

NEWS AND ARTICLES

TO BE SENT TO

ENGLISH } Editor
THAMIL }

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THE MORNING STAR

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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
17, FRANCIS ROAD,
COLOMBO 6

Golden Jubilee Year J.D.C.S.I. 1947-1997 - American Ceylon Mission (1816)

Wanted Moral Re-armament

The Riviresa operations are now over. The Tamil people no doubt underwent a gigantic upheaval. Some people call it "The Baptism of fire". People blamed the warring parties for their predicament. Some held that it was fate and it was destined that they should take the bitter cup.

It was a critical and crucial period in the history of our people. Generations to come will remember this traumatic experience. But our future as a nation depends on how we meet the challenges of this period.

It is nauseating and also annoying to see the behavior of some of our people in the war torn areas. Greed, avarice and dishonesty were rampant. Jaffna man always prided over his honesty and truthfulness. The man who was "Perfect and upright and feared God and eschewed evil" was greatly respected in the Jaffna society. The Jaffna man looked down at the others as deceitful and untrustworthy. From time immemorial Saints, Scholars and Social Reformers had been living in Jaffna and guiding the people like the Prophets of the Old Testament. Arumuganavalar, Sangarapandithar and Yoga Swamy were great moralists. Jaffna also had the fortune of many years of Missionary Labour both Roman Catholic and Puritan. It was the Citadel of Tamil Culture and Religion in Sri Lanka. But what we see in the present time compels us to "put on sack cloth and sit in ashes." We wonder whether the war situation has affected the thinking and behavioural patterns of our people as there seems to be a sudden deterioration in the character of our society.

The outbreak of hostilities in July 1995 made many people leave their homes suddenly taking the barest minimum with them. It is a common site neighbours taking mean advantage of

the situation when the inhabitants flee in fear. "That which is pulled of the burning house is your gain" is a Tamil Proverb. It looks as if many people have become so irresponsible that they truly believe that whatever flicked from the other man's house is his gain. From the vacant houses at first the valuables are removed, then the furniture and cooking utensils are carried away. The loot continues. The doors, windows, beams, rafters, tiles and even bricks are pulled out of the house. In some cases plants and trees of the neighbouring houses are also cut down.

Apart from the economic devastation caused by this dismal act, the attitude of our people make us wonder whether the gigantic upheaval was really a baptism of fire or whether it was a period in which our inferior qualities came to the surface. Arumuganavalar once said "From injustice (Adharma) justice (Dharma) does not grow." As Tamil people we cherish the moral code given by Valluvar. People call it the Tamil Veda. Valluvar said.

"The study of kindness and the attainment of love (to it) is not with those who watch for another's forgetfulness, through desire of his property."

More than anything else we need moral re-armament at this juncture. We need social reformers who can cure the sick society. Let us ask God to give us men of courage and wisdom in this perilous times because any sin is a revolt against the God. The psalmist said

"Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest". - S.J.

A quote for today -- 12 February 1997 -- Lincoln's and Charles Darwin's birthday -- from the UCC calendar of prayer IN MISSION 1996/97:

On February 12, 1995, First Congregational Church, UCC, in Rochester Michigan, commissioned two of its members, Jan Salsberry and Gail Smith Barker as missionaries to Africa. During the next two months they served refugees from Rwanda who had fled to Zaire. They were placed by the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church which, like the United Church of Christ places volunteers in service in the U.S. and abroad. "Before

going to Africa and after they returned they made many presentations within the congregation, Rochester and the Detroit Metropolitan area," writes the Rev. A. Chandler Handley. "We supported their ministry with financial contributions, prayer and profound concern. It made a distant human tragedy and the staggering need of so many persons up front and personal for those of us privileged to experience it through the minds, hearts and spirits of Gail and Jan."

Worship begins at Pandaterippu Church

Pandaterippu Church which was closed after the outbreak of hostilities in 1990 is now open for services. Even though many parishoners are still staying outside Pandaterippu they meet on Sundays for worship. Our Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan preached at this church on Sunday the 26th January. It was also decided to restore the parsonage and make it habitable for Rev. D. C. Ratnasingam who is now living at Lock wood House, Vaddukodai.

Keerimalai Hindu Priest permitted to visit his Temple

Naguleswara Kurukkal, the Chief Hindu Priest of Naguleswara Temple at Keerimalai was permitted to see his Temple on Wednesday the 22nd of January. Keerimalai had been under army occupation from the time of outbreak of hostilities in 1990. It has been reported that many important statues have been removed from this historic temple.

Acute shortage of B C G

B C G the Anti-Tuberculosis vaccine is not available at Government Manthikai Hospital. New born babies and mothers are discharged from the hospital without the administration of this vaccine.

"SCHOOLS THAT NURTURE TALENT AND AWAKEN A SPARK OF CURIOSITY, NECESSARY"

(Jaffna special corr)

"TODAY we are living in an environment enveloped with tension and fear on one end and talks of peace on the other end. The urgent problem that torments everyone of us today is to find a solution to pave the way for an enduring peace in our country. It is also the most critical problem facing the nations of the world. It may not be possible to completely eradicate tension but at least efforts should be made to keep the tension within safe bounds," said Dr. Miss C. V. Selliah, Principal, Uduvil Girls' College, Chunnakam, while presenting her annual report at the prize giving of the school.

Mr. A. Rajasingham, Manager of the school presided, while Divisional Director of Education Zone 2, A. Ratnarajah, and his wife were the chief guests.

Dr. (Miss) Selliah said, "We must redouble our efforts to create an educational system that will provide the maximum individual fulfilment for each Sri Lankan. We need an educational system that will lift them. We need schools that would nurture their talents and awaken a spark of curiosity and eagerness in them to learn. There are thousands of boys and girls who are 'fallouts' and 'left outs' from our schools who could easily be nurtured to make full use of their talents.

"This is a special year for Uduvil. It marks the 200th birthday of our

founder principal Mrs. Harriet Winslow. As we trace the growth of the school from its humble beginnings in 1824 with two girls through its steady growth to the present position as a school catering to the educational, cultural and religious needs of the children, we cannot but bow in respect to the dedication, sacrifice and selfless service of our founders and those who kept the high ideals of the founders without flagging. It is the seed planted by Mrs. Winslow 172 years ago that has now grown in strength and stature accomplishing great things at Uduvil."

Continuing she said "The first fruits gathered in higher education have been rewarding. The school presented its first batch of 14 students for the Bachelor of Arts Degree (Jaffna University) and all of them were successful. The physical training squads, under 15, 17 and 19, entered the inter-school competition last year and all three teams were placed first at the circuit and zonal levels. At the district level all three teams fared very well securing two first places and one fourth place. Uduvil scored the highest number of points and was placed first among the 72 school team that took part in the inter-school drill squad competition. The school was awarded the championship trophy.

Mrs. Ratnarajah distributed the prizes.

Obituary

THAMBINAYAGAM ROBERT THAVANAYAGAM

Mr. Thambinayagam Robert Thavanayagam, son of the late Mr. J. V. Thambinayagam, Former Principal, Drieberg College, Chavakachcheri and Mrs. Thambinayagam died on Sunday the 26th of January 1997. The funeral took place at his residence at Tholpuram on Monday the 27th of January. The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Earl P. Solomons. Bishop. Jebanesan, who was a former student of Drieberg College gave the funeral oration. The remains were then taken to Vaddukoddai Cemetery for interment where the committal rites were performed by the Rev. D. C. Ratnasingam, assisted by the Rev. S. C. Arnold. Mr. Thavanayagam leaves behind besides his wife Indra (Teacher, Victoria College), Dinusha and Sylvia (daughters) Mrs. Harriet Thambinayagam (mother), Mrs. Arulsothy Murugesapillai (sister), Mr. Ernest Arianayagam (brother), Dr. Santhi Neville Abraham (sister) and Miss. Ariamani (sister).

MUTHU SAMUEL ARULANANTHAM

Mr. Muthu Samuel Arulanantham of Udupidy died on Saturday the 25th of January 1997. The funeral service was conducted at his residence at Udupidy by the Rev. T. H. Vasanthakumar. The remains were then removed to the Udupidy cemetery for interment. Mr. Arulanantham leaves behind besides his wife Elizabeth Chinnammah, Mrs. Nesamany Rajaratnam (sister). His sisters Muthamma Ariaratnam and Rajamany Selvaratnam predeceased him some years ago.

RATNAMALAR RATNARAJAH

The death occurred on Tuesday the 4th February 1997 of Mrs. Ratnamalar Ratnarajah of Erlalai South. She was the wife of Mr. George Ratnarajah of Pungudutiyyu and sister of the late Jesuratnam, Jeyamany, Arasaratnam (Batticaloa) and Kamaladevi. The funeral service was conducted at her residence at Erlalai South by the Rev. P. J. Suriakumar assisted by Rev. S. C. Arnold and the Rev. V. Rajkumar. The remains were then removed to the Erlalai cemetery for interment.

ANNA ROSEBELLA SEEVARATNAM

Mrs. Anna Rosebella Seevaratnam of Chavakachcheri died on 4th January 1997. Mrs. Rosebella was the wife of the late Kandiah Daniel Seevaratnam and sister of Mrs. Daisy Mahendran, the late Muttiah Ariyanayagam and Ramalingam Kangeyan. The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. P. R. Navendranugoolan and the remains were then removed to the Chavakachcheri cemetery for interment.

THAMBIAH SABARATNAM

Mr. T. Sabaratnam, Retired Principal of Anaipanthi Methodist Mission School died on Thursday the 6th February. He was the husband of Mrs. Pushpa Amirtham and father of Amirtha, Saratha, Vanitha, Ranjana, Roshana and Mohana. The funeral service took place in Kandy on Saturday the 8th February, 1997.

12 STUDENTS PASS SCHOLARSHIP EXAM. AT JAFFNA - COLLEGE

Twelve students have passed the fifth standard scholarship Examination from Jaffna College. The results were released on Wednesday the 22nd January.

CSI

Golden Jubilee Celebrations

Elaborate preparations are being made to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the CSI. The celebrations will be conducted in Madras on the 26th September 1997. The Prime Minister, and The President of India are expected to attend the celebration. Jaffna Diocese will conduct services in Jaffna Melbourne, Sydney, London, Toronto and Resensburg to mark the anniversary.

New Warden of Thirumarai Illam Boy's Home

Rev. S. Thevahanan, who served as Worker at Konavil, assumed duties as Warden of Thirumarai Illam Boy's Home, Jaffna as from the 1st of February 1997.

Worker's Retreat

The Retreat for the Workers of the Diocese was conducted at Vaddukoddai on Thursday, 6th and Friday, 7th of March 1997 at the Cathedral Church, Vaddukoddai.

A NEW DAYCARE CENTRE

A new day-care centre was opened in Nagar Kovil - (Which is situated close to the Kudathanai Church) on 19.2.97 at 9.00 a.m. by the pastor in charge, Kudathanai Church, T. E. Ashokumar and Rev. S. I. Anandarajan. The guests of honour at this function were the principal of a neighbouring school and the Grama Sevaka of Nagar Kovil.

Free Classes Varany Church

Free classes for Years 8,9,10, and 11 in mathematics and science are being held in the Varany church premises. English classes are conducted for students of Year three to Year seven. These classes commenced on the 20th of January. These classes are a boon to the children of the village.

No Ambulance at Manthikai Hospital

There has been no Ambulance service at Manthikai Government Hospital for the past one year. Patients have to be taken in private vehicles. Because of the imposition of the curfew after 6.00 p.m. the owners of private vehicles are reluctant to take patients after dusk.

Mr. P. Sivananthan transferred

Mr. P. Sivananthan, Director of Education, Jaffna Zone I has been transferred to Trincomalee as Addl. Director of Education, North-East Province as from January 1997.

Telephone facilities extended

The Telecommunication Dept. has decided to extend telephone facilities to the town of Chavakachcheri and Point Pedro. Now the people of Jaffna can get STD & IDD calls from Jaffna Town. It is hoped that these services will be extended to the people of Chavakachcheri and Point Pedro, soon.

Workers Returned

On Friday the 17th January three workers of the Jaffna Diocese of the along with out Bishop. Rev. E. P. Solomons has resumed work at the Christian Theological Seminary. Rev. S. Thevahanan and Mr. Jerome Paul have assumed duties in different parishes.

Easter Bajanai

The Easter Bajanai conducted by the Music Committee and the Religious Education Board of the J.D., C.S. I. will be held at Uduvil Girls' College on Sunday the 30th March 1997. Dr. (Miss) C. V. Selliah, Convener, Music Committee is making arrangements to conduct this Bajanai.

Alice Ariaratnam

A memorial service for the life of Alice Ariaratnam was held at her residence, 707, Hospital Road, Jaffna, on the 4th of February, 97 at 11 a.m. Ms Selvarajah paid the tribute. Ms. Pathmaseelan rendered a special song. Rev. S. S. Terrance preached the sermon and Mr. Ben Bavinc, director of the Home for the Elders, offered the closing prayer.

Experiment with object leads to death

Gunarajah Gunalan of Urelu found a strange object in his village and tried to experiment with it by hitting on it with a stick. It led to the explosion of the object and the death of Gunarajah Gunalan (age 10.) His brother Gunarajah Kuhes (age 8) and a friend Uthayakumar Uthayatheepan (age 9) were injured seriously. The injured persons were admitted to the Jaffna Civil Hospital.

Guidelines to Persons Travelling Out Of Jaffna

The Civil Affairs Office of Jaffna has given guidelines for those planning to travel out of Jaffna. They will be given only three dates to travel. If they fail to travel on those days, they will have to apply again. The numbers of the passengers and the numbers of their lists will be published in the Uthayan newspaper and also in the notice board of the Civil Affairs Office. Those who have to travel in an emergency should contact the Commanding Officer of the Army of their area.

Chavakachcheri Point Pedro Van Service

and Chavakachcheri has started from February 1997. On Tuesdays and Thursdays this van will start from Pt. Pedro at 7.00 a. m. and reach Chavakachcheri at 11.00 a.m. via Kodikamam and at 11.00 a. m. it will return to Pt. Pedro by the same route. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays there are van services from Pt. Pedro to Kodikamam.

WORKERS' TRANSFER

The Executive Committee of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India which met on the 25th January 1997 made the following decisions:

TRANSFER:

1. Mr. Jerome Paul, Worker-In-Charge, Gandhijikiramam with effect from 27th January 1997.
2. Rev. K. A. Selvanayagam, Worker-In-Charge, Jeyapuram will assume duties at Sathiapuram, Uduvil as from the 1st of February 1997.
3. Rev. Innasi Arulbalan, now Worker-In-Charge, Sathiapuram, will assume duties at Jeyapuram as from the 1st of February 1997. He will serve at Jeyapuram till the 1st of May 1997.
4. Miss Gunadevi Gunaratnam will assume duties as Assistant Pastor, Colombo from the 1st of May 1997.

Representatives to Navajeevanam Fellowship

The Executive Committee of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India which met on 25th January 1997 elected the following to serve on the Board of Navajeevanam Fellowship, Paranthan: The Rev. E. M. Lawrence, The Rev. Antony Saverimuttu, Mr. S. Ratnavel, Dr. J. G. Seevaratnam and Mr. John Selvam.

New Director of Education- Zone I

Mr. S Ratnarajah, who served as the Circuit Education Officer, Uduvil has assumed duties as Director of Education - Zone I from the 1st of February 1997. The Morning Star congratulates him on his promotion. We wish him many years of fruitful service in the field of education.

Jubilee Council Sessions of the J.D.C.S.I.

The 50th council Session of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India took place in Ottley Hall, Jaffna College on the 28th of February and the 1st of March 1997.

The first day's sessions commenced with the worship service led by the Rev. R. Navandranugoolan. The sessions of the second day commenced with the Eucharist, celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan. The sermon was preached by the Rev. D. R. Ambalavanar.

A two minute silence was observed for those who had "Gone beyond the veil" during the past year.

- Vote of Condolence :
- a) K. Tharmaratnam by Rev. Amithomy
 - b) Mano Sencer by A Jeyarajan
 - c) S. V. Vaithilingham by A. Vimalendran
 - d) T. Thavanayagam by C. Jeyaratnam
 - e) Dorothy Appleby by Rev. D. R. Amplalavanar.

The following reports were presented to the Council.

- a) The Music Committee
- b) The Religious Education Board
- c) The Morning Star
- d) The Seminary
- e) Canadian Christian Fund
- f) Day Care Centres
- g) Vanni Area
- h) Clergy Retirement Fund
- i) Hospitals
- j) Evangelism Committee
- k) Uduvil Girl's College
- l) Foreign Mission
- m) Varany Farm
- n) Workers' Union
- o) American Ceylon Mission Press
- p) Treasurer's Report

The following Decisions were taken regarding the Jubilee year celebrations:

- 1) That the jubilee year of the Church of South India should be celebrated by all the parishes, institutions and the Diocese.
- 2) That a special communion service be held at each church of the Diocese on the 27th of September.
- 3) That 50 houses worth 50,000/= each should be donated to those in need. Mr. G. Rajanayagam, principal Jaffna College was entrusted with the task of collecting the funds for this project.
- 4) That the climax of the jubilee year celebrations should be in the form a function on the 15th of October. Invitations would go to foreign friends and well wishers.
- 5) All letters and journals of the Diocese should carry the following slogan:
J.D.C.S.I. - 50 years (1947 - 1997)
America Ceylon Mission (1916 - 1944)
- 6) **Art Competition** : An art competition will be organised for school children on themes depicting the work done by the J.D.C.S.I. in the past years.
- 7) **History of the Diocese**
A 200 paged book titled "The History of the J.D.C.S.I." covering the events of 1947 to 1997, authored by the Rt. Rev. Dr. D. J. Ambalavanar will be launched at a special function

8) **A Souvenir**
Dr. Ms. C. V. Seliah and Mr. Noel A. Vimalendran will work on the release of a souvenir depicting historic events and plans of the Diocese, with pictures.

9) **Symposium**
A two - day symposium on the theme "Looking back at the past and working towards the future" will be held.

10) **The Climax of the Celebrations:**
The final day celebrations will see the staging of English and Tamil Drama and Music programmes. The principals of Jaffna College and Uduvil Girls' College together with the Convenor of the celebrations will make the necessary arrangements.

Appointments :
The following were appointed to the Executive Committee for the year 1997/98.

Secretary : Noel A. Vimalendran
Treasurer : C. Jeyaratnam

Vacancies in the Ex. Co filled by
1) Rev. A. A. Paul
2) G. Nadarajah

Other appointments :
Manager Uduvil Girl's College - A. Rajasingham
Manager Morning Star - G. Nadarajah
Editor - Morning Star Tamil edition - Rev. D. R. Ampalavanar
News Editor - D. S. Solomon
Editor - Morning Star (English Edition) - Shiranee Mills
Director - Religious Education Board - G. Rajanayagam
Internal Audits : P. S. Gnanaseelan
S. Sabapathipillai
Auditors : Ratnam Co. and Perampalam Co.

The Executive Committee of the J.D.C.S.I. - 1997

Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan - Bishop
Rev. A. V. Jesudason
Rev. D. R. Ampalavanar
Rev. S. Jeyanesan
Rev. A. Jeyakumaran
Rev. S. C. Arnold
Rev. A. A. Paul
Mr. C. Jeyaratnam - Treasurer
Mr. N. A. Vimalendran - Secretary
Dr. Ms. C. V. Seliah
Mr. G. Rajanayagam
Ms. S. P. Gulasingham
Ms. K. Mahjandrakumar
Mr. S. Ratnavel
Mr. A. Rajasingham
Mr. A. Jeyarajan
Mr. G. Nadaraja
Mr. S. Devanandan
Mr. S. J. Manikkam
Dr. V. R. David

Religious Education Board :
The Bishop
Mr. G. Rajanayagam - Hon Director
Rev. V. Rajkumar
Rev. A. V. Jesudason
Rev. S. C. Arnold
Dr. Ms. C. V. Seliah
Ms. K. Bavasingham
Ms. K. Mahendrakumar
Mr. A. C. Francis
Mr. V. Mithrarajan
Rev. A. Thjvegananathan

Representatives of the Diocese :
Christian Medical College
Dr. Ms. C. Ambalavanar

K. N. H. - Rev. A. Jeyakumaran
Mr. V. Mithrarajan

Bible Society

Ms. Vasanthi Rajaratnam

The Executive Committee of the Youth hostel , Colombo

The Bishop
Treasurer - Mr. Milroy Selvarajah
Pastor - Rev. A. Jeyakumaran
Mr. C. D. Chinnakone
Rev. S. Jeyanesan
Mr. J. Jeyakumar
Mr. K. D. Arasaratnam
Ms. Vasanthi Rajaratnam
Mr. D. Gnanadas

The Vote of Thanks
The vote of thanks was given by Mr. Noel Vimalendran. The minutes of the two-day council sessions was presented by Rev. V. Rajkumar, Assistant Secretary.

Closing Service :
The theme of the Closing Worship service was Romans 8 : 30 - 39. The Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan preached the sermon on this text.

Farewell to the Registrar Mr. T. Parameswaran

Mr. T. Parameswaran, the Registrar of the Jaffna University was accorded a formal farewell by the University Council on Saturday the 8th of February 1997. The farewell function also coincided with the successful completion of the 200th Meeting of the Jaffna University Council. The function was followed by a farewell lunch and taking of a group photograph.

Releasing of New Publication

Mrs. Mangalanayagam Thambiah's "Norungunda Iruthayam", which was reprinted by the Christian Institute for the Study of Religion and Society (CISRS), Jaffna will be released formally on Saturday, 22nd February at Kailasapathi Auditorium, University of Jaffna. This function will be conducted under the auspices of the Tamil Society of the University of Jaffna.

WOODEN BOXES TO TAKE ONIONS TO COLOMBO

Jaffna onions which were packed in gunny bags are now taken to Colombo in wooden boxes. It was reported that onions taken in gunny bags were getting spoilt.

An Appreciation

Mrs. Daisy Thangaratnam Navaratnam.

Mrs. D. T. Navaratnam passed away peacefully in the home of her daughter Pathma Perinpanayagam in Kent - U. K. on her 88th year.

Thangaratna Acca as she was affectionately called, has been a tower strength to her family, to the community she lived amongst and the churches she attended at Kandapola and Earllalai South. The Earllalai South church has lost a veteran counsellor.

She is a lady in every sense of the word, People from all walks of life have the greatest regard and love for her. Her dignified personality, her beauty and her commanding voice were her forte. She was the head mistress of M. M. School Kandapola where she spent her entire career. Along with her husband Navaratnam who predeceased her she actively participated in every functional, political and religious in Kandapola.

After retirement she spent about 25 years in her home church Earllalai South.

The Bharathi Mathar Sangam a Social Service project for women was her brainchild. She presided at these meetings with dignity and understanding, was always punctual, knowledgeable in discussion and resolute in her leadership.

God has blessed all her four children abundantly. Her selfless service to humanity is unparalleled. - V. Gunaratnam, Australia.

Chundikuli Girls' College

Cenetenary Celebrations - Saturday 01 - 02 - 1997

For there are nobands in their death, but their strength is firm O, Lift up your countenance all ye of C. G. C. and shout unto God-with triumph.

Reputation, Discipline, Sacrifice, Joy and Smartness are the fruits of our Alma - mater.

Why Carter, a Westerner chose January 15th 1896 as the founder's day? Let us ponder for a moment,

And the answer might open new vistas for our forward march towards emancipation,

Rejoice C. G. C., for thou hast successfully lived for 100 years. Dearest Alma - mater, we wish you success, triumph and long - life.

Mrs. CHANDRA THARMARATNAM
President O.G.A.

Vethanayaga Sasthriar Commemoration Meeting

The Theological Seminary, now functioning at Vaddukoddai remembered Vethanayaga Sasthriar, the famous songwriter and poet, at a service held on Friday the 31 of January at 3.30p.m A special tribute was paid by Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan. In his tribute, the Bishop traced the biography of Sasthriar and spoke about the wealth of literary works that Sasthriar has left as a legacy. Bishop Jebanesan spoke of Vethanayaga Sasthriar's ability to write in a simple style that was easy to understand.

Ms. Jeeva Ratnasabapathy rendered some of the songs composed by Vethanayaga Sasthriar. S. Joshua, B Thevadas and Satheesh Daniel - all seminary students also sang some of his songs. Ms. A. Daisy, a student recited his poetry. S. Gunanesavaran delivered the vote of thanks. The meeting ended with a prayer and the benediction pronounced by Rev. D. R. Ampalavanar. The participation of outsiders at this meetings was a source of encouragement to the seminary family.

The Late Mr. S. V. Vythilingam

The C. S. I. Church Chavakachcheri lost one of its stalwarts by the demise of Mr. S. V. Vythilingam on the 17th of December 1996. Mr. S. V. Vythilingam was born at Tellippallai. After teaching in the up-country schools for a few years, he came to teach at Drieberg College, Chavakachcheri. From 1950 onwards he played an active role in the political, ecclesiastical and public life of Chavakachcheri. Many of the present leading citizens, politicians and Church leaders of Chavakachcheri were his students. Mr. S. V. Vythilingam by his honesty, perseverance and devotion to duty became the Junction School Principal of Drieberg College and served in the institution with great distinction. In 1975 he retired from teaching service and began to play an active role in the Church. His towering personality, eloquence and perseverance made him a hero among his students. He was a strict disciplinarian and was able to instil his ideas among his students. The students knew that he was sincere and was interested in their welfare. By his understanding and teaching skill, many backward students were able to come out of their shells and do well both in sports and studies. Many students of Thenmaracchi will bear testimony to Mr. S. V. Vythilingam's success as a teacher, friend and philosopher. Mr. Vythilingam was a man of determination. Like the patriot Jacob, he built houses, looked after his cattle, had a loving family and had a real zest for living. He identified himself with all the good causes of Chavakachcheri.

The Chavakachcheri Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society was one of his prime concerns. For a long period he was the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Chavakachcheri M. P. C. S. He worked tirelessly for the growth and development of cooperative endeavours in East Jaffna.

Nobody would doubt his loyalty to the C. S. I. Church, Chavakachcheri. He was either Treasurer or Secretary of the Chavakachcheri Church for a major part of his life. After the rocket attack at Chavakachcheri Church in December 1993, he worked zealously for the restoration of the Church. Mr. Vythilingam lived a full life, like St. Paul he could say confidently "I have fought the good fight I have finished my course".

We thank God for the life and witness of Mr. S. V. Vythilingam. We express our deepest sympathies to his family.

P. S. Gnanaseelan.

"Our God is able to deliver us"

That is the affirmation we have in the Old Testament story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They affirm that they are in the hands of God, the God they serve who is powerful enough to deliver them from the king's hands. They assert this powerfulness of their God without any qualification. He can deliver even from the burning fiery furnace. The faith of the three men is the faith of a people who had known their God through many a crisis and disaster.

"But even if he does not..." Yet having declared their faith in him, they go on to say that they are prepared for God's non-intervention. A problem for faith is that it is natural to think that faith itself constitutes one's security. To be saved is to be safe whatever happens. The test will surely come when the choice is between choosing God and choosing a security which only God can provide. At such times the temptation will always be to choose God if he will provide that security. Faith has to learn to say, "But even if he does not, we shall still worship him, and none other."

Obituary :

Roshi Duraisamy - It is with deep regret that we record the death of Roshi, daughter of Dharshina and Raveen Duraisamy. She died in a motor accident in Canada on Friday the 7th of March, 1997. Roshi as she was affectionately called, is the granddaughter of Ms. Selvamalar Emerson formerly of Uduvil and Gordon and Cathedrine (Selvy) Duraisamy of the Colombo Church.

Olive Somanader : We are sorry to record the death of Ms. Mary Olive Somanader, wife of Sam Somanader of U.S.A.. Olive Somanader passed on from this world on the 25th of January. She was the sister of late Thuraisingham, S.V. Balasingham Principal emeritus - Jaffna College and late Ms. Winnifred Jebaratnam of Uduvil. A service of thanksgiving for her life was held at the Colombo church

Remembering Rt. Rev. Dr. Sabapathy Kulendran

† Born : 23rd September, 1900
At Rest : 14th February, 1992 "Precious in the sight of Lord
Are the death of his saints. - Psalm 116:15

Jaffna College

The Jaffna College Board at its meeting took the decision that the salaries of the teachers of Jaffna College will be commensurate with that of the government teachers' salary.

UNDER GRADUATE SECTION

Mr. A. Rajasingham has been appointed Director of the Under Graduate Section of Jaffna College.

25 years of Faithful Service

Jaffna College felicitated Mr. N. Natparananthan and Ms. Jeeva Ratnasabapathy on the completion of 25 years of service in the school. A thanksgiving service was held on the eleventh of March at the Cathedral at Vaddukodai.

Appointed Head - Primary Section

Mr. A. Jeyarajan has been appointed Head of the Primary Section of Jaffna College. Mr. Jeyarajan is a popular member of the staff who is actively involved in all departments of the school. We congratulate him on his appointment.

New Principal - Nuffield School :

Ms. Chandra Pathmapalan has been appointed Principal of the Jaffna Kaithaday Nuffield School. She assumed duties as principal on the 3rd of February 1997. The installation service was held on the 3rd of February at 10.00 a.m. and was led by Archdeacon Rev. J. Sarvananthan. Rev. J. Jebamohan, Pastor in charge, Nallur Church and Rev. S. P. Nesakumar, Pastor in charge, Chundikuli parish assisted in the service.

Ms. Chandra Pathmapalan is a Trained teacher and a Graduate. She was a teacher in the Nuffield school from the year 1967 to

1986. She holds a Diploma from the University of Birmingham specialising in teaching the blind. She was a teacher at Chundikuli Girl's School from the year 1986.

Chandra Pathmapalan is a gifted composer of lyrics and a well known singer. Her songs have been released in audio cassette form and are very much appreciated.

Nuffield school is an institution of the Colombo Diocese of the Anglican Church. This is the only school for the differently abled children which has Tamil as its medium of instruction. As such it is a source of great service and strength to the Tamil speaking people.

Courtesy - Morning Star Tamil Edition 7.3.97

Vice chancellor off to Canada :

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Jaffna, Prof P. Balasunderampillai has left for Canada. He is expected back in Jaffna during the latter part of March.

Accolade from Jaffna College Board, U. S. A.

Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan who was in the States, for the Jaffna College Board Meeting conveyed greetings from the Board to the council. He said that the Board thanked the J.D.C.S.I. for continuing to work among the people of Jaffna.

Damages to Churches:

It was decided that the Social Service and Development Committee of the Diocese should assess damages to the churches during recent times and submit the assess to the executive committee of the Diocese, the Government agent and the National Christian Council, Sri Lanka