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

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

Our advertisement rates have been revised as follows, and will take effect from January 1st, 1968. All advertisements within 2 ins. Rs. 10-00. In Memoriam Rs. 12-50.

Calendar of Events

January 18 - 25: Week of Prayer for Unity. January 21: Unity Sunday. February 7 - 10: Camp Farthest Out by Roland Brown and Marjory Brown at the Christa Seva Ashram.

JAFFNA COLLEGE

The Undergraduate Section of Jaffna College opened for the 6th and 7th Semesters on Monday, January 8. The A. L. section opens on January 14.

The Chaplain, Mr. Glenn Youcam, is teaching two extra curricular courses: English Literature and Religion. Mrs. Youcam is working in the Library.

TO THE C. S. L. SYNOD

In addition to those mentioned in our last week's issue, the following have also gone to India to attend the sessions of the Synod of the Church of South India, now being held in Colombo: Mrs. S. Kulandran and the Rev. (Sevak) S. Selvarajam. Sevak Selvarajam is the Chaplain of the Synod and conducts the devotions in the mornings.

TO THE E. A. C. C.

As noted in these columns some time back, the Rev. J. J. Rajaratnam, pastor of the C. S. L. Church, Chavakkatticherry, is to represent the Church of South India at the forthcoming Fourth General Assembly of the East Asia Christian Conference to be held from the 30th January to the 8th February, 1968, in Bangkok, Thailand. He will be accompanied by his wife. They plan to leave Jaffna on the 27th of this month.

THE PLAY THAT TRAVELLED

Eighteen girls of the Women's Centre presented a Nativity Play for their friends on December 29 in the new bus-shed under the direction of Mrs. M. A. Paul, the Acting Manager, of Christmas as the members of the Manager's Tableau travelled by lorry with the Udvallu Caroler, in the Outpatients Department of the M. L. Hospital, on December 29. The drama was repeated for nurses, staff, ambulance pilots and friends. Finally, Mrs. Paul took the Christmas tableaux for a New Year's Eve service at the Christiana Centre there, which is the price of her brother, Mr. Francis Ratnam.

At Dharmaparam the play was only a part of a long, exciting programme which included tennis by the Dharmaparam youth, dinner for 250 which the Centre prepared and served, speeches and prayers by Rev. J. J. Rajaratnam, member of the Village Committee and the head of the Gandhi Ashram, singing at 10 p.m., and a W. O. Night service into the New Year.

On their way back to Marussaminal the Centre presented a Nativity play with a visit, and were invited to tea.

PEACE CORPS IN JAFFNA

Ann and Robert J. B. live in Arifolia; Dennis Gutsmann and Peter Decker are in Kandyali; Martha McLean, in Tiberias. There are the 5 P. C. V's assigned to Jaffna, with their services to be in agriculture, village development and work in education. In Kilico-hell two young men and one volunteer is in Trincomalee. As for the rest of the 51 P. C. V's, who landed in Ceylon shortly before Christmas, they will go to Sinhalese speaking areas. Bob J. B. grew up in New Jersey but went to college in Georgia, where he met Ann, a native Georgian. Dennis comes from New York City; "Marty" from Michigan State. D. R. M.

CAMP FARTHEST OUT

Pastor Roland Brown and Marjory Brown are due in Ceylon early next month for a ten-day programme. They will conduct a Camp at the Christa Seva Ashram, Marutha-madam, from the 7th to the 10th of February, 1968. Details of the Camp could be had from the Ashram.

METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

Sister Malar Cheliah is now living at "Vembasalai", with Miss Margaret Dore. With them are four young women who are studying deaconess training. When the Rev. Donald Barlow goes on furlough next Easter, Sister Malar will move into "Lockwood House", and from there supervise the activities of the deaconesses for a year. On St. Paul's return she will move to the Theological Study Centre at Pilmattalawa to pioneer a new school for deaconesses. The four students from Jaffna will move there with her.

Miss Margaret Craze, Methodist missionary, flew back to England recently, to 43 Crofton Lane, Uppington, Kent.

She has finished a most useful term of service at the Colombo City Mission in the Petrus Girls' and Boys' Clubs, for the sick and the elderly, and the lonely - all these absorbed her loving attention. She especially valued her participation in co-operative efforts for the welfare of the people of the "inner city". Not incidentally, her flat was a happy haven for scores of the city's young people for visitors, a friendly centre of warmth and friendship.

WEDDINGS

Canagaratnam - Edwards - The marriage was solemnized at the St. John's Church, Chavakkatticherry, last Saturday, the 6th inst., at 4 p.m. by Mr. R. J. Canagaratnam, son of the late Mr. V. G. Canagaratnam retired, and Mrs. S. A. Canagaratnam, and Mrs. S. A. Canagaratnam, and Miss Josephine Pusapadi (neé Annam), daughter of Mr. C. A. W. Edwards, Superintendent of Police, and Mrs. Edwards, of Old Castle, Kopya. The Rev. W. R. Kumaramangy, assisted by the Rev. R. R. Rajaratnam and the Rev. Lewis, officiated at the solemnization. The Rev. Mr. Rajaratnam preached the homily. A reception followed at the Palm Court, Jaffna.

Dwight - Dharmarajah - The wedding took place on Saturday, the 6th inst., at 4.30 p.m. at the Methodist Church, Wellawatte, of Mr. Richard Dwight, son of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore M. Dwight, of Wellawatte, and Miss E. M. Dharmarajah, daughter of Mr. A. N. V. Dharmarajah formerly of H. M. S. Cuttack, Ceylon and Mrs. Dharmarajah, of Panakkal, Ceylon. The Rev. R. J. Canagaratnam, Bishop of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India and uncle of the bride, officiated at the solemnization, assisted by the Rev. Dr. James S. Mather and the Rev. Michael Brown, who also preached the homily. A reception was held by the bride's parents at the New Town Hall, Colombo.

Rajaratnam - Visuwaningum - The marriage was solemnized at the Methodist Church, Marudana, on Saturday, the 6th inst., at 4.30 p.m. by the Rev. R. J. Canagaratnam, Assistant to the Minister in Charge of the Electrical Department, Colombo, and Mr. Rajaratnam, of the Municipal Road, Colombo. The Rev. S. B. Saravanamuttu officiated at the solemnization, assisted by the Rev. J. J. M. He also preached the homily. Following the church ceremony the bride's parents held a reception at the Y. W. C. A. Jubilee Hall, Slave Island.

A CORRECTION

In the account of the wedding of Mr. Rajin Selvarajam and Miss Indra Gulsingam, which appeared in our issue of the 22nd of last month, there was mentioned that the Rev. M. Rajaratnam was one of the officiating priests at the solemnization. It was not he but the Rev. S. M. Jacob. The error is regretted.

WANTED

A Lady Teacher, Montessori trained, for the Nursery School of the Methodist Church, Vaddukoddai, immediately. Please apply before the 25th inst. to: L. S. Kulathungam, Worker-in-charge, Vaddukoddai, Jaffna 17, 1968.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

A Memorial Service for the life of the late Mr. Arulnathan Chelliah was held at the Navally Church on Sunday, the 4th of December, 1967, at 4 p.m. The Rev. S. N. Hitchcock, the President in charge of the Navally Church was the leader. A large number of representatives gathered and representatives of the Rev. (Sevak) I. T. Youssoufiam preached the sermon. The Rev. D. R. Arambalavanthi spoke of the many happy traits in the character and life of late Mr. Chelliah. He said that he had lived a very simple and unostentatious life. He was a very faithful churchman who was always in the forefront to help in Church activities; that his way of living and leading a Christian life was an example that could well be emulated by others. He expressed his sympathy with the mourning family and urged them to cry to the Lord as a Christian to carry the torch brightly. A beautiful tablet to the memory of the late Mr. Chelliah was unveiled by the Rev. L. N. Rathvelly. The service ended with the benediction.

A Service in memory of the late Mrs. Solomon Richard was held on Sunday, the 7th January, at 4 p.m. at the Udvallu Church at which a Litany table and chair gifts in her memory by her sister, Mrs. Annammam Thambiah, of Sthanbarayan, were blessed.

The service was conducted by the Rev. A. E. Sureshchandra and the lesson was read by Mr. J. E. Kanagaratnam.

OFF TO AMERICA

Mrs. Rajinitham Aradiarai, the wife of the late Mr. S. Aradiarai, Engineer, Colombo has joined the service of the Blue Cross Snow-wood Company at Los Angeles, U. S. A. She left Colombo by air on the 6th of last December and spent a few days in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur before flying to the States. She arrived in Los Angeles on the 14th December and assumed work on the 27th. She writes to say that she finds the place and the people there very friendly. She was received warmly by the Methodist Church there, where she attends. She is the oldest daughter of late Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Sureshchandra, now of 7, Kandawatta Road, Nugegoda.

OBITUARY

Mr. R. D. Lewis - We regret to record the untimely death which occurred at the Government Hospital, Jaffna, Thursday, the 28th of last month, of Mr. Rajesenan David Lewis, of the Government Department of Electrical Undertakings, Canakkamakam. He was 63 years of age and had been 11 years for a short period. A son of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. Rajesenan Lewis, he had his education at St. John's College, Jaffna. He was held in respect for his efficiency and integrity as a Government officer. His alertness and unobtrusive manner, and his kindly nature were deeply appreciated by all those who came into contact with him. The funeral took place at the Government service at his residence at Udvallu being conducted by the Rev. K. S. Jayasingam, assisted by the Rev. A. E. Sureshchandra, who officiated at the service. The remains were then removed to the Maalpathi Church cemetery, where the committal rites were performed by the Rev. A. E. Sureshchandra, assisted by the Rev. K. S. Jayasingam.

The deceased leaves behind, besides his wife Gnanam, four children, two sons - Mr. A. H. Jayasingam and Mr. M. G. Jayasingam, six brothers - Gurus, A. B. Paul, Arakkannam, Sun and Sunder, and a large circle of friends and relatives to mourn his early, unexpected demise.

Mrs. Annammam Thillainayagam - The death occurred at her residence at Udvallu on the night of Saturday, the 6th inst., of Mrs. Annammam Thillainayagam, wife of the late Mr. T. S. Thillainayagam, Inspector of Schools. She was 72 years of age and had been in good health till about three days before her death, when she had a fall causing an injury to her eye. She was a daughter of Mr. Frank of Udvallu and had her education at the Udvallu Girls' School. Her husband shouldered alone the responsibility of bringing up her three children. Her two sons, Henry and Joseph, were a source of pride to her. She was a woman of great courage, bubbling cheer and a devoted mother. The funeral was held at the Udvallu Church on Sunday, the 7th inst., at 4 p.m. The Rev. K. S. Jayasingam, assisted by the Rev. A. E. Sureshchandra, officiated at the service. The remains were then removed to the Maalpathi Church cemetery, where the committal rites were performed by the Rev. A. E. Sureshchandra, assisted by the Rev. K. S. Jayasingam.

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S. Jayasingam. In the course of his sermon, he paid a tribute to the life and work of the deceased. Mr. L. J. D. Mather also rendered a solo in English, while Mr. Thillainayagam, a nephew of Mrs. Thillainayagam, sang a Thevaran. The remains were then removed for interment to the cemetery of the Udvallu Church, where the committal rites were performed by the Rev. K. S. Jayasingam.

The deceased leaves behind her Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Channarayana (son-in-law and daughter), two sisters Mrs. Packiam Amarasolom and Mrs. Alexander Param, several grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends who will miss her.

Letters to the Editor

CAN CHRISTIANS CHASTEN CHILDREN?

Dear Sir, The carnal minded worldly theorists look upon all discipline from the standpoint of the widely publicised abuses of ill trained parents. A sensational case of child-beating is enough to convince most people that all punishment, however sensible, loving, kind and judicious, is wrong.

Punishment, when meted out in the proper manner and at the proper time, is one of the greatest blessings one can receive at any age.

Some say that punishment and love cannot come from the same source! God is love! "Ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, my son, despise not the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him, for whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth." Heb. 12: 5-6.

Almighty God punishes his children because He loves them! True Christians today are supposed to be constant recipients of God's just and merciful chastisement. His punishments and His admonitions, His corrections and rebukes! God says "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction.... that the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (II Tim. 3: 16-17.)

In like manner a child who is allowed to grow up through various phases of rebellion unchecked and unrestrained without the loving but firm hand applied where it ought to be, how it ought to be, is going to end up as a confused, uncertain, neurotic, emotional mess and in all likelihood a hardened, unregenerate criminal and a gangster.

Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, Hideki Tojo, Joseph Stalin and the so-called "international gangsters", the arch criminals, the sex fiends were little babies once!

Did the mothers of these "pretty babies" know that their children would develop into some of the most vicious criminals of their day? Remember, criminal behaviour is learned behaviour, human beings are creatures of habit. The child who is confronted with parental strife, indecision, lack of authority, upset conditions, will develop accordingly. Most of the parents are inclined to make excuses for their children's poor behaviour. Actually, they are excusing themselves. God's answer is "chasten thy son while there is hope and let not thy soul spare for his crying." (Prov. 19: 18)

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

A Service of Thanksgiving in memory of my wife, Mercy Chelvaratnam (nee Lyman), will be held at the Dutch Reformed Church, Wellawatte, on Monday, the 22nd January, 1968, at 4.30 p.m.

The presence of friends and relatives at this service will be appreciated.

S. SIVASUBRAMANIAM, Hillside Street, Colombo 12.

Authority begins in the Home. If our young people are to become good citizens, the place to start is in the family circle. God gives us the wisdom and judgement, the patience and the love to guide in the most important responsibility of life - rearing children.

STATUES OF TWO SAVANTS

Dear Sir, Apropos the World Tamil Conference at Madras to which the best wishes of all Tamils, Indians and all others interested in culture from all parts of the world go, it is gratifying to note that statues of some eminent Tamils are being installed. In this context, it is respectfully submitted that the statues of Dr. Ananda K. Coomaraswamy and Sri La Sri Arumuga Navalar could also appropriately find places. As we are aware, Dr. Coomaraswamy was a great Tamil who had promoted Tamil, Sinhalese and Oriental culture, in fact, international and inter-religious culture among many countries in the world. He was also an exponent of Indian unity and nationalism and was, in his own way, one of the makers of modern India, even as he was a great Ceylonese and was one of the makers of modern Ceylon. Further, he promoted India-Ceylon good-will very substantially.

Sri La Sri Arumuga Navalar was one of the greatest Tamils of his time and contributed magnificently to the promotion of Tamil Language and Culture. He had served both India and Ceylon in a very remarkable manner and had lived in both countries. He is one of the founders of the Tamil Renaissance in addition to his services of a rare type in the sphere of religion. His spirit of patriotism and unbending independence were great assets in the movement for the elimination of foreign power from India and Ceylon. He was also a very effective link between India and Ceylon.

India and Ceylon would be honouring themselves by honouring these two great savants and patriots and having their statues erected in both countries. Even if, for want of time, it is found physically not practicable to have these statues installed immediately, the organisers of the Tamil Conference and other leaders of thought and action as well as the general public in both countries would be doing a graceful and meritorious act if they could make arrangements for their installation at some early point of time.

IN CHERISHED MEMORY OF ANNA DHAVARATNAM (Ghaya) WADSWORTH

At rest: 14th January, 1963.

It is evident and as clear as the noon-day that the most casual observers that the political and economic condition of the Tamils in this country are deteriorating at a tremendous and unprecedented rate. To arrest

affectionately remembered by her loved ones.

Yaddukoddai, Colombo

Yaddukoddai, Colombo

Yaddukoddai, Colombo

Yaddukoddai, Colombo

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CHARTERED FLIGHTERS

By one of them

The local newspapers have had rich material to fill their columns ever since the first of the nearly 1000 charter flighters from the U. K. set their feet on their home soil. Most of the reports and comments have not been kind to them, although one has to express a little gratitude for streaks of little consideration tucked away in obscure sections of what sometimes were double paged coverage.

What many failed to understand was the amount of preparation and planning that had gone into this Christmas visit to the land of their birth. They did not come here—at least most of them—to impress the 'natives' with their nylon, terebinth, and foreign cigarettes. They did not come here for a little bit of sun, away from the cold English wintry weather. One need not fly 6000 miles to obtain warm sunny situations. They did come here, having paid for their flight in hard-earned money, to visit their dear ones.

The charter flighters wearing 'made in England' apparel, using British made necessities, as well as a certain number of luxuries like the State Express cigarette and the Wilkinson blade, are inevitable. One would like to use 'native' made goods, but could the charter flighters afford such expensive things that have a 'Ceylon Made' label?

One could suspect that local producers are making hay while the sun shines so brightly with the tariff protections afforded, perhaps with the purpose of nurturing infant industries. One could see bright posters all over the country with threatening jail terms for blackmarketers, but the writer has had some very nasty experiences in his visits to various parts of the country. The incidence of high prices was such that one was made to wonder if these posters were the only measures taken to arrest such a state of affairs. In one Rest House two lbs. of stale bread were billed for Rs. 2. It would have been more advisable to have packed a few pounds of English bread in our baggage, though limited to only 4 lbs. Good rice costs less in England, and so do many other things. Perhaps, the nationals can afford to pay such prices for 'Made in Ceylon' products, but we poor charter flighters have to be contented with British made goods.

But then, even here one is mystified by the large number of letters the charter flighters receive from their kith and kin during the period prior to the commencement of the flight. In almost all cases that is the first time news of them is also received. Ironically most of the letters are addressed to old addresses and some are unfortunately lost, but others do their rounds in London before finally reaching the addressee. Most of these letters almost certainly would have the last paragraph beginning "Incidentally..." and this would explain the sudden expression of love and affection. The subtle requests vary—Johnson Baby Powder, soap, blades, pens, and shirts to sarong, socks, transistors, toys and even Morris car piston rings—all to be accommodated within the personal baggage allowance of 44 lbs.

It is a well-known fact that the charter flighters plan their gifts, where deserved, well in advance, and save their shillings to meet this need, the fulfilling of which is a very happy experience. But, above all, visiting Ceylon for three weeks to a month is the most rewarding experience. No doubt, Ceylon is very much preoccupied with byelections all the time (this perhaps explains the little work done elsewhere) and the citizens are in either election queues or the long winding queues which, if negotiated with a little patience, would be seen to end at the nearest Co-operation Minister, understand it?

A reshuffling of the Cabinet is urgently needed if real, positive action is to be adopted by the Government to bring relief and satisfaction to the public at large. It is to be hoped that the Premier, who has recently shown marked signs of great courage and strength, will act, without fear of political consequences like defections from his party. He will then be the real saviour of the country.

THE AGONY OF JERUSALEM

By HUGH SAMSON

of the British Council of Churches' Department of Christian Aid. Jerusalem the Golden, 1968, is a little tarnished. 'The shout of them that triumph' and 'the song of them that feast' are no doubt to be heard, but not among the 60,000 Arab population.

The atmosphere in this Israel-occupied city is as taut as a piano wire, and it would be too easy to play emotional tunes on it. The facts must speak for themselves.

The milk and honey with which the Holy City was once blessed was the tourist trade. It has gone. Or at least it has gone from most of the Arab traders in Jerusalem, and its benefits are totally denied to the hattered economy of Jordan which ruled here until last June. Jerusalem had accounted for 40 per cent of Jordan's Gross National Product from tourism.

There was a short sharp boom as the dust of battle settled and Jewish visitors from Israel, anxious to see places which for 19 years had been on the wrong side of the 1948 Truce Line, flocked into the Old City and went through the shops like a swarm of locusts. Prices were seasonally lower than in their own half of the city, and the shelves were soon stripped bare. The Israeli Government rapidly took over the economy, closing the Arab banks, curtailing trade with Jordan, and introducing tax and tariff levels which Arab traders and businessmen find crippling. Whatever benefits Christmas visitors may have brought, these were of only marginal and temporary help to the hardpressed Arabs.

Trade Stagnating

Mr. Adib Otaqui, the unhappy proprietor of the Jerusalem Clothing Factory, has kept all workers on his payroll chiefly to make clothes for refugee children. The made-up garments are distributed free by the Near East Council of Churches' Refugee Committee who import the cloth. Since June, Mr. Otaqui's factory has made 5,000 such pieces and he is awaiting the arrival of another 3,000 yards of cloth from the U. S. A. for this purpose. But he now has practically no other business.

Cloth for the commercially profitable side of his trade lies uncollected in Amman, but that is now enemy territory—not Mr. Otaqui's enemy, but Israel's. He used to pay 40 per cent duty on imported cloth from England, Germany, Italy and the U. S. A. Now the Israelis have levied 86 per cent on all synthetic fibres and an even higher rate on pure materials. Mr. Otaqui's cloth in Amman might as well be in Australia. "I would like to be trading with Britain, taking advantage of devaluation," he says. "But it's out of the question"

Ironically, he has just received the new income tax assessment on the employees whose wages he is paying out of his own pocket. It is three-and-a-half times the old Jordanian rate.

Giftive Stores, Queens have certainly come to stay, but one would have wished them extended to bus stands and cinema halls as well. Yet it is a happy experience to be in a warm climate and among warm-hearted folks—far away from all that is cold, artificial and snobbish. Above all, the short sojourn is a relief from being a second class citizen in a country that boasts of tried and tested democratic traditions.

Most of us have gone back and the 20th of this month will have seen the last of us. But we will be back—at least we hope so. One cannot be very sure with subtle threats to charter flights from high places. It will be a tragedy if the children of Lanka are denied the opportunity of obtaining inexpensive holidays among their own ones. One would pray and hope for wise counsels to prevail if the question of charter flights should come under consideration from powers—that be—perhaps they may extend this privilege to the rest of the world. Some of the survivors are still being nursed back to health in the Near East Council of Churches' Family Centre in the town of Qubeibeh which

Arabs Lose Business

A man who runs his own tourist agency shrugged his shoulders like the Arab hoteliers when I asked about business. "There are no tourists," they all said—discounting the Jewish visitors, who take their patronage to Israeli establishments.

The tourists from Europe and America will no doubt return but, even if they choose to do so, they will find it difficult to benefit the Arabs. One of the biggest and best hotels in Arab Jerusalem, hitherto serving tourists more or less exclusively, has sandbags across its entrance. It has been taken over by the Israeli Government as offices.

Arab tourist agencies are forbidden to handle tours outside the Old City and although this remains the chief attraction, most tourists like to pull in visits to other places as well while in the Holy Land. So any package deal has to be arranged through an Israeli agency.

Even most of the Arab taxi-drivers have been effectively taken off the streets and replaced by Israelis. The Military Governor refused licences to all except 32 out of the 200 Arab taxi drivers. The favoured 32 are all older men, having held licences in the pre-1948 Mandate days.

Christians Share the Agony

Among defeated people you will always find bitterness. It is inevitable. And in every defeated country occupied by the victors it must be expected that the vanquished take second place. Magnanimity is a big, fat, impressive word, grossly under-estimated. The heel of the conquerors rests lightly and humanely on the people of occupied Jerusalem, but it is there and it is felt. Though the Israelis have swept away the barricades, the barbed wire, and the No-man's land which separated the Arab from the Jewish populations from 1948 onwards, Jerusalem is still a divided city.

Where does the not-inconsiderable Christian community stand today in Christendom's holiest of cities? Only outward observances remain the same. For the rest, Christians share the agony of occupation with their compatriots. The scrupulous carve-up of responsibilities between the Latin, Greek and Armenian branches of the Church, instituted with almost side-rule precision by the old British administration, remains unaltered. The Israeli authorities told all Jews to keep away from the Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem, and offered free access to Israeli territory for Christian pilgrims from Jordan at Christmas time. But the Church leaders in Amman jointly declined to accept the concession, no doubt fearing that to take advantage of it would imply recognition of Israel's right of occupation and her authority to admit or bar pilgrims from the place of Christ's birth.

Christians in Jerusalem and other parts of occupied Jordan are subject to the same tensions and privations and humiliations as the Muslims, and in so far as the overwhelming majority are Arabs their national pride is as deeply wounded. Brotherly love for the next door neighbour who have now moved into their homeland is strained to their beyond endurance, and in this near-intolerable situation the Christian communities there stand in great need of love and understanding from the whole Christian world.

Need no Creed

They also stand in need of practical help, not to offset their own material losses but to enable them to do their duty—to serve those who are suffering most, whether they be Muslim or Christian.

During the June fighting many Jordanian mothers gathered up their children and fled from bursting artillery shells, whining bullets and screaming jet planes that skimmed the surface of their world. In rocky hillside caves they lay hidden from the horror outside and their youngest children paid the price—death or malnutrition.

Some of the survivors are still being nursed back to health in the Near East Council of Churches' Family Centre in the town of Qubeibeh which

lies on what many believe to be the old Biblical road to Emmaus. Mothers daily bring their young children and babies here for supplementary feeding. Twelve local children died after living in caves nearly—most of them from gastro-enteritis. Under the supervision of Mrs. Sumayya Kboury this Christian centre has moved on from emergency to preventive care, and the mothers are taught how to supplement their normal family meals at home with special protein-rich foods prepared from locally-available ingredients. The centre also takes 60 girls at a time for one-year courses in home-making, nutrition, child-care, health and hygiene, and sewing.

Many villagers whose homes lay on the battlefield returned to find nothing but rubble. Other villages, in militarily strategic positions, were considered a potential danger to Israeli security and have since been evacuated and bulldozed to the ground. So the centre at Qubeibeh teaches proletarian people how to make do on nothing. They learn how to make cots for their babies out of cardboard boxes, beds out of odd bits of wood, clothes from sugar sacks, and—to add a little gaiety to a grim situation—necklaces from spaghetti.

Peasants and Professionals

But although the outside world may think of Arab refugees as fleeing peasants whose simple material needs have now undergone a process of still further simplification, there are thousands of others who would no more think of living on international charity in an urban hotel, a hillside cave or an UNRWA tent than would the average British or American businessman. They are company directors, manufacturers, caterers, administrators, commercial representatives, lawyers, and so on. In fact, a cross-section of a nation. They, too, are refugees. They, too, have lost livelihoods and property. They, too, need help to survive. So the Near East Council of Churches—again calling upon resources from Christians in other lands, channelled through the World Council of Churches—has added a small-scale scheme to all its other programmes of aid and mercy.

(Note: To help war victims in the Middle East, irrespective of religion, nationality, politics, or geography, the World Council of Churches has appealed to its members for \$2,000,000. The response will be channelled to the Near East Council of Churches and other relative agencies in the Middle East.)

W. C. C. Information

An Appreciation

The Christmas Festival of Lights

The Festival of Lights on the evening of Epiphany at Jiffra College was a delightful production and I congratulate all who took part. I had been the producer, I should have wanted to run at least three scenes into one long scene to avoid delays in scene shifting, but I understood that different parishes prepared different scenes, and that to amalgamate them would have been difficult. The acting was excellent, especially that of the shepherds and the Bethlehem women. The old shepherd in charge of the cattle-shed was a glib performer. The shepherd who was acted by a girl was a beautiful singer. The dancer in the last scene was really brilliant. The two little girls in the scene before were very good too, but I was terrified that they would set fire to their long nylon skirts with their candles. The staging and the costumes were very effective, but some actors forgot that men in Bethlehem did not have boots and trousers and fibre suit cases. One shepherd too had a cardboard box with its name of a Ceylon firm printed on it. Surely a kadahan would have been better; even if not Jewish, it is at least traditional.

The music between the scenes was up to the Avandanyayapam's usual standard. I was sorry that the audience was noisy and unappreciative. The music was so lovely and joyful. I am very glad that I was able to be present that evening.

MUREL V. HORNHISS.

Letters to the Editor

(Continued from page 1)

the rock of dogmatism and despotism of the leaders of men whose love of power has led them to disaster and their ultimate destruction. There is a Latin proverb which says that those whom the Gods wish to destroy, they first drive mad. History gives abundant proofs and instances of those whose lust for power and overlordship has led them to ultimate destruction and liquidation. I am thinking of Sultan Mohamed of Ghazni, of Attila, Jengiskhan, Hitler and others of their breed and the fate that ultimately befell them. But not our leaders forget the facts of history.

Having made the foregoing resolve our leaders must thereafter set about putting their own houses in order. That is to say, all the party organisations like the Federal Party, the All Ceylon Tamil Congress Party and all other parties of a sectional nature must be abolished and all the leaders must assemble under one single common party which may be appropriately called the "New United Tamil Front". Under its banner all different sections of the Tamil community should work for a common objective, namely, the regeneration of the Tamil race, politically, economically, culturally and otherwise. To achieve the maximum success, the high and the low castes, the rich and poor, the touchables and untouchables, the Hindu and the Christian, in short, all sections of the Tamil community must combine in all earnestness and with a burning sense of patriotism. I am particularly thinking of the so-called minority-Tamils, lovingly termed by Mahatma Gandhi as Harijans (the Children of God).

The recognised leaders of this now despised and dispossessed section of the Tamil community must be made to feel that they are part and parcel of us and their culture, traditions, social customs, the philosophy and ideals of life are identical. Of course, in any country there will always exist the intellectual and cultural aristocracy which will take precedence in any society. The minority Tamils must always realise this and try to raise themselves by education, clean habits and refined ways of living and conduct. Of course, past rigidity and inflexibility of caste are rapidly vanishing, and any sudden innovation or revolution will naturally upset the social equilibrium and set the wheel of progress backwards and create a vacuum involving unforeseen and unfortunate consequences. Caste is not a thing of yesterday. It has come down from the times of the Aryan conquest of India, and it is no easy matter to abolish it with a stroke of the pen. Time alone can solve the problem. Greater men than we puny creatures, Lord Buddha, Ramana and Ghandiji had tried and failed to solve this problem to any great degree. But we must remember one thing and work at it, that is, to take this unfortunate section of the Tamils into confidence and give them positions of trust and responsibility in all political and religious organizations, by making them to Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Committee Members. The memories of injustices done to them for generations are still ranking in their bosoms. And these must be completely wiped out, if they are to join us and work wholeheartedly for the liberation of the Tamil race. Otherwise, they will be a thorn in our flesh and will always be an obstacle to the achievements of our ambitions. As I said at the beginning of this letter, our present leaders must quit the scene giving place to new leaders who can deliver the goods. In this connection I humbly suggest that men of the calibre of 'Adakkathandan' Senthuraningam of Vavuni, the versatile Lawyer, Politician, Seator Mr. Nadesan, Mr. R. R. Crosswell of fiery zeal and patriotism, be invited to form the New United Tamil Front. I am sure they will form a formidable TRUMVIRATE.

Awake, arise, and stop not till the Goal is reached.

Yours faithfully,

M. CHELVATAMB.

Poly 1519, Point Pedro.