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RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE

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THE MANAGER

'The Morning Star',
Diocesan office,
Vaddukodai

New Roman Catholic Bishop of Jaffna

The Rt. Rev. Thomas Saundaranayagam, who was the Bishop of Mannar for the last twelve years was installed as the new Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Jaffna on Thursday the 5th of November at an impressive ceremony at St. Mary's Cathedral, Jaffna at 4.30 p. m. The former Bishop of the Diocese the Rt. Rev. Dr. B. Deoguppillai presided at this service. The new Bishop himself preached the sermon in which he emphasised that his message to our people at this time would be the constant refrain in the Bible "Fear not, I am with you." Whatever be our trials and tribulations, particularly in this part of the country, we must take strength in the faith that God is with us in the midst of all this. A Public Meeting followed the installation service again presided by the former Bishop the Rt. Rev. Deoguppillai. Greetings were given on behalf of organisations within the Diocese and other Church and civic bodies. The Rev. Anton Rajanayagam greeted the Bishop on behalf of the clergy of the Diocese. Sister Mary Ethel Viva spoke on behalf of the Order of Sisters in the Diocese.

The Rev. Francis Daniel spoke on behalf of the Religious Orders and Mr. J. C. Rajendram on behalf of the lay members of the Diocese.

The Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar gave the greetings on behalf of the J. D., C. S. I. and other Christian Churches in Jaffna. Srila Sri Somasundara Paramachariya Swamigal of the Nallai Atheenam gave the greetings on behalf of the Hindu community. Mr. Siva. nandarajan, the Secretary of the Jaffna Citizens' Committee gave greetings on behalf of that Committee. After Bishop Saundaranayagam's closing message at the public Meeting, the Rev. Reggie Rajeswaran proposed the vote of thanks. Bishop Saundaranayagam in his message assured the people that it would be his aim to work hard for a just peace in our land and particularly in the North and East of this country. He said, it would also be his concern to co-operate with people of all religions in our part of the country to forge the greater unity among the Tamil people and work for their welfare. He said, he will also strive to deepen the spiritual life of the people of his Diocese and to further its mission and service in our land.

The Reason for Christmas is Jesus

So, the combined choir of the youth of the North sang out heartily at the 43rd Annual Festival of Carol Singing that took place on the morning of Monday the 9th October in the Hall of Uduvil Girls' College, as they heralded in the festive season.

It was good that the venue was changed to Uduvil perhaps for the first time giving a chance to many people in this part of Jaffna to attend one of these festivals. It also provided an opportunity for those living in the town area to come out to Uduvil - perhaps for some again a first time at Uduvil Girls' College.

Yet another first time - Dr. Robert Porter of the Staff of Jaffna College conducted the combined choir. It must have been no easy task for him, but he must be congratulated for conducting the choirs together as the combined choirs sang well in unison. He had an able assistant in young Rev. Solomon Milton of the Jaffna Diocese of the C. S. I, who not only conducted the combined choir in singing Tamil carols, but also flitted from choir to choir to accompany them on his guitar.

Only four schools sang in English and of them, the young boys' choir of St. Patrick's College with their Rector conducting them coveted the audience with their rendering of 'Cantique de Noel'. The novel rendering of 'Twelve days of Christmas' by the combined choir towards the end of the programme not only let the audience sit back and enjoy the singing but helped the choristers to loosen their limbs.

The standard of performance of the Tamil choirs has certainly advanced to a great extent and most of these choirs had put in their best effort. The young choir of the Kayts Cluster School and also the choir of Vembadi Girls' College rendered excellent classical carols. The Kaithady Deaf and Blind School children demonstrated beautifully how even these children who cannot speak can still join in adoration and praise of the New Born Babe while others sang the carol. The Tamil orchestra of Uduvil Girls' College of violinists, veena players and flutist kept the audience entranced with their performance. Among them there was a solitary very young male violinist confidentially playing on his instrument,

A short message was given in both English and Tamil by the Rev. Dr. Chandrakanthan of the Jaffna University.

As every one joined in the singing of Joy to the World after the benediction, the choirs the members of the audience gathered in the grounds outside the Hall in a large circle to watch the 'Heavenly Choir'. It was made up of girls of all ages dressed as angels supposedly playing different musical instruments.

It was indeed good to be reminded once again specially at this time of turmoil and distress that the Reason for Christmas is Jesus - also called Emmanuel, which means-God is with us.

Visit of the new Secretary of the South - East Asian Desk of KNH

We were happy to have in our midst Mr. Detlef Hiller of the South-East Asian Desk of KNH, who took the place of Ms. Helga Christea and also Mr. David Jeyasingh known to all of us and who is the Secretary of the Sri Lankan Branch of the KNH on the 11th October. Earlier on the 10th they visited the Day Care Centres at Jeyapuram, Shalomnagar and the Boys' Home at Shalomnagar along with the Homes at Karuna Nilayam and Navajeevanam.

We appreciate their visit even more as Mr. Hiller is the only visitor from the western world we have had since September 1991 and also as he and Mr. Jeyasingh David decided to brave the Kilaly crossing in spite of friends advising them not to.

They visited the Boys' Home Arul Manai in Manipay, House of Hope in Iauvil, Harriet Winslow Girls' Home, Pandateruppu now in residence with Eliatamby Girls' Home at Uduvil and later Levi Spaulding Boys' Home at Vaddukodai. He was also taken to Pandateruppu to see the Girls' Home buildings and was also taken round the camps in Manipay for displaced people and also at Victoria College, Chulipuram.

Mr. Hiller is only 28 years of age, a political science graduate of the Bonn University, Germany, a committed Christian, married to a nurse.

He seemed to enjoy speaking to the children of the various Homes and answering the numerous questions put to him by the children. He had already a good knowledge of

the situation here and the plight of the Tamil people.

He visited the Achchelu Day Care Centre run by the Methodist Church and the Girls' Home at the Women's Centre on Thursday the 12th of October before returning to Colombo.

R. Sothilingam Creates New Athletic Records

At the recent Inter-University Athletics Meet held in Colombo. Mr. R. Sothilingam of the University of Jaffna created new records for 100 and 200 metres sprint events. He clocked 11.3 secs for the 100 metres event bettering the existing record of 11.5 secs and for the 200 metres event 22.7 secs as against 23.7 Secs of the previous record. These enable Sothilingam to be considered for the World Inter-University Meet.

Sothilingam showed great promise as a student at Jaffna College, Vaddukodai but had no opportunities to participate in any meet of national or inter-national standing due to the disruption of all such activities in Jaffna. The then Principal Mr. Kadirgamar was fortunate in seeking the services and the very personal interests of Mr. Wimalarajan Kanaganayagam the District Sports Officer of the Ministry of Sports. This enabled Sothilingam even as a school boy to participate in the Junior Asian Athletic Meet in Singapore as a member of the Sri Lankan team for the 4 x 100 metres relay and the team was placed 4th among so many other teams. Sothilingam now takes his place among the "greats" in athletics at Jaffna College who hold some of the College as well as other national and inter-national records such as W. T. Sanders in the 100 and 200 yards events, V. G. George in the High Jump and Chrisantha Arnold in the 100 metres hurdles holding the Inter-University records of India and a National Award of Sri Lanka. The conversion of Sothilingam's records to yards may show interesting comparisons with that of W. T. Sander's records at Jaffna College which still remain unbroken. Mr. Kanaganayagam the coach deserves our congratulations for all the efforts made to put a Jaffna boy on the national and international athletic map in the midst of heavy odds

"War" Waged on Latin American Street Kids, By Samuel Blixen

From IDOC International, reprinted in Gleanings, Jan - Mar 92)

Against a backdrop of increasing poverty and street crime a new type of death squad has sprung up: "clean-up squads," or "avengers." They target and exterminate street kids, and many believe they are assisted by police and financed by the business sector.

Surviving as beggars, thieves, prostitutes, drug runners or cheap factory workers, street kids are considered the criminals of the future and their elimination will supposedly prevent future problems.

Some victims are gunned down while they are sleeping below bridges, on vacant lots and in doorways. Others are kidnapped, tortured and killed in remote areas. In Brazil, the bodies of young death squad victims are found in zones outside the metropolitan areas with their hands tied, showing signs of torture and riddled with bullet holes.

Street girls are frequently forced to work as prostitutes. Abortions are the fifth highest cause of death among young people in Brazil. One 13 years old girl who successfully escaped from her kidnappers and was a witness to a massacre said she did not think she would live to be 18. "If the death squads don't kill me then I will die of AIDS," she said.

In a rear case, 12 groups accused of murdering children were broken up Rio de Janeiro last July. Minister of Health Alenci Guerra blamed business owners and merchants for financing the death squads.

Yet, the murders continue to increase. In Rio de Janeiro and in Sao Paulo reports indicate an average of three children under the age of 18 are killed daily. According to statistics from the Legal Medical Institute, 427 children in Rio de Janeiro have been killed this year. Almost all the murders have been attributed to death squads. Analysts believe the assassins are police officers or criminals with ties to the police force. Human rights groups claim judges routinely free police officers implicated in the murders.

Mario Pereyra, a 19 years old ex-police officer in prison in Brazilian state of Pernambuco since October 1990, confessed to killing 115 people, the majority children. "A day did not go by without my killing someone. We were led by the police. They gave us submachine guns, shotguns, rifles," he said.

In a region where 183 million people live in abject poverty, death by violence is only one of the threats for street children.

(I have quoted only the material dealing with Brazil.)

I was Hungry

I was hungry and you formed a committee to discuss my hunger.

I was imprisoned and you crept off quietly to your church and prayed for my release.

I was naked and in your mind you debated the morality of my appearance.

I was sick and you knelt and thanked God for your health.

I was homeless and you preached to me of the spiritual shelter of the love of God.

I was lonely and you left me alone to pray for me.

You seem so holy, so close to God

But I am still hungry and lonely and cold.

(From a publication of St. Vincent de Paul, quoted in Gleanings Jan - Mar 1992)

I was Hungry

I was hungry - and you blamed it on the communists.

I was hungry - and you circled the moon.

I was hungry - and you told me to wait.

I was hungry - and you set up a commission.

I was hungry - and you said, "So were my ancestors"

I was hungry - and you said, "We don't hire over 35."

I was - hungry - and you said, "God helps those..."

I was hungry - and you told me I shouldn't be.

I was hungry - and you told me machines do that work now.

I was hungry - and you had napalm bills to pay.

I was hungry - and you said, "The poor are always with us."

Lord, when did we see you hungry?

(Volunteer, Spring 1992, a publication of Brethren Volunteer Service.)

He did not send technical assistance

To our backward world: Gabriel and a company experts

With their know-how

He did not negotiate

For the export of surplus grace.

On a long-term loan

He did not arrange to send food

Or the cast-off garments of the angels

Instead, He came Himself

He hungered in the wilderness,

He was stripped naked on the cross...

But hungering with us

He became our bread,

And suffering for us

He became our joy.

(-- Edith Lovejoy Pierce, quoted in Gleanings, Oct - Dec. 1991)

Statistics from UCC News sent by Helen Meisner:

"Imagine a global village of 1000 people. It would include 584 Asians, 124 Africans, 95 Eastern and Western Europeans, 84 Latin Americans, 55 former citizens of the Soviet Union, 52 North Americans, 6 Australians and New Zealanders.

The people have difficulty communicating, 165 speak Mandarin, 86 English, 83 Hindic, 64 Spanish, 58 Russian, 37 Arabic. This Accounts for only half. The others speak Bengali, Portuguese, Indonesian, Japanese, German, French and 22 other languages.

There are 329 Christians, 178 Moslems, 167 non-religious, 132 Hindus, 60 Buddhists, 45 atheists, 3 Jews, and 86 other.

200 people receive 75% of the income; 200 receive only 2% of it.

"A Change of Heart" by Steve Clapper, in Volunteer, Summer 1992:

It was late one evening, and I had just crawled into bed when I heard the phone ring. Hurrying to kitchen, I wondered who would be calling at the late hour. I picked up the phone and heard the sullen voice of a man asking for Aurora's Crisis Hotline. (Our phone number is close to that of the Hotline, and we sometimes get calls for it) This same man had called a few weeks earlier. At the time, I was insensitive to what his needs might have been. Previously, I told him he had the wrong number. But this time, I had a change of heart. I introduced myself and asked him if he would like to talk to me. He was simply looking for someone to talk to, and our conversation began.

It did not take him long to open up. When he shared with me that he had been diagnosed as having AIDS, feelings of sympathy came to me. This was my first encounter with an AIDS victim, and I could sense that he was very lonely and hurting. He continued with the story of his lifestyle and its consequences (Romans 1:27) I do not want to imply that every person who has AIDS is responsible for his or her condition, but he told me that he understood why he had acquired the disease.

Due to the rejection of his parents, he then faced homelessness. The magnitude of his troubles overwhelmed me. He did not want to give his name. It made me feel sad that he was in such a lonely, almost hopeless situation.

My experiences in Brethren Volunteer Service have made me think more about homelessness and other social problems. I like how the Wayside Cross Rescue Mission attacks homelessness on both a short-term and long-term basis. The mission agrees to meet the basic human needs of the resi-

dent if the resident agrees to participate in the mission's rehabilitation program which focuses on changing the heart. Most of the Rescue Mission's clients have serious problems which stem from a corrupt heart (Matt. 15:19). To think that simply meeting one's physical needs will solve those problems is unrealistic. Fortunately, God offers a new heart and life to those who trust in Jesus Christ and the added benefit of an eternal home in heaven (John 14:1-3)

My heart has been changed and my eyes have been opened to the world through my work at the Wayside Cross Rescue Mission. It seems as if I have had a pretty sheltered life, but now I am more sensitive to the needs of the people around me. Now I see many of the outcasts of society, people that Jesus touched when He was on earth. He provided hope for the hopeless and still does.

A Hymn by Fred Kaan, from Gleanings, Apr - Jun 1992: We turn to you, O God

every nation,
Giver of life and origin

of good;
Your love is at the heart

of all creation,
Your hurt is people's

broken brotherhood.
We turn to you, that

we may be forgiven
For crucifying Christ on

earth again;
We know that we have never

wholly stiven,
Forgetting self, to love the

other man.
Free every heart from pride

and self-reliance;
Our ways of thought inspire

with simple grace;
Break down among us

barriers of defiance;
Speak to the soul of all

human race.
Teach us, good Lord, to serve

the needs of others;
Help us to give and not to

count the cost;
Unite us all, for we are

born as brothers;
Defeat our Babel

with your Pentecost.

Bishop Kulandran

Memorial Service - Canada

A service of remembrance and thanksgiving for the life of the late Rt. Rev. Dr. Sabapathy Kulandran was held on the 7th of March 1992 at 5-00 p. m. at the St. Margaret's Tamil Anglican Church in Toronto, Canada. The Service was led by the Bishop's grand nephew, Bobby Mather. After the call to worship, Mrs. Priya Nilca, grand niece sang a Thevaram, followed by prayer by Mrs. Nalayini Sriskandarajah (daughter of late Sam, A Sabapathy.)

Lessons were read by Major Bala Francis and Mr. A. I. Sinniah (Retired staff, Jaffna College.) Tributes were paid (Continued on Page 3)

Religious Leaders warn against use of Religion for political ends

COLOMBO (UCAN) — Catholic and Buddhist leaders have voiced concern about politicians using religion to gain favour among voters.

A letter from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka to all Catholic ministers, members of parliament, provincial councilors and others in political office said, "Care should be taken not to allow any exploitation of religion for political propaganda or advantage."

The letter, signed by Conference president Archbishop Nicholas Marcus Fernando of Colombo, gave specific instructions about politicians' participation at religious ceremonies in order to "maintain our Catholic identity and preserve our faith." "Acts of worship such as offering flowers, incense and the like in non-Catholic places of worship, or wearing symbols of other faiths and any such religious acts are not permitted to Catholics," the bishops said.

The letter also said, "Catholics should refrain from any participative acts but maintain a passive posture with due reverence that is the right of all religions."

"Catholic politicians have the right like any other member of the Church to have Masses said for their intention," but the letter added that no Catholic rites can be conducted in public for non-Catholics.

"An exception is made for the head of state in accordance with Catholic tradition and for the sake of fostering religious amity," the bishops said.

Venerable Walpola Rahula, vice chancellor of the University of Kelaniya, also warned against exploiting religion for political gain.

"Meritorious deeds need no wide publicity, but political parties do these things only with the idea of winning votes," he told a meeting of Sinhalese Authors Association in Colombo. He mentioned activities to be held for the celebrations the Poson Poya (full moon day in June).

"The ordination of 2,000 children as Buddhist monks to mark the 2,300th anniversary of the advent of Buddhism in Sri Lanka had been mooted with the object of winning the next election and not to foster Buddhism," he said.

He also commented on frequent religious observations of bodhi pooja (offerings to the sacred bo tree) held throughout the island to bring merit to the president, government and armed forces.

Buddhists revere the bo (pipul) tree because Prince Siddhartha

attained buddhahood (bodhi, enlightenment) while seated under a bo tree in Gaya in the India state of Bihar.

"Parading Dasa Sil Mathas (Buddhist nuns) draped in saffron robes led by policemen to perform bodhi poojas was a shameful act," the monk said. To date 109 such poojas have been organized.

Venerable Rahula said, "Today the society has no ethical values. Right things are considered wrong, and wrong things upheld as examples. All political parties are responsible for this situation."

53rd Anniversary Informal Meeting of the ASHRAM London Friends

The 53rd Anniversary of the Christa Seva Ashram, Maruthanamadam, Sri Lanka was observed by London Friends of the Ashram by an Informal Meeting held at 62, Canadian Avenue, Catford, London, on Saturday, 19th September, 1992 at which about 25 people were present. Since the Conveners of the last Anniversary Celebration were unable to meet and arrange a service of Thanks giving at a Church this year, a Committee of six was elected to arrange Services to be held year by year in Churches commencing 1993.

This Meeting was presided over by Dr. Peter Kulanayagam and Brother Joe Carrol of the Scripture Gift Mission delivered the Key-Note Message in which he extolled the sacrificial lives of the founders and their selfless service to the Community at large. Testimonies were given by the President and other Friends. Mr. Welch J. Balasingam who had personally known the late Sevaks Yesusagayam and Selvaratnam, and the Rev. Sam Alfred shared with Assembly an "Ode to The Ashram" which he had specially composed for the occasion.

The Meeting terminated with benediction and Prayer, and a Free-Will Offertory for the pursuance of God's Mission at the Ashram was taken with magnificent response.

Bishop Kulandran.....

(Continued From Page 2)

by Dr. Balan Selliah and Mr. R. S. Jogendra. Balan said about his close association with the late Bishop, as a family friend and as a scholar. Jogendra spoke of his closeness as a friend of the Diocese.

Special song was sung by a group of immediate family members including Mrs. Sharmini Brodie, Mr. Elmo and Mrs. Priya Niles, Mrs. Sharmini Sabaratnam and Bobby Mather. The Sermon was preached by the Rev. Solomon Arumainayagam. Mrs. Sharmini Brodie

led the congregation in intercessory prayers. At the end of the service she thanked all those present for attending her grand father's memorial service. This was followed by fellowship coffee hour hosted by relatives and friends. About 250 people attended this service.

ODE TO THE ASHRAM

Composed by Welch J. Balasingam for the 53rd Anniversary Informal Meeting of the Ashram London Friends

I
"Feed my sheep: Feed my lamb: Feed my sheep: Feed my lamb!" Thus spake the Lord. The servant saith, "Here I am!" These exhortations dear, Selvaratnam did hear. Living echoes of His voice - so distinct and clear As youths see visions, and old men peacefully dream, His inward eye saw his ASHRAM take shape and gleam!

II
First sods and corner stones for ASHRAM buildings five, Were cut and laid on Jan, ninth, thirty nine: Those facets of the ASHRAM bloomed from foundation, To fill the void of many a generation: The Super-Stars were Yesusahayam and Sam, Shepherded through lean years and fair by Periannan.

III
As pants the deer for cooling stream when heated in the chase. Thirsty souls do pine for Inner Peace and to the ASHRAM race. Attempting great things for, and expecting great things from God. The ASHRAM'S motto and emblem ever trusting in the Lord. By the mystery of Faith, the ASHRAM grew in stature. Seeking first the Kingdom of God - and money scarce did matter!

IV
Reckonings ASHRAM'S growth in two decades and five. The Reverend Middleton Weaver did then inscribe: "I remind you that our MASTER DID ALL THINGS WELL; Resolve to do perfect spade work - then, you'll excel." Alas. Yesusahayam's call came shocking soon. Plunging Sevak Selva and Sam in baffled gloom!

V
ASHRAM bells tolled again Those whom Gods love die young. Periannan, with work still waiting to be done. Looked upon fairer dawn on a celestial shore. Crossed the rolling stream of death, and was heard no more. "Good-bye, proud world", often had heard him sing and pine. I'm going home; Thou are not my friend, and I'm not thine."

VI
The rigour of ASHRAM stewardship fell on Sam, Sustained only faith and Blood of the Lamb. He weathered all the ethnic conflict, Feeding

the hungry; caring the sick: to uplift, The stranger he welcomed, and the naked he clothed, Prisoners he visited - only cycle he rode!!

VII

As we perpetuate the AHSRAM'S beacon light

By our commemorations year by year, far and wide:

In London, Canada, Australia, or North Pole,

May we not seek to be consoled, as to console;

Not seek to be understood, as to understand.

Not to be loved, as to love, in ASHRAM LAND.

Mission to Russia 1992

Mrs Christobel Chelvathy Sanders (Mrs Daniel Selvarajah Sanders) was one of the 605 Christians from U. S. A. to join the Josh McDowell Ministry / Campus Crusade for Christ to Russia on Mission to Russia 1992, July 25-August 10, 1992.

There were three groups A, B and C. Mrs. Sanders was in Group B that visited Russia from July 28 to August 7. She was in Moscow, Odessa, Ukraine and St. Petersburg (Leningrad.)

The primary purpose of the Mission to Russia 1992 was to distribute more than one million Christian evangelistic books (Bibles, New Testaments, Gospel of St. John, and More than a Carpenter by Josh McDowell) to the people of the former Soviet Union. The Literature was distributed in the streets, churches, Metro station, market place, Kremlin and Cathedrals of Moscow, St. Petersburg and Odessa, Ukraine. Group A and C were in Riga Latvia; Tallin, Estonia; Vilnius, Lithuania and Minsk, Belarus; and also in Moscow, and St. Petersburg from July 25 - August 4th; and July 31 - August 10th. The Russian people were very open and receptive to Christian literature (in Russian Language) and received the books very gladly.

Ninety-five percent of the literature which was distributed during Mission to Russia 1992 was printed in the former Soviet Union, much of it on government owned printing presses. For over a year now, Bible and other pieces of Christian literature have been published and distributed in the Commonwealth of Independent States with government approval.

This is the second largest group which author Josh McDowell has taken to Russia with him in the past year. In January 1992, 160 Americans and British Citizens joined Josh McDowell for Operation Carelift in bringing food and medicines to seven of Moscow's Children's Hospitals. August, 22, 1992.

✻ EDITORIAL ✻

THE QUAKERS COME AGAIN

Last week three representatives of 'Quaker Peace and Service' paid another visit to our troubled homeland. We are grateful to Bobby, Phil and Ramamoorthy for undertaking the risky and vulnerable journey to meet the suffering people in the North and help in whatever way possible in the peace process. Our Lord hath said, 'Blessed are the peace makers for they shall be called the children of God'.

The Quakers were quite clear about their assignment. They reiterated that they were fully aware of the hardships of the innocent people. They know about the shelling, aerial bombardment, helicopter shootings and other atrocities. They also said that a safe and secure passage to Colombo was of prime importance.

The Quakers argued that holding on to the idea of independent Eelam will not help in finding a solution to the ethnic problem. They wanted the Tamil community to put forward a proposal that could be worked in the framework of a unitary constitution. Clinging on to the idea of a separate state could make the task of peace makers all over the world more and more difficult. They therefore insisted that the cry for Eelam should be given up and another feasible formula should be stated forthwith.

It was pointed out to them by the people of the North that neither the government nor the parties in the opposition had so far announced what they are willing to offer to the Tamil minority. Some members have said Pradesha Sabha or Divisional Council was the devolution they envisage. They are not in a mood to concede anything beyond the Pradesha Sabhan assembly of a handful of village committee chairmen and government officers. Besides that once the militants climb down from the demand for a separate state and opt for a federal constitution, the bargaining process would commence with the contention that federalism was the maximum demanded by the militants.

The political parties in the South gain support by offering the least to the Tamils and safeguarding everything possible for the majority. They therefore are likely to toughen their stand on the issue and put forward proposals that will not in any way satisfy the aspirations of the national minority. The militants made it clear once again to the Quakers that they would consider any proposal from the government that would satisfy the aspirations of the people. It was M. Henry who said, 'I would give anything for peace but not truth'.

The Quakers have gone to Colombo taking the message. We wish them success in their noble enterprise.

Dutch Reformed Church Celebrates its 350th Anniversary

The Dutch Reformed Church of Ceylon, founded in 1642, celebrated its 350th anniversary on Sunday the 25th of October at 9-30 a. m. at a glorious Thanksgiving Service at the Wolvendhal Church in the Colombo city. Those present included the President of the Republic Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, the former President Mr. J. R. Jayawardene and the Prime Minister Mr. Dingiri Banda Wijetunge. The President of the Church the Rev. Charles N. Jansz presided and conducted the service. During the service, messages of greetings were given by leaders and representatives of the Roman Catholic and other Churches in the country. The Rt. Rev. Marcus Fernando gave the greetings of the Roman Catholic Church. The Ven. Godwin Weerasuriya gave the greetings of the Church of Ceylon. The Rev. Duleep Fernando gave the greetings of the Methodist Church. Representatives of a few other Churches also gave greetings.

President Premadasa as the Chief Guest spoke reminding the contribution made by the Dutch during their period of rule in Ceylon and now a living legacy of their times is the Dutch Reformed Church. This Church, he said, has survived all the changes of history in this country. Their motto that 'Hope is the basis of new life' is a message that the whole nation can benefit by.

Bishop Ambalavanar, who gave greetings on behalf of the Jaffna Diocese of the C. S. I., explained how there was a very close historical link between the Dutch Reformed Church and the Jaffna Diocese of the C. S. I. When the British replaced the Dutch as a new colonial power in Ceylon, the Dutch Reformed Church more or less abandoned its work in the North. Many of their important Church buildings were handed over to the pioneer American missionaries who started work in Northern Sri Lanka. Even in Colombo, when the J. D. C. S. I. organised its congregation about fifty years ago, it was the Dutch Reformed

Church which offered its Church Building in Wallawatte to be used by our congregation until it built its own Church in 1987. He said, he was grateful for this spirit of co-operation which has gone on for over 175 years. The Bishop wished the present members of the Dutch Reformed Church, God's guidance and strength as they faced the opportunities of a new era in their history.

Church of England Decides to Ordain Women

The ordination of Women has been a subject of intense debate within the Church of England for the last few decades. Some Provinces of the Anglican Communion have already ordained women as priests as in the Episcopal Church of the U. S. A. and the Anglican Province of New Zealand. The Church of England however has been hesitant in taking this step. Earlier attempts to get a measure passed to permit the ordination of women have failed to obtain the requisite majority in the Joint Synod of the Church of England. This month however at the recent meeting of the Synod, all three houses - Bishops, Priests and Laity have approved the ordination of women by a two third majority. This is a historic step for the Church of England and is bound to influence other Provinces of the Anglican Communion which have not yet made this decision. It is well known that the United Churches of the Indian Sub-Continent - The Church of South India and The Church of North India have ordained women as priests for some years now.

In the debate that has gone on within the Church of England regarding the ordination of women, theologians have generally held that there were no theological objections to the ordination of women. Although even this has been contested by some conservative theologians, the concern however was to ensure that the decision to ordain women will not make reconciliation with Rome and the Orthodox Churches more difficult. It was therefore expediency rather than theological conviction that held back this decision within the Church of England for the last so many years. Progressive theologians within the Catholic Church who are in support of women's ordination have constantly urged the Church of England to take a bold step in this regard and that such a step taken on the grounds of truth is bound to have an influence for good on the Roman Catholic Church and Orthodox Churches themselves. This is indeed a his-

toric step and it is a sign of a decisive leadership within the Church that they have followed the promptings of theological convictions rather than expediency.

Priyanka Mendis and Dr. Dayachand Carr visit Jaffna

Ms. Priyanka Mendis of Colombo and one of the Presidents of the World Council of Churches and Dr. Dayachand Carr, Vice-Principal of the Tamilnadu Theological Seminary, Madurai and Secretary of the India - Sri Lanka Friendship Association visited Jaffna between the 29th and 31st of October. They visited some of the refugee camps and observed for themselves the plight of the people of Jaffna, long deprived of fuel, electricity and endure severe limitations of food and medicines. They visited some of the churches and institutions and spoke to groups at Vaddukodai, Uduvil and Trimmer Hall, Jaffna. We trust they would have gained for themselves first hand impression of the situation and help in disseminating this information to the world outside.

Jaffna Christian Union Annual Convention

The Jaffna Christian Union held its Annual Convention this year from 9th to the 11th of October at the Peto Memorial Hall at St. John's College, Jaffna. The Convention was organised by the Rev. A. W. Jebanesan, Secretary of the Jaffna Christian Union. The President of the Union, Dr. T. W. Jayakumarajah chaired some of the main meetings. The chief speaker at the function was the Rev. Daniel S. Thiagarajah, Principal of the Christian Theological Seminary of Sri Lanka & Institute for Lay People, Chunnakam. The Rev. Thiagarajah took as his theme 'The Suffering God'. Despite the great handicaps of transport, these meetings were well attended by people from all the main line Churches.

It was impossible to hold these Conventions regularly in the past years and it is encouraging that the committee of the Christian Union was able to revive it this year.

Battle of the Golds

The Jaffna College Football Teams played the Battle of the Golds matches against the St. Patrick's College at the Bicknell Field on 4th November. The 3rd Eleven match ended in a goal loss draw. St. Patrick's 2nd Eleven won the match 5-0. The 1st Eleven match was a very tensed one. Jaffna College Eleven beat St. Patrick's by a solitary goal to nil and collected the Father Long Challenge Cup. Mas. R. Rajmohan, the goal keeper of Jaffna College was declared the man of the match.