

# THE MORNING STAR.

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No. 43

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

### V. M. C. A. World-wide Week of Prayer.

10th to 16th NOVEMBER 1940. The theme is "The meaning of suffering." The united Services of Intercession for the V. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. will be held in Jaffna.

Wednesday the 13th Nov. at 5.30 p. m. in the St. Peter's Church, Jaffna, Rev. James S. Mather in charge. Speakers, Dr. R. M. Kennedy, Rev. S. K. Barker.

Friday the 15th at 6 p. m. in the St. John's Church, Chundikuli, Speakers: Rev. V. B. Muthuvaloe, Rev. S. Selvaratnam.

All Churches and individuals are invited to join in this Intercession.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

The Northern Division Tamil and Bilingual Schools will give a Folk Song and Dance display at the Town Hall Jaffna, on Saturday the 9th inst. at 6 p. m. under the patronage of Mr. J. C. Wirekoon Asst. Director of Education, in aid of the Jaffna Plane Fund.

An examination for the recruitment of Probationary Divisional Revenue Officers will be held in March 1941. It is intended to select five Probationers for the Maritime area, eight for the Kandyan area and three for the Tamil speaking area—making a total of sixteen new Probationers.

With reference to His Majesty's decision that there should be no public Services on Armistice Day this year, a telegram has now been received from the Secretary of State stating that with His Majesty's approval Sunday, November 10, will be observed as a Day of Remembrance and Dedication.

The Minister of Home affairs joins with the Governor in commending such observance to leaders and members of all Religions and Denominations in Ceylon.

The paper expert employed by the Ceylon Coconut Board has put forward a scheme for a novel coconut industry. The scheme is for the industrial utilisation of fallen immature coconuts (Kurumbatti) through the production of press boards.

The decision of the Education authorities to restrict admission to the Junior School Certificate Examination to candidates below 17 years of age has been withdrawn.

More attention is to be devoted in future to health work in schools both by the Education Department and by the Medical Department and such work is to be taken into consideration in assessing the grant to a school.

The outstanding events of the year are the reorganisation of the Department, the establishment of the Malaria Field Training centre at Kurunegala, the All Ceylon Malaria Week and the opening of the new Training Home for Nurses states the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services, Dr. S. T. Gunasekera, in the Administration Report for 1939.

The name of the Revenue District of Mullativu shall be called and known as the Revenue District of Vavuniya after a date appointed by His Excellency the Governor.

A Jaffna Nursing Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade was after leth months' preparation, inaugurated at a meeting held in the Old Park by permission of the Government Agent N. P. The Director of Medical and Sanitary services reports that dental clinics were opened at Jaffna

Galle, Kandy and Batticaloa last year.

Four pottery demonstrators have been sent to various pottery centres in the Island by the Department of Commerce and Industries in order to teach the villagers modern methods of shaping clay with the aid of special tools and moulds.

### St. John's College Masters' Guild

The Masters Guild of St. John's College entertained Rev. and Mrs. J. T. Arulanandham to dinner on Thursday the 29th October 1940 at 8.30 p. m. in honour of Mr. Arulanandham's appointment as Principal of the College. The wives of masters were guests of the Guild. Mr. E. M. Ponnudurai, the President, was in the chair. Other speakers were Mr. S. Sivaprasadar and Mr. K. C. Thurairatnam.

### Christmas and New Year Mails

A timely reminder is given to the public in a Post Office Notice advising them, in view of the present conditions, to post their Christmas and New Year Mails to the United Kingdom and various other countries sufficiently well in advance.

At present correspondence ordinarily takes 10 to 47 days by the all-sea route, and 30 to 35 days by air-sea routes to reach United Kingdom. A further allowance of time should be made for countries in Europe and America (in the case of parcels) served through the United Kingdom.

### Medical Education.

Commenting on Medical Education the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services writes: The improvements made in teaching arrangements in recent years are evinced by the greater interest and enthusiasm shown by the students in their clinical and laboratory work. The results of the final Examination were also very satisfactory. During the year 23 students qualified for the Licence in Medicine and Surgery (L. M. S. Ceylon), and 13 of these passed the Final Examination in the first class.

The high standard of education maintained at the College has increased the demands on it, and before long it may be necessary to adopt measures to restrict admissions to the College. Already admission is restricted to Ceylonese and a large number of applications from outside the Island have had to be refused.

### Jaffna Inter Collegiate Football

Last week's results: Jaffna College beat St. John's, Jaffna Central beat Victoria, St. Patrick's beat Jaffna Hindu, St. Henry's beat Hartley.

This week end fixtures: Friday, 8th, Victoria vs St. Patrick's, Saturday, 9th, Jaffna College vs Hartley.

Jaffna Hindu vs. Skanda Varodaya.

It is notified that the Nursery Garden attached to the Jaffna Kachehri and maintained by the Provincial Road Committee, Jaffna will be closed on the 31st January 1941. Shade plants will be offered to purchasers at the rate of Rs. 1 per dozen.

### Obituary

The death occurred on Saturday the 2nd inst. of William Sornmarajah son of the late Mr. J. B. P. Vijayaratham, Proctor, S. C., and Mrs. Vijayaratham, at the General Hospital, Colombo. The deceased was sixteen years of age at the time of death and was a student at Trinity College, Kandy. The funeral service was conducted the next day by the Revs. N. K. Nalliah and S. P. Suravansanthi. The remains were interred at the General Cemetery, Kanatte.

### Government of Ceylon War Purposes Fund

The Fund is now well past the 8 lakh mark. Is it too much to hope that before Xmas it will have passed the million mark? The amount collected since the 17th list was published as Rs. 39,307.31, making a grand total of Rs. 812,116.85. The Social and Sports Clubs of Ceylon have contributed very materially towards the large sum collected since the last list was issued. Thus the 4th instalment of Rs. 5,000 from the Automobile Association of Ceylon Fund has been received, making a sum of Rs. 20,000 in all collected so far towards its set purpose of raising Rs. 100,000 for the purchase of a "Spitfire" to bear its name or crest. The Royal Colombo Golf Club, which has already contributed very generously, sends a 5th contribution amounting to Rs. 1,500. The Rudella Race Accounts contributes Rs. 1,000, and an excellent sum of Rs. 575.01 was yielded by the athletic display of the Ceylon Amateur Wrestling Association. Interesting among the subscriptions from the general public is the further contribution of Rs. 368.80 received from the Avisawella War Purposes Committee; the sum of Rs. 170 from the Secretary, Teachers' Discussion Meeting, Kelaniya; a donation of Rs. 400 from the shareholders of the Pine Hill Estates Co. Ltd.; and Rs. 509.50 being the collections from a Fancy Bazaar, sent per Mr. A. B. Abeyavickrama. One cannot but note with great pleasure the evidences which this and other lists have shown of the widespread activities throughout the island having as their object the raising of moneys for His Majesty's Government.

### Personal

Dr. E. R. Abeyesundere, Surgeon, Badulla Hospital, has been appointed Surgeon Jaffna Hospital.

It is learned that Miss E. Scoweroff, Principal Vembadi Girls' High School Jaffna, who went on furlough to England recently, has arrived in England after a voyage without incident.

Mr. H. T. Gnanapiragasam of the Nuwara-Eliya Post Office has been transferred to Branch Post Office Kandy.

Mr. T. Buell, J. P. has left for Bombay to attend the Trustees' meeting of the Hume High School and the meetings of the General Council of the American Marathi Mission.

Dr. N. Ampalavanar, has been transferred as D. M. O. Pattalam.

### NOTICE

The Nursery Garden attached to the Kachehri and maintained by the Provincial Road Committee Jaffna will be closed on 31st January 1941. Available shade plants will be offered to purchasers at a reduced rate of Rs. 1 per dozen. Apply to the Chairman P. K. C. Jaffna.

Sgd. M. Ponnambalam, for Chairman P. K. C., N. P. Kachehri, Jaffna 5-11-40.

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The Morning Star

Friday Nov. 8, 1940.

TO OUR CHURCHES.

The October number of the Ceylon Methodist Church Record contains "A Pastoral Letter" to all the Methodist Churches in Ceylon from the Rev. E. M. Weaver, the Chairman of the North Ceylon District. The Letter, though addressed to the Methodist Churches in particular, should be carefully read by all the Christians in the land, because the message it contains demands the attention of all the Churches of all denominations in our land. In this letter, the Rev. Weaver pointedly and frankly examines the present condition of the Christian Church in Ceylon and refers to a few weak points in the life of its members. Few would disagree with his findings arrived at after years of experience of and intimate association with our Church.

In the course of the letter, Mr. Weaver asks this question: "Has the work of the Church in this Island been done, and is it being done to-day, with the kind and the measure of faith about which Jesus spoke?" and this is his answer: "I have known this Church for over half a century. No one could be more conscious of the splendid and devoted work that has been done or the many remarkable developments that can be recorded. Yet the fact remains that, as far as the relations of the Church to the whole population concerned, it is at a standstill." Can that mean that there has been, and still is, something lacking in our faith? He proceeds to suggest two reasons for this static condition of the Church, incomplete belief and insufficient faith to separate it from the Gentile World. It is indeed a regrettable fact that a majority of the members of the Church possess a defective understanding of the Christian gospel and "are not thoroughly instructed in the faith and do not therefore believe with the passionate conviction that becomes an enthusiasm and carries all before it". Hence, Christians "should become more and more students of the Word of God and of Christian theology. At all costs the Church must be built up in its faith. If the Church believed, in the full meaning of that great word, things would happen".

With regard to the second reason, insufficient faith to separate the Christians from the Gentile World, Mr. Weaver says: "Are there still pagan elements in the faith of some of us? Is our Christianity distinct enough to convince the popular mind that it is a purer and higher faith? Have all our Christians lost faith in charms obtained from non-Christian medicine men? Are there not those amongst us who still go in fear of evil spirits? Are not many Christian marriages timed to take place on Hindu or Buddhist propitious days? And do not things happen at Christian funerals which make us wonder what the real faith of the people may be? It is admittedly difficult to draw a clear straight line between what is of religious significance and what is merely social and national; but there is little doubt that many overstep the line and by so doing show that there is something lacking in their faith".

Indigenization of the Church is now very much in the air, and these remarks that Mr. Weaver makes with regard to this matter are timely very important. "We hear a great deal to-day about the indigenization of the Church and there can be no question that much remains to be done in this direction. The Western form in which Christianity has been introduced into this country needs Easternizing. And there are many ways in which this can be done without

injury to essentials. There is also a desire on the part of many to preserve in the Church all that can be preserved of the intellectual and spiritual heritage of the past. This is also natural and commendable. But it is very essential that reformers and system builders should be ever on their guard against admitting into Christian thought or practice any really anti-Christian element. There is always a danger that instead of Christianity converting the World, the World should convert Christianity. To prevent this we need a purer and completer faith".

FRIENDLY TALKS

TRADITIONALISM,

The Jaffnese are perhaps the most conservative, with the possible exception of the Muslims among the peoples who dwell in this Island. Except for a few who in recent times had gone out to Malaya, we have for centuries led a sedentary existence in our little Peninsula. Cut away from the rest of the Island by thick jungles, separated from India by the Palk Straits, there has been a dearth of stimulating culture contacts. An invisible confining net of traditions has spread over the community as a green mantle forms over stagnant water. This has encouraged traditionalism. Our family life is still in the patriarchal stage of social organisation. The habit of following ancestral precedent and clinging to meaningless customs has failed to pave the way for open mindedness. For sedentariness allows social life to fall into ruts.

SOCIAL ISLANDS,

When our people migrate to other towns it is customary for them, with the exception of a few who have had a more liberal education, to crowd together in a particular area. They continue to form social islands of their own, and make themselves impervious to outside contacts by clinging on religiously to their own language, their local customs and manners. They form exclusive associations where they dissect ancient adages and glorify 'thessalavanni'. A single glorious exception to this rule has been the Tamil Union whose palmy days, alas, have expired.

THE BACKWARD LOOK,

Like all decadent peoples we have a habit of looking back into the past and gloating over the exaggerated achievements of our ancestors. The sunset may be glorious but the dawn is what matters. We are inclined to consider ourselves as the possessors of an ever fresh culture and to look down upon other peoples. To a good many of us nationalistic seems to imply the veneration of ancestral customs, dress and diet. Our ignorance of comparative institutions makes us cling to customs and manners which progressive people have discarded centuries ago. We have not realised that many of the customs and institutions which we hold sacred were formed in the infancy of civilisation, and are still preserved in their pristine purity only in the backwoods of Australia and in darkest Africa.

PENINSULARISM,

The Jaffna man's peninsularism and social exclusiveness have earned for him outside Jaffna an unenviable reputation for clannishness, rusticity and clannishness. The Jaffna man, however, possesses in a marked degree the noisy habit of argumentation. He is an adept at rationalisation. Not a small proportion of his ingenuity is expended in finding reasons to prove why the good old customs and manners and generalisations are the best ever.

A Friend.  
(to be continued.)

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY IN INDIA AND CEYLON

Appeal to the Churches for Prayer on the Second Sunday in Advent 8th December, 1940.

It was in 1804, during the period of the Napoleonic wars, that the British and Foreign Bible Society came into existence, and the fact that the world is again in the midst of conflict emphasises afresh the need for its work. Whatever the political, social and economic causes of War may be in any part of world, it is our conviction that in the Bible are to be found those words of life which are the necessary basis of peace and goodwill among men. The Bible is the book that proclaims the worth of the individual, and bases it upon God's love and care for every man; the Bible is the book that insists that it is righteousness that exalteth a nation. If our own standards of honour and justice and freedom are to be maintained under the growing pressure of the forces of malignity it can only be by constant contact with the perfect life that is portrayed in the Gospels; and if those forces of malignity are to be displaced by the spirit of goodwill and in the days beyond the war a righteous and permanent peace is to be established, it must be on the lines of the Kingdom of God which are laid down in the Bible.

Meanwhile the work of the Society continues, though seriously handicapped by war conditions in many parts of the world. In Germany itself during 1939 the circulation of the Scriptures was nearly double that of 1938; in the stricken land of Czechoslovakia it showed an increase in 1939 of 50 per cent and in Poland 135,000 copies of the Scriptures were sold as against 54,000 in the previous year. Similar figures come from the Baltic States. Europe today calls for prayer; the Europe of tomorrow may yet be a land of open doors, with vast populations, disillusioned, disintegrated, seeking a new anchorage. The Bible Society needs so to be supported through the financial and other strains of this war period that in the day of Europe's rebirth it may be strong and generous to offer the Gospel of abiding peace in the mother-tongue of every race; and the need of Europe will be the need of the world.

On the outbreak of war a special "Services Scripture Fund" was opened to meet the cost of providing copies of the Scriptures for His Majesty's Forces. A million copies of these had already been produced by June of this year, and there is ample evidence that the gift of these New Testaments has been greatly valued by men in the navy, the army and the air force. Scriptures have also been provided for prisoners of war and for the wounded among British, allied and enemy troops. Andre Maurois, writing to soldiers in the line, says: "Find help in things eternal, faith, patriotism, wisdom..... In the hardest moments great feelings and great books agree." It is not enough to give only material comforts to men who have to face danger and death; the Bible Society provides an opportunity for those who wish to give them the inspiration and comfort of God's Word.

Elsewhere the work of translation, revision and circulation continues, and the Society endeavours to discharge its indispensable work of helping all Churches and Missions in their task of proclaiming the Gospel to a distracted world. We therefore appeal with confidence to Christians in all the Churches in India and Ceylon to join in prayer on Sunday, December 8th, the Second Sunday in Advent, that the work of the Society may be sustained and extended and that the reconciling Word may be used for the healing of the nations.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"FRIENDLY TALKS"

Sir,  
May I be permitted to suggest to "A Friend" who writes to your columns under the above heading that he should first make sure of his facts before he lets them to appear in public print. His claim that Muslim Mosques lent its name to denote Tamil Schools "Palkkoodam" is wrong. It is the other way about. He should find it difficult to substantiate his statement that "the mystery of reading and writing" remained unrevealed except to a few "well-born" children till Christian Missionaries arrived. Here

and proofs of physical facts. Caste system comprised of self-governing organisms which, far from retarding progress, operated as effective means of advancing education, literary and industrial in our country. I can personally testify to the fact that 50 years ago there were poets among the mental castes.

Christian Missionaries came with the invading armies of Portugal, and the Portuguese missionaries tried to enable the Missionaries to build. To superimpose Christian civilisation on our culture was not in their line or philosophy; while it was easy to destroy, building up was not so. The "primitive existence", "A Friend" speaks of, was the bequest of the Vandals. Jaffna owes a great deal to American Missionaries. They were here with no political interests of the homeland, to advance they were (and are still) regarded as heaven sent messengers.

I am only anxious that "Friendly Talks" should not provoke unfriendly rupture.  
yours truly,  
Chilaw  
30-10-40.  
Wie Mie Naine

PLAIN TALK

The opinions of "A Friend" should not be allowed to go unchallenged because in part they disagree with facts, in great part they are unkind, and on the whole they tend to import more sourness than health into the Christian world of Jaffna.

The writer shows a complete misapprehension of the spirit animating Christian institutions when he refers to them as "pools built by the foreigners which should remain in their hands. The whole purpose of these institutions is to extend the Kingdom of God in our land. An integral part of this purpose is to so fill the local Christian community with the fervor of this grand ideal that every Christian shall desire to take his share in the fulfilment of the ideal. The time must then come, it at all the Christian message has gone home here, when the initiative and leadership in this work will be taken over by nationals. Indeed that will be the fruit-time of the local Christian tree. Witness the plentiful harvest in the Lutheran diocese of Doraakal, Witness too the increased life and activity of the Jaffna Churches where, perhaps more than elsewhere in Ceylon, the leadership is passing more and more into Ceylonese hands.

But there are no "pools" created exclusively by missionaries from abroad. Scores of lives, foreign and indigenous, vast sums of money, subscribed by friends abroad and Christians and even non-Christians here, have gone into the making of them. These ventures have been a fruitful partnership in which the national has naturally had an ever increasing share spiritually and materially and the new order must emerge some day when the missionary will be junior partner. I believe that the Englishman or American has a special contribution to make particularly in our educational institutions. That contribution is best made when he serves as an assistant master. "A Friend" asserts: They want to be heads of institutions and leaders everywhere! They want to have 'the pleasure of lordship over them.' Is there any charity in these remarks? Any truth? The fact of the matter is that where nationals have been chosen to preside over institutions they have been chosen because, in the opinion of the governing bodies concerned, they were the most suitable of all possible persons, foreign or Ceylonese. You do not apply or canvass for the Wardenship of St. Thomas or the Principalship of St. John's or the Presidentship of the S. I. U. C. or the North Ceylon Methodist Chairmanship as you apply and canvass for a job in a Government department. I believe those who are called to these offices regard them as a Divine trust to be exercised for His sake; not for the pleasure of lordship over others. What they need

from us is our prayers that they may do their task well, not our sour comments about their motives.

From the writer's constant use of the adjectives 'humble', 'reverent' and 'grateful', I am inclined to think he has a perceptive notion of what constituted character. Some Christian folk have no doubt developed these failings, but they are the least worthy products of Christianity. The essence of character is individuality. Self-regard, as psychologists have pointed out, is the very foundation of character. The sentiments suggested by the writer are not particularly calculated to breed personal or national self-respect. And the choice is not between them and 'arrogance'. Christianity does not aim either at an arrogant or a clinging personality.

There are Educational and religious Unions which are becoming notorious for lack of leadership! Besides the institutions I have already mentioned the following bodies are doing well under Ceylonese leadership: the Ceylon Headmasters Conference, the All Ceylon Union of teachers, the Jaffna Christian Union, the Christa Seva Ashram, the National Missionary Society and the Jaffna Church Missionary Association, just to mention some that come to my mind. Christian evangelism, in the meanwhile, has become a thing of the past. What else are the Christian bodies mentioned doing? It is a pity that "A Friend" cannot express his gratitude to the missionaries, well-deserved as it is, without belittling his own leaders; it is even greater pity that he cannot express his indebtedness to Christianity without slandering the culture of his own race.

He appears to imagine that his ancestors were an uncultured lot whom the missionary rescued from savagedom. But it is quite consistent with the greatness of a people like the Tamils to accept Jesus Christ without having to turn on their past. The writer in question appears to mistake the technique of Western civilisation, the English language and European customs, for the Christian religion. Culture again is different from the technique of civilisation; it is a set of values and Tamil Culture has been a worth while thing for ages. That culture will gain when it is permeated by the spirit of Christ; that culture may even adopt intelligently Western technique, but in any event anyone hoping to do fruitful work among the people will fail unless he first recognises their worth and the gifts they possess. For my part I have faith in my people and in their leaders.

"A Countryman."



IN EVER-LOVING MEMORY OF

Dr. Sam. A. Hunt

Died: 5th Nov. 1938;

"He is not dead, but only fleeth sleep! In the sweet refuge of his Master's heart. And far away from sorrow, toil and weeping, He is not dead but only taking rest." (Inserted by his sorrowing wife and children).

IN

EVER-LOVING MEMORY OF THE LATE

Mr. George Dwight Rajaratnam

Died: 4th November 1931

"Safe in the arms of Jesus" (Inserted by his wife and children, Udaval, 4-11-40.