

**NEWS AND ARTICLES**

TO BE SENT TO

**ENGLISH  
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Editor

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**Volume 157****November 1996****No. 10****RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE**Annual Subscription Inland  
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contactThe Manager,  
**THE MORNING STAR**  
17, FRANCIS ROAD,  
COLOMBO 6**TO All the Members of  
CSI Congregations**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am delighted to write this personal letter to all members of CSI on the important subject, the Golden jubilee of the Church of South India. Ever since its inauguration on 27th September, 1947, our living Father has blessed the Church of South India richly and helped it grow from strength to strength in witness and service. We bow our heads gratefully before the Lord for the manifold blessings He has showered upon our Church at every stage of its present stature of being the largest United Protestant Church in India.

I take this pleasant opportunity to write this personal letter to every member of the CSI, first of all to thank him/her for the wonderful way in which each one of you has helped to enrich the life and work of the Church of South India both in your own local parishes and at the level of the Synod. I am deeply indebted to you for your co-operation and ceaseless efforts to uphold and strengthen the Ministry of the Church at all levels.

At this crucial juncture of our completing 50 years of life and witness as a Church, I would like to offer my sincere and hearty greetings to everyone of you and invite you most happily to participate in the celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of our great Church which will begin formally in January 1997 and close with our final Central Jubilee Celebrations at Madras on 26th, 27th and 28th of September 1997. It is also

proposed to set apart an exclusive common day for Jubilee Celebrations at individual Diocesan level on Sunday, 21st September 1997. It is my pleasure to invite all of you through this letter to extend your individual and collective co-operation in every possible way for the successful and meaningful celebration of our golden Jubilee.

We have just now formed a Central Synod level Jubilee Planning Committee consisting of representatives of all the 21 dioceses. This Central Planning Committee will work hard in the months ahead to plan in detail for the Jubilee celebrations. May I request you to convey your ideas and suggestions for the jubilee celebrations through your Diocesan representative to the Central Planning Committee and help us in the process of planning for the Jubilee.

Secondly, I would also request you to prepare from now on to plan for your Diocesan level and parish level celebrations of the Jubilee. I am sure God will bless you abundantly in your life and work as a member of the Church of South India and in your own various secular avocations. I look forward to your continued prayers and active support and co-operation in every way for the successful celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of our great Church.

May God bless you.

Yours sincerely in His service.

MOST REV. DR. VASANT P. DANDIN

MODERATOR

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA

**Examination Success**

Mrs. Thaya Thiagarajah, wife of the Rev. D. S. Thiagarajah has passed the Bachelor of Divinity Examination of Serampore University. She did her examination in the English medium and obtained a 2nd Class. The Morning Star congratulates her most heartily on her brilliant success.

**L.T.C.L. - Pianoforte**

Miss Hyacinth Niramalene Jebanesan, the daughter of our Bishop and Mrs. Vimala Jebanesan has passed the Licentiate of the Trinity College of Music, London (Pianoforte). She was the only candidate successful from the Karnataka State. The Morning Star congratulates her on her achievement.

**Air Mail Service to Jaffna**

Air Mail Service between Jaffna and Colombo has started. It has been decided to send a the mail bag of 50 Kg in weight on every week day. The people are advised not to send any articles through this postal service.

**Heavy rains in Jaffna**

Jaffna is experiencing heavy rain fall from the 10th of October. According to meteorological experts, Jaffna will get plenty of rain fall this year.

**Navarathiri observance begins**

Navarathiri observance began in Jaffna on Sunday the 13th October. The observances went on till Monday the 21st of October.

**Promotion**

Dr. D.P. Thambiratnam of the Queensland University of Technology in Australia has been confirmed as full professor in the same university. Dr. Thambiratnam is a son of Mr. P.J. Thambiratnam of the Colombo Church.

**Christa Seva Ashram**

Christa Seva Ashram in Kiran (Eastern Province) celebrated its 39th Anniversary on the 6th, 7th Sept 1996. The war situation did not prevent the people from participating in the Service of Thanksgiving and the Dedication of the renovated Chapel. People came in large numbers from all the denominations with their clergy and from the districts in Batticaloa.

The celebrations commenced with the 'ARUL VILLA' on the 6th evening at the Sinnannan Memorial Hall. Children, young and old entertained the gathering. It was an occasion to reveal their talents and skills that are hidden in them. Their presentations were well received and appreciated.

On the 7th morning a large gathering assembled near the Kiran Sub Post Office and the procession of witness proceeded to the Chapel, led by dancing girls and choir. Ven Joseph Sarvananthan Archdeacon of Jaffna dedicated the renovated Chapel. He preached the sermon on the text, Isaiah 43:18, 19, "Remember not the former things, neither consider the things of old, behold I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth."

At the celebration of Holy Communion the Archdeacon was assisted by Rev Sevak Sam Alfred, Revds S. Jeyanesan, A.P. Jesuthevan and S. Alagarajah. About 500 people received the Sacrament.

After the breakfast Rev. S. Jeyanesan dedicated the Baptismal Font. 21 adults received the Sacrament of Baptism. Rev. Sevak conducted the rituals assisted by Rev. S. Alagarajah.

Mr. Balan Bonney Chairman of the Ashram Board of Management chaired the public meeting. The mission and the future of the Ashram were discussed. People shared their experiences and expectations.

The celebrations concluded with lunch. The presence of the large number of people was truly a symbol of their love and affection not only to what Ashram has contributed to their faith, but also their desire to breakdown the denominational barriers that are separating them. The vision of the founders are exactly the same. 'A place to unite our people.' Thanks be to God the dreams of the founders are being fulfilled.

**EAST TIMOR**

It has never been worse here. There are more restrictions than ever before. No one can speak. No one can demonstrate. People disappear." These are the recent words of Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo, the head of the Catholic Church in East Timor.

Since December 1975 (when Indonesia invaded the newly independent country of East Timor) the Indonesian authorities have destroyed or driven underground all independent East Timorese institutions with the exception of the church. Traditionally conservative and aligned with the indigenous and colonial elite, The Roman Catholic Church today identifies with the needs and wishes of the poor East Timorese majority, about 90% of whom are Catholic.

Located 400 miles north of Australia at the eastern end of the Indonesian archipelago, East Timor is the victim of a world order that has long privileged power over principle.

Despite 10 UN resolutions condemning the invasion and calling for Jakarta's immediate withdrawal, the United States, for example, has never seriously contested Indonesia's annexation of East Timor. What Richard Nixon called "by far the greatest prize in the South-East Asian area" is today one of the Clinton administrations' 10 "Big Emerging Markets". Yet during his presidential campaign, Bill Clinton called U.S. policy towards East Timor "unconscionable." His administration has taken some noteworthy steps to challenge traditional U.S. complicity with Jakarta's occupation like blocking a proposed sale by the Jordanian government of four U.S. - made F-5E fighter jets. The State Department, in 1994, banned small arms sales as well as helicopter-mounted weaponry. Still, during his administration the U.S. has sold and licensed the sale of tens of millions

**Liquor freely available**

Intoxicating beverages are now freely available in the ordinary shops of Jaffna. Arrack, Beer and Stout can now be bought on wayside boutiques. The prices of course are double that of Colombo prices.

of dollars in weaponry to Indonesia. Canada, Australia, Japan, and the U.K. do likewise.

Such behavior distresses Bishop Belo. "They are lying about what happened to us. Their lies and hypocrisy are in the cause of economic interests. We ask the people of the world to understand this, and not to forget that we are here, struggling for life everyday."

Until the Santa Cruz massacre of November 12, 1991, there was a virtual media blackout in North America on the situation in East Timor and seeming blindness on the part of churches. Rev. John Chamberlin, the National Coordinator of East Timor Religious Outreach says, "During the years of slaughter in East Timor, there has been almost total silence on the part of U.S. and Canadian churches, making them complicit in the crimes."

Yet this situation is slowly changing. For example, in January 1996, Bishop Melvin Talbert - who had played a major leadership role in helping to publicize the situation in East Timor to Protestant circles - assumed the presidency of the National Council of Churches in the United States.

Bishop Belo was encouraged: "Contact with the outside world is very, very important. It gives us hope, and some of us protection. Keep speaking; everyone must keep speaking about us." What the people of East Timor want is quite simple. As Rev. Arlindo Marcal, Moderator of the Protestant Church of East Timor, explains, "The East Timorese people should be provided the opportunity to decide for themselves whether they really want to be integrated into Indonesia or not." (excerpted from "A Changed Church," by Mathew Jardine, author of EAST TIMOR: GENOCIDE IN PARADISE (Odonian Press, 1995), in Sojourners, Nov.-Dec. 1995.)

**Three more Post Offices in  
Jaffna reactivated :**

The sub post Offices of Nachchimar Kovilady, Kantharodai and Mandaitivu were reactivated by the District Superintendent of Post Offices, Jaffna. Attempts are made to reactivate other sub post offices also in the peninsula.

**Only Three Dentists  
in Jaffna hospital**

Because of the prevailing situation only three Dentists are serving at the Civil Hospital, Jaffna. The Dental clinic at Jaffna hospital had seven Dentists before the outbreak of hostilities. Due to the shortage of Dentists people of Jaffna are undergoing much hardship.

**Moolai Hospital  
functions again -**

Moolai Cooperative Hospital which was closed after the operation Leap Forward in July 1995 has been reactivated. Mr. K. Chandrarajah, Deputy Commissioner, Co-operative Development ceremonially opened the hospital for service on Monday the 14th October, 1996.

**Lions Gift to Nuffield School**

The Chavakachcheri Lions gifted uniforms and spectacles to the students of Nuffield school - for the Deaf and Blind.

**Three injured by grenade explosion**

Three persons were injured while waiting at Thadda Theru Barrier to enter the City of Jaffna. The splinters from the grenade had caused the injuries.



## Nicaragua

After more than a decade of U.S. opposition to the Sandinista government, many Nicaraguans believed that if they voted for the United Nicaraguan Opposition candidate Violetta Chamorro, in Nicaragua's 1990 elections, the years of warfare and economic embargo by the United States would be over and replaced by financial aid to rebuild the country. The hope has not been fulfilled, however. Tensions within Nicaragua and lack of international aid have created an unstable situation. In addition many fear the widespread perception that corruption is rampant may have undermined much of the country's faith in democratic institutions.

Since banks in the developed world insist Nicaragua pay off its \$12 billion foreign debt, almost 80 percent of all Nicaragua's liquid assets are needed to pay the interest on the debt. Adding to the country's economic burden was a drought in 1994. It destroyed much of the country's crops that people depended on for subsistence and limited the output of the hydroelectric plants that supply most of the country's power. As a result power was shut off in different parts of the country in four - or eight - hour blocks for months. Aside from disrupting people's lives productivity decreased, further devastating the economy. Once poor but functioning Nicaragua's economy now rivals Haiti's as the most disastrous in the hemisphere. It is ranked as one of the twenty most poorly nourished countries in the world, with 85 percent of the population malnourished and 70 percent unemployed.

## Production of Potatoes

Farmers of Valigamam South are showing great interest in the production of potatoes. According to the Planning Section of Uduvil Pradesha Saba, 486 farmers have applied for seed potatoes. According to applicants potatoes will be cultivated in 75 Hectares in this area.

## Confirmation Thevakiramam

At the confirmation Service held at Thevakiramam, Uduvil, on Sunday, 13th October 18 persons were admitted to the full fellowship of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India. The candidates were presented by the Rev., D.C. Ratnasingam.

## LIVING STONES OF THE HOLY LAND

A Palestinian Christian theology.

The Daher family has cultivated olives, fruit, and nuts on their land outside Bethlehem for almost 100 years. The Israeli government diverted the water supply for new Israeli settlements. The land lay fallow. But their dreams of farming it were still alive.

Recently Israeli settlers claimed that land, citing the scriptures as evidence that it was given to them by God. The Dahers turned to their congregation, the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem, for help.

From this very personal experience of his parishioners and from his own life Mitri Raheb writes *I Am a Palestinian Christian*. In his book he develops a local, Palestinian-Christian theology.

Raheb writes, "I believe that a contextual Palestinian theology is nothing else than an attempt to develop a local theology that is positive, relevant, and important for the future of the Holy Land. It is an alternative both to escaping into religious fundamentalism and to discarding religion for secularism."

He describes how his people live under the oppression of another people of "The Book" who see the land as given to them by God. This land, according to Raheb, also "belongs" to the Palestinians. But they are not in power.

Even though the peace accord was signed in 1993 with much fanfare and hope, the many tragic events of this last year underscore the fragile nature of peace. All sides need to work for justice and an equitable distribution of land.

Buses full of foreign tourists can travel freely between Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Raheb's people cannot. Tens of thousands visit the Church of the Nativity and take pictures of its stones. Raheb reminds us of the living stones in his congregation.

He describes the irony that Israel, once miraculously delivered from Pharaoh's bondage, has now assumed the role of Pharaoh. What is the role of the church, in the face of this oppression, but to speak the truth and to resist with word and deed the oppressor? And what if the Western church has mostly sided with Israel and become Pharaoh?

Raheb fills this brief book with personal stories, congregational stories, biblical exegesis, sociopolitical analysis, and an admonition to hope. He provides a solid introduction to the history and religious dynamics of the Palestinian-Christian situation even as it offers a brief contextual Christian theology. He invites us to enter the story with critical and faithful eyes and hearts. by Jeffrey Loudon  
JEFFEREY LOUDON is pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Madison, Wisconsin. -courtesy Sojourners

## Two soldiers died by Glymour Mines :

Two soldiers lost their lives on Tuesday the 17th September at Nunavil when the vehicle in which they travelled hit a glymour mine. Three others soldiers were injured.

## Five Meat Stalls at Chinnakadai :

The Jaffna Municipality Works Department is constructing four beef stalls and one mutton stall at Chinnakadai, Jaffna. Now the consumers are compelled to buy meat from the houses of the meat dealers.

## M.P. to question about missing persons :

Mr. Joseph Pararajasingam, TULF M.P. for Batticaloa District has given notice that he would ask questions in Parliament about the people arrested at Kaithady. Miss. Krishanthi Kumarasamy, a student sitting for the A/L Examination was missing on her way to school. The neighbours and parents of the child who went to ask about this missing person were also detained. Since they have not been released so far Mr. Pararajasingam has decided to ask about them in Parliament.

## The machinery at Chunnakam Power House unuseable :

A team of British Officers who visited the Power House at Chunnakam has declared that the machinery at Chunnakam Power House cannot be used. They said that it would be difficult to obtain spare parts for the machinery and that even if they repair it the out-put would not be sufficient to meet the cost.

## Ruth Bunker

Mrs. Ruth C. Bunker, wife of Dr. Sydney K. Bunker, President of Jaffna College October 1937 to spring of 1967 celebrated her 90th birthday in May of this year. Her daughters Charlotte and Grace hosted a reception for her at Charlotte's home.

## MR. KIRUPAIRAJAH CHELLIAH

Mr. Kirupairajah Chelliah the energetic secretary of Tellipallai Church died suddenly on Saturday the 31st August.

Mr. Chelliah as usual started off on his bicycle from his house at Navalur Road, Jaffna. At about 9.30 a.m. he went to the city mission Church and had a long chat with our Pastor the Rev. S.T. Anandarajan. He talked about opening a Fixed deposit Account for Tellipallai, the problems in paying the Quota of the church and about administering sick communion to some of the feeble members of the Church. From the city mission church he went to the post office at main street Jaffna to transact some business of his and his neighbours and friends. While standing at the Counter he collapsed and died. The funeral took place on Monday the 2nd September.

Mr. Kirupairajah Chelliah had been suffering from heart ailment for some time but he continued to lead an active and full life to the end. It is better to be worn out rather than to be rusted out" was the motto of his life.

Mr. Kirupairajah was a dynamo of energy. At Matale, Tellipallai, K.K.S. and in Jaffna there were many offices he held, many things he did and many causes for which he worked. But what we want to remember about him is the very human and warm hearted man who lived with us till the age of seventy two. I do not know whether there were any Christian funerals in Jaffna during the past thirty years where Kirupairajah failed to give a helping hand. He would be there with the relations before the funeral commences, go to the cemetery with the people and then return to the house and provide whatever assistance, before leaving to his house.

The presence of the large and distinguished gathering at his funeral clearly demonstrated the love and affection the people had for this very humble man.

During the past thirteen years many things had happened in Jaffna. A gigantic upheaval after the riots of 1983: Many people migrated. Some went to live in Colombo. Many senior members of our church passed beyond the veil.

People like Mr. Kirupairajah can be rightly called the faithful Remnant. They carried on their duties faithfully and kept the Lord's Commandments and waited patiently for the messiah to deliver them from the present predicament. Mr. Chelliah became very much attached to the Church towards the tail end of his career.

He would cycle miles and miles to meet a Presbyterian and arrange a Communion Service. He would plead for hours with a church member to increase his subscription to the Church. Church functions gave him much delight. He enjoyed them and contributed his share to brighten the ceremonies.

He was a hardy northerner. He lived a very simple austere life. He loved God and People. The memory of a well spent life is eternal. "Keep Thou my feet I do not ask to see, The distant Scene. One step enough for me."

Mr. Chelliah leaves behind beside his wife Lily, three daughters and a grandson. B.P. Jebanesan

## School closed

Thiruvadinilai Tamil Mixed School and Kaddupulam Govt. Tamil Mixed School are now closed because people from these villages have evacuated. Schools in other parts of Valikamam West are functioning with poor attendance.

## 17th Anniversary of Kaddaiveli Church

Several events marked the 175 Anniversary celebrations of Kaddaiveli Methodist Church October, 1996. The celebrations began with the hoisting of flag.

On the 5th & 6th of October many activities were conducted for the children and youth of the church. On the 6th of October there was a special Thanksgiving Service. On the following day the 25th Anniversary of Ildakkurichchi Chapel was observed.

On Tuesday the 8th of October the First Anniversary of Manthigai Hospital Chapel was celebrated.

## Concrete Pillars to be made in Jaffna

Attempts are being made to make concrete pillars in Jaffna to restore electricity supply. Difficulty in bringing concrete pillars from Colombo and the non availability of wooden pillars have compelled the Electricity Board to make the concrete pillars in Jaffna.

## Congratulations

Miss. Sapna Arnold, daughter of Dr. R. K. Arnold, and Dr. (Mrs.) R.C. Arnold and grand daughter of Mrs. L. S. Arnold of Manipay, has passed the BSc Mathematics Degree examination of the London University with First Class Honours. She has passed in all the 8 subjects she offered with Distinction. She is also receiving a prize for excellence in applied mathematics. She is an old girl of Uduvil Girls College.

## Bitten by Crocodile -

Mr. K. Sithravel of Kayts lost his right hand while he was fishing in a tank at Kilinochchi. A crocodile came out of the tank and bit off his right hand. Mr. Sithravel is undergoing treatment in the Vavuniya hospital.

## Construction work delayed

Even though cement is now available in Jaffna construction work is greatly hampered because of the non availability of sand. The white sand which is a necessary ingredient for construction work is hard to obtain in Jaffna. Because of the transport difficulties people are unable to go to Kandavalai or Nagar Kovil to get the white sand.

## Lectures in Oriental Music and dance :

Lectures for the Bachelor of Music course and Bachelor Dance course commenced at the University of Jaffna on the 16th of September.

## Body sent to Colombo

The body of Rajani Velautham, aged 24 who died under mysterious circumstances at Kondavil was sent to Colombo on Sunday the 13th October. Rajani Velautham disappeared on her way from Manipay to Urumpirai. Her body was later found in a highly decomposed state behind a lavatory at Kondavil. Since the postmortem could not be conducted in Jaffna it was sent to Colombo. Rajani Velautham had obtained her visa to go to Canada but she disappeared while she was returning from Manipay where she went to say good bye to her Aunt. (UTHAYAN of 14.10.96).



# Jubilee

Gaining pride of place in this issue of the Morning Star is the Moderator. Bishop Dundin's letter to the members of the C.S.I. on the eve of the Jubilee Year. Dictionaries define the word "Jubilee" as a time of rejoicing, or the celebration of an anniversary but the wealth of meaning behind the term is found in the Book of Leviticus. The biblical Jubilee as it reveals itself in Leviticus Ch 25 conveys to us the profoundness of the term. It shatters existing understanding of the concept of Jubilee and focusses on new vision and a new way of life. God proclaims the 50th Year - the jubilee year - as a celebration and a time of rejoicing. One needs to seek to understand why God sees the jubilee year as a time of rejoicing. We read in Leviticus that the Jubilee year sees neither leader nor slave, nor rich nor poor. It speaks of economic stability, where there is no dominance, where there is freedom and a time free of trepidation. God envisages an equal human community in the Year of the Jubilee. This is the cause of rejoicing.

Isaiah in Chapter 11, speaks of the same concept in the beautiful word-picture that he paints for us, where the lion and the lamb lie peacefully together. It portrays a situation of equality. There is no mighty, nor is there the weak in God's vision for the world. Noone / nothing fears the existence of the other. It portrays perfect harmony between nature and humanbeings.

The concept of God's Jubilee Year is reiterated in Jesus' ministry. His preachnig and his very lifestyle exudes the jubilee concept. He further envisages an equal human community in the prayer that he taught us. "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us." There is no hatred, resentment or discontent in God's kingdom established on earth. The words "Give us this day our daily bread" urges us to adopt a lifestyle of having just enough. The Jubilee concept thus is packed into the Lord's prayer. It surely is the most beautiful prayer anyone ever prayed.

Jesus promised salvation to Zachcheus, because Zachcheus understood the meaning of jubilee, and was willing to implement the rules of the Jubilee year when he resolved to give away his wealth to the poor. Zachcheus saw salvation as something gained when there is no exploitation in society. He sees salvation in the sharing of resources. When one reads through the New Testament one sees the concept of the biblical jubilee knit into Jesus' ministry. Jesus preached the jubilee concept not only as a celebration but also as a lifestyle.

What is our commitment to the CSI Jubilee year in the light of Leviticus, Isaiah and the teachings of Jesus?

## Book Review : The Bible Trembled : The Hindu - Christian Controversies of Nineteenth Century Ceylon, by R.F. Young and S. Jebanesan (Publications of the De Nobili Research library, Vienna, Austria, 1995).

"The Bible trembled at the fierce battle engaged with Muttukumarak Kavirayar: the Bible fell down and lay unconscious when attacked by Navalar; and now it lies dead, smitten by Tamotaram Pillai."

This statement by the anti-Christian poet Capapati Navalar (1843-1903) not only provides a snappy title but also outlines briefly the content of this important work, provably the most important work on Jaffna society since Robert Thomas's volume, "Jaffna 1980."

The most enjoyable chapters in this well researched study are the second, on Daniel Poor and astronomy, and the last, on Arumuka Navalar. In his book, The State of Religions in Jaffna (1872), Navalar claims that "Most missionaries were of inferior social origins and unemployable in their own countries." Elsewhere in the essay he claims, "That Americans were.... serving Batticota seminary, which could not hold a candle to the government college in Madras and Kumbakonum. Why patronize them, "he asked," when better education could be gotten elsewhere?"

Young and Jebanesan, rather than entering into the polemics of the nineteenth century, let the historical facts speak for themselves.

Some of these facts include Navalar's severe criticism of Hindu practices in Jaffna: "Instead of devotionally, deities were worshipped in relationships of reciprocity, exchange, and even coercion." And much more. One is tempted to call him the Jeremiah of Nallur. Navalar's sermons sometimes lasted four hours! It is ironical that "more occurrences of the opprobrious epithets 'heathen' and 'polytheist', which had been proscribed in Madras... in 1847, are to be found in Navalar's strictures against the saivites of Jaffna than in the polemical writings of his Christian mentors".

That he was effective, if disliked, is admitted by the researchers : "were it not for the military conflagration now raging in the North, the changes he affected over the social and religious institutions of the peninsula might still be profound and abiding today."

On the other hand, it is to Tantotaram Pillai, baptized Charles Winslow Kingsbury, that the new cultural awakening of the Tamils of Jaffna is owed. This "Groundbreaking research into the history of Tamil literature" laid the foundations of this renaissance, for his "approach was philological and historicist rather than explicitly devotional."

The cultural awakening brought on by the history of religious controversy is certainly the most positive result, in which Christians too have been participating on equal terms in the twentieth century.

The authors also illuminate the years prior to the missionaries advent. It is sometimes thought that education did not exist before their arrival. For under the Dutch, opportunism was also rampant conversion for the sake of employment or legal activities. Schools were well attended.

I had never seen a history of the Vaddu Koddai Church that traced its origins to the Jesuit structure, the Assumption of Our Lady, later altered architecturally by Laurens Pyl, a Dutch, employment hopeful who had arrived in 1654 and then prospered, living next door to the church. The authors also cite a description of Vaddukoddai by one Phillipus Baldeus, from 1672, who said, "The people are very eager to hear God's word and number two thousand, the pupils vary from 8 to 900." But ABCFM missionaries could find none of these Christians in 1816.

The fascinating chapter on Daniel Poor, his telescope, and his accurate lunar eclipse prediction, explains how the missionaries gained the advantage with science education. "Several centuries of colonial domination had already resulted in a comparative familiarity with western civilization's values." Literacy ws already relatively high (One in four in males).

The missionaries tried to draw out the local brahmins in discussion, but were usually rebuffed. Why? "though from different castes, they put on the brahminical garb for the sake of influence and gain" and were therefore actually ignorant of their religion. Still, "one stated purpose of Batticota Seminary has been to provide education in the Vedic foundations of Hindusim...."

This did not deter missionaries like Levi Spaulding who wrote a scorching criticism, on festivals, contrasting "the uncontrolled exuberance of Hindu celebrations (with) the cerebral restraint of Protestant worship. "Hindus wasted resources on celebrations while the missionaries invested theirs in schools and hospitals," a theme which Navalar took up in his own castigation of local Hindu practices. Still, tracts like Spauldings, more often than not, were flown as kites!

Sharp eyed Hindu observers nevertheless made telling criticism of the missionaries' life style. "Missionaryism" became a key word, coined by a Unitarian known only as Harley. He wrote in 1846 that "the genius of missions (Jesus) no longer walks barefoot... she, years since, put on silver slippers, and has become an invited guest at the table of the rich..."

Looking more toward future developments, Young and Jebanesan cite Peter Percival, from the Wesleyan Methodist missionary Society, as plunging into Tamil studies, with "unbounded enthusiasm," reading the Tamil Mahabarata and mustering the Nannual grammar. "Impressed with the perspicacity and precision of the language, he declared that Tamil literature 'opened and enlarged' his mind. With the collaboration of Arumuka Navalar he revised the Tamil Bible between 1835 and 1850.

Despite the virtual closure of the seminary in 1855 and the Wise Folksongs of Muthukumarak Kavigar, who played on the fears of "anxious mothers of children attending Christian schools (and) who needed to be exorcised of that influence at home" (by women who sang and danced the songs), missionary education did go on to great success in Jaffna and still maintains the high standards of excellence at Jaffna College and Uduvil Girls College.

In their introduction the authors make a statement that might startle many a Sri Lankan. "The break down of precolonial and organic patterns of ethnic coexistence and even religio cultural interdependence was already well advanced during the period under review." Thus they also ask what prevented Buddhists and Hindus "living in not so distant opposite ends of a small island" from "closing ranks" against a common adversary, i.e. Christianity? In this connection we learn that Young and G.P.V. Somaratna are planning a second volume entitled **Vain Debates: The Buddhist Christian Controversies of Nineteenth Century Ceylon**.

I like the placement of the bibliography at the front of the book in the study at hand. And it has an index, a great aid! Although I had to search for a while to find Navalar, having forgotten his actual name between readings.

We owe Richard Young and Bishop S. Jebanesan a debt of gratitude for bringing to light the controversies and the participants in them between Christians and Hindus in the Jaffna Peninsula. It is an example of how a present peaceful coexistence was able to come about, and a mutually beneficial one at that. - Robert Porter.

## Man loses foot.

Mr. T. Thiagarajah (aged 57) lost his left foot while watering his flower plants in his house. He stepped on a Jonny mine while working in his garden, in Manipay South.

## Electricity for Analaitivu :

The Naval officers of Analaitivu have procured a generator to supply electricity for the island of Analaitivu. It is hoped that the villagers of Analaitivu too will benefit by the supply of electricity.

## Onion boom in Jaffna.

Onion production was very successful in Jaffna this year. Onions were cultivated in 500 Hectares. In certain areas one hundred weight of onions had given a yield of twelve hundred weights. Arrangements are being made to send 2000 met. tons of onions to Colombo.



## Diocesan Festival 1996

The Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India conducted its Annual Festival at Vaddukoddai on Saturday the 28th of September. The Communion Service commenced at 8.30 a.m. in the Cathedral Church. At this service, two persons who studied at the Christian Theological Seminary, Maruthanamadam were ordained deacons. Messrs. Arulanantham Thevagunanathan, Worker - In Charge, Alaveddy & Sandilipay Churches and Arulannatham Kingsley Surendra, Worker - In Charge, Erlalai North and Erlalai South Churches became deacons of the Diocese. The sermon at this festival was preached by the Rev. D. R. Ampalavanar, who is now residing at Vaddukoddai with a few seminary students. The candidates were presented by the Rev. P.J. Suriakumar and A. V. Jesuthasan. The authorization of the diocese for the ordaining of the candidates was read by the Rev. P. R. Navendranugoolan. The litany of prayers was by the Rev. Milton Solomon. Revds. P.J. Suriakumar, T.H. Vasanthakumar, **Calendar of the J.D.C.S.I.**

The Calendar of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India is now being printed at the American Ceylon Mission Press, Vaddukoddai. It is hoped that this calendar will be released for the use of the church members during the first week of November 1996.

### Jaffna Schools reopen

The schools in Jaffna reopened on Monday the 16th of September for the Third Term. However, the Schools where GCE A/L Examinations were conducted will reopen only on the 25th of September.

### Centenary celebrations of Nunavil Church

The CSI Church in Nunavil celebrated its centenary on Tuesday the 17th September. At the Communion Service Bishop S. Jebanesan was the celebrant. Rev. D.C. Ratnasingam preached the sermon. The Communion Service was followed by a public meeting and a fellowship lunch.

Nunavil was a part of the Chavakachcheri church from 1834 to 1896. In 1896 Nunavil became a separate church with a separate church building, parsonage and an ordained minister. Rev. Abraham served as the first minister of Nunavil church.

### New Entry point to Jaffna

The Government has decided to open another Entry Point to the Govt. Controlled areas in the Peninsula. This entrance will be set up at Urumpirai and will come into effect from Monday the 14th October, 1996.

S. I. Anandarajan and Benjamin Jeyarajah assisted the Bishop in the Communion Service.

After the ordination, the members assembled at the Ottley Hall to felicitate the Rt. Rev. Dr. D.J. Ambalavanar, former Bishop of the Diocese and Dr. (Miss) C. V. Selliah, Principal, Uduvil Girls' College, on their obtaining doctoral degrees. The meeting was presided over by Bishop Jebanesan. Miss Thangammah Appakuddy, the Saivite Leader of Jaffna, Dr. Saba Jeyaraj, Senior Lecturer in Education, University of Jaffna, Mr. K. Kumaravel, Economics Teacher, Jaffna College and Mrs. K. Bavasingam, In - service advisor, Tamil Teachers spoke at this function. Representatives of various congregations and institutions garlanded the new doctors. This was followed by a fellowship lunch at Levi Spaulding Boys' Home, Vaddukoddai where about 600 people participated.

### Dorothy Solle in Mutanfalle (Courage Attacks).

\* p. 121 By the way, the money that only on one day was consumed in the Gulf war, would have been enough to provide clean water for everyone in the little Country of Peru.

\* p. 125 Asked of a group of women professors: Do you have any sort of hope (that peace can be achieved)? "Well, you know, its like jazz, good jazz music, never high on the hit lists, never very popular but always there, not to be beaten down, this attempt to play a different sort of music, more beautiful and a little more intelligent than that which we hear every day."

\* p. 175 Henry Kissinger said in Guatemala once, "You can't buy peace." True peace can't be bought, but chemical weapons to be used against civilians certainly can be torture training in Panama, or the counter insurgency and the propaganda battle of the C.I.A. What can be "bought" is worldwide militarization and all its consequences."

"In the last year the poor countries have transferred more money to the rich ones than they have received in development aid. The question is, whether any hope at all remains for those in misery, after an analysis of the "Third World". Must they play the role of raw material deliverers and cheap slave laborers forever? Must they give their countries up to military bases or toxic waste repositories, their children to prostitution?" (*Dorothy Solle (A German Theologian)*)

## Diocesan Council 1996

The 49th Annual Meeting of our Diocese took place on Friday the 27th of September, 1996 in the Ottley Hall, Jaffna College. Even though many pastors and church delegates were held up in Colombo, the Council was well attended and important decisions were made. Since the Secretary the Rev. C.T. Roberts was in Colombo, Mr. N. A. Vimalendran was elected Pro - Tem Secretary of the Council. The Bishop then declared the Forty- Ninth Council was constituted and gave the Bishop's Charge on the text Ps. 66: 12 "Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; We went through fire and through and through water; But thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place."

Votes of Condolence were passed on the death of the following and two minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect for the departed souls.

Mr. S. S. Selvadurai by Mr. A. Rajasingam, Miss G. R. Chellappah by the Rev. D.C. Ratnasingam, Mr. J. C. Paul by Mr. S. R. Jesupalan, and Mr. Kirupairajah Chelliah by the Rev. D. R. Ampalavanar.

Reports of the following Boards and Committees were read and accepted:

Christian Children's Fund of Canada, The Morning Star, American Ceylon Mission Press, Clergy Pension Fund, Buildings & Property, Uduvil Girls College, Music Committee, Medical Board, Christian Theological Seminary, Bishop Sabapathy Kulandran Foundation, Varany Mission Farm and Varany Mission Sales Centre.

Our delegates who attended the meetings abroad gave brief reports of the meetings.

(a) Synod of the Church of South India - 1996 by Mr. G. Rajanayagam (b) Jaffna College Board of Trustees - by Dr. (Miss) C. V. Selliah (c) Christian Conference of Asia- Tenth General Assembly by The Rt. Dr. S. Jebanesan

The following resolutions were unanimously passed at the 49th Council:

(a) No Pastor, no Church committee shall solicit any fund from outside, other than for their own Church needs from their own Church members.

(b) All projects for relief, rehabilitation and development will be undertaken only by the Diocese and not by individual congregations.

(c) Clerical and lay delegates from our Diocese to the synod of the Church of South India shall not participate in more than two consecutive Synods of the C. S. I.

The Following were elected office- bearers for the year 1996/ 97:

Secretary: Mr. N. A. Vimalendran

Treasurer: Mr. C. Jayaratnam

To the Executive Committee:

The Rev. A.V. Jesuthasan,

Mr. S. J. Manickam,

Mr. S. Thevanathan and

Mrs. K. Mahendrakumar

Representatives of Jaffna College Board of Directors:

The Rev. C. T. Roberts (1 year) and Mr. V. Mithira Ranjan (3 Years).

Uduvil Girls' College Board:

Mr. C. Jayaratnam and The Rev. V. Rajkumar.

Medical Board:

Miss S. P. Gulasingam,

Mr. S. R. Jesupalan,

The Rev. Milton Solomon,

Mr. G. Rajanayagam and

Mr. V. Mithira Rajan.

Bible Society :

Mrs. Vasanthy Rajaratnam

U.T. C. Bangalore:

The Bishop and

The Rev. A. Jeyakumaran

C.M.C. Vellore: Dr. (Mrs.)

C. Ambalavanar and

Medical Board representative

The following were appointed:

Treasurer, Clergy Pension Fund : Mr. A. Jeyarajan.

Director, Religious Education Board (South of Elephant pass) :

Mrs. T. Thiagarajah

Director Religious Education Board (Peninsula) : Mr. G. Rajanayagam.

Manager, Uduvil Girls' College: Mr. A. Rajasingam

Managing Editor, The Morning Star (Tamil Edition): Mr. G. Nadarajah

Youth Hostel Committee: Mr. C.D. Chinnakone,

Mrs. Vasanthy Rajaratnam,

Mr. K. D. Arasaratnam,

The Rev. S. Jeyanesan,

Mr. J. Jeyakumaran.

Mr. A. Gnanadas.

Treasurer of the A.C. M. / his proxy

As chairman Bishop of the Diocese/ his proxy,

Pastor, Colombo Church

Manager of the Youth Hostel and

Treasurer Mr. M. R. Sevarajah.