

# THE MORNING STAR

THE EDITOR,

The Morning Star,  
Diocesan office,  
Vaddukoddai.

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:- 155 Jaffna, Friday 07. January 1994 No: 01

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

Subscription

Island : Rs. 100/-

For Advertisements

Apply to:

THE MANAGER

The Morning Star,  
Diocesan office,  
Vaddukoddai

## Home for Senior Citizens

A Home for senior citizens named 'Pleasant Cottage' was declared open in the McLeod Hospital Inuvil premises on Thursday the 7th October 1993 at 4.00 p.m. by the Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan, Bishop in Jaffna. The need for such a Home was felt for the last several years, especially after the exodus of a large number of families

## Christian Home Festival

The Christian Home Week was celebrated by all churches of the J. D., C. S. I. from 17th to 23rd October 1993. The 17th being Christian Home Sunday, an order of service specially prepared, was followed by most churches. The week ended with a special worship service conducted at the Cathedral Church, Vaddukoddai by the Women's Fellowship of the Vaddukoddai Church on Saturday the 24th October, 1993. A special order of service was followed at this service. The service was led by the newly appointed President of the Diocese Women Fellowship Mrs Vimala Jebanesan. The lessons were read by Mrs Vino Paul and Mrs A Vimalendran. Special songs in English and Tamil were sung by the ladies of Manipay and Vaddukoddai Churches respectively. The sermon was delivered by Rev (Mrs) A. R. Tampiyappa worker in charge of Pandateruppu and Manipay churches on St Luke's Gospel 4th chapter 18th verse. The service came to an end with prayer and blessing pronounced by the Rt Rev Dr S Jebanesan. At the end of the service our Bishop addressing the gathering said that he was very happy to see the large numbers present at this service in spite of the rains that is experienced during these days. He mentioned that the women's strength is a powerful one nowadays and women are very sensitive to the needs of the day and are capable of performing great tasks. He looked forward to great achievements by them during his term of office and pledged his wholehearted support towards their programme of work among the suffering people in this part of our country. This was followed by a fellowship tea at the Levi Spaulding Boys Home. Those present were entertained with a video film show of the Installation Service of our new Bishop conducted at the Cathedral church Vaddukoddai.

and children to foreign countries, owing to the ongoing war for the last ten years. Several parents have been left high and dry to fend for themselves and to look after the houses and properties.

In 1990 the Women's Fellowship of our Diocese launched out to establish a Home in Inuvil. They had prepared a blueprint and even selected a site opposite to McLeod Hospital, Inuvil to establish this Home. However, owing to the outbreak of the current war in 1990 this venture had to be given up. The Counselling Programme Committee had to start a home for the elders. The opening of this Home commenced with prayer by Rev Milton Solomon, the Worker in Charge of Inuvil Church. A public meeting followed presided over by Mr. N. A. Vimalendran, the convenor of the Counselling Board. Mr. A. Kadirgamar on behalf of the Medical Board spoke on the circumstances which led to the opening of this Cottage.

He was confident that this venture would be very fruitful and benefit our senior citizens. Mr. N. A. Vimalendran speaking next briefed about the steps taken, and the programme of work in the future. He thanked the Medical Board, the Counselling Committee, and the Hospital staff for their valuable suggestions and cooperation in opening this Home.

Our Bishop speaking next said, that he was very happy to be present at this function and to declare it open. He hoped this venture would develop into a bigger complex in the future where even our own parents and perhaps we ourselves would be able to spend our silver and golden years of our life. He referred to the large number of parents who live alone in Jaffna. They need care and protection. He was sure that this venture would be very useful. In conclusion Mr. Suresh Thampoe thanked everyone present for gracing this occasion with their presence. He thanked everyone who worked hard in establishing this Cottage. The function came to a close with prayers and benediction pronounced by the Bishop. A representative crowd was present at this function which included Mrs. V. Jebanesan, Dr. T. W. J. yakularajah, Dr. Karunakaran, members of the Medical Board, members of the Counselling Programme Committee, members of the Executive

## MANIPAY Y. M. C. A.

The Mills Memorial Library and Reading Centre at Manipay, was declared open, on Sunday, 20th November 1993 (during the Y. M. C. A. Week) at the Y. M. C. A. building at 3.30 p.m. The opening ceremony was done by Rev. Mrs. A. R. Tampiyappa the Pastor in Charge of the C. S. I. Church Manipay, and Vice-Patron of Y. M. C. A. A representative gathering of members of the Y. M. C. A. and well-wishers were present at this function. This was followed by a public meeting held at the premises, presided over by the President Mr. A. Jabaraja. Mr. Jeyaseelan Annappah the Hon. Secretary speaking on the occasion, briefed the history of the Manipay Y. M. C. A. and the various activities performed by them to the community. He referred to the role played by Mills brothers who had been former Presidents of the Y. M. C. A. and the great contribution made by the Mills families to the Y. M. C. A. Rev. Mrs. A. R. Tampiyappa speaking next said that she was very happy to participate and also declare the centre open. She said that reading plays a great role in the building of knowledge. Our youth and children should devote much time in reading English books, magazines and papers. She referred to the contribution made by Mills families to the Manipay Church, Y. M. C. A. and to the general community. At a function held recently in Manipay our new Bishop referred to Mills, Mathers and Arco's families and their contributions to the community. This centre has been established in memory of the first two Presidents of this Y. M. C. A. revived in 1972 Mr. C. T. E. Mills was President from 1972 to 1978. He showed great interest in the Y. M. C. A. and rendered all manner of service to the community. He was very capable of harnessing the service of the youth for Y. M. C. A. work. Mr. J. K. Mills who followed him as President, too showed great interest in development of the Y. M. C. A. He had several plans to expand the work of the Y. M. C. A. by putting up a new

Committee of the Diocese, Hospital staff, presbyters of the Diocese and several well-wishers. Tea was served to all present.

building of its own. Sadly he could not live to see his visions come true due to his premature death. He served as President from September 1978 to November 1979. Mr. Jeyaseelan Annappah in conclusion thanked everyone present on this occasion. He pledged that Y. M. C. A. will continue to serve the community. At the conclusion of the function scholarship awards were distributed for the 2nd batch of eight orphaned children granted by the National Council of Y. M. C. A. for 1993 by Rev. Mrs. A. R. Tampiyappa. The meeting came to an end with prayer and benediction by her.

## 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINATION of Rev. John A. C. Selvaratnam

As we gather to thank God on the 50th anniversary of the ordination of John to the Priesthood, we think of the many gifts God has placed in John and the many ways in which John has exercised them over the years. He is a scholar, an educationist and administrator. In the midst of all this we who know John value him most in the primary function for which he was ordained to be a Priest of God, continually appearing before God with the people in his heart.

In my associations with John I recall two early memories when he was a student in Bishop's College Calcutta. He formed a Prayer fellowship with students in the Divinity School Colombo binding these men who were training to be priests in the Diocese of Colombo together in a fellowship of prayer. A second early memory I carry of John is at a Conference of the Church of Ceylon Youth Movement held in 1945 at the Peradeniya Training College. One evening a participant had fallen ill and John undertook to care for him. That night I was passing through the dormitory fairly late when all were asleep and see John on his knees at the bedside of this sick friend praying for him. This gave us a clear glimpse of the true quality of John. Both these instances were themselves manifestations of a great spiritual experience John had had still earlier.

Round 1938, six young men of S. John's Jaffna got afflicted

(Continued from page 4)



“ கர்த்தருடைய ஆவியானவர் என்மேலிருக்கிறார், தரித்திரருக்கு கவிஷேசத்தை(நற்செய்தி) பிரசங்கிக்கும்படி என்னை அனுப்பினார். இருதயம் நறுங்குண்டவர்களை



எம். எம். ரி. நொட்டிக்கே  
'லீவைஸ்போல்டிங்' ஹோஸ்டல்



## EDITORIAL

## NEW YEAR

We are at the dawn of yet another year. We wish all our friends and relations "Happy New Year." Do we really mean what we say? Do we really wish that New Year should bring happiness prosperity to all mankind?

There is a yearning within us: we want this new year to bring us happiness and prosperity. It is our desire that we should have victory over our enemies; our wealth should increase and we should prosper in everything. There is nothing wrong in oneself desiring happiness all life. But our happiness should not be at the expense of other people.

A decade ago, when the shops and houses in Jaffna were set ablaze by the so called protectors of the laws of the country, I happened to buy a box of matches. This box was branded "Double Happiness." Yes it gives you happiness when you strike the matchstick and the happiness is doubled when you set fire to a poor man's house.

The Barbarians and Vandals who invaded Rome in the 4th & 5th centuries A. D. went round burning and destroying all that was beautiful in Rome. They hated everything Roman, so instead of learning from higher civilization, involved themselves in wanton destruction. All those who desire pleasure by destroying civilization are called "Vandals" and are classified as "barbarians."

Let us resolve this new year not to seek happiness by inflicting pain on others; not even on our enemies. We try to be smart by talking big. We tend to think that our loud mouths will take us far. It is time that such people should realize that what "Supersonics" and "Bukkars" could not achieve, their loud voices also cannot achieve.

The year 1993 ended with destruction and calamity. Thousands were killed by the unwanted war. Many houses and even worship places were brought down by aimless bombing. The year 1993 ended with a sad note for many church goers of Chavakacheheri C. S. I. Church, because their Pastor's wife was killed on the 30th December 1993, when "Bukkara" planes bombed the Church and the Parsonage.

Jesus said "Blessed are the peace makers for such will be called the children of God". Are we the children of God? Then we should make peace and not war. It is only by making others happy we can really be happy. The only way you can make everything happy is by making peace a reality in this country.

People like Hitler and Nero never succeeded. Nero murdered Paul and today people Christen their children "Paul" and name their dogs "Nero". Let us be happy by making others happy. Let our greetings therefore be sincere and earnest. It should come from our hearts and should be shown by our deeds.

Let this New Year be a Happy and Prosperous one to all of you. It is with all sincerity and earnestness we wish you all from the beleaguered city of Jaffna, Peace.

## 50th Anniversary.....

(Continued from page 1)  
with a severe form of typhoid fever. At that time there was no remedy for this illness. Recovery was a matter of chance. These six young men languished in illness for a long spell. I believe two of them died. John and the other four lay ill for several weeks and quietly recovered. Of these four that recovered two came out offering their lives to God in the ordained ministry. They were John and Albert Lewis. It is through the valley of the shadow of death they walked to come out answering God's call to them to be his Priests. I have no doubt that that experience of God's presence with him in

those dark days was what placed an indelible mark on John's life that he carries with him even now.

Whether it be as chaplain in his old school St. John's Jaffna or as teacher at Christ Church College, Kotte or as chaplain to the Planters in the Kelani valley or as pastoral colleague at Christ Church, Galle Face and Christ Church Mutwal (the then Cathedral) or as warden of St Thomas College Mt Lavinia it was evident that what was uppermost in his mind was that he is a priest of God. Even when he taught church history in the Divinity School the students were continually seeing in him the character of the priest deeply imprinted in him

## The Rev L. N. Hitchcock

The death occurred of the Rev. L. N. Hitchcock at the residence of his daughter in Manipay on 2nd September in 1993. His wife Catherine Ponnammah predeceased him in 1980. He leaves behind, his elder daughter Suguna Rajendram, former staff of Uduvil Girls' College, sons John (Dubai), Christopher (U. K.) and daughter Amala Ambalavanar (Canada). The Rev. L. N. Hitchcock, on completing his theological studies in Bangalore worked as a pastor in our Diocese for a short period. He was released to the Dutch reformed Church, Colombo

All those who have known him whether it be in those days in Sri Lanka later on in Samoa and now in Australia will most naturally say of him, truly this is a man of God that passeth by us continually and take knowledge of him that he has been with Jesus.

Around 1948 something happened to John. He met Rathie. They fell in love and they married. Both of them truly became sharers together in the grace of God. Coming from a godly home nurtured by Dr John Mrs. Handy, Rathie entered fully into the life of John hand in hand and shoulder tending the flock of Christ. She was a full time voluntary worker bringing all her gifts of caring love and skill in music and singing in the service of God's children. In 1965 when Bishop Harold de Soysa wanted to form a fellowship for wives of clergy in the Diocese of Colombo it was Rathie and the wife of another clergyman that he summoned and entrusted them with that task. It is the membership card and prayer that these two women of God brought out then that is used by wives of clergy in that Diocese even today.

It is indeed a matter for thanksgiving to God that John and Rathie are carrying on this joint ministry up-to-date. Long may they do so.

At the ordination of a priest he is reminded by the Bishop that a priest's family also has a part to play in the way his ministry is to be performed. John and Rathie have obviously been mindful of this and so have nurtured Salesiana, Peter and John in like in Christ so that they in their part now take their place in the church and in the wider community in godly living and caring love.

We thank God for John and Rathie and their family and place them trustfully committed to the confining loving care of God.

Bishop Swithin Fernando

temporarily. Since the Dutch Reformed Church would not release him back to us, he continued to work there, in charge of Wolvendaal Church and School, where he started the Tamil congregation. He continued to work there for thirty-five years and retired. He was later in charge of the C. L. S. Book Shop in Colombo. He was instrumental in arranging the Dutch Reformed Church, Wellawatte, for our Colombo Church's worship services, till the Colombo Church built its own Church in 1987 at Wellawatte. Since he wished to serve in Jaffna for his mother Diocese, he returned back to Jaffna and served in Nunavil, Udupiddy, Navaly, Chavakacheheri and Vaddukoddai Churches. The Rev. & Mrs. Hitchcock celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary while serving in Chavakacheheri. Prior to his retirement he worked amongst the poor and underprivileged people along with the Cey-Nor Project in Karsinagar. After retirement he lived in Uduvil for a few years where he helped the workers in Uduvil in conducting Holy Communion services, and on special occasions. From Uduvil he returned back to Colombo and lived with his younger daughter till 1983, when he returned back to Manipay and lived with his elder daughter till his death. He was bedridden after a fall, after celebrating his 90th birthday. He was 95 years old at the time of his death. He had been quite active and healthy prior to his death. He was a source of inspiration to those who visit him with their burdens. The funeral service was conducted at the Manipay Church on September 4th at 8:00 a.m. His remains were brought from his residence in procession to the Manipay Church after a short service led by the Rev. V. N. Tharmakulasingam. The service at the Church was conducted by the Rev. V. N. Tharmakulasingam and the Rev. Mrs. A. R. Tampiyappa. The sermon was preached by the Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan. A tribute was paid on the life and work of the Rev. Hitchcock by the Rev. D. R. Ambalavanar. The service came to an end with benediction pronounced by our Bishop. After the final respects were paid to the Rev. Hitchcock the casket with his remains were carried in procession to the hearse where it was taken to Chavakacheheri graveyard for burial. The committal rites were lead by our Bishop assisted by the Rev. S. P. Jeyasingham and the Rev. V. N. Tharmakulasingam.