the very energetic Secretary Mr. Reginald the important work in hand will be carried out to a successful conclusion.

Sgd. E. W. Kannangara,
President,

5th Sept. 1953.

Regional Committee of Y.M.C.A.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE JAFFNA Y. M. C. A. - 1980

Standing left to right — M/s **P. B. Sathaseevan (Programme Secretary)**

J. S. David

Si an Kadirgamar

D. J. Hensman

P. B. Rajasoo iyar

M. Thambithurai (General Secretary)

Sam S. Sathaseevan

Seated left right — M/s **L. R. Muttiah**

V. J. J. Newton

M. C. Francis

J. G. Arasaratnam

J. M. Sabaratnam (President)

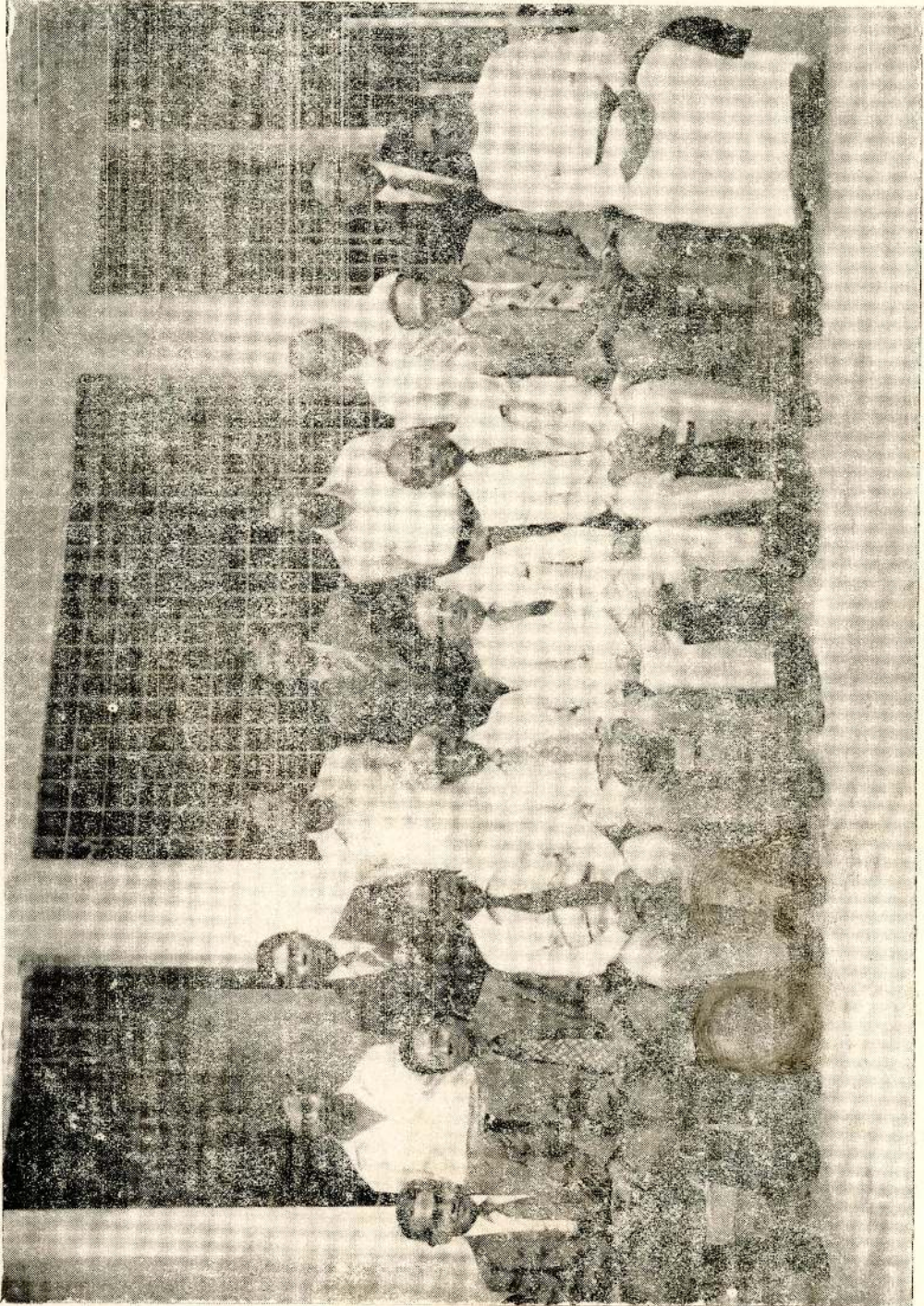
J. I. Rajaratnam

C. E. Anandarajan

The Rev. J. S. Sarvananthan

08 A. C. H. Y. M. T. A. I. N. I. S. T. R. U. T. I. O. N. S. T. O. C. A. S. E.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE JAFFNA Y. M. C. A.
CENTENARY YEAR - 1990

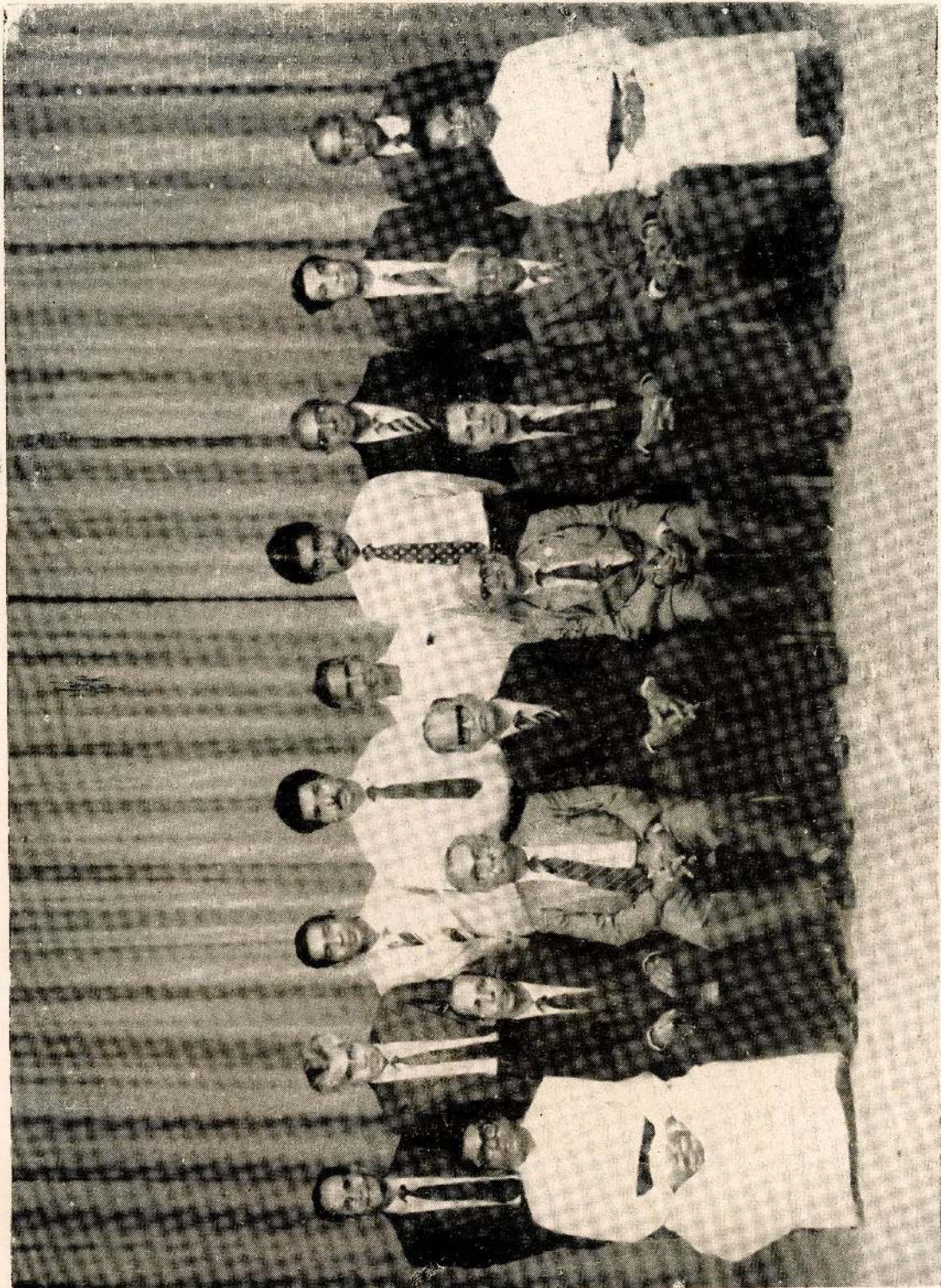
Standing left to right — M/s. M. Pararajasingum
L. R. Muttiah
S. K. Suntharalingam (Hony Treasurer)
D. J. Pathmanathan
S. P. Jeevanantham
H. G. Thampoe
M. C. Francis
Dr. T. W. Jeakularajah
J. N. Ponniah

Seated left to right — The Rev J. S. Sarvaanathan
M. Thambithural (General Secretary)
Dr E S. Thevasagayam
K. N. Y. Maurice (Vice-President)
Sam S. Sathaseevan (President)
S. M. V. Tissainayagam (Vice-President)
J. G. Arasaratnam
The Rev. G. D. Anandarajan

Absent — S. G. Deva

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN
CENTRAL BANK

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Jaffna Y. M. C. A.

GLIMPSSES

(1963 -- 1990)

M. Thambithurai
(General Secretary)

The opening of the new building on 29th December, 1962 was truly a historic event in the annals of the Jaffna YMCA as it marked almost an end of an era and the beginning of another. The foundation for the building was laid by the late Hon. D S. Senanayake on 26.1.1952. It took ten long years to complete the building. During this ten year period the members gathered in a half completed building and in the homes of members in the hope and faith that the day will not be very far off when the YMCA members will be able to meet under a roof worthy of such an Association. The hopes and faith of so many who sustained us during these long years have been translated to reality. The building was completed with a deficit of Rs 50,000/-. Loans obtained from the Bank and the Dharmapuram Trust Fund were helpful in meeting this deficit but took us a length of time to settle from the meagre resources obtained through our promotional efforts.

Full - time Staff :

From the time we opened the doors of our new building, the Jaffna YMCA entered an entirely new field of work and activity. For a

long time the YMCA has been able to carry on mainly through the interest of dedicated lay people on a voluntary capacity. In the new set up, the YMCA started to look for persons who would take on YMCA work as a full time profession. The Board had to face the dual problem of finding suitable qualified personnel and at the same time, the finances to manage the new establishment.

The question of employing a full time qualified Secretary was considered a priority by the Board. At this point the Colombo YMCA, our sister organisation came to our rescue. The Colombo Board on an appeal made by the Jaffna YMCA was agreeable to release one of its senior Secretaries, Mr. W. M. S. Kingsbury and assigned him to organise the activities of the Jaffna YMCA for a period of six months. The Colombo Board also consented to meet the salary of Mr. Kingsbury during this period.

This kind gesture of the Colombo YMCA relieved a big burden of the Jaffna YMCA. The late Mr. R. O. Buell, National General Secretary and Mr. L. G. G. Wijesinghe, General Secretary of the Colombo YMCA played a signifi-

cant role in getting Mr. Kingsbury released for this short period Mr Kingsbury with his long years of rich experience, dedication and skill helped the Jaffna YMCA to take the correct steps forward in various activities in keeping with YMCA traditions and conventions. Mr. Kingsbury retired after serving the Colombo YMCA for thirtyfive years and settled down in Dehiwala. After the ethnic disturbances in 1983 he took up residence in his homeland, Usan, Mirusuvil and passed away on 10th January, 1990, at the age of 85.

The Board then selected Mr. S V. Ariarajah as its first Business Secretary in July 1962. Thereafter, the YMCA felt the need for the appointment of a talented and qualified Secretary to take charge of the activities of the youth and young adults. With the financial support of the National Council, the Board appointed Mr. Marcus Navaratnaraja as its first Youth Work Secretary. He served the Jaffna YMCA in this capacity for five years and joined the National Council of YMCAs as its National Leadership Secretary. After having served the National Council for a few years, he was invited by the Hongkong YMCA as its Programme Secretary. His contribution to the YMCA Movement was remarkable and outstanding.

The YMCA building being situated just opposite the Jaffna Secretariat, serves as a meeting place for several sports and religious bodies. The Red Cross Society, Refugees Rehabilitation Fund 1983, Gideons - Jaffna Camp, Jaffna Christian Union, Sri Lanka Christian Organisation for the Promotion of Education (SCOPE) and the Y's Men's Club of Jaffna use our building for their meetings. The YMCA has been strengthened by their activities in our building.

After the burning of the Jaffna public library, we offered the R. O. Buell Block in our premises to the Jaffna Municipal Council for a public library. This library is functioning well and serves the people of the area.

From 1963 to 1980 varied programmes and activities were introduced in indoor and outdoor games talent contests in western and eastern music quiz competitions, Bible Quiz, Shakespeare Drama competitions, etc. These programmes attracted a number of young people. Young people were trained and motivated to take up responsible positions of leadership in the society. In this connection, the contribution made by Mr. Marcus Navaratnaraja, the first Youth Work Secretary, should be acknowledged for bringing the youth together for many programmes and for making them realise their leadership potential.

Full time General Secretary :

The year 1980 was another important milestone in the history of the Jaffna YMCA. The Jaffna YMCA right from its inception was managed by Honorary General Secretaries. This was mainly due to its inability to raise the needed funds to appoint a full time professional General Secretary. In 1980 the Board decided to amend certain clauses in the constitution in order to appoint a full-time General Secretary. With that change Mr. M. Thambithurai, who functioned as Business Secretary since 1972, was appointed as the first full time professional General Secretary. Mr. Thambithurai joined the Jaffna YMCA staff in 1962 when the building was under construction. In 1964 he joined the staff of the Colombo YMCA and again in 1972 joined the Jaffna YMCA as its Business Secretary.

In June 1977 he was sent to the Y M C A Training School in Bangalore for professional training for a period of ten months. In August 1985 he was offered a study programme by the World Council of Churches in Community Development in the Philippines for a period of seven months. Again in 1986 the National Council of Y M C A s selected him to undergo two months advanced training in Hongkong. He also represented the Sri Lanka Y M C A at a seminar on 'A Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious Contest' in Chiangmai, Thailand.

Building Extensions :-

It has been a long felt need of the Jaffna Y M C A to provide adequate space and equipment for the junior members. With this end in view a two-storeyed building was constructed within the premises. The idea of a building of this nature was initiated by Mr. J. I. Rajaratnam (President 1973 - 1976). This building was made possible from the initial grant received from the United Church Board for World Ministries. The Rev. Dr. Telfer Mook declared this building open on 16.9.1981. This building was named in memory of Mr. R. O. Buell, the Father of the National Council of Y M C A s of Sri Lanka. The ground floor of the building was named 'E. T. R. Reginald Gymnasium'. One half of the first floor is being used as a Library which is named as 'G.S. Arulampalam Memorial Library'. The other half of the same floor is the Y M C A Chapel which was dedicated in memory of 'Black Family.'

Though the Hostel was intended to be mainly a lucrative concern, the funds generated through this source was inadequate to subsidise new programmes in order to increase regular monthly income

the Restaurant was partitioned and smaller space was rented out for a shopping unit. Further, a two storeyed shopping complex was constructed within the premises to generate additional income

The Jaffna Y M C A participated in the All Island Finance Campaign organised by the National Council of Y M C A s and we were able to raise little over a lakh. This campaign helped us complete the shopping complex. To construct all additional building units, Mr. S. M. V. Tissainavagam volunteered to offer his technical advice. The late Mr. J. M. Sabaratnam provided the impetus necessary for raising the required funds.

Lay Leadership :-

The growth of any Y M C A depends on the leadership provided by the lay people. There are instances of a few Y M C A s which are defunct or dormant due to the lack of committed lay participation. In this regard the Jaffna Y M C A has been fortunate in the dedicated leadership the lay leaders have provided. I wish to mention a few lay leaders who had made a positive contribution towards the total development of the Jaffna Y M C A during the last three decades :

Mr. J. G. Arasaratnam, the late Mr. J. M. Sebaratnam, Mr. I. I. Rajaratnam, the late Mr. C. E. Anandarajan, the late Mr. S. Paramanathan, Mr. M. C. Francis, Mr. S. M. V. Tissanayagam, the late Mr. W. A. Walton, the late Dr. G. N. R. Nathaniel, Mr. Sam S. Sathaseevan, the late Mr. E. T. R. Reginald and Prof. Ernest A. Champion.

A special mention has to be made of the invaluable service rendered by the Late Mr. J. M. Sabaratnam. He was elected President for two terms in 1960-

1962 and again in 1980 - 1983. It was under his dynamic leadership that the main YMCA building and the other building units were constructed. The Iyakachchi Housing Scheme was his creation. The YMCA owes a deep sense of gratitude to all these leaders for their time and talent given to the progress of the YMCA Movement in Sri Lanka in general and to the Jaffna YMCA in particular.

Development Projects & Rehabilitation Programme :

The last ten years from 1980 to 1990 was very important in our history for two reasons. On one hand the YMCA in addition to the traditional programmes started community development projects. On the other the YMCA faced severe financial difficulties. During this period the YMCA hostel was virtually closed due to ethnic disturbances. However, it has not curtailed any of its regular programmes. During this decade our YMCA concentrated its efforts to move with the Nation in inaugurating community development projects such as Employment oriented training programmes for the youth, Children Development projects, Scholarship programmes, Relief and Rehabilitation programmes, Nursery schools, Sewing centres and monthly financial assistance to 85 children who were affected during the ethnic disturbances. The financial assistance to help these 85 children is being received from the Hope Outreach Ministries - South Asia (HOMSA). The ethnic disturbances in July 1983 made the YMCA involve itself in a new area of service - Relief and Rehabilitation to those who had been seriously affected due to the ethnic disturbances. As a first step immediate relief was given to displaced refugees. Later on the YMCA was involved in the permanent rehabilita-

tion of refugees. Under this scheme the YMCA constructed 90 low cost houses in Iyakachchi and other areas. To implement this housing scheme the National Council of YMCAs obtained the necessary funding. The Refugees Rehabilitation Fund 1983 came in a big way in funding the purchase of 40 acres of land to construct internal roads and also for the construction of a community hall. The RRF 83 also financed the construction of 64 individual wells in the housing scheme. When this project was initiated it was agreed that the YMCA would build only the houses and the beneficiaries would take care of the provision of door, windows, plastering and flooring. However, under stage II of this programme action is being taken to provide doors and windows and plastering and flooring. Income generating projects are also being undertaken to help the settlers.

Commercial Institute :

The Jaffna YMCA is planning to inaugurate seven development projects during the Centenary year. One of the projects is a Commercial Institute to train young people in English and Tamil Typewriting and Shorthand. In order to raise the capital towards the purchase of Typewriters and furniture, we appealed to the Canadian High Commission for a grant. We are grateful to the Canadian High Commission for the generous grant of Rs. 237,000/-. We are now in the process of purchasing the typewriters and furniture. We are planning to start the Institute in July this year.

Youth Training Centre - Paranthan

The Youth Training Centre at Paranthan is a project of the National Council of YMCAs. At this Centre young people are being trained in agri-

culture, dairy, piggery, welding, tractor training, etc. This project is being financially supported by the German Y M C A Movement. At the request of the National Council, the Jaffna Y M C A took over the management of the Centre in January 1984. Due to the unsettled political climate in the country only few trainees were benefitted by the Centre. Now there has been a marked improvement in the activities of the Centre.

Repairs to Y M C A Building :

Consequent to the damage caused to the Y M C A building during the I P K F offensive in October 1987, we were forced to shift the office to another building in close proximity to the Y M C A Headquarters. The Y M C A office functioned in a rented out premises, for nearly six months. An appeal was made to the I P K F for compensation to repair the damaged building. This appeal had no response. Thereafter an appeal was sent to the World Alliance of Y M C As through the National Council. In response to appeals made by other Y M C As as well. Mr Frank Kienne, Secretary for Rehabilitation of the World Alliance of Y M C As visited some of the Y M C As in the North and was able to see for himself the damage caused to the Y M C A buildings.

The Jaffna Y M C A is grateful to the World Alliance of Y M C As for its generous grant to repair the building and also to re-equip the hostel. We also received a grant from the Netherlands (Centrum Voor Zending Diakonatt)

National Council of Y M C As :

The National Council of Y M C As right from its inception in 1962 has been

a source of strength to member Y M C As. The National Council raises funds for the member Y M C As to implement projects. When the JAFFNA Y M C A faced financial difficulties, the Council came to its rescue by providing salary assistance. This assistance is still being continued. The National Council, when it was inaugurated in 1962, functioned in a small room in the Colombo Y M C A with the National General Secretary and a Stenographer. Within a quarter century the Council grew from strength to strength and is able to own a multi-storeyed building in the heart of the city, with more than twentyfive staff members. Three leading committed personalities, namely the late Mr R. O. Buell, Messrs. Boyd I. Perera and Alagan Kadirgamar, were mainly responsible for building up the image of the National Council both in Sri Lanka and abroad. The Secretaries of the National Council visit the Y M C As regularly and share their experiences with the local staff. Mr. Boyd I. Perera in one of his reports after visiting the Jaffna Y M C A stated 'the Jaffna Y M C A is one of the best managed Y M C As in the Island where dedicated and effective leadership is provided both by laymen and the staff.

The Annual General Meetings of the National Council were held in rotation at different Y M C As on invitations by member Y M C As. We are happy to place on record that the Jaffna Y M C A hosted the Annual General Meeting of the National Council in 1970, 1980 and again in 1990. I believe among the out station Y M C As only Jaffna Y M C A has hosted the National Council Annual General meeting on more than two occasions. The Jaffna Y M C A considers it a privilege and honour for having hosted the Annual General Meetings of

the Council thrice during the last two decades.

Y's Men's Club of Jaffna :

The Y's Men's Club of Jaffna is a Service Arm of the YMCA. The relationship between the YMCA and the Y's Men's Club is very cordial and mutual. The Club has raised funds for YMCA programmes.

Kayts, Mullaitivu and Chavakachcheri YMCAs :

The Jaffna YMCA sponsored the YMCAs of Kayts, Mullaitivu and Chavakachcheri for affiliation to the National Council. The Kayts YMCA has been affiliated and is functioning as a member YMCA. Mullaitivu and Chavakachcheri YMCAs are yet to be affiliated.

Thanks :

We wish to record our appreciation and thanks to :

- a. The Almighty God for His unflinching guidance and protection and for the many blessings showered upon the Movement for the past century

- b. The Lay Leaders for providing the dedicated leadership
- c. The staff, especially Mr. Walter Ratnasingam, for their hard and loyal services.
- d. The National Council and its professional Secretaries and other staff for their hand of fellowship and friendship at all times
- e. The Principals and staff of St. John's College and Chundikuli Girls' College for the Co-operation extended to us to conduct programmes
- f. The Churches and other Christian organisations for their prayers and concern
- g. To the Canadian High Commission for the grant to start a Commercial Institute.
- h. To our donors for their generous contributions.
- i. To all our advertisers for their ready response.
- j. To those who have contributed articles and messages of felicitation.
- k. To New Era Press for a job well done.

From Our Log Book

The erection of a headquarters building for the Y. M. C. A. in Jaffna will more or less decide the future of association work in the town and the neighbouring villages. It will also be a test of the public spirit of both the Directors and Members and the public of Jaffna. This is a venture made in faith and will come to maturity if faith is sustained by works. May God give us the strength for this achievement of this enterprise for our young men.

R. O. Buell
Hon. Regional Secretary for Ceylon

Office - bearers of the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. 1890-1990

Year	President	Hony Secretary	Treasurer
1890	Sir William Twynam		
1898	" "	Rev. W. T. Garret	Mr. T. M. Tampoe
1900	" "	Dr. Issac Tambiah	" T. S. Cooke
1901	" "	" "	" "
1902	" "	" "	" "
1903	" "	" "	" "
1904	" "	" "	" "
1905)			" "
1906)			
1907)			
1908)			
1909)			
1910)			
1911	Sir William Twynam	Mr. T. H. Crossette	" T. S. Cooke
1912)		Records not available	
1930)			
1931	Rev. P. T. Cash	Dr. A. N. Coomarasamy	" Sam Seevaratnam
1932	" E. M. Weaver	" "	" W. M. S. Tampoe
1933	" E. M. Weaver	" "	" "
1934	" H. Peto	Mr. S. S. Arulampalam	" Sam Seevaratnam
1935	" "	Rev. D. S. Ratnathikam	Rev. J. A. R. Navaratnam
1936	" "	Dr. R. E. W. Jehoratanam	" "
1937	" "	" "	" "
1938	" "	" "	" "
1939	Mr. Lewis Subramaniam	" "	Mr. A. G. V. Kadirgamar
1940	" "	" "	" "
1941	" "	" "	Dr. R. E. W. Jehoratanam
1942	" A. J. R. Vethavanam	" D. J. Gnanaprasam	Mr. Lewis Subramaniam
1943	" "	" "	" "

Year	President	Hony Secretary	Treasurer
1944	Mr Lewis Subramaniam	Mr. A. J. C. Selvaratnam	Mr. R. M. Thevathasan
1945	" J. F. Ponnambalam	Rev. T. K. Curtis & Mr. C. S. Ponnuthurai	" "
1946	" "	" Lewis Subramaniam	" "
1947	" "	" " "	" "
1948	Dr. H. R. Saravanamuttu	" A. J. C. Selvaratnam	P. T. Mathai
1949	" "	" "	" "
1950	" "	" "	" "
1951	" "	" D. W. Chelvaratnam	" "
1952	" "	" E. R. T. Reginald	" P. S. Somasundaram
1953	" W. G. Spencer	" "	" "
1954	" R. C. S. Cooke	" "	" "
1955	" A. E. R. Corea	" "	J. S. D. Ariaratnam
1956	" A. E. R. Corea	" "	P. S. Somasundaram
1957	" E. J. Jeyarajah	" E. R. T. Reginald	P. T. Mathai
1958	" "	Dr. R. E. W. Jehorathnam	" J. G. Arasaratnam
1959	" "	" "	" "
1 60	" R. C. S. Cooke	Mr. J. N. Appadurai	" "
1961	" R. C. S. Cooke	" J. N. Appadurai and	" "
1962	" J. M. Sabaratnam	" E. A. Champion	" "
1963	" J. M. Sabaratnam	" "	J. G. Arasaratnam
1964	" G. N. N. Nathaniel	" "	" "
1965	" C. A. W. Edward	" "	" "
1966	" "	" J. G. Arasaratnam	" "
19 7	" "	" "	J. C. Handy
1968	" W. A. Walton	" "	" "
1969	" "	" D. A. Champion	" R. A. Nalliah
1970	" J. G. Arasaratnam	" D. A. Champion	" R. A. Nalliah
1971	" "	" J. L. Rajaratnam	" "

Year	President	Hony Secretary	Treasurer
1972	Mr J. G. Arasaratnam	Mr. S. Paramananthan	Mr. Stanley J. Arnold
1973	J. I. Rajaratnam	S. Paramananthan	" " " "
1974	" " "	" " "	Sam S. Sathaseevan
1975	" " "	D. J. Thevathasan	Sam S. Sathaseevan
1976	C. E. Anandarajan	" " "	" " " "
1977	" " "	" " "	L. R. Muttiah
1978	S. Paramananthan	R. S. Edwards	" " " "
1979	S. Paramanathan	C. I. Muttiah & V J J. Newton	" " " "
1980	J. M. Sabaratnam	Full time General Secretary	M. C. Francis
1981	" " "	M. Thambithurai.	" " " "
1982	" " "	" " "	" " " "
1983	S. M. V. Tissainayagam	" " "	Sam S Sathaseevan
1984	M. C. Francis	" " "	" " " "
1985	" " "	" " "	" " " "
1986	" " "	" " "	P. T. Paramapathy
1986	Sam S. Sathaseevan	" " "	" " " "
1987	" " "	" " "	J. N. Ponniah
1988	" " "	" " "	J. N. Ponniah
1989	" " "	" " "	J. N. Ponniah
1990	" " "	" " "	J, N, Ponniah

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விண்ணப்பங்கள் கோரப்படுகின்றன.

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பின்வரும் பாடங்களின் செய்முறைப் பயிற்சியும் விளக்கக் குறிப்புகளும் அனுப்ப
முள்ள விரிவுரையாளர்களால் போதிக்கப்படும்.

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- (c) பயிர் வேளாண்மை (Crops)
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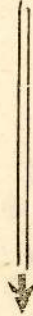
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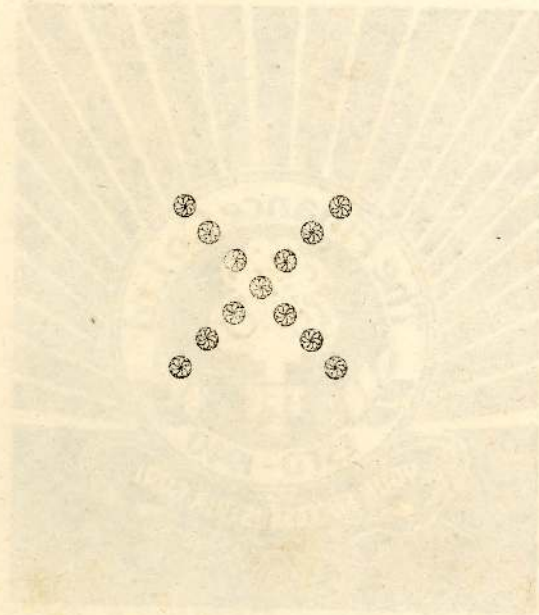
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