



### Editor's Note

Please address all communication the English pages  
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'Morning Star'  
UDUVIL, CHUNNAKAM

# THE MORNING STAR

Registered as a Newspaper at the General Post Office, Sri Lanka under No. Q/B/59/300/26/82

Established: 1841: A Christian Weekly : Published Every Friday

Vol. 143 JAFFNA, FRIDAY, 2nd DECEMBER, 1983 No. 48

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

RECEIVED  
3-12-1983  
Subscription  
Inland: Rs. 35/- per year.  
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### Udupiddy Church Nursery School

The Annual Concert of Udupiddy Church Nursery School was held on Monday the 28th of November at the Udupiddy Girls School Hall. The Guest speaker at the function was Mrs. A. Balasingam, a parent and the presents to the children were distributed by the Principal of the school, Mrs. P. Rajendrasingam. The whole concert was of a very high standard and was appreciated by all. Rev. S. Manopavan, Pastor of Udupiddy Church presided over the function.

### Colombo Diocese Mothers' Union Celebrates 75th Anniversary

The Mother's Union of the Diocese of Colombo celebrated their 75th Anniversary on the 20th November 1983. In Jaffna a special Sunday morning service was held in St. John's Church, Chundikuli conducted by the Rev. J. Sarvananthan. Special prayers were offered by Mrs. Ruby Ariaratnam and Mrs. J. M. Sabaratnam and the litany of thanksgiving was offered by Mrs. A. S. Sivagnanam. Mrs. J. M. Rajaratnam and Mrs. A. Satkunasingam read the Scripture lessons. The sermon was preached by Mrs. D. J. Kanagaratnam of Vavuniya. The St. John's Church Mother's Union entertained the congregation at a fellowship breakfast in St. John's College, Jaffna.

### Colombo - Tuticorin Ship Service

The new transport service by sea from Colombo to Tuticorin will, it is learnt, commence only after the on-going talks on the "negotiated political settlement" in Sri Lanka are concluded and the settlement of the 'Tamil problem' is finally reached.

The 42 mile sea voyage will take 8 hours. Unlike the Thalaimannar - Rameshwaram Ferry Service which is suspended from October to December every year, the Colombo - Tuticorin service will operate throughout the year.

A Private Company is operating the service.

### Examination Success

Miss, Christine Prakashni Visuvalingam has passed the Teachers Diploma Examination in Western Music, conducted by the association of Teachers of Western Music, Speech and Drama. She is the daughter of Dr. A. Visuvalingam and Mrs. Visuvalingam of Kurunagala.

### First Women Priests of Sri Lanka



Rev. (Miss) Malar Chinniah



Rev. (Miss) Ariamalar Vythilingam

These two Sisters of the Methodist Church were ordained into the Christian priesthood by Rev. Soma K. Perera, on 4-11-83 at a historic Service of Ordination at the Methodist Church, Kollupitiya. As we have reported earlier, this is the first time in this country when women have been admitted to the Ministry of the Church.

### Release of "The History of Jaffna College (1923-1980)"

Bishop Kulandran's "History of Jaffna College" was released at a special Assembly in the Ottley, Hall at Jaffna College on Wednesday 30th November, 1983 at 10-45 a.m. The impressive Assembly began with orchestral music by the College band and a processional prelude - A "Mighty Fortress in our God" followed by the singing of a Tamil lyric. The principal, Mr. A. Kadirgamar presided and in his remarks said that the celebration of this event was amply justified as it was an accomplishment of a thorough and devoted task by one of the most outstanding of authors and men we have in our midst today. He also read extracts from the Bishop's book which not only deals with details of the activities of the College from 1823-1980 following J. V. Cheliah's "A Century of English Education" from 1823-1923, but also brings to mind every important and relevant national and international event. The book makes easy and pleasant reading regarding the splendid achievements in education of an institution which has stood the test of time of more than one hundred and sixty years.

Complementary copies of the book were presented to Bishops Kulandran and Ambalavanar, the President of the Round Table (Mr. G. Rajanayagam), President of the School Council (Mas. B. Ganesan), the Jaffna College Alumni (Mr. M. A. Velupillai) and the Colombo Alumni Association (Mr. S. Rajanayagam).

Bishop Ambalavanar, Mr S

Jebanesan and Mrs. S. Nesanather also delivered felicitatory speeches. When Bishop Kulandran rose to make his responses he was garlanded by the President of the School Council with spices. The Bishop in his remarks gave an account of the several hours of hard work he had to put in, to fill in all the relevant details. He spent more than five hours a day in the College collecting information, checking and double-checking them, and the manuscript went through two hand written and two type written accounts and through a progress of proof reading of more than six or seven times, which has resulted now in a very clear and distinct publication.

The Assembly came to a close with prayer and benediction by Bishop Ambalavanar followed by the College Song and three cheers to Bishop Kulandran.

The rest of the day was declared a holiday and it may be remembered that Bishop Kulandran was felicitated twice before officially by the College - when he was consecrated Bishop in 1947 and when he was the Chief Guest at the Prize-Giving in 1963. This Assembly was the third occasion on which the Bishop was honoured and it will go down in history as a unique record. The entire proceedings were video-taped and will be available for a wider audience. It was another very significant and memorable day in the annals of the College.

The Book is being sold at Rs. 50/- each at the College

### JAFFNA COLLEGE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE VACANCY - LIBRARIAN

Candidates should have passed at least the first examination in Librarianship conducted by Sri Lanka Library Association.

Salary: Total remuneration will be Rs. 950/- to Rs. 1,300/- per month all inclusive.

Selected candidate must be resident near Vaddukoddai and be prepared to work early and/or late hours (7.30 a. m. to 5.30 p. m.)

Apply with full bio-data to Director, Jaffna College Technical Institute, Vaddukoddai to reach before 12th December, 1983.

### IN MEMORIAM



IN EVERLOVING MEMORY OF

**Samuel Kanagaratnam Rasiiah**

Called to rest on 25-11-1959

Affectionately remembered by his loved ones.

Tellippallai.

### Obituary

Mrs. M. Sinniah

Mrs. Manoranjitham Thanammah Sinniah of Manipay was called to rest on the 28th November 1983 and the funeral was conducted the following day by the Rev. D. R. Ampalavanar at the home of her daughter and son-in-law Dr. J. S. & Mrs. Leela Navaratnam. She leaves behind also her two sons Dharmarajah and Selvarajah and daughters-in-law Swiatha and Sheila. Her husband Mr. C. T. Sinniah a graduate teacher at Stanley College Jaffna predeceased her.

Mrs. Pakiam Masilaman

Mrs. Pakiam Masilaman Matron at the William Mather Memorial Women's Centre Maruthanamadam passed away at Inuvil on the 28th November 1983. She was 72. Before joining the Women's Centre in 1980, she was the Matron at McLeod Hospital Inuvil for about eighteen years. Her late husband also worked at the same hospital for over thirty years.

The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. S. N. Sugunanandan at McLeod Hospital on Wednesday the 30th and the burial took place at the Uduvil Church burial grounds. Sevak Sam Alfred paid a tribute to the deceased at the Service





## EDITORIAL

## The Holocaust and After

There are clear indications, at the time of our writing these notes that the Delhi talks on the Tamil Problem have reached some accord, though the future is not clearly discernible.

The security of the Tamil people and the integrity of the Tamil areas are the two matters on which the rough edges appear yet to be smoothened.

Rural Industries Development Minister, Mr. S. Thondaman has taken a further step in his mission as a mediator, in urging the government to postpone the by-elections till the ethnic problem is solved.

He has quoted 'chapter and verse' in support of his contention that by-elections have not been usually held during the times of Emergency. The by-election for the Kankesanthurai seat was postponed under the Emergency for two years when Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam resigned his seat objecting to the 1972 Constitution.

If we understand the various news reports correctly, it is now left to the All Parties Conference (the modalities of which are yet to be worked out) to decide if the TULF is to be invited to the Conference Table and if the pre-condition proposed by President Jayawardene is to be waived.

"A slight improvement" is the guarded response of the TULF leader Mr. Amirthalingam to the new development. But in our view it is a long awaited 'improvement' and as such is worthy of recognition.

New Delhi, the capital of the world's largest democracy, has provided a congenial climate and the Commonwealth Conference held there, an opportune moment, for the 'improvement' in our political situation which prior to President Jayawardene's departure to India was unforced and meandering.

But remaining at the Summit is one thing and descending to the plains is another. A whole portfolio of problems await the government in the 'plains'—the 18,000 refugees who yet are in the camps in Colombo and the outstations, the displaced government servants, numbering over 2500, the Tamil University undergraduates, numbering 1800, and above all the large number (some 24,000) thrown out of employment by the carefully targetted attack on Tamil business enterprises in Colombo.

The events of July 1983 have been 'uniquely unique'. It is in this context that we have to view the problems of the 'plains'. They are not problems of ordinary dimensions where cabinet decisions of a routine nature could be taken.

Some statements from responsible quarters appear to give the notion that the ethnic 'holocaust' of July 1983 was, after all, only a retaliatory measure of some hoodlums and died down as quickly as it erupted.

It is important in our view at this hour in Sri Lanka when efforts at reconciliation are genuinely being made, (with New Delhi assisting and the world watching) that the holocaust of 1983 should be viewed in the country not as a Tamil catastrophe but as a national catastrophe.

As for the Tamil minorities, the new political developments are welcome. "Never cut what you can untie" has always been their motto.

But it is equally important for the Tamil minorities who have survived the holocaust and awaiting 'a new day' in Sri Lanka promised by our national leaders, to hear the cry of the victims for remembrance and to answer their question 'what have you learned'?

Inscribed at Jerusalem's holocaust memorial to the six million Jews and five million non-Jews devoured by the Nazi monstrosities of World War II are, we read, these words:—

"To forget is to prolong the exile; to remember is the beginning of redemption."

## Women's Rights Recognised

"Women hold half the sky" is an old Chinese proverb. The Methodist Church in Sri Lanka has been, we note, the first in our country to recognise the right of women to hold half the ecclesiastical 'sky'—a right which the weight of tradition has denied to them for a long time.

Women, it has been claimed, were the first Easter witnesses. Mrs. L. Amirtham (whose husband is a Secretary of the World Council of Churches) in an interpretative report of the WCC Conference on "Community of Men and Women" held last year in Sheffield (UK) makes the following significant comment:—

"Church history began with the Easter Morning incident when a few women set out in search of the body of Jesus, were met

## "Action" on Navam Appadurai

Navam left us prematurely on Saturday 9 July 1983, following a long day's work in connection with the raising tensions which brought Sri Lanka to the brink of civil war. If Navam is no longer with us physically, his cooperative and reconciliatory spirit will continue to inspire us.

SCI members and many others will miss a competent and most amiable co-worker, as well as a loving and unforgettable friend, always ready to trust and encourage others. Navam got to know SCI about 30 years ago and immediately seized its potential for reconciliation and international peace work. He served SCI in many capacities, including 10 years as Asian Secretary with a high sense of responsibility. Especially striking in Navam was his constant readiness to further SCI ideas and ideals, never showing signs of fatigue, even when his health began to weaken. In his

endeavour to carry out things with others, Navam had always a constructive and humble attitude, displaying a deep sense of calm and self-discipline, even under occasions of stress and criticism.

Navam will be remembered as a man with a fine sense of honour; at times hidden by discretion. Those of us who had the privilege to work with him on service projects or conferences will never forget his subtle and quiet smile on the occasion of making a joke in order to ease a tense atmosphere.

Navam's kindness and patience were immense and boundless—qualities rarely found nowadays! We are grateful for his life and hope that his memory will continue to inspire the rest of us, so that we can uphold all those values dear to Navam.

[Action and Asian—publications of the Service Civil International have had in recent issues notes of appreciations of the life and work of Navam Appadurai. The above 'note' is from Action.]

## God Does Hear the Human Cry

[Excerpted from the Sermon preached by Rev. (Dr.) J. R. Chandran

at the U. T. C. Valedictory Service Bangalore (10-4-83)]

(Continued from our last issue)

Through Jesus' ministry he brought out a new analysis of the human situation, a new insight about sin and evil and about salvation. One thing that stands out very boldly in the Gospel records is that God's battle is not with what is commonly understood as wickedness and immoral, expressed in the crimes of adultery, robbery murder and the like. Certainly these evils have to be overcome. They cannot be condoned by any means. But Jesus' enemies were not the common criminals, the prostitutes, gamblers, drunkards and murderers. His enemies were the good and righteous people, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Scribes and the Priests. The battle was between righteousness of God rooted in absolute love, manifested in the ministry of Jesus and the righteousness of man rooted in self-justification which judges and condemns others. It is very striking that the good and righteous people of Jesus' time chose "Barabbas" rather than Jesus. Today also the struggle is between the righteousness of God seeking the well being and wholeness of life of all people and the relatively good people who

support the status quo and are willing to work in collaboration with unjust exploiters. We need to be critically aware of the religious support given to unjust systems, military dictators, black-marketiers. In our own country very often religious leaders including church leaders have given uncritical support to the Government in power, whether it be at the Centre or at the state level. We need to discern that there is a real conflict between the forces and people who are relatively good and those who have a higher loyalty because they have been challenged and are committed to the absolute claims of the love of God. Because of our commitment to the love of God as made known by Christ we cannot give absolute loyalty to any human institution or authority. Absolute loyalty is only to God. It is this commitment which led Christ to the Cross. We have no promise that the battle in which we are called to participate in through our ministry will have a simple victory. But beyond the Cross there is the victory of the Resurrection. In our ministry we have the assurance that the Risen Lord is with us.

(to be continued)

by him and received his command to share their experiences with other male disciples.

But somewhere along the history of the Church, women have been deprived of their privilege and prerogative and have become passive objects in a male-dominated Church.

Whatever the arguments for and against "a male dominated Church" (a subject on which we are not competent to comment), we do feel that women could bring to the Church as pastors and presbyters certain gifts and insights which men alone cannot bring. They can certainly be a supportive community in our troubled times.

At the Sixth Assembly of the WCC in Vancouver in July this year, women's participation had increased from 6 per cent (in Amsterdam) to 30 per cent.

We do hope the new increased partnership we witness today, will signal "a renewed community" of women and men in church and in society and enrich the religious dimension of human life in Sri Lanka today—a dimension which has plumbed new depths of despair in recent times.

Registered as a Newspaper at the G. P. O., Sri Lanka under No. QB/59/300/26/82

Printed for the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India at Sri Samuganatha Press, Kankesanthurai Road, Jaffna on Friday, 2nd December 1983 and published by Mr. Alvappillai Rajasingam, 330, Navalar Road, Jaffna.