

# The Uduvil Magazine



180 Years

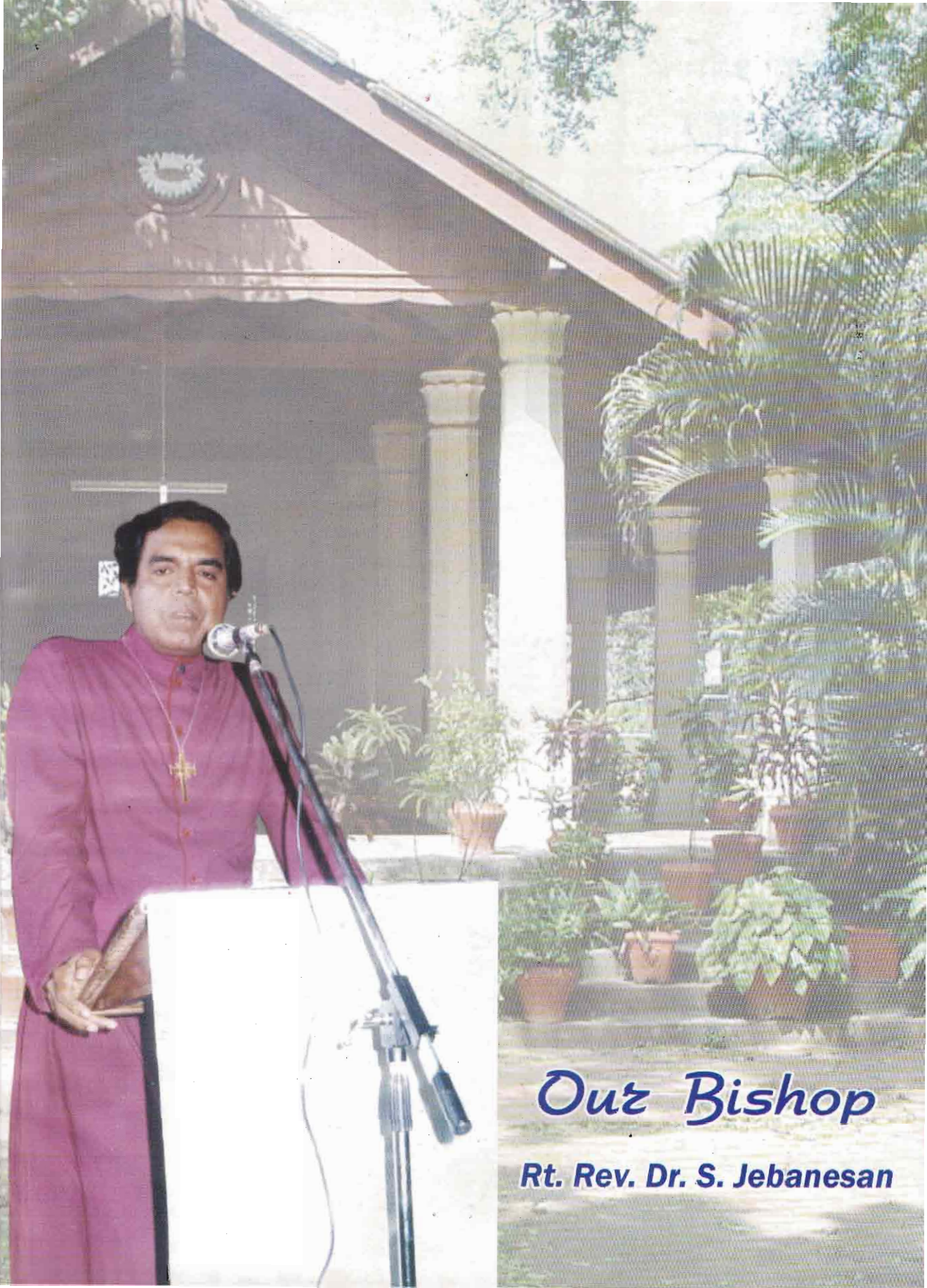
December 2004



*Our Bishop*

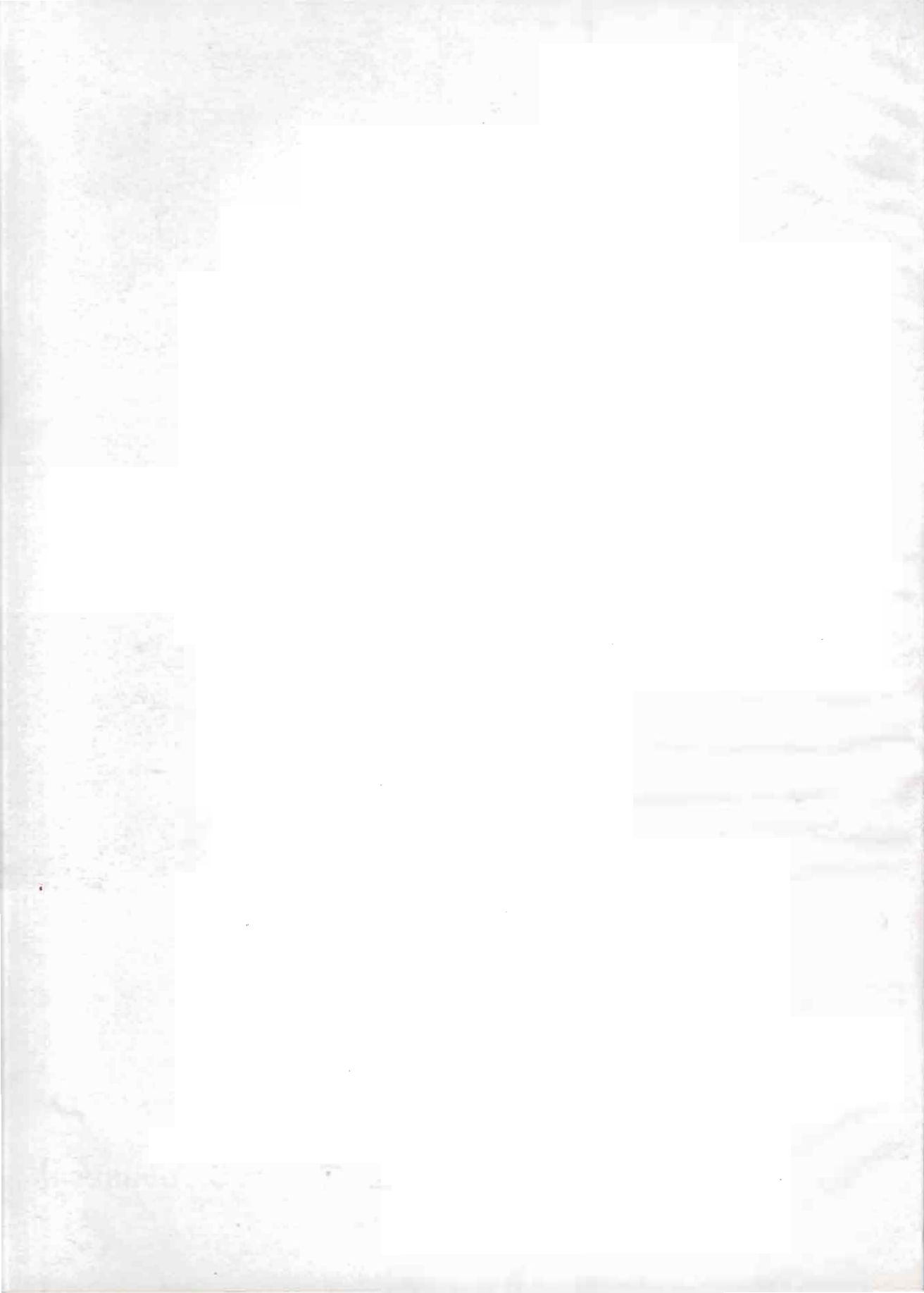
By Rev. Dr. S. Jullman





## *Ouz Bishop*

**Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan**





*Our Principal*

**Dr. C.V. SELIAH**

1982 - 2004







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## *Editorial Notes*

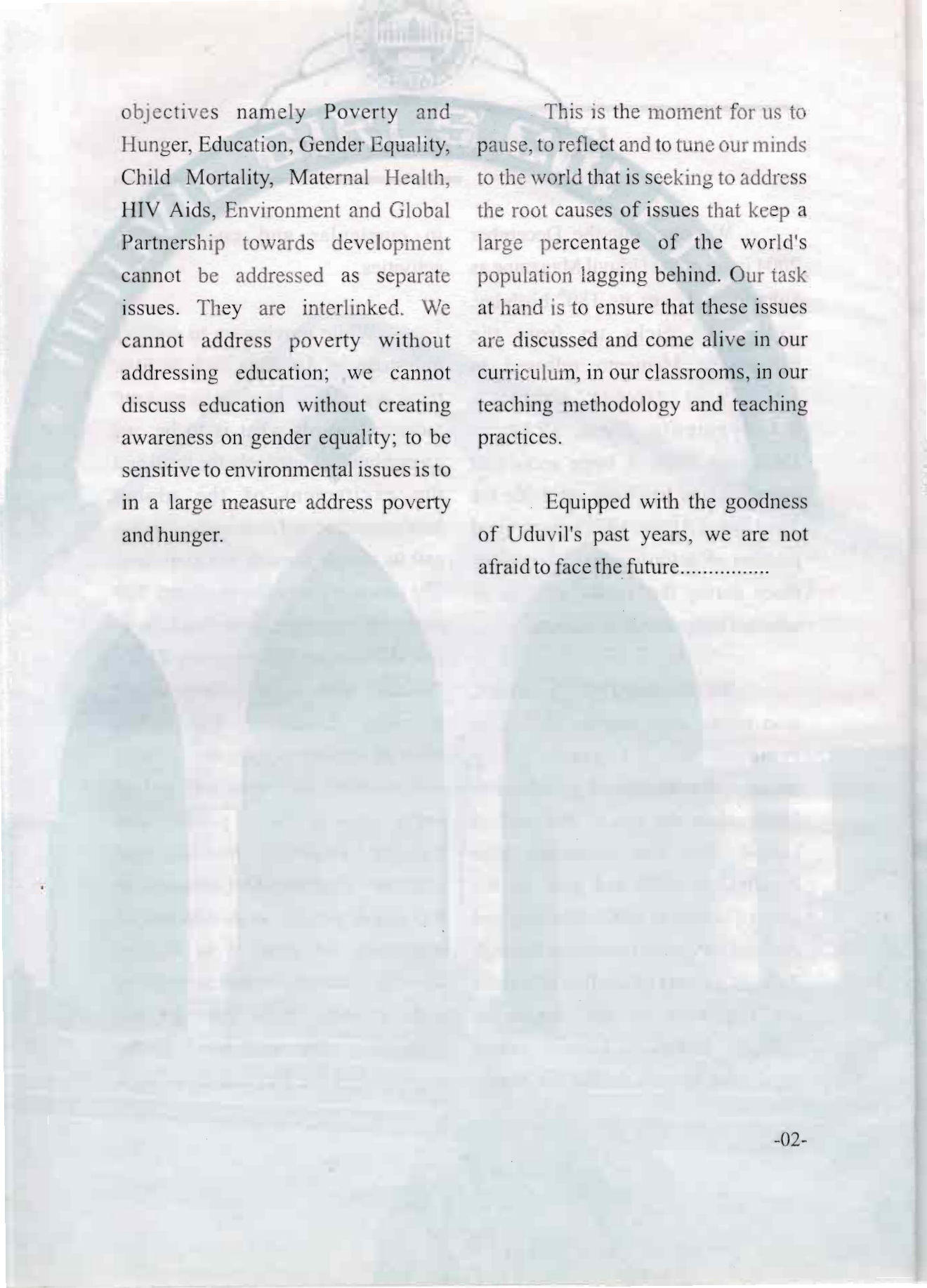
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We send out the December 2004 issue of the Uduvil Magazine as Uduvil celebrates its 180<sup>th</sup> birthday. This issue picks up from the Missionary Memento released in 1989 and covers Uduvil's achievements from 1989 to December 2004. A large section of the magazine has been set aside for The Uduvil Album which gives vivid pictures of activities that have taken place during this period as well as selected happenings of the past.

We felicitate Dr. C. V. Selliah, who retires after serving Uduvil as Principal for 23 years. Her association with Uduvil goes back to 1959, when she joined the staff of Uduvil. She was appointed Vice Principal in 1970 and took up the reins of Uduvil in 1982. Her long and devoted service in the school through difficult periods of conflict and strife are imprinted in the annals of Uduvil's history. Uduvil gained significant heights during her period

in curricular and co-curricular activities.

While moving on to another milestone of Uduvil's rich history, rejoicing at Uduvil's glorious past and looking towards what is to be, we cannot but feel intensely the thrill and the excitement of the global movement formed amongst countries and its people towards development. The dawn of the millennium saw 189 countries committing themselves to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with eight priority areas, including Education. The MDGs offer an opportunity for the national and international community to find better ways to reduce poverty, end hunger, improve health, and eliminate illiteracy. Our own role in this global picture, as an educational institution for girls, is in striving towards creating awareness on these eight priority issues amongst our students. We also need to be cognizant of the fact that these eight



objectives namely Poverty and Hunger, Education, Gender Equality, Child Mortality, Maternal Health, HIV Aids, Environment and Global Partnership towards development cannot be addressed as separate issues. They are interlinked. We cannot address poverty without addressing education; we cannot discuss education without creating awareness on gender equality; to be sensitive to environmental issues is to in a large measure address poverty and hunger.

This is the moment for us to pause, to reflect and to tune our minds to the world that is seeking to address the root causes of issues that keep a large percentage of the world's population lagging behind. Our task at hand is to ensure that these issues are discussed and come alive in our curriculum, in our classrooms, in our teaching methodology and teaching practices.

Equipped with the goodness of Uduvil's past years, we are not afraid to face the future.....



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## Principal's Report - 2004

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It is with immense joy and a sense of satisfaction that I write this report for the Uduvil Magazine of December 2004. Uduvil has a very warm place in my heart. It has given me some of the happiest days of my life. I have been at Uduvil for 45 years, 10 years as vice principal and 23 years as principal.

It has been my privilege to work with many at Uduvil. I am grateful to the two Bishops, Rt.Rev.Dr.D.J.Ambalavanar and Rt.Rev.Dr.S.Jebanesan, the Managers, the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees of J.C Funds for their support.

I am also indebted to the parents, alumni and the Uduvil community at large for the immense encouragement which has sustained me through the best and worst times during my tenure of office especially during the turbulent times of Jaffna.

I am most grateful to my dedicated and devoted staff whose

fullest co-operation and unstinting services in partnership with me enabled me to resolutely steer the College this far. The success of Uduvil has been resting on the *esprit de corps* that prevails among the staff.

Uduvil's comprehensive education provides, for consistently excellent performances at public examinations, Grade V scholarship, G.C.E O/L and A/L. These examination results along with the exemplary achievements in sports, games, cultural and other extra curricular activities have combined to make Uduvil stand out as a leading school in our country.

God's grace has been more than sufficient in the hallowed grounds of Uduvil. We are ever thankful for his grace and guidance.

The future of Uduvil is in the good hands of the new Principal Mrs. Shiranee Mills who will be taking over in January 2005. Uduvil takes pride in claiming her as her daughter.

I have great confidence that she will steer the College to greater eminence.

**No. on Roll:** A considerable number seek admission to Uduvil from every nook and corner of the peninsula and from other provinces.

Currently the number on roll is 1688

The break up is as follows:

Primary	-	620
Secondary	-	1068

**Staff:** There are 64 members of the staff. The success of Uduvil rests on this buoyant and vibrant band of teachers.

**Examination Results:** Our results at public examinations continue to be good. At the G.C.E A/L examinations 68 students qualified to enter the University.

**G.C.E.O/L Examinations:** Of the 85 who sat the examination in December 2003, 78 students qualified for the A/L.

**Grade 5:** We are happy to record that 29 students obtained scholarship at the Grade 5 scholarship examination

held this year. This is the highest number in the zone and a very high percentage in the district.

**University:** Our girls continue to do well at the University. We are proud to say that one of our students Prabha Parameswaran, received the All-Round Award at the University of Jaffna obtaining a 1<sup>st</sup> class and also captaining the netball and basketball teams.

**Co-Curricular Activities:**

Sports and games under the leadership of Mrs. P.S. Jebaratnam, our Senior School Supervisor, had a very successful year.

**Netball:** The Netball Under 19, Under 17 and Under 15 teams won the championship at the divisional level. We are happy that the under 17 team secured the championship at the provincial level and at the National level they went up to the finals.

**PT Squad:** The PT Squad won the first place at the Divisional, District and Provincial level and participated at the national level and won a place of merit.

**Basket ball:** The basketball team won the first place in the district level and were selected for the Provincial level. Four members of the team were selected for the district team and will participate at the National Level.

We thank Mrs.P.S.Jebaratnam, Mr. A. Ananthan and Miss.R.Parameswaran for the excellent achievements in sports and games.

**Music:**

**Western Music and Band:** Music under the able leadership of Mrs. A. K. Mahendrakumar, our Junior School Supervisor had a very successful year. We thank Miss Grace Bunker, Miss Clara Arulanantham and Mrs. Jebi Sutharshan for their assistance to Mrs. Mahendrakumar. The Senior, Junior and Primary singing groups have excelled in their varied performances this year. Singing is taught as a subject in the primary classes and serves as an effective English language teaching tool.

A worthy addition to our School Band is the Junior Band. We have purchased a set of instruments

and are rewarded in the eager participation of little ones. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Mahendrakumar and Miss Ariyamalar Apputhurai who have happily worked hard to train the Junior band.

**Religious Activities:** Religious activities under the guidance of Mrs. Jebaratnam and Mr. Lingeswaran continue to be a vital part of the school giving it spiritual sustenance. Christianity and Hinduism are taught in all classes. Children are taught to respect all religions. According to tradition students and teachers participate in morning worship. The Student Christian Movement is active and conducts a varied program. The Senior and Junior groups emerged winners in the Bible Quiz organized by the Ceylon Bible Society at district level. They took part in the competitions held at National Level.

Uduvil once again hosted the combined carol service this year and it is with joy that we record that members of the Uduvil staff continue to play a lead role in the organization and training of the combined choirs.

Our thanks to Mrs. Shiranee Mills Coordinator of the Combined Carols, Directors of the English choirs, Ms. Grace Bunker and Mrs. K. Maheन्द्रakumar and Ms. Clara Arulanandam for their part in making the combined choirs a success.

**Eastern Music, Dance and Drama:** Eastern Music department under the guidance of Ms. Clara Arulanandam continues to perform well giving a fine flavour to all cultural activities of the school. Special mention should be made of Ms. Clara Arulanandam for releasing an excellent cassette of religious songs and music

**Competitions:** 2004 has brought success for Uduvil in winning many places in competitions organized by the Department of Education.

- **English Day** District Level all four dramas and Primary singing secured first places. Now they are getting ready for the provincial level competitions. This year an increased number of children are taking part in individual competitions namely Recitation, Dictation and Creative Writing.

- **Tamil Day:** For the third consecutive year the song/drama troupe (*issai nadagam*) secured the first place at the provincial level.

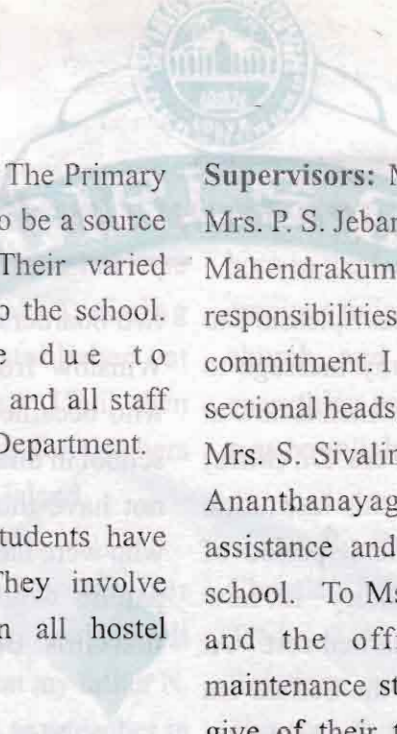
- The Tamil social play performed this year was written and directed by Mr. S.S. Manoharan, a senior member of our staff and won great applause at the competition organized by the Department of Education.

- **Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Commerce and Home Science Competitions:** Our students have performed very well securing many places of merit

**Debate:** We are training our debating team to become an effective group. This year our students are taking part in a debate with Royal College, Colombo.

**Girl Guide Company:** The Girl Guide company has gained greater enthusiasm this year. They have attended related conferences in Jaffna as well as the Girl Guide Head Quarters, Colombo.





**Primary Department:** The Primary Department continues to be a source of pride to Uduvil. Their varied activities lend colour to the school. Our thanks are due to Mrs.K.Mahendrakumar and all staff attached to the Primary Department.

**Hostel:** The hostel students have increased to 150. They involve themselves actively in all hostel activities.

**Further Education Department:** The Further Education program continues with its GAQ classes and computer classes.

**Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC):** Many students are under this scholarship scheme. A systematic flow of communication is maintained between sponsors and receiving students.

**Supervisors:** My thanks are due to Mrs. P. S. Jebaratnam and Mrs. A. K. Mahendrakumar for sharing my responsibilities with dedication and commitment. I also wish to thank the sectional heads, Mr. S. S. Manoharan, Mrs. S. Sivalingarajah and Mrs. M. Ananthanayagam for their able assistance and commitment to the school. To Ms. Arunthathy George and the office staff and the maintenance staff, who unstintingly give of their time and efforts, my special thanks.

**Conclusion:**

Before I wind up I like to thank the God Almighty for all the grace showered upon us all these years. He has indeed bestowed upon us, happiness and prosperity. I wish the School to march forward to every success and shine as a Beacon amidst the schools of our island nation with Mrs. Shirance Mills at the helm.

*Dr.C.V.Selliah*  
*Principal*

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## *Message from the Bishop*

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It gives me great pleasure to write a few lines as my message to Uduvil Girls College which is now at the threshold of a new era. Dr. (Miss) C.V. Selliah who ran this institution during the most difficult period of Jaffna in recent history is now entering into a well-earned rest. At Uduvil Girls College the Selliah era comes to an end and the Mills era begins.

Mrs. Shiranee Mills is now entering the field as 8 down batsman. As this old girls takes over, old girls from Vancouver- Canada, to Auckland - New Zealand are watching with great interest and expectation. Even though Uduvil has a 180 year history, it has had only seven Principals so far. It shows the commitment and dedication of those who took charge of this institution. First let us remember the humble beginnings of Uduvil. Two little girls who stayed and ate in the missionary bungalow during the monsoon rainstorm in 1824 became the first

two boarders of Uduvil. Mrs. Harriet Winslow from Connecticut, U.S.A. who became the Principal of a girls school in this far away country would not have thought that the two girls who were handed over to her by their parents would be students of Asia's first Girls' Boarding school.

Mrs. Winslow's Memoir is the most important source book for the study of mission labour in Jaffna. She was followed by Eliza Agnew in 1839. She gave herself fully for the training of the minds of girls in Jaffna, instead of marriage - a choice as usual in America in 1830 as it was in Jaffna. Eliza Agnew was the principal for 41 long years. She was succeeded by Susan Howland who was the daughter of William Howland. Susan was born and raised in Jaffna. Her brother Samuel Howland was the Principal of Jaffna College.

The contribution made by the Howland family towards the

educational advancement and cultural development of Jaffna was tremendous. It was during her time that the Teachers' Training Department was established at Uduvil Girls College. Until then there was no training for teachers anywhere in the whole island.

Miss Lulu Bookwalter succeeded Miss Susan Howland. It was during her time that my father N. Subramaniam served as a teacher in the Uduvil Bilingual School which moved from Uduvil to Pandeterrupu and was ably managed by Mrs. Flora Kanagathungam.

Miss Bookwalter was the Principal when my mother nee Vinnasithamby Kanagammah and her two sisters Gnanammah and Nesammah were boarded students at Uduvil. Through out her life my mother spoke to us about Uduvil and told us many stories of Miss Bookwalter, Miss Rani Paul, Miss Grace Paul and Miss Morton who were her teachers. Mother was a very loyal old girl of Uduvil. She had a photograph of Miss Bookwalter

among her collection of the Holiest of Holies till she died. These women born in the U.S.A. with a tradition of gracious living in their home, in their church and their city, gave up everything so that the girls of Jaffna may be enlightened.

R. Rajapakse in his thesis Christian Missions, Theosophy and Trade - A History of American Relations with Ceylon 1815-1915, observes that the practice of white women teaching coloured women started in Jaffna, Sri Lanka. So it is a time to think of these great women and thank God for what they had done for the women of Jaffna.

Miss Hudson Paramasamy was the Principal and she had to steer the school during the dark days of takeover in 1960. It was during her time that Sir John Kotalawela, the then Prime Minister of Sri Lanka said that in his next birth he would like to be born as an Uduvil girl.

After Miss Hudson Paramasamy, the mantle fell on Mrs. Saraswathy Somasundaram an

intellectual of high order. The 7<sup>th</sup> Principal, Dr. (Miss) Selliah took charge of the school in 1982. At the time people wondered how this young person would carry out the big responsibility of running this school. Yet once again Uduvil became a leading educational institution in Jaffna. It was the brightest jewel of the Diocese. Dr. Selliah can look at people with satisfaction because of

all that she has done for Uduvil and the Diocese. Without her support I would have found it extremely difficult to run the Diocese.

Now as Shiranee takes over the administration of the school, let us pray to God that He may grant her the wisdom, stamina and intellectual acumen needed to take Uduvil to greater heights.

*Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan,  
Bishop in Jaffna, C.S.I*

*“Generations have come and gone. The world has seen many changes. Through them all, Uduvil has gone steadily and unremittingly about its task, suiting its efforts to changing situations but always faithful to its ideals.”*

*Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Kulandran*

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## ***THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE COMMUNITY TO WHICH GOD HAS CALLED US.***

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I write to you as president of the Trustees of Jaffna College Funds; as a person who has known and loved Uduvil since we first met in 1978; as the husband of Jacklyn Blake Clayton whose mother was principal of a mission school in Turkey that is amazingly similar to your school in Jaffna. For three years I was coordinator of the visioning process at Andover Newton Theological school here in Massachusetts; it is that experience that I want to share with you. The faculty defined their purpose this way: The focus of the new curriculum is the renewal of the churches for the sake of transforming the communities of which they are part. I sense that could well be a description of the focus of Uduvil Girls' College.

To me, Jaffna appears to be a dramatically new place. The war has changed everything. So many families have left for safer places.

The new students at Uduvil come from families that have not enjoyed generations of higher education, families that don't have financial resources to support the school. Yet the new community of people in Jaffna long for what Uduvil Girls' College has to offer. The eagerness of this new community makes the mission as promising and exciting as it was in the earliest day of the American Ceylon Mission.

The focus of this new mission is evangelism, educating future leaders of the Church, renewing congregations and institutions of the Diocese. But all of these priorities are strategies by which the real focus is advanced. That focus is the renewal of the church for the sake of transforming the community of which Uduvil Girls' College is a part. You can see that I don't think this is an easy time to be a mission school. The

transforming work of Christ is challenging and intimidating .But it is the work of Christ and that makes it an "easy yoke". This transformation is also what the people of every culture long for - justice, peace commitment, and hope, most of all hope.

God Bless Uduvil in this new beginning of a new era for the whole Jaffna community. We will be praying for you, watching your every move and learning from every victory Christ wins through you.

*Dr.Paul C.Clayton  
President, Trustees,  
Jaffna College.  
October 2004.*

*"It will never be possible to estimate the value to the community of this school with its long and honourable tradition, and this Anniversary will not I feel sure, be allowed to pass without recalling in a spirit of gratitude and thankfulness to the work of the American Ceylon Missionaries begun 125 years ago. Their inspiration has guided those that followed, and this school has given to Ceylon, and particularly to Jaffna, a splendid succession of well-trained and well-educated women of whom any country would be proud."*

*"Long may it be so."*

***Greetings on Uduvil's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

*His Excellency the Governor General Lord Soulbury*

*Queen's House, Ceylon*



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## *Uduvil Through Crisis*

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As battles raged and the Jaffna peninsula was cut off from much of the world, we wondered how long a school for girls could survive. How sad it would be if this school with such a stellar history of service succumbed to the adversities of the time. This was no ordinary school. It was one of Asia's first institutions for liberal education for girls. It has enjoyed the finest of leadership over the years. It was honored in the entire Jaffna community and beyond.

But it could have closed its doors. The safety of the girls, vulnerable to random weapons fire or recruitment to combat, had to be considered. Perhaps some students were an only remaining child in a family that had seen the death of children. And with the prospect of economic life becoming severely curtailed, what would be the economic value of an education anyway?

But, not only did Uduvil continue virtually uninterrupted. It has thrived. There are reasons for

this; the fine principles on which the school was founded; the distinguished and dedicated leadership the school has enjoyed over the years and continues to enjoy with its new principal, the support of the Jaffna community whose respect the school has earned; some key financial support solicited at times of special need; and a staff that pulled enthusiastically together for the good of the school.

But finally, one cannot understand the faithful and vigorous continuity of Uduvil through crisis without recognizing the role of one special woman namely, Dr. Chelvi Selliah. For me, Dr Selliah was an inspiration in so many ways. I will enumerate just a few of them, and ones that I personally experienced.

An occasional visitor cannot know the inner workings of the institution and ways that Miss Selliah led and administered the school. But on my visits, I could sense the esprit

de corps of staff and student. No institution can on a cultural event like Uduvil!

Further, I have rarely met an administrator with such a positive attitude to her work and the cheerful acceptance of challenging circumstances. No institution is immune from difficulties and conflicts. No leader is perfect. No political or social environment is always favorable to the working of a school. There are always pressures from a variety of sources, including the guardians. But I never saw Miss Selliah without that smile that reflected her positive outlook. Yes, each of us has a public persona, and the principal of a school must have one that may or may not be a complete reflection of who she or he is. But I got the clear impression that this optimistic persona was a genuine reflection of Miss Selliah's true being and was grounded in her faith. Without it she could have been overcome by the obstacles and the difficulties. But she prevailed, and her outlook infected all with whom she came into contact.

One other characteristic that struck me was Dr. Selliah's determination and persistence. Unlike many others, this characteristic was not expressed in an annoying and disagreeable manner. With a smile she would say, "We must have this or must do this." But then she would go on to explain why it was so necessary. And, beyond the necessity, she would describe the wonderful benefits of doing what she said "we must do." On occasion, in order to get a sympathetic response, she would feign the role of the fictional helpless female. But we who have come to know her better, saw through that. What we did see was a person of uncommon strength who would carry through, for the benefit of the school, what she had proposed she would do.

Dr. Selliah has left a legacy of faith and hope in the future, and particularly the future of Uduvil Girls' College. I am grateful to God for having been counted as one of her many friends.

*Rev. Eric Gass,  
Chairperson, Committee of the Trustees.*



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## *A Missionary Letter*

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*Uduvil Girls' College*

Dear Editor,

It gives great pleasure to be able to congratulate Dr. Miss Selliah on her retirement. Miss Selliah and I have been friends since we were pre-schoolers and to be working with her during these last three years has been a joy and a privilege. Please allow me to congratulate you on bringing out this issue of the (Uduvil Magazine) in time to celebrate her more than 40 years of service given to Uduvil Girls' College, 23 of which have been as principal, and the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India. All the years of Miss Selliah's principalship have been dark years. Soon after she took over the leadership in 1982, the ethnic conflict mushroomed into an all-out war. During that time she kept the school functioning. She also provided what shelter the walls of the school could to the Uduvil community at large, when the town was under shelling attack. When the school was temporarily disbanded in

the 1995 exodus there were many who told her that the school would never function again and she should take one of the enticing jobs offered to her in Colombo, but Miss Selliah would hear none of it. For awhile the school functioned in the Vanni, and then, against all expectation, it reopened in Uduvil a few months later. At that time there were only a handful of children. Since then Miss Selliah and her hardworking and devoted staff have built the school back up to 1700 or more students.

During the years as principal she has taken particular pains to ensure that extra curricular activities were encouraged, also that the students would be well rounded in their school experience, but always the academic success of her students was of first importance to her. The school has shone brightly in Jaffna, and on occasion in the whole country, in all field of the arts and sports, as it has in academic contests and on the

Grade 5 Scholarship Exam and the O/L and A/L exams. Miss Selliah has taken an intimately personal interest in the students at UGC, particularly those in the hostel who have made the school their home. She was a counselor and guide to a myriad of students, teachers, and parents through the years.

Miss Selliah is still a vitally active woman and with all her talents and experiences I am sure that she will find new areas where she can continue to serve the Diocese to which she is so loyal.

And at Uduvil Girls College a new and highly qualified and loyally dedicated principal will take over in January, Mrs. Shiranee Mills. Mrs.

Mills befriended me when I felt abandoned in Colombo in my first month here in 2001 because the military were reluctant to give me clearance to come to Jaffna. My friendship with her has grown through the years and it is a great joy to me to welcome her back to her alma mater to pick up a post she has been preparing all her life.

I wish God's blessing and all success and satisfaction to Dr. Miss Selliah and Mrs. Mills. To Uduvil Girls College I wish God's blessing and continued success in educating and molding girls for productive, happy and satisfying lives which contribute to their families, communities, and I pray, a united forward moving Sri Lanka.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Grace Bunker*

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## *TREASURED MEMORIES*

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Memories are still vivid of the very happy days at Uduvil, the school where I had my entire secondary education. As I grow older I cherish them more.

As we look back and recall memories, school days are the happiest days of our lives. They were carefree days with no worries as our parents bore the burdens of life. They were days of innocence, freshness and beauty when we were ready to be moulded and made by the influence of our teachers, Principal and the strong bonds of friendships that we cultivated. It was during our school days that we began to blossom into the persons who we are today with the strong character building and the all round education that we had in our dear school. By the time we left the walls of Uduvil, we were indeed well equipped to face the challenges of life and to take our places in the world around us.

My first day at Uduvil Girls' College is still fresh in my memory, the day I stepped into the portals of this great institution and greeted the Principal, Miss A.H. Paramasamy. She was indeed one of the greatest and noblest principals and the first national Principal of the school.

I still remember my father, proudly announcing the news to us, when we were in Malaysia, in November 1941, that Miss A.H. Paramasamy had been appointed as principal of Uduvil Girls' College. From that day onwards, I had a great desire to meet her, little realizing that soon I would come under her influence. It was in May of 1946, that I joined Uduvil and was admitted to Grade 7. Our family had returned to Jaffna, along with many other families from Malaysia after the ravages of the Second World War. I had my education up to the SSC at

Uduvil, and thereafter pursued my studies in India for four years and joined the staff in 1955 and served for twenty years till 1975. I am glad I gave the best years of my life to my beloved school. As a student I had great admiration, respect and love for my beloved Principal and I am thankful for the rich experience that I had as a member of the staff under her able guidance and distinguished career.

When the school celebrated its 125th anniversary from April 11-13, 1950, I was a student. I still remember the three hilarious days of celebrations with the spectacular arrival of the old girls from Colombo by a special diesel train. The students gathered at the Maruthanamadam station to give them a rousing welcome. The highlight of the celebrations was the garden party and the public meeting on the evening of the second day, at which the American Ambassador and his wife were the chief guests. It was at this time that a ceremony was held for the laying of the foundation stone for the

new chapel. On the last day of the closing service, Miss Clark initiated the "Torchbearers".

Those of us who were privileged to be present at the celebrations have unforgettable memories of the events of those 3 days.

Memories of my student days are fresh. The joys of hostel life and the duties we had as sweeping places allotted to us and helping in the kitchen once a week, cutting vegetables and serving food. We were allowed to go home for weekends only once a month. There were matrons to supervise the hostel girls. Nallamma, saw to our food. We had to eat everything that was served and could not throw food. She was strict but kind and taught us not to be fussy and not to waste food. Sinnamma, supervised our baths and cleanliness, dhoby accounts, dormitories and the doling out of the arraiippu and lime for our head baths on Saturdays. Sinnapillai was in charge of the sick room where we

were sent when we fell sick. Aliceacca was in charge of the baby boarders.

We had boarders meeting once a month, sunset meetings every Tuesday and Thursday evenings. We would sing songs seated on the hall steps for about half an hour just before we went in for our study which was supervised by our teachers. We attended church services every Sunday morning and evening and sang songs in the mission house along with the staff and Principal after dinner.

Strict discipline was maintained. We had to obey all bells and be punctual for meals, prayers and classes. We, very often for dinner, would march into the dining hall to music played on the piano by one of the students. There was such fun and laughter and every aspect of hostel life helped in nurturing strong personalities to face the challenges of the world in later years.

The school routine has been maintained the same way throughout

the years, regarding the morning prayers and assemblies. Anything that was prepared had to be well prepared, whether it was a song, message, bible reading or prayer. Uduvil always meant perfection and toil to reach the high standards expected. We had varied activities such as elocution contests, rhetorical, the senior or junior choirs, the girl guides, Y.W.C.A, netball teams, drill squads, athletics etc. Drama and concerts organized by the school were eagerly looked forward to for their artistic excellence. Uduvil had become famous for its entertainments. Thoroughness was the tradition and meticulous preparation its habit.

The experience that we had as members of the staff was indeed different from those of student days, which were carefree and happy days. As teachers we had great responsibilities and it was hard work, sweat and toil. We had to go through the mill in order to satisfy our principal Miss Paramasamy who was a perfectionist. No slip shod work was accepted in our classroom work or

extra-curricular activities. She would often remind us that we stood on hallowed ground and inspired us to use our God given talents to the utmost, for the betterment of our students and to the glory of God. Though it was hard at that time, we are indeed grateful for the training and experience that has helped us to face the storms of life in the real world.

Uduvil taught her students that "education is the apprenticeship to life" and to indulge in high thinking and simple living. Our school motto is, "The Truth shall make you free" If we follow this motto faithfully, we will always stand up for truth, speak out bravely to defend truth and thus live truthful lives. "Oh Uduvil , dear Uduvil, With gratitude we bless thee"

*Padma Anandarajah,  
Toronto, Canada.*

*.....one never thinks of Uduvil - of all she is and all she stands for without lifting of the heart in pleasure and in thankfulness. How sure she is of herself, and yet still how teachable! How lovely she is, yet she is not vain! How orderly, and yet how free and loving her children! May she live and work a thousand years!*

*Rev. Dr. S. K. Bunker  
President, Jaffna College,  
August, 1950*

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## *A Staff Recollection*

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*(Message of felicitation in Toronto, Canada)*


I am glad I have been given the privilege to say a few words of appreciation on the occasion of Uduvil Girls' College Alumni Association, Canada, having served as a member of the staff for many years.

I joined the staff of Uduvil in 1957 coming to reside in Manipay after the communal riots in 1958. Miss Selliah too joined the staff in 1959. At that time Miss Hudson Paramasamy was the principal. Neither of us were students at Uduvil, but our ties with Uduvil have been long and strong. Chelvi is the daughter of a person whom we affectionately called Boss Selliah one time principal of Jaffna College.

Chelvi and I were good friends, but when she was appointed principal in 1982 I had to curtail my visits to see her. Why? She moved to the mission Bungalow- the principal's

residence. She hails from a family of educationists and so she was able to carry out her duties exceptionally well. Uduvil is 180 years old and we are proud to mention that we have had just 7 principals - 4 missionary principals, Harriet Winslow, Eliza Agnew, Susan Howland and Lulu Bookwalter, and from Jaffna, Ariam Hudson Paramasamy, Saraswathy Somasundaram, Chelvi Selliah and now Shiranee Mills will take over as the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Shiranee is a loyal old girl. Her mother and aunts are all loyal Uduvilites. We are happy she accepted the post, sacrificing a good job and time with family. She has high ideals and capabilities. May God's blessings be upon her. We shall uphold her in our prayers. Chelvi has served Uduvil for the past 45 years. She has been principal for 23 years. She together with a qualified and efficient staff have encouraged the



students to take part in various activities along with their studies such as sports, drama, opera, music - both Eastern and Western. She encouraged the students to strive for excellence.

Chelvi had a very difficult time in 1987 when the I.P.K.F came to the North. Her task during that time was enormous. She carried on with courage, fortitude and of course faith in God. She opened the gates of Uduvil to shelter the folks in the neighborhood regardless of race and creed, provided a home and attended to their needs and won the affection of all. We congratulate her on her retirement after so many years of

service and pray that she will continue to help the students in the North in other ways. I am sure God has His plans for her.

The Alumni of Uduvil in Toronto wish her health, prosperity and God's blessings for a bright future.

I hope Uduvil continues to keep the traditions and academic achievements and shines under the guidance of the new principal. So, today, we give thanks, sing praises and lift up our hearts: "WELL DONE UDUVIL! Let your light shine now and always. The truth shall make you free".

*Mrs. Suguna Rajendram  
PPA, Canada Branch,  
Message of Felicitation,  
October 2004.*



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## *Dr. C.V. Selliah*

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Miss Chelvi Selliah succeeded Mrs. S.J. Somasunderam as the third National Principal of Uduvil Girls' College in 1982, after serving as a teacher from 1959. Her dedicated service, earned her the noble responsibility as principal for 23 long years. She is the daughter of late Mr.K.A Selliah principal emeritus, of Jaffna College.

Dr. Selliah's period of service as principal was not as easy as that of her predecessors, mainly due to the political unrest since 1983, which made school administration very difficult. Miss Selliah faced these challenges with courage and determination. She stayed in the school when others ran away from the area to safeguard their lives. This has earned her much affection and respect from the staff and students and the community at large she was born to serve.

I was fortunate to be the head of the primary school during her

tenure as Vice Principal and Principal. I got enriched in experience serving under her and working closely with her. Her approach towards the teachers, the office staff, and non teaching staff was very cordial. All of us cooperated with her to raise the standard of the College to achieve greater heights. She took personal interest in all those who worked under her. She encouraged and helped the poorest of the poor to get admission to the College. Hostel accommodation and other facilities were given to them. Weak students were identified and special classes were conducted for them after school hours and on week ends.

She showed a keen interest in the extra curricular activities of the College. The staff cooperated and worked as a team inspired by Miss Selliah. She put her heart and soul to make the netball teams, Drill Squads and English Day competitions, to be successful at circuit, regional and

national levels, which made Uduvil shine. She took great care in organizing Christian concerts, Carol services, Annual Sports Meet, Annual Prize Giving and in all other activities. She strove hard to achieve excellence and achieved it.

The leading position Uduvil occupies among renowned schools of our country did not just happen overnight. It is the result of supreme commitment, devotion, prayer, self-sacrifice, hard labour, unending affection and true abundant love, over a long period. Thanks be to God for all the blessings showered on the school. The unseen hand has guided Miss Selliah to carry out the noble

profession so that every Uduvilite could hold her head high and be proud of her Alma mater.

Miss Selliah has worked steadfastly with devotion and integrity all these years. She was not only dedicated but a fine specimen of humanity and her sympathy and advice has worked miracles many times on our tension ridden minds.

I am glad and grateful for this opportunity to express my gratitude and appreciation to Miss Selliah as she retires from her position. May God continue to bless her so that she leads a prosperous, healthy and happy life in the years to come.

*Mrs. P. Thambirajah*

*Uduvil - "The school of song!!" In Church, in chapel, in music lessons, at special functions, along verandahs, under the trees, at table and from your beds in the mornings-anywhere, how you've sung. And danced too. "Freedom of limb and freedom of thought." Yes that was it!*

*L.G. Bookwalter  
Uduvil's 4<sup>th</sup> Principal*



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## *From the PPA, Colombo Branch*

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The Past Pupils Association of Colombo send warm greetings to Dr. C.V.Selliah as her term of office as Principal of our beloved Alma Mater draws to an end.

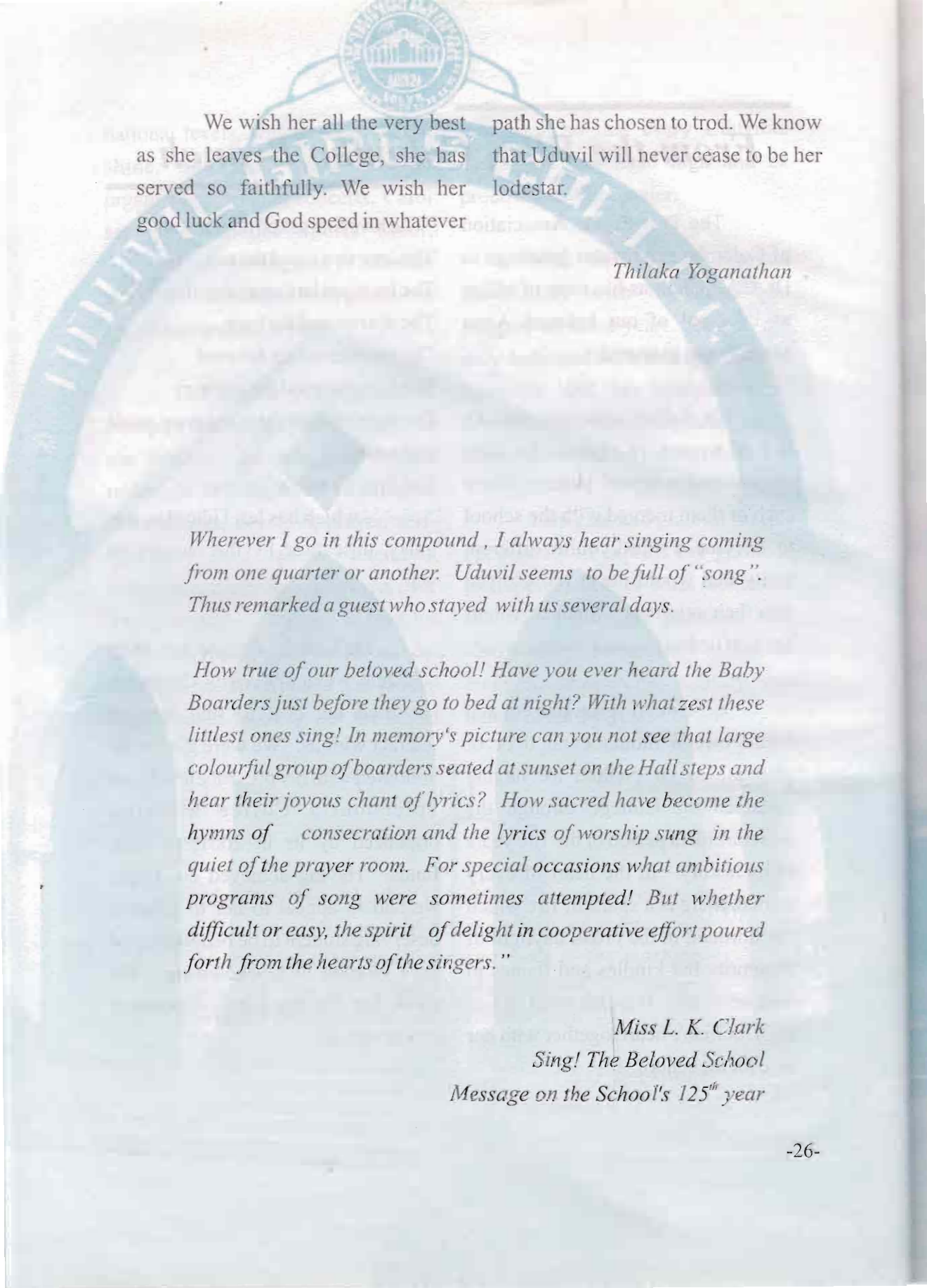
Dr. Selliah is the seventh of a line of women of vision who have perpetuated a repeat pattern where each of them merged with the school to become a third, quite different entity that would never be resolved into their originals. Such was their sense of dedication and commitment.

All Uduvil past, present and future owe a monumental debt of gratitude to Dr. Selliah for having sustained the College through the most turbulent period of the 180 years of its history. In the heart of every woman there is a spark of fire which lies dormant in the broad daylight of proseprity but kindles and flames in dark adversity. It is this spirit of fire in Dr. Selliah's heart together with her love for the school

“The love that asked no question  
The love that stood the test  
The love that laid upon the altar  
The dearest and the best;  
The love that never faltered  
The love that paid the price  
The love that might have even made  
undaunted  
The final sacrifice.”

- which has left Uduvil as it is today, unscathed by the ravages of war.

Dr.Selliah, despite her busy schedule when she visits Colombo, has tried her best to find time to interact with us. We were glad to be honoured with her presence at August Splendour-a Coffee Morning organized by us in 2001, to raise funds. Having achieved our target we had to appeal to her to select a deserving student to be beneficiary of the Colombo PPA scholarship. We thank her for the kind cooperation extended to us.

The page features a large, light blue watermark in the background. It consists of a circular crest at the top center, containing a building and the year '1925'. Below the crest is a large archway with the text 'SCHOOL' visible on its left side. The main text of the page is overlaid on this watermark.

We wish her all the very best as she leaves the College, she has served so faithfully. We wish her good luck and God speed in whatever path she has chosen to trod. We know that Uduvil will never cease to be her lodestar.

*Thilaka Yoganathan*

*Wherever I go in this compound, I always hear singing coming from one quarter or another. Uduvil seems to be full of "song". Thus remarked a guest who stayed with us several days.*

*How true of our beloved school! Have you ever heard the Baby Boarders just before they go to bed at night? With what zest these littlest ones sing! In memory's picture can you not see that large colourful group of boarders seated at sunset on the Hall steps and hear their joyous chant of lyrics? How sacred have become the hymns of consecration and the lyrics of worship sung in the quiet of the prayer room. For special occasions what ambitious programs of song were sometimes attempted! But whether difficult or easy, the spirit of delight in cooperative effort poured forth from the hearts of the singers."*

*Miss L. K. Clark  
Sing! The Beloved School  
Message on the School's 125<sup>th</sup> year*

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## *Memories of my Alma Mater*

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Reminiscing my association with Uduvil Girls College brings back nostalgic memories of my beloved college where I spent eleven years of my life from the year 1978 to 1989.

My father and aunties decided to enroll me in the hostel at Uduvil Girls' College in my early years when I lost my mother in Colombo in 1978. We were three children in our family and I was the youngest. It took time to adjust to life away from my family. However the loving care and support given to me by teachers at school helped me tremendously. They comforted and consoled me when I was sad.

Life in the hostel was new to me but I quickly adapted to it. We had to follow a set timetable from the moment we woke up until we got to bed. This is when I learned to manage time effectively. I vividly remember starting each day at the college chapel

where we had our morning prayers. This was an uplifting and refreshing experience for me. I still cherish this memory. It was during that same period that I met some of my best friends with whom I continue to maintain a good relationship.

I recall a few incidents about how we would get the caretaker to give us the forbidden fruits such as the luscious mangoes and jack fruit that grew in the garden. I remember when I was sitting for my Grade Ten examination, Punitham Acca who worked at the office, would keep hot water for me in a flask so that I could have something hot in the night to keep me up. I also remember the way our warden Miss Nalliah reacted when I received my first letter from my pen pal who was in Nigeria, thinking it might be from a male friend of mine'. She later gave me permission to write back. When I was in Grade Six, I was not good at art and failed to get good marks. So when

I heard of a student from Grade Seven, who got good marks in art, I asked her the secret and was told that Mrs. Sugunarah, the art teacher, had some favorite colors and that I should use those colors. I tried it and it worked!! I came to know Mrs. Vadivelu closely when she invited me to stay at her home while I was getting ready for my final examination. I received her blessings on my wedding day and kept in touch with her in writing until her death.

Our college had a very dedicated staff. They taught me valuable lessons in life. They instilled in me the importance of praying regularly and having trust in the Lord. These values helped me immensely and made me a stronger person. I am particularly thankful to Miss Selliah under whose strong and caring leadership I was encouraged to discover skills in studies, sports and

extra-curricular activities. She along with Mrs. Chelliah, late Mrs. Vadivelu, Mrs. Shiranee Mills and Mrs. Thaya Mohan were very much responsible for my success during my College days. When I left Uduvil Girls College in 1989, I had absorbed all the values I needed in life.

Today I look back proudly and say 'Thank You' to Uduvil Girls College for contributing to my success in life and for being a role model to my husband and two children. These lines from the college school song clearly express my deep feelings for my Alma Mater.

*"Beneath thy palms we've laughed  
and sung  
Rejoicing over tasks well done.  
O Uduvil, dear Uduvil  
With gratitude we bless thee"*

*Devika Solomons( nee Devendra)  
Toronto, Canada.*

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## *Dr. Miss. C. V. Selliah*

### *In the investigative eyes of a journalist*

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I could not believe when I was told that Dr. Miss. Selliah is retiring at the end of 2004. Though past sixty she carried an aura of youthfulness dedication, determination and piety which have made her a lady to be adored.

Her period of stewardship is the golden era of Uduvil Girls College. Studies and extra curricular activities reached their meridian splendour during her period. It cannot be an accident or a fluke for an institution to be the district champions in net ball and P.T competitions for five consecutive years. This would not have been but for the day and night training and personal encouragement proffered by Dr. Miss. Selliah without demur. It is a rare privilege to see a lady who combined the high and unusual qualities of being a scholar and a coach. She shed on the school a lustre and radiance that time has not dimmed.

The light of her personality shone wherever she went and in whatever she did. Her winning manners and winsome warm smile are gifts of God that endeared her to her friends and strangers alike.

She had been the Ambassador of good will, religion and culture of the Church of South India to the American mission in Boston. More often than not she represented the Jaffna C.S.I at the annual meetings of the Board of Trustees of Jaffna College in America. Her representations were always well rewarded. It was her lofty character, deep sincerity, independence of mind and wide scholarship that exercised an irresistible fascination on all who came in contact with her.

Religion was the main reservoir from which she drew all her solace, strength and sustenance. She adored Jesus in all her prayers. It is

said that she starts the day very early in the morning and spends a good time on meditation and prayers. Prayers precede all her activities. She puts this in practice in all the school activities. The competing college teams line up before her office for prayers before they go for the tournament matches. It may be that the prayers and principal's blessing fall on the receptive ears of the Supreme Lord and Uduvil wins the day.

The fall of the standard of English in schools bemoaned by politicians and heads of schools in school functions received the meticulous attention of Dr. Miss Selliah and she brought many reformative changes in school. She believes that not only the students but the Tamil medium graduates too needed extra guidance and opportunities to improve their English. With this mind she organized English classes for young Tamil medium graduates. She insisted that the teachers who went to meet her should talk to her in English. This worked well and the staff room

at times turned into an English dialogue rehearsal room.

At the same time she strengthened the Tamil department with honours graduates. Uduvil triumphed in all the contests winning the first place in music English and Tamil, drama, oratorical contests and essay competitions. Muththamil vizha has been revived and learned pundits and professors from South India were invited as guest speakers. In the past prize day was an occasion for pressmen to wait in ambush as it were for scoops. Principals of prestigious colleges would cast pearls of suggestions and recommendations worthy of consideration and implementation in the field of education, in their report.

It is gratifying to note that this tradition is still followed by the heads of prestigious Christian and Catholic Colleges in Jaffna. The prize day reports of Dr. Miss Selliah are precious nuggets to be preserved and treasured for the edification of our progeny.



In contrast it is a pity that now the prize day reports of many principals bear the semblance of a miniature balance sheet of a village cooperative store.

Reorganization of the library received priority in her infrastructure development of the college. To facilitate and encourage the teachers and students to equip themselves with knowledge in current affairs, books magazine and newspapers are made available to the library. It should be mentioned that in Uduvil alone English newspapers are provided for the students and teachers to keep abreast of the current local and international affairs. Teachers talk for 15 minutes in the morning college assembly on subjects that would widen the general knowledge of students. They are tested on General Knowledge at the end of the term and marks are awarded on their performance.

Higher education of the students who leave school after the G.C.E. Advanced Level engaged the

attention of Dr. Miss Selliah. She revived the Further Education wing of Uduvil Girls' College by opening opportunities for the young to pursue their studies and qualify as graduates. Students are coached to sit the external degree of the University of Jaffna and Peradeniya.

The milk of human kindness that flows in her in torrents gave succour to many orphans to continue their studies under her motherly patronage. Some of these forsaken children are gifted with talents and competence that add colour and lustre to Uduvil's fame in studies sports and cultural activities.

The crowning success of her administrative acumen and managerial excellence are manifest in the triumphant celebration of 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Uduvil Girls' College and the opening of the Harriet Winslow Science complex at a cost of several millions of rupees. This complex was opened by the American Ambassador His Excellency Ashley Wills and the

Ambassador for the Netherlands.  
Her departure from the midst of the students and teachers is too dear for words. Like a plant bereft of vivifying nutriment of fresh air, water and sunlight wither away, the students and teachers of Uduvil wilt with intense pain at the parting of ways of

their “Madam” who had been nurturing them under her sheltering wings and guiding hands.

May God Almighty shower on her His blessings and keep her in good health and undiminishing mirth.

*Mr. S.Kathirgamathamby J.P (All Island)  
President, North Sri Lanka Journalists.  
Association.*

*Within Uduvil walls one gradually became conscious of the beauty and grandeur of simplicity and “naturalness” .....  
With its missionary heritage behind it, it was inevitable that Uduvil should instill into its girls a strong sense of service. The spirit of service which has been the driving force of its founders had worked itself into the very fabric of the school.”*

*Saraswathy Somasundaram  
1950*

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## *Extracts from the Principal's Prize Day Speeches*

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"Time is now ripe for our schools to be turned into centres of creative thinking. Parents and teachers have to work together to encourage the students to find time to read books, gather knowledge to supplement their text books, and enlarge their mental horizons. Otherwise students in our schools will have an increasing tendency today to become 'Potted palms.'"

**September 1985**

*Chief Guests : Professor S. Pathmanathan (Professor of History, University of Jaffna) and Mrs. Pathmaleela Pathmanathan*

*Chairperson: Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar*

"The missionaries who laid the foundation for Uduvil in obedience to God's calling had opened the door for the Jaffna women to be educated and liberated. They no doubt realized that a race can rise no

higher if its women are not emancipated".

**September 1994**

*Chief Guests : Dr. Saba Jeyarajah and Mrs. Saba Jeyarajah*

"It is my vision that Uduvil will involve a widening of the post secondary education. Our first link with the U.S.A was forged in the year 1824. It is my vision to revitalize the link by affiliating Uduvil Girls' College with a sister college in U.S.A. Could this dream be translated to reality?"

**September 1999**

*Chief Guests :*

*Prof. P. Balasundarampillai, (Vice Chancellor University of Jaffna) and Mrs. P. Balasundarampillai.*

"The desire for good is the beginning of a greater expression of good," It is like a seed in the ground stirring with new life. When one

faithfully tends it with love and care it takes root and blossoms forth to greater accomplishment. It is the seed of faith planted by Mrs. Harriet Winslow 172 years ago, that has now grown in strength and stature accomplishing great things at Uduvil".

**December-1996**

*Chief Guests: Mr. S. Ratnarajah, Divisional Director of Education Zone and Mrs. S. Ratnarajah*

"When we peruse the predilections of our parents, they seem to be greatly gratified with mere acquisition of As in public

examinations. This should never be the sole aim of education which is on a higher plane, where the child is enabled to develop her innate skills and harmonize them with social, ethical, and spiritual ideals. It is unfortunate that many parents have unrealistic expectations and push their children into fields for which they have no inclination or basic aptitude."

**September 2002**

*Chief Guests: The Most Rev. Dr. K.J Samuel, Moderator of the Church of South India and Mrs. A. Samuel*

*Chairperson: The Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan, Bishop in Jaffna*

*"The more venerable an institution, the greater the service and the place it has made for itself among those it serves."*

*Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Kulandran  
Araly, Vaddukoddai  
August, 1950*

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## *An Appreciation*

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*Miss Grace Raju*

*"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."*

Miss Grace Raju, beloved to all whom she has touched with her personality - sincere, genuine, empathetic and above all a teacher and friend has left behind a wealth of memories.

I had the extraordinary privilege of starting my school life and also finishing it with her. In January 1943, she met a class of five year olds, with perplexity written on their faces, thrown into another world

from the relative comfort and peace of their homes. Thus began my schooling with Miss Raju at the helm of the class of Low Kindergarteners. Very soon she put us at ease, kind but firm, impartial and fair. These qualities in a teacher are so very important in the formative years of a child and this in turn endeared us to her.

Over the next decade at Uduvil, as I moved up through Middle and Upper School, I had the opportunity of knowing her better. Under her tutelage and guidance we learned the importance of map marking, time zones and the world in general.

After a short period of absence from Uduvil, when she left for America, she was back again and took up the post of Acting Principal. It was at this time in 1954 that my school life came to an end and I left with her blessings to pursue higher education.

She was greatly admired, respected and loved by students and parents. Her strength of character and unique perspectives on life have served one and all. She had organized her life so that she could carry out her work educating people to help them better understand their skills and knowledge. Above all she instilled in people the importance of faith and how that faith could get us through times of trouble. This was brought home to me by Miss Raju so poignantly twenty years after I had

left Uduvil when I so unexpectedly became a young widow. Having had no contact with her for all that time, I was truly amazed when I received a letter of guidance and encouragement from her together with a book of prayer. This has made a profound impact on me.

She has fought the good fight and run the straight race. She lives in hearts she has left behind. May she find eternal rest in the Lord.

*Chandra Jeyarajah (nee Sebastian)  
Toronto, Canada.*

### ***Wanted: Women of Vision***

*A woman of vision is a woman of far-sighted faith and hope, of enlargement of understanding and willingness to act on this faith and understanding. It is as if she stood on a high mountain and looked far away beyond the village below, out to the horizon where she sees in her faith the object of her hope.*

*Will her vision be fulfilled? There are two main conditions that 'God is in it, and that faith has full play.*

*Miss L.G. Bookwalter  
Principal, 1911 -1941*

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## *Versatility and Vivacity*

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Your versatility and vivacity  
Gave us inspiration and vitality  
When the school was in calamity  
With God's grace and your tranquility  
Steered her with firm tenacity  
And cared for her with great assiduity  
With utmost simplicity and alacrity

Won the love of all with civility  
Your serenity and sublime virtuosity  
Won the school fame and prosperity  
For all this quality and capacity  
We dedicate this pictorial to you  
May it be a memoir to posterity

*Mr. Viliciddy K. Subramaniam.*



# Faculty and Staff



The following is a list of the faculty and staff members of the institution. The list includes their names, titles, and contact information. The text is presented in a standard, legible font, organized into a structured format.

For more information, please contact the office at the address listed below.





# THE UDUVIL ALBUM

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased from 10.5 million to 13.5 million (1990-2000) (ONS 2001).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the health care needs of the elderly population. The Department of Health (2000) has set out a strategy for the care of the elderly, which includes a commitment to improve the quality of care for the elderly.

The aim of this paper is to explore the experiences of elderly people who are living in care homes, and to identify the factors that influence their quality of life.

The paper is organized as follows. First, we discuss the importance of the elderly population and the need to improve the quality of care for them. Then, we describe the methodology used in the study. Next, we present the findings of the study, and finally, we discuss the implications of the findings for practice and policy.

## Background

The elderly population in the UK is growing rapidly, and this has led to a corresponding increase in the number of people living in care homes. In 1990, there were 10.5 million people aged 65 and over in the UK, and this number is expected to reach 13.5 million by 2000 (ONS 2001).

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## Methodology

The study was conducted in a care home for the elderly. The care home was a large, purpose-built facility with 100 beds. It was situated in a rural area of the UK. The care home was run by a local authority.

The study was conducted over a period of 12 months. The data were collected through a series of focus group discussions and individual interviews with elderly residents of the care home.

The focus group discussions were conducted with groups of 4-6 elderly residents. The individual interviews were conducted with 10 elderly residents. The interviews and focus group discussions were conducted in the care home.

The data were analysed using the grounded theory approach (Glaser and Strauss 1967). This approach involves the development of a theory that is grounded in the data. The theory is developed through a process of constant comparison, in which the researcher compares the data with existing theories and with the data themselves.

## Results

The findings of the study are presented in this section. The elderly residents of the care home reported a range of experiences, both positive and negative. The most common positive experience was the sense of community that existed in the care home. The elderly residents reported that they enjoyed the company of their fellow residents and the staff.

The most common negative experience was the loss of independence. The elderly residents reported that they missed the freedom of living in their own homes. They also reported that they missed the ability to make their own decisions about their lives.

The findings of the study have implications for practice and policy. It is important to ensure that the elderly residents of care homes have a good quality of life. This can be achieved by providing a range of services and activities that meet the needs of the elderly residents. It is also important to ensure that the elderly residents have a say in the decisions that affect their lives.

# The Staff 2004



# Building Future Leaders



Senior Prefects - 1994



Installation of Prefects - 1994



Taking Oaths - 2001



Prefects - 2001



Installation - 2002 - Junior School

# Building Future Leaders



Head Prefect - 2003



Head Prefect - 2004



Student Council - 2003



Student Council, Junior School - 2004



Student Council, Senior School - 2004

# Activities at Uduvil



Inauguration of St. John's Ambulance - 2001



Science Union - 2002



Commerce Union - 2004

# Working Together.....

## THE STAFF



Appointed Vice Principal - 1992



Senior School Supervisor  
Mrs.P.S. Jebaratnam



Junior School Supervisor  
Mrs.A.K. Mahendrakumar



Staff - 1991



Staff - 1999



Unthathy George



Moments of relaxation .....



Staff - 2004

# "O Sing Unto the Lord a New Song"



Carol Service - 1991, Principal



Junior Choir - 1993



Eastern Orchestra - 1992



Carol Service - 2001  
Grace Bunker, Missionary



Carol Service - 2001



# "O Sing Unto the Lord a New Song"



Carol Service - 2002



Carol Service - 2003



Carol Service - 2003



Carol Service - 2003

# Budding Talents



Sports - 1991



Sports - 1991



Parents' Day



Parents' Day - 2003



Parents' Day - 2001



Parents' Day - 2003



Parents' Day - 2003



Parents' Day - 2003

# Budding Talents



Chief Guests



Senior Band



Junior Band



Provincial Champions Drama



Guests at the Sports Meet - 2003



Provincial Champions Drama



Provincial Champions



Provincial Champions



“It's all about how you play the game.....”



PT Squad - Circuit Champions - 1990



PT Squad - District Champions - 2000



Netball District Champions - 2000



PT Squad - District Champions - 2008

It's all about how you play the game.....



Netball Under 19 District Champions - 1994



Netball Under 19 District Champions - 1994



Netball District Champions - 2000



Provincial Champions Netball Under 15 - 2004



Basketball Provincial Champions - 2004



Provincial Champions Netball Under 17 - 2004

# A Spectrum of Uduvil activities

## Shakespeare on Stage



As You Like It.



As You Like It



Julius Caesar



Orchestra - 199



முத்தமிழ் விழா - 2004

# A Spectrum of Uduvil activities



District Champions Tamil Drama - 2003



Oriental Dance Troupe



Eastern Choir



Junior Western Choir

# Widening Interests.....



Inauguration - Interact Club



Basketball Opening - 2004



Opening of Gender Resource Centre by Canadian High Commissioner - 2001  
Her Excellency Ruth Archibald



Dr. Thayalan Ambalavanar Chief Guest A/L Union Lunch - 2004 Batch



Dr. R. Ganeshamoorthy Chief Guest A/L Union Lunch - 2005 Batch



Teachers Day - 2004



# Remembering roots .....



175 Years of Missionary Arrival



Laying wreaths for pioneer missionaries



Laying wreaths for pioneer missionaries



Laying wreaths for pioneer missionaries

## Farewell to Bishop & Dr. Chandra Ambalavanar



1996



1996

# Udovil's 175<sup>th</sup>



Rev. Dr. Eric Gass - a wreath for our Founder



At the Worship Service



At the Worship Service



Distinguished Guests



Harriet Winslow Memorial Science Complex - 2001



Science Laboratory

# Building Uduvil links across the country, across the globe



PPA - Colombo Branch



PPA - Colombo Branch - Felicitating Miss Grace Raju



PPA - Australia Branch



PPA - Canada Branch

# Glimpses of the Past



Uduvil Torchbearers with Miss Lucy Clark



Staff with U.S. Ambassador - 1976



Farewell to Miss Ariam Paramasamy  
by OGA, Jaffna Branch

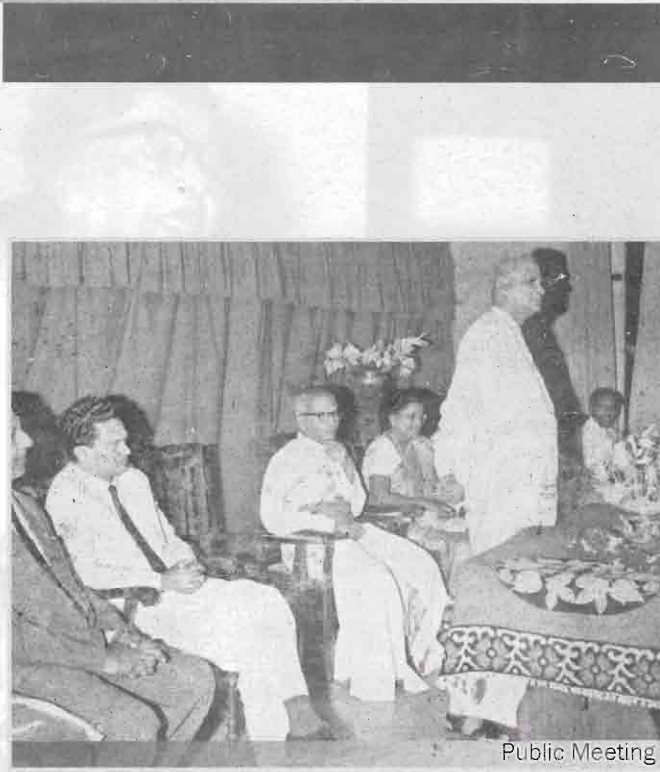


September 1970 Farewell to Miss A.H. Paramasamy

# Opening of Bookwalter Memorial



Hon. Minister Dahanayake - Chief Guest



Public Meeting



In conversation with Staff

## 'November Blossoms'



Opening of the Needle-work Stall

# Excellence on Stage



Tamil Drama



From 'The Riva



Percussion Band

# Dignitaries at Uduvil



The Hon. C.B. Lyon U.S. Ambassador to Ceylon



Sir John Kotelawala



Uduvil's First National Garlands Ceylon's First National

# Yesterdays.....



Rev. & Mrs. Telfer Mook



Farewell to Mrs. S. J. Somasunderam



Miss Ruth Mann - Further Education Programme

## Grade Five Scholarship - at the Top



Niruja Sarveswaran  
1991, Jaffna District



Banu Masilamany  
1989, Jaffna District



# Bishops - JDCSI



Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Kulandran



Rt. Rev. Dr. D.J. Ambalavanar



Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan

*“ With all our hearts we wish her (Uduvil) well.” - Rt.Rev.Dr.S.Kulandran.*

*“I have wished for many things for Uduvil as you face the future and move towards the third millenium.....”*

*Rt. Rev.Dr.D.J.Ambalavanar.*

*“We continue our journey putting our trust in Him”*

*Rt.Rev.Dr.S.Jebanesan.*

# Udovil's Principals



Harriet Winslow - 1824



Eliza Agnew - 1839



Susan Howland - 1880



Lulu G. Bookwalter - 1911

# Uduvil's Principals



Ariam Hudson Paramasamy - 1941



Saraswathy Somasunderam - 1971



Dr. C.V. Selliah - 1982





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# Milestones

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- 1816 Arrival of the first missionaries in Jaffna
- 1820 Rev. & Mrs. Miron Winslow gain the first glimpse of their future home
- 1823 Decision to have the "*Female Central School*" at Oodooville.
- 1824 Uduvil Girls' School the oldest girls' boarding school in Asia founded, with Mrs. Miron Winslow as its first principal.
- 1832 Sixty on the roll
- 1835 A little English included in the course of study; Astronomy to combat superstition.
- 1839 Miss Eliza Agnew succeeds Mrs. Harriet Winslow as principal.
- 1840 A hundred students on roll
- 1874 Jubilee Meeting; Over 300 old girls present with gifts of jewels diamond earrings, necklaces, etc. to make Uduvil an endowed college.
- 1880 Miss. S.R. Howland succeeds Miss Eliza Agnew as principal A new set of classrooms dedicated.
- 1883 The whole school gathers for the first time in the new Hall
- 1885 The first girls' training school in the North started by Misses Leitch
- 1886 The First Christian Endeavor Society in Asia started. A picnic for the whole school in 23 carts.
- 1897 The English school formally launched.
- 1899 Calcutta Entrance Examination introduced.
- 1903 The first Student Council meets
- 1906 First Cambridge class formed
- 1910 A sick room with a school nurse provided
- 1911 Miss. Lulu G. Bookwalter succeeds Miss Susan R. Howland as principal



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# Milestones

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- 1974** Ter Jubilee Celebration  
Opening of Jubilee Hall by Dr. Telfer Mooke, (Asia Secretary, UCBWM)  
Re designing and expansion of school library.
- 1976** Christopher Van Hollen, US Ambassador to Sri Lanka visited the school. Lays wreath on Mrs. Harriet Winslow's grave  
Ms. Joann Snider, new missionary arrives at Uduvil (Sept.)
- 1977** The school presents first candidate for the Chamber of Commerce exam.  
French Classes begin with 32 students.  
Miss Helen Meisner, missionary - for the kindergarten
- 1978** Uduvilites sit for the first French Exam
- 1979** Dr. & Mrs. Holmes take up residence at Uduvil.
- 1980** A new Activity Reading Room for the Kindergarten Department
- 1981** Opening of the Ariam Hudson Paramasamy Memorial Hostel  
The school registered as a center for the London Pittman's Examinations  
Mr. & Mrs. Knolls arrived at Uduvil to work in Killinochi.
- 1982** Miss. C.V. Selliah succeeds Mrs. S.J. Somasundaram as principal.
- 1983** Uduvil opened her portals for refugees. Number on roll soars  
Further Education Programme for school leavers (Sept.)
- 1985** Susan Howland Block for the primary school.  
The Primary Department shines in the scholarship Exam  
Won the first place in Folk Dancing and Carnatic singing.
- 1986** American Ambassador visits Uduvil again;  
Uduvil shines in A/Level results. First in the Island in Commerce  
Participated at the Shakespeare Contest and won the first place.

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# Milestones

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- 1987** Ethnic riots and I.P.K.F. operation. Uduvil serves as army and refugee camp. Yet it continues to shine in A/Level results.
- 1988** Uduvil gets computerized. Computer is introduced in the secondary school; One man theatre is given pride of place.
- 1989** *"The Reason for Christmas is Jesus"*, a *Christmas Cantata*, the highlight of the year, with a performance in Colombo Telecast over national TV  
A long felt need materializes in the building of the New Science Block.
- 1990** Jaffna faces Military Operations.
- 1991** Celebrating 175 years of Missionary Arrival in Jaffna
- 1995** The *Exodus*. People leave Jaffna.
- 1999** Uduvil celebrates its 175<sup>th</sup> Year; Festivities extend to PPAs - Colombo, Melbourne, Sydney, Canada branches.
- 2001** Opening of the Harriet Winslow Science Block. Visit of the American Ambassador H. E. Ashley Wills;  
Opening of the Gender Resource Centre by the Canadian High Commissioner, Her Excellency Ruth Archibald  
Arrival of Ms. Grace Bunker, Missionary
- 2002** Basketball Court in Uduvil  
Song of Remembrance for the Lives of Dr. Robert Holmes and Mrs. Frances Holmes
- 2003** The Primary School gets, a new look
- 2004** Netball under 17 - finalists at the National Level.
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# UNIVERSITY OF KARNATAKA

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BANGALORE  
KARNATAKA  
INDIA

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INDIA



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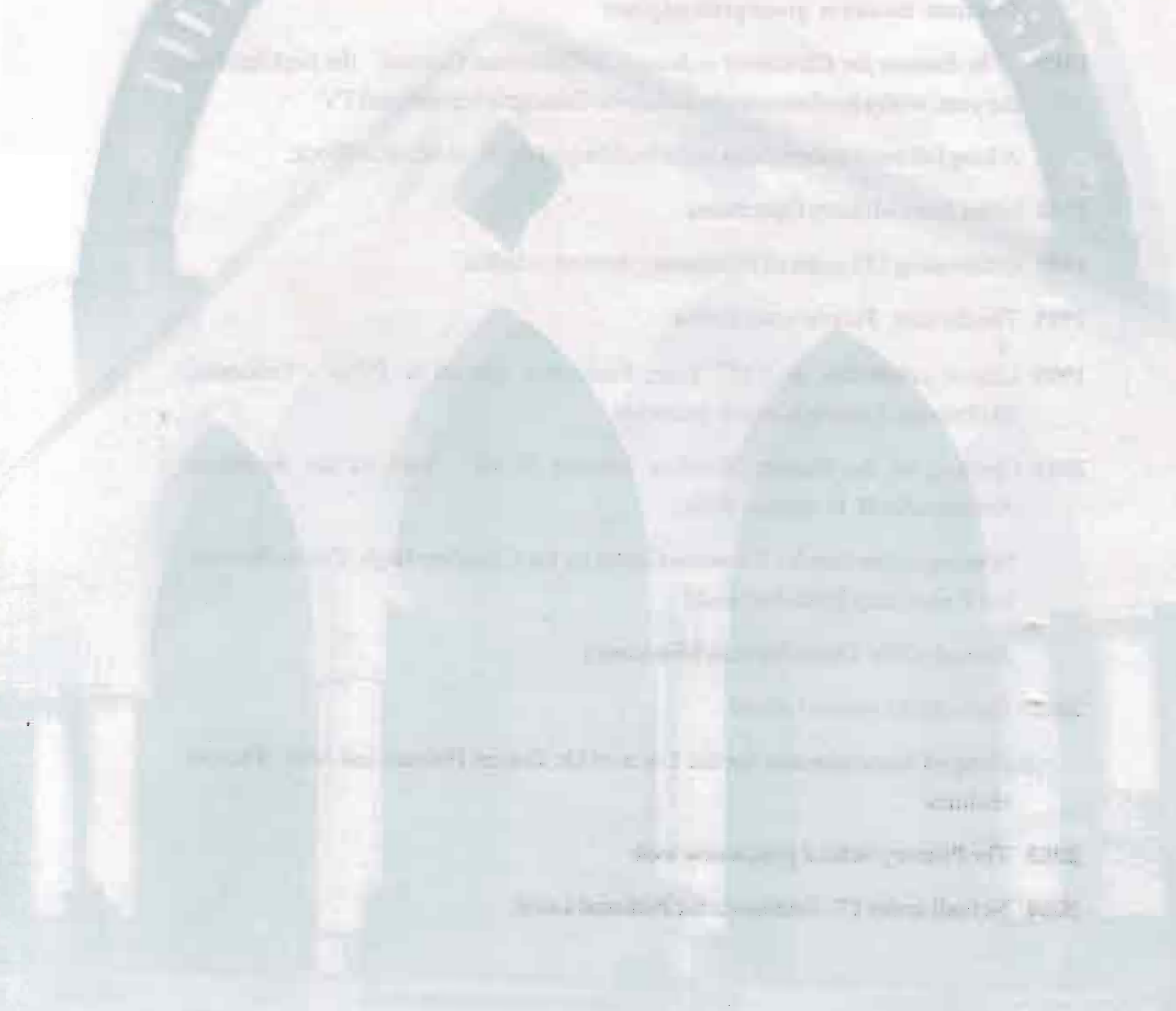
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# MISSION STATEMENT



Our mission is to provide a high quality education to all students, regardless of their background or financial resources. We are committed to the development of the whole person, including the intellectual, emotional, and spiritual aspects of our students' lives. We strive to create a learning environment that is challenging, supportive, and inclusive. Our goal is to prepare our graduates to be leaders in their respective fields and to make a positive impact on the world.

We are dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the advancement of the human condition. We encourage our students to explore new ideas, to question authority, and to seek the truth. We provide a wide range of academic programs and extracurricular activities to ensure that our students receive a well-rounded education. We are committed to the highest standards of academic excellence and to the integrity of our institution.

We believe that education is the key to a better future. We are committed to providing our students with the resources and support they need to succeed. We are dedicated to the service of our students and to the advancement of our community. We strive to be a model of excellence in higher education.







