

News and Articles in  
Tamil and English  
Please send them to:

# THE MORNING STAR

Registered as a Newspaper at the General Post Office, Sri Lanka  
under No. Q / J / 104 / News / 89

Established: 1841: A Christian Weekly: Published Every Friday

Vol - 154 Jaffna, Friday 02, 09 July 1993 No: 08, 09

RIGHTOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE

**THE EDITOR,**  
The Morning Star,  
Diocesan office,  
Vaddukodai

Subscription  
Island: Rs. 100/4  
For Advertisements  
Apply to:  
**THE MANAGER**  
The Morning Star,  
Diocesan office,  
Vaddukodai

## The Jaffna Diocese Welcome the New Bishop

Soon after the installation service the new Bishop and his wife - the Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan and Mrs. Vimala Jebanesan were conducted in a procession with Melum and Nathaswaram to the Quadrangle of Jaffna College where the felicitation function took place. The Bishop and Amma were garlanded by all Churches and well-wishers on the way. The evening function was presided over by the retired Bishop the Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar. The function started with a prayer followed by a welcome dance by Jaffna College students. Miss C. V. Selliah speaking first said that she is happy to welcome the new Bishop on behalf of all and that she hoped the new Bishop would continue the good work of his predecessor as he is a well learned and God fearing man.

His Lordship the Rt. Rev. Thomas Sauntharanayagam, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Jaffna speaking next said, A Bishop is appointed by God, and he should be able to shepherd the people and be involved in priestly mission and social work. God through Jeremiah said 'I will give you a shepherd according to the desire of my heart.' The Bishop therefore must be learned and holy - the Bishop is a man of God. The Roman Catholic Cough and J. D. C. S. I. have very cordial relationship for the last seven years. Bishop Jebanesan served as a teacher in a Catholic school in Kandy and then taught Christianity to many Catholic students in the University. He is therefore, one who knows the minds of Catholic students. We therefore trust that Bishop Jebanesan will work towards ecumenism among Christians in Asia and we will give him all our assistance in this respect."

Mr. Manickawasagar, G. A., Jaffna speaking next said that the consperation of Bishop Jebanesan in Madras proves that he is called to serve in a society of controversies and conflicts. To serve mankind is to serve God; the Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan comes from a family committed to God's work; is a man of very high educational achievements; is a good speaker and a lover of books and therefore it is our belief that tenure

of his bishopric would be a blessing to our society.'

Ilamparithy speaking next said he believed that the strong will educational achievements and stirring efforts of the new Bishop would be made available for the upliftment of people.

Dr. T. W. Jeyakumarajah, President of Jaffna Christian Union then spoke. He said today is a very happy day in the history of the C. S. I. The well composed stature of our new Bishop is an indication of his deep seated love for fellow human beings. It is my hope that he would employ his education, knowledge and piety for the liberation of the oppressed and downtrodden. "There are many people who do not want to get involved in solving the problem of the people" he lamented. "But it is the duty of the Church to voice for the oppressed; men should fight for justice" he pointed out. He also said that the Church Union in South India on September 27th, 1947 was a blessing from God; it was his hope as the President of the J. C. U. that Christians in Sri Lanka will also unite.

Prof. K. Sivathamby of the the University of Jaffna then spoke. He said that the Protestant missionaries were involved in education, women education and modernization. They also brought about a close link between Tamilnadu and Jaffna. He also said that late Bishop Kulandran was well known among International Christian Community. Bishop Ambalavanar expanded the territory of C. S. I. outside the Peninsula; he made the voice of Tamils in Jaffna heard all over the world. The challenge the new Bishop faces is to win our rights of the Tamils. "What is the message of Christ under the present context? He queried.

The Rev. A. Jeyakumaran speaking next said that the Bishop Jebanesan is a disciple of late Bishop Kulandran and properly moulded, by Bishop Ambalavanar and therefore all are very happy to welcome him as our new Bishop.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan in his reply said "when Jonah was asked, who are you? where are you coming from? he replied 'I am a Hebrew; I fear the lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.' The fear of the

Lord is therefore very important for the pious life of Priest. He promised that he would steer the Church according to the Puritanic traditions of the American missionaries who brought Christianity to this island.

Mr Rajan Kadrigamar proposing the vote of thanks on behalf of the organizers of the function said the he was very happy that he appointed the Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan as a teacher of Jaffna College, when he was the Principal. This appointment, he said was very crucial in the life of our new Bishop because, otherwise we may have lost a very good Bishop.

A fellowship dinner followed the public function.

### The Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan Installed as The 3rd Bishop in Jaffna

The Cathedral Church, Vaddukodai was fully packed with Christians from all over Jaffna and well-wishers to see the installation of the Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan as the 3rd Bishop in Jaffna of the Church of South India on 12th June 1993 at 3.00 p. m.

The new Bishop came in a procession with the clergy of the C. S. I. as the choir sang

போற்றிடு ஆன்மமே சிருஷ்டி கந்தராவம் வல்லோரை

The new Bishop was then received by the Cathedral Priest the Rev. A. A. Paul at the entrance to the Church. He was then conducted to the altar and installed as 3rd Bishop in Jaffna by the three installing Presbyters, the Revs. D. R. Ambalavanar, A. Jeyakumar and A. A. Paul. Mr. G. Rajanayagam, the Lay Secretary handed over the constitution of the C. S. I. and on behalf of all members of the Church of the Jaffna Diocesan Council pledged respect and obey the new Bishop and presented him a ring as a token of authority.

The representatives of Presbyters, Deacons, women workers and other lay workers then said they all accepted the Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan as duly consecrated and installed Bishop of the I. D., C. S. I. and pledged their fullest cooperation.

The installed Bishop then stood up and said he renewed on that day his promises to

Fulfill his ministry.

The new Bishop preached a sermon on "Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses....." (Heb 12:1)

Mrs. Jeeva Ratnasabapathy chanted Litany. The retired Bishop the Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar was the chief celebrant of the Holy Eucharist service which followed. The service ended with pronouncement of benediction by the new Bishop.

### PROF. C. J. ELIEZER REACHES 75

Prof. C. Jeyaratnam Eliezer the eminent Mathematician reached his 75th Birthday on the 12th of June 1993.

His family and a host of friends celebrated the occasion at his home in Melbourne.

Prof. Eliezer hails from Varany, one of the earliest American Mission Centres in Jaffna. His father Mr. J. R. Eliezer was a respected Medical Practitioner having been an Apothecary in Government Service. Prof. Eliezer is one of the proud products of Hartley College, Point Pedro. After obtaining a first class honours degree in Mathematics of the London University from the University College, Colombo, he proceeded to Cambridge University winning a scholarship. At Cambridge he was a Senior Wrangler and also obtained his Ph. D. He was from 1943 Lecturer at the Ceylon University ending up as Professor of Mathematics at the University. He obtained his D. Sc. of the London University in 1949. In last years he was Professor of Mathematics in the University of Malaysia and then at the La Trobe University in Australia.

A few years ago the Jaffna University conferred a Doctorate on Prof. Eliezer.

In Ceylon he was an active supporter of the Student Christian Movement and an eminent lay leader of the Methodist Church. He with his wife Raneec (nee Handy) has continued their active involvement in the Church both in Malaysia and Australia. In Australia from 1983 Prof. Eliezer has been President of the Australian Federation of Tamils and both he and his wife have advocated the cause of the Tamils of Ceylon in their liberation struggle.

We wish the Professor many more years of happiness and opportunities for service.



## THE SERMAN OF THE REV. S. S. ARULAMPALAM

We are gathered here this evening to celebrate an event that has the greatest significance to Christians and to the people of Jaffna both in Sri Lanka and abroad. The event that I refer to is the consecration of the Revd Dr. S. Jebanesan as the third Bishop of the Jaffna Diocese of the C. S. I. And so we rejoice along with the Subramaniam family at the elevation of Revd Jebanesan to the high office of the Bishop in Jaffna. The fact that the consecration could not be held in Jaffna but had to be shifted to St George's Cathedral, Madras, says something about the context in which the New Bishop is being installed. It says to us that the people in Jaffna do not even have the basic freedom to have their leader acknowledged and installed in their midst.

We who are gathered here, are here, not because we happen to be friends or relatives of Shantha Jeganathan. We are here, because what is happening to Revd. Jebanesan today and to the Jaffna Diocese, is of utmost importance to Jaffna Tamils all over the World. I say this because over the years, the C. S. I. Church has had a great impact on the lives of the people in Jaffna. The C. S. I. Church which was formerly known as the American Ceylon Mission, did a great deal of pioneering work in the education of women, the training of medical personnel, the establishment of schools, hospitals and the printing press. The Morning Star, which is one of the earliest newspapers to be published in Ceylon is well known even today, for its prophetic stance on several national issues. However, the greatest contribution the church made to Jaffna, has been in fostering a spirit of independence and national pride among the Tamils. Not only has the church been able to make a great contribution in different areas of life, it has also been able to give some sense of direction to that society. We are therefore grateful to this church and are watching with keen interest, the developments that are taking place within this church. For what happens in the Jaffna Diocese of the C. S. I. has its repercussions on the people of Jaffna.

When a Bishop gets installed there are a few questions that may pass through our minds. One, what is the role of a Bishop? Two, does this Bishop have the gifts necessary for his task? And thirdly, what can we expect from him? To answer the question what is the role of the Bishop, one needs to look at the New Testament, where this term was used for a particular office in the Church. The Greek word for Bishop, is "Episkopous".

The word is used only five times, in the New Testament. And it was used in two distinct sense. The most common understanding of the word episkopous, was "overseer". The early Church had its Presbyters and Deacons, who ministered to people in varying need. In addition to the two known ministries in the Church, there was also the ministry of the Bishop or the overseer, to supervise and administer the church in a particular region. The word episkopous also conveyed another meaning in the New Testament. We have a glimpse of this second meaning, through the song of Zechariah, in the gospel of Luke. The opening words of the Benedictus or the song of Zechariah are: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed His people". The Greek word "visited" in this context, is closely related to the Greek word episkopous in the New Testament however the scope of the word visited, is much wider than that of the word overseer, while the responsibility of an overseer is confined to a particular Christian community, that of the word visitation is extended to a whole nation. And so as we reflect upon the role of the past two Bishops, we realise that though Bishop Kulandran and Bishop Ambalavanar carried out their task as overseers of the Church, yet their special contribution was seen, in demonstrating to a whole Nation, God's concern over everyone. Therefore both Bishops were seen as religious leaders of their Church as well as outstanding statesmen of their community.

We said earlier, that one of the thoughts that may pass through our minds at this time, could be whether the new Bishop is capable enough, to take on the task. Whenever a new leader emerges in any community there is always a sense of reserve and scepticism about that person's capabilities. People also tend to make comparisons to earlier leaders. Revd. Jebanesan is very different to Bishop Ambalavanar, in the same manner that Bishop Ambalavanar was to Bishop Kulandran. And that does not mean that Revd. Jebanesan does not possess the gifts to be a capable Bishop, because God chooses people with different gifts and capabilities, for different tasks. When God chose Bishop Kulandran in the forties, He chose one who would be capable of meeting the challenges of that particular time in History. The people in the forties were experiencing a new state of freedom, with the Independence of their country, from the colonial rule. The

people were also experiencing a new sense of identity as a nation. And so God raised Bishop Kulandran as the first national leader, to guide the people, in that context. Bishop Kulandran played quite a significant role in the process of liberation - a role very similar to that of Moses in the Old Testament. God then raised Bishop Ambalavanar, whose gifts and talents were, in an entirely different area altogether. From the time Bishop Ambalavanar assumed office, the oppression of the Sinhala government, became more and more pronounced in the Church and community. Instead of being content to stay within the space assigned to the Church and the community by the powers that be, Bishop Ambalavanar began to fight a series of battles, like Joshua of old, and kept on marching forward. He helped people to catch a vision of the promised land, and laboured hard, to achieve those objectives. His special contribution to the Jaffna society, could be summed up in his own words, which he uttered at the last Diocesan Council. He said, "We learnt how to ride the storms, and the art of turning adversity into an opportunity, for mission and service" and so we see, that God had endowed his leaders with different gifts, to meet the challenges of their times.

Bishop Jebanesan is of a different calibre altogether, from his predecessors. And so are his gifts. I have known him from his student days. He is a man of few words, quite unlike the rest of the family. He takes pride in the rich heritage that we have received, from our ancestors and our missionaries of a bygone era. Bishop Jebanesan's doctoral dissertation on the Batticotta seminary, makes us all proud of our past. In the words of Professor Etiezar, "Jebanesan gives us, who have been displaced since July 1983, a sense of history, identity and solidarity, for which we are truly grateful." Above all, Jebanesan has the reputation of being a very wise man. Wise, not because he is a scholar, but because he fulfills the requirement mentioned in the Bible, for one to be wise. The Bible says that the fear of the Lord, is the beginning of wisdom. Jebanesan has the fear of the Lord to a very high degree, which makes people seek him, for advice on important matters. And I have heard that everytime a major decision had to be made in the Subramaniam family, they would always wait upon his direction and advice.

I have been comparing our former Bishops to some leaders of the people of Israel. Now

I would like to do the same with Bishop Jebanesan. Bishop Jebanesan could very well be compared to King Solomon in the Bible. We read that King Solomon was a man of great wisdom, who was able to discern what was right in a very difficult situation, which we heard a while ago. And I believe it is this spirit of discernment, that Bishop Jebanesan brings, as his special gift to his people. The Tamil church and the people in Jaffna are now living in a state of confusion and anxiety, for they are not certain whether the present struggle for freedom, would ever bear fruit at all. In such a state of confusion and anxiety, what are our hopes and dreams for tomorrow? Our hopes and our visions may be similar, to what any oppressed community could have. When Bishop Desmond Tutu was once asked about the South African situation, he said: "I have no doubt that we will free. I may not be around to see it, nor will it come easily, but it is inevitable. It will come".

The hope that Desmond Tutu expressed, are the hopes that we as a Tamil community entertain about our future, and I believe that the expectation that we may have about Bishop Jebanesan on this occasion, could be similar to what the people of Israel have had about King Solomon at his coronation after a very spectacular leadership under King David. Solomon succeeded his father at a very tender age. However, Solomon's contribution to his people was very much greater than his father's for it was a lasting one. For it was under King Solomon, that the Temple of Jerusalem was built, a building which has always helped the Israel to come together as a nation. In a similar way, our hopes are that Bishop Jebanesan will be able to draw Tamils from all over to a rallying point in our country and create a focus that would command our loyalty and our commitment, as the Temple of Jerusalem did for the people of Israel.

Our prayers are with Bishop Jebanesan, the C. S. I. Church and the people of Jaffna on this happy occasion. And we look forward with a lot of hope upon the leader whom God has given us today and also upon the God who has been our strength and our shield in the past. We would therefore want to state along with St. Paul, our conviction that "God by means His Power, working in us, is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for or think of."

Amen.









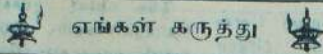


தாரகை ஓளி

எவது சாட்சி சின்னத்தை

மீடல் மனிதனுடைய நலங்கள் ஆள்வரால் உறுதிப்படும்,  
 உலகம் வழியின் மேல் அவர் பிரியமாபிடுகிறார் \*\*

- சந்திரம் 37 : 23



எங்கள் கருத்து

அகலமும் ஆழமும்

உழைத் தொழிலின் சிறப்பைத் தமிழ் மக்கள், அன்றுட்டுவால் இன்றும் உயர்வாகவே போற்றி வருகின்றனர். இன்றைய காலக்கட்டத்தில் நம் உழவுப் பெருமக்கள் அல்லும் பகலும் அனலரதமும், அயராது கஷ்டப்பட்டு உழைத்து வருவதை நாம் காண்கிறோம். இவர்களை நம் தமிழகத்திற்கு அச்சாணி போலவர்கள் என்பது மிகையாகாது.

உழவரைச் சிறப்பித்துப் பாடிய நம் வள்ளுவப் பெருந்தகை போர்க்கூத்து வீரரை, 'வில்லேருழவர்' என்றும், புலவர்களைச் 'சொல்லேருழவர்' என்றும் கூறுகிறார். இதன் நோக்கம்? - நாடு வளம் பெற உழவர் செய்யும் பெரும் பணிபோன்றதே. இவர்களது பணி எனவே, உழவரைப் போன்று இவர்களும் நாட்டின் நலனையே தம் குறிக்கோளாகக் கொண்டு எவ்வித எதிர்ப்பையும் பொருட்படுத்தாமல் அஞ்சாநெஞ்சுடன் உழைக்க வேண்டுமென்பதை வள்ளுவனாரின் உள்நோக்கம்.

வள்ளுவப் பெருந்தகை மற்றத் தொழில்களையும் உள்வரென்றும் அவை கொண்டு அளந்து பார்க்கும் மனப்பான்மையுடையவர். தனதையே நாம் இயேசு பெருமானின் காண்கிறோம். அருட்செய்யை அறிவிக்கும் பணியில் ஈடுபடுவோர் கடவுளின் சொல்லைப் பாரெங்கும் விதைக்க அழைக்கப்பட்டவர்களே. இவர்கள் 'சொல்லேருழவர்களும்' புலவர்களைப் போன்று தாம் செய்யும் பணி இறைபணியென்ற உணர்வுடன் பணியாற்ற வேண்டுமென்பதே எம்பெருமானின் நிருவளம்.

'அகல உழவதை விட, ஆழ உழவது நல்லது' - என்பது உழவதொழில் சார்ந்த பழமொழி. இதனை நம் அருட்பணியாளர் கவனிக்கவேண்டும். முதற்கட்டத்தில், அகல உழவது நல்லது. இது தேவை. பணிகளத்தின் தன்மையை அறிவதற்கு இது உதவும். இதன்பின் ஆழமாக உழவது அவசியம்.

ஆழ உழவதால், பயிர்கள் நன்றாக வேருன்றி வளரவும், நிலத்தின் சக்திகளை நன்கு பெற்றுச் செழித்தோங்கவும் முடியும். அகலப்போன்றே, நமது ஆதீனத்தின் அருட்பணிகளின் பவரிடங்களில் பரவலாக நடைபெறுகிறது. இவற்றை உறுதிப்படுத்த ஆழமாக உழவு, வேண்டிய உயிர்ச்சத்தை ஊட்டுவது நமது கடமை. இப்பணியை நம் திருப்பணியாளர்கள் - மெய்வகுத்தம் பாராமல், பரிநோக்காமல் கண்ட அஞ்சாமல், எவர் தீமையை மீறக்கொள்ளாமல், அருமையம் பாராமல் அமதிப்புக்கொள்ளாமல் தம் சுருமத்திலேயே கண்ணாயிருந்து, அல்லும்பகலும் அயராது உழைக்க வேண்டும். இதனையே ஆண்டவர் தம்மிடம் எதிர்பார்க்கின்றார்.

நீதி தேடும்... (1 இன் தொடர்ச்சி)

வேண்டும். அரைகுறையான மனம் இருக்குமெனில் நாம் முழுமையாகச் செயல்படமுடியாது. இந்த நிலையில் நீதி, நியாயம் பெறக்கொடுக்கும்.

எனவே கடவுளின் பிள்ளைகளான நாம் இக்கொரு குழல் களில் வாழ்கின்றோம். ஏழைகள் பணக்காரனைவரோ, சாதி, மத பேதம் பாராமலோ ஒடுக்கப்படும் ஏழைகளுக்கு உரிமைக் குரல் கொடுத்து அடக்குகிறவர்கள் நல்லமதிப்படுத்த வழிகுப்போம். எமது சொல், செயல், சிந்தனை ஒவ்வொன்றிலும் நீதியை உயர்ந்த நுதியைப் போலவும் நியாயத்தை தன்னார்வப் போலவும் புரண்டு வரச் செய்து இறைமக்களுக்கு வாழ்வில் இறைவனை அழிப்போம். ஆமோசை அழைத்து ஆண்டவர் நாமும் சற்று எதிர்பாராத வகையில் தனது பிள்ளைகளை எம்மை அழைத்துள்ளார் பெரிய பொறுப்பை எம்க்குத் தந்துள்ளார். எமது பணி ஆண்டவருக்குப் பணி செய்து கிடப்பதே எனவே அவருக்குப் பிரியமான காரியங்களை மட்டும் செய்து கொண்டு, பரிசுத்த

ஆவியானவரின் துணை கொண்டு நியாயத்தை, நீதியை நிலைநாட்டுவோம். எதற்கும் அஞ்சாது செயற்பட்ட ஆமோசைப் போல் செயற்பட்டு ஆண்டவரின் சாட்சியாக வாழ்வோம்.

இந்த வேளையில் இந்த சவால் நமக்குத் தரப்படுகிறது.

"வெறும் சடங்காச்சாரங்கள் அல்ல, வாழ்வே இறைவனுக்குத் தேவை என ஆமோசை மூலம் அறிகிற நாமும் ஆமோசைபோல முற்று முழுதாக செயற்பட ஆயத்தமா?"

'சுவாலை ஏற்போம்! சிந்திப்போம்!! செயற்படுவோம்!!!'

ஆமென்.  
 சிந்தனைக்கு: - மனுஷனை நன்மை இன்னதென்று அவர் உனக்கு அறிவித்திருக்கிறார். நியாயஞ் செய்து, இரக்கத்தை சினேகித்து, உள்தேவனுக்கு முன்பாக மனத்தாய்மையாய் நடப்பதையல்லாமல் வேறு என்னத்தைக் கர்த்தர் உன்னிடம் கேட்கிறார்?"

மீகா 6:8.  
 எழுதியது: - பாலநிக்கம் தேவதாஸ் கிறிஸ்தவ இறையியல் கல்லூரி இரண்டாம் வருடம் கன்னடம்

1918-ம் ஆண்டு ஆகஸ்ட் மாதம் 18-ம் திகதி யாழ்ப்பாணத்திலுள்ள நவாவி என்னும் சிறு நிராமத்தில் ஒரு சாதாரண கிறிஸ்தவ குடும்பத்தில் ஓர் ஆண் குழந்தை பிறந்தது. அந்தப் பிள்ளையின் உச்சத்தலையில் ஒன்றரை அங்குல நீளமுள்ள கொம்பு போன்ற ஒரு வஸ்து இருந்தது. இது பார்ப்பவர்களுக்கு வேர்ப்போலும், அதிசயமுமாக இருந்தது. பெற்றோருக்குத் துக்கமுமாக இருந்தது அதை ஆயுத சிசுச்சை மூலம் வெட்டிவிடுவதற்கு வைத்தியரும் பயந்தனர். இப்படிப்பட்ட தருணத்தில் அக்கிராம கிறிஸ்தவ சபையின் குருவாகக் கடமையாற்றிவந்த கனம் ஹிசுக்கோக் போதகர் அந்தக் குடும்பத்தவர்களைச் சந்தித்து செபித்தும், ஆலேசனை சொல்லியும் வந்தார். கடைசியாக அக்காலத்தில் விசேஷித்திருந்த அமெரிக்க மிஷன் வைத்தியசாலையில் அதற்குச் சந்திர சிசுச்சை செய்யவேண்டும் என்று போதகரும், பெற்றோரும் தீர்மானித்தனர். குறித்த நாளுக்கு முந்திய இரவு பெற்றோரும், போதகரும் ஊக்கமாகச் செபித்தனர். அதிகாலையில் தாயார் பிள்ளையைக் குளிப்பாட்டி புறப்பட்டார்கள். வண்டி ஆயத்தமாக இருந்தது போதகரும் வந்தார். தாயார் பிள்ளையைத் தூக்கினார்கள் தலையில் இருந்த கொம்பைக் காணவில்லை ஆச்சரியமும் ஆனந்தமும் நிறைய யேசுவே என்று கத்தினார்கள். யேசு கவாமி அற்புதர் என்று எல்லாரும் அவரை ஸ்தோத்திரித்தனர். அந்தக் குழந்தைக்கு ஞானஸ்தானம் கொடுத்த போதகர் இவனுக்கு யேசு, சகாயம் செய்தனரானமையால் யேசு சகாயம் என்று பெயரிட்டனர். இந்த யேசு சகாயமே இன்று இச்சாட்சியை எழுதுகிறவன். இவ்வற்புத்ததை நினைவூட்ட அந்தக் கொம்பிற்கு உச்சத்தலையில் இன்றுமோர் சிறு துவாரமுண்டு. என்னை ஒரு களிச்சேஷ்கனாக்க வேண்டுமென்ற விருப்பம் இன் பெற்றோருக்கு அதிகமாக இருந்தது. இதனால் 20-ம் வயதில் சென்னையிலிருந்து மெதடிஸ்த வேத சாஸ்திர கலாசாலையை அனுப்பி வைத்தனர். மகாசனம் செல்வின் அத்தியட்சகரின் ஞானப் புதல்வனும் பிராமண குலத்திலிருந்து கிறிஸ்தவனானமையால் பெரும் துன்பம் அடைந்து கிறிஸ்துவின் வல்லமையான சாட்சியுமாக விளங்கிய போல் கனம், இராமவேலுஷன் ஐயரின் தலைமையின் கீழ் மிக மறை கற்கக் கிடைத்தது தகாபாக்கியமே எனினும் சிருஷ்டிப்பு முதலியவற்றைப்பற்றிய கருவான வரலாறுகளும், காத்திராப்பிரகாரமாக எனது 13 வயதுடைய ஒரு சகோதரியின் சகுதி மரணமும், எங்களுக்கு கிறிஸ்து பெருமான் வாழ்க்கை என்னும் பாடத்தில் பிரச்சாரணம் செய்ய, வகுப்புக்கு வந்த மிஷனரி குருவானவர் 5 நிமிஷம் பிந்திவந்தமைக்காக ஒரு நிச்சேக்காரனை தனது சப்பாத்துக்காலால், நையப்புடைத்த காட்சியும் எனது மார்க்க சீவியத்தைப்பற்றியும் ஊழியத்தைப்பற்றியும் பெரும் பிரச்சனைகளை உண்டுபண்ணின. அந்த நாளில் எனது ஆசிரியராய் இருந்த காலம் சென்ற கனம். இராமவேலுஷன் ஐயருடைய சபையும் ஆலோசனையும் என்னைத் தாங்கி கிறிஸ்துவின் அன்புக்கும், ஆழமைக்கும் வழிநடத்தியது. இப்பிரச்சனை

களின் நிவர்த்தி, கடவுளுடைய கையிலிருந்து தப்பி ஒருவதில் அல்ல அவருடைய கரம் நமக்குள் சரண்புதயதாலேயேயுடும் என்ற பேருண்மைக்கு வழிநடத்தப்பட்டேன். இரண்டு வருடங்களாக வேத சாஸ்திரக் கலாசாலையை படிப்பு இன்பமாக இருந்தது. கலாசாலையில் இருக்கும்போதே எனது தாய்ச்சபையாகிய தென்னிந்திய சபையின் ஓர் ஊழியக்காரனாக ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளப்பட்டேன். வினைப்பித்தேன். மிகுந்த பிரயாசத்துடன் 4 வருடங்களுக்கு மாதிரி ஒரு சிறு சபையின் ஊழியக்காரனாக நியமிக்கப்பட்டேன் இந்தச் செய்தி சென்னையில் இடக்கும்போதே கிடைத்தது. மிகுந்த சந்தோஷமும் சபை ஊழியத்தில் வல்லமையாக உபயோகிக்கப்பட்ட வேண்டுமென்ற செபமும் வாஞ்சையும் அதிகமாக என் உள்ளத்தை ஆட்கொண்டிருந்தது. வேத சாஸ்திரப் படிப்பு முடிந்ததும் நானும் எனது நண்பர் ஒருவருமாக இன்டோ-சிவோன் எக்ஸ்பிரிசில் சென்னையிலிருந்து புறப்பட்டோம். நடு இராத்திரி வண்டி ஓர் ஸ்தானத்தில் நின்று. அந்த ஸ்தானத்தில் அரை மணி நேரம் வண்டி நிற்முடியும் வண்டியிலிருந்தவர்கள் பேசிக்கொண்டார்கள். இதனால் நானும் எனது நண்பரும் அண்மையிலுள்ள காப்பிக்கடையில் காப்பி குடிக்கலாமென்று போனோம். காப்பி குடித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போதே வண்டியும் புறப்பட்டது. வேகமாக ஓடிவந்தோம் நாங்கள் இருந்த வண்டிமுன்னே போய்விட்டது. பூட்டப்பட்டிருந்த ஒரு சாமான் பெட்டியின் கைப்படியில் எட்டிப்பிடித்தேன் மற்றக்கையால் எனது நண்பனைப் பிடித்தேன். ஒரு கால் வைப்பதற்குமட்டும் ஒரு சிறு ஏது கிடைத்தது. மிகவும் பயங்கரமான நிலையில் வண்டி மிக வேகமாகப் போய்க்கொண்டிருந்தது. நடு இராத்திரியானதால் எங்களை எவராவது காணவும்முடியாதிருந்தது. என் நண்பர் பயந்து சோர்ந்து போனார். 'நான் சத்தமாக செபித்துக்கொண்டிருந்தேன். பழைய ஞாபகங்களெல்லாம் ஒன்றன்பின் ஒன்றாக வந்துகொண்டிருந்தன. அழுது செபித்தேன். என் பெரும்குன்றிவிட்டது. கையைவிட்டுக் கீழே குதிக்கலாமென்றென்று அது மிகவும் ஆபத்தானதென்று உணர்ந்தேன். மறுபடியும் என் தாயின் கர்ப்பத்தில் உற்பவித்தது முதல் இதுமட்டும் எனக்குச் சகாயராய் இருந்த அற்புதர் யேசுவே. இந்தப் பயங்கரமான ஆபத்திலிருந்து அற்புதமாகக்காக்கப்பட்டால் இன்றைக்கே என் சீரம் இந்தப் புகைவண்டியின் ஆபத்தினால் முற்றாகச் சின்னாபின்னமாகப்பட்டேன் அழிந்துவிட்டதென்று என்னைக் கொண்டு, என் சொந்தச் சந்தனோஷத்துக்குரியவைகளை நாடாமல் உம்முடைய அற்புத சகாயத்தின் சாட்சியாக உழைப்பேன். பாலியாகிய எனக்கு இரங்குமென்று மிகுந்த சக்தியைக் கொடுத்தேன். உடனே வண்டி மெதுவாக நின்றது. நாங்கள் இருவரும் கீழே இறங்கி மெதுவாக நடந்து எங்கள் வண்டியில் ஏறினோம். மறுபடியும் வண்டி புறப்பட்டது வண்டியில் இருந்தவர்கள் இரண்டு பக்கங்களிலும் எட்டிப்பார்த்து இந்த வண்டி ஏன் இவ்வீடத்தில் நின்றுள்ளது என்று ஒருவரோடு ஒருவர் பேசிக்கொண்டார்கள். நான் அவர் (தொடரும்)



✻ EDITORIAL ✻

## HAVE THEY ALL GONE NEVER TO RETURN!

One day, I was going through some old albums. There were many faces known to me; some very close relatives, some distant; there were classmates and friends; there were also many with whom I had faint acquaintance. Where are they all! I wondered. Some of course have passed beyond the veil. If we are to see them again we will have to wait for our turn, I thought.

I started to think of many others whom I have not seen or heard of for quite some time. I started to think of my school days. How memorable they were! The boarding days at school can never be forgotten. That was the best period in our lives. Will we ever get a chance to live that life again or will I at least get a chance to meet my school buddies and talk of our school days? - I mused.

One day when I visited my former Principal, I had a chance of going through his album. There I could recognize many faces - they were my cousins, relations, friends and classmates - all living in U. S. A., Canada or in Australia. At least I was able to see them all and their children many grown up and not known to me. But then I asked myself, will they come back, will I be able to see them again?

Then I remembered my wife saying that all good (?) people have gone abroad and only we remain here. Like Elijah, I cried unto the Lord, 'Oh Lord only I remain here all others have gone (Elijah please pardon me for misquoting you)! But the Lord said, you are not the only one, there are seven thousand more who remain (1 Ki 19:18). I opened my eyes and saw many who still remain in Sri Lanka at least in Colombo. What a consolation! The Churches which I thought empty were filled with people (of new generation.) People may go, people may come but the Church of God remains here and even grows! What a truth!

Then my mind again ran berserk. Can I see my old friends? Will they come back? Above all why did they all go away? Sri Lanka is a country where the services of intellectuals are needed most. We need doctors to treat the patients who live (or die!) in despair because of want of medical care; we need engineers to reconstruct the dilapidated buildings and damaged roads and bridges because of the ongoing war! When the war ends (a hope!) we will need architects and city planners to design modern cities. Agriculturalists and farmers are needed to develop the desolate lands so they may blossom again. We also need teachers and priests who would educate and shepherd our people to green pastures and still waters.

But why have all gone when their services are needed most here? What has become of all their education? What have they learnt at Sunday Schools? We say, we have faith; we are committed, and care for others. But then we must show our faith in deeds.

They will come back! Yes that they have not departed but just gone for a while. One day they will come back. At least a remnant of them will return (Is 10:22.) They will come back to serve their people. "Then fear not, O Jacob my servant says the Lord not be dismayed, O Israel, for I will save you from afar, and your offspring from the land of their captivity, Jacob shall return and have quiet and ease, and none shall make him afraid." (Jer 30:10)

Have they all gone never return? No! One day they will return.

### THE SCUDDERS

The Jaffna Diocese is now celebrating the 200th birth anniversary of Dr. John Scudder who came to Jaffna on 17th Dec, 1819 and made it the field for the World's first Medical Mission. He established a dispensary at Pandaterrupu in June 1820 which is now the parsonage and has a plaque erected in his memory.

Dr. John Scudder was the second son of a wealthy lawyer and was a brilliant young doctor. A tract entitled "The Conversion of the world or claim-

of six hundred millions" put out by another famous missionary William Carey of Serampore College, Calcutta, captured the heart of Dr. Scudder. He and his wife decided to accept the call of the Great Physician.

He was not only a good doctor but was an evangelist as well. He and his wife faced many trials. They lost three children within eighteen months. But nothing overwhelmed or daunted the spirit of Dr. and Mrs. Scudder. Their motto was "Prayer and pains through faith in Jesus Christ will do any-

### Capping Ceremony - Willis Pierce School of Nursing Green Memorial Hospital, Manipal

An impressive Capping Ceremony was held in Green Memorial Hospital on Wednesday 30th June 1993 at 4 p.m. This ceremony has been resumed after a lapse of a few years after reviving the regular Nursing Course.

The ceremony began with the nurses to be capped followed by the Nursing Staff walking up the aisle of the Nursing School Hall, to the singing of a lyric. The candidates took up their position in front of one of them as the leader. Rev. A. Jeyakumaran then read a bible lesson and led in prayer. Dr. Mrs. Ambalavanar, the Medical Superintendent and Principal of the School of Nursing then lit the small oil lamp in front of a photograph of Florence Nightingale, the Founder of Modern Nursing. The candidates then paid their respects to Florence Nightingale.

The big oil lamp was lit by the Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar, Members of the Medical Board; the chief guest Mr. M. Canagaratnam - Special Grade Matron of Government Hospital, Jaffna, and lastly by the candidates themselves.

The candidates one by one went forward and had their caps pinned on by Dr. Mrs. Ambalavanar as they knelt down. They were also given a small

thing". In 1836 Dr. Scudder moved to S. India and the N. Arcot district where he continued to work founding the Arcot Mission. It is there that his granddaughter late Dr. Ida S. Scudder founded the Christian Medical College and Hospital at Vellore.

Those of us who had the privilege to know and be with aunt Ida as she was popularly known could see in her the great love the Scudder's had for their Master and their complete obedience to his call. And so their dedication and the love and compassion they had for the "Six Hundred Millions" of Asia was unique.

Aunt Ida when she was young loved life, had a number of friends and many offers of marriage. She had sworn not to be a missionary and take after her parents and grand parents. But while on a visit to Vellore to look her sick mother God's call came to her to be a medical missionary and much against her wish she yielded. She returned to America and to Medical College. She gave up a comfortable and a high society life and marriage to be a missionary doctor. Having put her hands to the plough, she never looked back. Today the Christian

oil lamp already lit. As they stood around the picture of Florence Nightingale they repeated their Oath.

The chief guest Mr. M. Canagaratnam spoke a few words congratulating the candidates and reminding them of their responsibilities. Dr. Mrs. Ambalavanar then spoke saying that this was a memorable day for the institution, that in spite of difficulties and inability to find Sister Tutors the school has persevered and trained these Nurses. She then quoted the advice of Florence Nightingale to her nurses, nursing progressive art and a nurse never stops learning; if a nurse should ever feel that she has learnt everything, then she does not know the meaning of nursing or will never know. Religion and a nurse's own faith contributes immensely to her behaviour, her attitude to patients and colleagues. She also belongs to a hospital team. They have now joined a group of people who have dedicated their time and lives to serve the sick.

The candidates sang a special song after which Miss. P. Alaguthurai proposed a vote of thanks and the ceremony ended with benediction.

The Candidates who received their caps are Miss Shanthakumarai Sabaratnam, Shyamalie Singarajah, Mary Metilda Rasiiah, Priya Alaguthurai and Dettilda Rajakulasingam.

Medical College and Hospital stand as a Monument to one woman's vision and complete dedication telling the world how God can use men and woman for the extension of His Kingdom.

This saintly doctor would take chapel prayers when ever she came down to Vellore (Her home in her retirement was Hill Top, Kodai Kanal) She would always speak of Jesus as "My Master." Her favourite bible passage was the "Love Chapter" namely 1 Corinthians 13, and her favourite hymn was "Be thou my vision the Lord of my life." As she stood in front of us she radiated the loving presence of her Master.

The Scudder family has continued to send out missionaries down the years both evangelist as well as doctors. Aunt Ida's niece fondly referred to as Ida B was head of the Radiology Dept. of C. M. C. Vellore. Some have served in Kuwait. There's a Rev. Dr. Lew Scudder serving in the Middle East.

It is no wonder that Dr. Ida Scudder's motto for C. M. C. Vellore was "To minister and not to be ministered unto."

C. AMBALAVANAR