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THE MORNING STAR

Registered as a Newspaper at the General Post Office, Sri Lanka
under No. Q/J/104/News/89

Established: 1841: A Christian Weekly: Published Every Friday

Vol. 149 Jaffna, Friday, 14 April 1989 No. 15

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

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Jaffna College.

The Jaffna College Prize Giving came off on Wednesday, 5th of April, 1989 with Professor A. Thurairajah, Vice Chancellor of the Jaffna University and Mrs. Thurairajah as the chief guests.

Dr. S. Jebanesan in presenting his first report as Principal of the College outlined the various measures that have been envisaged to improve the quality of education at Jaffna College. A record of work maintained by teachers, its periodical inspection by the Principal and officers of the college, terminal reports of written work done by students in the classrooms, are areas in which great emphasis would be placed. Establishment of harmonious relationships with the community is also a matter which will receive priority.

The Principal also referred in his report to the passing away of two people who have been closely connected with Jaffna College, Dr. James Rutnam who passed away on 4-11-88 had gifted to Jaffna College the Evelyn Rutnam Institute at Tianevely with its valuable collection of books — the most valuable gift ever made to Jaffna College. Mr. R. E. J. A. Sethukavalar, was a member of the Board of Directors during a crucial time in the school's annals in 1974. He passed away on 27-12-88. Mr. Setukavalar's commitment to the ideals for which Jaffna College stood was a great service of inspiration to the schools.

Jaffna College now has 1374 students on roll — 908 boys and 466 girls. 34 students are in the London Ordinary and Advanced Level classes.

TOEFEL classes have been organised since March this year conducted by Dr. Robert Porter. 17 students have already enrolled for the course.

The branch school of Jaffna College at Paranthan will be opened in the course of the year to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of the founder of the Batticotta Seminary — Dr. Daniel Poor.

Prof. Thurairajah's Address.

Prof. Thurairajah in his Prize Day address emphasised two important matters relating to the Tamil students educational future in Sri Lanka and to the future of development in the North-East region.

One important factor to be remembered was that the present 'crisis' is one with which the Tamils may have to live with, for sometime. Therefore it is necessary that we should go

ahead with our work with whatever opportunities or resources we have. In Education, the parents should not depend only on the universities of Sri Lanka but also make the best use of other avenues open as the courses of the "Open University" which has been established in the Jaffna region.

There are opportunities abroad also for students but a knowledge of English is very necessary to have proper contacts with institutions abroad and to pass admission hurdles etc. etc. which would be necessary for these courses.

In our own country, particularly in the North and East more and more institutions have to be established to make the best use of our local resources. Fisheries for instance is an area of development with a great potential in the North-East region if only our youth have the chances given to them to acquire the know-how to make our fish-banks turn into gold mines.

A new generation is awaiting at our door and so are new opportunities. The challenge in the North and East of the country today is development to be pursued with the one object of our making our resources in our forests, our seas and our rivers yield maximum benefit to us;

The Prize function had four items from students:- choral Recitation - Oriental Dance - Narration (the story of Dr Daniel Poor) and Western Orchestra. The Prizes and trophies were given away by Mrs. A. Thurairajah.

The Vote of Thanks was proposed by N. Nithiarajan (President School Council) and seconded, by Mr. K. C. Kadirgamar.



The Christa Seva Ashram, (MARUTHANAMADAM).

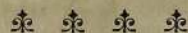
The 16th Anniversary of the Home-call of Perianan (Rev. S. Selvaratnam), the Founder and first Sevak of the Christa-Seva Ashram, Maruthanamadam, was observed on Saturday, the 8th of April at the Christa-Seva Ashram with a Remembrance Service, followed by Holy Communion at the Ashram Chapel.

Rev. Joseph Sarvanandhan, the Vicar of St. John's Church Chundikuli led the Service. Associated with him was the Rev. Sevak Sam Alfred, the incumbent of the Ashram. Two students of the Theological Seminary read the Lessons. Mrs. Anandanayagam a long term friend of the Ashram led the music and also sang a thevaram.

Mr. A. R. Kadirgama in his address on the occasion referred to the impact which the life of Perianan has had on the Christian community from the time Rev. Selvaratnam made a brief log entry at the Christu kula Ashram, in India:- "Here I have had a vision".

Perianan's life and work touched many areas of human activity and was not confined to the boundaries of the Ashram alone. As Dr. Kulendran put it in his tribute to one he loved so much "Rev. Selvaratnam was a troubadour (a singing minstrel) of God wherever he went". He was one on whom the youth had great confidence as he was a perpetual fountain of joy and hope. The Ashram he founded Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of its founding this year.

Following the Holy Communion Service, all those present partook of the kanji (a soup of boiled rice with coconut milk) which Rev. Selvaratnam, loved serving to all for breakfast, on important festival occasions at the Ashram.



Vaidiyasironmani Dr. S. P. Emil Innasithamby of Sillalai.

— A TRIBUTE —

Dr. Emil Innasithamby, the well known and legendary physician of Sillalai was called to rest at the age of 73 on the 22nd of September, 1988. It was the earthly end to an eventful and colourful career and also the end of an era in traditional native medicine. The Innasithamby family which originally hailed from Tanjavur in South India first settled in Mathagal and then held fort in traditional native medicine for ten continuous generations in Sillalai and the contribution of the family in this field of medicine is well recorded and accepted. The family's service to the community at large was an unusual and dignified blend of Medicine, Tamil Scholarship, Social Service, community Development and a very strong and visible Roman Catholic Church relationship.

It is not easy at this time in our age to integrate in one family or person all these worthy human endeavours and Dr. Innasithamby succeeded most admirably in this task because he did not take his splendid heritage for granted but worked tirelessly in his own generation to perpetuate a relevant family heritage including his wife Rita and son Suganthan who are also physicians of repute in their own right. Dr. Innasithamby went further in enlarging the

dimensions of his service and influence in Jaffna in encouraging his only son-in-law George Pillainayagam in Engineering Education as Director of the Jaffna College Institute of Technology at a time when men of Mr. Pillainayagam's age, qualifications, experience and calibre were set on pastures anew in foreign climes. Dr. Innasithamby had much to do in instilling by a sense of service in the younger generation in his immediate family and in the wider family of friends and relations and the youth of Jaffna has much to be grateful for.

Quiet, soft spoken, usually silent and unostentatious he went about with a firm and solid Christian poise and a jubilant demeanour and stands out as one who performed his duty to the utmost by his family, his church, his profession, his beloved village, his nation and country. Several honours came to him with ease and without reserve for his accomplishments and expertise in his profession and social concerns.

There is no doubt that his family will now carry out the unique family tradition for several more generations to come.

May God bless and accept his life and work in our midst.

— Rajan Kadirgamar.

IN VING MEMORY

OF



V. N. AIYATHURAI.

Departed; 3rd of April 1981.

Till memory fades and life departs
No tears shall bring you back

You left a void
No one can fill
You eased your pain and
Joined God's Eternal Bless
But deep in our hearts
You will always remain loved.

Fondly remembered by
Wife, Children, Sons-in-law,
Daughte in-law and
Grand children.

Church Road,
CHAVAKACHERI.

Correction.

In our news account about the Annual Cricket encounter between Jaffna College and St. Patrick's the final scores are:- Jaffna College 166 runs and St. Patrick's:- 165 runs - Jaffna College won the match by one run. The Printing error regarding the score is regretted.

— Editor.

Editorial

SOME REFLECTIONS ON
ORDER AND PEACE.

The hurdles are still daunting. But President Ranasinghe Premadasa appears to have opted for the more intangible elements of political leadership - the ability to mediate, persuade and inspire.

The occasion was YOVUNPURA, 1989, — the [Sixth National Youth Council Festival held this year in an idyllic setting at Girandurukotte, a little township in System C of the Mahaweli basin.

Addressing the youth, by and large from the majority community, resplendent in yellow caps and jerseys on the climactic day (2-4-89), the President has an apology to submit, a promise to make and an incentive to offer. The apology he submitted was that the General Election date of 15-2-89 was not his decision. It was taken contrary to his wishes. Had his plans materialised, the J. V. P. and L. T. T. E. may have had a chance to contest the elections, after discussions with the government.

The promise made was that if the two militant groups, now outside the Sri Lankan political arena, would agree to join the democratic process and give up arms, they will be welcomed at some 200 Reception Centres, making the process of reconciliation smooth and free from any kind of authoritarianism.

The incentive offered was that if the groups so desire they will be absorbed in Parliament, with the seats now nationally allocated to members, transferred to them. To begin with, the 15 seats of the U. N. P. will be theirs if they wish to make their voice heard in Parliament. Other parties too could be persuaded to give up some of their national seats to the newcomers. The PR system allows re-allocation of national seats among parties.

On the subject of the most Controversial Bill passed in Parliament during the period 1983 — 1988, the President had the following comment to make:-

"I like to mention here that there is a request that the law called PTA, Prevention of Terrorism Act is repealed. I am prepared to take even such a course of action, that is, if you are ready to join the peace process"

DN- 4-4-89.

The ramifications of the PTA Act have had in Sri Lanka such an impact that, with understandable hyperbole, it could be said that the passing of the Act unwittingly, laid the seeds for the unstymied political situation in the land and the consequent escalation of violence throughout the country.

Chief Justice Parinda Ranasinghe speaking on Saturday, the 25th of March at the Convocation of the Bar Association at which a new President and a new Secretary were inducted is reported to have said that the legal profession could not ignore "the writing on the wall", with the general public's loss of confidence in the judicial system. "The Bench and the Ministry of Justice must hang together or be hung seperately", said the Chief Justice. The PTA seems to have driven a wedge between the Judicial system and the Ministry of Justice.

At the same Convocation, the newly inducted President Mr. Desmond Fernando, in his maiden speech emphasised the wider role of the legal profession as a non-governmental organisation which promoted the rule of the law as against its narrow role as a Trade Union. With uncanny insight, Mr. Fernando said:-

"The position of the civilian in today's world was intolerable. This was because he was liable to be killed for demonstrating or for not demonstrating, for not participating in an election and for doing so, for not closing shops and for doing so. This must be stopped".

A persistent libertarian, Sam J. Erwin, North Carolina's Democratic Senator had this to say about the importance of law and of legal institutions in any democratic country.

"What may be the ultimate fate of the prisoner is of relatively minor importance in the sum total of things. His role on life's stage, like ours, soon ends. But what happens to the law is, of the gravest moment. The preservation unimpaired of our basic rules of procedure is an end far more desirable than that of hurrying a single sinner to what may be his merited doom".

The possibility of the repeal of the PTA Act in Sri Lanka is certainly a light in the one of the darkest corners of Sri Lanka's political maze, where in the words of Samuel Taylor Coleridge it may be said it is so pitchy dark that even the very cats ran against each other.

While President Premadasa, feels that the art of power consists in not only using your friends but also using your enemies, the country unfortunately is in the throes of "a gun-crisis"

OBITUARY.



The death occurred of Mr. Kandiah Paramalingam, Principal of the Government School at Piramapatai, Pandatteruppu on Monday the 13th of March. Mr. Paramalingam was an eminent personality in the Tamil teachers' world and held important positions in the All Ceylon Tamil Teachers' Union. He was both an active social worker and for many years a dedicated lay leader of the Pandatteruppu Church. He held various offices in the Pandatteruppu Church and was often its delegate at the Diocesan Council. Mr. Paramalingam's untimely death at the age of 57 has deprived the community and the school in which he served of a conscientious and dedicated leader. The funeral took place at his residence on Tuesday the 14th of March led by the Rev. S. P. Jeyasingam, Pastor of the Pandatteruppu Church. Mrs. A. N. L. Virasippillai paid a tribute to the deceased. The Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar said the closing prayer and benediction. The committal rites at the grave side were performed by the Rev. S. P. Jeyasingam.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
JAFFNA.

VACANCIES.

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PRINCIPAL.

New Day Care Centres —
Paranthan.

The Diocese opened two more Day Care Centres, one at paranthan and the other at Mahilehipuram, six miles south of Mankulam. The Day Care Centre at Paranthan is housed in a new spacious building built for that purpose near the Paranthan junction on a two acre land recently acquired by the Diocese. The Rev. S. Jeyanesan who supervised the new building also was responsible in starting the Day Care Centre. The Bishop, the Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar declared open and blessed the building and the Day Care Centre on Wednesday the 1st of March at about 8.30 a. m. A large gathering of friends and well wishers were present including representatives from Karuna Nilayam and Navajeevanam. Among the speakers was Mr. Sivarajalingam, the Chairman of the Kilinochchi Citizens Committee.

The *Sunday Times* of 26-3-89 has a front-page news item about four political parties and a militant group now represented in Parliament who have held several rounds of talks on the formation of "a Council of Militant Organisations" to which they hope to invite the LTTE too, to join. This council hopes to "come together" in Parliament to vote for the repeal of the Sixth Amendment to the constitution. The council will also enlist support for the Civil Volunteer Force set up by the EPRLF. The response of the LTTE is yet to be known.

The *Island* of 29-3-89 deplors that law and order in the Eastern province has become "complicated. According to Foreign Affairs Minister and State Minister for Defence, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, "too many people were carrying weapons", making it difficult for the police to control the situation. Mr. M. H. M. Ashraff, the SLMC Leader has also complained that nobody knows now who actually is responsible for maintaining law and order Police, IPKF, Army or STF. Civil rule appears to have screeched to a halt.

While people in the land are still caught up in deadlock and inactivity, and political leaders are yet playing their 'cards' close to their vests (for reasons we can understand) a group of 32 Card-playing West-Germans with their families have returned to their country, after playing in Sri Lanka 48 games of SKAT (a popular card game) in three series, six hours a day, spending the remaining time in sight-seeing (DN-4-4-89).

It is a shattering situation when people from other countries enjoy in Sri Lanka, a spell of leisure and tranquility to ease their mental strain, the citizens in the country are still in a turbulent sea, with no mind yet making for the port.

"Something is rotten in the State of Denmark", doomsday prophets may be inclined to believe. But such Hamletism is unwarranted in the face of realities a Parliament, already elected with an Opposition, a hundred strong and a Provincial Council already set up especially in the North-East region to solve "the Tamil problem".

Now if the hand is still "ailing" then in the words of the Doctor in Shakespeare's *Macbeth* "The patient must minister to himself".