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

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THE EDITOR,
 'The Morning Star,'
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The Former Bishop of Colombo leaves for Australia.

The former bishop of Colombo, the Rt. Rev. Swithin Fernando and his wife Gwen leave Sri Lanka, this month to settle down in Melbourne, Australia. The diocese of Colombo bade them farewell at a lunch on the 27th of July at the diocesan chamber. In a letter to the Archdeacon of Jaffna, Bishop Swithin wanted the following lines to be sent to all his friends in the North.

"I am extremely happy that I had a few minutes conversation with your Archdeacon Fr. Donald and had news of you, my friends in the northern parts of our diocese. Gwen and I carry very happy memories of the time we spent with you all from time to time and the many friends we made and continue to count as friends. If times were easier I would not have failed to pay a visit to you all but, as you know that is not possible. Among the letters I received at my retirement as Bishop of Colombo I count as most dear some of the letters I received from many of you, Gwen and I send our very sincere love to you all and shall always remember you all with much prayer".

Prayer Room Dedicated.

At a simple ceremony on Thursday, 17-8-89, the Rev. D. C. Ratnasingham, Presbyter of the Uduvil Church dedicated a Prayer Room at the Reverend Eliathamby Memorial Girls' Home at Uduvil in memory of two members of the church.

The Room was furnished and equipped for use by the children of the Home by Mr. Albert Spenser to commemorate his two sisters, Miss Grace Spenser and Miss Jane Spenser, both senior members of the Uduvil Parish who had their home - call, during the time of the military offensives at Uduvil, Jane passed away on 13-11-87 and Grace followed her sister on 17-2-88.

The children of the Home sang special lyrics to mark the occasion. It was a quiet ceremony with only those associated with the home at Uduvil and the neighbours around the Home attending the function.

Examination Success.

M. C. R. Premanathan, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Thambiratnam of Uduvil has been successful in the B. Sc. (Engineering) Examination of the Long Beach University, California.

He is an old boy of the Jaffna College Institute of Technology, Vaddukoddai.



Women Priests.

The Revd. Nan Peete was surprised by her instant celebrity status. 'I can't believe that people want to take pictures of me,' she said during a recent walking interview.

Walking interviews may become the only way to catch Peete as she races through hectic days at a rapid, energetic pace, coping with numerous requests for her opinion on this subject and her observation on that subject.

Peete was attending Lambeth at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury as a general consultant to the Section on Mission and Ministry. She addressed last Friday's Plenary Session on the Ordination of Women.

"I wrote at least six speeches for Lambeth and composed at least another six in my head before deciding what to say to the bishops," Peete says. "My anxiety level rose as Lambeth drew closer, but when I approached the lectern in Plenary Hall, it was just as though I were about to preach a sermon."

Peete, rector of All Saints Church, Indianapolis, Indiana USA, was the first woman priest to address a Lambeth Conference. She was one of seven women consultants invited to the conference and one of two women consultants ordained to the priesthood. The other women consultants are:

- o Dorothea Etchells, formerly principal of St. John's College, the University of Durham, consultant to the Section on Mission and Ministry;
- o Janet Hodgson, visiting fellow and tutor, College of the Ascension, Selly Oak, Birmingham, consultant to the Section on Mission and Ministry;
- o Vanessa Mackenzie, youth officer for the Diocese of Johannesburg, consultant to the Section on Christianity and Social Order;
- o Mary Elizabeth Tanner, Board for Mission and Unity of the Church of England, consultant to the Section on Ecumenical Relations;
- o Elizabeth Anne Templeton, formerly lecturer in Divinity at the University of Edinburgh, consultant to the Section on Ecumenical Relations; and
- o The Revd. Margaret Wood, principal, Bishop Julius Hall, New Zealand Examining Chap-

lain, general consultant to the Section on Ecumenical Relations.

Wood talks about how women priests have enriched the life of the Church in New Zealand. 'The great fear among many that women would overrun the church (in New Zealand) has never been realized,' she says.

'No one has been accepted for training for ordination simply because she is a woman. What has happened is an increasing awareness of the place of women in the church.'

The Church in New Zealand began ordaining women as priests in 1977. Currently, there are 94 women priests and eight women deacons. Fourteen of these are Vicars in parishes ranging from small rural outposts to large suburban areas. Two women are co-vicars with their husbands, sharing time and stipend, four are priests-in-charge of parishes, and 14 serve as parish assistants. Others serve in administrative positions such as examining chaplains, canons, on the diocesan standing committees, and on the General Synod.

'I wouldn't want to suggest that there are no difficulties,' Wood says, 'but surrounding the difficulties is a deep feeling of rightness as ordained men and women fully exercise their ministry together in the light of the Gospel.'

Peete sums up the feeling of women who are ordained when she describes her role as a gift to women so that women may use their gifts to the fullest.

— by Toni Graff.

At Rest:

Mr. Christadas Sivaguru.

The death which occurred on 14-8-89 of Mr. Christadas Katheresu Sivaguru, M. L. T. at Sampanthan Clinic, Jaffna removes suddenly from our scene one who was of great service to the general community in Jaffna for many years.

The funeral service was held on 15-8-89 at 3 p.m. at his residence 'malaragam' at chunnakam. Sevak (Rev.) Sam Alfred conducted the funeral service, associated with him was the Rev. D. R. Ambalavanar of the Christian Theological Institute, Chunnakam, and the Rev. Joseph Sarvanandhan of St. John's Church, Chundikuli. The remains were interred at the Uduvil Church burial grounds.

The deceased leaves behind his wife, Yogamalar two daughters — Usha Sivarajaratnam (France), Latha Mahendran (Chundikuli Girls' College) and a son Suresh (Nuffield School, Kaithady).

Mr. Edwin Reginald Cristopher.

We regret to record the death which occurred on Monday, 7th of August, 1989 of Mr. E. R. Christopher (55) of Uduvil, a retired Sri Lankan Army Officer who since retirement has been associated closely with the Uduvil Church. He was a member of the Church Committee at the time of his death.

The funeral Service was held on Tuesday, the 8th of August at his residence at Uduvil, Sevak Rev. Sam Alfred conducted the service at home. The Rev. D. R. Ambalavanar preached the sermon and Mr. George Stephen paid the tribute.

The casket was borne by the members of the Church Committee from the residence to the hearse while members of the Youth League acted as pall bearers at the grave-side.

The deceased leaves behind his wife Suguna (Meleod Hospital Nursing Staff), two daughters, Regina (Germany) and Jeyakumary (Staff Uduvil Girls' College) and a son John in Germany.

OBITUARY.



Mrs. E. R. Goonasegaram.

Death occurred of Mrs. Emma Rosalind Goonasegaram (Jesudason) 7th August 1989 at the age of 76. She was living with her daughter at Nallur. The funeral service was held on Wednesday 9th at 3 p.m. Pastor of the CPM, Chundikuli conducted the service and preached the sermon. Mr. Aruliah paid a tribute to the life and witness of Mrs. Rosalind. She leaves behind two sons Aputharajah (Teacher, JCC), Thavam (U. K.), a daughter Savithri Ethirveerasingam and two sisters Esther Goonasegaram (Singapore), Hepsy Goonasegaram (Singapore) to bemoan her death. A large number of friends and relatives attended the service.

JOURNEY TOWARDS THE END.

Journey starts from the day of Birth,
It prolongs towards the uncertain earth,
Day by day the experience we had,
Unforgettable till the bitter bed.

After several years my Journey,
Nothing had happened till My memory,
But, when last travel Started something hit my mind.
Little different from unusual way kind.

The cry of huge mob, shouting,
The innocent human is suffering
I tried to open my eyes to have a vision,
I could see a person carrying a cross in passion.

I recollected the words from the pulpit,
An innocent person died for the culprit,
The crowd cried silently for the incident,
I too moved to see the person at least by an accident.

People don't know why they are accompanying
Even though they feel somehow worrying,
Not knowing the cause,
Just to spend a pass.

Does he suffer for me too
In what way I am connected though
Nothing I can say boldly
In no way he crossed my way totally.

I saw the people nailed him on the cross
Finally killed him too.
People murmured that he would again
But for me, it is final to keep remain.

If he died for my sake,
I should rise on the third day break,
If you certain in this belief
Come to my grave after the third day grief,

I am waiting at the third day to get up
But nobody came to my rescue
I heard the voice that he had risen
But keeping myself remain to listen.

I hope, he would come to me for a visit
But, I was told he had taken up to heaven
I am still waiting for him to come
Before the world to forget this belief

Why I am still lying in the dark,
Perhaps, my sins are holding the clock,
The son of man is sinless to rise,
My sins keep me in the Hollow den.



The Youth in the Church's Mission.

— continued from the last (18-8-89) issue —

4. Disinterested and disappointed youth.

Many of our youths today are not interested in participating in the life of the Church. There is a sense of disappointment among them with regard to the Church's life and this disappointment leads to disinterestedness. The reason for their disappointment is basically the nature of the Church today: the vast gap between what the Church is intended for and what it is now, the paradox of the rich and poor in the Church, the perpetuation of casteism and division, the glamour for power, the church becoming centre of accumulation of wealth and so on. Because of these they feel discouraged to take part actively in the life of the Church.

5. Lack of Vision for the future.

Many of our young people today have not really understood the purpose of life. They do not have a future vision in their life. They are so much caught up in the materialism of the world today, all that they want in life is a good job, a good house with all modern comforts and a good family life. There is nothing wrong in aspiring for all these but this is not all that we are called for. Their vision for the future is limited to their self-advancement and material pursuits.

6. Crisis of Model for Life.

The youth look for some model for life to follow. But there is a crisis of model for them to follow in the Church. The Church is so badly divided that they are not able to find any authentic model for them to follow. The Church is called to represent Christ in the world today. But the way it exists today, the Church is not able to represent Christ in its real sense.

In their search for a model to follow they are led astray by various sectarian groups and as a result the young people are not with us today. They fall easy prey to emotional appeals of fundamentalism.

I have mentioned some of the challenges that we should take seriously to stimulate the participation of young people in the life of the Church today. We need not be discouraged by these challenges. The potentialities and the resources with the youths are enormous. We will be able to overcome these challenges if we reckon with these challenges with an open mind.

Keeping in mind these challenges we shall now see the possibilities and opportunities to equip our young people for participating in God's mission.

1. A Vision for the Future.

The first and the foremost thing we need to do is to help the young people to have a vision for the future. The future which we are all looking forward to is the Hope in the future of God, i.e. the kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is God's rule where peace and justice will prevail. This kingdom is already present in our midst in and through Jesus Christ. Our young people should be enabled to capture this vision of God's Kingdom. When our eyes are set on the life of this Kingdom, which God has promised to all of us naturally all our young people will be challenged to do some thing to change the present condition of life in the light of the vision. Many young people do not act today as they lack this vision in life.

2. Centrality of Christ.

Jesus Christ is the ultimate truth and the meaning of human existence. In Him we have answers to all human problems. He should become the centre of our life and programmes. He should be taken as a pattern or as a model to our young people. As we have already pointed out, there is a crisis among the young people for a model to follow, and Jesus is the perfect model to follow. God was in Christ reconciling the world with God. So, Christ is the answer to all our divisions both in the Church and outside in terms of caste, money and social status in life. When our young people are called to take Christ as their model, they will be challenged to participate in God's mission for the world today.

3. The Necessity of Word of God.

Any participation in God's mission should necessarily be the outcome of the study of the Word of God.

The theme of the necessity of involvement in the struggles of the people should be highlighted from the Word of God. And they should be enabled to study the Word of God in relation to their own contexts. We are aware that in Latin America, only through the study of the Word of God in relation to their own life situations in the basic groups, the idea of liberation caught fire and enabled them to fight against evil forces in society.

4. Radical attitudinal change.

When our young people are challenged to take Christ as the model and pattern of their life through the study of the Word of God, automatically it should bring radical attitudinal change in every individual. If every individual decides to act in a just manner realising the needs of others then the transformation of the society is possible, without the individual transformation, the transformation of the society will not last for long.

5. Recognition of the potentialities of youth by the Church.

In the Churches youth are often considered as bunch of volunteers in helping the elders for conducting the programmes, decorating the church, singing carols and so on. They are not often recognised as people with potentialities which can be used for the growth of the Church and for its participation in Mission. Many times the youth are used by the elders to achieve their own vested interests. The Church must recognise the potentialities of the youth and they should be provided with opportunities to make their legitimate contribution to the growth of the Church and in its participation in God's mission.

6. Spirituality and Involvement.

We have already pointed out that spirituality which is indifferent to the struggles of the people around is self-centered and the social action without the essential spiritual basis stems from a vacuum. What is needed is an essential and continuous interaction between spirituality and social action. One becomes incomplete without the other. Our involvement in societal affairs should come out of our spirituality and our spirituality should be strengthened by our involvement.

7. World as the Centre of God's mission.

The self-centered, perverted spiritualism of many of our young people prevent them from participating in God's mission for the World. They should be made aware of the socio-economic and political conditions of society around them and the need to participate in the struggles of that community. God doesn't, limit his activity to the Christian sphere alone. He is in the midst of the people. Our young people should be challenged to get away from their indoor church-centered activities to the community to participate in God's mission with the people.