

18 FEB 1998

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

THE EDITOR,

The Morning Star,
Diocesan Office,
Vaddukodai

THE MORNING STAR

Registered as a Newspaper at the General Post Office, Sri Lanka

Under No.Q/J/104/News/1

Established : 1841 : A Christian Weekly : Published Every Friday

Vol: 157

January, 1998

No. 01

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

Subscription
Island : Rs.100/-
For Advertisements

Apply to:

THE MANAGER

The Morning Star,
Diocesan Office,
Vaddukodai

A New Year Message from Bishop S. Jebanesan

"For getting the past, and looking forward to what lies ahead I strain to reach the end of the race"

Phillipians 3:13.

In his course through life St. Paul underwent many experiences. Some were joyful. Some were not. At one time he had been persecuting the Christians. Later when he became an apostle of Christ, the Jews persecuted him. The senior apostles were suspicious of him. He had several grievences. But this supreme servant and interpreter of Christ was not a grievance collector. An ordinary person would have been relating his sorrows to his wife or Pastor or his circle of friends. But St Paul chose to forget the past.

There is a story about an old man on the merry-go-round. He went to a Carnival and sat on the horse of a merry-go-round. He was very sad but he did not want to get down from the merry-go-round. On being asked he said the owner of the merry-go-round owed him five thousand rupees. Till his dues were squared up he would go on the merry-go-round. This man could not forget the past. He was only harming himself and the neighbours.

Some years ago Sundara Ramasamy wrote an excellent short story in Tamil. The title of the story was "The train runs on the rail tracks. In this story, Sundara Ramasamy was telling about a train's movement. The passengers of the train are in different states of mind. Some were going to the funeral of their loved ones. Some were going for medical treatment suffering from dreadful diseases. Some were rejoicing going home for their holidays. Some were dancing being intoxicated by liquor. Some were going for their weddings. But the train did not show any feeling "DUCK DAHADADA DUCK, DAHADADA DUCK". The rhythm does not change. It went on its course unmoved by the various incidents. This is the spirit of a true "Karmayogi".

In our youth we would have been like express trains later like passenger trains and afterwards slow like goods trains. But we strain to reach the end. In the year 1997 we experienced many things. Be let us forget the past, and reach out like a true servant of Christ to receive the prize for which God is calling us.

Combined Christmas Carol Service at Uduvil Girls College

The combined Christmas Carol Service was held at Uduvil Girls College on the 6th of December 1997 at 9.30 a.m. Many schools took part in this grand programme. The musical arrangements were of the highest standard. Colleges that participated were Uduvil Girls College, Jaffna College, Manipay Hindu College, Manipay Memorial, Skandavarodaya, Union College, Mahajana College, St. Annes Convent, Illavalai Convent and the Seminary. Assembling so many colleges on one stage is in itself a great achievement.

Jaffna College Tamil Carol Service

Jaffna College held its Tamil Carol Service on the 7th of December 1997 at the Cathedral Church, Vaddukodai.

The Twelve Days of Christmas and the Eternal God

We celebrate Christmas on December 25th. The celebration proceeds to twelve days from December 25th - January 6th. January 6th has been celebrated as 'Epiphany' - the visit of the three wise men to the stable to pay their homage and adoration to the Christ child.

Christmas is a Jewish event; the manger birth and the visit of the

Rev. S. S. Karunairaj
The Methodist Church,
Jaffna.

local shepherds. Here is Jesus, the glory of his people - Israel.

Epiphany the coming of wise men, is a world event. Here is Jesus a light to lighten the Gentiles.

The Greek word the epiphany means 'to show forth'. The Epiphany is followed by weeks of 'the showing forth' of Christ, additionally, we sing Christmas anthems and hymns that Christ is born. But very suddenly in between the twelve days of Christmas and Epiphany comes January 1st the New Year. We Christians greet the new year dawn with the hymn 'O God our help in ages past' by Isaac Watts, 1674 - 1748. It is one of the finest English hymns based on Psalm 90. Originally the hymn 'Our God our help in ages past', but John Wesley changed the 'Our' to 'O' and now most hymn books adopt this. There were nine stanzas but three stanzas were dropped and the shorter is better. Its familiar tune 'St Anne' was composed by William Croft, sometime organist of St. Anne's Soho, and later of Westminster Abbey.

Dr. Benjamin Jowett of Master Balliol College, Oxford, once asked a company of dons to write down on a slip of paper a list of what they regarded as the finest English hymns. The result was surprising. Each of the lists contained only one hymn and in every case it was the same 'O God our help in ages past'.

This hymn was written about the year 1714 when Britain was facing a political crisis. Queen Anne was nearing her end. She had no heir and there was widespread anxiety in the nation about the future, especially regarding the Protestant succession.

In such troubled times Watts wrote his famous lines in order to allay the people's fears and forebodings. From the very outset



Jaffna College the nucleus of higher education in Sri Lanka reaches another symbolic mile stone in its history. A Christian Institution built on the sweat and blood, starvation, devotion and determination and sacrifice embodied with dedication of the early Missionaries is moving towards its 175th Anniversary this year. Our forefathers journeyed in 1816 to a tiny hamlet called Batticotta with a vision and achieved their mission and today it is a reality. A success story of 175 years.

Jaffna College in commemoration of this unique and independent achievement and in reminiscence of our founding fathers has decided to focus and dedicate all its activities of this year on this memorable moment of the College Calendar.

Jaffna College has alleviated the spiritual and social poverty, educational and economical voidness of the people of Jaffna for the past 175 years.

Jaffna College has elaborate plans to make this special

(Contd. to page 4)

(Contd. page 4)

THE MORNING STAR

Established: 1841

Diocesan Office, Vaddukoddai.

Volume: 157

January, 1998

No. 1

From the Editor's Desk

The dawn of a new year hopefully should bestow upon the children of this earth the richest of Heavenly Blessings, Prosperity and most of all PEACE from our Almighty God. The events of the past four decades of this land does not convey the fulfilment of these blessings in abundance. Commercial Blessings is the order of the day liberally spread in our daily tabloids during the festive season. Prosperity YES. Richness YES. But PEACE No. An occasional brief look, a glimpse of peace. Thus far, no further. Can there be ever prosperity and richness without total PEACE? Anything and everything that unites against peace destroys not only the progress and prosperity of a nation but even goes to the extent to which it shakes the roots, breaks the foundation and ruins the democratical and economical infrastructure of a nation. When Democracy is lost all is lost.

Nations are divided by colour; nations are divided by religion. Nations are divided by tribal, racial and cultural differences. But our little country for almost a period of fifty years has been divided by WORDS. Today we see and experience the adversity of it all. We see WORDS at WAR. WAR by WORDS. WAR with WORDS. WORDS against WORDS. The verbal misadventure this country is engaged in has no limitations, has no gain and sadly seems to reach no end.

Today this war of the two languages has gone beyond human boundaries. It has reached a realm where no one seems to realise the gravity of the situation or refuse to acknowledge the core of the matter and do not possess the human compassion or the capacity to understand or envisage the eternally turbulent pit, the hell this Island of paradise is gradually falling into.

This crisis has given birth to many elements and agents that thrive very hard to keep Peace away from this land. It is a pleasure for some when people perish. Some employ all methods including religion to continue this battle of the languages. This war has become an ideal tool to achieve personal success in the political arena, the status-quo in the financial world, the highest positions in the Judicial and (educational), Academic System and advancement in State Departments. This war is the ladder to reach the highest echelons of the land and in general the unique weapon to total prosperity.

The War Lords who master mind these hostilities between two words - languages, not only militarily, help immensely to create a perfect playground for international politics of the supreme powers.

It is an accepted norm that the International Powers do not cherish Economic growth, Industrial Development, Financial prosperity leading to national stability of any Third World country independently. Their motto reads, Beggars should always be Beggars. It is a fact that Sri Lanka is methodically and gradually walking towards total prosperity in all fields. But would she achieve all its goals and preserve them without PEACE is the question.

I wonder whether scholastical brilliance, oratorical and verbal excellence political strategies, military operations could ever bring in PEACE. Packages only create confusion, contradictions and suspicions in the minds of the people. The truth is LAW Makers are not PEACE Makers Justice cannot reign when PEACE is in ruins.

Our Lords word says, 'Blessed are the Peace makers; for they shall be called the Children of God.' Matthew 5: 9. To be called the Children of God and become the Peace makers of this land we have to be Poor in Spirit; Be Meek; must hunger and thirst after righteousness; be Pure in heart, be prepared to be persecuted for righteousness sake, To end this war between two words - languages, to unite these two words into ONE, there is only one word JESUS. Only JESUS can offer you the PEACE that passeth all understanding. HE is the Bridge to unite these two words. Only JESUS can give PEACE to this land of ours.

The Venerable

Vethanayaga Sastriar

the Tamil Christian

Poet of Tanjore



The Tamil Christian Church observes the 24th January as Vethanayaga Sastriar day. It was on this day in 1864 the first Protestant Christian Poet of Tamil Nadu died.

Vethanayaga Sastriar was a Lutheran, brought up and educated by the great German Missionary Fredrick Shwartz. Vethanayaga Sastriar had the great fortune of living and studying in the Palace of Tanjore because Fredrick Shwartz was also the teacher of SERFOJEE the crown prince of Tanjore.

When Vethanayaga grew up he found the Tamil Christians were totally ignorant of carnatic music and were worshiping God in Western Hymns rendered into poor Tamil. He addressed himself to the task of composing Tamil Lyrics, meditations and Tamil Christian

plays. The following are the important works of Vethanayaga Sastriar.

JEBAMALAI
GNANAPATHA LYRICS
BETHLEHEM KURAVANCHI
PERINPA KATHAL
THIYANA PULAMBAL
ARANATHINTHAM
GNANAWULA
PARAPARAN MALAI
SASTRA KUMMI

Vethanayaga Sastriar died at the age of ninety. His children were Noah Gnanathicam, Elijah Thevasihmany and Manonmany. After the demise of Vethanayaga Sastriar the title Sastriar was conferred on his two sons.

Installation of Computer E Mail

The Executive Committee of the JDCSI which met on Monday the 29th December decided to install E. Mail facility at Church office 39, Fussels Lane, Colombo 6. Mr. J. Jeyakumar the treasurer of the Colombo church was authorised to make the necessary arrangements to install this facility.

Extension of Vavunia Church

St. Peters Church was broadened to accommodate the increasing number of worshippers at this Church. The extension work was completed before the advent season of 1997.

Arthur C. Clarke Knighted

Sri Lanka's most famous British resident Dr. Arthur C. Clarke has been awarded a knighthood for services to literature by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in her New Year's Honours List, a British High Commission press release said yesterday.

Warmest Congratulations

Chrstitmas

Programme

at Delft

Annual Christmas tree of the Delft Day Care Centre was celebrated on December 18th. The Rev. N. T. Jeyanesan presided over the function. The Chief Guest was The Rev. A. A. Paul Vice - Principal Jaffna College and the Honourary Guest was Mr. V. Mithranjan Project Director J. D. C. S. I. The Hindu Priest, A. G. A. Delft, Divisional Director of Education Delft also spoke at the function.

The programme which was of very high standard was directed by the Warden Mrs Anushya Krishnakumar.

On 20th the University Christian Students Movement conducted a Carol Singing Programme under the direction of Rev Milton Solomon. The Levi Spaulding Boys Home children and Delft Maha Vidyalayam students staged two dramas 'MANAMATRAM' and 'OLIYA THEDI'.

Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. D. J. Ambalavanar

The Sprit and Vision of Rev. Dr. Daniel Poor

The passing away of Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. D. J. Ambalavanar has created a void in the minds and hearts of the Tamil Community. His loss cannot be forgotten because he has made such an impression among us that, we think, speak and act as he nurtured us. The peace of Bishop D. J. Ambalavanar is present in all of us. His courage, his vision and his charismatic personality hovers around the Jaffna Peninsula. Anyone who has met him will never forget him in their lives

love in the midst of the last lost and the least in our community, so with Bishop D. J. Ambalavanar. The Housing Schemes, the Day Care Centres, the Children's Homes are a witness to his love in action. It was difficult for us to confront him without doing our own task. He often says that we must not cry over spilt milk but find new cows. By his vocational training projects he has taught people not only how to live but also how to make a living

The passer-by inquired from the second man, The second man said "I am working for my living". When inquired the third man answered "I am building St. Paul's Cathedral.

So God calls us to be co-workers in his vineyard BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD. Hence, it is our bounded duty to continue the unfinished agenda as a token of our love and our gratitude for him.

G. Rajanayagam

Principal, Jaffna College, Vaddukodai

He would have made such an imperishable impression by his wisdom and clarity of thinking which emanates from deep religious convictions. He never hesitated to do God's will whatever the problems and discouragement confronted him.

Whenever he starts a new project his lips would say 'If God's willing.' He trusted many of his co-workers who themselves have inherited his supreme qualities. Just as Dr Daniel Poor activated God's

The respect and the praise is not verbal but instantaneously comes out of our natural awareness of his lofty ideals.

God has created and sent people of his calibre to prophesy and to do God's will in order to build the Kingdom of God.

Some men were engaged in the building of St. Paul's Cathedral, London. A passer-by asked one of the men what are you doing, "The first man answered "I am cutting stones".

Once he said that a friend had heard of the activities of William Booth in the Salvation Army, and wanted to see his graveyard in London. He went to the cemetery, knelt down and started repeating the same words. His friend was a little disturbed, went close to him and wanted to listen to what he was repeatedly saying. The words were "Lord do it again",

The prayer for us at this time is "Lord do it again",

May his soul rest in Peace.

CHRISTMAS

PROGRAMMES IN JAFFNA

Children Home Christmas Day

Our boys and girls from the Children Homes from the Northern Peninsula celebrated their Christmas Day in a very grand scale at the Maruthanamadam Women Centre on the 23-rd of December 1997. The worship service was conducted by Rev. T. Devanesan, then followed the cultural programmes at the main auditorium. 'CHRISTMAS GIFT' a play presented by the students of the Christian Theological Seminary kept the audience spellbound. This play is the Tamil version of the famous 'Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens.

Institute of Agriculture Celebrates Christmas

Jaffna College Institute of Agriculture, Maruthanamadam held their annual Christmas Celebrations on the 25-th December 1997 on a lavish scale. Religious programmes in the form of dramas, musical shows and carol singing were staged. Mr. T. Kugathasan, Principal of the Institute was the Chief Guest at this function.

CAROL SERVICE IN NORTH

The 46-th Annual Festival of Carol Singing by the Youths of the North took place at the Peter Memorial Hall St. John's College, Jaffna on Saturday the 15-th of

November 1997 at 10.00 a. m. This excellent programme was well arranged and conducted and appreciated by all.

Keep Christ in Christmas

The theme of the Annual Carols presented by the choirs of Cuandikuli Girls' College and St. John's College, on the 9-th of November 1997 at St. John the Baptist Church, Chundikuli at 3.30 p.m.

God of the Uprooted

Christain Theological Seminary, Maruthanamadam presented the birth of CHRIST with a musical worship service "God of the Uprooted" on the 13-th of December 1997 at Maruthanamadam. This Tamil Carol Service was inspiring to the soul and rekindling to the spirit.

Church of South India

Golden Jubilee

The Golden Jubilee which was to be celebrated on the 15-th of October last year, would be celebrated on the 28-th of February 1998.

Secretary JDCSI

From the Anglican Church

A Service of remembrance and thanksgiving for the Life, Ministry and Witness of The Rt Rev. Jabez Jebasir Gnana-pragasam (12-th Bishop of the Diocese of Colombo, Church of Ceylon) was held at St John's Church, Chundikuli, Jaffna on Saturday, 23 rd November 1997.

An Act of Compassion

Sir Arthur C. Clarke gives Rs. 50,000 to Varapragash Fund

Sir Arthur C. Clarke Vice Chancellor of the Moratuwa University has contributed Rs. 50,000 to the Varapragash Fund of the University of Peradeniya.

The University of Peradeniya established this special fund to meet the expenditure incurred to provide medical attention and hospitalisation to S. Varapragash, the victim of harassment and torture (ragging) at the hands of senior uudergraduates. Varapragash died in a private hospital.

The University authorities have expressed their deep appreciation made by Sir Clarke

Didn't He Shine

Jaffna College, Vaddukodai presented a lively evening of beautifully arranged melodious carol singing on the 23-rd of November 1997 at the Cathedral Church, Vaddukodai. The tableau presentation along with the carol singing gave a new fervour to the performance.

The Twelve Days

(Contd. from Page 1)

the hymn is a strong and vibrant affirmation of faith; faith in the eternal God and his sufficiency in every time of need,

'O God our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home,'

This stanza helps us to fix our whole attention on God. It takes us away from our fears.

We as a society met turbulent times. We have gone through perilous and critical years. There were bombs and shells blasting before us. We were uprooted from our own abodes. Virtually lost many of our loved ones and our material things too in the nasty war.

We face an unknown future and God is our hope. As the hymn writer along with the Psalmist, speaks about man and God, time and eternity, faith and fear. Let us make our pledge that God will not fail us in the years to come. He is our faithful God utterly dependable in every circumstance of life.

In between the twelve days of Christmas we celebrate the new year focussing on the eternal God. It is so fitting to show forth the Christ, the universal gift from God for the days to follow. Let us humbly walk before God showing forth the Christ. The time will roll us into new events and new tasks demand our attention. Let us commit ourselves and pin our hopes in the eternal God.

(Contd. from page 1)

anniversary a memorable occasion

1. This year's College Miscellany would be a special Number in dedication to our beloved late Bishop The Rt. Rev. Dr. D. J. Ambalavanar.

2. A souvenir to commemorate the 175th Anniversary
3. An exhibition.
4. Printing of special envelopes, Time Tables, Calendars and many more.

Editor

AN INVITATION

Morning Star invites you to walk down memory lane, pause think, touch your heart and share with us in words your love, attachment, experience — your life — with Jaffna College.

Editor



OBITUARIES

Miss Emily Arulasamalar Thambimuttu

Miss Emily Arulasamalar Thambimuttu (Kitchi) of Erlalai North, dearly beloved daughter of the late Mr. & Mrs W. H. Thambimuttu, loving sister of Ranji Kanagasundaram, Sugirham Dayanandan, Sister-in-law of the late Victor Kanagasundaram and Dayanandan, aunt of Ranji, Rajini (Canada), Ranjithakumar (Denmark), Joy Sugirthanathan (Canada), mother-in-law of Balendra Shanthakumar (Canada), Bavitharani (Denmark), grand mother of Venusha, Rajeev, Sarah, Rishok, Praveen and Sharana entered glory on the 27-th of December 1997.

The funeral service was conducted at her residence on the 28-th December 1997 at 10.00 a.m. The burial took place at the CSI church, Erlalai North.

We notify all relatives and friends of this bereavement.

Mr. R. Kokularajah

Mr. R. Kokularajah, a member of CSI church, Chavakachchi and a former student of Levi Spaulding Hostel, died under tragic circumstances while bath in the Sivan temple pond on Wednesday the 24-th of December 1997. His remains were buried at the Chavakachcheri burial grounds.

SERVICE OF THANKGIVING

A Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving was held for the Life, Ministry and Witness of The Rt. Rev. Dr. D. J. Ambalavanar—second Bishop of the Jaffna Diocese of The Church of South India at the Cathedral Church, Vaddukoddai on Sunday the 16th of November, 1997 at 3.00 p.m. The service was conducted by Bishop The Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan. The large gathering solemnly joined in praising, thanking and glorifying our Almighty God in songs and prayers for all the mighty deeds HE has performed through and by HIS faithful servant The Life of testimony and the dedicated Di-

ceship of our Late Bishop offered to us [also a definite hope in death,

'I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing''

2 Timothy : 4 : 7, 8

May Lord JESUS be his Eternal Rest and the Strength and Comfort of his family.



In Loving Memory of
My Precious Mother

MARGARET SORNAM WELCH

At Rest : 6th December 1968

She submitted her life to God and every season of her motherhood served his eternal purposes.

Your undying love is always my strength.

Ranee

The 26-th Session of the Synod of the CSI Meets

The CSI Synod Executive Committee would hold its sessions from the 13th of January to the 17th of January at Rayal Seema in the Telungu Pradesh, India. At these sessions Election of office Bearers for the next biennium would take place. It is reliably understood that Bishop of North Karnataka Rt. Rev. Dr. Vasant Dandin and Bishop of Coimbatore Rt. Rev. William Moses would contest for the post of Moderator, and the post of Deputy Moderator would be contested by Bishop of East Kerala Rt. Rev. K. J. Samuel and Madak Bishop Rt. Rev. P. P. Suanthar. The last sessions of the Synod was conducted from 11-th of January to the 16th January 1996 at Coimbatore.

ORDINATION

The Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan, Bishop in Jaffna of the Church of South India ordained Rev. T. E. Asok Kumar - in charge of the Pandetterippu Church. Rev. N. T. Jayanesan in charge of the Delft Church as Presbyters of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India at the Cathedral Church Vaddukoddai on the 22nd of November 1997 at 9.00 a.m.

Human Rights Commission opens office in Jaffna

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka opened its Jaffna regional office on Thursday, January 8, at No. 20, Somasundaram Avenue, Chundikuli.

The Jaffna office was declared open by Mr. T. Suntharalingam, Member of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka at a simple ceremony, which was attended by Mr. Javid Yusuf, Member of the Human Rights Commission, the Additional Government Agent, Jaffna, Mr. Thuraipah Vythilingam, other government officers and representatives of NGOs working in Jaffna.



Wedding Bells

The marriage of Rev. S. I. Anandaraman, Pastor of CIS Church, Varany to Miss Ameshia Kirubaraj at the St. Peter's Methodist Church on Monday the 17-th of November 1997.