

Editor's Note

Please address all communication for the English pages to **The English Editor**, 'Morning Star', UDUVIL, CHUNNAKAM.

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

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C. S. I.

MODERATOR'S VISIT TO JDCSI CHURCHES

Kilinochchi-Paranthan Church

It was a historic moment in the history of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India when the Moderator of the C.S.I. the most Rev. Solomon Doraiswamy laid the foundation stone for the Church of Christ the King, at Kilinochchi.

The function began at 5-00 p.m. on Saturday the 16th of August at the end of a very busy tour for the Moderator and his wife Christine Doraiswamy. The Pastor of Kilinochchi-Paranthan Church, the Rev. S. Jeyanesan read the Bible portions from Isaiah 54 and Psalm 122. "Enlarge the place of your tent and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; hold not back, lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left." (Isaiah 54:2 & 3). The Psalm began "I was glad when they said to me let us go to the House of the Lord. Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem." (Psalm 122:1). Thus a new chapter began in the extended evangelistic programme of the Diocese, South of Elephant Pass.

A large gathering, consisting of the members of the Parish, friends, Clergy of the Diocese and members of the Executive Committee of the Diocese was present. The Bishop of the Diocese, the Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar invited the Moderator to lay the foundation stone which the Moderator did with prayer and blessing.

A Public meeting followed presided over by the Bishop. The Pastor Rev. S. Jeyanesan welcomed the gathering. Messages of greetings were given by the Rev. Fr. Michael Swamy of the Roman Catholic Church and the Moderator himself. The Moderator in his message stressed the historic role the Jaffna Diocese has played in the Church of South India and wished its evangelistic enterprise God's blessings. He pointed to examples of great evangelistic advances in some of the other Dioceses of the C. S. I.

Mr. R. Jeyapalan of the Kilinochchi-Paranthan Church proposed a Vote of Thanks. After a fellowship tea the function closed with prayer and benediction by the Moderator.

At the Uduvil Church

The Rt. Rev. Solomon Doraiswamy, Moderator of the Church of South India, preaching at the Morning Service on Sunday (17-8-80) at the Uduvil Church reminded the congregation that the Uduvil Church was the home of the *First Christian Endeavour Society in Asia* and that the Uduvil Church in Sri Lanka will be specially remembered when the Centenary of the Founding of the C. E. Society is celebrated in 1981 on a global scale.

The following paragraph from "Glimpses" (a story of the Uduvil Church 1820 - 1970) edited by one of the members of the Uduvil Church, on the occasion of the Church's 150th Anniversary Celebrations in 1970 has the following paragraph relating to this historic event:—

"The Church during these years was privileged by the visits of some well known religious leaders—visits which quickened the zeal of many among the church members. Of special importance was the visit of Mr. Hatch, the General Secretary of the Christian Endeavour Societies of India, Burma and Ceylon.

The first C. E. Society in Asia was founded by the *Leitch Sisters in 1886 at Uduvil*. There was a C. E. Local Union comprising 20 societies with a membership of about 600. The money collected by these societies was spent in supporting Bible women, educating poor children in schools and in home and foreign missions.

The Secretary of the C. E. Local Union at this time was Mr. L. V. Clarence. Two Rallies were held in 1908—one at St. John's and the other at Naval Church.

The programme at these C. E. meetings generally consisted of singing, reading a short paper or giving "three or four short bright, practical addresses"

The impact of the C. E. Society at Uduvil on the life of the Church at this time was tremendous".

At the Colombo Church

The Most Revd. Solomon Doraiswamy, Moderator of the Church of South India and Bishop of Trichy-Tanjore Diocese, and his wife Mrs. Doraiswamy were in Colombo on the invitation of the C. S. I. Colombo Church from 10th to the 15th of August.

The Moderator celebrated Holy Communion and preached at the evening worship service in the C. S. I. Chapel on the 10th of August. He was also the preacher at the Annual Convention meetings held on the 11th and 12th. His subjects was "The Power of the Holy Spirit in the Church". The Colombo Church Choir enriched the Services with their performance.

At the Fellowship Dinner with the members of the Church Executive Committee and Building Committee on Sunday the 10th, the Building Committee Convener Mr. E. S. Appadurai explained to the Moderator the need of a new Church Building and requested the assistance of the C. S. I. Synod for the project. Mrs. Doraiswamy addressed the Women's Guild on Tuesday the 12th.

The presence of the Moderator and his wife in Colombo was

WANTED

A Director for the Engineering Section of the Jaffna College Technical Institute as from 1st January, 1981

Qualifications:

Senior Engineer with educational experience.

Salary Scale:

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with all government approved allowances, married and professional allowances. A point on the approved salary scale is negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

Other details may be obtained from the undersigned.

Applications may be made on forms available in my office on or before Saturday the 20th September, 1980.

A. KADIRGAMAR,
Hony. Secretary
Jaffna College Technical &
Agricultural Institute.

Principal's Office,
Jaffna College,
Vaddukodai.

IN BRIEF

Virakesari, The Tamil Daily celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary on the 6th of August with a Special Golden Jubilee Supplement. The first issue of the paper appeared on 6-8-1930. We take this opportunity to greet Virakesari on its vibrant journalistic career which has spanned five decades.

Trinity College of Music, London

The Speech Examiner of the Trinity College of Music, Mr. Ken Parkin has already arrived in the island and has commenced examining students at various levels, from all parts of the country.

For several years he has administered the Teeside Festival of Speech and Drama and is an Examiner in Spoken English for the University of London.

indeed a source of joy and strength to the Colombo Church.

At the Fort Conventions

The Most Rev. Solomon Doraiswamy addressed the Convention Meetings on the 18th and 19th of August at the Fort Church, Jaffna. Mrs. Doraiswamy addressed a special meeting for the women of the church on the 19th of August.

Rev. G. M. Fletcher of Sydney, Australia was the other speaker at the Convention Meetings organised by the Jaffna Christian Union. After a lapse of many years these meetings were held this year at the Fort Church, Jaffna, reviving a tradition that had existed for many decades.

IN MEMORIAM



IN EVERLOVING MEMORY
OF

Jacob Nagamani Murugupillai
(Head Master of Wannu Mission School in the District of Mullaitivu and Vavuniya)

Called to Rest on 26-8-1926
Born on 11-12-1872

"Not my will But Thine will be done."

Inserted by his eldest son, daughter-in-law, grand children, and great grand children.

J. M. SELVADURAI,
D. M. O's Bungalow,
Kilinochchi,
18-8-80.

IN MEMORIAM



IN TREASURED MEMORY OF

**Arulpragasam
Wilson Rajasekaram**

Called Home: 29th August, 1969
Loved in life and honoured in
Death,

A beautiful memory is all
that is left.
Though absent, you are always
near,
Still loved, still missed and
very dear.

Fondly remembered by his
loved ones here and abroad.
150/10, Station Road,
Jaffna.

IN MEMORIAM



IN TREASURED MEMORY
OF

Lily Gnanam Ayadurai

Called to Rest
28th August, 1978

"Precious for ever, are memories
of you
In silence and in prayer, we
remember you."

Fondly remembered and sadly
missed by your loved ones.
Chavakachcheri.

Medical Officers — M. B. B. S.

Applications are being received from Registered Medical Graduates for immediate employment in the Unified Medical Service of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India. For further particulars contact the Medical Superintendent, Green Memorial Hospital, Manipay.

Applications close on 15-9-80.

EDITORIAL

Youth and Church

"Rejoice young man in thy Youth", is a biblical exhortation which may not have much relish to the educated youth of our country today, caught as they are, in a mesh of increasing unemployment, open discrimination and progressively diminishing prospects of finding greener pastures abroad.

Time was when the Christian Church in Sri Lanka provided for the christian youth "protected sources of employment" (to borrow an expression once used by Dr. D. T. Niles of revered memory).

As a reciprocal gesture, those who were absorbed in mission service, considered their job as a vocation and supplied the much needed leadership to the church, both at the local parish level as well as at the administrative and planning levels in the higher echelons of church administration.

The contemporary situation in the church is very different. The 'old guard', the pride of the old Mission set-up is gradually disappearing from the scene, with no prospects of ready replacements.

The educated youth of the church, after the 'Take-over' of all denominational schools have become a scattered lot with hardly any link with the mother church except an occasional visit or an occasional token remittance.

A lack of vibrant leadership is a problem the church faces in an acute form. A hauntingly familiar comment which we often hear today is of the "angry youth" in our churches "in howl" against the sluggishness of the elders.

But the question arises if there have been any serious 'howls' raised so far. Have any christian youth been actively associated with any popular movements in Sri Lanka working for social justice and human rights?

In recording the event recently in Korea of the civilian take-over of Kwangju from the armed forces, mention has been made that among those who led the civilian movement, there were many "prominent christians". The event was not a riot as the media in most Asian countries made it out to be but one of the strongest affirmations of the dignity of the people to be witnessed for a long time. Almost 300,000 people took to the streets and marched arm in arm howling "freedom, freedom".

Youth Week, August (17-23) of the Diocese should serve as an occasion to remind our youth that there are many matters over which the christian youth have to 'howl' about in Sri Lanka. In the social sphere, for instance, has there been "a howl" against the pernicious system in active operation of "dowry" and "donations" which are no longer in our country only a subject for a 'skit' to entertain a social gathering? They have become an institutionalised form of "organised power" in the hands of a few.

Commenting on our various forms of power structures, a writer says "The fundamental issue" is not how a poor man steals his bread but how whole social and economic systems are eroding, any possibility of responsible christian living" — (Italics are ours.)

We wish that, short of impulsiveness, our christian youth are imbued with a certain measure of righteous indignation today against some of the "systems" they see around them which in the long run affects their own future and the future of the Christian Church which today in our country appears to lack vitality and spark.

Unfortunately here in Sri Lanka, owing to several factors which we have often reiterated in these columns, the youth, [particularly those in the North,] have fallen into a group whose "personality syndrome" is one of hopelessness and diffidence.

This is unfortunate. It is equally unfortunate that our traditional church leaders who have been the products of a comfortably middle class church, imbued with middle class values, cannot be expected to be as prophetic, as they ought to be.

Unless the church adopts a more prophetic stance and follows more literally the politico-socio-economic implications of the Good News, the christian youth cannot live up to the new challenges which they have to meet.

India

Minority Educational Rights upheld

The Supreme Court of India has declared invalid certain provisions of the Pradesh Private Educational Institution Control Act in its application to schools run by minority communities.

A number of Christian institutions challenged these rules arguing that the rules will deprive them of their fundamental right to administer their schools by vesting ultimate administrative

control "in an outside authority."

The Chief-Justice along with two other judges agreeing, upheld the objection stating in the judgment that the "conferment of such power on an outside authority, the exercise of which is made to depend on purely subjective considerations cannot but constitute an infringement of the right guaranteed by the constitution to minority institutions."

Appreciation

Catherine Ponammah Hitchcock

Weeks and months have passed since she left our midst. This tribute ought to have been made long ago, but it has been delayed awaiting tributes from worthier pens. However I have decided to make my humble contribution.

My earliest recollection of Ponammacca is of beautiful young Egyptian Princess with flowing tresses, daintily walking up the stage to rescue Moses from the bulrushes. Perhaps because I provided the doll to represent Moses, I was given the honour of holding the princess's train, a kindergarten, far from impressive, among so many beautiful ladies in waiting. Her rich voice wafted plaintively, as she entered singing:

நீலாற்றில் ஓரத்திலே
நீராடப் போகையில்
பாலகன்போற் துலங்குதங்கே
கன்னிகளை பாருங்களை.

(Incidentally, while sojourning in Jerusalem I discovered the Papyrus grass from which paper was first made, which is a sister species of the bulrushes which sheltered Baby Moses from the waters of the Nile.)

Ponammacca and her sister Flora were daughters of Clarence-Upathiar, an expert violinist and composer. For some time the Clarence Family lived at Uduvil with the family of my grand parents, the Hoisingtons. Catherine, Flora, my aunts Margaret and Mary, and my sister Mary formed a choir, which was called upon to render Clarence-Upathiar's lyrics at various church functions. Ponammacca was by far the youngest. Whenever Uduvil School required a lyric for a special occasion, it was Clarence-Upathiar who was called upon to compose it. I remember singing a Welcome Song to Miss Holland, a new Missionary, as we lived the roadway to the gate. (Miss Holland later died of enteric.) I remember singing an invitation to Lady Constantine (the Governor's wife—in those prehistoric colonial days we had English governors), a lyric from Clarence-Upathiar's pen, the last line of which was

Constantine அம்மா திறத்திடலே
ஏரில்லா மாண்பே,

to declare open the six new classrooms. These six are still very much in use.

But I digress from my theme. When Catherine passed her Senior Cambridge, she proceeded to Madras for a degree course. It was in her second year that she met L. N. Hitchcock, a theological student, handsome, capable of taking the bull by the horns, who lost no time, and with the waters of the Palk Strait gently lapping around the ferry-boat, the moon to lend its charms, they plighted their troth. Catherine did not return to Madras, for she soon became Mrs. L. N. Hitchcock.

Of their service to the Presbyterian Church, I know very

Student Nurses

Willis F. Pierce School of Nursing is receiving applications for Training Nurses. The Qualifications are as follows:

Pass in G. C. E. (Ordinary Level) in not more than two sittings including Tamil Language and Arithmetic or Mathematics and 2 Credit passes in Science subjects or 3 Credit passes in Arts or Commerce subjects. (Preference will be given to those who have passed in English.) Application close on 15-9-80.

Apply to:-

Principal,
Pierce Nursing School,
Green Memorial Hospital,
Manipay.

Y. M. C. A. Talent Contest

IN WESTERN MUSIC
(Vocal & Instrumental)

Saturday 4th October, 1980
at St. John's College

Entries close on 13-9-1980

Details from:

M. THAMBITHURAI,
General Secretary,
Y. M. C. A.,
Jaffna.

little. I knew Ponammacca again when she had returned to the C. S. I. field. In December, 1969, at St. John's Chundikul, we staged a portion of Dicken's Christmas Carols. She took the part of one of Marley's Ghosts. A white-draped ghostly apparition, with squeaky, shaky voice, she struck terror. The miserly Scrooge quaked!

Her literary and dramatic abilities were exceptional. At Madras, it was rumoured that she topped the class in Tamil, and her essays were read out to the class by the lecturer. This was surprising, as students from Ceylon could scarce attain the standard of Madras students in Tamil. Even as late as the late seventies she wrote and staged a play for the Uduvil Old Girls.

When her final illness overtook her, she carried on bravely, doing her kitchen chores even when she was speechless, and had to resort to slate and pencil.

The last time I met her she removed from her album a picture of my grand-mother and her two daughters, who had been her friends. I was glad indeed to have it.

And now, this courageous soul, this youthful spirit, this perfect helpmeet of a Christian minister is no more.

Yet, as they went, they flung to us a spark,

A thread of fire
To guide us, while beneath
sombre sky

Faltering we dwell!
Until for us, like morning stars
shall shine

The deathless dead.

(Donne)

— R. S. S.

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