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# 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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## Bishop Oliver Tomkins

Bishop Oliver Tomkins the well known Ecumenical figure and Secretary of the Faith & Order Commission of the World Council of Churches from the inception of the W.C.C. in 1948, died on the 30th of October at the ripe age of 94. Bishop Tomkins was active in the Student Christian Movement of Britain during his Student days at the Cambridge University and for many years after that. From 1945 to 1952, he was Associate General Secretary of the W.C.C.'s commission on Faith and Order. He was from 1959 Bishop of Bristol for a period of sixteen years.

It was during his period in the Faith & Order Commission that he visited Sri Lanka and led a few seminars in Jaffna and elsewhere in the company of Dr D. T. Niles on the relevance of the Faith & Order Movement to the Church Union Negotiations in Ceylon.

The Faith & Order Movement began with the famous conference at Lausanne in 1927. It will be of interest to our readers that when the World Council of Churches marked the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Movement by a celebration at the Lausanne Cathedral on Whitsunday, 29th May 1977, Bishop Tomkins along with Pasteur Chapiris, the President of the Reformed Church of Lausanne and Bishop Ambalavanar of the Jaffna Diocese of the C. S. I. concelebrated at the Eucharistic Service. Bishop Tomkins despite his long association with the Ecumenical Movement, confessed at the end of the Service that, that was the first occasion he had concelebrated with a non-episcopally ordained clergyman referring to the President of Reformed Church.

Bishop Tomkins however, rejoiced that he could do that as he was for all his life committed to the cause of church unity. It is also significant to note that the Bishop's parents were missionaries in China and he himself was born in China.

## City Mission Jaffna

The first confirmation service at the C. S. I. City Mission in Jaffna was held on Sunday the 3rd of January 1993 at 8.00 a.m. The Bishop of the Diocese confirmed eleven candidates at this service.

## Activities - Women's Fellowship J. D. C. S. I.

The Award Ceremony and Exhibition of the Fourth Batch of Trainees at Manipay Vocational Training Centre was held on the 25th of August. The chief guests were the Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar and Dr. Mrs. Ambalavanar (President W. F.) Bishop Ambalavanar opened the exhibition and Dr. Ambalavanar gave the certificates.

The Award Ceremony and Exhibition of the Second Batch of Trainees of the Vocational Training Centre of Padatteruppu now situated in Vaddukoddai was held on 9th October. The chief guests were the Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan who gave the awards and Dr. Mrs. C. Ambalavanar who opened the exhibition.

The Award Ceremony and Exhibition and Cultural Programme of the First Batch of Trainees of the Vaddukoddai Vocational Training Centre was held on the 7th of November. The chief guests were the Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar and Dr. Mrs. Ambalavanar.

On 15th December 1992 the Typing and Shorthand Training Section under the auspices of Vaddukoddai Vocational Training Centre was opened. The Chief Guests were the Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar and Dr. Mrs. Ambalavanar.

The Vocational Training Centre in Inuvil opposite McLeod Hospital for Sewing and Hand-work was reopened in December after being closed for a few months. The Diocesan Women's Fellowship is in charge of this centre.

## Youth Camp at Varany

On Wednesday the 30th of December 1992, a One-Day's Youth Camp was held at the C. S. I. Church Centre in Varany. Youths from Methodist Churches of the Point Pedro circuit along with the youths from the C. S. I. Churches from Varany, Kudathanai, Udupiddy and Usan gathered together for a day of Fellowship, Bible Study, Prayer and Discussions. The Revds. Karunaratne, Gnanaratne and Charles Ariaratnam of the Methodist Church along with C. S. I. Workers Mr. T. E. Ashokumar and the Rev. A. V. Jesuthasan provided leadership at this camp.

## OBITUARY

### Rev. Nesakumar Kadirgamar

The Rev. Nesakumar Kadirgamar, Presbyter of the Madurai Diocese of the Church of South India, passed away peacefully in the early hours of Saturday, the 28th of November, 1992 after a brief day's illness in the Intensive Care Unit of the Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore, South India. The funeral service took place the same day at 4.00 p.m. in the Hope Chapel of the Hospital with the Chaplain of the Hospital, another Presbyter of the Vellore Diocese and the Rev. G. D. Anandarajan, Presbyter, JDCSI, a nephew of the deceased participating. The committal rites were performed by the Rev. G. D. Anandarajan. Rev. Kadirgamar was buried according to his wishes in the Vellore Cemetery in close proximity to the grave of the late Rev. Dr. D. T. Niles.

Several of the immediate members of the family of Mrs. Ranees Kadirgamar (nee Gunaratnam) among other friends, relations and members of the Vellore Church were present at the funeral. Simultaneous services of remembrance were held in the City Mission Methodist Church in Colombo where a brother the Rev. Sathian Kadirgamar is a Minister and in Toronto, Tokyo, Singapore and Sydney where some of the other members of the immediate family are resident now.

Rev. Kadirgamar was the youngest son of the late Rev. J. W. A. Kadirgamar, Presbyter, JDCSI and Mrs. G. N. Kadirgamar a resident now in the "R. C. P. Welch Illam", Christian Theological Seminary, Chunnakam. The Rev. Kadirgamar had his entire school education at Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai where he obtained the G.A.Q qualifications of the Paradesi University as an external candidate. He then proceeded to USA at the early age of 22 to undergo surgery for a post polio scoliosis on his spine at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston being sponsored by the First Trinitarian Congregational Church of Concord, Mass., and other friends and institutions.

While recuperating from his surgery he obtained the B. A. degree from Ursinus College majoring in Religion and Philosophy followed by an M. A. in Sociology from the prestigious Bryn Mawr College. On his return he served as a visiting lecturer in Sociology at the

Colombo Campus and later in the Jaffna Campus and Jaffna College. He then proceeded as a ministerial candidate of the JDCSI to the United Theological College, Bangalore where he had a very brilliant career as a theological student winning many academic awards culminating in a very rare First Class B. D. degree. It is widely known in the Indian and Sri Lankan theological circles that in the 82 year history of the UTC, Bangalore only two or three Sri Lankan Students have obtained First Classes at the B. D. Examination. D. T. Niles being the first one in the early 1930s. Subsequently Rev. Kadirgamar obtained the M. Th. of Scarampore from the Tamilnadu Theological Seminary, Madurai.

Rev. Kadirgamar was ordained a deacon in the JDCSI and Presbyter in the Madurai Diocese of the CSI and served first in the English speaking Church in the Railway Colony, Madurai and then as Chaplain of the Grace Kenneth Memorial Hospital at Madurai. Due to declining health he took residence recently in Vellore to be close to the CMC Hospital. Besides his mother, wife Ranees and daughter Romila Rev. Kadirgamar leaves behind three sisters, five brothers, several nephews, nieces, grand nephews and nieces and a host of friends in India, USA & Sri Lanka to mourn his loss.

### Bishop Sabapathy Kulandran Foundation

Dear Friends

You will all be aware that the first anniversary of the death of our late Bishop Sabapathy Kulandran falls on Sunday the 14th of February, 1993. Bishop Kulandran was the Bishop of our Diocese from 1947 to 1970.

You will also be aware that the Diocese has decided to set up a Bishop Kulandran Memorial Foundation for which funds are being raised. The target is 1.3 million rupees. We are happy that a little over half of this amount has already been raised from friends overseas and our institutions. This appeal now comes to all our members and friends within Sri Lanka and abroad Please contribute liberally and offer it at the Thanksgiving Service in your Church on Sunday the 14th of February 1993 or arrange to send your gift through your Pastor. The interest from this fund will support a Professorship at the Christian Theological Seminary & Institute for Lay People, Chunnakam.

Signed  
D. J. Ambalavanar  
Bishop





## EDITORIAL

## A CALL TO REPENTANCE

'Perhaps one day the Lord will drive away all our enemies and liberate us' - deep within the hearts of many is this desire a desire which turns into a feigned belief. In times of trouble and affliction, when all hope for peace is shattered, people tend to escape into fantasy.

God will intervene in history, one day God will lead us into freedom; perchance now is the time for God to act - many think so. Didn't the Lord deliver His people Israel from bondage? Isn't the God of Israel our God also? The Lord is same yesterday, today and tomorrow. He is 'Emmanuel' - God with us. He is the suffering God and thereby knows our sufferings. He is almighty and compassionate. Therefore, He will come down to put an end to all our misery. Many claim so.

But the trouble with many of us is we are always looking outward. We try to see the 'devil' in others. There is injustice in high places; they oppress the weak and assault the defenceless. The rulers are drunk in power and hence want to rule the country tyrannically; they clamp the freedom of people with iron fist. Their injustice should be exposed; the Church should be up against the oppressive forces. This is the direction in which we all like to see - finding fault in others.

Have we ever looked inward? Have we ever self-examined ourselves? This is just what we are called upon to do, especially during this coming Lenten Season. Let us just for a moment stop criticizing others and look at ourselves critically. Then perhaps, we will hear the soft voice of God.

We Tamils as a nation are self centred, caste-conscious and avaricious. We are always worried about our well-being only. If some misfortune happens to us we blame others; when others prosper we envy them. We plan to harm them. Then there are so many people living around us who desperately are in need of our help, but we turn them away. Many spend the day empty stomach, but some of us spend lavishly. We have hardened our heart to others. We take pride in our caste, our culture, our education and what not. In a eg 1:2:3:4:5 Each one of us has built an ivory tower and live in it. Because of our avariciousness we try to covet others properties. Making use of the present situation some exploit others.

It is to such people Prophet Joel was sent. He was asked to blow the trumpet in Zion; was asked to appoint a day of fast. He summoned the elders, gathered the children and entreated them to turn to the Lord whole heartedly with fasting and weeping. Today, Joel's prophecy reverberates in us.

Today we are called upon to turn to our Lord with fasting and weeping. We had been a stubborn nation all through. There were missionaries, there were Godly people but we never listened to them. Today God is speaking to us through war. Perhaps we are in this plight, because of our selfishness and hard-heartedness. Let us change our heart of stone to that of flesh. Let us fast, weep and mourn. Let us rend our hearts and notation garments. Perchance God will relent and leave a blessing behind Him.

## OBITUARY

## R. R. Dharmaratnam

We regret to record the death of Mr. R. R. Dharmaratnam, a well known lawyer and politician of Udupiddy. Mr. Dharmaratnam died at the age of seventy on the 28th of November 1992 at his home at Udupiddy after a few weeks of illness.

He is the second son of the late Mr. & Mrs. V. R. Ratnam, a Mission School Headmaster of Udupiddy.

He was an old student of the Udupiddy American Mission College and of Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai. He joined the Law College in 1942 and passed out as a Proctor and Notary Public. His practice was largely confined to the Point Pedro Courts. He was active in local government politics and for 23 years was Chairman of the

Udupiddy Village Council. He joined the Lanka Sama Samaja Party and unsuccessfully contested the Udupiddy seat in parliament more than once. Mr. Dharmaratnam who remained single, devoted a great deal of time and energy for community welfare and development work. His one special concern was for the rights and welfare of the working classes.

He leaves behind his brothers Mr. R. Singaratnam, Mr. R. Gopalaratnam and Mr. R. Alagaratnam. Another brother of his Mr. R. Vijayaratnam predeceased him. His funeral service was conducted by the Rev. A. V. Jesuthasan, assisted by the Rev V N. Tharmakulasingam and Mr. T. E. Ashokumar. The remains were interred at the Udupiddy Church Burial Grounds.

## S. V. Velupillai

Mr. S. V. Velupillai, a retired Head Master of the Primary School Section of the American Mission College, Atchuvely, died at the age of 81 on the 10th of December 1992. He was active in Church life and was a delegate of the Atchuvely Church to the Diocesan Council on various occasions.

He is a brother of Mr. A. V. Ponnu of Kudathanai.

He leaves behind his wife Packiam and only daughter Mrs. Jebarawjan Anandaselvam. The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. D. S. Thiagarajah and assisted by Mr. S. Thevaharan.

## Josephine Samathanam Somasundaram

Mrs. Josephine Samathanam Somasundaram, widow of the late Peter Somasundaram of Chundikuli died on Tuesday the 22nd of December at her home at Somasundaram Avenue, Chundikuli. Mrs. Samathanam Somasundaram, nee Muthiah hails from Alaveddy and on her marriage to Peter Somasundaram came to reside at Chundikuli. She leaves behind a son Santhakumar and three daughters Malathy, Saundari and Menaka. Another daughter Thabo predeceased her. She also leaves behind her daughter-in-law Cynthia and sons-in-law Lanka Nesiah, Watson Ratnam, Christi Manoharan and Romesh Barnes. The funeral service took place on Wednesday the 23rd of December at 3.00 p.m. at her home in Chundikuli. It was conducted by the Rev. S. P. Nesakumar who also preached the sermon. Mrs. S. J. Somasundaram, and Mrs. J. M. Sabaratnam paid tributes to the deceased. The remains were interred at the St John's Church Graveyard, Chundikuli.

## Prof. George D. Somasundaram

We regret to record the death recently of Prof. George Somasundaram who for the last few years was living with his two daughters in New Zealand.

Prof. Somasundaram is the eldest son of the late Canon S. S. Somasundaram and Mrs. Somasundaram of Nallur. He was educated at St. John's College and passed with a brilliant degree in Engineering from the Ceylon Technical College. Besides his degree in Engineering, he also obtained the B. Sc. general degree and B. Sc. Special degree in Maths; A. C. G. I.; C. Eng.; F. I. E. E. (Lond.); F. I. Mech. E. (Lond.); and F. I. E. (Sri Lanka). He was Professor of Engineering at the University of Ceylon until his retirement, after which he was the Founder Director of the Jaffna College Institute of Technology at Vaddukoddai. He served in this capacity for several years, laying the foundations for that Institute

and establishing high standards for the Diploma of the Institute. He married Ruby Ankettill, who survives him and leaves behind three daughters: Mrs. Karunai Jeavaratnam, Mrs. Tisanayagam, and Mrs. Ratnesar.

## Lilly Alagamalar Williams

The death occurred in Vaddukoddai of Mrs. Lilly Alagamalar Williams on the 29th of January 1993. The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. A. A. Paul on 30th January 1993 and the remains interred at the Vaddukoddai Cemetery. Mr. G. Rajanayagam, Vice-Principal of Jaffna College paid a tribute.

She was the wife of the late Mr. L. S. Williams, a former Chemistry Teacher of Jaffna College. She was the mother of Indrani, Soundrani and Vimalarani and mother-in-law of Mr. K. Jeyarajah, late Dr. D. M. Jesuthasan and Mr. R. F. Selvarajah. She leaves behind grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. She was also a grand-daughter of the late Rev. B. H. Rice, the first national Pastor of Vaddukoddai and daughter-in-law of the late Rev. E. T. Williams.

## Alfred S. Bonney

The death occurred in Australia of Alfred S. Bonney on 1st January 1993. A Praise Service was held at Wellawatte Methodist Church on 5.1.1993. He was an old boy of Jaffna College and a graduate of the Ceylon University, Peradeniya; was a successful Chemist both in Sri Lanka and in Australia.

He leaves behind his wife Priya (nee Mendis) and two daughters Franthi and Mihiri. He was a brother of The Rev. Mrs. Angela Tamaiyappa and a cousin of The Rev. Anthony A. Paul, both Workers in the J. D. C. S. I.

## In loving memory of



JOSEPHINE  
GUNAPUSHANAM VARNAN

Called to rest on 21-09-92  
"Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace."

Fondly remembered and sadly missed by her ever-loving husband Alex and loved ones.

"Braemar"  
966, Sri Jayanthi Mawatha  
Hunupitiya  
Wattala