

Editor's Note

Please address all communication for the English pages to **The English Editor, 'Morning Star'** UDUVIL, CHUNNAKAM.

THE MORNING STAR

Registered as a Newspaper at the General Post Office, Sri Lanka under No. Q B / 8920 / 78.

Established: 1841: A Christian Weekly : Published Every Friday

Vol. 142 JAFFNA, FRIDAY, 9TH JANUARY, 1981 No. 2

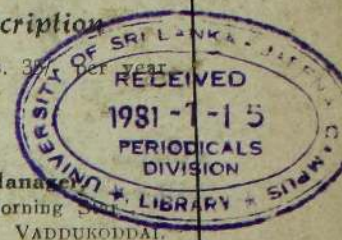
RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE

Subscription

Inland: Rs. 35/- per year

Apply to:

The Manager, 'Morning Star', VADDUKODDAI.



The World Council of Churches

The 1981 meeting of the WCC's Central Committee to be held in Dresden, German Democratic Republic (GDR) from August 17 to 26 this year, will be an important meeting for the Council.

The new style of preparations for the 1983 WCC Assembly in Vancouver, Canada will be discussed at this meeting as also the final reports from a special study on "the community of women and men in the Church".

Special conditions govern entry of journalists and others into the GDR. A six months advance notice is necessary for visa application. Journalists who wish to report more widely on the life of the Church and society will have to negotiate and obtain permission from the GDR authorities.

Graduate Placement Service Scheme

This scheme has been established in December 1979 under a proposal of Education Minister, Ranil Wickramasinghe.

The object of the scheme is to find suitable employment in the country for unemployed and under-employed graduates.

Four Million Rupees have been approved by the government for this purpose. It is estimated that 1500 graduates in government departments and thousand in government Corporations are under employed.

OCA

General Secretary Visits China

Dr. Yap Kim Hao, General Secretary of the Christian Conference of Asia visited the People's Republic of China for two days.

He was the first representative of the Church outside China to meet with Chinese Church leaders after the formation of the China Christian Council. Bishop K. S. Ting was elected President of the Council.

The Chinese Christian Council was set up at an eight day congress of Chinese Protestant Christians in Nanking early in October 1980 — the first such Congress in 20 years.

The Nanking Seminary, Dr. Yap reports, will receive students in February this year. It is anticipated that there will be 400 to 500 applications from all over the country.

The main building of the Theological Seminary has been returned. It has been renovated and is now ready for use. There is need for good theological books suitable for use in the Chinese Church.

Train Disaster at Kurunegalle

The biggest train disaster in recent history in Sri Lanka occurred in the early hours of Monday (5-1-81) when the Jaffna Mail Train bound for Colombo ploughed into the rear of the Batticaloa train which was halted at the Kurunegalle Station.

Twelve people died and 98 were admitted to the Kurunegalle hospital, some of whom were in a critical condition.

The driver of the Jaffna Mail Train who took over at Anuradhapura was remanded and the Head guard interdicted.

According to reports so far, the driver admitted that he had ignored the signals. In his statement he had also said that he had 35 years of experience as a driver.

The damage to the Railway is estimated at 1.5 million Rupees. Both the trains, were crowded to capacity carrying passengers most of whom were returning to their work places after the Christmas, New Year Holidays.

On the 26th of December, there was a major derailment in the Northern line and commuters in the morning *Yarl Devi* bound to Colombo were transported by buses from Kilinochi to Mankulam.

Visit of the Indian Finance Minister

Indian Finance Minister R. Venkataraman accompanied by a team of five Senior Officials arrived on Sunday (4-1-81) and spent two days in the island.

An agreement has been signed between the Finance Ministers of India and Sri Lanka for 225 million Rupees "line of credit" to Sri Lanka.

Mr. Venkataraman is the first Minister of the present government of Indira Gandhi, to visit Sri Lanka.

Zambia

First Sri Lankan Puisne Judge

President Kaunda of Zambia, awarded the Letters Patent as *Puisne Judge of the High Court of Zambia* to Mr. Justice Aiyadurai Sivanandan on 21-11-80 at State House.

Justice Sivanandan was appointed Resident Magistrate in Zambia in November 1972 and rose to the position of Commissioner of the High Court in July 1978, which post he held till his present appointment as *Puisne Judge of the High Court*.

While in Sri Lanka, he practised in Kandy and Nuwara Eliya and was appointed a magistrate in 1970.

He is the son of the late Mr. K. Aiyadurai, Proctor and Mrs. Aiyadurai of Jaffna.

Obituary Notice

Mr. D. J. Thambapillai

We are sorry to record the death on 13th December, 1980 of Mr. David Jayasingham Thambapillai, one time Vice Principal of Kopay Christian College. He was 81 years old.

The Funeral took place at Chundikuli on the 17th. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. Sarvananthan who was assisted by Rev. Isaiah. A tribute was paid by Rev. Wadsworth. Miss Geetha Selvarajah sang a solo. The remains were interred at St. John's burial ground, Chundikuli.

He leaves behind his wife Rose and daughters Jeyaseeli (Australia), Thayaseeli (Canada) Gnanaseeli (Trinity College, Kandy), and Pathmaseeli (Canada) and his sons-in-law Thavaseelan, Selvadas, Gnanendran and Arulpooranam and his brothers M. T. Thambapillai, B. A. Thambapillai, and his sisters Swarnamani Somanathar and Tiny Solomons. His only son Samuel Gunaseelan (Engineer, Radio Ceylon) predeceased him 13 years ago.

The Centenary of "Green Villa" Manipay

On the Christmas day, the members of the Mills family celebrated the centenary of this ancestral home "Green Villa" Manipay.

The members of this family joined in the Christmas Service and the Celebration of Holy Eucharist in the morning, when one of its members preached the Sermon, followed by a fellowship lunch and get-together. Then there was a prayer meeting and a social in the evening for all the relations.

For five generations this home was occupied by the family. It was never rented or closed.

The prayer meeting was led by Rev. Sam Thampoe, the Pastor of Manipay Church. Prof. W. L. Jayasingham, a member of the family, gave an account of the history and traditions of this ancestral home, set by the late Dr. & Mrs. C. T. Mills and the late Dr. & Mrs. S. G. C. Mills. He also referred to the families connections to the Green Hospital, the Green Medical School and the Manipay Church.

Mr. J. G. Arasaratnam, a member of this family led the prayer. Bible lesson was read by Mr. Nesan Kadirgamar, a relation of the family. Mrs. Sherry Mills sang a solo.

Dr. B. A. Mills, presently of Sydney, Australia was present to celebrate the occasion. He lit the candle and cut the centenary cake.

To mark this occasion the family has made a donation to the Manipay Church to create a Mills Memorial Fund

Uduvil Girls' College

Wanted Senior Matron with experience in managing a large girls' hostel. Salary negotiable.

Apply to:

Principal, Uduvil Girls' College

FEBRUARY FIESTA

in aid of

Casurina Retreat House

with items by the students of

Chundikuli Girls' College
St. John's College
Uduvil Girls' College and
Jaffna College

under the distinguished patronage of

Dr. Yogu Pasupathy M.R.C.P. and
Dr. (Mrs) Nalayini Pasupathy

at
VEERASINGHAM HALL, JAFFNA
on
SATURDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY
AT 6-00 P.M.

Earlalai South Church

Appreciation

Mr. M. Rajaratnam, retired Assistant Commissioner Housing, Special Commissioner and Justice of the Peace, was called to rest in his 58th year on Thursday the 20th of November 1980 at 9-55 p.m. immediately after his family prayer at his residence.

He was a man of many parts a churchman, a public servant a social worker, a loving father, and a dutiful citizen.

He had his early education at Union College Tellippalai where he cultivated his talents to the best of his ability. He joined the Government Service in the early forties and climbed the ladder very quickly by his perseverance. He earned the esteem of his superiors, equals and subordinates alike. He rose from the rank of a Clerical Servant to that of Divisional Revenue Officer and finally an Assistant Commissioner by dint of hard work.

His Services as a Social Worker were recognized by the Government and he was appointed Justice of the Peace.

He was a hard task master who did not tolerate shirkers. He wanted everyone who worked with him especially those under his guidance, to contribute their utmost for the country. His untimely demise has not only left his family but the entire village bewildered.

He was a Patron, a counsellor and a well-wisher. Only his loved ones know what he had been. The mammoth gathering at his funeral bears testimony to his life and work.

May his Soul rest in Peace.
"Safe in the Arms of Jesus"
V. Gunaratnam

EDITORIAL

1980 — The Year of Consultations

Two World Consultations — one on *Mission* in Melbourne from the 12th to the 25th of May, and the other on *Racism* in the Netherlands from the 16th to the 21st of June, have made the year 1980 a notable one, for the quantum of thinking that has been done on two subjects that have touched the life of the church at many of its "bleeding points".

Apart from these two major Consultations, there have been also a number of other Conferences which have had their impact on the life of the church.

Fortyfour delegates from WCC member churches in eight European socialist countries met in Prague from the 26th to the 30th of March to share their experiences of "Christian witness today".

Among the themes that found general agreement at this conference is the power of the Christian Community's *worship life* as a witness in socialist countries and the contribution churches can make, to the *humanisation of life* in this age.

Pattaya, near Bangkok, became the focal point of a gathering of some 40 men and women from 14 countries which assembled from March 31st to April 6th, to grapple with the task of finding ways of 'doing' theology in Asian contexts. Australian and Asian-American representatives were part of the Group.

This was the first colloquium on *Asian Perspective on Christian Thought*, necessitated by the inadequacy, for our own situations, of these theological methods and 'liberation' concepts framed in such continents as Europe and North America.

Asian voices at Melbourne, it has been reported, were heard (though not loud or persistent) expressing concern over the attempt to lump all struggles and all deprivations into one caldron.

The struggles of Asian peoples are far more diverse than the struggles of people in other parts of the world. Asian poverty for instance, is abysmal.

Asian liberation, as has been pointed out in "an Asian Comment" on Melbourne is from "our captivities" which include the captivity of the traditional Christian understanding of other religions. Melbourne had little to offer to Asian Christians in their context of religious pluralism.

A Consultation held in Sri Lanka from March 24 — 31 on "Liberation motifs in the Faiths of Asia" is no less significant because it met at home.

The wide spectrum of participants who took part in the discussions was a remarkable feature of the Consultation — an estate worker in Sri Lanka, a civil servant in India, a Shi'ite Moslem from Pakistan, a Marxist from India etc.

Do the faiths we follow in Asia contribute to liberation or do they enslave and stifle people? That was the question that the CCA Workshop held in Sri Lanka, convened by the Development and Service Desk addressed itself. The emphasis laid by participants was on the effective use of the Festivals of our Faith to "draw out their liberating aspects".

This panorama which we have given of some of our important consultations in 1980 — the year we are 'ringing out' — has been undoubtedly a revelation to the Christian Church of both the 'blocks' that hinder acceptance of the Christian gospel as well as the "bridges" by which the gospel may be effectively communicated.

1981 will see more of these Consultations especially the Seventh CCA Assembly in Bangalore scheduled for May.

One important fact which these Consultations underline, has been brought out in lucid terms recently by a WCC Director, Dr. Julio de Santa Ana

"The Christians should note that protest against the church's defence of the poor and exploited comes not in religious but in political pages. The idols (in the form of human power as racism or transnational corporations) never want to be removed".

To this thought, a New Testament Scholar adds an apt corollary: "God and the idols constitute today the main theme of history and no one can remain neutral here".

IN BRIEF

○ According to the New Motor Act, motor cyclists have to wear helmets approved by the Ministry of Transport. Cars also are prevented from using tinted windscreens which make identification of drivers, difficult.

○ The International University for Alternative Medicine will be set up shortly in Sri Lanka. The Amsterdam-based Medicine Alternative Organisation is reported to be spending some 200 million dollars on the project.

National Christian Council

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 18 — 25, 1981

The Theme suggested by the Commission on Faith & Order of the World Council of Churches, for the observance of Christian Unity Week in January 1981 is the following.

Theme: *One Spirit — Many Gifts — One Body*

- First Day: One Spirit through whom we say, "Jesus is Lord".
Isaiah 61: 1—3, 10—11; Phil: 2: 5—11; Luke 4: 14—22
- Second Day: Varieties of gifts but the same Spirit.
Isaiah 11: 1—10; Romans 12: 3—10; Luke 10: 38—42
- Third Day: Gifts with a useful purpose.
Ezekiel 36: 25—29; Ephesians 4: 1—7; 11—13; John 21: 15—22
- Fourth Day: Gifts of every kind.
Proverbs 8: 12—21; Galatians 5: 22—66; Matt. 5: 1—7
- Fifth Day: Gifts to each at will.
Joel 2: 23—29; Cor. 1: 26 — 2: 5; Luke 1: 26—38
- Sixth Day: A single body in Jesus Christ.
Isaiah 2: 1—5; Cor. 12: 14—27; John 15: 1—8
- Seventh Day: Baptized by one and the same Spirit into one and the same Body.
Joshua 3: 14—17; Gal. 3: 26—28; Matt. 28: 16—20
- Eighth Day: All refreshed with one and the same Spirit.
Ez. 47: 1—12; Rev. 22: 1; John 7: 37—39

WCC

Staff Person Honoured

One of the highest distinctions in the British Commonwealth has been awarded to Nita Barrow, Director of the WCC's Christian Medical Commission (CMC) since 1976.

She has been made a Dame of St. Andrew by Queen Elizabeth II for "extraordinary and outstanding achievement and merit in service to Barbados and humanity at large" on the recommendation of the Prime Minister of Barbados.

Nita holds certificates in midwifery, public health and nursing education as well as Sister Tutor's Diploma and a B.Sc. degree.

She will leave the WCC to enter retirement but will continue her work as President of the World Young Women's Christian Association.

Complete Census of Population

March 17 has been fixed for a complete Population and Housing Census in Sri Lanka. The Census will consist of two operations with a preliminary Census of resident population on March 1 and ending on or before March 10.

The final enumeration will be on the night of March 17 when there will be a check by enumerators on the schedules filled up during the preliminary census.

The floating population such as travellers will also be enumerated on this day.

The last Census was in 1971. March 17 will be a full or half holiday.

Sri Lankan Surgeon returns

Dr. C. Mylvaganam, the eminent Sri Lankan Surgeon, who went to Zambia in the early seventies has returned to his native country for good, after seven years as Consultant Surgeon at the Ndola Central Hospital.

Sri Lankans, according to Dr. Mylvaganam, have held several top posts at Zambia. Besides the medical field, Sri Lankans had made significant contribution in such fields as engineering, accountancy and teaching.

The University of Lusaka, he says, had at one time four Ceylonese who were heads of Departments at the same time.

Dr. Mylvaganam has expressed his appreciation over the setting up of the Private Medical College in Colombo and of the strides that have been made in Sri Lanka to train health workers in community medicine.

A Sri Lankan Wedding in Australia

Sushila Tharmarajah, daughter of Dr. (Tam) Tharmarajah and Mrs. Swarna Tharmarajah of Larrakeyah and Sanjivi, son of Mr. Rajasingham and Dr. (Mrs) Rajasingham of Canberra were married at Darwin Memorial Uniting Church on the 6th of December, 1980.

Rev. N. Vawser officiated at the Service.

A Reception followed the Service at Masonic Hall. Dr. Sushila Tharmarajah graduated from the University of Adelaide Medical School in 1977. The young couple will soon leave to make their home in Washington, USA where the groom is employed at the World Bank.