



### Editor's Note

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# THE MORNING STAR

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

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### JDCSI

#### Service of Remembrance

The Life and Ministry of Rev. J. M. Singanayagam was remembered at a Special Service of Thanksgiving held at the Manipay Church at 4.30 p. m. on Saturday, 9th of May.

The Service commenced with an Invocation by the Manipay Church Choir and Call to worship by the Bishop, the Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar.

The Bible Lessons were read by Rev. Chandran Arnold and Mr. Joc Singanayagam. Mrs. Jeeva Ratnasabapathy sang a Thevaram. The Manipay Church Choir and Members of the Family rendered special anthems.

Mr. I. P. Thurairatnam, in his tribute said that Rev. Singanayagam's claim to a place of eminence in the life of our Church, was first his commitment to the work of the Church which was displayed in the Call which he obeyed, (with a stimulus provided by his mother) even though his unique sports records and achievements at school pointed to a different gradient in his career.

"Don't take to the Ministry if you can possibly resist it" was the admonition of the President of the Theological Seminary in New York, to his students. Rev. Singanayagam was one who could not resist his Call.

His second claim to eminence rested in the essential goodness in his character, a goodness characterised not merely by the absence of unseemly qualities but the presence of positive virtues as rectitude, humility and a concern for others.

His management of 72 Primary schools of the J.C.S.I.U.C. in the period 1942-1949, a particularly difficult time for Christian denominational schools, was by no means, the least of his contribution to our Church.

Rev. J. J. Ratnarajah in his tribute said that the life and work of his colleague reminded him of the Bible verse "Enoch walked with God". Like the "skylark" immortalised by Shelley, Singar (as he was affectionately known to his friends) was one who not too seldom "soared" high, all the same keeping his ties to his earthly environment and in so doing elevated others to a higher pedestal.

His stature as a priest and as a man was high. Everyone had a place in his heart. One proof of his spiritual stature was that no one can make him angry or disturb his equanimity. Such a stature was the fruit of his "walking with God".

Rev. D. R. Ambalavanar preached the Sermon and Rev. Sam Thampoe led the Litany of Thanksgiving.

### JDCSI

#### Karainagar Church Circuit

The Second News Letter (the first to appear in formal garb in print) of the Karainagar Church Circuit is dated April 1981.

#### Karainagar Church

A highlight of Church activities this year is the Revival Meetings held in February when a group of 20 members from the Youth League of the Colombo Church added zest to the programme, which included Bible study, public addresses and the staging of two plays on the Church grounds—one by the Karainagar Sunday School children and the other by the Colombo Church Youth League.

A Study Circle organised last year met twice in 1980. The first meeting of the Circle was held this year on the 28th of March. Mr. David Jeyasingh led a discussion on the subject of "The Church and the Rehabilitation of the Disabled".

The Velanai Church has four families as regular members. The Worker at Pungudutivu, Mr. William Thevathason conducts the Church Service at Velanai at 4.30 p.m. The Communion Service is held on fourth Sunday of the month by the Circuit Pastor, Rev. T. S. Premarajah.

Some forty students, largely Hindu children attend Sunday School conducted by the Worker at Pungudutivu, before the Evening Service on Sundays.

The Velanai Church has been recently electrified and Bishop Ambalavanar officiated at a Service of Blessing in connection with the event.

#### Pungudutivu Church

The formal membership enrolment stands at 90. But most of the Members of this Church have migrated to Jaffna town, Colombo, Malaysia, United States, Middle East countries etc. They are continuing to help the mother Church in many ways.

Five girls from the Church have gained admission as Boarders to Uduvil Girls College.

Two Sunday Schools are being conducted at Pungudutivu—one for the children of the Church and the other for children in the outskirts of the island.

One young man from Pungudutivu Mr. C. K. Thevanesan is a third year student at the Tamil Nad Theological College at Madurai. He will be completing his B. D. Course in 1983.

#### Neduntivu Church

Rev. S. C. Arnold and Mrs. Arnold are doing useful work here.

The Service concluded with prayer and benediction pronounced by the Bishop, the Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar.

Some 28 Hindu children attend Sunday School conducted by the Pastor of the Church.

One of the members of the Church having completed his Teachers' Training has been posted to the Neduntivu Maha Vidyalaya.

The small industries started by the Evangelistic Committee have been successfully organised. Some of the finished products will soon find a place at our retail point of the Varany farm in the Jaffna New Market.

### DDC

#### UNP Propaganda Meetings in the North

The first UNP propaganda meeting in the North was held at Karainagar, on 11-5-81. Other meetings, it is learnt, will be held in Manipay, Kankesanthurai, Jaffna, Nallur and Kayts electorates.

Minister Gamini Dissanayake is expected to preside over the meeting at Nallur. At the climactic meetings to be held later in May, the Prime Minister is expected to address propaganda meetings in the North in favour of the UNP nominees.

Minister Festus Perera is in overall charge of organising these meetings. He is being assisted by Mr. K. Kaneshalingam, UNP Party Organiser in the North.

#### The TULF Propaganda Meetings

At a meeting held at Kili-nochi, presided over by Mr. V. Anandasangari, M.P., the TULF candidate, Mr. B. Krishnarajah said that at the DDC Elections, the TULF will get ten seats.

At Batticaloa, Mr. M. Siva. sithamparam M.P. for Nallur speaking at a meeting on 9-5-81 presided over by Mr. Kasi Ananthan, TULF Party Organiser at Batticaloa, said that the direction which the Development Councils would take, cannot be turned at will, by anyone to suit his own political whims and fancies. Without the approval of the General Council, not a cent of the funds could be appropriated for development in the District.

The most important problem facing the Development Councils in Tamil speaking areas, said Mr. Sivasithamparam is the task of preventing the colonisation of the traditional homelands of the Tamils.

Two minutes silence was observed at the commencement of the meeting as a mark of respect for Irish Republican Guerilla, Bobby Sands who fasted to death in a prison hospital outside Belfast to back his demands for political prisoner status for jailed Republicans.

### IN MEMORIAM



IN EVER LOVING MEMORY OF

#### Mercy Nesaratnam Paramanantham

Born: 30-01-1926  
Departed: 18-05-1978

Fondly Remembered and sadly missed  
Husband, Sons, Daughters, Daughter-in-Law, Grand sons and other Loved ones in Sri Lanka and overseas.

### IN MEMORIAM



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

#### Kirubairatnam Saravanamuthu (Kirubai Acca)

Called Home: 23rd May 1979

"A Woman of Faith and Good Works"

Fondly remembered and sadly missed by the loved ones, Church and Community.

'Santha Vasa' Chavakachcheri.

### Personal

Mr. Ranjan Mather, with his family was on a holiday in Jaffna. He is a lecturer at the University of Botswana and a Training Officer for young African Assessors. He lectures on taxation and accounts.

He is the son of Rev. B. C. D. Mather and Mrs. Mather of 36, Frazer Avenue, Dehiwela.

### IN BRIEF

Justice Sri Skandarajah Memorial Lecture this year will be delivered by Mr. S. Vinayagamorthy, Lecturer of the Jaffna University on May 16 at the Naval Mani Mandapam, Kew Road, Colombo 2 on the subject "திருத்தரணியின் குறி".

Ghana's Church Union — The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana has postponed the proposed Church Union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Evangelical Presbyterian Churches from January 1981 (as was contemplated) to a period between August 1982 and April 1983.





## EDITORIAL

## Living with People

The Seventh Assembly of the Christian Conference of Asia meets in Bangalore from May 18 to 28, on the theme *Living in Christ with People*.

Four years ago, when the last Assembly met in Penang in 1977, the theme was "Jesus Christ in Asian Suffering and Hope." The Assembly theme this year is a corollary, and underlines the truth that the only way we can discern Christ's presence in Asian suffering is by living in Christ with people.

One of the most significant changes in the thinking of the Asian Churches since the Inaugural Meeting of the CCA held in Kuala Lumpur in May 1959, is the conviction that their identity as Asian Churches is not separate from or unrelated to, the identity of the larger community.

As we write these notes, we have before us the testimony of a Chinese Evangelical, Sister Jeang Peifen, on what it has meant for her to be a Christian in China.

Her involvement with the three Self Movement in China (a self-administered, self-supporting and self-propagating Church) has led her to what she calls her "second liberation" [The first liberation was when she became a Christian.]

According to Sister Jeang, the Christian gets his "second liberation" not when he speaks glibly of the many sins people are capable of committing but when he gets a correct understanding of how people are capable of oppressing others and dehumanising themselves.

Some of the most harrowing reports in recent times of oppression and dehumanisation come to us from EL SALVADOR where from June 1980 to January 1981, the army and Security forces had killed 202 children, 58 of whom were between the ages of 1 to 10 years of age.

It is also a significant coincidence that the Seventh Assembly of the CCA, with its theme "Living in Christ with people" falls in the same year (1981) and the same month (May) when the South African Council of Churches has called for a period of "penitence" instead of "celebration" in response to the Government's decision to celebrate in an appropriate manner the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the Republic of South Africa.

The Resolution on "Republic Day of South Africa" passed by the SACC's National Executive, states the untarnished truth that for three quarters of the inhabitants of South Africa, there is nothing to celebrate on Republic Day in May 1981.

In this context, it is heartening to note that the Quaker organisation, *American Friends Service Committee* (founded 1917), which, as co-recipients of 1947 Nobel Peace Prize, is entitled to make a nomination each year has nominated *Bishop Desmond Tutu*, General Secretary of the SACC for the Nobel Peace Prize 1981.

The passport of Bishop Tutu, it may be recalled, was withdrawn early in March 1980 by the then Minister of Interior but was returned to him on the 22nd of January this year, after repeated requests by the SACC and the intervention of International political leaders and diplomats.

This is the backdrop in which the Seventh Assembly of the CCA is meeting this month to discuss the theme "Living in Christ with People."

At the same time, we hear so much today of "development" especially in Third World countries and even wonder if we have not come nearer the millenium.

But it is a grim reflection that people of the Third World today in their environment are unable to see the difference at times between the churches and the society which pushes them to the margin and beyond.

The role of the Churches in the present Asian predicament, has never been more clear. The January issue of *Info on Human Development*, a publication by the Asian Bishops' conference Office for Human Development has this significant comment on the Church in Korea.

In all Korean dioceses, more Buddhists are coming to Church services. When asked in a poll, what their religion was, 28 per cent of Seoul workers said they were Christians, though only 10 per cent of the population is Christian.

When asked to explain this position, one Korean Bishop said, "when we speak and work for justice, we touch something deep in the hearts of people and they are drawn to Christ."

The real need of the Asian countries is not aid but justice. Cardinal Stephen Kim and Poet Kim Chi Ha have spoken and worked for justice in Korea for many years. The Poet was released from prison after a long spell, only in February this year.

To live with people and obtain justice for them, the Church should, in the words of Cardinal Kim, "like a candle, consume itself and endure burning while it sheds the light."

## Mission with Mutilated Hands

[Extracts from a Paper presented by Dr. Kosuke Koyama, a Japanese Theologian at Melbourne in May 1980.]

The sincerity of the crucified Christ was expressed not in the brilliant formula of theologians in the seminary library but in the taunting words of the people who were passing by:— "He saved others, He cannot serve himself."

He exposed human dominance not from the luxury of an arm chair but by abandoning himself to human dominance, even to Crucifixion. What a painful and inefficient way to expose human deception! This efficient way is the secret of his power which confronts human power.

## Mutilated Hands

The Mutilated hands of Christ represent the sincerity of God towards all humanity. What an image—mutilated hands! Hands are a symbol of technology.

Are not our hands reaching the moon and beyond by our science and technology? Are not our hands changing our living environment to suit our liking? Do not powerful engines obey the signals we give by our fingers? Are they not capable of sending lethal weapons to destroy our enemies? *Our hands are powerful.*

## The Fertility God-Baal

Technology is an efficient arrangement to 'duplicate' things. By the printing press newspapers can be duplicated by the thousands. By motor engines distance can be duplicated under the rotation of the wheel.

But the ability to duplicate is today dangerously divorced from the discussion of the meaning of such ability. *Efficiency is suffocating meaning.* The good is impoverishing the best.

The fertility God Baal is becoming stronger than the covenant God Yahweh. Meaning is subordinated to efficiency. When meaning is subordinated to efficiency, the attractive hands appear. The attractive hands often direct our minds to the fascination of idolatry. Who will make an idol out of mutilated hands?

## The World of efficiency

Technology may be permitted to duplicate anything but not human beings. The machine must be switched off when it begins to duplicate the image of God in humans. It must not desecrate the holy in people.

What does it mean to duplicate human beings? Today perhaps one could speak of the duplication of the human in the sense of biological science.

But I am thinking at this moment of the surrendering of human space and human time to the efficient technological space and technological time.

The crucified Christ challenges such a technologically efficient way of dealing with people. Technology must serve the maintenance

and development of human values, the value of sincerity and reliability in the human community. The lifestyle of the Atlantic world is not the standard for all humanity. It must be judged together with other life styles under the light of the crucified Lord.

## Bureaucracy

Bureaucracy is a world of filing cabinets and endless classification. *It can reduce a living person into a set of numbers one sees on his or her passport.* Information is stored in the cabinet alphabetically.

The infinite amount of information about people can be used for the welfare of people. Then bureaucracy is practising the mind of the reign of God.

But it can also use the information to destroy people. Both the Nazi and Japanese bureaucracies operated with remarkable efficiency to destroy the lives of peoples of Asia and Europe. Without bureaucratic systems both militarism and racism cannot work.

We appreciate bureaucracy. But it must be in the hands of the responsible king (*Melek*) and not in the hands of the irresponsible king (*Melek*) who seeks human sacrifice (Jer. 32:35).

The most extreme example of the triumph of meaning over the *idolatry of efficiency* is the crucifixion of Christ. There Christ demonstrated the depth of his sincerity in the most painful and "inefficient" way. It takes suffering to expose idolatry. Technology and bureaucracy tell us today, "peace, peace". Is there peace?

## A Bossey Seminar

*Death and Life in Different Cultures* will be the subject of a Seminar from the 15th to the 20th of June this year at Bossey. It is intended not merely for doctors, pastors and people involved in healing professions but to all who are trying to combat the violence of death.

In the Industrialised world, people are concerned with the prolongation of 'life'. In the poor countries, death is an everyday experience. 'People are killed violently by starvation, torture, armaments and sickness'. People also commit suicide and die because of loneliness.

Christian witness tries to bring death and life closer together. It is a struggle, suffering and a victory over the uncanny power of death.

In the meanwhile in India, the *Mercy-Killing Bill* sponsored by a Private Member was opposed by many on the ground that it was "a luxury" to pass the Bill when problems of poverty, hunger and illiteracy stalked the land.

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