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THE MORNING STAR

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NEWS

PRIZE DAY AT ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE

Mos. Rev. Dr. B. Deogupillai, the Bishop of Jaffna presided at the Prize Day Function of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna which was held on Friday the 18th of November, 1988. Mr. Rajan A. Kadircamar, Principal Emeritus, Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai was the Chief Guest. Mrs. Mahilmalar Kadircamar gave away the prizes.

The Rector Rev. Fr. G. A. Francis Joseph presented the annual report for 1987 which encompassed school activities of 1986 and 1987. The vote of Thanks proposed by the Head Prefect, R. Milavulan was seconded by Mr. Cyril F. Swamplillai.

The function concluded with the Papal Anthem.

Christmas Carols at the University Christian Student's Centre.

Once again the University Christian Student's Centre was agile with the Undergraduates when they had their Christmas Carols on Saturday 10th December at 1.30 in the morning.

The Centre with its sylvan surrounding was an appropriate venue for the Undergraduates to bring to the people, the message of the new born Christ. The Chapel had a traditional touch on that day, with the Undergraduates clad in oriental attire, and with eastern orchestra together with piano and guitars harmoniously blending with their voices. The Chapel too was decked with only hay, thus,

taking the onlooker back to the stable at Bethlehem, where Christ the Saviour was born.

The orchestra started at 9.30 a.m. filling the Chapel with the music for a few minutes. The opening prayer was said by Rev. Fr. Anto Mathias of the Good Shepherd Centre. The choir sang seven Carol Songs. It was apparent that they had put in untiring efforts, to bring it to the state of near perfection, with which they were presented. The songs had contemporary relevances, and the choir did justice by singing them with meaning and expression.

Variety was brought in the form of short talk-'food for thought' in between the songs by four undergrads individually. Each handled these, and delivered with coherence, driving home the actual meaning of Christmas. A poem too was presented by two Undergraduates. The programme came to an end by 11.15 a.m. with the winding up prayer by the Chaplain- Rev. G. D. Anandarajan.

On the whole the Chaplain and the University Christian Students are to be congratulated on their successful debut. It would be a treat to all, if the University Christian students Centre continues to present many more fruitful programmes.

— Swendirini Canagaratnam

Appreciation

Mr. S. C. Karunanathan

Having come to know the late Mr. Karunanathan from his school days at St. John's, I feel privileged to write this appreciation at his passing away recently in Australia.

As a senior student at St. John's in the late forties, he was known to be a very shy, quiet studious young man. Soon after winning the gold medal for Tamil oratory, he seemed to blossom to his full potential and started taking leading roles in many school activities culminating in his being made Senior Prefect in 1949. In sports, he had the distinction of having played in the college Volley ball team which won the all-Ceylon championship in 1949. As house master of Fleming house at that time, I came to know him very intimately as we lived at either

end of the same hostel and shared the responsibility of running it. It is here that he shone as a leader of men, which I believe served him well in later years. That friendship, between student and teacher, we maintained over the years, and his last letter to me was received after his passing.

From St. John's, on to MAF as Christian College and an Honours degree and return to St. John's as teacher, where he just fitted in like a glove and was given more responsibility which he took on gladly. Fleming House Master and Prefect of Games were two of the many positions he held at college. It is during this period he married Kirupa, the daughter of the then Principal.

He then went to Madras again to do his Master's degree in Tamil. On his return he joined the staff of the Nallur Training College, probably in deference to the long standing principle at St. John's of not more than one member of a family on the staff. His rise in the department was swift from then on, moving over to Batticaloa Training College as Principal and then coming back to Jaffna as Chief Education Officer.

He then retired from Government Service and went over to Nigeria, as a lecturer in a Training College. Only last year he completed his assignment there and migrated to Australia with his family when death snatched him from our midst. He leaves behind his wife Kirupa and five children and their families to mourn his loss.

Karunanathan had a very pleasing personality and was easy to get on with. Both in his profession as a teacher of teachers in which he made a mark, as well as in many other activities, he brought to bear a unique sense of Devotion and tried to do everything with meticulous care, which always endeared him to his superiors. Coming from a devoted Christian family and marrying into another, he lived a life of devotion and commitment to his Lord and Master. His life and witness should be an example to others.

He was a loyal Old Boy of the College and kept in touch with his Alama Mater from wherever he was. Soon after his arrival in Australia he was working hard towards organising a branch of the OBA there when death took him from our midst. By his passing, the educational community and the Christian community have lost a

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Mrs. Kanagam Subramaniam

Died: 03.01.1979

"He shall keep my feet from falling,
Mine eyes from tears
And my soul from death".

Inserted by her loved ones in
Jaffna and Australia.

8-01-1989.

IN PRECIOUS MEMORY OF



MR. JACOB THEVASAKAYAM

Born: 24-01-1911

Died: 14-1-86

Dearly Remembered by
his Wife & Children

"Even now to their eternal home
There pass some spirits blest
While others to the margin come
Waiting their call to rest"

"Mano Vasam"
Erlalai North,
ERLALAI.

distinguished person and he is missed. As a friend and colleague, one could ask for no better.

We extend to his family our deepest sympathies and pray that God himself will grant them comfort.

RETHINKING IN EDUCATION

Extracts from the Prize Day Address of Mr. A. Rajan Kadirjamal at the St. Patrick's College, Prize Day on 18.11.1988.

The great anxiety and demand for better examination results in an unrealistically competitive situation has resulted in hundreds of places in every nook and corner of Jaffna that claims to meet that demand with the least expenditure and all our students flock to these places with the blessings of parents, teachers and principals. These are the tutories that have come to stay referred to as the parallel system of education in our country by Prof. K. D. Arudpragasam at the Jaffna College prize giving a few years ago.

We have therefore to ask the very haunting question—what have we really achieved in school these few years except to prepare our students as best as possible for the examinations? Is the school anymore the basic and fundamental unit of society? Has the school any more influence over its students in the way it ought to? Even the more accomplished of our students, the type we proclaim on our prize days, are not in the country anymore as they continue with frenzy to swell the consumer society in the backyards of some foreign country where their presence is ignored or not even felt and in many cases not even wanted!

On the other hand their presence, skills and encouragement are needed here so badly to help build and rebuild our bleeding and languishing land. What then has school achieved for us. All our dreams, our hopes in education for a better world in our land remain shattered. We stand against we do not even have the strength and determination to meet as principals, teachers or educators to take stock of what is happening to us. We are not in a position to lead anymore our society. All the powerful influences good or bad on our students seem to be somewhere outside the school. Good schooling and good education are not the same thing anymore and they probably never were even if were to take a glance at education during the classical era.

Some years ago we were startled by the sayings and writings of the radical Roman Catholic priest educator and Vice-Rector of the Catholic University of Puerto Rico – Ivan Illich. We may have to heed his prophetic utterances today at least we cannot ignore him. The questions he raised are haunting us today! A sampling of Rector Ivan Illich's voluminous writings on the subject is not altogether irrelevant to us.

"A divorce of education from schooling is in my opinion, already on the way—

There is no intrinsic reason why the education that schools are now failing to provide could not be acquired more successfully in the setting of the family, of work, and commercial activity, in new kinds of libraries and other centres, that would provide the means of issuing. But the institutional forms that education will take in tomorrow's society cannot be clearly visualised. Neither could any of the great reformers, principles, concretely, the institutional style that would evolve from their reforms. The fear that new institutions will be imperfect, of themselves, does not justify our service acceptance of present ones."

Even if we are helpless in that tragic dilemma, let us be sensitive to the winds of change that blow over us and let us have the courage to change the things that need to be changed by common and studied consensus. Of course there are many things that need not be changed and should not be changed and let us have the serenity to accept that fact. May God give us the collective wisdom to know the difference between what needs to be changed and what cannot be changed.

(continued from last Issue
HENRY Hoisington —)

In 1852 Hoisington published an essay on the "Origin and Development of the Existing System of Religious Belief in India".

Tamil Scholar :

During his career in Jaffna he had made a successful effort to learn the Tamil language and study its principal literary texts. As observed earlier he had obtained a mastery of the spoken in as well as the literary tradition. He had developed a great liking for the sacred kural (திருக்குறள்) In 1832 in a letter to the ABCFM he wrote.

"introduced today into the first class (6th year) the CURAL one of the most eminent moral poems of India.....

This we design as the highest Tamil class. It will be studied only by the higher classes, who are in some measure prepared to receive and understand its real character, and comparative value."

Dravidian philology was also one of the fields of study which attracted his attention. He anticipated the epoch making discoveries of Bishop Caldwell in the realm of Dravidian Philology. The close inter-relationship among the South Indian languages was recognized and commended upon by Hoisington for he says :

"The Tamil is spoken by about eight millions of people, in Ceylon and on the adjacent continent. It is believed to be the radix of the Telugu, the Canarese, the Malayalini, the Tuluva and other dialects which constitute the speech of some twenty and thirty millions of people. So that it may well be considered as occupying Southern India. It is denominated by the Tamilar "the Southern Speech" by way of distinction from the Sanskrit which they call the Northern Speech".

After his return to America the lecture he gave on the subject "India as a field for Inquiry and Evangelical labour" was published in the Bibliotheca Sacra of April 1852.

Though shaken by the loss of his son and weakened by the ailment of his heart, Hoisington remained steadfast in his faith

Rev. Fr. Rector, you have rightly pointed out that orientation, re-building and evolving a sound policy in education needs rethinking in education on sound democratic principles to meet the urgent needs of the critical hour and may I add it also needs to be reconciled to good schooling or to our own institutional styles.

until the very last moments of his life. From the letters of his wife Nancy we are able to see the trials and tribulations the family underwent.

"..... Mr. H. could get no passage to Madras (from Calcutta) until the first of Dec. When an opportunity of coming in an English ship was offered, he arrived on the 12... so after a separation of three months and nine days, we met with mingled emotions of joy and sorrow. Sarah and Richard met him with the exclamation 'Papa' Lyman (second son of Hoisington) died, little Lyman has gone to Heaven'. He had heard the tidings before leaving Calcutta. I had the pleasure of seeing him much improved in health but yet I fear as do all who know him the consequences of his returning to his labors."

Rev. Dr. Hoisington was one of the pillars of the American Ceylon Mission and his venerable qualities were in relation to the advancement of scholarship and the development of the Seminary. Posterity in this part of the world remains indebted to him and his memory would be cherished affectionately forever.

JAFFNA COLLEGE OF INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY INTER HALL ATHLETIC MEET

The fourth Inter Hall Athletic Meet of Jaffna College Institute of Technology was held on Friday 4th November 1988 at the Institute play-ground. The meet started with the hoisting of the Institute flag by the Chief Guest Dr. S. Jebanesan Principal, Jaffna College. Few track events scheduled for the final day were not worked out due to heavy rain on this day.

Dr. Jebanesan in his address to the students stressed the importance of developing three types of stamina. Without these mental, physical and spiritual stamina, it would be very difficult for a student to come up in life he said. Mrs. Sita Vimalakshumi Jebanesan gave the challenge cups and trophies to the winners at the Abels Auditorium.

Red Hall emerged as champion and Blue Hall was runner up.