









HERE AND THERE

The Right of Youth

The Rev. Albert Van den Heuvel spoke some stirring words at the Youth "Participants" at the Assembly of the World Council of Churches...

Since, however, there is a widespread demand on the part of the youth now, and possibly there always has been, that it should be allowed to run things, we must examine why it is that from ancient times it has been the other way about...

The reason for this age-long attitude is that it is believed that, while youth may have courage, ardour and vision, the older folks are considered generally wiser...

The Council just concluded has another significance for Ceylon in that one of the leaders of the Church here, the Rev. Dr. D. T. Niles, who preached the inaugural sermon at the Assembly, has been elected one of the Council's six Presidents...

The Fourth Assembly has gone into history as the first one in which there was active participation by the Roman Catholics. This was the first time when delegated observers, with the right to speak and not to vote, were admitted...

It would seem that, if a place is too small to be taken account of, it is kept as a curiosity and allowed to have its own way; but if it is big, it is a different matter...

The Odyssey of "Sun"

It is reported that some people in Trincomalee have burnt the irrepressible "Sun" of Vavuniya in effigy. In fairness to them it must be said that they did not know "Sun" very much; if they did, they would have realised that nobody could

have derived greater pleasure from this act than "Sun" himself. Perhaps one can go to the extent of saying that, if anything would have given him greater pleasure, it was being burnt bodily...

Mr. Satharalingam was once a Professor and later a Cabinet Minister; now he is a free lance politician, a lawyer and a farmer. But fundamentally he is a buccaneer, who is at his best when the storm is at its worst...

At Pathavia during the Race Riots it was different; and so it was at Mavidapuram. Here he was in his element, the Harijans trying to force their way in, the Priests resisting and the Police surrounding the place...

In ancient Rome he would have been one of the three holding the bridge against the ranks of Tuscany. At Thermopylae he would have been one of the 300 Greeks who died resisting the Persian hordes; at Waterloo he would have been in the Old Guard making its last desperate attack on the British; at Bala-klava, he would have ridden into the "jaws of death, the mouth of hell", utterly unflustered...

Mr. Malcolm Mugeridge's Rebellion

Mr. Malcolm Mugeridge, one time Editor of the "Punch", is supposed to be against everything and everybody. He is considered the rebel par excellence. The students of Edinburgh University, therefore, thought he was just the man for them and made him their Rector...

An Observer

CHUNDIKULI GIRLS' COLLEGE, JAFFNA

cordially invite PARENTS, OLD GIRLS and FRIENDS to their PRIZE-DAY on Wednesday, 31st July, 1968, at 5-30 p.m.

George Thambyapillay, Esq., M.A., Ph.D. Professor, University of Ceylon, Peradeniya, will deliver the Prize Day Address and Mrs. George Thambyapillay will give away the Prizes.

Chairman: The Ven. J. A. R. Navaratnam, Bishop of Colombo.

W. C. C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(The following account is based on the Roundups of the Assembly we have received from writers on its co-opted staff, Ed.)

The fourth General Assembly of the World Council of Churches was held in Uppsala, Sweden, from the 4th to the 19th of this month. On this twentieth anniversary year of the World Council's founding, it was considered appropriate to return to the country of one of the early ecumenical gatherings...

Representation

The Assembly was attended by more than 2,000 churchmen and visitors. There were 730 voting delegates from the Council's 232 member churches, coming from more than 80 countries. Roundup No. 1 claimed: "Certainly, the constituency gathered here is different from that of any of the three previous Assemblies. It is one-third larger than any before. And, for the first time, voting delegates from the Orthodox and Eastern Churches outnumber all others..."

The Assembly comprised 56 per cent voting delegates, 13% advisers, 10% youth participants, 7% guests, 6% fraternal delegates, 5% delegated observers, 2% observers and 1% Central Committee. This totalled 1,350. Participants were made up thus: from Europe 43%, North America 26%, Asia 15%, Sub-Sahara Africa 8%, Middle East and North Africa 4% and Latin America 4%.

An international press corps of 630 covered the Assembly.

Opening Service:

The Assembly's opening service of worship was held on the morning of the 4th inst. at the Cathedral. The delegates entered the Cathedral in a procession, led by five of the six Presidents of the World Council: Archbishop Iakovos (New York); the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Michael Ramsey (London); Principal David G. Moses (Nagpur, India); Dr. Martin Niemöller (Wiesbaden, Germany); and Dr. Charles C. Parlin (New York). The King of Sweden Gustaf VI Adolf and Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda were among the congregation.

Nine churchmen from different parts of the world led the congregation's worship. Specially commissioned choral, orchestral and organ music contrasted with the ancient, traditional hymns of the Christian Church, sung in Swedish, French, German and English.

The sermon at the Assembly theme, "Behold, I make all things new", was preached by the Rev. Dr. T. Niles, Chairman of the East Asia Christian Conference and the Chairman-elect of the Methodist Church of Ceylon. He had preached at the inaugural Assembly of the World Council of Churches at Amsterdam in 1948.

In his sermon he outlined the crisis situations in which the Assembly met. A crisis of faith had overtaken the churches, structures of church life and congregational worship were under serious questioning, the Bible was not being listened to and Jesus' nature was being questioned. The churches were accused of standing aloof from the world, and the Christian presence was being judged as ineffective. He declared: "In church and world, and between them, there is that growing impatience and frustration, mistrust and antagonism, which is resulting in persecution and social violence." He stressed yet it was precisely because this was a time when God's promise to make all things new

THE REV. D. P. ELIATHAMBY

(Tribute paid by Mr. Lyman S. Kulathinagan at the funeral service of the Rev. D. P. Eliathamby at the Manipay Church on the 17th inst.)

A Christian leader said that he would like the epitaph on his tombstone to be: "Here endeth the first lesson". To him the Christian life consisted of two parts, one on earth of proclamation of the Word and worship of the Lord, and the other in heaven in the presence of the Lord worshipping and glorifying Him. Daniel Eliathamby has finished his first part and entered the second. On this occasion, therefore, we are here not to give him praise but render thanks to God for the life of service and witness our friend led. I am particularly happy that I have a part in this service, because from my childhood days, when his home and mine were neighbouring each other at Udavil, he treated me as his younger brother and showed his love and interest on me and my family and because at an ordination service in 1947 I gave the Charge to the Church.

Daniel's life was shaped by two great influences, which made it easy for him to accept the call to enter the Ministry of the Church. First, there was his father, the late Rev. S. Eliathamby, who was a great among men and a leader among leaders. His arresting figure, prophetic pronouncements from the pulpit, his life led on strictly Christian principles, and the manner in which he ran his home, after the death of his wife early—all these must have made a powerful influence on Daniel. It was a most helpful and friendly and Christian home, of real blessing not merely to its members, but to the neighbours, the community and the Church. I can recall the part played by two of his sisters, Mrs. Raju and Nallammah Aca, in running that home.

Secondly, the educational institutions where he studied must have certainly helped him in the choice of his life career. Jaffna College and Bishop's College, Calcutta. For some time he also served on the staff of the Calcutta Y. M. C. A. and after the World War I did relief work in Mesopotamia under the Y. M. C. A. For a period he had a training in the United Theological College, Bangalore.

For 38 years he served in this Diocese, having joined the former Jaffna Council of the South India United Church in 1930. During these years he proved himself first as a good parish priest. Not that he did not make any impression with his resounding voice in the pulpit, but it was as a friendly pastor full of service, that he was held in affection by the parishioners. Of an affectionate nature, he had a real concern for his parishioners and the community in the midst of which he lived. Therefore, he went about rendering help wherever it was needed. He was accessible to all people, irrespective of their status in life. Even non-Christians appreciated his service.

He must become explosive. "We must become captive to the vision which sees beyond the cross. His and ours and the world's, and discern that which the cross makes possible." He added that massive changes in the world were challenging both people and churches to "strike their tents and take to the road again." "Everywhere in our world today events are taking place, big and small, which reveal that God is doing a new thing among us. The world's restlessness is being expressed in an extravagance of evil and the mercilessness of our ideological antagonisms which demand that men and women pay the ultimate price of their convictions."

He also emphasised that contemporary obedience did not lie simply in choices between right and wrong, but in response men brought "to the 'view' which God is constantly effecting in our midst." "The book of prophecy is not sealed ... again and again eternity lays claims to our lives. The first requirement for relevant obedience is watchfulness."

ENGLISH TUITION

From 1st August, 1968. G. C. E. (O. L.) Syllabus A & B. G. C. E. (A. L.) General English by P. W. J. MUTHIAH B. A. (Grad.) Tel., Retired Head of the English Department, Jaffna College, Vaddukudai, at Kaddudai, Manipay.

NOTICE

The Annual C. S. I. Youth Rally will be held on the 8th August, 1968, at the Triumvir Hall, Jaffna. All C. S. I. Youth groups are called to keep this date free for a full-day programme. Detailed programme will appear in the next issue of the "Morning Star". I. C. SETHURAMAN, Convenor, Youth Work, Mrs. S. T. ASERVATHAM, Director, R. E. B.

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IN MEMORIAM. Abraham Sithamparanathar Kasipillai and Margaret Chellammah. Fondly remembered by their children and grand-children. Nallur South, Jaffna. 23-7-68.

Daniel struck me as one who was always cheerful, with a sense of humour, to the end of his life. When my wife and I visited him a few days before his death in his room in the Parish Hall of the Manipay Church, there was hardly a murmur from him against some of the inevitable inconveniences he was subjected to, living as he was at that time. There was not a word about his increasing weakness or illness. He was full of his wanted cheer, trying to spread it to us too. He was looking forward with joy to the expected visit of his daughter and son-in-law from Colombo. It was the same joy and calm I found again, when I saw him two days before his death at the hospital.

That he chose to wear out in the service of his Lord rather than rust out of a weary and deflated existence was evidence of the strength of his will and spirit. This he was able to do because of his faithfulness to the Lord who had called him to serve Him. It could be said of him that he obeyed the direction of the Risen Christ to the Church in Smyrna: "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." Smyrna was the crown of life; Smyrna was a dangerous place to confess Christ in flesh; it had been the centre of Emperor worship for a long time. Anyone who refused to burn incense and say: "Caesar is Lord" was branded as a traitor. Then the Jews there were bitterly jealous of the missionary success of the Church. Thus, a man took a great risk when he joined the small and despised minority. Hence, the promise to them of the crown of life if they remained faithful till death. This promise holds as true for us as it did for the heroic Christians of Smyrna and to our friend Daniel Eliathamby.

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