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# THE MORNING STAR

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Jaffna Diocesan Council (C. S. I.)

## Thirty Eighth Annual Meeting — 8-3-85 and 9-3-85

The 38th Annual Meeting commenced at 8.30 a.m. on Friday 8th of March with a *Worship Service* at the Cathedral Church, Vaddukodai, led by Miss Suthanthira Thuraisingham, Worker of the J. D. C. S. I. who also preached the sermon.

After the Service, the delegates assembled at the Otley Hall for the sessions. After Roll Call, the Bishop, the Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar gave the "Charge" to the Diocese. [please see page 6].

Following this, the Votes of Condolence were passed on three of the Diocesan Council Members who have passed within the veil since the last meeting of the Council,

- (1) *Mr. P. G. Jeyaratnam* proposed by Mr. V Navaratnam
- (2) *Mr. J. M. Rajaratnam* proposed by Mr. L. S. C. Canagasasingam
- (3) *Mr. N. Selvaratnam* proposed by Mr. C. E. Rajasingam.

After the tea-interval, the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meetings of the Diocese were taken up for discussion and ratification. The Intercession at the close of the morning session was led by Mr. C. T. Roberts.

After Lunch, at 12.45 p.m. the afternoon sessions commenced at 2.45 p.m. during which time the groups put in charge of examining the va-

rious reports of the Standing Committees met to examine the reports.

At 2.45 p.m. the sessions re-opened in the Otley Hall. The Reports of the Standing Committees were taken up. The sessions continued till 7 p.m. with a break for tea at 4 p.m. at the Levi Spaulding Boys' Home. Most of the delegates stayed overnight at the remodelled Parsonage

The Sessions on Saturday (9-3-85) commenced with a Holy Communion Service at the Cathedral Church, at which the Bishop, the Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar was the Celebrant, assisted by Rev. D. S. Thiagarajah who preached the sermon.

The business sessions continued at Otley Hall and the remaining Reports of Standing Committees were taken.

The Bishop gave an account of his visit to Holland, W. Germany and other countries, including England. He spoke about the useful contacts he had made in the places he visited. Mr. C. B. Bavink in Holland and Rev. Jacob in England were very helpful to him in making contacts.

The Sessions terminated at 2.45 p.m. after the elections of Office-Bearers and the Closing Service led by the Bishop.

The two-day Sessions broke up with a late lunch at 3 p.m. on Saturday (9-3-85).

## Election of Office-Bearers

**Secretary:-** Rev. S. Manopavan.  
**Treasurer:-** Mr. S. S. Selvadurai.  
**Executive Committee Vacancies:-**  
Rev. D. R. Ambalavanar, Mr. S. Jebanesan, Mr. A. R. Kadirgamar, Mrs. A. N. L. Virasippillai (re-elected) and Mr. J. M. Sabaratnam.

## Appointments

**Director R. E. B.:-**  
Rev. A. Jeyakumaran.  
**Evangelistic Officer:-**  
Rev. S. Manopavan.  
**Manager, Morning Star:-**  
Mr. A. Rajasingam.  
**English Editor (M. Star):-**  
Mr. C. E. Rajasingam.  
**Tamil Editor (M. Star):-**  
Rev. D. R. Ambalavanar.  
**News Editor (English):-**  
Rev. S. N. Sugunanathan.  
**News Editor (Tamil):-**  
Mr. S. Jebanesan.  
**Manager, Uduvil Girls College:-**  
Mr. S. S. Selvadurai.

## Representatives

### C. S. I. Synod:-

**Clergy:-** Rev. D. R. Ambalavanar and Rev. S. N. Sugunanathan.

**Laity:-** Miss C. V. Selliah, Mr. M. R. Selvarajah, Mr. M. Thambithurai and Mr. A. Rajasingam.

### C. M. C. Vellore:-

Dr. (Mrs.) R. G. Selvadurai and Mr. A. R. Kadirgamar.

### Jaffna College Board:-

Dr. W. D. Joshua, Rev. D. R. Ambalavanar, Rt. (Rev.) S. Kulandran.

### C. L. S. Colombo:-

Mr. S. Jebanesan, T. Thevarajah.

### U. T. C. Bangalore:-

The Bishop and Mr. A. R. Kadirgamar.

### N. C. C.:-

Rev. J. J. Ratnarajah, Rev. T. S. Premarajah, Mrs. Raju Hensman, Mr. V. Rajaratnam and Mr. M. R. Selvarajah.

## Uduvil Remembers Pioneer Missionary

Uduvil Girls' College remembered one of her pioneer American Missionary Principals, Miss Susan Howland when a two-storeyed Building Block for the Primary School was dedicated by the Bishop, the Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar at a Public Meeting held at Uduvil Girls' College on Wednesday, 13th of March at 9 a.m.

Miss Susan Howland was the first permanent Principal of Uduvil to be appointed in February 1881. She was an alumnus of Mt. Holyoke College. It was during her time that the school spawned new branches. There were really three departments in the school — one an English Department, another a Tamil Department and the third a Training College.

Miss Howland when she was about to go on furlough in 1913 felt that this was too much of a burden for her and wished to be relieved so that she may continue the work so much after her heart, work in the evangelistic frontier. Even while attached to the school, she was known in every home in the village and outskirts as "Susan Ammah". For, as Missionary, her forte was work among the poor and the underprivileged in the hinterlands of the parish.

Miss Bookwalter succeeded her in April 1913. After her return from furlough, Miss Howland by her own wish lived at Inuvil spending the end of her missionary career as she had spent it in the beginnings in evangelistic work among Jaffna's women. She returned to her home in California in 1930. She passed to her Eternal Rest in 1933.

## The Function

Uduvil was spruced up for the opening on 13-3-85. The grounds looked bright, clean and green. A heavy shower of rain on the afternoon of 12-3-85 had co-operated with those working on the grounds in removing the last speck of dust from the parched earth.

On the platform in front of the new block the College Band stood alert as did the choir beside them — both groups standing in a backdrop of a flamboyant display of flowers.

The Bishop and Mrs. Ambalavanar, the Manager and Members of the Board and other distinguished guests were led in procession by the Principal to the Auditorium, with the entire staff of the school making up the rear.

The function opened with the *Introit* chanted beautifully by

The Jaffna Diocesan Council (C. S. I.)

## Some Decisions made at the 38th Annual Sessions

The Higher Education Scholarships offered by the Diocese will not apply to children of parents working abroad. Those already enjoying the privilege will not be affected by the decision.

## Christian Conference of East and North of Sri Lanka.

The approval of blessings of the Jaffna Diocesan Council will be given to the proposed formation of a Christian Conference of East and North of Sri Lanka consisting of representatives from the North and East.

## Censorship

Press censorship imposed on 1-2-85 continues. It has now been extended to include news or articles on the Universities of Sri Lanka.

## IN BRIEF

○ *Mother Teresa* at 75 is now ailing and attention is focussing on who will succeed her in the organisations she has built up in 60 countries of the world. If *Mother Teresa* quits, the mantle may fall on *Sister Agnes* who has followed her like a shadow for the last 35 years. *Sister Agnes* is one of the six Councillor Generals of the organisation.

Rev. S. N. Sugunanathan who followed it up with prayer. The Hymn, *Guide me, O, Thou Great Jehovah* was sung to the accompaniment of Band music. Mrs. Vadivelu of the Staff read the Bible Lesson.

The Principal of the school made a brief statement, part of it was in English and part in Tamil. She reminded the students of the rich Christian heritage of Uduvil. One of the earliest foreign missionaries to go from Sri Lanka abroad was a girl from Uduvil who after her marriage went with her husband to teach a young Hindu princess at Ramnad in South India at the request of Mr. Spaulding, an American missionary at Uduvil.

After the building was dedicated and opened by the Bishop there was the traditional lighting of the lamp after which there was an entertainment inside the new building followed by a physical display on the school grounds.

"A date in the school calendar has been kept" was the silent prayer of thanksgiving of those who organised the function and were on pins till the 'curtain rang down on the last scene'.



## For the Record

**'Correspond with Tamils in their Language'**

Regional Development Minister C. Rajadurai on Friday 8-3-85 told Government Agents that effective steps should be taken to have all correspondence with the Tamil-speaking people in the Tamil Language.

Briefing the GAs at the parliament building, he said all letters received in Tamil should be replied in that language. Correspondence with Tamil-speaking people should also be initiated in Tamil.

He told them the guidelines he had prepared for the implementation of the Tamil Language provisions of the Constitution had been accepted by the government and Committee B of the All-Party Conference.

Committee B was appointed to look into the grievances of all communities.

Mr. Rajadurai requested the GAs, departmental Heads and corporation chairmen to obtain the necessary staff and equipment from their ministries. Stenographers, typists, translators, typewriters and furniture will be supplied.

The Minister said that though the guidelines had been issued earlier, no effective steps had been taken to implement them.

The guidelines issued by the Regional Development Ministry lists five provisions applicable to the entire country and three applicable to the northern and eastern provinces.

The provisions applicable to the entire island are:—

\* If any person communicates with an official in the Tamil language, he should receive a reply in that language.

\* If an official initiates a communication with a Tamil-speaking member of the public, he should address such person in the Tamil language.

A Tamil-speaking person is entitled to have a copy of any official document which the law recognises his right to have in the Tamil language.

\* Where a document is executed by an official for the purpose of being issued to the public, a Tamil-speaking person is entitled to obtain such document in the Tamil language.

\* All orders, rules, regulations, notifications, circulars and forms must also be in the Tamil language. This is particularly important in the case of public institution such as kachcheris, post offices, police stations, grama sevaka offices, AGA's offices, MOH offices, local authorities etc.

Provisions applicable to the Northern and Eastern Provinces are:—

\* Public records shall be maintained in the Tamil language also.

\* Public institutions in the Northern and Eastern provinces shall transact business in the Tamil language also. i. e. maintenance of files, minuting etc.

\* A local Authority in the Northern and Eastern Provinces which

## At Rest

Mr. N Selvaratnam

We regret to record the death on 4-3-85 of Mr. N. Selvaratnam International Auditor and Proprietor of Ratnams Investments Ltd., Jaffna.

The funeral Service took place on Thursday (7-3-85) at 7.30 a.m. at his residence at Second Cross Street, Jaffna. Rev. H. R. S. Jeyachandran, Vicar of St. Peter's Jaffna officiated at the Service, assisted by Rev. J. Sarvananthan, Vicar of St. John's Church, Chundiculi. The Rt. Rev. S. Kulandran, former Bishop of the J. D. C. S. I. paid the tribute. The closing prayer was offered by the Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar, Bishop of the J. D. C. S. I. who also pronounced the Benediction.

Mr. Selvaratnam was the Auditor of the J. D. C. S. I., the diocesan institutions and earlier the American Mission for a period of 45 years. He was also a member of the Diocesan Council, representing his Church at Karainagar.

The remains were interred at the Karainagar C. S. I. Church burial grounds. Rev. A. Jeyakumarana, Presbyter of the Karainagar Church of the J. D. C. S. I. performed the committal rites.

The deceased leaves behind his wife Ranees and four sons;—Sebarajah, Dr. Arulrajah, Selvarajah and Thevarajah.

\* \* \*

Lily Pooranam Jebaratnam

The death occurred on Monday (11-3-85) of Lily Pooranam Jebaratnam, wife of the late Mr. M. R. M. Jebaratnam at her residence at Anaicottai. She was among the very senior members of the Anaicottai Church.

The Funeral Service was held at Poornagiri, Anaicottai at 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday (12-3-85). Rev. D. R. Ambalavanar officiated at the Service, assisted by Rev. S. C. Arnold, Sevak Rev. Sam Alfred of the Christa Seva Ashram and Mr. C. T. Robers, Worker of the J. D. C. S. I. at Naval. The Bishop, the Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar pronounced the Benediction. The deceased is the sister-in-law of the former CSI Ministers Rev. J. M. Singanayagam and Rev. J. V. J. Arnold.

The remains were interred at the Manipay Church burial grounds. Rev. D. R. Ambalavanar performed the committal.

The deceased leaves behind her daughter Selvi and son-in-law Mr. Gordon Duraisamy and a large number of relations and friends to whom she has been a 'mother'.

## In brief

○ The Education Service Commission has launched a full scale investigation into reports that teachers are being subjected to extortion by unscrupulous persons who are making a fast buck (week-end 10-3-85) by promising to expedite teacher transfers, appointments and promotions.

conducts business in the Tamil language is entitled to receive communications from and to communicate and transact business which any official in his official capacity in the Tamil language.

[CDN 11-3-85]

## Youth in our World

by

Shirley J. S. Peiris

(General Secretary NCC Sri Lanka)

(Continued from our 8 &amp; 15-2-85 issue)

Everywhere young people have more power than their elders had in their days because of the increase in their knowledge or the incentive character of their hope. Even more important, a worldwide younger generation has in common an inter-related future. The world is getting smaller and smaller, and nations are getting more and more inter-related, and to-morrow this will be more true than today. It is in its relation to history, past, present and future, that the well-being of the younger generation is to be discussed. When hope and expectation are alive and take form in an active commitment to fulfil them, youth renews its strength. It is not youth which is the hope of the future, but the future, which is the hope of youth. Partnership is denied when youth is merely seen as the hope for the future. This off-repeated misunderstanding usually covers up a denial of the active role young people have to play while still young. It allows educator to indoctrinate his student rather than letting him participate in a shared process. Everything is pre-arranged for them; the stage is set for them. They only have to play their set role in a guided pattern. There is no participation in the real sense of the word.

Participation the first theme of the IYY

Participation implies that young people, inter alia, are recognised competent and capable of deciding on matters which concern their own lives, have the chance and opportunity to make such decisions, and feel contented and satisfied that their contribution to the world in which they live has been respected.

Each new generation has new contributions and different requests to make. In our differentiated societies these contributions are varied. In the industrial countries the young worker may be most typical, just as in others the student is the primary type of youth. It may well be that the trend in a younger generation is set by a different group of young people from the ones who most influence behaviour and style. In the developing countries the young well-educated seem to set the pace, even if the majority of youth has no chance to follow them and is forced to behave differently.

The revolutionary aspect of our time poses a special problem. In many countries it is a minority of the younger generation which is most caught by the vision of the inadequacy of social structures. Their knowledge of science, development and the power of their will for change produce a strong commitment to participate in the structural change of society and to feel responsibility for the great masses of people who show complacency and content in the situation. Rather than attempt to curtail this revolutionary spirit, society should gratefully accept the lead of its younger generation. It is not sentimentality that is asked, nor

a demonstration of understanding, but genuine confidence that a new generation can and will contribute to the welfare of the community. Such confidence must be shown in an invitation to partnership. Thus the International Youth Year 1985 will, it is hoped, enable all of us to identify obstacles to genuine participation of young people in the decision-making process, and find ways and means of over-coming them.

Development—the second theme of the IYY

The two aspects to this theme are the development of the personality of individual young people, and the process of social, economic and political change which will help people realise their full potential.

One of the most important phenomena amongst young people today is the tremendous energy with which they protest against the social and political disorder of our times. There is hardly a country in the world where some form of protest movement is not eminently visible, although the expressions of it differ. It may be simply in a style of dressing or even in hair styles. It may be by marching or even violent uprisings. Protest can come in the form of academic debates, teach-ins, conferences, seminars, consultations, memoranda and publications, and it can come by less sophisticated, although not necessarily less effective means. The objects of the protest movements vary. They can be directed against racial discrimination, imperialist politics or economic exploitation.

The protest movements of a younger generation have to be understood in terms of the society to which youth wants to relate but cannot. Without denying that the young people also have a responsibility for the order of society, society should know its own imperfection and, for that reason, invite criticism. Protest in itself, however, will not suffice; it has to be evaluated, deepened and translated into a constructive contribution. All groups in society need help to make their critical contribution in a constructive and positive way.

In some countries the protest of youth has taken on organisational forms. The language of protest has developed its own forms which can have a great attraction also for the non-committed majority of the generation. It would seem that the influence of the protest-group, always although a minority in the generation, demonstrates its leadership qualities.

The International Youth Year 1985 will, no doubt, allow opportunities for young people to increase their understanding of human relationships, from the personal level through the political/international level, and encourage young people to participate in programmes leading to an enrichment of the quality of people's lives in the world.

(to be continued)





The 38th Annual Meeting

## Bishop's Charge to the Jaffna Diocesan Council of the C. S. I.

[8-3-85]

The Bishop, the Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar based his "charge" on verse 31 of *Isaiah Chapter 40*:— "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary and they shall walk and not faint."

History is the story of human progress. From the account we get in *Genesis* of God creating man and giving him dominion over all creation to the account in *Revelation* of the consummation of God's plan when a new Jerusalem has been created where the kings of the nations bring the riches of the world, the basic concept in history has been progress—a step taken forward from ignorance and superstition to learning and knowledge, from crude implements to sophisticated machinery from old methods of transport to modern methods etc., etc.

But man has used these god-given gifts for his individual benefit and glory. He has found as he did in Eden that everything was "good". He did not use his gifts to create a "new Jerusalem", to improve the conditions of humanity as a whole. It has been, all along a homo-centric civilisation conceived in homo-centric terms. Man never conceived his progress as an integral part of the progress of all human beings.

Some pictures in the TV networks are an example in point. Recently they have been portraying the abject poverty in Ethiopia with people dying in thousands for the want of food and basic amenities to keep body and soul together. In the same network, we can also see US President Reagan straining every muscle for a Star War in space with sophisticated scientific weapons

But central to the history of human progress in the world is the history of Israel, a chosen people separated and given a new identity and a land which is the locale of their existence

The story of Israel is the paradigm of the history of all people God wills that all people shall be free. This is the essence of "liberation theology" about which we hear often and read. The struggle

for identity and the necessity for a homeland are the two hinges on which 'liberation' of a community turns.

What is God's message to us in the contemporary scenes enacted in Labanon, North Ireland, Vietnam and now Sri Lanka—youth taking up arms against armed might intended to suppress them, with the concomitant disarray of civilians killed, houses razed to the ground, and people in a mass fleeing from their homelands to safer havens.

It is to these people that the Prophet *Isaiah* addresses those words in Chap. 40 (Verses 28 to 30). "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard that the everlasting God, Creator of the ends of the earth fainteth not neither is weary, there is no searching of his understanding ..."

Under a colonial regime, we in Sri Lanka have for long ceased to think of ourselves as part of our community. We have thought always in terms of individual survival, and survival of our progeny, disregarding our social responsibilities.

Arnold Toynbee, in his twelve volume master-work identifying 21 civilisations in recorded history says that it is the poor and the meek and those in despair who are the bearers of the history of the future. As civilisations grow, history bypasses individuals.

The Tamils of Sri Lanka have to consider themselves an integral part of their community if they want to survive. An education in Sri Lanka which is prized only if it could help youth "to go abroad" in hordes and give the benefit of their training and knowledge to the growth of foreign countries betrays a lack of solidarity and perspective in our aims and ideals.

"They also serve who only stand and wait" said the Poet John Milton. We have to be participants in the ongoing historical movements of our time and not escapist. It is people of this calibre who "wait" in faith in the front of the struggle whom the prophet *Isaiah* describes as those who shall "mount with wings as eagles" who shall "run and not be weary" and who shall "walk and not faint".

ever happens we are in the hands of God.

Nowadays there is so much fear around. It must be admitted that the sight of terrifying and uncommon vehicles often on the roads is so much as to instil such a feeling that even in the absence of such a sight people have a feeling that anything may happen anytime.

"But the Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof."

S. K.

## Appreciation

## The Road to His Success

By R. C. Thavarajah

It was a difficult one. It was not roses, roses all the way. He made it with grit and determination. *Nallathamby Selvaratnam* joined Jaffna College in the year 1926. After passing the Cambridge Senior Examination, he graduated as an International Accountant having deservedly gained the distinction of being an associate of the International Accountants (London). He started his career in 1938 and has now a large clientele. Speed with accuracy is the spirit of his enterprise which is 'par Excellence'.

He celebrated his 72nd Birthday on the 22nd of July 1984. It was a birthday with a difference. Instead of squandering money in vines, viands, feasting and rejoicing, the day was spent with a special prayer meeting. The motivating idea was to offer thanks to the All Mighty for having blessed him and his family. His four sons are excelling in the professions they have chosen. Two of them are Accountants, one is a Doctor and the last holds a master's degree in computer science. His wife—"heaven's best gift to man" has dedicated her time to social service in the best Christian spirit.

When I visited his office I was struck and impressed with the tone of administration. Every client was treated with courtesy, politeness and loyalty savoured very much of professional perfection. He shuns the mush of sentimentality and the drab display of conventionalism.

His 72nd birthday coincided with his completing his 46 years of service. Success has certainly not gone to his head. He truly believes in what the great *Rudyard Kipling* wrote as one "who can walk with kings and not lose the common touch".

This is indubitably a success story. May others especially the younger generation emulate Mr. Selvaratnam's shining example.

## July '83 Riots

## Refugees in Colombo still remain

The Hindu College at Borupana Road, Ratmalana still remains a camp for refugees, some one thousand who lost their homes. It is more than one and a half years since they came there. The men leave the camp for odd jobs in the city and suburbs leaving behind their wives and children who are on dry rations supplied by the Government who spends Rs. 10 each day to feed a male and Rs. 5 to feed a child.

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## Compensation for pre '77 pensioners

Public Servants who retired between October 1, 1969 and December 31, 1977 are to get a "compensatory allowance", after they pointed out that those who retired after the end of 1977 get a higher pension.

The difference in the calculation of the pensions arose from the fact that the earlier pensioners had the computed two-third's salary calculated on their basic pay, while the latter category had theirs calculated on a consolidated pay.

The difference, according to a pensions department spokesman, was anything from twenty rupees upwards.

The compensatory allowance will be as follows:

Where the gross pension is up to Rs. 475, the allowance is Rs. 50.

From Rs. 476-700 the allowance is Rs. 45;

From Rs. 700-1,000 the allowance is Rs. 30.

This allowance will be given to 52,000 out of the total of 150,000 pensioners.

## Education in the Batticaloa District

The President of the Tamil Teacher's Association, Mr. D. S. K. Wanasinghe has, it is learnt, sent an urgent memorandum to the Secretary to the Ministry of Education about the shortage of teachers in the Batticaloa District.

According to Mr. Wanasinghe, Batticaloa needs 1000 teachers for Primary Education, 250 teachers to teach English, 50 teachers for Science and Mathematics and 100 teachers to teach special subjects.

Seventy-nine teachers have been we learn, selected recently for the teaching of English in the Batticaloa District. Mr. Wanasinghe has requested the Ministry to post them in Batticaloa.

Similar statistics perhaps are yet to be collected for the Jaffna District. The number of teachers selected for the teaching of English and other subjects in the Jaffna District is not yet known.

## In brief

○ No Elections till 1989: President Jeyawardene at a public rally at Nugegoda has made it clear that no political party or organisation can pressurise the government to hold elections till 1989.

Among these some 250 are 'hard-core' too old to work. There are also among them some "ineligibles" who receive assistance from the State.

Incentive payments of Rs. 11,000 if they leave the camp, did not attract many. The security and convenience of living in Colombo in the 'camp' is too attractive to be exchanged for money. The government dead line of sending out all refugees by 31-12-84 could not be kept. So they go on.....

## Devotional

## Fear Not

These words occur in the Bible many times; those who fear the Lord are asked to fear nobody or nothing else. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof". This does not mean that no harm will come to those who fear God, that they will always be successful, fortunate and prosperous.

What is meant is that what-