

THE MORNING STAR.

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JUL 12 1940
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CHILDREN'S NUMBER

Published Every Friday

SEE SUPPLEMENT

VOL. 100.

JAFFNA, FRIDAY, JULY 12, 1940.

No. 26

RIGHTOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION, BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE

Metropolitan's Programme

The following is the programme of His Grace the Metropolitan of India, Burma and Ceylon, Rev. Dr. Foss Westcott, and His Lordship the Bishop of Colombo during their forthcoming visit to Jaffna from the 12th to 15th July 1940:

Friday 12th July
4.00 p. m. Arrival.
4.30 p. m. Opening of the Church of Ceylon Cottage at the Christa Seva Ashram, Marathana Madam, by His Lordship the Bishop.

Saturday 13th
7 a. m. Holy Communion Service and meeting of the Rural Deanery at the St. James Church, Nallur, (for clergy only).

His Lordship the Bishop, 5 p. m. United Confirmation Service at St. James Church, Nallur.

His Lordship the Bishop, Sunday 14th 7.00 a. m. Holy Communion Service at St. Mary's Church, Copay.

His Lordship the Bishop, 7.30 a. m. Holy Eucharist at Christ Church, Jaffna, celebrant and preacher His Grace the Metropolitan.

9.00 a. m. Morning Service at St. John's Church, Chundienle. Preacher His Grace the Metropolitan.

5.00 p. m. United service at St. James Church, Nallur. Preacher His Grace the Metropolitan.

Monday 15th Morning meeting of the schools.
Evening at Madam.

The Government of Ceylon War Purpose Fund.

Contributions to the above Fund may be paid at the General Treasury and at any Kacheheri, or may be remitted by Cheque or Money Order made out to "Deputy Financial Secretary, War Fund Account."

Thoughts of New Life

The real peril that confronts the world is that as this war gathers force, war should take possession of humanity and we should all be overwhelmed together in the very evils against which we strive. If Christ is risen, we cannot be defeatists. Easter is the assurance that history is not closed system of forces drifting unregulated towards catastrophe, but that it is constantly invaded by liberating and redeeming powers from the living God of Truth and Righteousness who is able to make all things new. We do not know what trials and temptations of faith, what sufferings, we may have to face. But if Christ is risen we can believe in God. If God raised Jesus from the dead, we know that life is mightier than death and truth and love stronger than their enemies." (Selected)

Northern Assizes.

The second session of the Northern assizes began on the 8th inst. Justice Cannon presiding. His Lordship attended Divorce service at Christ Church, Jaffna, and on mounting the Bench was accorded a guard of Honour by a posse of Jaffna Police under the command of Inspector Wijesekere.

Mr. M. Prasad the Fiscal N. P. returned the mandate and was accommodated on the bench for a while.

The staff include Mr. Nihil Gunesekere, Crown Council, Mudaliyar H. C. Waidyaratna Singhalessa Interpreter and clerk of assizes, Mudaliyar S. Sinnatambay, Tamil Interpreter, Messrs. C. Canagasabai, A. Ponniah and D. V. Jayamaha, Official Stenographers, Mr. B. J. de Roysairo, Private Secy.

There are eight cases in the calendar, one of which is murder. The first case taken up was one

of attempted murder from Navaly. Advocate W. G. Spencer, instructed by Messrs. Sam. Sabapathy and C. D. Singaratnam, defended.

The Jaffna Dramatic Club.

The Jaffna Dramatic Club celebrated its eleventh anniversary at the Chundienle Vernacular School Hall on the 6th inst under the chairmanship of Mr. C. Ponnampalam, Advocate and one of the patrons of the Club. Mr. Anandaramajah the secretary read the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and Mr. J. T. Solomons, the managing Director submitted the Balance sheet.

The following resolution, proposed by Mr. J. T. Solomons and seconded by Mr. E. T. Hitchcock was passed. "The Jaffna Dramatic Club at the eleventh annual session pledges its unqualified loyalty to the person and the throne of His Majesty the King and fervently prays for speedy victory of the British in the present War."

The Chairman, Mr. C. Ponnampalam and Mr. T. C. Rajaratnam, one of the patrons, addressed the house congratulating the management on the successful completion of the 11 years of its existence and wished all success in the future. Mr. Rajaratnam suggested that the club should get up an entertainment in aid of the 'Send a plane Fund'. The Annual dinner took place at the Premier Cafe, where covers were laid for over thirty.

Health and Art Lecture

Mr. P. Nadesan, Sanitary Inspector, Point Pedro, gave an interesting health talk on Art in relation to Health to the Arts students of the College, under the auspices of the Bartley College Art Association. Mr. Sam T. Solomons President of the Association presided.

Mr. Nadesan gave a series of health slogans and proverbs and explained their significance to them. He appealed to them to draw posters and charts illustrating health matters and to co-operate with him to make the forthcoming Malaria Week Exhibition a success. He explained that he was arranging a Health Exhibition during the Malaria Week and Mr. A. J. R. Vethavanam B. A. Divisional Inspector of Schools, would open the exhibition. Cor.

Jaffna Urban Council

The Annual Meeting of the above Council will be held at the office of the Council to-day at 5 p. m.

The Annual Convention.

The General Committee of the Jaffna Christian Union which met on Monday, the 8th inst. has decided that the Annual Convention be held this year at the Jaffna Fort Church. The Convention will probably take place during the last week of August. A committee consisting of the Secretary and Treasurer with Revs. S. Solvaratnam, James S. Mather and Mr. J. S. Selvaratnam have been appointed to be in charge of arrangements. It is hoped to make the convention a time of real inspiration and spiritual awakening.

A Retreat for Wives of Pastors

A Retreat for wives of Pastors will be held as last year under the auspices of the Jaffna Christian Union. The venue will be the Puttar Training Centre. Miss L. G. Bookwalter is in charge of arrangements. It is hoped that wives of all Pastors and Preachers will avail themselves of this opportunity of spiritual refreshment.

Christian Union Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Jaffna Christian Union will take place on Monday, the 20th inst.

Rev. D. T. Niles, B. A., B. D. is expected to be one of the speakers. Members of the Christian public are asked to be kind enough to keep the day free. The Christian Union is an unofficial co-ordinating agency of all the three denominations in Jaffna. Of late it has undertaken evangelistic work among the depressed classes. We would strongly commend its activities to all Jaffna Christians, and invite their support.

Personal

—Mr. S. Manickavasagar, Chief Accountant, Public Works Department is retiring from office after a career of 40 years in Government Service. The Staff of the Department entertained him to a farewell on the 4th inst. when a portrait of him was unveiled by the Director of Public Works, and a tribute to his long and loyal service and industry of Mr. Manickavasagar was paid in the presence of a large gathering. He is an "Old Boy" of Jaffna College.

Udaviil Old Girls' Association

The 20th anniversary of the Udaviil Old Girls' Association will be held at Udaviil on August 10th beginning at 9.30 a. m. All old Girls and their husbands and also the Udaviil Old Boys are cordially invited.

St. John's College Jaffna.

Annual Re-Union of the Old Boys 27th and 28th

PROGRAMME
Saturday July 27th

7 a. m. Holy Communion
8 a. m. Tea.

8.30—12 noon Cricket Match
Old Boys vs. present Tennis.
1 p. m. Noon Lunch.

2.30 Annual General Meeting.
Sunday July 28th 6.15 p. m.

Special Memorial Service for the late Rev. H. Peio President O. B. A.

Speakers: Rev. S. K. Bunker
2. Rev. James S. Mather
3. T. H. Crossette

Those who are joining the lunch please send in your names to the undersigned before the 26th.
R. E. W. JEDARATNAM,
Hon'y. Secy, O. B. A.

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GREETINGS

From:

The Bishop of Colombo,
President, Christian Council of
Ceylon.

As Chairman of the Christian Council of Ceylon, I am very glad to hear of the special Children's Week to be observed in July.

I hope all children who read or hear this message will take full advantage of what is being offered to them at this time. The greatest possession that we have in life is a clear and constant faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. If, like Timothy, from a child you have known the Holy Scriptures and followed our Lord, then you will have found the way to happiness in life. May God keep you strong, happy, grateful and loving Christian boys and girls.

From:

Mr. J. Subramaniam Lewis,
President, Jaffna Christian Union.

Dear Young Friends,
I bring to you the greetings of the Jaffna Christian Union, a United Christian Community. We believe in unity, fellowship and co-operation through understanding, love and faith in God. We wish you another year of progress, another move forward in overcoming life. Every step forward is the step of a conqueror. We look up to you as the builders of the new world which is to evolve out of the present horrors of war and rumours of war, a new order where justice, freedom and brotherly love will take the place of fear and greed which are the real causes of war.

The Lord has said "Behold I make all things new". He will make a new man of you and through you, bring in a new life and a new order in Jaffna. Be willing and be prepared to pay the price. "All you had hoped for, all you had yearned for, all you had yearned to save."

From:

Rev. James S. Mather,
Chairman-elect, North Ceylon
Methodist Synod.

The Committee for Work among the Young of the J. C., S. I. U. C. has asked me for a Message. I have none better to give than the three maxims which my own father taught me when I was in the Sunday School. He said (1) Be good (2) Do good (3) Love Jesus. For over thirty years I have found these three noble maxims to be full of great inspiration and helpful guidance, and I wish to pass them on to everybody. In a mysterious manner, they have helped and blessed me, both when all were calm, and also when one was confronted with, as it happened often, difficult battles and disheartening storms.

Be good. Do good. Love Jesus. These three are closely interwoven and are interdependent. It is impossible to do good without being good. There is no way of doing good efficiently and effectively, as being good. I know of no better way to help children or adults to be good and to do good, than to love Jesus, in whom the world has everything good and great and lovable, fully personified and complete.

The best time to begin to put these maxims into practice is the time of one's youth, which is full of golden opportunities. The last half of life is often spent in fighting the influences of the first half.

Therefore the wise thing for everybody to do is to make the best use of one's youth, and avail of every good opportunity. Many do with opportunities as little children do at the sea-shore. They fill their little hands with sand, and then let the grains

fall through one by one till all are gone!

I pray that Children's Week 1940 will be a memorable year, that the young people in our homes, schools and Churches will make the best use of the opportunities of this week, and that many will make the solemn covenant with God, to be good, to do good, and to love Jesus.

The world's greatest need today is good men, men who are good, men who do good, men who love Jesus! Let the school or home give to your village or town a good man, which is better than the gift of a park or a library, however desirable they may be. One good man is worth more to a village than a hundred learned men who are not good, because he will stand high as a lighthouse and save others from life's wrecking rocks.

The committee for Work among the Young and all leaders and teachers connected with it are engaged in a great and noble work which God will surely bless, because the purpose of their work is to give to the world men and women who are truly good.

From:

Rev. J. A. R. Navaratnam,
on Behalf of C. M. S. Jaffna

Those who study the history of the race of mankind cannot fail to be struck by the fact that the great movements and spirit-stirrings of the world follow a Divine Law; that law laid down by our Lord Himself when He said: "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone, but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." When one looks back on the development of Sunday School work in your Mission for the last decade or so, this process is only too evident. Many a soul of devoted workers amongst the young have sown their corn of agonising prayer and labour. Years pass, and their methods grow old; newer ones spring up, and the swift years must be arrested for the present workers to weave the great net of the Kingdom into young minds and hearts; for is not the world of to-day in such a frightful mess for its insistence of the negation of the Father's dominion which Jesus taught? Those whom you initiate into the Kingdom—what an infinite privilege this!—will tomorrow be valiant soldiers and loyal servants of your Lord and Master or not, in proportion to the Spirit-filled hearts and methods that you employ.

To all of you who so labour in the S. I. U. C. Garden, we of the Church of Ceylon send our warmest greetings during this week. We pray that much fruit for God's Kingdom, which the world all-unconsciously is crying for, may in our land be reaped by the great Sower Who will discern how we did the sowing.

From:

The President, J. I. C. C. F.

Dear Boys and Girls,
I send you my greetings, congratulations and best wishes for Children's Week, July 1940.

My dearest wish for you is that you should grow up into fine men and women of God, clothed in the spotless garments of clean habits of thinking and doing, for what is a man's or a woman's dress but his or her habits. Learn from now onwards habits of cleanliness of spirit and body, good-manners, courtesy, obedience, self-sacrifice, courage and fearlessness.

Jesus is the kindest of all School-masters in the world who can teach you these habits worth learning. Go to him, then, make him your friend and constant companion. And he will teach you to grow up into men and women after his own heart.

Believe me, my little friends,
Yours, very Sincerely,
E. J. Jeevaretnam Niles,

From:

Mrs. W. S. Stopford,
on Behalf of J. C., S. I. U. C.
Out Station Friends.

My message is to the older boys and girls gathered together for Children's Week. The forces of evil are abroad in the world today as never before. It is to the youth of the world that the task will come of re-creating a civilized society. The old medieval stories said that each person had a good angel and an evil angel whispering in his ears. You may look at it like that if you will.

And to which angel will you listen? To the evil angel whispering mean thoughts about your neighbour, suggesting evil motives for the actions of others, prompting dishonest actions, unthoughtful words? Or to the good angel pointing out the best in other people, showing you how to understand the point of view of your neighbour even if you do not agree with it, urging straight forward action, telling you of all the beauty and joy and love and "things of good report" that you may see and hear if you will but open your hearts and minds?

Read St. Paul's words in Philippians IV: 8, listen to the voice of the good angel, and you will each one be, not only a great hindrance to the strong evil now at work but a positive force helping to make a more civilized world.

From:

Rev. S. Kulendran,
President, J. C., S. I. U. C.

Ever since a Supplement has been issued to the *Morning Star* in connexion with the Children's Week, it has, I believe, been the custom to allow the President of the Council to confess his opinions on the subject of the week. This year the task has fallen to me. I would like to make use of the opportunity by saying three things:

In the first place, one is happy to find an increasingly large place given to children in our Church life. The charge of having neglected its children could certainly never have been brought against the Jaffna Church, Sunday School work has always received a good deal of attention. Children were prepared with much care for their future, but increasingly children are being recognised to have not merely a future, but a present also. Children are given a share in the life of the Church, not because they might make good Church Members in course of time, but because as children just now they are entitled to such a place. We have Children's Services now, in which Children are allowed to take up as much responsibility as they are capable of taking. Then for a week they go about instructing their elders about what the world would be like if it had not been invaded by the pettiness and folly of the latter. The Children's Week is a token that children have their rights as children.

In the second place I would express profound gratitude to God for the men whom we have been privileged to have as leaders in Children's Work, from time to time. Mr. L. V. Clarence who was responsible for the work when the Christian Endeavour used to conduct the Rally is fortunately still with us, though now of course out of active Church life, still the same saintly and devout Christian he ever was, still an exemplar to all young folks. Mr. Stickney's services of course can never be forgotten. Our present methods of children's work bear his indelible stamp. He had decisive opinions and a dynamic personality. The present methods of work are not a compromise between two types of work. They are patently different from certain other types of work. He did not produce a reform. He produced a revolution. One cannot be sufficiently thankful that the work you are at present in the hands of good men, whose energy and single-mindedness, hearted devotion to the cause is beyond all doubt,

The first two points I have made were introductory to my message. What then is the message? It is this. While it is gratifying to know that the rights of children are being recognised, it must be clearly, deeply and definitely understood that the rights of God are paramount. We must be carefully on our guard against thinking that we have done our duty by our children if we have managed to keep them amused or occupied, and generally given them a good time. Our aim must be to make them learn that one can be happy doing God's will. "I will delight myself in the statutes" says the Psalmist. It is the great opportunity of the young to learn and the grown-ups to teach the statutes of God, the wonder of God's speech to man is in the Bible. Let us not divorce our methods of work from the Bible.

Sunday School Work will have failed miserably if it has not taught the children to take an interest in the Bible and become at home in the living accents of its Word. Each generation boasts that it knows the Bible better than the coming one. The claim is I believe unreal; but, still it is better to be on ones guard, and see that the coming generation shall not lose the most precious gift given to mankind, that of knowing the Bible.

From:

S. C. Arnold, Esqr.
A S. S. Teacher for 50 Years.

I have been asked to send greetings to the Committee for Work among the Young on the occasion of their Annual Celebrations and I do so with the greatest pleasure. I take the liberty to introduce my greetings with a few words of reminiscences.

I cast my mind back to the time when I was a Sunday School student when such great men as the late Messrs. William Lyman and S. P. Lawton were in charge of training us young people. I also recall with pleasure and gratitude the loving services rendered by those benignant ladies the Messes M. & M. W. Leitch who gave a strong impetus to the work of the Sunday Schools in the American Mission field. It was they who introduced the system, still in vogue, of planting Christmas trees and giving presents to Sunday School students in all the Churches. Words cannot adequately express the debt of gratitude due these ladies for their voluntary self-sacrificing services and for the money they spent in the good work. Their brother Mr. G. W. Leitch was my Sunday School teacher for sometime who used to walk up to the Navy Church from Manipay every Sunday afternoon. I still keep a small book that he gave me as present during the Christmas season of the year 1881.

Feeling that I should give to other young people the benefit I got as a Sunday School scholar, I devoted myself to the work of Sunday school teacher which I have carried on for over 50 years. As such and as a Y. M. C. A. worker for nearly a similar period, it afforded me much pleasure to see a Committee started for organized work among the young and to see it progressing the work so vigorously. I offer to you, brothers constituting the Committee, my hearty greetings at this time of your Annual Celebrations. The work that you are doing is quite a noble one and deserves the whole-hearted support of every follower of the Lord Jesus Who loved children. To train young people to go in the way they should go and to guide them along a path that would lead them to become good citizens and true followers of our blessed Lord Saviour Jesus Christ is a grand object. May the Lord grant that you may go from strength to strength and may each year of your work be more fruitful in good results than the pre-quoted tetigit non ornavit.

From:

Rev. L. Watts,
Administrative Secretary,
India S. S. Union.

In sending you the heartiest greetings of the India Sunday School Union for your Children's Week I have turned to some old volumes of the India Sunday School Journal and find that Dr. J. L. Phillips, one of my earliest predecessors in the office of Secretary of this Union, visited Ceylon in 1892 at the inception of the Ceylon Sunday School Union. The link between the India Sunday School Union and the Sunday Schools in Ceylon is a very close and early one. I find a report of a meeting held on 23rd May, 1895 in the Wesleyan Mission House, Jaffna, when an address was given by the Rev. S. Niles. Possibly some who may read this message of greeting may be young enough to remember that meeting.

There is a great work before Sunday School workers in these days. The world has got into a bad state and fine Christian life and character is needed above everything else. We have the opportunity not only of imparting Scripture knowledge, but through the spiritual aims of our worship and teaching, of building into the lives of our scholars those things which will make them fit citizens of God's Kingdom on earth and in heaven. May the blessing of the Lord be upon your Children's Week.

A Message to the Teachers

By

MR. A. M. K. CUMARASWAMY

It may seem old fashioned to ask modern teachers of youth to turn for inspiration to the song of Creation enshrined in the First Chapter of Genesis. Nevertheless a little trouble taken on this matter with a view to learning the self-reflections of the Supreme Creative Artist will be amply repaid, even from a purely secular standpoint. Reward and recognition have a value not to be disdained in services of an altruistic nature. It is the quality of the reward and recognition expected that determines whether we are hirelings or creative artists. "And God saw that it was good." In one most interesting case, we should be gratified to note that the unknown composer of the Song of Creation says that God saw that it was very good. If we see our work good, if good would depend not on a mathematical estimate of the task accomplished but on the mode and degree in which we give ourselves to our task or bend ourselves to God.

A teacher, whether religious or secular, is sometimes permitted to see fruit of his labours, and there are very few things in life comparable to the gratification that comes of the discovery that a little spiritually artistic touch which a teacher was permitted to render redounds to the Glory of God in ever-widening spheres and among souls increasing numerically in Geometrical Progression. It is a gratification which God allows us to experience, despite our legitimate aspiration - "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us."

The selflessness of the Christian Disciple is not the selflessness of the oriental ascetic. It is in fact a self-fulfilment resulting from one's progressive alignment with ones Maker's Mind. "My meat is to do the Will of Him that sent me." It is seldom that we get any task to do which is free of all traces of drudgery, at any rate when viewed objectively. But the good teacher is an artist whose touch can transmute the drudgery into delight, because it is an item which fits in harmony with his major vision. "Nullum in pre-quoted tetigit non ornavit."

The Morning Star

Friday, July 12th, 1940

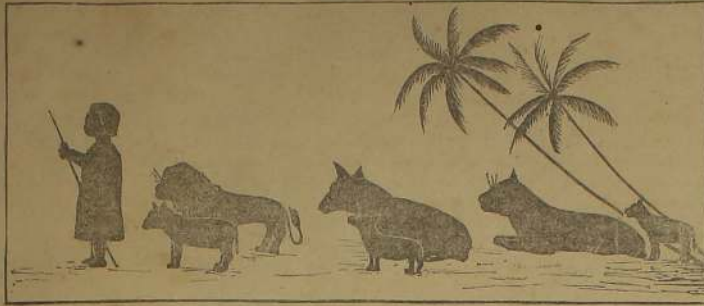
CHILDREN'S WEEK

Once again it is our privilege to usher in, with this special issue, the Children's Week of the Jaffna Council of the South India United Church...

The topic that has been chosen for this week viz. "Thy Kingdom Come" is very timely. In these days of distress and danger it is necessary to remind ourselves that our hope for the future lies in the Kingdom of Peace, Goodwill, and Love that is to come.

MESSAGE TO THE YOUNG

I have often been reminded these days of a little story which I heard some time ago and which perhaps most of you also know. It is the story of a ten year old son of a person whom I knew, who wanted 'dad' to go to bed with him soon after supper...



ஒரு சிறு குழை அனைவரின் நடத்தவான்

"THY KINGDOM COME"

(A Message from the Committee for the Work Among the Young)

Kingdoms are tottering and old foundations giving way under our feet. The picture of a long line of devastated peoples—Czechs, Poles, Norwegians, Danes, Dutch, Belgians and French rise up before us and seem to mock us when we say "Thy Kingdom Come".

We know now that the Kingdom which Christ spoke of was not a Kingdom which was going to begin after death. We know that He proclaimed "Good News to the poor (the economically disinherited), release to the captives (the socially and politically disinherited), the opening of eyes to the blind (the physically disinherited), the setting at liberty them that are bruised (the morally and spiritually disinherited)." — Stanley Jones.

This new beginning, this Year of Jubilee was to start on this earth, on a world-scale. Far far different from such a picture is the picture of the suffering world today. At such a time, in defiance of all the events that are darkening the pages of modern history, we have chosen "Thy Kingdom Come" as the theme for Children's Week.

For, we who are engaged in children's work must necessarily believe in the Kingdom. For it was in Christ's Kingdom that

the child was given a place and respected as an individual. The Child is here not merely a future citizen whose services might later on be harnessed for the use of a totalitarian state, but an individual, with its own rights, and personally cared for by God. A German child, a Jewish child, and a Tamil child alike are precious in the sight of God.

May God give us the courage to emerge out of this crisis with our faith unshaken in the Kingdom.

"Can crime bring crime forever Strength aiding still the strong? Is it Thy will, O Father, that Man should toil for wrong?"

seem to have taken us any far, and perhaps, if at all, only to destruction. Is it not significant that Germany that has produced some of the best weapons to fight bodily diseases is the nation that has produced the deadliest weapons of war also. It is a sign of the times and fortunately for everybody, both in the 'war torn West' and in this part of the world we are in comparative peace except for the village head-man's rice control form. This age is coming to a close and we shall now be called upon to herald and work out the dawn of another era, a new world order. And John said—"Then I saw the new heaven and the new earth..."

If then we know that we are heralding a new dawn, the 'new earth'—may we also realise our share and responsibility in the making of this new earth. Out of the ashes that will be left behind, and learning from the experience of an age that has made several blunders, friends, you and I—for God has no other way. He depends on us—are called upon to build a new earth. What then shall be this new earth?—It is that which is contained in those four words. The Kingdom of God—where wrong shall give place to right, where enmity and hate shall give place to love, where the 'I', shall get swallowed in the 'we', where Christ shall reign. But remember, the world is right only when man is right, Jesus said, "The Kingdom of God is within you."

He is breaking down the barriers, He is casting up the way, He is calling for His angels, To build up the gates of day; But His angels here are human Not the shining hosts above; For the drum beats of His army Are the heart beats of our love.

MESSAGE TO PARENTS

By REV. D. T. NILES JACK THE GIANT KILLER There are giants to be slain. We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Eph. 6, 12.) Giants can be slain. The people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits. (Dan. 11, 32.) Jack did not slay the giant by his own strength. Stand, therefore, your loins girt about with truth, and having

ing on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmets of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Eph. 6, 1-14.) "This is the victory that hath overcome the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4).

I am not sure but that today the message of this childhood story is the most needed message. We are beginning to lose confidence both in man and in God.

To the extent that this is a loss of confidence in man as man, it is a good thing; but to the extent that it is a loss of confidence in the possibility of man as a victorious agent of God's purposes, it is a bad thing, God has chosen man.

There are many giants abroad in our world today. Can parents help to forget a determination in their children, to give their lives to lay low some giant's might?

Perhaps this is not the safe road to life. But then only the dead are safe.

A MESSAGE TO PARENTS

By MRS. M. H. HARRISON

Your committee has asked me to write a message for parents for Children's Week; as I send this message, I am overcome with a deep sense of my own inadequacy as a parent, I hesitate, therefore to say what follows because my theory has often been far ahead of my practice, in the training of my own children. Yet, inadequate as it is, my convictions about the necessity for parents, as well as for teachers to train the devotional life of the child, are so strong, that I will give my experience for what it is worth, hoping that it may prove useful to someone.

First, may I emphasize that the devotional life of the child depends more than on anything else, on the degree with which the parents "incarnate within themselves, and exhibit the spirit of God". It is the glory of Christianity that Jesus used the father-child relationship to show us the relation between God and ourselves. "The fundamental questions to every parent is this: Are you so loving that your children may take your love and care and reasonable wisdom as the basis for their beginning to understand their heavenly Father, and that their love for you and confidence in you may not unworthily serve as the type for their love of God and trust in Him?" (The quotation is from Luther Weigle's "The Training of Children in the Christian Family," a book I have found very useful in the training of my own children.)

Next, comes the matter of Bible study in the home. Rufus Jones, the American Quaker philosopher, scholar, and friend of Gandhi of India in his account of his own childhood, tells how he was asked by his parents to read through the Psalms when he was eight years old, and was promised a pair of brightly coloured mittens as a prize when he should have finished. He was also set to memorize certain psalms—one which had a testing meaning for him being the 139th, with the verses—"Whither shall I flee from thy presence?" In our own home we often memorize one verse, or two verses of a psalm as a family, at our morning prayers. Though much of the Psalms is entirely beyond the understanding of a little child, there is a wonderful sweep in their description of the power and majesty of God—which is a bulwark in the mind of a timid child against fear. The 23rd psalm the 24th, the 121st, the 90th and 91st, the 8th, the 46th are all psalms that may be memorized by children, a verse or two at a time. The old Testament stories should be told to children as soon as they can understand any story at all, at their mother's knee. Also the stories of the infancy and childhood of Jesus, and some of the stories of his healing and his tenderness can be told—but the crucifixion and resurrection stories should wait until the

child is older. The love and tenderness of our Father God, and his constant presence with His children should be the main thought emphasized.

Finally comes the training of a child in prayer. The ideal is surely that a child should be taught both simple prayers in verse or prose (sometimes a verse of a hymn) and should be encouraged to make his own prayers in a spontaneous and simple asking from God of his needs. There are many helpful books by which parents may be guided now available—one which I can recommend as excellent is "First Prayer" by John Oxenham and Roderic Linker.

This is especially valuable as it includes prayers for a child—at all the different stages of his growth; at the very beginning, after he learns to read, when he grows older—the book concludes with the great prayers of the Church, which an adolescent boy or girl may make his own with understanding. It is of definite harm to give a child only one prayer, which is of use to him when he is six—like the traditional "Now I lay me"—and expect this will fulfil his spiritual needs when he is older. But it is very helpful, if parents can give children at their different birthdays, when they are promoted from one class in school to a higher one—a prayer which satisfies their maturing minds. Especially, as a child grows older, should he be taught to pray for wider and wider circles. As a little child, he is concerned only with his own family, and with his friends, but as he grows older, he should be taught to pray for the poor, for prisoners and those who have done wrong, for the distressed in war, and following Christ's own example for his enemies. Much of the disillusionment which comes to young men and women of university age as to religion, can, I believe, be avoided, if their home training in prayer is such that they learn more and more of the character of God—and of his concern and tenderness for all men everywhere.

Let us not allow our children to miss their Christian heritage—of Bible reading and prayer, and let us share their devotional life with them so that their love for us and our love for them may be based on the firm foundation of the love of God for us all.

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Printed and published for the Proprietor Mr. Chekiah H. Cooke, J.F.S. by V. Joseph Aruldasayagam, residing at Telippalai, at the American Ceylon Mission Press, Telippalai.