

SEND IN YOUR
NEWS
TO

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

THE MORNING STAR

Registered as a News Paper at the General Post Office, Sri Lanka

Established 1841 A Christian weekly Published Every Friday

Vol. 1 - Jaffna - Friday 23RD MARCH 2001 No. 5

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

MORNING STAR RATES:

Annual Subscription - Foreign	\$ 100.00
Life Subscription - Foreign	\$1000.00
Annual Subscription - Local	Rs. 100.00
Life Subscription - Local	Rs. 1000.00

THE MORNING STAR

NO. 39, FUSSELLS LANE,
COLOMBO-06,
SRI LANKA.

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES MUST PRESSURIZE SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT TO STOP WAR AND RESUME PEACE TALKS

Peace and Goodwill Committee urges Dr Konrad Raiser

Members of the Peace and Goodwill Committee of Jaffna [former Citizen's Committee] made their plea to Dr Konrad Raiser, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches [WCC] that the WCC should use its good offices to pressurize the Sri Lankan Government to stop the war at once and to begin the peace talks without any delay. The latter visited Jaffna on March 15, 2001.



Morning Star wishes to express its gratitude to the General Secretary of WCC for his visit to the North during these perilous times. It hopes that the WCC's programme of the Decade to Overcome Violence will give importance to our problems and play its significant role in the international arena that peace and harmony may be restored in our land with justice.

PASTORAL AID DEPT. SYNOD - EXPOSURE PROGRAM

Rev. & Mrs. John Selvam, Parish Priest Konavil, Kilinochchi and Rev. & Mrs. A.K. Surendran, Parish Priest Uduppiddy were invited by the Pastoral Aid Department of the CSI Synod Exposure Program at Kanniakumary, South India from 4-17 March 2001.

Altogether 70 participants from the eight Tamil Dioceses participated in this program. The participants were taken to Tamil Nadu Theological Seminary Madurai, CSI Synod Centre, Chennai and other places of importance at Kanniakumary. Rev. G. Devakadasham, Director PAD jointly with Rt. Rev. Dr. D. James Srinivasan, Bishop of Trichirapalli organised the Bible Study for the group.

Deep confidence and trust will come through self-knowledge. Then you will turn to Jesus to support your weakness, whereas if you think you are strong, you will not need our Lord. Do your very best to reduce self-will. Don't do anything just for yourself; concentrate on the whole, in which you are included. Then you will be able to receive God's grace.

Mother Teresa.

A GIFT

Two brothers who have been associated with the Colombo Church from its inception have gifted 39 acres of land at Kilinochchi to the American Ceylon Mission in Vaddukoddai. They had worked closely with Rev. G.M. Kanagaratnam, the first Pastor appointed to start a church in Colombo by Rev. S. Kulandran, in May 1943, the then Chairman of the South India United Church, Vaddukoddai.

The Rev. P.R. Navendranugoolan, the present Pastor of the Colombo Church, JDCSI signed and received the Deed of Gift recently on behalf of the Treasurer, American Ceylon Mission. The Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan has sent letters of appreciation to both Donors.

Reluctant to resettle

People who are allowed to resettle in Pannalai and GS Division 228 of Tellippallai Divisional Secretary's Division are not showing enthusiasm in settling down though assistance toward rehabilitation was promised by the Divisional Secretariat.

People who lived in these areas are now living in the refugee camps at Navaly and Chankanai.

Jaffna College Technical Institute To Receive Recognition

It is believed that the Jaffna College Technical Institute at Vaddukoddai and the Agricultural Institute at Maruthanamadam will soon be upgraded. The members of the Trustees of Jaffna College who visited these institutes made this suggestion. They have had discussions about this with the Rt. Revd Dr. S. Jebanesan, Bishop in Jaffna, JDCSI.

This was Dr Raiser's first visit to Sri Lanka since he assumed his position with the WCC some years ago. Dr Raiser made this trip after he made a historic visit to Bangladesh. He was accompanied by Dr Clement John, Executive Secretary for International Affairs of the WCC and Revd Ebenezer Joseph, General Secretary of the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka. Dr Mathews George Chunnakara, Asia Secretary of the WCC joined the visitors in their visits in the other parts of Sri Lanka.

The visitors were received at Palaly airport by a group headed by the Rt. Revd Dr S. Jebanesan, Bishop in Jaffna of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India. They were then taken to Jaffna for various engagements. Dr Raiser declared open a new block at St. John's College, Jaffna and visited Chundikulam College and Nuffield School for the Deaf and the Blind. He proceeded to Vaddukoddai for a special unity service jointly organized by the Jaffna Christian Union and the Jaffna Diocese of the CSI. Many choirs from Jaffna participated at the worship where Dr Raiser preached the good news.

The visitors proceeded to Uduvil Girls' College and the Christian Theological Seminary before they departed. Dr Raiser was able to see and assess the damages the war had caused, especially the damages caused to the churches and the temples.

TIGERS FREE FOUR CIVILIANS

Four civilians of Padaviya, held prisoner for 16 months by the LTTE, on being released, were handed over on Saturday to their respective homes by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). These four Sinhalese prisoners said the release is a token of good faith as the LTTE wants to cultivate the good will of the government. The four are N.P. Siriwardena (43), N.P. Amarasinghe (45), Sudarshana Nayanakantha (26) and Piyasiri Karunaratna (30).

COURTS COMPLEX FOR JAFFNA

Preliminary arrangements are afoot to construct a court complex in corporations the cultural values of Tamils in the Jaffna district. Arrangements have been made to send a high level team to Jaffna at the end of this month to finalize the groundwork, according to reports from Jaffna.

HIGH LEVEL OF WAR RELATED SUICIDES AND MENTAL ILLNESS IN SRI LANKA

Reports in March claim high levels of war-related suicide and mental illness in Sri Lanka. Also, on March 14 TamilNet reports over 75% of internally displaced children under five years old in conflict zones in the north eastern province suffer from malnutrition. The majority of mothers among the displaced in these regions suffer malnutrition during pregnancy & after childbirth. The World Food Program (WFP) has formulated a plan to fund the Participatory Nutrition Intervention Program (PNIP) of UNICEF in response. ACFOA - SRI LANKA PEACE PROJECT. [Courtesy: Asia Human Rights Forum Report]

மறைந்த பேராசிரியர் எலியேஸருக்குப் புகழ்மாலை

தமிழருக்கு உலகில் பெருமையைத் தேடித் தந்த கல்விமான்களில் ஒருவர் பேராசிரியர் கிறிஸ்டி ஜெயரெட்ணம் எலியேஸர் ஆவார். இவர் அவுஸ்ரேலியா நாட்டில் இம் மாதம் பத்தாம் திகதி (10.03.2001) மாரடைப்பினால் மரணமானார் என்ற செய்தியைக் கேட்டு நாம் அனைவரும் ஆழ்ந்த துக்கத்தில் உள்ளோம்.

57 வருடங்களுக்கு முன் இலங்கைப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் இப்பெரியாரின் மாணாக்கனாக இருந்த பெருமை எனக்குண்டு. இதன் காரணமாக இப்பெரியாருடன் பழகவும், அவரின் கணித அறிவின் மேன்மையை அறியவும் எம்மால் முடிந்தது. இந்திலையில் அவரைப் பற்றிய சுருத்துக்களை உங்கள் முன் வைப்பதற்கு எமக்குக் கிடைத்த சந்தர்ப்பத்திற்கு நான் இறைவனுக்கு நன்றி கூறுகின்றேன்.

பேராசிரியர் அவர்கள் 12.01.1918 அன்று நாவற்குடியில் பிறந்தார். இவரது குழந்தைப்பராமம் வரணிக் கிராமத்தில் கழிந்தது. இவரது தந்தையார் வரணித் திருச்சபையைச் சேர்ந்தவர். பின் தந்தையாரின் தொழில் காரணமாக மந்திகை வைத்திய சாலைக்குக் குடியேறினார். இக்காலகட்டத்தில் புலோலி மெதடிஸ்த் மிஷன் பாடசாலையில் ஆரம்பகல்வி கற்றார். இந்தப் பாடசாலையில் எனது தந்தையாரிடம் மறைந்த பேராசிரியர் பாடம் கேட்க நேரிட்டது. ஆங்கிலக் கல்வியைப் பருத்தித்துறை கார்ட்லி கல்லூரியில் பெற்றுக் கொண்டார். இக் கல்லூரியிலிருந்தே பல்கலைக்கழகக் கல்லூரிக்குப் பிரவேசித்தார். பல்கலைக்கழக வாழ்க்கையில் இவரது சாதனைகள் பல. பட்டப்படிப்பில் முதலாவது வகுப்பில் சித்தி அடைந்தார். முதலாவதாக தேறின காரணத்தினால் Cambridge பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் கல்வி கற்பதற்கு புலமைப் பரிசில் கிடைத்தது. இவரது பல்கலைக்கழக வாழ்க்கையின் பெறுபேறுகளை இளஞ் சந்தியாருக்கு உணர்த்துமுகமாக கார்ட்லி கல்லூரி சஞ்சிகை ஆரம்பிக்கப் பட்டது. இக் கல்லூரியில் மாணவனாக நான் இருந்த பொழுது, வருடம் தோறும் வரும் சஞ்சிகையில் பேராசிரியரின் சாதனைகள் பெற்ற பரிசில்கள் போன்ற செய்திகள் வெளிவந்து கொண்டிருந்ததை நான் அறிந்தேன். பேராசிரியர் கணிதஇயலில் மிகவும் அரிய Doctor of Sc. பட்டமும், சட்டவியலாளர் பட்டமும் பெற்று கணித மேதையாகத் திகழ்ந்தார்.

இலங்கைப் பல்கலைக்கழக ஆரம்ப காலங்களில் Theory of Relativity என்ற course of lectures நடத்துவார். கணித மேதை Albert Einstein உடன் தொடர்புள்ளவராக இருந்தார்.

இவர் தனது தளராத உழைப்பின் பெறுபேறு பல சர்வதேச விருதுகளைப் பெற்றுக் கொண்டார். இவரது பெயரிலேயே 1948 ம் ஆண்டு வெளியிடப்பட்ட Eliezer தேற்றம் கணிதவியலில் இன்றுவரை பிரயோகிக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது.

இவர் Geneva, Vienna, Mumbai போன்ற நகரங்களில் ஐக்கிய நாடுகளின் சார்பாக அமைதிக்காக அனுசந்தி என்ற தலைப்பில் விஷேட விரிவுரைகள் நிகழ்த்த அழைக்கப்பட்டவர். இவர் பலவேறு நாட்டுப் பல்கலைக்கழகங்களிலும் பணி புரிந்துள்ளார். Malaysia பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் பேராசிரியர் பட்டம் பெற்றார்.

Australia இல் Melbourne LATROBE பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் பேராசிரியராகப் பணிபுரிந்த காலத்தில் Australia இல் வாழும் தமிழ் சமூகத்திற்கு இவர் ஆற்றிய தொண்டு அளப்பரியது. 1978 ம் ஆண்டு Victoria இலங்கைத் தமிழ்ச் சங்கத்தின் ஆரம்ப தலைவராக பதவியேற்று யுரளவசயடயை இல் குடியேறும் மக்களுக்கு உதவிகள் பல செய்தார். 1984 ம் ஆண்டு யுரளவசயடயை தமிழ்ச் சங்கங்கள் சமமேளனம் (Federation) உருவாக்கப் பட்ட போது அதன் ஆரம்ப காலத் தலைவராகப் பதவியேற்றார். 1996 ம் ஆண்டு பேராசிரியர் தமிழ் மக்களுக்காகவும் கணிதத்துறைக்கும் ஆற்றிய பணிக்காக ORDER OF AUSTRALIA என்னும் தேசிய விருதினை யுரளவசயடயை பேராசிரியருக்கு வழங்கியது. பேராசிரியரின் தனிப்பட்ட வாழ்க்கை மானிட நேய மிக்கது. எளிமையானது. எளிமையான வாழ்க்கைமுறை ஆடம்பரமற்ற தூய உடை அவிடம் நான் கண்ட உயர் பண்பாகும். கொழும்பில் விரிவரையாளராக இருந்த காலத்தில் Thurstan Road இல் உள்ள பல்கலைக்கழகத்திற்கு தினமும் Mount Lavinia இலிருந்து Cycle இல் நான் செல்வார். இது மற்றவர்களுக்கு ஒரு எடுத்துக் காட்டாக இருந்தது.

நவீன விஞ்ஞான ஆய்வாளர்கள் சமய தத்துவங்கள் அடிப்படைக் கோட்பாடுகளில் சில சந்தேகங்களைக் கொண்டவராக இருப்பது வழக்கம். ஆயினும் நமது பேராசிரியர் இத்தகைய குறைபாடு அற்றவராக முழுமையாக கிறிஸ்துவிக் கே தம்மை அப்பணித்தவராக விளங்கினார். வரணித்திருச்சபையில் தொடங்கி பின் கல்விகற்ற காலத்தில் Methodist சபையில் பருத்தித்துறையிலும் கொழும்பிலும் கூடிய பங்கு புற்றினார். அவரின் சகோதரிகள் CSI Chavakachcheri Church இல் உள்ள தொடர்பினால் அவரின் பற்று CSI Church இலும் இருந்தது.

1944 ம் ஆண்டு ஒரு Anglican போதகரின் மகளை விவாகம் செய்ததினால் அவரின் ஈடுபாடு Anglican திருச்சபையிலும் இருந்தது. ஆதலால் அவரை United Church இன் அங்கத்தவன். மிக்சிறந்த கிறிஸ்தவன் என்றும் கூறலாம்.

இத்தகைய சிறப்பு மிக்க பேராசிரியர் Eliezerபற்றி சில வார்த்தைகள் பேசுவதற்கும் அவருக்கு அஞ்சலி செய்வதற்கும் எனக்கு வழங்கப்பட்ட சந்தர்ப்பத்திற்கு நான் அனைவருக்கும் நன்றி கூறுகிறேன். பேராசிரியர் பிரிவினால் வருந்தும் அவர் மனைவி Rane (nee Handy) அவர்களுக்கும் பின்னணிகள் தயவுநிதி, John Ratnajothy, Christie Ananthajothy, Renuka, அவர்களுக்கும் எனது ஆழ்ந்த அனுதாபத்தினைத் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறேன். கடைசியில் பேராசிரியரின் நல் வாழ்க்கைக்காக இறைவனுக்கு நன்றி கூறி இச் சிற்றூரையை முடிக்கிறேன்.

திரு. ஆ. இராஜசிங்கம்

தென் இந்திய திருச்சபை யாழ் ஆதீனத்தின் 54வது கூட்டத்தொடர்



யாழ் ஆதீனத்தின் 54வது கூட்டத்தொடர் மார்ச் மாதம் 1, 2, 3 திகதிகளில் நடந்தன. மூன்று நாட்களும் காலை 8.30 மணி ஆராதனையோடு இவை ஆரம்பித்தன. இவற்றில் அருட்திரு எஸ்.சி. ஆர்ணல்ட், அருட்திரு டி.ஆர் அம்பலவாணர் மற்றும் பேராயர் ஆகியோர் அருளுரையாற்றினர். திரு. பி. தேவமித்திரன் இரண்டாவது நான் ஆராதனையை வழிநடத்தினார்.

1ம் நாள் - முக்கிய அம்சங்கள்

- பேராயர் உரை
- காலம் சென்ற செல்வி Mary Elias அவர்களைப் பற்றி Dr. (Miss.) C.V. Selliah ஆற்றிய இரங்கல் உரையும் மௌன அஞ்சலியும்.
- ஊழியர் சங்கத்தால் நடாத்தப்பட்ட அத்தியட்சகரின் 60ம் பிறந்ததின மணிவிழா கொண்டாட்டம்.

2ம் நாள் - முக்கிய அம்சங்கள்

- பேராயர் அவர்கள் குஜராத் மாநிலத்தில் பூசம்பத்தினால் பாதிக்கப்பட்ட மக்களுக்கு 1 லட்சம் இந்திய ரூபாவை திருச்சபையின் சார்பாக Synod ஊடாக அனுப்ப ஆலோசனை கூறினார். இது ஏகமனதாய் ஏற்றுக் கொள்ளப்பட்டது. இந்தத் தொகையை சேர்க்குமுகமாக யாவளையும் பங்குகொள்ளக் கேட்கப்பட்டது.
- ஆதீன புதுச்சபைகளாக கோட்டை கட்டிய குளம், அன்பு புரம் ஆகிய இரு சபைகளும் ஏற்றுக் கொள்ளப்பட்டன.
- திரு எஸ். சந்திரசேகரம் புது ஊழியனாக ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளப்பட்டார்.
- அருட்திரு டி.சி. இரத்தினசிங்கம் அவர்களின் போதக ஊழியம் தொடர்ந்து ஒரு வருடம் நீடிக்கப் பட்டது.
- திரு சதீஸ் டானியல் திரு செல்லையா தவரட்டணம் திரு அன்டறு ஜெயரெட்ணம் மருதனாமட இறையியல் கல்லூரியில் இருந்து படிப்பை முடித்துக் கொண்டு வெளியேறு இருக்கிறார்கள். இவர்கள் புது ஊழியர்களாக சேர்க்கப் படுவார்கள்.
- '25 வருடம் அல்லது அதற்குக் கூடிய காலம் சேவை செய்த பின்வரும் ஊழியர்கள் ஊழியர் சங்கத்தினால் சொளரவிக்கப்பட்டார்கள்.

- Rev. D.R. Ambalavanar
- Rev. D.C. Ratnasingam
- Rev. A. Jeyakumaran
- Rev. S. Jeyanesan
- Rev. S.P. Jeyasingam
- Rev. V.N. Tharmakulasingam
- Rev. A.V. Jesuthasan

3 ம் நாள் - முக்கிய அம்சங்கள்

- ஆதீன ஓய்வுதிய நிதியம் 5 வருடங்களுக்கு 5 மில்லியன் ரூபா முதலாக ஏற்படுத்தலின் மூலம் எமது இளைப்பாற்றிய ஊழியர்களுக்கும் விதவைகளுக்கும் கணிசமான ஓய்வு தியத்தை வழங்க முடியும். இதற்காக சபைகளில் இருந்து ரூபகார்த்த நிதியங்களை சிபார்சு செய்யப்படி பிரேரணை மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டது. எமது திருச்சபையிலிருந்து வருடத்திற்கு ஒருவர் வீதம் 5 ரூபகார்த்த நிதியங்களை சிபார்சு செய்ய வேண்டி இருப்பதால் உறவினர் அல்லது நண்பர்கள் பேரில் நிதியங்களை ஆரம்பிக்கலாம். குறைந்தது ரூபா 10,000/= இருக்க வேண்டும்.

- அருட்திரு ஜீ நடராஜா செயலாளராக தெரிவு செய்யப்பட்டார்.
- திரு. சி. ஜெயரெட்ணம் பொருளாளராக தெரிவு செய்யப்பட்டார்.

EDITORIAL

PAYING BACK ONE'S OWN DUE

"It was not devolution nor sharing of power that the Tamils in the North and East sought. They only sought the restoration of their rights which had been snatched away from them." These were the words of Justice C.V. Wigneswaran in his ceremonial address as the new Supreme Court Judge at the ceremonial sitting held at the Superior Court Complex on March 7, 2001.

At a time when much is being discussed about 'Peace,' the words of Justice Wigneswaran echoes the sentiments of the Tamil community. He has, in other words, given the true definition of justice. Aristotle defined 'Justice' as "paying back one's own due." The Biblical understanding of *zedek* or *zedekah*, the word that denotes justice is also similar. In other words, it is "giving back or 'returning' that which legitimately due to the other."

People are looking forward to the settling down of events in Sri Lanka for the betterment of the Tamil community. In the last issue, I commented on the launch of a new Decade by the World Council of Churches, "Decade to Overcome Violence." I did mention that cultivating the culture of peace is vital to overcome violence. How can this culture be cultivated? Peace is not the absence of war. It is, rather, establishment of justice. Bible says, "Justice and Peace shall kiss each other." Justice is a prerequisite for the establishment of justice. To put it the other way, rectification of injustice is peace. What Justice Wigneswaran has said is of pertinence in today's context. These words of wisdom have come from none other than a Supreme Court Judge in Sri Lanka.

Justice Wigneswaran said, "My stint as a judicial officer in the Northern and Eastern Provinces enlightened me as to the feelings and aspirations of the vast majority of the denizens of those two provinces. It is not devolution nor sharing of powers they seek. They seek the restoration of their rights. Rights which were snatched from them by virtue of mathematical innovation where the majority in two provinces were added to the majority of seven provinces and thus made into the minority in nine provinces. This was sought to be corrected when laws pertaining to the reasonable use of Tamil were formulated in 1958 and 1966. But even these were given up without understanding the implications involved." Some further extracts from Justice Wigneswaran's speech may be worth quoting in this column.

"Singapore and Ceylon in the old days had the same problem. One country decided to give equal recognition to all four languages right from the beginning and that country flowers and flourishes. The other forced one language in preference to the others on all and that country is in precarious political turmoil. While such turmoil goes around in this country, Globalization goes on and Mother Earth is becoming a smaller place to live on, with technological advances ensuring instant correspondence, intermingling of races and indorsing of international tongues for easy communication.

Mr. Attorney and Mr. Gunaratne, I must confess that I have had a background and conditionings, which makes me truly Sri Lankan. My parents hailed from the Northern and Eastern Provinces. I was born here in Hulsdorp in the Western Province. My early education before joining Royal Primary School was in the North Western and North Central Provinces. My father had worked as an officer of the Government *inter alia* in the Central Province and Southern Province where I had occasion to mingle with the people of those areas. I have worked as a Judicial Officer in the Uva Province and I count the friendship of many from the Sabaragamuwa Province. I feel every inch a native of this country. I have always felt proud in foreign forums to be recognized as a person hailing from this blessed Isle. All three languages spoken by the denizens of this country have nourished me. I have been nurtured not only in one but also in all four major religions of this country having started comparative study of religions from an early age. I am one of the few still living among those who organized from the then Congress of Religions in 1965 or thereabouts the visit of the then Mahanayake Thera of the Malwatte Chapter to Jaffna. It was a relative of my mother, Sir Ponnampalam Ramanathan, who risked his life to travel to England to place the case of the Sinhala Buddhists before the Queen in the early part of the last century. Thanks to the education I had at my Alma Mater, I have never felt second to any human being in this country despite the disabilities decreed on my community, though I have respected and do respect most humbly the intrinsic humanity and the unique individuality of every human being. I do respect their talents and capabilities sometimes different from mine.

I respect the divinity in everyone of them. Loving kindness cannot be a mere concept. It has to be a living reality. Often today we miss the wood for the trees when we wax eloquently about the Teachings of the Great Masters in mesmerizing language forgetting the spirit of their Teachings and failing to imbibe them in our lives. Otherwise how do we account for the echoing of war drums of hatred from the portals of Love and Religion?

My stint as a Judicial Officer in the Northern and Eastern Provinces during the turbulent period from 1979 to 1986 enlightened me as to the feelings and aspirations of the vast majority of the denizens of those two Provinces. It is not devolution nor sharing of powers they seek. They seek the Restoration of their Rights. Rights which were snatched from them by virtue of a mathematical innovation where the majority in two provinces were added to the majority in seven provinces and thus made into the minority in nine provinces. This was sought to be corrected when laws pertaining to the Reasonable Use of Tamil were formulated in 1958 and 1966. But even these were given up without understanding the implications involved.

I have always referred to an incident that used to happen when we were marble playing youngsters in school. Some of our seniors who were not Prefects would pounce upon us suddenly and illegally confiscate all our marbles in order that they would themselves play with them. When we protested they would keep 90% of the marbles and offer us 10% and thereafter progressively increase it to about 20% forgetting that all the marbles were ours and the seniors had no right to confiscate in the first instance. The majority of those in the Northern and Eastern Provinces were always Tamil speaking until Independence and their Language, Religions, Culture and Customs - mainly Islamic, Christian and Hindu, and ways of life within the special topographical and climatic environment should have been allowed to blossom and flourish without interference after Independence. So too the special culture and way of life that had grown up in certain areas of the Central Province. These were not done and we face the consequences today.

Even though you Mr. Attorney and I are today in our respective honoured positions we cannot forget that two sparrows would not make a summer. In fact there were many more sparrows in high positions due to their intrinsic worth in almost every field during the middle of the last century. But we are today progressively depleting in numbers in this part of the Island and like the Burghers we too would soon be hardly heard of in Judicial, Legal or Governmental Service or even the Private Sector. It is a sad reflection of our times that after me there had not been a single Tamil speaking President of the Law Students Union after 1962 at the Sri Lanka Law College.

It is because I love this country and all its people including those who hate me for what I am, that I take this opportunity to say - not for my sake, not for the sake of the Tamil people but for the sake of cordial relationship among all communities in this Island of ours, for good governance and a progressive future, that unless we recognize that the Tamil Language and its culture are to the Tamils what the Sinhala Language and culture are to the Sinhalese and therefore make Tamil the dominant language of the Northern and Eastern Provinces requiring the study of it compulsory for all in those two Provinces just as Sinhalese is recognized as the dominant language of the other seven provinces, with English as the link language between equals, the wrong done by the enthroning of one Language in 1956 could never be erased; the havoc created by the deletion of Article 29(2) of the 1947 Constitution and the doctrine of ultra vires from subsequent Constitutions could never be put right; the feelings of the Tamils wounded *inter alia* by the 1958, 1977 and 1983 riots cannot ever be assuaged. Whether the Tamil Language is spoken and preserved in other countries is irrelevant. The Sri Lankan Tamils need to develop their language and culture peculiar to themselves in their mother country. The sterile and impotent cosmetic provisions now appearing in our Constitution has little meaning to the Tamil speaking people of the Northern and Eastern Provinces. They need to govern themselves in their own Language with the little interference from our side.

An Original Court Judge cannot under the present system of nomination to the Higher Judiciary ever hope to occupy the highest office in the Judiciary except due to the condescending discretion of the Executive. Therefore I must feel that the acme of my career has arrived today, that I cannot aspire for anything more but only fade away with time into oblivion.

I nevertheless thank both of you for making this a memorable event for me. I thank all my well-wishers who found time to be present here today.

May all beings be happy! May Divinity descend upon their Hearts!"
Well done Justice Wigneswaran!

"MR. V.N. AIYATHURAI - By Bishop S.J.



"Even at this age the Bishop's handwriting is excellent" remarked a University Lecturer a few months back. I said, I owe my handwriting to Mr. V.N. Aiyathurai who taught me Tamil when I was a high school student at Drieberg College Chavakachcheri.

VNA was famous for his transcription exercises. Every day we have to write four lines in an exercise book and keep it. He will call students at random to see whether we

have written those four lines that particular day. This too he would do after giving us a written work like essay writing, translation or precis writing. By writing four lines clearly every day my handwriting improved. I remember vividly the comment he wrote one day in my transcription exercise book - "You are making unnecessary curves in the formation of lines. Write without making these curves". This he wrote in English.

Mr. V.N. Aiyathurai's 20th Death Anniversary falls on the 3rd of April 2001. VNA belongs to the band of old teachers of Jaffna whose main traits were perseverance, dedication, discipline and simplicity. He started life as a trained teacher. By dint of honest perseverance he passed the Inter Arts Examination of the University of London and then the B.A Degree Examination of that University. He rose to the position of Deputy Principal and retired at the age of 55 because of the regulation brought by the then government asking all persons to retire who had reached the age of 55.

He was a very hardworking man, raising his family with utmost care. He had his own car and brought his family and other children to Drieberg College from Madduvil every day. He was a Tamil Teacher of par excellence. He was well versed in Tamil Literature and inspired us to drink more and more in the nectar of Tamil poetry and modern poems.

He will not waste a minute when he goes to the class. If it is a Kamaparamayana class, he will keep on explaining the verses till the end of the period. If it is an essay writing class, he will correct each and every exercise book. If students misbehave, he will get down the cane from the office. That order itself will make every one shiver. When the Monitor brings the cane solemnly to class he will remove his wristlet from his wrist, keep it on the table and give 6 cuts or 3 cuts according to the gravity of the mischief.

He was a Tamil Teacher, but the students feared him more than the Principal or the Vice-Principal. He was able to command the respect of his fellow teachers and the students.

Mr. Aiyathurai's Tamil scholarship was natural. It was the fruition of generations of Tamil study. We used to listen to his assembly talks and sermons with much interest. There will be pin drop silence when Mr. Aiyathurai speaks, because there will be anecdotes from Tamil Literature. Even in his sermons Tamil Literature will be his main source of illustrations.

Mr. Aiyathurai was a disciplinarian and he wanted his children also to be disciplined like him. Fortunately he had a wife who was deeply religious and persevering like him.

His life was a lesson to all that any man can come up by perseverance and hard work.

He put up a house at Church Lane Chavakachcheri and moved to Chavakachcheri from Madduvil and spent most part of his life at Chavakachcheri till his death in 1981.

Much has happened during the past 20 years. Familiar landmarks completely destroyed.

All the leaders of Chavakachcheri have now gone beyond the veil. But any man who lived at Chavakachcheri before the ethnic riots and migration of persons will feel sorry for the present state of the town. It consisted of a Christian Community living around Drieberg College and the CSI Church. The members were united and lived like the church of the New Testament times. As we advance in age we think of the pleasant days we had at Drieberg, the paddy fields, Sunday morning worship, Sunday Schools, Railway Station and the market. We also think of the scholars and teachers who instilled hope in life and desire for learning.

Mr. V.N. Aiyathurai is one of the fine products of Chavakachcheri. His students learned to be disciplined, persevering and religious.

We have to be thankful to God for a life such as that of Mr. V.N. Aiyathurai. It has been said,

"Good teachers do not die, they continue to live in the hearts of their students".

Mr. V.N. Aiyathurai continues to live in the hearts of his students.

SHORTAGE OF PROFESSORS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA - Vice-Chancellor at the Felicitation Function -

"There are at least 25 vacancies to be filled in the Faculties of Arts, Science and Medicine at the University of Jaffna. In this situation, we do not want to lose yet another Professor," said Professor P. Balasundarampillai, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jaffna at the occasion of felicitation for the services rendered by Professor V.K. Ganeshalingham.

He further said that Professor Ganeshalingham who has been working as the welfare Authority of the University of Jaffna Old Students Association for the last one year was making arrangement to look after the benefits and welfare of ten thousand graduates who have graduated from the University of Jaffna.

"Since his service is very much needed to all of us, we have decided to extend his period of service by one more year beyond April this year. Prof. Ganeshalingham, who associated himself with the university — as a student, lecturer, professor, dean, acting vice-chancellor — is worthy to be honoured," the V.C. further added.

Professor R. Kumaravadivel, the Dean of the Faculty of Science, in his speech said, "Prof. Ganeshalingham has worked tirelessly for the improvement of Science Education even outside the university. He had helped the schools to grow in the knowledge of science by way of organizing science exhibition during his tenure as secretary and later as the president of the Science Association.

He worked for the betterment of the society through his association with the Lions Club, Red Cross Society and Non-Governmental Organizations. He, while stressing upon his firm opinion always respected the opinions expressed by others. Even though his family has migrated to London 10 years ago, he continues to work for the student society in Jaffna."

There were many speakers at the function including Dr. S. Sivapalan of Department of Chemistry.

DO YOU KNOW HIM

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still another village, where He worked in a carpenter shop. He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He never visited a big city.

He never traveled more than two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away.

He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, His executioners gambled for His clothing, the only property He had on earth. After He died, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race and the leader of mankind's progress. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that every reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one solitary life.

ONE SOLITARY LIFE

C B S

Reflections.....

"Intelligence is just an openness of being - capacity to see without prejudice, capacity to listen without interference, capacity to be with things without any prior ideas about them - that's what intelligence is. Intelligence is an openness of being.

That is why it is so utterly different from intellectuality. Intellectuality is just the opposite of intelligence. The intellectual person is constantly carrying prejudices, information, beliefs, knowledge. He cannot listen; before you have said anything he has already concluded. Whatever you say has to pass through so many thoughts in his mind that by the time it reaches him it is something totally different. Great distortion happens in him, and he is very closed, almost blind and deaf....." - Osho