

## Editor's Note

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

# THE MORNING STAR

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

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## Bossey Graduate School

The Ecumenical Institute of Bossey opened its 29th Graduate School on the 15th of October on the theme *The Bible in the life of the Church*.

"Even though at a first glance, the theme may not appear to be terribly exciting, in reality the subject has not lost any of the excitement it has always had in the ecumenical movement" said Dr. Konrad Raiser, the Acting General Secretary of the WCC addressing 55 participants from 36 countries and five continents of the World.

The course will continue to the end of February 1981. For the first time this year the Graduate School includes more than 10 per cent from the East European Churches.

## The Singapore Grip

The following is an Editorial comment in *The Geylon Daily News* of 22-11-80, on the proposal of the government to follow the example of Singapore in compelling car owners to carry a minimum number of passengers.

"While commending the proposal, we doubt, however if most car owners will look on it kindly... There is the possibility that the ungodly may consider the change a heaven-sent opportunity to rob obliging motorists or even steal their cars, after dealing summarily with them. It is not easy nowadays to distinguish between a "safe" passenger and an unsafe one even in day time.

## Examination Success

Dr. Vairamuthu Manomohan M. B. B. S. (Ceylon) who was till recently Lecturer in Pathology at the Medical Faculty at Peredeniya, has been successful in the M. R. C. P. (Land.) Examination held recently.

He is the son of Mr. C. P. Vairamuthu and Mrs. Vairamuthu of *Suhiritha Mallikai*. Uduvil and is an Old Boy of Jaffna College, Vaddukoddi.

## Family Planning Programme

Since 1972, the Singapore Family Planning Programme has urged people to "stop at two". At the start of this school year (1980), the third child has been denied priority by the Ministry of Education for school registration.

After a spate of parental appeals, the Ministry has now reversed its decision for this year only.

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Singapore has, however assured Catholic parents that church schools would accommodate as many of their children as possible,

## Jaffna Diocese

### Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

Rev. Kingsbury Sinnathamby Jeyasingam, Presbyter of the Jaffna Diocese of the C. S. I. was remembered at a Special Service of Thanksgiving organised by the Executive Committee of the J. D. C. S. I. on Saturday, November 15 at 4-30 p. m. at the Chavakachcheri Church.

Rev. J. J. Ratnarajah led the Service, which commenced with a violin prelude by Miss Thanam Suppiah, followed by the Call to Worship. Mrs. Jeeva Ratnasabapathy sang a *Thevaram*.

The Lessons were read by Mrs. J. Atputharajah, (the daughter of Rev. Jeyasingam) and Mrs. S. J. Somasundaram, Principal of Uduvil Girls' College.

In between the lessons, the Choirs of the Chavakachcheri Church and of the Uduvil Girls' College rendered special Anthems.

Rev. S. N. Sugunanantha paying the tribute on behalf of the Diocese, compared Rev. Jeyasingam's Ministry to three kinds of fruit trees. In giving shelter to those who sought his refuge, he was like the spreading Banyan tree, stately and majestic. Its shade encompassed a large area and was a blessing to many.

The various spheres of activity in which he was involved, bore 'fruit' in their due season and he, as any fruit-bearing tree, had his own share of 'stones' too.

Above all, like the palmyrah tree so plentiful in our country, he made his ministry touch the life of people at many points. The manifold services he rendered were a christian witness in the

villages he served. People were his first love and wherever he was posted, he identified himself with their interests and set an example for all ministers of the church to emulate.

Mr. C. E. Rajasingam, speaking as a student colleague of Rev. Jeyasingam at Jaffna College, referred to the influences in school which shaped his life and career as a Minister of the church. The Jaffna College YMCA, and the Brotherhood were specially enriched by his talents and organisational ability.

He never feared to "lose himself up" in the service of his fellow-students. "Spontaneous extravagance" characterised his dealings with his student colleagues. He strove to serve humanity at its point of greatest need.

He chose as his wife one who in her student days had to meet tragedy and misfortune with uncommon christian fortitude.

Rev. Jeyasingam and his wife Marjorie as Workers in the Mission field took particular care of the "feeble human florets" which by their kind 'look' and nurture they were able to set in order, in the very environment in which they found them. They did wherever they served, always keep "An Open House".

Rev. Sam Thampoe led the Litany of Thanksgiving. The Bishop, the Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar preached the Sermon.

After a song by the members of the Family, the Service came to an end, with the Bishop offering the concluding prayer and Benediction.

## YOUTH AND THE CHURCH

by  
DR. CHANDRA SETHURAJAN  
(40, Emlyn Road, London)

After reading your editorial on 'Youth and the Church' in your issue of the 22-8-80 instant, I hasten to write this article in your column for our Christian youth.

Youth are conditioned by their environment and attitudes imbibed from those around them. It has been rather unfortunate for the Jaffna Youth, that there has been a general atmosphere of denied opportunities in their time. The language and educational issues of the recent past, the economic and social changes of the present and the subtle ever-present temptations of this world of materialism, permissiveness and "progress" continue to pressurise them, either to drift into the broad and easy ways than persevere on the straight and narrow path, or as you mention, drift into a sense of apathy and diffidence.

To those who have grasped the essence of the Christian faith

there is no room for hopelessness or diffidence. I wonder how many of our youngsters have read the book, "Your God is too small" by J. B. Phillips. We cannot blame others, circumstances, back of opportunity and such like for our own inadequacy or lack of courage to stand up for the conviction of our faith. Perhaps we have too narrow a view of God. When in the Lords Prayer we say 'Thy kingdom come' what do we really mean?

Those of us privileged to grow up in Sri Lanka as Christians are indeed fortunate to be in a land blessed by Nature and where two other great living religions of the world are actively practised. I say this, because it is better our children for to be in an atmosphere of spiritual, moral and ethical sensitivity than for them to grow up in an atmosphere of materialism and monetarism to develop into adults insensitive to spiritual values, community needs and social responsibility. Educated Christian Youth, need to learn and understand how to be part of an integrated society. Pre-

(Continued on last page)

## Uduvil Girls' College Carol Service

on  
5-12-1980  
at  
5-30 p. m.

Theme: .

அன்பின் ஒளியின் முதல் உதயம்

Speaker: Rev. A. C. Thambyrajah  
All are cordially invited.

## St. Peter's Methodist Church, Jaffna

will conduct the following courses at

### Trimmer Hall, Jaffna from January, 1981

1. Nursery over 3 years and under 5 on 1-1-1981.
2. Pre-School Teacher Training Course  
(a) English Medium  
(b) Tamil Medium
3. English and Spoken English 1 year and 6 months course.

Applications close on 15th December, 1980. Nursery and all other courses begin on Monday 19th January, 1981.

Please apply early.

MISS M. THAMBIAH  
No. 9, Lockwood House,  
Vembadi Road,  
Jaffna.

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MANAGER

## IN MEMORIAM

IN EVERLOVING MEMORY

OF

### Samuel Kanagaratnam Rasiah

Called to rest on  
25th November 1959

Affectionately remembered  
by his loved ones.

Tellippalai,





## EDITORIAL

## An Uneasy Stability

"The outlook for foreign aid is becoming bleaker every day... It is a tragedy that external forces outside our control threaten to jeopardise some parts of our development programme... any curtailment of our development programme would mean less employment. Going ahead without counting the cost, would mean more inflation."

These words which we have quoted from the "Prologue" of Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel's Budget Speech this year (as he set out to bridge the staggering gap of Rs. 15,598 billion) frankly and poignantly sums up the nation's economic plight, as the Government enters its fourth year of tenure.

Work on *Randinegala*, a major regulation reservoir of the Mahaveli, has been put off by one year. The *Kotmale Dam* has been reduced from its original dimensions. As many as sixteen ministry estimates have been pruned. (The CTB incurred a loss of Rs. 1300 million and the Railway Rs. 350 million).

We do not think that any useful purpose will be served, at this crucial stage in our economy, by the Opposition blaming the government for its unsettling experiences or the government underscoring at every turn, the global context of recession and economic crisis in which it has been caught.

Certain facts have to be faced and faced squarely by the government, the opposition parties and by the people, if we are not to sink further into our political and economic quicksands.

Both the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech on 6-11-80 and the President of the Republic in his address at the Public Rally held at Market Square in Kandy on 10-11-80 have emphasised the *political stability in the country today*, based on 51.5 per cent of votes cast for the UNP at a democratic election held in July 1977.

The President has gone further and said that in 1983, the UNP is likely to poll 30 lakhs of votes, leaving only 12 lakhs to be divided among other parties. The future stability of the UNP, he has assured, has been built into the very structure of the New Constitution which, according to the President, will not permit any other party to come into power.

"Reality" has been described by a writer as "a sliding floor." While the stability achieved by the government at the last General Election in July 1977, has been unique in our annals, the government should well be advised to see that the present "reality" does not suffer a "slide" under the stress of *human problems* generated by recent events, which, the government cannot categorically claim, have been beyond its control.

Two dismal happenings unprecedented in our annals have unfortunately heralded the Fourth Budget of the Jeyawardene government. One is the lock-out of 40,000 public servants (according to official records) which has affected, as the Leader of the Opposition has pointed out, the lives and fortunes of some 250,000 dependents at a time of dire economic straits.

The other event is the deprivation of civic rights and disenfranchisement of two political leaders of the "previous government", one of whom was the former Prime Minister, Srima Bandaranayake.

The punishment meted out to the errant public servants was a sequel to their flouting (in response to their Trade Unions' call) the government order made on the eve of the Declaration of an Emergency that those who do not report for work on 18-7-80 would be considered as having vacated their posts.

The measures that have been taken against the SLFP political leaders is a sequel, it is claimed, to an election pledge made by the government that it would punish those "who abused power while in power".

These facts, without doubt, remain undisputed. But there is an element of dramatic irony in the situations that have been triggered by these happenings.

The Seventy Rupees allowance now decided upon by the government has to go to its accredited beneficiaries — officers who have toiled for the government for the last three years in the teeth of galloping inflation.

If the financial relief intended for a group of public servants is to be transferred to any other group which has exploited the crisis situation and obtained employment in the government on the pretext of "loyalties" yet to be tested, such a gesture would assume the complexion of political vindictiveness and victimisation against a section of public servants who have formed the backbone of the public administration for many years.

The punishment meted out to the two SLFP leaders in terms of an election pledge is also likely to be construed as vindictive zealotry so long as the election pledges of far more serious import in the national interest, remain yet to be honoured. These 'pledges' affect particularly the Tamil speaking minorities in the country.

We hold no brief in this column for strikers or for political leaders who achieve lugubrious distinctions in our annals.

What we do want to emphasise is that we in Sri Lanka have been afflicted enough by political and economic problems for us to need to extend the areas of our tensions. "A conquered foe" runs an adage, "has always to be watched".

## Some Facts gleaned from the Budget Speeches

- The total number of *unemployed* in Sri Lanka is in the region of 750,000. Singapore is a city state with only 742 unemployed persons.
- *Eight hundred babies* are born in Sri Lanka everyday.
- A *Central Bank Survey* shows that the wealth of the country is concentrated on the top 10 per cent of the income receivers. They are the Contractors, Importers and Smugglers.
- Within a space of seven months there has been a nearly 15 per cent *devaluation in the Sri Lankan Rupee* when compared to the Dollar and Pound Sterling (which has risen from Rs. 29 to Rs. 44)
- Limit on *Treasury Bills* has risen from 2550 million in 1976 to Rs. 10,000 million since 1977.

What is the corresponding increase in the money supply?

- The *Free Trade Zone* is largely studded with tailoring shops. The Investment on each shop is in the region of Rs. 140,000. The salary of each Sri Lankan employee (mostly girls) is Rs. 350 per month. (No travelling allowance is paid) The salary of expatriate employees is in the region of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000 a month.
- Total on *Foreign and Domestic Debt* in June 1980 is Rs. 37,874 million (an increase of 22 million since January 1977)
- There are 7 million persons in Sri Lanka whose income is less than Rs. 300 a month. A family of Five will have to spend now Rs 37-50 for a single meal.

## Arunachal Pradesh

## Christians Face Harrasment again

The Church at *Noksan* erected only last year has been burnt down on the 26th of July in the presence of the Deputy Commissioner and a number of local leaders.

*Noksan* is a small village in Tirap district. Out of 400 people, 300 are Catholics. The Church was put up during the last Christmas season.

A Joint Action Committee for Religious Freedom has addressed a letter of protest to the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh. The letter concludes thus: "Can refusal of justice to the Christian Community bring peace to the Union Territory?"

## Personal

Mrs. Rathy Selvaratnam, wife of the Rev. A. J. C. Selvaratnam Rector of Marysville, Victoria, who attended the All Nigerian Womens' Theological Consultation as a delegate from Australia and read a paper on "Asian Womens' Role in Church & Society" last month held in Ibadan, was in Colombo for a fortnight. She addressed various Church of Ceylon Mothers' Unions and last Sunday she preached at the Mount Lavinia Methodist Church. Mrs. Selvaratnam left on Tuesday for her home in Marysville from where she goes to Manila at the end of the month to participate in the Least Coin Silver Jubilee celebrations of which of which body she was president from 1964 to 1970.

Youth and the Church  
(Continued from first page)

preparation for a salaried job or profession should not be an end in itself. Education is a life long process. I understand there is a move in Sri Lanka to include Human Rights as a subject into the school curriculum. During these changing times it would only further erode one oriental cultural ethos if while introducing 'Human Rights' into the curriculum the subject of "civic and social responsibilities of citizens" is also not simultaneously introduced into the secondary school curriculum, if we are to survive as a democratic society. There is no right or privilege without responsibility.

The paths of pioneering christians have not been easy and carpeted. They, with the conviction of their faith have been able to say, "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I've committed unto them against that Day." John 16:9 says, "The world's sin is unbelief in Me." I remember the Rev. Dr. D. T. Niles in one of his talks referred to the excitement and adventure of living by the Christian faith as the biggest gamble ever. You put your life into his hands because of your faith in His promises! Thus, with such faith in God, Christian pioneers have left a trail wherever they have been and those who live by faith in God and His promises continue to do even now, wherever they are placed to work for His Kingdom on earth.

(To be continued)

Contemporary history tells us, besides that political, stability in any country cannot be achieved only by legal and constitutional measures and safeguards.

"The less a statesman amounts to" says a political critic and philosopher "the more he loves the flag".

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