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RELIGIOUS EXALTED A NATION BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE

THE EDITOR,

'The Morning Star,'
182, First Cross Street,
JAFFNA.

N. C. C. Welcomes International
Committee of the Red Cross.

The Executive Committee of the N. C. C. of Sri Lanka which met on Saturday the 14th of October 1989 unanimously passed the following resolution:

"The National Christian Council of Sri Lanka welcomes the decision of our Government to invite the International Committee of the Red Cross to Sri Lanka, and calls upon all our clergy and lay people to extend their co-operation to the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross".

★ Thirtieth Anniversary of the KNH.

Kindernothilfe of Germany, which is an Organisation working among children in third-world countries is making 30 years of very distinguished service among the children of the poor in many parts of the world. They work through the Sri Lanka Council for KNH in this country, and have assisted several Children's Homes and Day Care Centres run by the Anglican, Methodist and C.S.I. Churches throughout Sri Lanka. Most of these institutions are marking the anniversary by special Services of Thanksgiving at their respective centres. The Jaffna Diocese of the C. S. I. organised services at the Cathedral Church, Vaddukkottai, at the Pandatheruppu Church, The Mamipay Church and The Uduvil Church with the children at the centres participating at the Thanksgiving Services. A common service is being organised at the Colombo Cathedral on Friday, 10th November at 9.30 a.m.

Translation of W. C. C. Documents.

Mr. T. K. Thomas, Director of Communications, The World Council of Churches at Geneva has organised a Seminar between the 23rd and 29th of October at Vishranthi Nilayam, Bangalore for translations of W. C. C. documents into South Asian languages. The document that will soon be translated and published in the South Asian languages will be the Bible Study Handbook in preparation for the Seventh Assembly of the W. C. C. at Canberra in 1991. The Rev. T. S. Premarajah of the Colombo Church of the C. S. I. is among those attending the Seminar.

Leper Colony at Mantivu — Eastern Province.

The leper colony at Mantivu has now 66 inmates of whom 55 are males and 11 females. The conditions at the colony are appalling and the M. P. for Batticaloa Mr. Prince Casinader is trying to persuade the Government to take necessary steps to improve the situation. The Jaffna Diocese of the C. S. I. spent about Rs. 10,000.00 to supply bed-sheets and towels to all the inmates at the colony. The Rev. Earl P. Solomons, Pastor of the St. John's Church, Urance, Batticaloa along with the Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. A. T. Ariarajah and Mr. Williams and others went along with Mr. & Mrs. Prince G. Casinader on Monday the 16th of October 1989 early in the morning to distribute these sheets and towels at the colony. The inmates were grateful to the Church for its concern for their welfare.

✦ The Woman's Creed.

I believe in God who created woman and man in God's own image, who created the world and gave both sexes the care of the earth.

I believe in Jesus child of God chosen of God born of the woman Mary who listened to woman and liked them who stayed in their homes who discussed the Kingdom with them who was followed and financed by woman disciples.

I believe in Jesus who discussed theology with a woman at a well and first confided in her his messiahship who motivated her to go and tell her great news to the city.

I believe in Jesus who received anointing from a woman in Simon's house who rebuked the men guests who scorned her I believe in Jesus who said this woman will be remembered for what she did-minister to Jesus.

I believe in Jesus who healed a woman on the sabbath and made her straight because she was a human being.

I believe in Jesus who spoke of God as a woman seeking the lost coin as a woman who swept seeking the lost.

I believe in Jesus who thought of pregnancy and birth with reverence not as punishment-but as wrenching event, a metaphor for transformation born again anguish-into-joy.

I believe in Jesus who spoke of himself as a mother hen who would gather her chicks under her wing.

I believe in Jesus who appeared first to Mary Magdalene who sent her with the bursting message

GO AND TELL...

I believe in the wholeness of the Saviour in whom there is neither Jew nor Greek slave nor free male nor female for we are all one in salvation.

I believe in the Holy Spirit as she moves over the waters of creation and over the earth.

I believe in the Holy Spirit the women spirit of God who like a hen created us and gave us birth and covers us with her wings.

RACHEL C. WAHLBERG

Memorial Service.

A service in memory of the late Mr. K. S. Saravanamuthu, Retired Principal, Drieberg College, who died on the 17th of August 1983, and of his daughter Mrs. Ranjithamalar Gnanamuthu, Retired Principal, Girls' Tamil Maha Vidyalayam, Badulla, who died under tragic circumstances on the 28th of October 1987 was held at the C. S. I. Church Chavakacheri on Friday the 27th of October at 3.00 p.m. The service was led by the Pastor of the Church the Rev. V. Rajkumar. The Church was filled to capacity by relations, friends and well wishers of the deceased ones. Miss Chelvi Selliah paid a tribute to Mrs. Gnanamuthu. She referred to her deep faith, patience and endurance. She was a very dedicated teacher whose abilities as a teacher were recognised by being promoted as Principal of a School. She made a lasting

contribution to the education of women and many generations of girls who came under her influence.

Dr. S. Jebanesan paid a tribute to Mr. Saravanamuthu whose life was intertwined with Drieberg College, Chavakacheri. Modern Drieberg owes to his qualities as patient builder gradually raising the grade of the School. Apart from his role as Principal of a leading School in Thenmarachi, he was an outstanding leader in the Chavakacheri Church and the public life of Thenmarachi. The Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar preached the sermon based on the text "He endured to the end as seeing the invisible". Mrs. Kirupa Solomons and Mrs. S. G. Deva sang special songs. Miss A. Sinnathamby and Mr. B. D. Chandraraj read the lessons. The Rev. Sam Alfred led the litany. A fellowship tea followed the service.

Obituary.

The death occurred of Mrs. Mabel Nesaratnam Veeravahu wife of the late Mr. S. V. Veeravahu of Udupiddy on Saturday the 28th of October, 1989. The funeral service was led by her son the Rev. V. N. Tharmakulasingam, assisted by the Worker at Udupiddy Mr. S. Thevahanan, Mrs. Packiam Rajendrasingam, Principal, Udupiddy Girls' College and Mr. S. S. Selvadurai, Retired Principal, American College, Udupiddy paid tributes to the life and work of the deceased. Both speakers referred to her steadfast faith and her deep devotion to the Church. She was a fine Christian mother nurturing her children in the Christian faith and conduct. With remarkable courage she faced the double tragedy of the brutal killings of her two daughters in February this year. The Rev. T. Thevanesan preached the sermon and Bishop Ambalavanar led the closing prayers and gave the benediction. The Rev. V. N. Tharmakulasingam performed the committal rites at the Udupiddy Church Graveyard. The deceased leaves behind besides the Rev. V. N. Tharmakulasingam three other sons: Mr. V. G. Kanagasigam, Mr. V. G. Balasingam and Mr. Joel Rajasingam (West Germany) and several grandchildren to bemoan her loss. Her two daughters Mrs. Elizabeth Jayarani Wijayanathan and Mrs. Joyce Athisayam Thevarasa as referred to above were killed on the 15th of February, 1989.

தே. இ திருச்சபையின் யாழ்ப்பாணம், வட்டுக்கோட்டையிலுள்ள ஆசன ஆலயத்திலும் பண்டை தரிப்பு - மானிப்பாய் - உருவின் ஆலயங்களிலும் இந்த விழாவை முன்னிட்டு ஆராதனைகளை ஒழுங்கு செய்துள்ளது. அந்தந்தப் பராமரிப்பாளர்களிலிருந்து கிரகவர்களை அழைத்துத் திரையங்களில் நடைபெற்று நன்றி நிலைத்து ஆராதனையில் பங்கு பெறுவர். கொழும்பு கத்தோலிக்க (ஆசன) ஆலயத்தில் வெள்ளி 10 11 89 காலை 9 30 மணிக்கு ஒரு பொது ஆராதனை இடம் பெறுகிறது.

(1) Renewal and Advance
(2) CSI After Thirty Years
(3) Priorities for the Mission
of the Church 1982
(உள்ளும்)

God — The Greatest Poet!

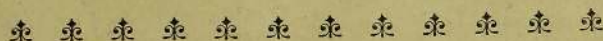
The world around me are songs
You have sung thousands of years
The hills and the valleys, the sea and the river that flows
The smiling eyes of the younger and the older persons
and the wagging tails of the faithful dogs
The closest companion of numerous humans
In them I read nothing but the words of your poems.

When I hear the sky larks sing
The wild and mighty elephants trumpeting
The frail human beings crying and laughing
While they struggle for their daily living
In them I hear nothing but the music of your harmonizing

O God then I turn to my writing that express my inner thoughts
Which my heart craves secretly to identify as poems
These songs of mine, I realise are merely worthless words
That does not even produce rhythmic sounds
In them are lees and scums which I desire to leave as trails.

But yours is poetry with flesh and blood
That bestows life and love to the entire world
To make my laborious heart and weary soul to leap dance
And to sing unceasing praises to your unfailing glance
For you, and you alone, without any rivalry
Are the very source of both written and unwritten poetry
And in you I recognise the greatest of all the great poets.

— Henry Victor —



The role of mission hospitals in the present situation: preventive or curative health care?

Green Memorial Hospital is a name known in every nook and corner of Jaffna partly because it was founded as way back as 1848, and partly because almost every other child in those days was born in this beacon institution which stood steadfast as a pillar of the healing and teaching arts. It was a pioneering institution which was way ahead of any other hospital in the whole country, let alone South Asia. Even the famous Christian Medical College, Vellore was founded some 50 years later, from when it has reached its present dizzy height.

Due to the present situation and circumstances beyond our control the mission hospitals have slipped to a position whereby serious patients have to be transferred for lack of resident specialists. The ongoing crisis does not encourage doctors from abroad to return and those who remain naturally demand higher wages. For the revival of the hospital on the curative aspect resident specialists are a must and no amount of visiting physicians can remedy the situation. A demand for higher wages if met may prove beneficial in that once patients are assured of expert care the number will increase, thereby increasing the income. Without an adequate number of patients it is not cost effective to have para medical Services and latest X-ray and ultrasound facilities. At this juncture, with no solution to the crisis in sight it is necessary to reassess the role of the mission hospitals towards alleviation of the suffering of man, the prime aim of the healing wing of the church.

If the mission hospital is unable to make a dent in the vast array of curative hospitals and nursing homes present in Jaffna today, why not it modify its role and emerge as the pioneer of primary health care or preventive health at the doorstep of the poorest of the poor? The Christians believe that what soever we wish to be done to us, we must do to others and what more better way to practice this principle than to actually plan and execute a programme which will benefit the poor masses who cannot afford medical care as it is practised today.

Vigorous attempts were made to launch such a programme in 1986 whereby a mobile health service was started. But again due to the uncertainties only 1 peripheral clinic remains today to which the hospital sends a team weekly. But a more concentrated effort is necessary if we are to make a mark and just conducting clinics once a week or giving concessions to poor patients who attend the hospital will not serve the purpose of primary health care. As illustrated in the last issue disease should be tackled at the root before it can sprout out by proper sanitary methods and health education. The mission hospitals must take on the mantle of Primary health care and serve as its head quarters or driving force.

How can this new concept be amalgamated with the existing programmes of the diocese? The answer is in the already existing day care centres and vocational training institute established here in Manipay.

During the last 10 years, we have seen the church spreading

its arms into the vast heathen land south of Elephant pass. Day care centres providing the twin commodities of life-food and education have sprung up like mushrooms every where. These day care centres prove as focal points for the common man to gather together and understand the true love of Christ, through deeds and acts of love which benefit none but the grass root level. It was indeed a moving sight to see children from all the outlying parishes at the Thanksgiving service held in Killinochi to commemorate 10 years of hard labor in the South. The Bishop in his address very aptly concluded that we should not conceal the light under a bush but let it be seen to all near and far. Needless to say that men of vision dedicated beyond doubt to the up grading of the quality of life of the common man through development projects, Vocational training institutes etc are at the helm of the mission today whereby rich harvests are being reaped in such a short period of time. But sadly the aspect of preventive health which could have also gone hand in glove with these development projects has been neglected. A community health worker in each of these day care centre areas working for the last 10 years could have reduced the morbidity and mortality in these areas by more than half. By eradicating sickness the standard of living improves and the ultimate goal of the church will be further strengthened.

Selection to the vocational training centre at Manipay could be oriented towards those who in the future would take on the role of community health workers in their respective villages. During their six month stay here a course of lectures and practicals could be conducted for them in addition to their various vocation's so that when they get back they could hold weekly meetings, collect data on births, marriages deaths etc for purposes of immunisation and family planning and tackle small health problem such as common cold, small wounds that need sterile dressing etc. A system of supervision and back up consisting of a medical team from the hospital can easily be formulated on the lines of the famous CHAD — project of Christian Medical College, Vellore.

The time has indeed come for this radical change in Medical care to be taken. It may be a bold step but in the present situation this can be the only way whereby we could spread the good news of Christ's presence — "that Christ came so that we might have life and have it more abundantly". There is no doubt that the founder of this great institution and his successors will be proud of such an endeavor on the part of the hospital which was once a pioneer in every aspect in South Asia.

Dr. Priashanta Visvalingam.

Obituary.

Mr. Eliathambay Thevanesam, who retired some years ago from the Public Service as Assistant Government Agent, Kandy died on the 20th of October in Colombo at the age of 73. Mr. Thevanesam was an old boy of St. John's College, Jaffna, where he had a brilliant career and established an unbeaten academic record of securing eight distinctions in the Cambridge Senior Examination. Mr. Thevanesam on his retirement as A. G. A., Kandy was invited to serve as Deputy Commissioner of Registrations for yet another five years. He leaves behind his wife Mano (nee Cumarasamy) and four daughters: Mrs. Thiagaratnam, Dr. Vasanthy Thevanesam, Head of the Micro Biology Department at the Peradeniya University, Mrs. Sakunthala Ratnam of Colombo and Miss Savithiri Thevanesam. His brother Mr. E. Thevarajah died a few months ago in Australia. His other brothers are Dr. E. S. Devasahayam, Principal, St. John's College, Jaffna, Mr. E. Thevaservatham and Brig. E. G. Thevanayagam. He also leaves behind two sisters - Mrs. Sri Pathmanathan and Mrs. Thevi Mantharan. Mr. Thevanesam is the son of the late Mr. S. V. Eliathamby, who was the Head Master of the Tamil School at St. John's, Chundikkuli, and Mrs. Eliathamby. We extend to all members of the family our heart-felt condolence.

Obituary.

One more tragedy and two deaths.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Bala Gunasegaram. Head Master, St. Thomas College, Gurutalawa, and his wife Manohari in the early hours of Friday, 20th October, killed by unknown gunmen at their residence. Mr. Gunasegaram, who was a qualified engineer, after working for some years in this country and abroad decided to serve the Church's Educational Mission and accepted the Head Mastership of St. Thomas' College, Gurutalawa a few years ago. He and his wife have died as martyrs to the high calling which they decided to accept. The Gunasegarams have two sons Yohan and Paul, now students in India. Bala is a son of the late Mr. D. R. Gunasegaram and Mrs. Gunasegaram of Cheddiarmadam, Vaddukoddai. He leaves behind two sisters - Dr. (Mrs.) Joy Canagarajah of MeLeod Hospital, Inuvil and Dr. (Mrs.) Christa Arumainayagam and a brother Rajan Gunasegaram. Manohari is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. E. Anandanayagam of Chundikkuli and a sister of Gowri Anandanayagam, Anandakumar and Premakumar. The bodies of the deceased were taken to the Chapel of the Transfiguration at St. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia and the funeral service was held there on Monday the 23rd of October at 3.30 p.m. The interment took place at the General Cemetery, Mt. Lavinia. We express our sorrow and sympathies to the members of the families of the deceased couple.

தாரகை ஒளி:-
திரளான ஐசுவரியத்தைப் பார்க்கிலும்
நற்கீர்த்தியே தெரிந்து கொள்ளப்படத் தக்கது.
— நிதிமொழிகள். 22 : 1 —

எங்கள் கருத்து

★ விடுதலை விழா. ★

தமிழ் மக்கள் கொண்டாடும் விழாக்களில் சிலவற்றை, நாம் சமூக விழாக்களெனக் கணிக்கலாம். தீபாவளி, கார்த்திகைத் தீபம், தைப்பொங்கல் ஆகியன இப்பகுதியில் அடங்கும். இவ்விழாக்களின் உட்பொருளை ஆராய்ந்தறிந்து, இவற்றின் மூலம் நம் தமிழ்ச்சமுதாயத்தின் ஒருமைப்பாட்டை நிலைநாட்ட, நம் சமயத் தலைவர்கள் முயல்வது நல்லது.

கடந்த ஐப்பசி மாதமும் தீபாவளி விழாவை, தமிழ் மக்கள் கொண்டாடினார்கள். இவ்விழா, குறிப்பாக, சைவ சமய மக்களால் கொண்டாடப்பட்டினும், இதனை ஒரு சமூக விழாவென ஏனைய சமயத்தவர்களும் கருதினால், இவ்விழாவின் உட்பொருளும் நோக்கமும் நம் சமுதாயத்தில் செறிவதற்கு உதவியாயிருக்கும்.

‘தீபாவளி’ என்ற சமஸ்கிருதச் சொல் — ‘தீப வரிசை’ — ‘தீப ஆரம்’ எனப் பொருள்படும். அதாவது, ஒளியை மையமாக வைத்து ஒன்றுகூடி, ஒளியின் சாட்சியில் ஆர்ப்பரிப்பது, இவ்விழாவிற்கேயுரிய தனிச்சிறப்பாகும். தீமையென்ற இருளைப் போக்க இறைஒளி வந்தது — செயல்பட்டது என்பதை இவ்விழா குறிக்கிறது.

ஆகவே, இவ்விழாவைக் கொண்டாடும் மக்கள், இன்று நம்நாட்டைச் சூழ்ந்துள்ள அநீதி, அக்கிரமம் ஆகிய தீமைகள் பொதிந்த கோரஇருளைப் போக்குவதற்கு, நாடெங்கும் இறை ஒளியைச் செறியப் பண்ணுவது தம் தலையாய கடமையென்பதை உணர்வது அவசியம். தீபாவளி விழாவிற்குப் பல விளக்கங்கள், சமயக் கருத்துக்கள் வழங்கப்பட்டினும், இதன் அடிப்பொருளும் மையக்கருத்தும் யாது என நாம் ஆய்ந்தறிந்தால், இவ்விழாவை ஒரு மகிழ்ச்சி விழாவாகவும் வெற்றியாளிக்கும் விடுதலை விழாவாகவும் மக்கள் கொண்டாடுவார்கள். தீமையின் உருவேடுத்து வந்த கொடிய அரக்கனைக் கொன்று, அவனின் அக்கிரமப் பிடியிலிருந்து மக்களை விடுவித்தார் இறைவன் என்ற உட்பொருளைத் தமிழ் மக்கள் தெளிவாக அறிதல் வேண்டும்.

நன்மைக்கும் தீமைக்கும் இடையே நடக்கும் போராட்டத்தில், நல்ல சக்திகளுக்கே இறுதி வெற்றி என்னும் நம்பிக்கையை, இவ்விழா, மக்களின் இதயத்தில் தூண்டுகிறது. ‘அறம் மறத்தை வெல்லும்’ என்ற நம்பிக்கையையும் தீபாவளி ஒளியில் நாம் காணலாம். இந்நம்பிக்கையை, ஒவ்வொரு மனிதனும் அடையக்கூடிய சக்தியாக, கிறிஸ்துபிரானின் ஒளி மாற்றுகிறது.

கிறிஸ்துவின் ஒளியில் தீபாவளியென்னும் ஒளிவிழா, ஒரு கொண்டாட்டம் மட்டுமல்ல. ஒரு இலட்சிய விழாவாகவும் மாறுகிறது. “நானே உலகின் ஒளி” என்றியம்பிய கிறிஸ்து பிரான், தீபாவளியன்று ஏற்றப்படும் தீபங்களின்மூலம், சமுதாயத்தில் நிலவும் இருளை அகற்றவேண்டிய கடமையுணர்வைக் காட்டும் விழிப்பு நாளாக இப்பெருநாளைத் திகழச் செய்தார். ‘உள்ளத்தில் ஒளி உண்டானால் வாக்கினில் ஒளி உண்டாகும்’ என்ற நம்பிக்கையைப் பொழிகின்ற பெருநாளாக, தீபாவளி உதயமாகவேண்டும்.

தமிழ் மக்களின் விடுதலை விழாவாக, தீபாவளி, இம்முறை மலரவேண்டும். சாதி சமய வேறுபாடின்றி ‘ஒன்றே குலம் ஒருவனே தேவன்’ என்ற உண்மை, தமிழ் மக்கள் மனதில் உதயமாக வேண்டும். இன்று, தமிழ் மக்களை அடக்கி ஒடுக்கி அமர்த்தி வைத்திருக்கும் அவலநிலை மாறி, நீதியின் தீபங்கள் நம் சமுதாயமெங்கும் எரியவும், விடுதலை உணர்வின் ஒளி மினிரவும் வழி வதப்பது தமிழ் மக்களாகிய நம் கடமை. அப்பொழுது, அநீதி என்னும் இருள் தானாக மறைந்துவிடும். இருளைப் பழிப்பதைவிட ஒளி ஏற்றுவது நல்லது அல்லவா?

சமூக சேவை

ஒளியிழந்த கண்கள்
இருளடைந்த இல்லங்கள்
மங்கிப்போன வாழ்வுகள்
அருகில்
கிராமங்களில்

ஒளியேற்ற விரும்பினேன்
ஒடிப்போய் ஒரு பெட்ரோமாக்ஸ்
வாங்கி
வந்து

எங்கள் வீட்டு ஹானில்
மாட்டி மகிழ்ந்தேன்

— (போதகர் மாமா)

போனவாரத் தொடர்ச்சி

எலியாவின் வாழ்வு
எமக்குத் தரும் செய்தி.

துன்பத்திலே வாடும் தோழனே நீ இன்றே உன்னை முற்றுகத் தேவனுக்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுப்பாய். உன்னை, தேவன் காக்க வல்லவராய் இருக்கிறார். உன் வாழ்வில் விக்கிரக ஆராதனையால் ஏற்பட்ட பஞ்சங்கள் அனைத்தும் தீர்ந்துபோம். உனக்கு ஒன்றுமே குறைவுபடாது. அதற்கு நீ உன்னை முழுமையாகக் கர்த்தருக்கு ஒப்புக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும்.

எலியா சாரிபாத்தூரிலே ஒரு விதவையிடம் சென்று அவளிடம் கொஞ்சம் உணவு கேட்கிறார். கொஞ்ச உணவை வைத்திருந்த அந்த விதவை அதிலே ஒரு பததியைக் கொடுத்தாள். இதன் மூலம் பஞ்சகாலம் முழுவதும் திருப்பியான உணவுக்கு வழி கிடைத்தது. அவளின் மகன் இறந்தபோதும் எலியா கடவுளை வேண்டி உயிர்ப்பித்தார். இல்லாதவர்களுக்கு என்ன செய்தீர்களோ அதை எனக்கே செய்தீர்கள் என்று கர்த்தர் சொன்னார். பஞ்சத் திவிருந்த எலியாவிற்கு விதவை தன்னிடம் இருந்ததில் கொடுத்த தால் அதிக பலனைப் பெற்றான். இன்று நாமும் இல்லாதவர்களுக்கு உதவ அழைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளோம். இதனால் அதிக பலனைப் பெற முடியும். தேவனுடைய ஊழியனுக்கு உதவியதால் அந்த விதவை பிழைத்துக்கொண்டாள். அவளுக்கு ஏற்பட்ட பஞ்சம் நீங்கியது. எலியாவை பரியாசம் செய்த 42 சிறுவரை, கரடி கொன்றது. நாமும் தேவனுடைய ஊழியரைப் பரியாசம் செய்தோமாயின் நியாயத்தின்படி நாளில் பரிதாபமுடையவர்களாக இருப்போம். எம்மிடம் உள்ளதில் பிறருக்கு உதவுதலே நல்லது. இயேசு, 2 காசு போட்ட கைம்பெண்ணை சிறந்தவன் எனக் கூறினார். அதுபோல் நாமும் எம்மிடம் உள்ளதில் தேவனுக்கென முழுமையாகச் செலுத்தும் போது தேவன் எம்மை ஆசீர்வதிப்பார். எமக்கு, தேவனால் தரப்பட்ட காலத்தை முழுமையாக அவருக்கு அர்ப்பணிக்க வேண்டியது அவசியமாகும்.

3 வருடங்களின் பின்னர் எலியா ஆகாப்பிடம்சென்றான். அவன், எலியாவைக் நோக்கி, தேசத்தைக் கலங்கப் பண்ணுகிறவன் நீந்தானே என்று. நாமும் கடவுளுக்கு கீழ்ப்படிந்து அவர்களுக்காகச் செயற்படும் போது மனிதர் எம்மை வெறுக்கலாம். மனிதமூலம் தேசிக்காது விடலாம். ஆனாலும் கர்த்தர் கூட இருக்கிறார் என்பதை மறக்கக் கூடாது. தேசத்தை, நாட்டை, வீட்டை, பாடசாலையை மற்றும் இதுபோன்ற பல கூட்டான குடும்பங்களைக் குழப்புகிற வாகனாக மக்களுக்குத் தெரிந்தாலும் தேவனின் அருட் சோதியால் தேசத்தினைக் குழப்புவவரான நாம் தேசத்தின் சேவை நாயகர்களாக மிளிர்வோம்.

(2ம் பக்கம் பார்க்க)

(சென்ற வார இதழின் தொடர்ச்சி)

அற்கோல் என்னும்

அரக்கனின் அட்டகாசம்.

இவர்கள் பொழுது காக்கே வெறிப் பொருட்களைப் பாவிக்கின்றனர். ஆனால் நெருப்பிலே கை போட்டால் கம்மா விடுமா? அற்கோல் தன் அகரத்தனத்தைக் காட்டத் தொடங்கிவிடும். தன் சொல் றிற்குள்ளேயே எல்லோரையும் கட்டுப்படுத்தி விடும். பின்னர் என்ன? அற்கோல் இன்றி அவர்கள் இல்லை. அவர்கள் இன்றி அற்கோல் இல்லை.

என்று என்னுமளவிற்கு அற்கோல் அவர்களுக்குக் கைகொடுக்கிறது. ஆமாம், கைகொடுப்பது கிணற்றின் விழுந்தவளை வெளியே எடுப்பதற்கல்ல; வெளியே நிற்பலனைக் கிணற்றிலுள்ள வீழ்த்திச் சேற்றிலுள் புதைப்பதற்காகவே. அற்கோலின் நோக்கம் அதன் அடிமைகளுக்குப் புரியாது. கிழைத்தேயத்தில் ஒரு சிலர், மனவிரக்தி காரணமாகவும் ஒரு சிலர் கெட்ட நடத்தைகளினாலும் அற்கோலுக்கு அடிமையாகின்றனர். இவர்கள், தம்பெற்றோரின் அறிவுரைகளை ஏற்கும் பக்குவத்தில் இருப்பதில்லை.

தங்களுடைய கிணைதீர்கள் சொல்லுவதையே சரியானது என்று எண்ணினர். இதனால் பெற்றோர்பிள்ளைகளிடையே கசப்புணர்வு ஏற்படுகிறது. இவர்களை வேறு பட்ட கருத்துக்களை கொண்டிருப்பதால் விட்டை விட்டு வெளியேறி தம் நண்பர்களுடன் சேர்ந்துள்ளனர். இவரது மனவருத்தத்திற்கு மருந்தாக நண்பர்கள் அற்கோலைக் காண்பிக்கின்றனர்; நண்பர்களின் தூண்டலால் அரைமனதோடு அற்கோலுக்கு அடிமைச் சீட்டு எழுதுகிறார்கள்; அன்று சிறிது நேரம் தம் கவலைகளை மறந்து வாழ முடிந்ததை எண்ணி நாள்தோறும் கவலைகளை மறந்து வாழ விரும்பி, முழுமையாகவே அற்கோலுக்குத் தம்மை அர்ப்பணித்து விடுவர். சிலர் இளமைப் பராயத்திலே அறியாமையாலும், தீய வழிசென்ற கிணைதீர்களினாலும், விளையாட்டாகவே வெறிப்பொருட்களைப் பாவிக்கப் பழகுகின்றனர்; ஆனால் அது விளையாக மாறி அவர்களையே ஆட்கொள்கின்றது; எத்தனையோ வறிய குடும்பத்துப் பிள்ளைகள் தம் பெற்றோரின் ஏகப்பட்ட எதிர்பார்ப்புகளுக்கிடையே முகத்திற் கரிபூசினீட்டு, தம் வயிற்றில் நெருப்பைக் கொட்டிக் கொள்கின்றனர்:

ஏன் எதற்காக யாவரும் இவ்விதம் அற்கோலை வெறுத்தோதுக்கவிரும்புகின்றனர். அப்படி என்னதான் செய்கிறதோ? அங்கே தான் தொடக்கப் புள்ளி ஆரம்பமாகின்றது; அளவுக்கு மிஞ்சினால் அமிர்தமும் நல்லல்லவா? அதேபோல, அளவுக்கு மிஞ்சியவுடன் அற்கோலும் நஞ்சாகிறது; நஞ்சை நாம் உட்கொண்டால் தற்கொலை செய்கிறோம் என்பது அர்த்தம்; அற்கோல் எல்லா வெறிப்பொருட்களிலும் காணப்படுகிறது; அதைநாம் சாப்பிட்டவுடன் அதன்வெளியே ஆரம்பமாகின்றது; இருந்தால் போல நரம்புகள் தூண்டப் பெறுகின்றன; இதனால் அவர் உணர்ச்சி வசப்படுகின்றார்; குறிப்பிடத்தக்களவிற்கு என்ருமில்லாதவாறு உற்சாகத்தைப் பெறுகின்றார்; இந்த ஆண்டில் நடந்த ஒளிம்பிச் போட்டியின்போதைப்பொருட்களைப் பாவித்து அதன் காரணமாக உற்சாகம் ஏற்பட்ட பல வீரர்கள் கண்டு பிடிக்கப்பட்டனர்; தொடர்ந்து பாவிக்கும் போது அற்கோலுக்கு அடிமையானவர்களுக்கு, சாப்பாட்டின் மீது நாட்டம் குறைகிறது; சாப்பாடு சாப்பிடாமலேயே குடிப்பதால், சுரவில் சேமிக்கப்பட்டு வைத்த சேமிப்புணவு விழைவாக முடிகிறது; சேமிப்புணவு முடிவடைந்த பின்னர் தோலின் கீழ் பாதுகாப்புப் பட்டையாகச் சேமித்து வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் கொழுப்புப்படை சக்தித் தேவைக்காகப் பயன்படுத்தப்படுகிறது; இதனால் சுரல் பாதிக்கப்படுகிறது. உடல் தசைப்பற்றுக்குன்றி மெலிந்து காணப்படும்.

(தொடரும்)

✻ CELESTINE FERNANDO ✻

(S. Kulandran)

It is said that a Viceroy of India made an inquiry of the officials around him. He said to them, "why does the Church make so much of Heber (Reginald)? what did he do?" And the officials said to him, "Your Excellency, it's not for what he did, but for what he was." The same remark could be made in regard to the late Reverend Celestine Fernando.

It's difficult to find anything outstanding in his life. He wrote no book to my remembrance. To my knowledge he was never invited to an international conference. I have never heard him delivering a speech from a public platform, nor did he ever hurl himself into the political tempests that surrounded him from time to time. He was not a moving spirit of any great movement. Tempests raged and subsided. Storms blew and ceased. Nothing caused a ripple in the even tenor of his life. He was, of course, faithful in editing *The Ceylon Churchman*, but that was largely a matter of collating what other people wrote. He was also Secretary of the Bible Society for quite a few years, but this did not require much effort on his part. After all, Bibles sell themselves.

Nevertheless, it's curious that no conference in Ceylon during the last thirty years was complete without him. The question that would be asked of the convenor is, "Have you invited Celestine?" He was almost an indispensable figure in every conference. Of course I am not talking about big conferences, but of small church conferences and ad hoc gatherings.

He was a presence. One may almost say that he carried a halo about him because of his qualities. What were these qualities? A transparent honesty, purity of personal life, humility, and an irenic temperament. One can certainly go to the extent of saying that where Celestine was there would be no quarrels. In fact, the Sinhalese-Tamil split would never have arisen if he had been at the top of things. Quarrels died out before they arose if he was present. Quarrels were absurd in his presence. Although he was not a popular figure, he was somehow indispensable because people liked him. And he was too humble to take advantage of any situation. He was humble enough to rise to any situation. Nobody ever wanted him out of a conference. I wish you would question me further on the subject.

What about his churchmanship? As is well known there are various well defined ecclesiastical groups in the Anglican church, and theologians say nothing can be more fierce than odium theologicum. Of these groups to which he did belong, he was certainly not an Anglo-Catholic. Nor was he an Evangelical. But no group took offense at his position. He was what is called a Central Churchman. No party could be enthusiastic about him, but no party could take offense. The Anglo-Catholics tolerated him,

the Evangelicals were enthusiastic about him. This may mean that his leanings were with the latter. This is a fault that could be found with anybody with an irenic temperament. Anyway he managed to thread his way through theological differences.

What therefore is the contribution that Celestine has made to church life in Ceylon? It's simply that he has been: and to that extent it can be said that he has made church life sweeter and devoid of all bitterness. He will be remembered in times to come not for anything that he did, but for what he was, for his personality, shedding peace and harmony wherever he went.

Editorial Note:

Fr. Celestine after passing his History Honours degree from the University College, Colombo in 1937 got his B. Litt. in Theology and History at Oxford in 1941. He was given the M. Litt. of Oxford in 1982. He had his ministerial training at Bishop's College Calcutta and was ordained Deacon in 1942 and Priest in 1943. He was a founder member of the Ceylon S. C. M. in 1934 and attended the World Conference of Christian Youth in Amsterdam in 1939. He was Chairman of the Ceylon N. C. C. in 1968-69 and President of the Colombo Y. M. C. A. 1980-81. From 1943-80, he was Chaplain at the Colombo University and General Secretary of the Bible Society 1960-1980. He is the author of six books and several articles in the Ceylon University Journal and other Journals and Newspapers.

A. T. SINNATAMBY

ARTHUR THURAISSINGAM SINNATAMBY, who passed to his eternal rest early this year at the age of 93, was the third of the sons of the late Mr. G. V. Sinnatamby of Tirunelveli and of Achimuthu Sinnatamby (nee Edwards).

The family produced an Assistant Commissioner of Excise, a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, a Deputy Surveyor-General (also known for his researches into Sri Lankan history), a lady doctor (at a time when very few women 'dared' to enter the profession) and a lawyer.

Mr. A. T. Sinnatamby was chief Shroff of the Badulla Kachcheri when I was introduced to him 50 years ago by a colleague who was a relative of his. He retired over 30 years ago as Chief Shroff of the Customs Department.

He is deeply religious, honourable and of an exacting rectitude that would not permit him to commit even a technical irregularity. He was soft spoken, but his accents were clear and I have never heard him raise his voice either in anger or to give weight to an argument.

A friend who had known him since school days has summed up his own impression of him by just describing him as a THOROUGH GENTLEMAN - a rare accolade indeed.

G. A. GNANAMUTTU

★ A Tribute To ★

J. K. RETNANANDAM.

continued from 27. 10. 1989 issue

Retnanandam (never known by his English first name) not only took the Swamy round to the Christian churches, but also actively worked with him and helped him to edit and publish his books, giving the most meticulous attention to every detail. He formed an ecumenical group at Wellawatte, enlisting the support of the Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist Churches and Church of South India in the area. Some of us were associated with him in the dialogues he organised between adherents of the different faiths on their respective insights into moral and social issues. His exposition in the Press of some of the more difficult concepts of Hinduism revealed not only a rare sensitivity of understanding, but also an ability to convey profound truths in the language of the layman.

He was a live wire of the Ceylon Institute of National and Tamil Affairs (CINTA), a group consisting of retired senior government servants, lawyers, academics et al, engaged in study, documentation and dialogue on current national issues. Retnanandam worked with those who prepared the documents and saw to their publication and distribution, travelling almost entirely by public transport or on foot. His commitment to peace with justice found further expression in his many articles to the Press, which were forthright, and factual but without a trace of emotion or bias. His concern for the underprivileged manifested itself in a practical manner when he worked with the Rev. Fr Michael Catalano, S.J., on a project of rehabilitation of those who lived on the Banks of the Wellawatte Canal. It was not everyone who knew that he did not leave his home for the day until he had completed household chores that would have taxed the energies of a much younger man.

At the Service of Thanksgiving held in his honour at the Moor Road Memorial Church, Wellawatte, where he had been a regular worshipper, a Hindu High Court Judge, who had been a fellow disciple of Swamy

Shantanand, referred to three qualities that had distinguished his friend - his sincerity, his total commitment to the causes he espoused and the energy with which he worked for them. His social awareness and his readiness to translate this awareness into action he owed, the speaker said, to his religion, the adherents of which, he graciously added, had always been in the forefront of liberation movements, social and political. The Minister in charge of the Church was reminded of the words of St Paul, who had fought the good fight, run the good race and kept the Faith. Retnanandam had fought clean, he had set out not to win the race, but to run it to a finish, and he had been firmly rooted to his faith in Christ.

I should like to make my own additions to this catalogue of his virtues - his refusal to be ever embittered or to deviate from his commitment to peace and non-violence, and the indomitable courage with which he faced pain and suffering. One noted the first of these qualities in his disciplined contributions to the press on matters that greatly affected him and his people, and in his relationship with persons with whom he would enter into heated arguments on religion and politics and with whom he would very violently disagree. His faith and his fortitude were most manifest during his long drawn out last illness, when he had to undergo five major operations for a recurring ailment, but contrived in between to write to local and foreign journals, or to walk to his church and sit through long sessions of meditation and prayer for peace in our land. His last years were lonely, his wife having predeceased him by a few years, and the permit that was to enable him to join his children in a foreign land arriving, ironically, just a few days before his death.

I cannot end this tribute to my friend better than by saying with the Hindu High Court Judge, May he rest in peace,
G. A. GNANAMUTTU

Teach Me the Art of Tolerance....

Open my mind O God
With unlimited love
That I may patiently
Consider the variety of precepts
Evolving from different human experiences
Increase in my heart
The desire to break away
From all small and partial rightness
While holding on to your truth
Which neither has boundaries nor fences
Teach me the art of tolerance
And beyond tolerance, the only way forward
Towards a new creation
For they are necessary not only
For our well being but also for our survival
Let me never resist or persecute
Nor even discriminate against anyone
For what they consider to be real
Except when that sustains and breeds
Injustice and intolerance.

Henry Victor