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TO

THE EDITOR  
THE MORNING STAR  
NO. 39, FUSSELLS 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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## THE MORNING STAR

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## The goods allowed to Wannai

### The ban and the sanction

Wannai, the war torn zone of the North which provides refuge to the thousands of the displaced people has had repeated episodes of war, hardships, disasters and deaths in the past few years. Very few have been allowed to go into Wannai to assess the real situation.

The population is 344,368 in the Wannai area. Only 127,080 get the relief. The rest 247,288 displaced are without any income what so ever. The children born to these refugees suffer from malnutrition.

The plight of the people because of the ban on the essential items is immeasurable. Even though it is said that only the items which are used by the LTTE for war are banned, in fact the essential items such as food, clothing, medicine and cash cannot be taken to Wannai. Some of the other items which are totally banned are said to be camphor, tire tube, lunch sheets, shopping bags, chlorine, urea, naphthalene balls, bicycles, clothes in black, grey, blue colours and the coloured paints. It is also understood that items like electricity, generators, bicycles, and motor bicycles, auto rickshaws to lorries, buses, cars, fuel, telephones, and cement are also not permitted.

It is believed that people are allowed to take the following items to the uncleared Wannai area. 6 liters kerosene, 6 liters coconut oil, 2 torch light batteries, 12 boxes of matches 6 cakes of soap and cash Rs. 10,000/-. Each person is allowed only 30 kilos of goods. The hospitals in Wannai do not get enough supply of most of the wanted drugs and vaccines.

It has been brought to notice that even though the Defense Ministry permits most of them, they cannot be taken to Wannai, because of other factors preventing them. The Ambulance sent by the foreign organization is held up in Varuniya for want of permission to proceed to Wannai.

The people lead a miserable life without the necessities to lead a simple life. The economic assistance provided by the NGOs and the churches is like a drop in the ocean!

### Devotees to Keerimalai

Hindu devotees have been given permission to go to Keerimalai on Maha Sivarathiri day. The 51 Brigade at Tellippalai agreed to give the permit after their discussions with the Hindu leaders on Tuesday the 15th February 2001.

### Visit of Deputy Ambassador of U.S.

Mr. Lewis Amselem, Deputy Ambassador for Sri Lanka of U.S.A. visited Vaddukoddai on Friday the 16th February 2001. He was accompanied by four others of the U.S. Embassy. They visited the Bishop's House and were taken in procession to the Ottley Hall Jaffna College, where he spoke to the staff and the students.

The Rev. A.A. Paul in his remarks mentioned that Jaffna College was established by the American Missionaries. They were on the staff until 1995.

Bishop Jebanesan in his address said, that Jaffna College had a very long and intimate connection with the United Church Board for World Mission of U.S.A. This mission organization had been sending educationists, doctors and pastors to Jaffna since 1816. He also said that it was unfortunate that none from the U.S. Embassy visited Jaffna College after 1989. He expressed his joy that the Deputy Ambassador had made it a point to visit Jaffna during these time of anxiety and uncertainty.

### Sports meet at Jaffna College

The Annual Inter House Athletic Meet of Jaffna College was held in the Bicknell field on Friday the 16th February. The Chief Guest was Mr. T. Arunakirirajah, Assistant Director of Education (Physical Education) Jaffna Zone. Mrs. T. Arunakirirajah gave away the prizes.

The following served as referees:

Mr. T.P. Ganesan  
Mr. T. Anandaratham  
Mr. V. Mithira Ranjan  
Mr. T. Nithiaratham  
Abraham House (Green) emerged as Champions and Brown House (Blue)

### The tide of human suffering grows even greater.

This is especially so of those who are refugees.

There is a special kind of suffering.

Not only are they forced to suffer famine, persecution, war and natural disaster, but also the horrific plight

of being forced to keep on the move.

They have nowhere

which they can call home and often

no one is prepared

to listen to their cry for help

Mother Teresa

### Visitors from Indiana Kentucky Conference:

Rev. Chip Jahn Paul and Mr. Tim Duncan from Indiana Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ visited the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India during last week of January 2001. They arrived in Jaffna on the 24th Wednesday morning. They stayed at Uduvil Girls' College. During their stay in Jaffna they saw Jaffna College Institutions and Diocesan Institutions. Rev. Chip Jahn Paul and Mr. Tim Duncan flew out of Jaffna on Monday the 29th instant.

### A Seminar under the auspicious of the Historical Society:

A Seminary on the subject "The impact on the traditional values and customs of Jaffna Society by the military offensive" was conducted by the historical Society of Jaffna University. Mrs. Manonmany Shanmugathas read a paper on this subject. The Seminar took place on Wednesday the 30th January.

### Siddha Medicine Lectures Postponed:

The College of Siddha Medicine of the Jaffna University moved out of their campus in Kaithady with the offensive in March 2000. The lectures were temporarily conducted at the University Campus in Tinnaveli. Now due to inadequacy of classrooms the lecturers it have been postponed indefinitely.

### Goods stolen from the Parsonage:

A bicycle and a water pump were stolen from the house of Rev. A.V. Jesuthasan, Worker in charge at Inuvil. Thieves entered house in the night of Saturday 28th January and removed the articles.

### Deputy Mayor:

Mr. Sellan Kandian of the TULF was installed as Deputy Mayor of Jaffna on Monday the 29th instant. Senior TULF Politicians including Mr. V. Anandasangary, Mr. Mavai Senathirajah and Mr. M. Raviraj participated at this function.

### Weather in Jaffna:

Weather in Jaffna continues to be cold. However dew is in the decline. It looks as if the rainy season is still continuing.



**Obituary :****Mrs. Rosammah Sinnathamby**

We are sorry to record the death of Mrs. Rosammah Sinnathamby the beloved wife of Mr. Sinnathamby of Kerudavil, Chavakachcheri. She died on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2001. The burial was done at the family burial grounds. She was 83 years old when she died. She leaves behind her son Mr. S. Raveendran who resides in Colombo.

The Funeral service was officiated and assisted by the CSI pastors Rev. T. H. Vasanthakumar, Rev. A.K. Surendran, Rev. S. Kuganeswaran and the Methodist ministers Rev. Miss. R. Jeyakumari and Rev. G. A. Sathes. The tribute was paid by Mr. S. J. Sathianathan.

**Prayer of the soul**

Let me burn out for Thee, dear Lord.  
Burn out and wear out for Thee,  
Don't let me rust or my life be  
A failure, my God to Thee.  
Use me and all I have dear Lord,  
And get me so close to Thee,  
That I feel the throb of the  
great heart of God,  
Until I burn out for Thee.

**The visitors from IKC.**

Rev. Dr. Paul Jahn and Mr. Timothy Duncan from the Indiana Kentucky Conference visited the CSI centers in Nuwera Eliya. The time spent at the Girls' Home has brought good understanding and relationship among the management, the girls and the visitors. The advisory committee of the Ministry in Nuwera Eliya hosted them for a dinner at the Colombo Church hall. The readers may be aware that the Girls' home is being supported by the kind effort of the Indiana Kentucky Conference.

**Death after eating poisonous fish:**

Three women from Mulankavil lost their lives after eating a poisonous fish. The name of the fish was "Mullu Pethai", a fish in Gulf of Mannar. This incident took place on Sunday 28th January.

**A letter to The Editor, Morning Star from Kevin Kadirgamar & Kenneth Kadirgamar:**

Sir,  
We visited our great-grandmother Mrs. Grace Nesammah Kadirgamar wife of the late Rev. J.W.A. Kadirgamar in Singapore last year. Even though she is 95 years old we were interested in her reading the Morning Star with such eagerness and interest following it in every detail! In our estimation she must be one of the oldest if not the oldest person now living who still reads the Morning Star and responds readily to some of the requests made in the paper. We have a feeling that she must have started reading the Morning Star ever since she started reading and it must be over 90 years now. At that time the Morning Star must have been required reading for any Christian student, both in Tamil and English. Let us also wish the Morning Star many more years of life as the oldest Tamil newspaper and now the oldest English newspaper in Sri Lanka in existence.  
Sgd. Kevin Kadirgamar  
Sgd. Kenneth Kadirgamar

**Appointed Lecturer:**

Dr. Mrs. Valarmathy Ambalavanar wife of Dr. D.C. Ambalavanar has been appointed lecturer (probationary) in Micro - Biology of the University of Jaffna with effect from 1st March 2001.

**Re-appointed to University Council:**

The Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan and Mr. C. Jeyaratnam, the Treasurer of our Diocese have been re-appointed to the University Council with effect from 1. 1. 2001. The Bishop serves the fourth term and Mr. C. Jeyaratnam serves the third term in the University Council.

**Celebrates 75th Birthday:**

The Rev. D.C. Ratnasingam celebrates his 75th Birthday on the 1st of February 2001. He is now residing at Vaddukoddai with his wife and son.

Rev. Fr. Xavier Thaninavagam statue near the jetty in the Island of Delft. The statue is being made at the Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai by Mr. P. A. Amirthanathan, former Art Teacher of Jaffna College. Mr. Amirthanathan reported that the work is nearly completed and the statue will be taken to Delft by a special boat.

**Wedding:**

The marriage of Rev. Milton Solomon to Sherin Vignarance took place on Saturday the 10th February 2001 at CSI Church, Uduvil. The marriage was solemnised by the Bishop, and assisted by Rev. J. Jebamohan and Rev. A.S. Thevagunanathan. The homily was preached by the Bishop.

**Electricity supply in Jaffna to rotate:**

As from the 12th of February, electricity supply is given on rotation. Electricity from 6.30 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. is given every other day to many parts of the Peninsula. It has been reported that some of the generators are now out of order.

**60th Birthday of Prof.****A. Shanmugathas:**

The 60th Birthday of Prof. A. Shanmugathas (Mani Vila) was celebrated on Sunday the 4th February at Muthuthamby Vidyasalai, Jaffna. The function was presided by Mr. K. Kamalanathan, Principal of College of Education, Jaffna. Speeches were made by Nallai Atheenam, Senthamil Chelvi Appakuddi, Bishop S. Jebanesan, Poet Vinasithamby, Mr. K. Shanmuganathan - Govt., Jaffna and Prof. P. Balasunderampillai - Vice Chancellor, University of Jaffna.

**Bus services will be extended till 6.00 p.m.**

The Regional office of the Transport Board of Jaffna has resolved to provide bus services from Jaffna town till 6.00 p.m. in the evening. It was pointed out that many passengers reach Jaffna town in the evening are stranded because of non availability of transport.

**A DAUGHTERS TRIBUTE**

"How little did we know that morning  
The sorrow that day would bring  
The call was sudden, the shock severe  
To part with one we loved so dear

You left us all so suddenly  
You never said good bye  
We never did think that day  
That you were going to die

The gates of memory never close  
How much we miss you know one knows  
For God alone knew what was best  
And called you to His home to rest

To a brave life came a tragic end  
Whilst travelling with a senior friend  
But in peace, oh Gerry / Daddy, dear,  
We shall miss your presence here.

Though we would not choose to leave, a loving God knows best,  
And in His time, he lifts us to a place of peace and rest  
For he has built a mansion, where his children will abide  
Free from pain and sorrow, forever at his side"

*Written by Mr. W.L. Harrison, brother-in-law of Bishop Gerald Andrews who died on 6th December 2000 courtesy "The North India Church Review"*



## A MOTHER WHO FOUGHT FOR JUSTICE

February fourteenth was a day when people heard the shocking news of the passing away of a mother who fought for justice. She was none other than Manorani Saravanamuttu, Richard De Soyza's mother. Richard was a popular young journalist, film and dramatic actor who was kidnapped by government security personnel in the second week of February 1990. His body was later found by the seashore and identified by Manorani.

The speculation is that his dead body was dropped from a helicopter flying at a certain height with the expectation that the body would sink to the bottom of the sea and never be found. Later, his mother Manorani identified one of the kidnappers by seeing his picture on a TV broadcast. This person was a senior security officer of the late president Premadasa who was among those who died in the bomb explosion that killed the President on 1st of May 1993. Though some saw this as divine justice, Manorani was much more humane, and even showed sympathy for this person's children. One person who talked to her said that Manorani preferred justice meted out in a court of law, which would have helped people achieve genuine reconciliation.

Though by family and by profession Manorani was a medical doctor belonging to the elite of the country, she as a mother transcended the class barrier at the moment she lost her son. Her own experience gave her the strength to be involved in the fight for justice. Manorani Saravanamuttu will always be remembered as one who symbolized the mothers of the disappeared persons in this country who rallied to demand justice.

During the last 11 years of her life she played a very strong part in raising fundamental issues regarding the Sri Lankan society which will remain valid until these problems are finally resolved. In the days of intense terror she courageously and fearlessly worked throughout the country, in solidarity with tens of thousands of mothers who lost children in similar circumstances to her. She became a powerful spokesperson.

### The following are Manorani's words:

"Whether they know why they are doing it, I do not know. Whether they have been told today is the night for so and so. They probably do not question why we are doing this. What has this fellow done to us that we should go and take him, and kill him. That I do not know. But they come. They come with their eyes that are empty of everything. They come with their guns. They come with their assurance that they will not fail in their missions.

They come and knock at doors. Ring bells and they look at you, and frighten you, and threaten you..... If I had thought for one moment that they had come to take my son I would have died there at the door.....It's the women who bear the brunt, and it's the women who are the strong ones, because, when you lose a child you lose yourself" (quoted from a video interview by Nimal Mendis)

When many of her friends and colleagues advised her to avoid involving in human rights issues, she said, "the one who seeks the battle should not complain about the wounds". "I will never advise the women I work with to forget, I will tell them that they must speak," she further added.

She was persistent in her call for justice. The best way to honour Manorani is to commit ourselves to work towards the reform of society, morality and the Justice system.

## CONGRATULATIONS - VANNI

We are happy that the following students have entered the University from Vanni this year:

- 01 I. Murugadas - Shalomnagar Boys' Home
- 02 K. Piragalathan - Shalomnagar Boys' Home
- Miss. D.N. Vaxala - Murikandy Girls' Home

This is the first batch of students entering the University from Vanni, where there is always unrest due to civil War. We congratulate Mr. S. Ratnavel, the Manager of these Homes for his care & guidance.

How long O Lord to wait?  
With rays of Hope, Year 2001 has dawned  
A hope for Peace, we've for ages longed  
This ruthless war is so hard to bear  
We carry on Lord in the faith that You care

Millions have fled our beautiful land  
Having waited in vain that peace is at hand  
Orphans, widows, the wounded, a heart rending sight  
Innocents uprooted, turned paupers overnight

The palmy beaches, the lush green fields  
Are bare and brown, while the country bleeds  
The places we love to roam been turned ghost towns in a day  
People have run amok in panic or killed in the fray.

The sins of our forefathers and ours though doesn't know  
Thou did'st create this earth, felt its keenest woe  
Pardon us & lead us O'er world's stormy sea  
Guard us and guide us, we've none to help but Thee.

The never ending conflict is draining our country's wealth  
Bringing only despair, destruction and death  
Oh Lord, let all misunderstanding, malice and mayhem cease  
Let us live in Unity, Prosperity and Peace.

Foreign powers have come forward at this darkest hour  
But You are the Almighty, You have the power  
Guide them in all their endeavours we pray  
Bless our paradise Isle, to see the dawn of a Bright New Day

Suganthi Virasinghe

## Remembering and cherishing my beloved Father

- Rev. R.C.P. Welch.

Released from mortality on

31 - 1 - 1942

His very last sermon was based on :-

Phillipians : Ch 4 - Verse 8

"Finally Brethren, whatever things are true

Whatever things are Noble,

Whatever things are Just,

Whatever things are of good Report,

If there is anything Praiseworthy -

MEDITATE ON THESE THINGS"

He walked with an INNER - POISE"

He was gifted with a "DEDICATED TONGUE".

He lived with COURAGE AND HUMILITY.

He used these in the HIGHEST POSSIBLE WAYS.

He served his Lord and Saviour UNTO THE END

INDEED ! FOR HIM, "TO DIE WAS GAIN".

Till we meet

RANEE



ஜனவரி 19ம் திகதி 2001.

ஆசிரியர்  
உதயதாரகை  
வட்டுக்கோட்டை  
இலங்கை.

அன்புடைய ஆசிரியர்க்கு.

திருமதி ஜாயிசா அருளம்மா தம்பிராசா

நவஜீவனத்தைச் சேர்ந்த எனது தாயாரான திருமதி அருளம்மா தம்பிராசாவின் 90 வது பிறந்ததினம் பெப்ரவரி 6ம் திகதி இடம் பெயர்ந்த கானான் தருமபுரத்தில் நடைபெறும் என நம்புகின்றேன். அம்மையாரின் வாழ்த்துதலை எனது எளிய முறையில் கவிதை மூலம் எழுதலாம் என யோசித்து சில மணித்தியாலங்கள் அதை நிறைவு பெற்று உங்கள் பத்திரிகைக்கு அனுப்புகின்றேன். ஆக்கத்தில் திருத்தங்கள் இருப்பின் உங்கள் விருப்பப்படி திருத்தவும். வருங்கால பத்திரிகையில் இதைப் பிரசுரிக்க வாய்ப்பு கிடைக்கும் என நம்புகின்றேன். உங்கள் பத்திரிகையை ஒழுங்காக நானும் என் மனைவியும் இன்னும் மற்றைய ஈழத்தமிழர்களும் வாசிப்பவர்கள் என்பதை உங்கள் வாசகர்களுக்கு அறியத் தருகின்றோம்.

வாழ்க உங்கள் சேவை

இப்படிக்கு அன்புடன்  
C. T. Premarajah

326C, Blundell Road,  
Richmond, BC, V6C 1G1,  
Canada.



பச்சைப் பச்சேலென பல்வேறு காட்சி தரும்  
பக்தர்களின் வதிப்பிடமாம் தென்மராட்சியாம்  
பருவகாலம் பணித்துளிரானாலும் பக்குவமாய்  
பாரினில் குமாரு பரம்பரையிலே பிறந்தாயே

ஐந்தாம் மகளாய் என்மரில் ஒருவராய்  
ஐயர் சண்முகம் ராமலிங்கத்தாரின் புதல்வியாய்  
கடமைகளை உணர்ந்து காரியம் பார்த்தாய்  
கல்லூரி உடுவிலில் காலத்திற்கேற்ப கல்வி பெற்றாய்

அன்னை அலில் முத்துப்பிள்ளையின் அரவணைப்பில்  
அமுதமாகினாய் அச்சவேலி செல்லையா மகனுக்கு  
தம்பிராசாவின் பக்கபலமாய் பாரியாரானாய்  
தம்பதிகளாய் தாரணி எங்கும் தளராத சென்றாய்

எப்பயமுமின்றி எண் ராஜாக்களைப் பெற்றெடுத்தாய்  
எதையும் தாங்கும் இதயத்துடன் வளர்த்தாய்  
போர்மேகம் சூழ்ந்தாலும் அஞ்சாது நின்றாய்  
பொது நன்மை கருதி நவஜீவனமானாய்

இருள் சூழ்ந்த இக்காலத்திலும் இருமடங்காய்  
இன்னல்கள் மத்தியிலும் இயேசுவின் சாட்சியாய்  
தொண்ணூறு வயதடைந்த உன் புகழ் பாட  
தொண்டர்கள் பலர் தேவை பிறந்த நாம் வாழ்த்துபாட

வாழ்த்துவோம் எம் பிராணை எம் அன்னைக்காக  
வேண்டுவோம் எம் தேவனை உனதாசிக்காக  
பணிவோம் எம் தெய்வத்தை உன் அன்பிற்காக  
போற்றுவோம் எம் இயேசுவை உன் சேவைக்காக

அன்புடன் மக்கள்

## The First Major Disaster of the New Millennium Can it be construed as a Warning to the Human Race from the Creator?

Barely a month has passed from our entering the New Millennium, than our experiencing the worst Earth Quake in recent times, taking place in our neighbouring country, India. In this context, I commend the views of the Editor of the "Uthayan Paper" in his Editorial of 31. 1. 2001.

The Universe with its sophisticated machinery functioning in such orderly manner, was designed and put into operation by the all Powerful Creator (God). Human beings and numerous varieties of animals, birds and creeping insects, we see in the Universe are God's handy works. We view them with awe and worship our Creator in reverence for the wondrous works.

Yet, human who was created in God's own image, is today defying the Powers of the Creator, disobeying the Commandments and living in a manner displeasing God. Human do not live in harmony with their own species and is devising ways and means to destroy his opponents and gain power, as much as possible, to reign supreme. Today, kingdoms are rising against kingdoms, nations against nations and every community against communities, to oust one another from the face of the earth. The Creator observed this trend in human, and at one stage felt sorry, that God had created human. Human's love for Power and Authority has risen to such a height, that human has come to the level of challenging God's supreme authority on this planet Earth.

God is no doubt merciful, tolerant and kind, but there is a limit with God with regard to these qualities. Jehovah (Creator and God) was the God of the Israelites and god called them "My people" yet there were times God punished them mercilessly. The recent Earth Quake in India, can be assessed as a merciless assault on the Human Race and also a severe warning to the rest of the world's human population, to enable them to amend their present ways.

We are horrified to read from the "Uthayan Paper" of 2. 2. 2001 about Colombo (Jawatta) experiencing minor Earth Quake tremors. May the good Lord have mercy on us. Human beings have to amend their ways and get reconciled with their Creator and take a right about turn and speed in repent once towards our loving Saviour. We living in this globe today, observe the many evils chasing human beings. Diseases like Aids, changes in outer-space, like holes in the Ozone layer, the level of the sea rising due to melting of huge ice bungs and in addition Nature's disasters.

Shall we not take to heart these numerous warnings by our loving Creator and amend our ways to get God's commendation. Shall every human being endeavour?

C.A. Balasingham

### Reflections .....

"...It is open to a war resister to judge between the combatants and wish success to the one who has justice on his side. By so judging he is more likely to bring peace between the two rather than remaining a mere spectator..." - Mahatma Gandhi

"...The hottest place in the hell is reserved for those who remain neutral in times of great moral conflict." - Martin Luther King