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NEWS
TO

THE EDITOR
THE MORNING STAR
NO. 39, FUSSELS LANE,
COLOMBO-06,
SRI LANKA.

THE MORNING STAR

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Righteousness Exalteth A Nation But Sin is a Reproach to any people.

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ANOTHER WOMAN DEACON FOR THE DIOCESE

January 7th was yet another day in the annals of the Diocesan history when the Rt. Revd Dr. S. Jebanesan, Bishop in Jaffna of the Church of South India ordained Miss Thayalini Thiyagarajah as Deacon of the diocese at a special service held in Colombo Church. The day coincided with the Covenant Sunday.

The service was conducted by the bishop with the assistance of Revds. P.R. Navendranugoolan and A. Jeyakumaran. The Revd Dr. Daniel S. Thiagarajah, Executive Secretary of the Programme Area of Faith, Mission and Unity of the Christian Conference of Asia preached the sermon based on "But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us" (2Cor.4:7).

The Scripture lessons were read by Miss Esther Madurani Ponraj, Mrs S. Devadasan and the Rev. T. Daniel Ranjith respectively. Mr G. Rajanayagam, former Principal of Jaffna College led the congregation in choral litany. The candidate for ordination was presented before the Bishop by the Revd T. Jeyachandran, Circuit Pastor of Vavuniya. The Colombo Church of the JDCSI hosted all those present, to a fellowship breakfast.

Thayalini completed her theological studies at the Christian Theological Seminary, Maruthanamadam. She has the distinction of completing the B.Th degree in Second Class with 65% average. She excelled both in Greek and Hebrew studies. She is now serving as Assistant Pastor and Chaplain of Girls' Home at Vavuniya. Morning Star wishes Revd Miss Thayalini Thiyagarajah all the best as she continues to serve the Lord and the People of God.



Annual Convention Meetings in Colombo

Colombo Church organized a three-day convention from the 4th to the 6th of January in Colombo during the Week of Prayer. The Revd Dr Milton Jeganathan, Director of the CSI Synodical Department of Mission and Evangelism and the Revd Dr Daniel S. Thiagarajah, Executive Secretary for Faith, Mission & Unity of the Christian Conference of Asia were the speakers at the convention.

The choirs of JDCSI Colombo Church and Moor Road Methodist Church sang special songs which made the convention very lively. A team under the leadership of Mrs. Pathma Hensman was in-charge of all the arrangements.

A New Library at St. John's College

A new library will be constructed for St. John's College, Jaffna at a cost of Rs.5 million. This amount had been allocated by the Relief and Resettlement Authority of the North. The Engineers visited Jaffna College Library on the 26th January and saw the library structure.

Visit of Directors of P A D and Christian Education

Rev. G. Devakadasham, Director Pastoral Aid Department and Rev. B.D. Prasad Rao, Director Department of Christian Education of the Church of South India Synod are planning to be in Sri Lanka during the Holy Week of 2001. They will conduct seminars for Sunday School Teachers, preach at services and visit our churches in South Sri Lanka during their stay in our country.

Let us be sincere in our dealings with each other; and have the courage to accept each other as we are. Do not be surprised or become preoccupied at each other's failures- rather, see and find in each other the good, for each one of us is created in the image of God.

 Mother Teresa.

Rev. Paul Suresh and his bride Doreen

The wedding of Rev. M.D. Paul Suresh, our worker at Visvamadhu to Doreen Thanesh, Assistant Librarian, Public Library, Vavuniya was solemnised at St. Peter's Church, Kudiyiruppu, Vavuniya on Saturday the 20th of January 2001.

The marriage was solemnised by the Bishop and assisted by Rev. T. Jeyachandran, worker in charge, Vavuniya. Rev. Dr. D.S. Thiagarajah, Executive Secretary, Faith, Mission & Unity, Christian Conference of Asia preached the homily. The marriage service was followed by

a fellowship lunch at the Vanni Inn Hotel, Vavuniya.



Confirmation Service - Vavuniya

Thirty persons were admitted into the full fellowship of CSI Church, Vavuniya on Sunday the 21st of January 2001. The candidates were presented by Rev. T. Jeyachandran, worker in charge of Vavuniya.

கலைஞர் தி. வ. அரியரெத்தினம் அவர்களின் திடீர் மறைவு

2000, 12, 26 அன்று தன் புகுந்த இடமான மன்னாரில் கலைஞர் திரு. தி. வ. அரியரெத்தினம் அவர்கள் இறை பதம் சேர்ந்து விட்ட செய்தி இந்நாட்டில் வாழும் பலருக்கு அதிர்ச்சி தரும் செய்தியாகும். இவரது கலை வாழ்வு பாதியிலே பறிக்கப்பட்டது அவரை அறிந்தோர்க்கு பெரும் வேதனை தரும் ஒன்றாகும்.

பண்டத்தரிப்பு வடலியடைப்புக் கிராமத்திலே பரம்பரைக் கிறிஸ்தவ குடும்பத்திலே 1941, 02, 03இல் கண்மணி ஆசிரியத் தம்பதிகளின் கனிஷ்ட புத்திரனாகப் வல்லிபுரம் பிறந்தார். யாழ்ப்பாணக் கல்லூரியில் தனது கல்விமுனைக் கற்றார். துடிப்பு மிகு இளைஞனாக வளர்ந்த இவர் சிறந்த கலையுள்ளம் படைத்தவராக, விளையாட்டு வீரனாக, நாடக ஆசிரியனாக, சிறு கதை மற்றும் தொடர்கதைகள் புனைபவராகப் புகழ் பெற்றார்.

அறுபத்தைந்து எழுபதுகளில் வானொலி நாடகங்கள் பல எழுதிய பாராட்டுக்களைப் பெற்றார். இவற்றை நெறிப்படுத்தித் தானும் நடத்தும் மேடை யேற்றியும் தமிழ் மக்களின் பெருமதிப்பைப் பெற்றார்.

எழுத்தாளனாக இலங்கைப் பத்திரிகைகளான வீரகேசரி, மித்திரன், தினகரன் போன்றவற்றின் சிறுகதைகள், தொடர்கதைகள், மற்றும் கட்டுரைகள் பல எழுதினார். குத்தல்கள், கிண்டல்கள், தத்துவங்கள், சமூகச் சீர்கேடுகள், யதார்த்தங்கள் போன்றன இவரது எழுத்துக்களில் மலிந்து கிடந்தமை கண்கூடு. பக்கச் சார்பற்ற நடுநிலையாளனாகச் - செய்தியாளனாகத் திகழ்ந்தார்.

அவர் கால் பதிந்த மற்றொரு களம் உடைப்பந்தாட்டம். உடைப்பந்தாட்ட வீரனாக சங்கிலியன் விளையாட்டுக் கழகம் ஒன்றினைத் தோற்றுவித்து யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் நடத்தேறிய பல போட்டிகளில் பங்கு பற்றி தங்கப் பதக்கங்களை வென்றெடுத்தார்.

பண்டத்தரிப்புத் திருச்சபையின் வளர்ச்சிக்குக் கிறிஸ்தவ வாஸிப் சங்கம் பெரும் பங்காற்றியுள்ளது. இவர் கிறிஸ்தவ வாஸிப் துணைகொண்டு கிறிஸ்தவ நாடகங்கள் பலவற்றை மேடையேற்றி சபையின் வளர்ச்சிக்கு உதவினார். இறைப் பற்றும் மனித முழுமைக்காகப் போராடும் தன்மை, மனித நேயம் ஆகியனவும் இவரின் பெரிதும் காணப்பட்ட மை யாவரும் அறிந்த ஒன்றாகும்.

இவரது முன்னோர், சகோதரர்கள் தென் இந்திய திருச்சபையின் துணைகளாக வாழ்ந்தார்கள். இவரது ஒரே சகோதரியான திருமதி சற்குணநாயகி விருளிப்பின்னை அவர்கள் இம் பெயர்ந்து கனா செல்லுமூன் பண்டத்தரிப்புத் திருச்சபையின் வளர்ச்சிக்குப் பெரும் பங்காற்றியமை யாவரும் அறிந்ததே.

அரியம் என்று எல்லோராலும் அன்புடன் அழைக்கப்பட்ட திரு. தி. வ. அரியரெத்தினம் அவர்களை இன்றைய இளம் சமூகம் அதிகம் அறிந்திருக்க நியாயமில்லை. ஆனால் ஐம்பது வயதினைக் கடந்தோருக்கு இவரது கதைத் திறனும் விளையாட்டுத் திறனும் ஆழ்ந்த கிறிஸ்தவ நம்பிக்கையும் நன்கு தெரிந்திருக்கும். குறுகிய காலத்தினுள் பலதிசைகளில் தன் கால் தடம்பதித்துப் பயனுள்ள வாழ்வு வாழ்ந்த "அரியம்" அமரர் ஆகிவிட்டமை குறிப்பாக நாடகத் தமிழுக்கும் பொதுவாகப் பத்திரிகை உலகிற்கும் அவர் நண்பர்கள், உற்றார் உறவினருக்கும் பேரிழப்பாகும். இவரது மனைவி, பிள்ளைகள் இருவர், சகோதரர்கள் இருவர், சகோதரி ஒருவர் என வாழும் நெருங்கிய உறவினர்க்கு எமது ஆழ்ந்த அனுதாபங்களைப் பண்டத்தரிப்புத் திருச்சபையின் சார்பில் கூறக் கூடாமைப்பட்டுள்ளோம். அரியத்தை அறிந்தவர் அறிவார். ஆண்டவன் அருள்வார் சாந்தி அவர்க்கு !

க. அ. சின்னத்தம்பி

News from Batticaloa church

St John's Boys Home

We are very happy that three students from St. John's Boys' Home Uranee got admission to the university. Two of them, Arunasalam Suhitharan and Chandrathasa Chandrakantha, are entering the Eastern University while Kopalapillai Pamatheesan gains admission to Sabragamuwa University. This is the first time students are entering university from St John's Boys' Home Uranee.

Cyclone Relief

Due to the recent cyclone many areas in Batticaloa were badly affected. Many of our church members in Murakkoddanchenai, Ralodai, Kittul, Kayankerney and Uranee were also badly affected. We were able to provide them with dry rations and clothes. Our sincere thanks are due to the ACT International, Geneva for helping the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India in this emergency natural disaster. Our Bishop the Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan was instrumental in getting this grant from ACT International Geneva.

Appreciation

Chelvi Matiaparanam had her entire education from LKG to London Degree at Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai. She passed her B.A. when she was 19 and was a brilliant student throughout. She further passed her L.T.C.L. in Music creditably, still young. For many years she served as the Pianist at Jaffna College. She was on the Committee of the Jaffna College Alumni Association Colombo Branch for quite some years. The Assemblies of God Church, Kollupitiya had her services as Pianist and Choir Director for a period.

Proceeding to Ghana soon after her graduation, she worked as Music Teacher there for some years. She was then on the staff of SLBC, Colombo, as a Producer of English Programmes. Subsequently she joined the Overseas Children's School and was the Head of the Music Dept. for 10 years. Thereafter she was one of the pioneer teachers of Asian International School as the Head of the Music Dept. Shortly before her demise, she was felicitated by the school for her excellent record and efficiency as a leader for a decade.

Testimonials from Foreign Principals of Schools where Chelvi taught refer to her conscientiousness, the "excellent standard" of broadcasts of her Choir productions, as a real asset to the school, as the first rate Music teacher and "wide acclaim" of her efficiency.

Throughout her life Chelvi was distinguished by her commitment to God, hard work, discipline, perseverance and thoroughness in her ways, thus bringing glory to her Lord.

An extract of e-mail from a senior Jaffna College friend from abroad "The sudden and unexpected news of the passing away of dear Chelvi has created a great void and sadness among all her friends, relatives and Jaffna College Alumni in Canada. I knew Chelvi from her very childhood. She grew up to be such a sweet, pleasant, pretty, accomplished and cultured lady. It was always a pleasure to be in her presence and to converse with her".

Obituary - George Stephen Ranjan

We are sorry to record the death of three-year-old George Stephen, son of Ranjan and Sutha. He died of snake bite on Friday the 19th of January 2001 while at sleep. The funeral took place on the following day at Poovarasankulam, Vavuniya. This family moved out of their village Kalmadhukulam after the eruption of fierce fighting in that area and were living in a hut at Poovarasankulam, Vavuniya. There are eighteen Christian families now living at Poovarasankulam refugee camp, who earlier belonged to CSI Church, Kalmadhukulam.

Ecumenical Gathering

During the Christmas season an Ecumenical gathering was held at St. John's Church Uranee, Batticaloa. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Kingsley Swampillai, Bishop of Roman Catholic Church (Batticaloa) organized the gathering which was hosted by the Rev. S. Jeyanesan, Area Minister of Batticaloa.

Priests from various denominations participated in the gathering which ended with a fellowship lunch.

Ecumenical service

An Ecumenical service was held on Sunday the 21st of January 2001 at the Cathedral, Roman Catholic Church, Batticaloa. The main feature of the service was participation of priests from various denominations.

EDITORIAL ELECTIONS IN TAMIL NADU

It has been announced that the elections for the legislative assembly of Tamil Nadu will be conducted in May 2001. This news no doubt has caused anxiety and concern among the Tamil people in Sri Lanka. The quality of life of the Sri Lankan Tamils is to a large extent determined by the political climate in Tamil Nadu. Not only the Tamil militants but also the ordinary civilians are watching the political developments with trepidation. After the racial riots of 1958, Tamil Nadu (then Madras State) has shown interest in the safety and security of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. Sometimes it was a genuine concern, sometimes it was righteous indication and sometimes uncontrollable emotion. After the 1983 racial riots the Tamil Nadu Government helped the Sri Lankan Tamils in many ways. Besides giving asylum to the Tamil people it also admitted Sri Lankan students to very prestigious courses in the Indian University Colleges. However, after the tragic event of 1991, public opinion in Tamil Nadu turned very much against Sri Lankan Tamils. In 1995, admission to Sri Lankan students in Indian Colleges were totally banned. Even though this ban was lifted later by the present Government, public opinion against the Sri Lankan Tamils has not changed very much. They are permitted to live in Tamil Nadu and police harassment is on the decline.

The main cause for this animosity is the politics of the State. Some political parties are supporting the Sri Lankan Tamils and the Eelam idol with friends, MDMK, PMK and the Puthiya Thamilakam sympathise with the Sri Lankan Tamil cause. But they are only on the peripheral of South Indian politics. The DMK and the TMC are cautious and take a very neutral line while the AIADMK and Rajiv Congress are vehemently opposed to the Sri Lankan political activities in India. Since Sri Lankan Tamil problem is now politicised, their fortunes are also now dependent on the strength of the various political parties. This explains the fear and anxiety of the Sri Lankan Tamils. If parties opposed to the Sri Lankan Tamil cause win the elections, Sri Lankans especially the students will undergo much hardships.

There is not a slightest doubt that at one time the activities of the armed groups in Tamil Nadu caused much irritation. But now the Sri Lankan Tamils are living in Madras quietly without any trouble to any body. In the colleges students are progressing well and bringing pride to their institutions. In a way their lives in Tamil Nadu can be compared to the lives in Colombo. Persons who have had links with the militants are deported immediately.

But those who are living, paying due respect to the laws of the country are able to live without any hindrance. This is all we can expect from Tamil Nadu.

It is futile to imagine that the mood of Tamil Nadu will revert the situation before 1991. That sympathy and concern we are not going to have for generations to come. There is a widespread feeling that Sri Lankan Tamils must sort out their problem. Once we realize these harsh realities South Indian election will not become a nightmare for us.

OUR BISHOP IN MADURAI DIOCESE

The Rt. Revd Dr. S. Jebanesan, Bishop in Jaffna, CSI was the Guest of Honour at the Annual Children's Rally of the Madurai-Ramnad Diocese of the Church of South India. He spoke on "Rejoice in the Lord Always." The Revd Dr Daniel Thiagarajah brought greetings from the CCA, Hong Kong and spoke about the church's need to concentrate on ministry among the children, especially the victimized.

Both of them were the main speakers at a one-day retreat for the Catechists, Missionaries and Bible women held in the OCPM campus under the patronage of the Rt. Revd Thavaraj David Eames, Bishop of Madurai-Ramnad Diocese of the CSI. This programme was organized by the CCA Programme Area of Faith, Mission and Unity in collaboration with the Department of Mission and Evangelism of the CSI Synod.

CONSULTATION ON "ON BEING CHURCH"

The World Council of Churches (WCC) organized a Consultation on "On Being Church" in Seoul, South Korea from 23rd to 29th October 2000. Around twenty Asian Theologians were invited for this consultation along with few well-known Western Theologians. Mrs. Thaya Thiagarajah of our diocese presented a paper on "On Being Church - An Asian Woman's Perspective." The consultation was enriched by the presence of the Feminist Theologian Dr Letty Russel. Ms. Aruna Gnanthasan of the WCC was the main organizer of this gathering of theologians. The proceedings of this consultation are being printed by the WCC for circulation.

CSI Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the CSI Synod met in Chennai from 8th to the 12th January. Our Diocese was represented by the bishop, Revd A. Jeyakumaran and Mr A. Gnanathasan. Discussions were held on 'Priorities' of the CSI. The Rt. Revd Dr. C.L. Furtado, Bishop of Karnataka South Diocese and Rt. Revd Dr. V. Devasagayam, Bishop of Madras Diocese presented special papers for discussion.

This meeting coincided with the meeting with Mission Related Organization Partners. Dr Daniel Thiagarajah of our diocese, who is now with the Christian Conference of Asia, while bringing greetings from the CCA spoke on the Programme Thrusts of the Area on Faith, Mission and Unity.

Vellore Medical Council Meets

Mr G. Rajanayagam attended the meeting of the Vellore Medical Council held at Vellore, India in the second week of January 2001.

Awaken my lass!

*Awaken my lass!
The slumber is over
Arise to voice
And to act together!*

*The culture imposed the 'silence'
Patriarchy just put us down
History was focused on men
Tradition portrayed us as 'ignorant'
The virtues of the woman-hood
Were taught as the 'helpless submission'
Even the religions kept silent
And contributed to the distorted notion.*

*Awaken my lass!
Ye aren't a corpse
Ye are a woman
In the image of the Divine*

*God created us as God's agents
Son on Mary showed the way for us
Sophia, the spirit will sustain us
In solidarity let us move forward
Clothe yourself with compassion
Challenge all kinds of oppression
Work towards liberation
To change the world into a whole creation*

*Awaken my lass!
Proclaim the good news
Ye are the agents
Of God's Nation.*

Thaya

At the Threshold of the New Year 2001

'City of Trinco' to do three services

The passenger services undertaken by the 'City of Trinco' will cover at least three services a week between Trincomalee and Kankesanthurai. These services were suspended from October to December last year due to the rainy season.

Hartley wins Football Tournament

Hartley College emerged as champions at the Inter-Zonal Football tournament organized by the Department of Education. Their under-16 team beat Union College by 3-0 while the Under-18 team beat Manipal Hindu College by 2-0.

Opposition to Beef Stall

The farmers of Uduvil have protested against the opening of a beef stall at Inuvil junction. They have also resolved to take necessary measures to close the beef stall in their village.

Fifty Thousand Bottles of Toddy

The Palmyrah and Coconut Development Board of Pandateruppu will bottle fifty thousand bottles of toddy this year. They will start this work when the toddy season begins in March.

They are in Remand Jail

The fourteen soldiers who were arrested in connection with the Mirusuvil massacre and produced before A. Premasagar, the District Magistrate, Chavakacheheri were ordered to be further remanded until 5th February.

Price Fall

The price of onions dropped to Rs.30/- per kilo gram this week. Until recently onions were sold at Rs.100/- per kilo.

Coconuts from South

The coconuts which were sold at Rs.19/- per nut were sold at Rs.19/- this week following the shipment of coconuts from the South.

Plantains at Rock Bottom Price

The farmers in Jaffna are selling plantains at a low price since many banana trees had fallen due to the heavy rain and winds. Now, Kathaly fruit is being sold at Rs.3/- per kilo while Kappal and Itharai are being sold at Rs.10/- and Rs.7/- respectively. The cattle owners are buying bunches of unripened plantains to be used as fodder for cattle.

The unnamed Heroine in the Book of Exodus

Related Bible Passage : Exodus 2, 1-10

There are several women who played important roles in the life of Moses thus took part in the 'Exodus-Event.' The first non-violent disobedient act was done by the two midwives who feared God and that they disobeyed Pharaoh in not killing the Hebrew male children at birth. The gentle and unnamed woman, the main person in saving the life of Moses and thus used as the instrument of God, was Pharaoh's daughter. However her name never appeared in the Bible.

She was a courageous woman. The story is quite simple. But it provokes many questions. She was the daughter of the King who ordered that all Hebrew baby boys be cast into the Nile when he found that his plans were thwarted by the two midwives. Now, this Egyptian princess was bold and wise enough to show her resistance in a subtle way.

First of all, she was a curious woman. She saw the papyrus basket in the river and wanted to see what was inside it. The curiosity of the woman saved the future redeemer. She was a kind and compassionate woman. As she opened the basket the child cried and she was moved with pity. She was a woman of great courage and determination. She very well knew that it was a Hebrew child and that it was a boy. But, she wanted the child to survive. She listened to the advice of the sister of that child, and that she gave it to its own mother to nurse the baby. She also went a step further and adopted that child. She gave the child an Egyptian name, Moses

What does my God the Lord Almighty expect from me, as I enter the New Year ?

"Take time to be holy, speak oft with the Lord,
Abide in Him always and feed on His word.
Make friends of God's children, help them who are weak
Forgetting into nothing, His blessing to seek"

Long Staff

At the beginning of a New Year or a New Millennium, we hear of many predictions. These predictions by human Astrologers are published in our Newspapers at the beginning of each year, for the information of the general public. Sir Francis Bacon's opinion of these human predictions is said to have been that "these predictions ought to serve, but for idle talk during winter, by the fireside.

There is another kind of prediction about which mention is made in the Bible. These are called Prophecies. As we read 2 Peter 1 - 20 we are told "Prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit". The Old Testament contains hundreds of prophecies about people, events and nations. The most important of these prophecies is the one pertaining to the Birth of Christ, the Saviour of Mankind (Luke 1 : 20-35). This has been accurately fulfilled. As we contemplate on this prophecy of the Birth of Christ, we are also told of His Return to Earth (Acts of the Apostles 1 : 11) at a time which is not revealed to any one on Earth, but only to God the Holy Father, not even to the Angels in Heaven. Could this event happen during the forth-coming year? Shall we trim our lamps and be in readiness to greet Him?

When we come to the end of a year, we have also to enter a New Year. It is at this juncture, many of us, if not all of us, recollect our past failures and disappointments in the year gone by, and feel sad and regret about them, and at the same time, make fresh resolutions and determinations to follow during the year just before us. A man of wisdom, has made the following suggestion to us, frail human creatures to improve our life style, as we enter each New Year.

He suggests that as we enter the last day of a year, to take a long sheet of paper, divide into two portions, with the following Headlines: On one portion, the Headline "Failures and Regrets" and on the other portion, the Headline "Resolutions & Determination for the New Year". Sit patiently in a quiet place and find time to relax, recollect past events, as far as your memory permits. Fill up the two portions, paying careful attention to the second portions of "New Resolutions & Determinations". This suggested procedure will definitely bring about a change for the better in one's life style, if the completed form is kept safe for periodical check up and the believer has daily encounter with the Lord with regard to his spiritual progress.

We have never been this way before, so "keep your eyes on the Lord" and tell Him.

"O Master, let me walk with Thee

C.A. Balasingham

[In Hebrew it is Imasha'd, which means 'the one came out of water'], and raised him in the Egyptian court. She prepared him for the task God had for him in mind. She trained him in the skills, which would enable him to confront the oppressive structures and finally lead the oppressed people to freedom. Truly, the one drawn from water [in a way, from danger of death] now becomes the one who draws people out of slavery and oppression.

She is also the mother of exodus. Though unnamed and a gentile, she played the key role in the history of Hebrews. We cannot trace what happened to her after that. But surely she was an instrument by which God's plan of salvation was achieved for the People of God.

Questions for discussion

What is our response to the oppressive system of the present day situation?
How do we react to the unjust situation of our own kith and kin?
What is our attitude towards those whom we consider to be our rivals?
Is our motivation purely unselfish and other-centered?

Thaya Thiagarajah