

மாநகராட்சி மன்றம்
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தலைவர் அலுவலகம்

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07 APR 1998
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கொள்ளுமாள்

15 APR 1998
மாநகராட்சி
மாநகராட்சி மன்றம்

News and Articles in
Tamil and English
Please send them to:

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Bishop Spells Out

7 Point Programme

Diocesan Council 1998

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the 51st Sessions of the Jaffna Diocesan Council of the Church of South India. For the past two years, only the delegates from Churches within the peninsula attended the sessions. Today we are very happy to see delegates from Colombo also attending the sessions. This indicates that very soon we will see the dawn in our midst.

When we held our sessions last year, Bishop D. J. Ambalavanar was in our midst. In that meeting I said, that we had few founder members viz Bishop S. Kulandren, the Rev J. J. Ratnarajah and Mr. S. S. Selvadurai were present. at the 40th Sessions but today they have all gone beyond the veil. Then, Bishop D. J. Ambalavanar corrected me and said, that Mrs. Ruth Bunker one of the founder members was still with us and that we must send our greetings to her. When I went to America last year, I spoke to her and conveyed to her the greetings of the Diocesan Council.

There may be some here today, who are older to Bishop Ambalavanar, but no-one can deny that only he was the bridge between the old and the new. Today we are here to continue his work as a new generation. We are about to enter into a new era with the prayer of psalmist 'O Lord God, thou art our refuge from generation to generation'.

At this juncture, it is necessary to look behind as well as to look forward. Prophet Jeremiah said stand at the cross-roads and

look and ask for the ancient paths where the good way lies: and walk in it and find the rest for your souls (Jer 6: 16 NRSV). According to the Revelation the one who was seated on the throne said 'See I am making all things new' (Rev. 21: 5 NRSV). Therefore let us accept both the old and the new and continue the Lords work.

The time in which we live is a period of suffering. Because of the war situation in our country 90% of the families in our areas are not living together. Yet we can be proud of the fact, that we are living in such a time when changes are taking place at lightning speed. Today we are seeing diverse changes similar to what occurred in 1930s and 40s. One day we will take pride in saying that we lived during this critical and crucial time.

It will be a great thing to claim that we lived with people of this country when there was danger. Barathithasan also said "the hands those played in the cruel valley of death are our hands of victory".

Crises give us new opportunities as well. The task that God gave us is to make the best use of these opportunities. When we celebrated the birth anniversary of Daniel Poor in 1989, Eelanadu Daily, in its editorial stated, "Though the American Missionaries came here to propagate Christianity actually they gave the new country, its ideals, values and impetus. When they came it was a new country even today if you go there you can see that they like novelty

Arya Dravida P.V S Awards Titles

Three Tamil Schools of Jaffna were given titles at a colourful ceremony of the ARYA DRAVIDA BHASHA VIRUTTI Sangam on Saturday the 7th March

The scholars honoured were,
(1) Pandit Arumugam Title— PULAVAR MANI
(2) Pandit Kandiah Title— PANDITHA MANI
(3) Pandit Namasivayam Title— MAHA VIDWAN

The citation was given by Pandit Kadambeswaran and the Chief Guest was the Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan C.S.I Bishop in Jaffna.

The function took place at Vaideeswara Vidyalaya Jaffna.

and have the desire for achievement.

We must prepare ourselves to step into 21st Century. We must think what our plans would be for the next 10 years. How we are going to prepare ourselves to the computer era. New problems and new opportunities. That is how they like to think.

However we also must see the ancient things. It is essential to learn and teach the concepts and the statutes of conduct which the American Missionaries spread. If we don't do this then we would have failed in our duty. It is very essential to remind the people of Jaffna the sacrifice toil and blood which they offered to us. Our Seminary, "Morning Star" and Jaffna University can involve themselves in this task. It is commendable that Jaffna University has included in its G. A. Q. Syllabus the book "BROKEN HEART" which describes the good works done by the American Missionaries.

(Contd to page 3)

New Member of the University Council

The University Grants Commission has nominated Rev. Dr. Justin Gnanapragasam Principal, St. Henrys College Illavalai as member of the University Council as from January 1998.

New Airline

A new - Air - Line called "MONARA AIR SERVICES" is flying between Colombo and Jaffna. They began their flights on Monday the 2nd March.

Mahaluxmy Stores, Stanley Road, Jaffna, is their agents. Hitherto only one Air line called Lion Air was flying between Colombo and Jaffna. The Air fare is now reduced to Rs. 5,400/-.

First Woman Mayor

Mrs. Sarojini Yogeswaran the First Woman Mayor of Jaffna assumed duties at her most auspicious time on Wednesday the 11th March.

Conference on Sangam Literature

A conference on Sangam Literature is organised by the Tamil Research Centre Tharamani, Madras. Prof. A. Sanmugasadas Dr (Mrs) A. Sanmugasadas, Prof. N. Subramania Iyer and Dr. S. Sivalingarajah have been invited for this conference which will start on the 28th March.

Bp. D. J. A.

Remembered

A prayer meeting at Mission Cemetery Uduvil was conducted on the 70th birthday of the late Bishop Ambalavanar which was 28th February 1998.

Earlier in the evening his close friends and relations assembled at Mission House, Manipay for a thanksgiving prayer.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



To:

The News Editor,
"Morning Star"
Jaffna,

Sir,

Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayagam never let the Tamils down. He possessed an icy, precise mind and a translucent personal integrity. Those qualities enabled Thanthai Chelva to establish the Eelam Tamil nation. Prior to Thanthai Chelva the Tamil leaders spoke of how the Tamil people could live and work together with the Sinhalese and the other communities in a united Ceylon whereas Thanthai Chelva, the prophet, realised that this was not possible. And so he proceeded to place on a solid foundation the Eelam Tamil Nation that he created, separate and distinct. He did not establish a politically independent sovereign state. But as a first step he made the Tamil speaking peoples regard themselves as a nation. No other Tamil leader either before or after independence was able to achieve what at first seemed and objective impossible to accomplish.

So, the grateful Eelam Tamil nation whom he created is getting ready to pay homage to Thanthai Chelva by making elaborate arrangements to observe his Birth Centenary as from March 31st, 1998.

On March 31st 1998, Tuesday at 10.00 a.m. flowers will be offered at the 80 Thanthai Chelva Memorial Column. The Jaffna Christian Union is making arrangements to conduct a thanks giving service for the life of Thanthai Chelva at John's the Baptist Church where Thanthai Chelva had worshiped while he was a student at St. John's College. (Kindly contact the Rev. S Milton, the Secretary of the Jaffna Christian Union to obtain the full details of the service).

Nathaswaram the music Thanthai Chelva loved most will become the prominent feature at the Centenary Celebrations.

Kindly include this as a news item in your next issue.

Thanking you.

21/1 Racca Road,
Chundikuli
Jaffna. 20-03-98

Yours Truly
(S. A. THRMARATNAM)

Examination Success

Our readers will be happy to know that Mrs. K. Bavasingham has passed the M. Phil Examination of the University of the Jaffna.

She wrote her thesis on the poetical works of H. A. Krishnapillai. The Viva-Voce examination was conducted on 26-01-1998.

Mrs. Bavasingham is a popular teacher of Tamil and Hindu Culture and is in Charge of the tertiary education Programme at Uduvil Girls College.

Workers Thank

Principals

The workers of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India who met at Vaddukoddai for their union meeting resolved to thank Dr. (Miss) C. V. Selliah, Principal, Girls' College Uduvil and Mr. G. Rajanayagam Principal, Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai for the gifts of badges and colourful stoles given to them during the 51st Sessions of the Diocesan Council.

LENTEN - MEDITATION

Watch and Pray that ye enter not into temptation

Mt - 24 : 41



Our Lord had already entered into His Passion when He spoke these words. Going out of the Upper Room after the last supper, He arrived with His Apostles at the Garden of Gethsemane which was to be the scene of that terrible agony of soul. He chose three of them to be His companions during that agony, the three who had also witnessed His glorious transfiguration, Peter, James and John. They must have seen that He was in great distress of soul, but their eyes were heavy with sleep and so, after His first hour of prayer, He found them asleep. 'Could you not watch one hour with me?' He asks St. Peter. Then He warns them all to watch and pray. Again they ignore His warning and return to sleep, leaving Him to face His agony alone.

as our Creator, has a right to the homage of our prayer because He is our God and also because we depend on Him for all that we have. If we wish to be faithful to that consecration of our selves to Him which we made in Baptism then we dare not omit or neglect this obligation. Yet how few of us ever truly make an effort to give God the homage of real prayer, well said in a spirit of recollection! Sometimes it is mere laziness which prompts this neglect; at others it is the feeling that God is so far away and that we have so many other important things to do. Yet nothing is so important as our life of prayer. If we really paid full attention to it what a difference it would make in our lives!

David Creenstock

NO DEW IN JAFFNA

February which used to be one of the coldest months in Jaffna turned out to be hot month this year. It appears as if April weather has come in February. The paddy cultivators however are happy. They have a good crop, because of balanced rain last year. Dew which is necessary for gingily has completely disappeared. There had been little or no rains in the months of January and February.

இனி

தென்னிந்திய திருச்சபையாழ். ஆதினத்தின் 51வது வருடாந்தக் கூட்டங்களும், பொன்விழாவும் நடந்து முடிந்து விட்டன. பொன்விழாவில் ஏறத்தாள ஆயிரத்து எழுநூறு பேர் கலந்து கொண்டனர். நன்றி செலுத்தும் வழி பாடு, கலை நிகழ்ச்சிகள் ஐக்கிய விருந்து என்பனவற்றில் குதூகல உணர்ச்சி காணப்பட்டது. சிக்கல்களும் சீரழிவும் நிறைந்த இக்காலகட்டத்தில் பொன்விழ கோலாகலமாக நடந்தமை பெருமகிழ்ச்சிக்குரியதாகும். வெள்ளி விழா பொன்விழா, வைரவிழா எல்லாமே அர்த்தமுள்ளவையாகும். கடந்த காலத்தை எண்ணிப் பார்க்கவும், நிகழ் காலத்தை விளங்கிக் கொள்ளவும், வருங்காலத்தை எதிர் நோக்கவும் இவ்விழாக்கள் துணைபுரிந்தன.

பேராயர் அவர்கள் சபாசங்கக் கூட்டத்திற்கு அளித்த பேருரையில் கடந்த காலத்தையும் நமது சீரிய மரபையும் எடுத்து விளக்கினார். அத்துடன் வருங்காலத்திற்கென ஒர் ஏழு அம்சத்திட்டத்தையும் எடுத்து விளக்கினார்.

அ மத்திய மலை நாட்டில் பணியை விஸ்தரித்தல்
ஆ பேராயர் அம்பலவாணர் நினைவு சிறுவர் இல்லத்தை யும் நூலகத்தையும் கொழும்பில் நிறுவுதல்
இ ஊழியர்களின் கல்வி தராதரத்தினை உயர்த்துதல்
ஈ இணுவில், மானிப்பாய் வைத்தியசாலைகளைப் புதுப்பித்தல்
உ பெண்களுக்கு ஒரு வாழ்வகத்தை உருவாக்குதல்
ஊ ஏனைய திருச்சபைகளுடன் குறிப்பாக மெதடிஸ்த அங்கிலிக்கன் திருச்சபையாருடன் நல்லுறவை வளர்த்தல்
ஏ யாழ்ப்பாணக் கல்லூரி புடன் இணைந்து உயர் கல்வி மரபையும் ஆங்கிலக் கல்வி மரபையும் வளர்த்தல் என்பன அவர் கூறிய திட்டங்கள்.

இவற்றுடன் நாம் பின் நோக்கிப் பார்த்து அமெரிக்கன் மிஷனின் பெருமைகளை யுணர்ந்து இளைய தலைமுறையினருக்கு அவர்களின் விழுமியங்களைப் போதிக்க வேண்டும் என்றும் கூறினார்.

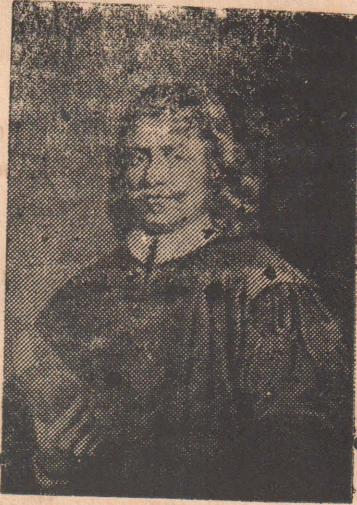
நாம் கடந்து வந்த காலம் சிறியது. நமக்கு முன்னாலிருக்கும் காலமோ எல்லையற்றது.

பொன் விழா முடிந்து விட்டது. 51வது வருடத்தில் காலடி எடுத்து வைத்து விட்டோம்.

இலட்சியங்களை நிறைவேற்ற உறுதி கொள்வோம்.

நமது தமிழ்ச்சாகியத்திற்கு ஒரு கலங்கரை விளக்கமாகப் பணியாற்ற இதைவன் நல்குளை வேண்டி நிற்போம்.

Skandapuramam and Pilgrims Progress



Some years ago Pandita-man Kanapathipillai, remarked that the culture of Jaffna is Skandapuramam culture. There is not the slightest doubt that the religion and philosophy of the Tamils in Sri Lanka are the Religion and Philosophy of Skanda Puranam. The hero of this epic is Lord Skanda the younger son of Lord Shiva and Parwathy.

But in the nineteenth century the American Missionaries introduced into Jaffna the culture of Bunyan's "Pilgrims Progress" The religion

Bishop.....

(Contd. from Page 1.)

The American Missionaries in Ceylon worked among Tamils only. The Anglican and Methodist Churches have many influential personalities among them but we do not have such dignitaries. They have erected many memorials for their missionaries through the Sinhala Government. It grieves us when we realize that we haven't done much to those who sacrificed their lives among us. Therefore we must work hard to erect memorials for them.

First we must look forward and have a clear vision as to where we should work in future. The pride of expanding to Kili-nochchi, Vavuniya and Batticaloa the church that once was confined to the peninsula goes to our former Bishop D. J. Ambalavanar. Because of his distant vision we are able to work in many parts of Sri Lanka. Our focus of attention in future should be the Central Hills. We have already sent one worker to Nu-

and philosophy of early Puritans were no doubt that of Pilgrims Progress. For the English Course at the Seminary they prescribed BUNYAN and Milton but not Shakespeare and Alexander Pope.

The first translation of Pilgrim Progress was made by Rev. Levi Spaulding the American Missionary. This translation inspired poet Krishnapillai to compose his இரட்சண்ய யாத்திரிகம். Even now in some Christian Homes of Jaffna we can find some 19th Century editions of Pilgrims Progress.

The nineteenth century witnessed the struggle between Skandapuramam culture and the culture of Pilgrims Progress. Eventhough Skandapuramam triumphed ultimately the values enshrined in Pilgrims progress and the poems of Milton definitely influenced the people of Jaffna, including the Saiva Revivalists. Jaffna owes much to Bunyan, Milton and Longfellow

waraelia. The encouragement given by people there is very good. We have already started a Day Care Centre at Labukelle. We have plans to set up a childrens Home in Kottagala soon. The Church of South India has a right and duty to work among the people of Central Hills

Secondly it is necessary to expand our work in Colombo. The Girls Hostel established there due to the efforts of our former Bishop is functioning well now. It is necessary to establish a library and boys hostel in memory of Bishop D. J. Ambalavanar. The estimated cost is circa Rs. 40 million. We must work hard for this purpose. The housing problem for youth will be solved to some extent when this hostel is set up. Miss. Carol Arulnatham will submit a proposal to the Synod Working committee when it meets on March 12th. I also believe that we will be able to make decisions at this session about the purchase of a land for this purpose.

FIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS HONOURED

Five Sunday School Teachers of the Diocese who had served as Sunday School teachers for more than twentyfive years were honoured during the Jubilee celebrations. They were garlanded by Mrs S. V. Jebanesan. The Bishop thanked them profusely and presented gifts on behalf of the Religious Education Board. The five teachers are, Miss S. S. Selvadurai of Vaddukoddai, Mrs C. N. Selvaratnam of Tellipalai, Mrs Ranji Joshua of Uduvil, Miss S. Vaithianathan of Delft and Miss E. Selliah of Navalay.

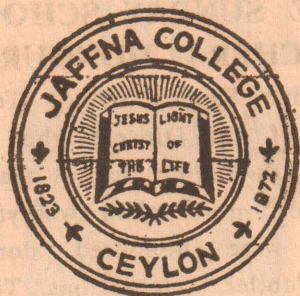
Mannar Catholic Bishop Visits Jaffna.

The Rt. Rev. Rayappu Joseph, Bishop of Mannar of the Roman Catholic Church visited Jaffna recently. In an interview to "Pathukavalar" a Catholic Tamil Weekly, he said, that he visited Jaffna to see the condition of people in Jaffna who returned after the displacement.

He wanted all those displaced to come back to Jaffna and settle in their own villages. All must come back and join hands in rebuilding the society. On the contrary, living here and there as a displaced society, would bring in more sufferings on individuals and on society. People here may face some difficulties and undergo sufferings. Yet living together will be advantageous to the entire Tamil community. The Bishop also visited the Island of Delft, his birth place.

Thirdly, the educational standard of our workers should be raised. Most of the English educated Pastors have left the country. Dr. Samuel F. Green who realized this problem as far back as 1848 conducted his medical classes in Tamil. Today Jaffna University and Tamil Nadu Theological Seminary in Madurai have facilities to provide higher education in Tamil. We are happy that Rev. A. Thevakunananthan and Rev. Milton Solomon, two of our Seminary graduates will be graduates of Jaffna University soon. We must.

(Contd. to Page 4)



Jaffna College Sports Meet

The Annual Inter-house Athletic Meet of Jaffna College Primary School was held in the Bicknell Field on Friday 6th March, 1998 at 2.30 p.m. Mrs. Chandra Pathmapalan, Principal Nuffield School for Deaf and Blind was the Chief Guest. Hitchcock House emerged Champions

The Annual Interhouse Athletic Meet of the Senior School was held in the Bicknell Field on Saturday 7th March 98 at 2.30 p.m.

Mr M. Thirunavukkarasu, District Judge, Mallakam was the Chief Guest.

The meet started with the playing of the college Band followed with lighting of the Olympic Torch.

The main attraction was the gymnastic display by the Levi Spaulding Boys' Home Squad, which included Jumping through a ring of fire. Mrs. Thirunavukkarasu gave away the Trophies & Cups

The ranking of the houses.

- (1) Brown House.
- (2) Hastings House
- (3) Abraham House
- (4) Hitchcock House.

Relay Champions were Brown House while Tug of war champions were Hitchcock House.

The Individual champions -

Boys Under 12	S.Luxmikanthan	- Hitchcock House
..	13 K.Sulaxan	- Abraham house
..	15 T.Nishanthan	- Hastings house
..	17 J.Luxman	- Brown house
	S.Sathees	- Brown house
	S.Ninintharuban	- Hastings house
..	19 S.Muthukumar	- Abraham house
	R.Kugan	- Hitchcock house
	T.Uthayekumar	- Hastings house
Post Seniors	V.Kirubakaran	- Brown house
Girls Under 12	N.Uma	- Hastings house
..	13 K.Krishniya	- Brown house
..	15 V.Sivagini	- Hitchcock house
..	17 V.Yalini	- Brown house
..	19 N.Sarojini	- Hastings house
Post Seniors	N.Kalathevy	- Abraham house



IN MEMORIUM

1st Death Anniversary

Mrs. Enid Smathanarani Arnold
Wife of Late Rev J. V. J. Arnold

Born 25th July 1909

Calle to Rest 22nd February 1997

"Fought a good fight of Faith

Ran a good Race

Received the Crown of Glory,,

Children, Grand Children
and Great Grand Children

New Text For G.A.Q

"Norungunda Ithayam"—the Tamil novel written by Mangalanayagam Thambiah in 1914 has become part of the Tamil Syllabus of the first in Arts (G.A.Q) Examination of the University of Jaffna.

A reprint of this book was made in 1997 by the Christian Institute for the study of Religion and Society Jaffna, under the guidance of Dr S.Sivalinggarajah. Senior Lecturer in Tamil "Norungunda Ithayam" is one of the earliest Tamil novels written in Sri-Lanka.

The author Mrs. Mangalanayagam Thambiah was the daughter of Mr & Mrs. J. W. BARR KUMARAKULASINGHE MUDALIYAR, husband of Rev. Issac Thambiah and an aunt of Mrs. S.J.V Chelvanayagam

(Contd. from page 3)

Bishop.....

create a generation of Tamil educated scholars i.e. a generation of Jaffna University intellectuals amongst us.

Fourthly, the plight of our women should be taken into consideration. Our Vocational Training Centres help the women to some extent. However, we are unable to provide them with comprehensive service which the Roman Catholic Church is able to, through their establishments. Today, the problems of women affect our society to great extent. The women leaders of the Church should take this into consideration and draw plans to uplift the status of women. Many organizations are willing to help us in these programmes.

Fifth, We must revive our Hospitals. The medical mission is part and parcel of our Diocese. I have talked to our Medical professionals in this regard. They feel that Inuvil McLeod Hospital should be made a model maternity Home and Manipay Green Memorial Hospital should be uplifted as a General Hospital with all modern facilities and a well equipped Medical Labor-

WHITE SCORPIANS, TAKE THEIR TOLL

White scorpions (velli poor-an) have stung a number of people in the Vadamaradchy area. Three persons have died in this area by white Scorpions bite during the month of February.

DURAIYAPPH STADIUM OPENED

The reconstructed Duraiyappah stadium, Jaffna was ceremonially opened on Monday 2nd March. Brigadier Susantha Mendis, Commanding Officer, Jaffna. Mr.K.Shanmuganathan, Govt. Agent, Prof. Balasundram pillai Vice Chancellor and Religious Dignitaries participated at the function. Brigadier Shantha Kotageda Commanding Officer, Valigamam was the Chief Guest at this function.

atory. It is essential that we should implement this plan.

Our Diocese is connected with higher education for the past 175 years. So the sixth point I wish to stress is that we should never give up our service of providing higher education. One-day, we should run a higher Educational Institution in Jaffna. It is essential that we should work in collaboration with the officials of Jaffna College to make this a reality. It is a responsibility placed on us to provide English Courses to our Society.

Better relationship with Anglican and Methodist Churches should be the seventh point of focus today. The present leadership of both Anglican and Methodist Churches are maintaining a cordial relationship with us. It should be our desire that we maintain mutual relationship at all levels.

I place these thoughts before you. Only with your support and encouragement can these be implemented. Your views and advices are very essential. Therefore, I end my charge with the hope that you will express your views even now, during the course of these Diocesan Sessions.