



### Editor's Note

Please address all communication for the English pages to The English Editor, 'Morning Star' UDUVIL, CHUNNAKAM

# THE MORNING STAR

Registered as a Newspaper at the General Post Office, Sri Lanka under No. QB/59/300126/82

Established: 1841: A Christian Weekly : Published Every Friday

Vol. 143 JAFFNA, FRIDAY, 10th JUNE, 1983 No. 23

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

### Subscription

Inland: Rs. 35/- per year.

FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

Apply to:

The Manager, 'Morning Star', Vaddukodai.

### Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee

The Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Kulendran observed his 50th Anniversary on the Ordination as a Minister of the Jaffna Council of the S.I.U.C. on Friday the 3rd of June, 1983. His ordination took place at the Alaveddy Church on the 3rd of June, 1933. It was a historic event for more than one reason. That was the first occasion that all the Ministers of the Jaffna Council of the S.I.U.C. attired themselves in cassocks. This was done by a resolution of the Council. The mover of the resolution was the late Mr. J. C. Amarasingam. Bishop Kuledran's ordination was done according to the rites of the South India United Church. Other events in his life have over-shadowed the ordination. However it is of great significance that the Bishop now can count on 50 long years in the ordained Ministry of the Church.

### New Emergency Regulations

An emergency regulation governing disposal of dead bodies has been gazetted by President Jayawardene.

Official sources said the regulation was intended to ensure that security personnel, acting against terrorists, will in no way be harassed by the law in the event of being compelled to use their fire power.

However, the service commanders have been told to ensure discipline and ensure that no excesses are committed.

The relevant regulation under Section 5 of the Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40) reads.

"It shall be lawful for any police officer of a rank not below that of Assistant Superintendent or for the officer in charge of a police station or any other officer or person authorized by him in that behalf to take with the approval of the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence all such measures as may be necessary for the taking possession and burial or cremation of any dead body, and to determine in his discretion the persons who may be permitted to be present at any assembly for the purpose of or in connection with any such burial or cremation.

"Any person who is present at any such assembly without the permission of such officer or authorized person or who obstructs such officer or authorized person in the exercise of the powers herein before conferred shall be guilty of an offence.

"It shall not be necessary for any officer or person taking measures relating to the possession and burial or cremation of a dead body under this regulation to comply with the provisions of any other written law relating to the inquest of death or to burial or cremation."

[CDN 6-6-83]

### Whitsun Festival at Ashram

The Feast of Pentecost was celebrated as usual at the Christa Seva Ashram, Chunnakam on the three days preceding Whitsunday 22 May 1983. Revs. Issac Selvaratnam and R. Thurairajah conducted Bible Studies in the mornings and the Revs. J. Sarvananthan and S. N. Suguananthan addressed the meetings in the evenings. It was creditable that the programme could be worked out at the Ashram as planned despite disturbances and tension around Jaffna following local government elections.

### First Asian in British Polls

Sumal C. Fernando, a Lankan lawyer now resident in UK came forward as SDP/Liberal Alliance candidate for the Leicester West constituency when Britain went for the polls on June 9 this year.

He is the first Asian prospective parliamentary candidate of the SDP and was elected by postal ballot.

Before emigrating to the UK in 1977, Mr. Fernando practised as a lawyer at Kalutara bar from 1969 to March 1977. He visited his motherland last year and donated an ambulance to the Health Department.

### Bossey 1983

The programme of the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey for the rest of the year includes, "The Christian Churches' Prayer for Peace" (14-24 June) which will examine means for common witness and action and the motivation for peace-making.

"Reformed identity and ecumenical endeavour in Church and society" (June 27-July 8) will focus on the Reformed contribution to and shaping of ecumenical thinking.

The Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies (15th of October 1983 to 28th February 1984) will have as its theme, "The visible unity of the church in a divided world."

### Obituary

Mrs. Esther Amirtham Samuel Chelliah mother of Mr. S. P. Jeevanantham Middle School Supervisor St. John's College Jaffna and Mr. Sam Thevalasingam Director of Every Home Crusade, Colombo passed away on the 21st May 1983. She leaves behind also her sons M/s Jacob Parimelasingam and C. Ratnasingham and a daughter Mrs. Rebecca Dharmalingam. The funeral took place at Ariyalai, Jaffna on Monday the 23rd conducted by the Ven. S. D. Horshington several other priests assisting and the burial at St. James Burial Grounds, Nallur.

- Cor.

### A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

for the life & Ministry of the late

Revd. N. W. G. Sugunarahaj

will be held at the

Cathedral Church, Vaddukodai

on

Saturday the 25th June, 1983 at 4-30 p. m.

all are cordially invited.

Diocesan Office, Vaddukodai.

Rev. A. C. Mathanaraj Secretary, J. D., C. S. I.

### Memorandum to All Bishops

According to the *Island* (4-6-83) a Memorandum signed by Rev. G. A. Francis Joseph and Rev. Fr. Thevarajan the President and Secretary respectively of the Apostolic Union of Priests Jaffna Diocese, has been sent to the Most Rev. (Dr.) Frank Marcus Fernando President of the Episcopal Conference on behalf of 55 priests of the Mannar and Jaffna Diocese.

Copies of the Memorandum have also been forwarded to all the Bishops of Sri Lanka.

The Memorandum appeals to all the Bishops of Sri Lanka to condemn unequivocally the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the excessive powers vested in the security forces and to request the Government and other leaders to bring about a solution to the problems of the minorities quickly.

### 90 Soldiers Sacked

The Army High Command has sacked 90 members of the crack Raja Rata Rifle Regiment following reports that there has been large scale Absent Without Leave (AWOL).

The soldiers went AWOL when six army men faced charges for causing damage to property in Jaffna following the shooting of a lance corporal on 18-5-83 when he was guarding a polling booth.

Angered colleagues of the dead soldier are reported to have carried out apparent reprisal action against certain shops and houses in the vicinity of the shooting in the belief that some of those places must have granted refuge to the killer gang that shot down the soldier.

- Daily Mirror 6-6-83.

### In brief

Of the Five Lakhs worth of books gifted by the government of Tamil Nad to the Jaffna Public Library, a consignment worth one lakh and twenty thousand has already arrived in Colombo and has been taken delivery by the Indian High Commissioner. The gift is the result of the interest taken in the matter by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. A. Amithalingam.

### Tamil Language in Video Cassettes

The Tamil University of Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu has planned to bring about video cassettes for the benefit of Tamils living abroad and who are desirous of learning the language.

The move, according to Dr. V. I. Subramaniam, the Vice-Chancellor is inspired by the necessity to teach Tamil language to the younger generation in countries like Mauritius and Fiji where the language is found to be languishing because of the lack of facilities. The younger generation of Tamils who live in Western countries will be greatly benefitted by this move.

### News of Sri Lankans Abroad

Among Sri Lankans abroad who passed away recently are:-

Dr. C. Singarajah, a former Engineer at the Chunnakam Power Station died in Surrey on 19-4-83. He had been accepting appointment at various times in Malaysia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Libya. Since 1974 he has been a Senior Lecturer in Electrical Engineering in the Richmond-Upon-Thames College in London. He got his Doctorate in 1971. He leaves behind his wife, a daughter and two sons.

Dr. D. R. Sivapiragasam passed away in Sydney, Australia on 26-1-83. He was the eldest son of Mr. S. S. Sivapiragasam, a former Vice-Principal of St. John's College, Jaffna. He leaves behind his wife and his daughter Sharmista and son-in-law Suvan de Soysa.

Mr. Hector Aseervatham returned recently to Sri Lanka from U.K. where he has been till 1968. He died in Sri Lanka on 15-5-83. The funeral took place at 45, Initium Road, Dehiwela. He leaves behind his wife Ranees (nee Sivapiragasam) and four children.

Mr. S. R. Arulampalam till recently of Wembleton has been in the British Rail Engineering Department from 1969-1982. He returned recently to his home country and died here on 1-3-73. He leaves behind his wife, two daughters and a son. He is a brother of Paul, Karunamani Niles, Rani Aseervatham and Chandra. Mrs. Arulampalam has returned to UK and is living in Surrey with her daughter Mrs. Chelliah Logendran.





## EDITORIAL

## Collective Action, the need of the Hour

Where will it lead? This is the question in the minds of every citizen in this country who finds himself today in the vortex of a terrible symmetry of action and interaction, assault and counter-assault, hatred and responsive hatred.

President Jayawardene has appealed to the people to maintain law, order and peace. For, as he has said if 'terrorism' is to be wiped out in the North, it cannot be done if people in other parts of the country take it in their own hands to adopt terrorist tactics against the Tamil community living in their midst.

Said the President at the *Gam Udawa '83 Exhibition* at Nikarawatiya:—

"If some people were to break shops belonging to Tamil people, destroying houses of others and harassing or killing them on the ground that they belonged to another community, such acts would be an obstacle to the steps being taken by the government to curb terrorism."

According to a news report in the CDN of 8-6-83, a total of five shops have been gutted by fire at Panadura and the damage estimated at Rs. 1 million.

The LSSP on the same day (8-6-83) has appealed to people of good will to help to put a stop to what Mr. Bernard de Soysa called the "Outrageous violence" that had occurred at some places in recent days.

Said the veteran LSSP leader and General Secretary of the *Lanka Sama Samaja Party*:—

"We cannot leave everything to the authorities. We must intervene in the situation ourselves collectively."

Such intervention requires first of all that we act together prevent those things happening in our localities, that is to say where we live, where we work and where we travel daily."

(Italics are ours)

It is a happy augury that all political leaders in the country have now felt that *collective action* is necessary to put an end to the unprecedented explosion of corrosive hostility between the two major communities in the country.

Those who condone violence should face up to the fact that the paroxysms of public disorder have led already to some counter measures which neither the government or the people are happy about — and can be happy about.

In this grim context we endorse the sentiment expressed by the General Secretary of the LSSP that the only way to solve the problem of the escalation of hatred is for the moderates on each side to cope with the haters and doers of violence, *within their own ranks*.

To date, the moderates in the country have been all too silent. It was perhaps predictable. Moderates are alike, whatever their race. They don't want to get involved. They don't like trouble. But increasingly the extremists are giving them trouble whether they like it or not.

The time has come we believe for "a revolt of the moderates" which has to go on, day in and day-out in offices, factories, homes and clubs. This has to be done in Sri Lanka in an organised manner if we are to care about the future of our society.

The Christian Church in Sri Lanka has a special responsibility to give a lead in this campaign of "a revolt of the moderates."

For, the Church is placed, as in the days of our Lord in the midst of a crowd that is "harassed and helpless". The multitudes that form this 'crowd' are illiterate, ignorant, unorganised and often exploited. The crowd is not just a collectivity of uncommitted folk but a distinct sociological group. While religions thrive in Sri Lanka, human beings in this crowd are reduced in worth to mere play things. The Church should find the meaning of its existence in relation to this 'crowd'.

## Alliance Francaise

The *Alliance Francaise*, founded in Paris on July 21, 1983 with the object of spreading the French language and French civilisation abroad, is celebrating its Centenary this year. Events to mark this centenary will be held all over the world throughout the year.

Already the French Minister of Postal Services and Telecommunications has decided to issue the publication of "a golden book" of 250 pages by the "Editions Hachette".

The final key event will be a Centenary World Congress

## West London Tamil School

The Annual Prize Giving of *Greenford High School* will take place on the 16th July at 6.30 p.m. The Chief Guest will be the Rt. Hon. Dr. Rhodes Boyson, M. P., Minister of Education.

which will be held from October 17 to 19 this year.

The *Alliance Francaise* has today some 1000 committees spread across the world with nearly 250,000 students who attend its schools and colleges in the Five continents.

## JDCSI

## Evangelistic week activities at K. K. S.

The Kankesanthurai Church had the following programmes during Evangelistic week. On Sunday the 29th some members of the K. K. S. Church under the leadership of Mr. Prince Ratnam, the Worker in Charge of the Church, visited some homes around the Myliddy Sanatorium. Tracts were distributed and short Gospel messages were given. At 10-00 a.m. on the same day a special service was held at the Sanatorium Chapel. Mr. Prince Ratnam conducted the Service. Mr. Marisal Saram preached the Sermon. A Special Prayer was said by Mr. C. Stanislaus. It was very encouraging to see that several non Christians too attended this Service. At 6-30 p.m. a special service was held at the Keerimalai Chapel. The Service was conducted by Mr. Kirubairajah Chelliah.

On Friday the Worker in Charge and some members of the Church visited some homes around Keerimalai Road. Tracts were distributed and short Gospel messages were given. At 6-30 p.m. the Film 'The Robe' was screened at the Sanatorium Chapel. Mr. C. Stanislaus of Myliddy while welcoming all those who were present said that he was very grateful to the J. D. C. S. I. and The Jaffna Christian Union for making arrangements to hold regular Sunday Services at the Sanatorium Chapel. Mr. Prince Ratnam, Chaplain of the Sanatorium, thanked the Hospital Staff, The Rev. R. Thuraijah, Director of the Christian Communications, Pastor S. Anandham and Mr. Ebenezer for all the help they had given him in his work at the Sanatorium. He also said that he was very grateful to Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar, the Revds. D. R. Ambalavanar, S. N. Sugunan-

## State of the World's Children

UNICEF's annual *State of the World's Children* reports that 17 million children under five died in 1981. Less than 10 per cent of Third World children are immunised against the six most common and dangerous childhood diseases.

"We are", says the Report in another year of silent emergency of 40,000 children quietly dying each day of 100 million quietly going to sleep hungry at night, of ten million children quietly becoming disabled in mind and body of 200 million 6 to 11 olds quietly watching other children go to school, of one-fifth of the world's people quietly struggling for life itself.

## New Editor of "One World"

The New Editor of "One World" as from the beginning of this year is *Marlin VanElderen*, 36 an American who was Vice President and Editor-in-Chief of Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Company in Grand Rapids, US.

Mr. VanElderen is a member of the Christian Reformed Church and has been Chief Editor of the *Reformed Journal* for four years.

He spent almost a year at the Geneva Office of the WCC (1986-82) as interim publications Editor. He is married and has four daughters.

Bruce Best, the former Editor has returned to Australia his home country, for family reasons.

dhan, S. Manobavan and Sam Alfred for all the help and guidance they render to the work at the Sanatorium. The days programme terminated with a Prayer by Pastor Anandham of the Christian Communications.

## Reflections on the Role of the Humanities in a Democratic Culture

[ Excerpted from the Bunker Memorial Lecture delivered by Professor John Walter Bicknell at Trimmer Hall on 22-3-83.]

(Continued from our last issue)

How do we answer these charges? There are, I think, three ways of dealing with them. My first approach will be to accept the charge, but to challenge the assumption that because a work of art or literature or philosophy has been composed by a member of a ruling group it necessarily has no value whatever for a democratic culture. My second answer will be to assert that in ancient and modern history, the humanities have served a democratic culture. My third answer will try to suggest the ways in which the situation in the humanities is changing; the content of materials for teaching them is expanding enormously as more and more material about the neglected dramatic personae of history and literature and art is being recovered and displayed.

To take up my first position in more detail, are we to assume

that no member of a ruling group can ever see anything truly, or express any sympathy for the rest of humanity, or endorse values that might be treasured in a democratic society, or even be able to transcend the values of his or her own class? The question has only to be asked in this rough-hewn way for us to realize the emptiness of the assumption. If an aristocratic culture decides that honesty is a useful virtue, that hardly disqualifies it as a virtue useful to a democratic culture. I need not labor the obvious. What I would prefer to dwell on are those moments when a great writer of the past has transcended the values of his class and opened the eyes of his readers to a new dimension of being. I shall begin with Homer, whose *Iliad* was to the Athenian democracy what the *Mahabharata* has been to India.

Registered as a Newspaper at the G.P.O., Sri Lanka under No. QB.159/300/26/82.

Printed for the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India at Sri Sanganatha Press, Kankesanthurai Road, Jaffna on Friday, 10th June 1983 and published by Mr. Alvappillai Rajasingam, 330, Navalur Road, Jaffna.