

UNDELIVERED ISSUES

Please re-address all undelivered issues of the **Morning Star** to:-
The Manager,
"Morning Star",
Vaddukodai.

THE MORNING STAR

Registered as a Newspaper at the General Post Office, Sri Lanka under No. QB/59/300/26/82

Established: 1841: A Christian Weekly : Published Every Friday

Vol. 144 JAFFNA, FRIDAY, 10th FEBRUARY, 1984 No. 6

RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION BUT SIN IS REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE

Subscription

Inland: Rs. 50/- per year.

FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

Apply to:

The Manager,
'Morning Star', Vaddukodai.

The Jaffna University

The Convocation of the Jaffna University will be held tomorrow (11-2-84) at the Kailasapathy Auditorium Hall. On this occasion, the new Chancellor of the University Prof. N. Nadarajah will be the recipient of the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature. The other recipient of an Honorary Degree will be the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Thanjavur, Prof. V. I. Subramaniam.

The Convocation Address will be delivered by Prof. V. I. Subramaniam. Degrees will be awarded to some 350 graduates.

In August, the Jaffna University will celebrate its tenth anniversary. The Senate of the University has appointed a Committee to make arrangements for the Anniversary Celebrations.

The Committee comprises, Professors S. Sritharan, K. Indrapala, K. Sivagnanasundaram, Dr. K. Sivathamby and the Registrar of the University, Mr. S. Sivarajah.

80th Birth day

S. Nadesan, Esq., Q. C.

I have been asked to write a few words of appreciation of the life and work of Mr. S. Nadesan, the famous advocate and Queen's Counsel, on the occasion of his 80th Birthday and I do so with pleasure.

I came to know Mr. Nadesan at the Ceylon University College in the year 1923 and struck a friendship with him which has endured for 60 years. He walked with people, high and low, but never lost the common touch. A talk with him is a piece of liberal education. A specialist is said to be one who knows more and more about less and less, but not so Mr. Nadesan. He is so versatile that he could talk on almost any subject. On my numerous visits to his home I have listened to him on nature cure, vegetarianism, balanced diet, eurythmics Sinhala only, Mahatma Gandhi, Qedgewood Benn, etc. He has a monumental memory.

When his wife died and he was left with an only child, Satyendra, he accepted the calamity philosophically. Father and son were thrown together more and more and it was inte-

resting to watch the evolution of a relationship that resulted in the child being the father of the man. Satyendra is now a famous advocate in his own right and the father is justly proud of him. Nadesan told me one day that Satyendra was riding on a crest.

Nadesan is a generous man. Very few people know of his generosity, for, "his right hand doth not know what his left hand doeth". He has given to a number of charitable causes and, what is more, he has helped many friends to rehabilitate themselves. From the generous monthly allowances he used to give his wife, she gave freely to charitable causes. One day I saw her looking through the Observer Directory to find charitable causes to help. It was interesting to see the evolution of a sublime relationship that existed between father, mother and son.

When Satyendra left for England for the first time and Nadesan's wife was no more, I pitied Nadesan as he was going to be left alone. But this proved to be a groundless fear. He could adjust himself to any situation. With his busy practice, his voluminous writings and his many friends, he was never really lonely.

Nadesan can look upon his life and work with great satisfaction, and we his friends, thank God for a life usefully lived. We wish him many more years of health and happiness.

I. P. Thurairatnam

Tellippalai.

'Gandhi' to be screened soon

Sir Richard Attenborough's "Gandhi" is to be released in Colombo shortly. The Chairman of the National Film Corporation (NFC) Mr. Anton Wickremasinghe has been able to get down the film from India for the price of Rs. 600,000. Earlier, India's National Film Development Corporation had asked for Rs. 1,200,000. He was able to reduce the price by negotiations. Mr. Wickremasinghe said.

He admitted that "quite a large number of people" had seen 'Gandhi' on video tapes but he was certain that the film would draw crowds because of the high regard Sri

Stories out of Vellore

Three Knocks in the Night

Famine comes often to India. But this one brought death to as many as three million people. It was unforgettable.

Little Ida Scudder (only six) helped her doctor father feed the starving. But by the time she had reached her teens, she had firmly made up her mind that she wanted to be neither a missionary nor a doctor. There were enough of both already in the Scudder family. She had other ideas. As long as she could remember, she had been familiar with the story of grandfather, who had turned his back on New York, to become the first American missionary-doctor in India. A thrilling but costly adventure; Dr. John and his wife had lost by death a cherished two-year old, and later two tiny babies as well. In time they had also to spare their growing sons, one by one, to be schooled away from them—Henry, William, Joseph, Ezockiel, Jared, Silas and John—all seven! And it got no easier. (It was John who eventually became Ida's father)

But Ida stuck to her plan as the years marched on for her. Then one night—when she had returned home from her own school in America something unexpected happened. She was sitting alone in her room on the ground floor, just off the verandah. And presently she heard hurried steps, and a knock. Who could it be? Even whilst she wondered a distressed voice called, 'Amah, amah! I have come to you in a great trouble!' It was a young Brahmin who stood before Ida. His wife was about to have a baby. Hearing that the daughter of the doctor had returned from America, he sought her, distraught, to come and help his life. But all that she could reply was that she knew nothing of such matters—it was her father who was the doctor. 'But it is against our custom,' was all the young man could answer. He was unable to let a man attend his wife. And he disappeared into the night.

Again Ida was disturbed, by a second knock! Her immediate thought was that it was the young Brahmin husband back to say he had changed his mind. But no—it was another, a Mohammeden, with a like request. And to him Ida had, perforce, to give the same disappointing answer.

Lankans had for Mahatma Gandhi. Sri Lankans believed that it was Mahatma's movement for the Independence of India that was responsible for Sri Lanka, too gaining independence so early. Mr. Wickremasinghe added

The screening of 'Gandhi' was delayed due to the July ethnic riots.

IN MEMORIAM



IN EVER LOVING MEMORY

OF

Rev. Samuel Ponniah
Vijayaratnam

Called to rest on 20-2-'81

Affectionately remembered
by his loved ones.

'Bethel'

Uduvil.

'Evidently', years older, years later she found herself commenting on that night. 'God knew I was not sufficiently conscience-stricken because yet another appeared from the darkness, with the same appeal.' He was a high-cast Hindu. It was a night never to be forgotten—and it changed her life. Despite her firm stand, she knew then that she had to become a doctor. And for those 'three knocks in the night', an innumerable company this day thanks God.

Graduating, in time, from Cornell, Ida came back to India, to involve herself in its superstitious, its ignorance its desperate, need. Her first little hospital was no larger than ten feet by twelve—but in two years, five thousand out-patients had been treated there. And Dr. Ida laid plans for greater things—to train young Indian women themselves as doctors. 'You might get three willing' said the authorities. 'If you get six, you have the Government's permission to start.' A hundred and fifty one come forward, to everyone's amazement; and Dr. Ida picked eighteen. It was a start; Being herself one of our day's outstanding gynaecologists, she battered tirelessly for her beloved Vellore School of Nursing, from 1909 on; and for Vellore Medical Missionary School for Women, founded in 1918 and later up-graded to a Medical College. And the very name Vellore was to become famous the world round—before smiling silver-haired Dr. Ida's death. A triumph! Now, years later, in 1984, only five of Vellore's total staff of 2,616 are from abroad, with all but one department headed by Indian personnel, most of them its own Christian graduates.

[Dr. Ida's grandfather was the very same Dr. Scudder who started the first Medical Clinic in Jaffna at Pandateruppu prior to going India.]

Source: "Where the Action is"
by Rita Snowden.

— D. C. A.

Minister of Health at Tellippalai

Minister of Health, Dr. Ranjit Attapattu opening the G. G. Ponnambalam Cancer Unit at Tellippalai has revealed some stark realities about conditions in our hospitals in Sri Lanka.

There is an acute shortage of medical and para-medical personnel in the country. Out of 42 anaesthetists trained every year, only about four remain in this country. "Others" says the Minister "prefer to go abroad for good".

He also expressed concern that the race riots of July had prevented as many as 450 doctors in Sri Lanka from passing out of the Medical Colleges in 1983.

EDITORIAL

Hospital Sunday (12-2-84)

"Our body is a machine for the purpose of life. It is organised to that end. That is its nature. Leave the life there at its ease, let it take care of itself" said Napoleon, who is reported to have had no faith in doctors or medicine.

This view of medicine and those who practise it, does not in any way underscore the superfluity of doctors and their staff in the life of the community but instead places an all too important emphasis on their indispensability.

To leave the life in the body "at its ease", needs people who know the 'body' in relation to 'life'. It is a duty of a Christian doctor, more than anyone else, in the community to see that the patient is not merely made 'well' but "whole".

We have known of a doctor in a hospital in a rural outpost which was about to be closed when the local Board, (all non-Christians) finally decided to give the hospital a last chance by appointing a Christian doctor, to take charge of it.

Within a few months, there was an unprecedented rush of patients. The secret, as we learnt later, was that this elderly Tamil doctor (who had his entire medical career in the United Kingdom and whose knowledge of Tamil was skimpy) had an *open Tamil Bible* on his desk in his Consultation Room and made it a point to read from it portions (in his faltering manner) to his patients before administering drugs to them.

The doctor was extremely successful in changing the atmosphere of his Consultation Room where a patient found more "health" than drugs and instruments to combat disease.

A Christian hospital has to be *different* from other hospitals. It is not that it should be ill equipped to meet the modern needs of patients but that it should be well equipped to make the patient "whole" and not merely "well".

It is however not the Christian doctor alone who has a responsibility by his patients. The local Church has a special responsibility as "a cell of the body of Christ" for seeing that none of its members who is sick in body or mind goes unvisited or uncared for. Some congregations have, we know, "a guild of intercessors" for those afflicted.

The members of the Managing Board of Christian hospitals are drawn from members of the Church. Let us therefore not forget that only as the local Church has *wholeness of life* can it be, in turn, a focus of health.

"What God has wrought", were the four words which a Scottish Medical Missionary of Calcutta — Dr. Alexander Duff — had caused to be inscribed in bold letters in the main hall of the Medical College he founded, and in which he served for more than three decades.

Can anything more appropriate be said about our own Mission hospitals in Jaffna established by the labours of our own medical pioneers — Scott, Scudder and Greene?

Strange Behavioural Patterns

The sky overhead still remains leaden, as we write these notes although the torrential downpour has ceased, after nearly four days of unabated fury.

Strange behavioural patterns in the weather and in human kind have unfortunately made *rehabilitation* a permanent feature of life in Sri Lanka.

Drought-relief measures were hardly over when the *ethnic conflict* erupted and hardly have the refugees left their rehabilitation camps which they have occupied since July 1983, new camps have now to be set-up to accommodate the *flood* refugees, particularly in the North and East.

A cynic is once reported to have quipped, that drought, race riots and floods follow in regular sequence in Sri Lanka, making the country and its citizens in constant need of rehabilitation.

Self-sufficiency in rice is a dream which almost came true and we were getting ready for large scale export, when the floods this month in the rice-producing areas have put a blight on our hopes. [80,000 acres of paddy fields have been submerged by floods in the North alone.]

In the political sphere too, there have been strange behavioural patterns evident this week. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party which appeared in the wake of the July riots to display the utmost concern for the beleaguered Tamil community has now opted to stay out of the Round Table Talks.

One reason the Party has given is that the Secretary General of the TULF has been indiscreet in his utterances in South India.

We are reminded in this context of those words of Cardinal John Henry Newman that all men have a reason but not all men can give a reason.

"Misfortunes" says Montaigne, the French Essayist "have their life and their limits, their sickness and their health".

The healthy purpose that they (the misfortunes) serve is to reduce us to what the pugilists will say, our "fighting weight" and make us fitter for the struggles ahead.

19th Synod of the C. S. I.

The Synod of the Church of South India takes place once in two years. The first Synod was held in 1948 some months after the inauguration of the C. S. I. in September, 1947. The 19th Sessions of the Synod took place at the Wesley Girls High School, Secunderabad in Andhra Pradesh. This comes under the Diocese of Medak of which the Bishop is the Rt Rev. Dr. Victor Premasagar. This Diocese recently also welcomed Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II when she was on a visit to India. The Queen worshiped at a C.S.I. Church in Secunderabad on the day of her wedding anniversary. Bishop Premasagar preached the sermon.

The Diocese hosted the Synod with characteristic Telugu hospitality from the 12th to the 16th of January. Twenty years earlier the Session of the Synod were held at the same venue.

The theme of this Synod was "In the fellowship of the Holy Spirit". The Church re-examined its life and work in the light of this theme and also made plans for the next biennium. The Moderator, the Most Rev. Jesudasan, the Deputy Moderator, Rt. Rev. Sundar Clarke and Bishop Premasagar gave the leading addresses on the theme. Bishop Ambalavanar led three Bible Studies on the theme. The Synod has decided to publish the addresses and the Bible Studies.

The Synod reviewed the work of the various Commissions and the Councils of the Synod. An important step taken during the last biennium was the creation of two Councils to mobilise the Churches efforts in the fields of Education and the Healing Ministry. These Councils have taken far reaching steps to update the educational and medical work undertaken by the Dioceses.

The Synod viewed with great satisfaction the work of Children's Homes and Day Care Centres, Homes for Handicapped Children and for the Mentally Retarded run by the various Dioceses. It was an encouraging sign that many of the Dioceses have begun to finance these Homes from their own resources without being dependent on foreign grants.

Recruitments for the Ministry in the majority of the Dioceses are now very encouraging. More and more University graduates are offering themselves for the Ministry. In fact in some Dioceses only graduates are selected for ministerial training.

The women's Order of the C. S. I. has also made significant progress. The Synod expressed a strong desire that the Women's Order should find a

place in every Diocese of the Church. The headquarters at Vishranthi Nilayam, Bangalore, has been considerably expanded by the return of the building formerly occupied by Alliance Francaise. This centre therefore can now host large Conferences.

One more significant work of the Synod through the Dioceses is in the field of development aid and emergency relief work. Several thousands of wells have been dug in the areas of the various Dioceses to help with the supply of drinking water to communities which did not have that benefit. Development programmes in many Dioceses have been done on very large scale, promoting community welfare. Many Dioceses contributed liberally for relief work among Sri Lanka refugees. The Synod set up a Special Board to help Sri Lankan students and refugees seeking help in India.

Evangelism has been almost uniformly a top priority in the Dioceses. The Church has grown in numbers. There is a clear indication of spiritual renewal in various areas of the Church strengthening the Churches witness and service.

The Synod also decided on sending a C. S. I. Deputation to the Churches in China and also to invite a Church Deputation from China to visit India.

At the elections all the four Officers were re-elected for another biennium.

1. Moderator — The Most Rev. I. Jesudasan.
2. Deputy Moderator — The Rt. Rev. Sundar Clarke.
3. General Secretary — The Rev. M. Azariah.
4. Treasurer — Mr. John Verghese.

The following from the Jaffna Diocese were appointed to some of the Councils and Commissions of the Synod and as representatives of the Synod to various other bodies.

1. Synod Theological Commission — Mr. S. Jebanesan.
2. Synod Liturgy Commission — Mr. J. Sabaratnam.
3. Synod Council for Education — Miss Chelvy V. Selliah.
4. Madras Christian College Council — The Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar.
5. Christian Medical College Council, Vellore — Dr. C. Ambalavanar.

On the social side of the Synod Sessions, the most important event was the public reception given by the Medak Diocese to the members of the Synod at Secunderabad. The Governor of Andhra Pradesh was the Chief Guest. He spoke appreciatively of the leading role the C. S. I. was playing in the field of social and community uplift. He appreciated the role played by the Church in the task of nation building.