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

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Gift of Film Projector to Jaffna YMCA

The First Secretary (Development) of the Canadian High Commission in Sri Lanka, Mr. Y. C. Pan, visited the Jaffna YMCA on 24th Sept. '81, and formally presented a 16 m.m. Film Projector as a gift to the YMCA. He was accompanied by Mrs. Pan. The President of the Jaffna YMCA accepted the Projector on behalf of the YMCA gratefully thanking Mr. Pan for the valuable gift.

Executive Committee Appointments and Assignments

At its meeting held this month the Executive Committee of the JDCSI appointed **Mr. S. Ratnavel** as the Manager of the three Children's Homes run by the Diocese viz. Arulmanai, Manipay; Harriet Winslow Home, Pandateruppu and Levi Spaulding Home, Vaddukodai.

The ExCo. decided to propose to the Jaffna Christian Union the name of the **Rev. S. Manopavan** as Chaplain to the non-R.C. Christians of Teachers' College, Palaly.

It appointed **Mr. Jeyarajan Annappah** of the staff of Jaffna College as Warden of Levi Spaulding Home with effect from January 1982.

The **Rev. J. C. Mather** is to leave Arulmanai and be Worker-in-Charge of Araly Church from January 1982 when **Rev. V. N. Tharmakulasingham** goes to Theological Seminary Madurai on one year's study Leave.

Ariam Hudson Paramasamy Memorial Building Nearing Completion

The new hostel block being built in Uduvil Girls' College in memory of the former Principal Miss Ariam Hudson Paramasamy at a cost of over one million rupees is nearing completion. The dedication ceremony is expected to take place next month. The Old Girls Association of the College raised some money for the project and the UCBWM gave a substantial grant. Certain friends had contributed the cost of sections of the building in memory of their loved ones. Teachers and pupils of the school too made special efforts to raise funds for the building. The new hostel for girls and resident teachers will serve a much felt need of this noble institution reputed for being one of the oldest girls' boarding schools in this part of the world. It will also be a fitting memorial to the illustrious first national principal of the school.

Press Censorship

Under the existing State of Emergency, Press Censorship has been brought into operation from 21-8-81. The Competent authorities are the Secretary to the Minister of State and the Director of Information.

Home for the Handicapped

The Jaffna Diocese of the CSI is making plans to set up in this International Year of Disabled Persons, a Home for Physically Handicapped Children in Inuvil. The **Rev. A. Jeyakumaran** the minister in charge of this project went to Trivandram this month to observe and study the working of the Home for Handicapped (Polio) Children, Trivandram which has 90 children and a school of its own. He had discussions with **Dr. H. Jones** the Convener of the Home and the **Rt. Rev. I. Jesudason** the CSI Bishop in Trivandram. **Rev. Jeyakumaran** will be meeting **Dr. Jones** again later this month when he brings nine children and three of the staff of the Home in Trivandram on a sight-seeing tour of Sri Lanka.

Christian Home Festival

Under the auspices of the Women's Fellowship of the J.D., C.S.I., Christian Home Festival was celebrated on the afternoon of Saturday the 10th October 1981 in the Manipay Church with a worship service and fellowship tea. The guest speakers **Mrs. R. Parmer**, retired Chief Education Officer and the **Rev. H. R. S. Jeyachandran**, Chairman, North and East Synod of the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka spoke at the service on the theme "Honour thy father and thy mother" **Mrs. Sam Thampoe**, Convener of the Women's Fellowship led the service. The Manipay Church choir was in attendance.

The week beginning 4th October 1981 was observed in the Diocese as Christian Home Week and Church Services were conducted by the respective Church Women's Fellowships in many Churches on Christian Home Sunday 4th October or the following Sunday.

Sinnakkadai to be Rebuilt

The Jaffna Municipal Council is making plans to put up a new building at a cost of about twenty-five lakhs rupees in place of the present Small Bazaar, near Main Street, Jaffna. The Council has submitted the building plan to the Urban Development Authority for approval. When the building programme begins in January 1982, the market will temporarily be run in the Customs premises on Bankshall Street, adjoining the present site.

Church Herald's Focus on "How Great Thou Art!"

The **Rev. Dr. Howard C. Hageman** the President of New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Jersey, USA has written an article to a recent issue of the *Church Herald* the official magazine of the Reformed Church in America entitled "How Great Thou Art!". The hymn first came to Sri Lanka after the Triennial Conference of the SCMs of India, Pakistan and Ceylon held in Guntur S. India in December 1957, where the Pakistani delegation had taught the hymn to the whole Conference. **Dr. Hageman** in a fascinating analysis brings out a reason for this hymn becoming so popular so fast among evangelicals. He suggests that this hymn is one of the few "in the evangelical collection that fulfills one of the basic requirements of a hymn: it is addressed in praise to God". Most of the other favourite evangelical songs are testimonies set to music. They are addressed to each other for inspiration and encouragement. "How great thou art!" is sung about and to a good and gracious Father. That is what a hymn is.

NCC Appoints New Education Secretary

The National Christian Council of Sri Lanka has appointed **Mrs. Chitra Fernando** to succeed **Mr. Kenneth M. de Lanarolle** as the Secretary for Education. Her office is installed at St. Luke's Vicarage, Borella. She is presently making a survey of all the Sunday Schools run by the member churches of the NCC with a view to conducting regional training courses and seminars for Sunday School teachers.

Seminar on White-paper

The National Christian Council will conduct a full day seminar on the White-paper on Education on the 7th of November 1981. Principals of Christian Schools, Chaplains and some members of the clergy have been invited to participate at this seminar. Certain key officers of the Ministry of Education are expected to explain to the participants the proposals and salient points of the White-paper.

Special Course in Christian Civilization

University of Jaffna has an Honours Course in Christian Civilization from the beginning of this academic year. Students who obtain a good grade at the General Arts Qualifying examination will be allowed to pursue their Special Course. Lectures on Christian Civilization are given by **Rev. Fr. A. J. V. Chandrakanthan** of St. Francis Seminary Colombagam and **Mr. S. Jebanesan** of Jaffna College, Vaddukodai.

JAFFNA COLLEGE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Courses in (i) Welding
(ii) Advanced Welding commence on 1st November, 1981.

Application forms are available at the Office.

Director,
Jaffna College Technical Institute,
Vaddukodai.

In Affectionate Memory

of

Lilly Pavalam Muttiiah

Born 19-2-1908

Called to Rest 25-10-1965

*Till memory fades and life departs
You will forever live in our hearts.*

Nunavil,
Chavakachcheri.

Colombo Diocese Fails to Reach Consensus on Church Union

The Diocesan Council of the Church of Ceylon met for its Annual Session in the Diocesan Hall, Colombo from the 6th to the 8th of October 1981. **Mr. Neville Samarakoon** the Chief Justice of Sri Lanka addressing the Council as the Chief Guest at the inaugural session pleaded for Church Union and quoting from St. Paul expressed regret that some Christians had thought it fit to resort to the courts to resolve ecclesiastical problems which can be settled in more Christian ways among ourselves. After nearly a day long discussion on the Church Union Scheme, the Council decided to suspend decision on the matter. It is possible that the Bishop may summon an extra-ordinary session of the Council to resume the debate at a late date.

The **Rev. Dulip Chickera** conducted the daily Bible Studies which were much appreciated.

Prisoner of Conscience Week

Amnesty International had a week-long drive from October 9th to the 16th to highlight the cases of more than 4,000 prisoners of conscience in the world. They claim that nearly half the 154 member states of the United Nations are holding people imprisoned for their beliefs and who have not used or advocated violence. In the Peoples's Republic of China, for instance 80 year old **Gong Pinmei** the former Roman Catholic Bishop of Shanghai has spent more than 25 years in prison on charges of counter-revolutionary activities and still is in prison.

உதயதாரகை

UTHAYATHARAKAI

Estd. 1841.

வெள்ளை வார இதழ்.

[வெள்ளிதோறும் வெளிவருவது.

" நீதி ஜனநாயக உயர்த்தும்; பாவம் எந்தக் குணத்துக்கும் இழிவாம் "

தாரகை ஒளி

நண்பனை இழந்து விடாமல் இருப்பதற்கு நன்மை செய், எதிரியை உன் வசப்படுத்துவதற்கு எதிரிக்கு நன்மை செய்,

மலர் 141] 16, 23 - 10 - 1981 [இதழ் 42, 43

கிறிஸ்தவ தமிழ் இலக்கிய மகாநாடு

இந்த வருட இறுதியிலும் அடுத்த வருடத்தின் ஆரம்பத்திலும் தென் இந்திய திருச்சபை மகாநாடு ஒன்று திருச்சியில் நடைபெற இருக்கின்றது. இது கிறிஸ்தவ தமிழ் அன்பர்களுக்கு தேவையிதமாகப்படும் என்பதில் ஐயமில்லை.

தென் இந்திய திருச்சபையில் இலக்கிய வளர்ச்சிக்கு அதிக ஊக்கம் அளிக்கப்படவில்லையென்பது மறுக்கமுடியாத உண்மையாகும். இவ்வியத்தில் ரோமன் மார்க்கத்தார் சமீபத்தில் நாட்டிலும் சாதனைகள் போற்றற்குரியன. வீரமாமுனிவர் விழா, தத்துவபோதகர் விழா, வேதநாயகர் நினைவு விழா போன்ற விழாக்களை எடுத்துத் தமது அரும் இலக்கிய கர்த்தாக்களையும், இலக்கியச் சிந்தனையாளர்களையும் கொளவித்து வந்திருக்கின்றனர். சில வருடங்களுக்கு முன்னர் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் அவர்கள் நடாத்திய ஞானப்பிரகாசர் நூற்றாண்டு விழா பாராட்டிற்குரியதாக அமைந்தது.

சீர்திருந்திய திருச்சபையில் ஆக்க இலக்கியங்கள் (Creative Literature) இல்லையென்பது பிறமதத்தவர்கள் கூறும் குற்றச்சாட்டாகும். ஆக்க இலக்கியம் இல்லாத மதப்பிரிவு சமுதாயத்தில் வேருன்ற முடியாது என்பது சமூகவியல் அறிஞர் கருத்து. நம்முடைய ஆக்க இலக்கியம் வளரவில்லை. பதினெட்டாம் நூற்றாண்டிலே தோன்றிய வேதநாயகசாஸ்திரியாகும், பத்தொன்பதாம் நூற்றாண்டிலே தோன்றிய கிருஷ்ணபிள்ளையவர்களும் கிறிஸ்தவ தமிழ் இலக்கியத்தினை வளர்த்து வந்தனர். வேதநாயகரின் "பெத்தலேவ் குவலஞ்சியும்" கிருஷ்ணபிள்ளையின் "இரட்சனய யாத்நிரிகுமே" இன்று வரை நமக்குப் பற்றுக் கோடாக இருக்கின்றன.

அவர்களுக்கு பின்னர் தென்னிந்தியாவிலும் யாழ்ப்பாணத்திலும் சில பத்தியுள்ள கிறிஸ்தவர்கள் ஆக்க இலக்கியங்கள் சிலவற்றை உருவாக்க முயன்றுள்ளனர். இவர்களின் இலக்கிய முயற்சிகள் ஆராயப்பட வேண்டியுள்ளன. இன்றைய "கிறிஸ்தவ" தமிழ் இலக்கியங்கள் அரங்கேற்றப்படவேண்டியுள்ளன இலை மறை காயாகவுள்ள இலக்கிய கர்த்தாக்கள் அறிமுகம் செய்யப்பட வேண்டியவர்களாயிருக்கின்றனர். கிறிஸ்தவ தமிழ் உலகு சமீப காலத்தில் இலக்கியத்துறையில் ஓரளவு தாக்கத்தை ஏற்படுத்தியுள்ளது என்பது மறுக்கமுடியாது. சென்னை கிறிஸ்தவக் கல்லூரித் தமிழ்த்துறை, சி. எஸ். எஸ்., தமிழ்நாடு இறையியற்கல்லூரி என்பனவற்றின் பங்களிப்பு இவ்வகையில் குறிப்பிடத்தக்கதாகும்.

டிசம்பரில் நடைபெறவிருக்கும் கிறிஸ்தவ தமிழ் இலக்கிய மகாநாடு சிறப்புற வாழ்த்துகின்றோம்.

செய்திகள்

அமெரிக்க சபைகள் — வளர்ச்சியிற் குறைவு

அமெரிக்காவிலுள்ள புரட்டஸ்தாந்த சபைகளைப் பற்றிய 1979ஆம் ஆண்டின் கணக்கெடுப்பின்படி 1979ஆம் ஆண்டில் சபை வளர்ச்சி முந்திய ஆண்டிலிருந்து 168 விதமாக மரத்திரம் காணப்பட்டது. இதன்படி சபை அங்கத்தினர் 133, 469, 690 ஆகக் கணக்கிடப்பட்டது. இதற்கு முந்திய இரண்டு ஆண்டுகளும் வருட விநிச சபை வளர்ச்சி 7 ஆகக் காணப்பட்டது. 1979இல் அதிகரித்த தொகை சுமார் 81 ஆயிரம் மரத்திரமே.

சபை உக்கிராணத்துவத்திலும் கூடப் போதியளவு அதிகரிப்புக் காணப்படவில்லை. பத்துப் பிரதான நரமதாரணப் பிரிவுகளில் காணப்பட்ட தொகை அளவு அதிகரிப்பு 8:8 விதம்; என்னும் பணவிக்கத்தின் அதிகரிப்பு இதே காலத்தில் 118 விதமாக இருந்ததால் இந்தக் கொடை அதிகரிப்புப் பயன் தராமற் போனது எனக் கூறப்படுகிறது. அமெரிக்க கத்தேச சபைச் சங்கத்திற்காக வெளியிடப்பட்ட 1981ஆம் ஆண்டின்

நிகழ்வு கணக்கில் இந்த விவரத்தைக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன, இந்தச் சபைகளின் கடைசியான புகளி விவரத் தொகுப்பு 1979 ஆண்டிற்குரியதே.

அமெரிக்க சபைகளில் ஒன்றிணைப்பு

அமெரிக்காவில் பாரம்பரிசு மாக இருந்துவரும் பிரிக்கப்பட்ட சபை தனது இறையியல் கொள்கைகளின் கட்டுப்பாட்டைச் சாற்றி தனித்தி விடுகிறதென்ற சாட்டில் 1973ஆம் ஆண்டிலே அச்சபைக்குள்விருந்த கவனிக்கப் பிரிவினர் அமெரிக்க பிரிஸ்பித்தீரிய சபை என ஒரு புதிய சபையை ஆரம்பித்தனர். இந்தவழி இது 88,888 அங்கத்தவர்களை மாத்திரம் கொண்ட ஒரு கிறிஸ்தவ சபைபடிசூடி கிறது.

தன்னுடைய இணைந்து கொள்ளும்படி இன்னும் கிறிஸ்தவ இரண்டு சபைகளுக்கு இது சென்ற ஆண்டில் இறுதியில் அழைப்பு விடுத்திருந்தது. இந்த அழைப்பைப் பெற்ற வங்குப் பிரிஸ்பித்தீரிய சபையின் பெரது மகாதர 91 எதிர் 41 வாக்குகளைக் கொண்டு அழைப்பு ஏற்றுக் கொண்டுள்ளது. இதற்குப் பிற்ப்பித்தீரிய சபை என்ற மதி

நிச்சய ஏற்கெனவே இன்னும் கூடிய விவாத வாக்குகளால் இந்த அழைப்பை ஏற்றிவிடுவது. எனவே இம்முன்று சபைகளும், இன்னும் சில இறுதி ஆயத்தங்களாடன், விவரவில் ஒன்று சேருமெனக் காத்திருக்கப்படுகிறது.

இவை ஒன்று சேரும் பட்சத்தில் இந்த ஐக்கியத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவை 850 தனிச் சபைகளும் 125,000 அங்கத்தவர்களும் இருப்பார்கள். ஒன்று சேரக் கருதும் இந்த முன்று சபைகளும் Westminister Confession போன்ற விசுவாச ஆதாரத் திட்டங்களில் தமது கொள்கைகளை அமைத்துள்ளவை.

சாவகச்சேரியில்

வலு இழந்தோருக்கு ஓர் இல்லம் இம்மாதம் 9ஆம் திகதியன்று பிற்பகல் 5 மணியளவில் நடந்த ஒரு சிறு வைபவத்துடன் சாவகச்சேரி கண்டி விதிக்கருகாமையில் வலு இழந்தோர் இல்லம் ஒன்று திறக்கப்பட்டது. இது சென்ற ஆண்டு இறுதியில் சாவகச்சேரி வயலில் கழகத்தினரால் திட்டமிடப்பட்டு தற்போது இக்கழகத்தின் தலைவராயிருக்கும் உதவி அரசாங்க அதிபர் திரு. K. துரைராசாவுடைய ஆதரவுடனும், வயலில் கழகத்தின் முன்னாள் தலைவர் திரு. பொ. தேவேந்திரன் அவர்களுடைய ஆதரவுடனும், 9ஆம் திகதியன்று நடந்த வைபவத்திற்கு உதவி அரசாங்க அதிபர் திரு. K. துரைராசா தலைமையிலும், பல பிரமுகர்கள் சமுடமளித்தனர். பிரதம விருந்தினராக திரு. M. K. சுப்பிரமணியம் சமரதான நீதவான் அவர்கள் சமுடமளித்திருந்தனர். இவ்வையலத்தில் திரு. சுப்பிரமணியம் அவர்கள் இல்லத்தைத் திறந்துவைக்க, திரு. S. K. திரவியநாயகம் J. P. U. M. முன்னாள் நகர சபைத் தலைவர் அவர்களும், சாவகச்சேரித் திருச்சபைக் குருவானவர் வண. ஜே. ஜே. இரத்தினராசா அவர்களும் உரையாற்றினர். சாவகச்சேரி திருச்சபையினர் டேபிள் ஆண்டில் இவ்வெத்தனத்துக்காக ரூபா 1000/- வழங்கியிருந்தனர். சாவகச்சேரியிலுள்ள யூஸ்திரித் நீதவான் யேரகேஸ்வரன் அவர்கள் மாதாந்தம் இந்த நோக்கத்துக்காக பணவழி கொடுத்து வருவது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது. திரு. M. K. சுப்பிரமணியம் அவர்கள் இவ்வெத்தனத்துக்காக ரூபா 10,000/- வழங்கியிருப்பது மாத்திரமல்ல, தமது விவரபர நிறுவனத்தின் வருமானத்திலிருந்து தற்போதும், தனது மறைவின் பின்னும் ஒரு தொகைப் பணத்தை ஒதுக்கியிருப்பது மெச்சப்படக்கூடியது. வைபவத்தின் இறுதிக்கட்டமாக கடைடி நவீலப் பாடசாலைச் சிறுவர்கள் சிலர் வலு இழந்தோராக சமுடமளித்தோரை இன்னிசை ஊட்டி மகிழ்வித்தமை மிகப் பெராகும் தமையமைந்துள்ளது. மிகச் சிறந்த நோக்குடன் அமைக்கப்பட்ட இவ்வெத்தனத்தை இறைவன் தமதருளால் நிறைத்து ஆசிரிய வேண்டும்.

பிள்ளைகள் இல்லங்களுக்கு புதிய முகாமையாளர்

யாழ்ப்பாணம் ஆதினத்திலும் ஆரம்பித்து நடப்பிக்கப்படும் சிறு பிள்ளைகள் இல்லங்கள் மூன்று. மரணிப்பானில் "அருள் மனை" யென்ற ஆன் பிள்ளைகள் இல்லம், வட்டுக்கோட்டையில் "வேலிஸ் போடிஸ் இல்லம்" ஆன் பிள்ளைகளுக்கு, பண்டித்தெருப்பில் "ஹரியெத் உயிஸ்ஸலோ இல்லம்" பெண் பிள்ளைகளுக்கு, இவை மூன்றிலும் தற்போது சுமார் 180 பிள்ளைகள் இருக்கிறார்கள்.

மெமோறியல் வித்தியாச சாலை, யாழ்ப்பாணக் கல்லூரி, பண்டித்தெருப்பு பெண்கள் பாடசாலை ஆகியவற்றில் படிக்கிறார்கள். இந்த இல்லங்களில் இடம் தேடும் இன்னும் அநேக பிள்ளைகளைச் சேர்ப்பதற்காகக் கட்டட வேலைகள் துரிதமாய் நடைபெற்றுக் கொண்டு வருகின்றன.

இந்த மாதம் 15ஆம் திகதியிலிருந்து இந்த மூன்று இலைகளுக்கும் பெரது முகாமையாளராக ஆசிரியர் திரு S. இரத்தினவேல் அவர்களை ஆதினத்தின் நிர்வாகக்குழு நியமித்துள்ளது. இந்த மூன்று இடங்களிலுமுள்ள சபைக் குருமார் அந்தந்த இல்லத்தின் பெரது மேற்பார்வையாளராய்க் கட்டடமையாற்றுவார்கள்.

இவைகளை விட, நெடுந்திவில் "பகல் வேலைப் பராமரிப்பு நிலையம்" ஒன்று ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளதையும், இணுவிலில் ஆங்கக் குறைவுடைய பிள்ளைகளுக்கான இல்லம் ஒன்று வரும் மாத்திரத்தில் ஆரம்பிக்கப்படவுள்ளதையும் வரசைர் அறிவர், நமது சமுதாய முன்னேற்றத்திற்கு இவையாவும் உதவுமென்பதற் கையமில்லை.

- தியூ.

கிறிஸ்த இல்ல விழா

தெ. இ. திருச்சபை, யாழ்ப்பாணம் ஆதினத்தின் வருடாந்தக் கிறிஸ்த இல்ல விழா இம்மாதம் 10ஆம் திகதி சனிக்கிழமையன்று மாண்புபாய்த் திருச்சபை ஆலயத்தில் நடைபெற்றது. பிற்பகல் 3-80 மணிக்கு ஆரம்பித்த விழாவில் ஆதினத்தின் பல பாசுக்களிலுமிருந்து சுமார் 200 அங்கத்தவர்கள் சமுடமகிரிந்தனர்.

விழாவின் பிரதான ஆம்சமான வழிபாட்டு ஆராதனை ஆதினம் பெண்கள் ஐக்கியத்தின் கட்டுப்பாடு திருமதி சாம் தம்பு அவர்கள் தலைமையில் நடந்தது. பண்டித்தெருப்புச் சபையைச் சேர்ந்த திருமதி W. S. நக்கராஜா, சங்காலைச் சபையைச் சேர்ந்த திருமதி K. கிருபராஜா ஆகியோர் முக்கியப் பணியாற்றினார். புதிய ஏற்பாடு வேதப்பகுதிகளை வாசிக்கிறதின், இதற்கெனத் தயாரிக்கப்பட்ட சிறப்புச் செபமரண தலைவர் அவர்களின் நடத்தப்பட்டது. மாண்புபாய்ச்சபைப் பரடார் சிறப்புப் பாடல்களை பாடினர்.

இணப்பாறியல் கல்வி அதிகாரி திருமதி R. பாரிமர் அவர்களும், வட இலங்கை மெதடிஸ்த சபைத் தலைவர் கனம் H. R. S. ஜெயச்சந்திரன் அவர்களும் "உன் தப்பினையும் உன் தாயையும் என் பன்னுவாயாக" என்ற கிறிஸ்தவ உடயதனை ஆதாரமாகக் கொண்டு சிறப்புரைகள் ஆற்றினார்கள். கெவுளுடைய அருணப்பமுறுவதில் பிள்ளைகள் பெற்றுரைக் கனம் பன்னவ வேண்டிய தவசியம் எனவும் கிறிஸ்துவின் வெளிச்சத்தைப் பிள்ளைகளுக்கு எழுத்துக்கார்ட்டு வேண்டியது பெற்றோரின் கடைமை யெனவும் திருமதி பாரிமர் அவர்கள் வினக்கினார்கள். கனம் ஜெயச்சந்திரன் குடும்பத்தின் சிறப்பான குணத்தையுடைய விவரித்து ஒரு கிறிஸ்தவ குடும்பம் தன்னைச் சுற்றி வாழும் மக்களுக்குக் கிறிஸ்துவை எடுத்துக் காட்டும் ஒரு மற்செய்திப் பட்டையினராய் இருக்க வேண்டும் எனக் கூறினார்கள்.

சிறு சல்லிக்க கரணிக்கை ஒப்படைத்ததும் ஆராதனையால் இடம் பெற்றது. திருமதி A. N. L. யானுஸ்பிண்டா அவர்கள் செருத்த நன்றியுரைகளைத் தொடர்ந்து மகாநகரம் அதிபர் அவர்களின் ஆதரவுகளைத் துடன் ஆராதனை முடிவடைந்தது. சமுதாய நலத்திற்கு அனைவரும் ஆராதனையைத் தொடர்ந்து ஆதினம் பெண்கள் ஐக்கியம் தந்த உபரணை நடத்தியது.

[உரைகளின் சாராம்சங்கள் வேறுகத் தரப்படும்.]

SEARCHING FOR PEACE

BY
GERRY O'REILLY ofm.

[By courtesy of the magazine BRIEF the following article is reproduced in two instalments to mark the beginning of the Year of St. Francis this month.]

There was once a woman who was expecting. She was overdue. She was well overdue. Her relations and friends were worried and anxious. The woman's husband was away, far away in a foreign land on business. He was anxious too. He was afraid for his wife's sake.

One evening a knock came to the door. A total stranger entered the house and approached the woman: "Pica", he said (for Pica was her name), "Go to the stable and all will be well." With that he left.

"What strange advice," said the anxious woman. But Pica insisted on doing what the stranger had told her. She went to the stable and there in the cow's house, her little son was born.

She baptised him Giovanni Bernardone. On returning from his travels the father heard the good news. He was delighted to hold in his hands his infant son. What plans, what dreams, what wishes, he had for this his young boy. He was overjoyed. But he did not like the name Giovanni. He changed the child's name to Francesco. Today that man is known by the name of Francesco, St Francis of Assisi.

Francis had black eyes, a round chuppy face and a warm personality. Often his father took him in his hands, played with him, joked with him, and like many a longed for child, spoilt him. Everything he could give the boy, he gave: clothes, the best; money, as much as he desired. Francesco was his darling. Francis would help him in the shop; Francis would expand the business; Francis would be like his father! What dreams the father dreamed as the boy grew strong and handsome.

His father sent him to the local school. There Francis learned to read and write. But his father wanted no scholar son. He wanted a practical man, who would follow in his footsteps of money making. Francis, seemingly, fell into line with his father's thinking.

Francis grew up with the lads and lassies of Assisi. The youth of Assisi had a bad name, in those days: they overliked their drinks, their sex, themselves. Francis became their ringleader. However, he always had a generous heart and hand. Thomas of Celano who wrote Francis' life story shortly after his death, says that Francis, "Although extremely rich, was more interested in spending than in hoarding money." He liked music, dancing, singing and poetry. He liked going around with the boys and girls and was always ready for a crack! His father was by no means against Francis' conduct. Francis' way of life was a good advertisement for the success of the family business!

Now the men of Assisi went to war with Perugia, a town some 30 miles from Assisi, and Francis joined the town army. He had visions of distinguishing himself. Perhaps he would receive a special award for bravery and courage. Perhaps he would be knighted. But alas, his dreams were only shadows. Within a few days of leaving Assisi, Francis was a prisoner of war. There in the prison he sang and was gay, in the beginning. But prison is not the place for joyful poets! He missed the sun, the moon, the country side with the trees and vines, the water and the flowers, and most of all he missed his friends. Francis became very sick, and after a year in prison was released and eventually arrived home.

What a welcome he received. Soon he was being invited back to the old haunts. But the singing and the dancing, the wining and the dining did not have the same fascination as of old, for Francis. He became moody, grumpy and unfulfilled. He had an identity crisis. He was mixed up. He had lost his bearings in a hard world.

For a while he was two faced: He went along with the crowd, with the gay parties, but his heart was not in them. He was growing dissatisfied and impatient with the boys. He was growing up.

He was still generous with the sick and the poor. One day a beggarman came into the shop and Francis brushed him aside for the rich customer. But soon afterwards he was overcome with remorse of conscience and was out in the streets searching for the poor beggar, and having found him, gave him his full purse.

But Francis was unhappy. He was unhappy at home, at work, in the shop, with the gang, unhappy with himself. He had no peace, no rest, no joy. He began to go off on walks to quiet and lonely place with a friend.

He began to think.

One day while praying in the little church of San Damiano, in front of the crucifix, he heard the words: "Francis, go and repair my church, which you see is falling into ruin." Francis went home and sold many rolls of cloth from his father's shop so that he could repair the church with the money. He begged for blocks and bricks and stones: "He who gives one stone will get one reward," he cried as he went through the narrow streets, "and he who gives two stones will get two rewards!" People thought that Francis was gone mad... a little touched. The children laughed and threw stones at him.

He passed a pub in which his old friends were drinking

Honour Thy Child! ... Father and Mother

If a child lives with Criticism, he learns to Condemn
If a child lives with Hostility, he learns to Fight
If a child lives with Ridicule, he learns to be Shy
If a child lives with Shame, he learns to be Guilty
If a child lives with Tolerance, he learns to be Patient
If a child lives with Encouragement, he learns Confidence
If a child lives with Praise, he learns to Appreciate
If a child lives with Fairness, he learns Justice
If a child lives with Security, he learns to have Faith
If a child lives with Approval, he learns to like Himself
If a child lives with Acceptance and Friendship,
He learns to find Love in the world.

Obituary

Mr. Lawry R. Vethanayagam, retired Executive Engineer Irrigation, brother of Dr. A. V. A. Vethanayagam and Mrs. Ranees Hensman died on Thursday the 16th October 1981 in Colombo. After retirement he was living at the home of his daughter Mrs. Rukmani Ganesh at Uduvil. He was a member of St. John's Church, Chundikuli. The funeral took place in Colombo at the home of his daughter Mrs. Ranji Sarvananthan on Friday the 17th. His wife predeceased him.

The tragic death of young Joseph Ravidakshan son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Lewis of Manipay occurred in Colombo on Tuesday the 13th October 1981 when he got accidentally drowned while sea-bathing at Wellawatte. He was twenty two years old and nearly completing his engineering studies. After the funeral service conducted by the Rev. S. S. Arulampalam at Kanatte and cremation according to Christian rites, on Friday the 16th the ashes were brought to Manipay for interment in the Church graveyard.

Mr. Jobupillai Edward Soundrarajah retired Assistant Commissioner of Co-operative Development passed away in Colombo on Friday the 16th October 1981. The funeral took place at his home in Jaffna town on Sunday the 18th morning. The Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar performed the committal rites at the burial at the Christian burial grounds Kodadi.

Mr. Soundrarajah was for several years the delegate of the Pungudutivu Church to the Jaffna Diocesan Council C.S.I. and for some time the honorary auditor of the Diocese. He leaves behind his wife Mrs. Parimalam Soundrarajah, a large family and a very large circle of relations friends to bemoan his death.

Mr. Collin Ratnasingam retired teacher and senior member of Udupiddy Church died on Thursday the 15th October 1981. He was for many years a devoted and much loved member of the staff of Udupiddy American College. His wife who also served the same institution as teacher

and singing. He rushed ahead, embarrassed at what they might think of him. Suddenly, he stopped. Was he ashamed of the good work he was doing? No! He doubled back and faced his friends chanting anew: "Help rebuild San Damiano. He who gives one stone will get one reward; he who gives two, will get two rewards."

[to be concluded in the next issue]

for years predeceased him. His daughter Rajini is a teacher at Udupiddy Girls' College and his son Ratnarajah is the X-ray technician at Green Hospital, Manipay.

Mr. S. P. Sabaratnam, retired teacher Memorial School and member of Manipay Church died after a brief illness, on Thursday the 15th October 1981. His brothers the Rev. S. P. Vijayaratham and Mr. S. P. Rajaratnam as well as his wife predeceased him. The funeral took place at his home in Manipay the following day.

Methodist Youth Conference at Vaddukodai

Jaffna College, Vaddukodai was the venue of the All-Island Methodist Youth (Tamil) Conference from the 9th to the 12th of October 1981. About 165 delegates from Colombo, Batticaloa and Jaffna districts attended. The Revs. Francis Xavier and Joshua Ratnam of the Church of Ceylon were the two main leaders. The chief organizers of the Conference were the Revs. S. Anandarajah and Immanuel Joseph. On Sunday the 11th the delegates joined the Cathedral congregation at morning worship and conducted the evening service in the Church and on the third and final day they had a picnic at the Casurina Camp House, Karainagar.

YMCA Secretarial Leadership Training Institute 1981

A training programme for YMCA Secretaries was conducted by the National Council of YMCAs in Sri Lanka. It was inaugurated by Dr. Wickrama Weerasuriya, Secretary, Ministry of Plan Implementation on 18th September 1981 at the National Council of YMCAs Colombo. The trainees, including a lady secretary from Monaragala underwent the one month residential training which comprised 23 days of theoretical work and 10 days of practical experience at various YMCAs.

Professor Stanley Kalpage, Secretary Ministry of Higher Education and Chairman University Grants Commission, who graced the closing ceremony in the NCYs Conference Hall on Monday the 19th October 1981 commended the efforts made by the National Council to enable better management of the YMCAs. Mrs. E. V. P. Jesudhasan, wife of the National YMCA President Dr. Jesudhasan, gave away the certificates. Mr. Wimal Wijesinghe and Mr. S. Vijayakulasingam functioned as Director and Co-Director of the Institute respectively.

EDITORIAL

Alarming Trend

The spate of violence in certain parts of Jaffna during the past two weeks is very disturbing. While the top-brass of the armed forces and the heads of the civilian administration worked tirelessly to arrest the fast deteriorating situation, the leaders of the Tamil United Liberation Front condemned, and rightly so, the meaningless violence which brought severe hardship to the Jaffna public.

What makes the situation in Jaffna more disquieting is the alleged connection between crime and politics. In recent times Jaffna has become the most vulnerable flashpoint of Sri Lanka. We do not know the identity of the anti-social elements which are responsible for these dastardly acts. But there is not the slightest doubt that those who are responsible for this spate of violence do not have any concern for the lives and belongings of the millions of innocent people of this country. To achieve their perverted ends they will hold the entire country to ransom and shake the very foundation of the existence of the people.

In Jaffna the latest in the catalogue of crime is the bank robbery at Killinochi. Dead at night, as the press reports go, about twenty assailants had gone into the town in two land-rovers, woke up the assistant manager and the lady cashier from their beds and took the keys of the bank. Later they seem to have gone into the bank and removed forty lakhs rupees worth of jewellery (estimates differ) and whisked off into the jungle. A group of armed personnel which was stationed near the People's Bank at Killinochi fought gallantly against the robbers and an army corporal lost his life in the fight that ensued. According to news reports sixty rounds of ammunition had been used in this frightening encounter.

This gruesome murder and robbery has taken place hardly ten days after the Grand Bazaar incident in which two army personnel and a mechanic who accompanied them were gunned down. The TULF leaders Mr. A. Amithalingam and Mr. T. Sivasithamparam who condemned this action urged the people of Jaffna to give their assistance to the police to find the culprits.

In spite of this timely and well-meaning statement the behaviour of certain members of the armed forces was unworthy and unbecoming of the tremendous responsibility they hold in this part of the country.

To many politicians in Sri Lanka Jaffna is a land where every prospect pleases and only man is vile. That Jaffna has become the game sanctuary of many frustrated and disillusioned elements is no doubt a fact. It is rather unfortunate that Tamil extremism had become the convenient scape-goat for all the ills of Jaffna. It is our fervent hope that Killinochi encounter will unfold important truths about the aims and purposes of the "terrorists".

— S. J.

Church Dates

31st of October: Reformation Day is observed by the Protestant Churches to remember the posting on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on 31 October 1517, thirty-four year old Augustinian monk Dr. Martin Luther's *Ninety-five Theses* against a practical abuse viz. the sale of indulgences by the Dominican John Tetsel to finance the building of St. Peter's at Rome. Though there was nothing dramatic in that action of Luther—it being the usual procedure for giving notice of disputations in a University—the event marked the beginning of the movement which resulted in the birth of the reformed Church in Germany and the whole Protestant Church itself.

1st of November: All Saints' Day is the feast to celebrate all the Christian saints, known and unknown. Though the feast was kept by the Western Church from the fourth century A.D. the date 1 Nov. appears to have been fixed when Pope Gregory III dedicated the Chapel of All Saints in St. Peter's basilica on that day around 741 A.D.

2nd of November: All Souls' Day is for the commemoration of

Salvation Army Elects New General

The High Council of the Salvation Army, composed of 31 Commissioners and 13 Colonels including Sri Lanka's Territorial Commander Col. T. William Perera met on Friday the 16th October 1981 at Sunbury Court, Middlesex, England and elected Comr. Jari Wahlstrom as the new General of the Army to take up office at the London Headquarters in December 1981. He will be the twelfth General since the founding of the Army by Gen. William Booth in 1865. The 63 year old Helsinki-born Comr. Wahlstrom is currently the Territorial Commander for Sweden and lives in Stockholm. Married to Lt. Maire Nyberg in 1944, he had served in Canada for a period and is a Knight Order of the Lion of Finland which honour he received in 1964. The Salvation Army claims to have a following of more than three million Christians all over the world.

the souls of the faithful departed. It began to be observed universally through the influence of Abbot Odilo (962—1043) of Cluny. Earlier it was observed only locally by the Benedictine monastery of Cluny.

Eighth Centenary of St. Francis of Assisi

The Franciscan Missionary Union of Ireland has declared the year beginning this month as the Year of St. Francis to mark and celebrate the birth of John Bernadone re-named Francis, one of the most influential characters ever to grace the world. Born as the son of a wealthy cloth merchant of Assisi in Central Italy in 1182 he dramatically changed his way of life when a youth and founded the order of friars minor, commonly called the Franciscans.

Synod Priorities Meeting in Madras

Representatives from all the twenty dioceses of the Church of South India together with the Executive Committee of the Synod and some officers of the supporting Missionary Societies and Mission Boards met in Madras during the last week of September 1981 for the final session to draw up "Priorities in the Mission of the Church" for the next five and ten years. They had been working on the matter at the Diocesan level for the previous six months. The interests of the Jaffna Diocese were presented by the Rev. S. S. Arulampalam and Mr. S. S. Selvadurai. The Rev. Dr. Telfer Mook, Secretary of the UCBWM also participated at the meeting after holding discussions in Vaddukodai with the Bishop, heads of institutions and conveners of certain committees. The Madras meeting accepted the following items from the list tabled by the Jaffna Diocese as its most urgent and important needs: Church building for the Colombo Church, Agricultural Development Project in the Killinochi Area and Evangelistic Work South of Elephant Pass, equipment to improve the services rendered by the Mission hospitals at Manipay, Inuvil and Paranthan, and a Student Christian Centre for the University of Jaffna.

KNH Wardens' Trained at Bandarawela

The Sri Lanka Council of Kindernothilfe conducted a short training course for wardens and assistant wardens of Children's Homes and Day-Care Centres at St. Thomas' College, Bandarawela from the 9th to the 13th of October 1981. The Rev. P. B. Rajasingam the President of the Council and the Rev. Eardley Mendis the Secretary organised the programme and gave the main addresses. The leader in the Tamil medium was Mr. Paul Nallanayagam of Kalmunai. Of the nearly 30 participants at the course were Mr. S. Lazarus and Mr. E. P. Solomons the assistant wardens of Arulmanai, Manipay and Levi Spaulding Home, Vaddukodai respectively. The programme included visits to the Badulla Girls' Home and Welimada Day-Care Centre.

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Visitor from UCBWM

The Rev. Miss Elinor Galusha, the Secretary for recruitment of missionary personnel, United Church Board for World Ministries, USA was in Jaffna from Tuesday the 20th October 1981 on a brief visit to the Jaffna Diocese of the CSI. Besides visiting the various educational, medical and agricultural institutions of the Diocese she spoke at two special programmes arranged for meeting her. The first was the meeting of the Workers' Union held on Thursday the 22nd morning at Vaddukodai and the other a meeting of the Women's Fellowship held in the Manipay Church the same evening. In her talks and discussions she dwelt much on the meaning of "abundant life" which Christ promised as the result of his coming and also on issues relating to women's ordination and their ministry in the Church.

She also met informally the Vaddukodai Church Women's Fellowship at a special meeting in the Principal's Bungalow Jaffna College on Wednesday the 21st evening.

PERSONAL

The Rev. Kingsley T. Mutiah Superintendent Minister in charge of the Pt. Pedro Methodist Church Circuit left for England early this month to follow a two year course of post-graduate study in theology.

The Rev. S. S. Karunairaj now at Thirukovil will assume duties at Pt. Pedro in January 1982 succeeding the Rev. K. T. Mutiah.

Dr. P. S. Selvachandran the Medical Superintendent of Green Hospital Manipay presently specializing in Eurology in England came to Sri Lanka at the beginning of this month for a brief holiday with his family at Manipay. He hopes to return from England for good on completion of his course around mid-1982.

Dr. Devathayalan Ambalavanar was among the graduates who received the degree of the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery at the Convocation and Baccalaureate Ceremony of Christian Medical College, Vellore on Monday the 5th October 1981. His mother Dr. (Mrs.) Chandra Ambalavanar another past student of the College from the Jaffna Diocese was present at the function.

At the invitation received from the Hong Kong Salvation Army, Captain S. N. Ariaratnam, District Officer and Manager of the Salvation Army Social Service Centres, Jaffna, will be visiting that country during the month of November, to see the Army's social work being carried out there and specially the refugees camps run by the Salvation Army. He will be visiting Taiwan and Singapore also on his way back to Sri Lanka.