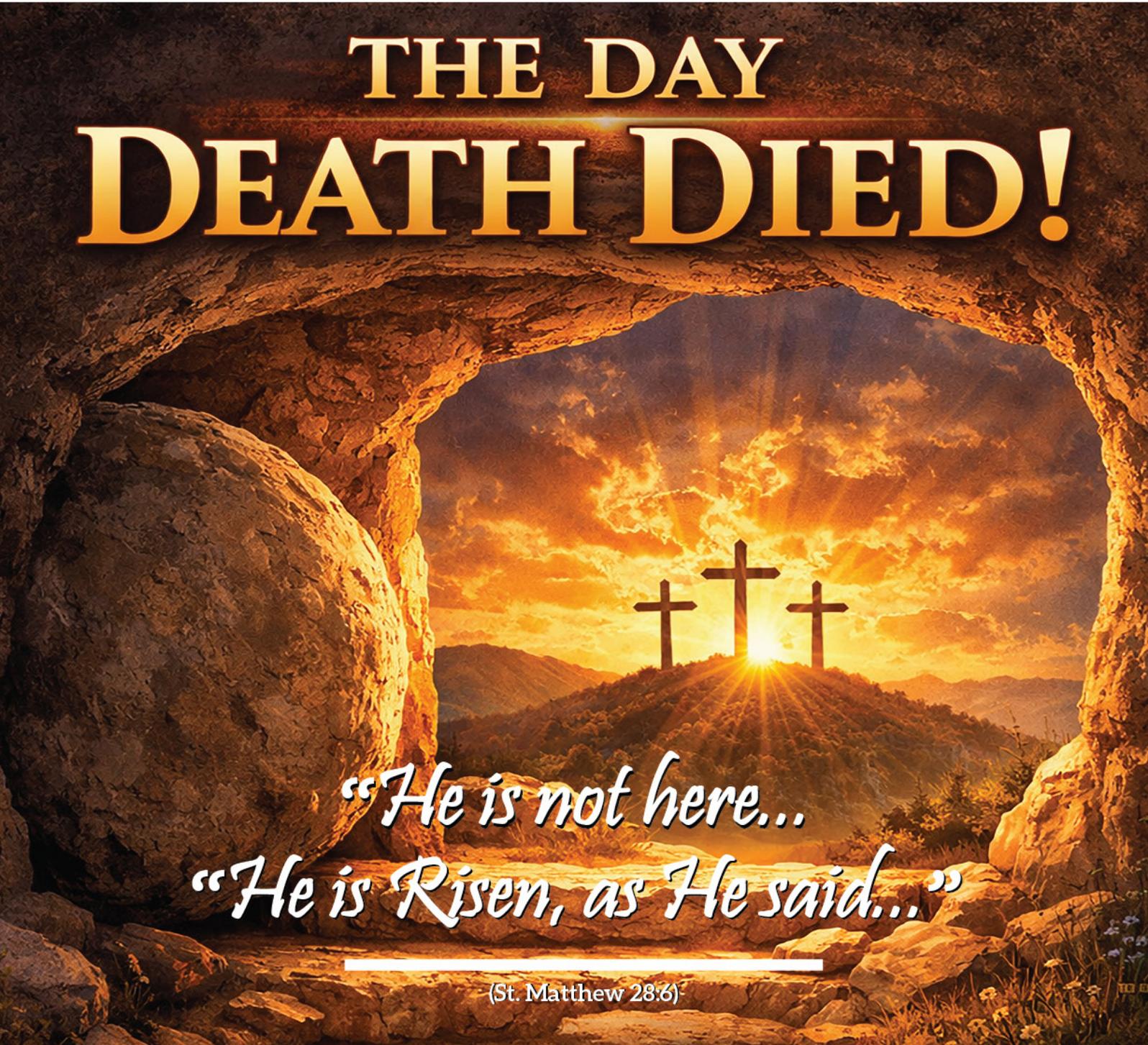


# The Herald

· OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF SRI LANKA ·

## THE DAY DEATH DIED!



*“He is not here...  
“He is Risen, as He said...”*

---

(St. Matthew 28:6)

“SOME IDEAS FOR PARENTS OF TEENS” - SEE INSIDE  
ALSO INSIDE - “THE TALE OF THE TIE PIN”

**THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED!**



The Bible calls it the last enemy – the final foe we have to face. It’s a word about the strange reality of death. How do you feel about it? I am not talking about death in general or even the death of someone near and dear. I am thinking about your death ! How do we feel about that prospect? Maybe you are saying, “I have not thought about it much,” or maybe, “I don’t care to think about it”. But somehow hints keep coming back.

To take forward the title of this editorial is to quote what someone said, **“our knowledge that we must die is like the background music playing around us all through life. Sometimes the sound becomes faint and we scarcely hear it. At other times it swells in volume, beating upon us in ways we can scarcely ignore.”**

What usually turns up the volume for us ? if you are a young person, it may be the death of someone your age. That gets your attention. The Elderly die anyway, but this young person, so full of life, how can that be? For most of us, it is the time death invades our family. For others maybe it may be a narrow escape or a time of physical decline. At the intellectual level, we all know that we must die and we don’t believe that we would be able to go on indefinitely by replacing body parts or that we could thwart death completely by medical means.

It seems to me that people adopt one of three basic attitudes towards death. The first is denial. Think of the reluctance we have to use the word. For many, people don’t die, they “pass away”. For others, they “go to their eternal home,” “succumb to illness” or “expire”! But this denial , the pretending that it has not happened does not serve us well. It means that we fail to come to grips with life. Denial also leads to a heightened fear of death.

Then, there are those who view the prospect of death with despair. These people believe that death ends everything. There is nothing after death. During an interview a famous Italian actor was asked, “Do you believe in life after death?” “Truthfully no,” he answered. “If I did life would be more interesting because I would have an ultimate goal, a precise purpose to prepare myself for. But since I fear everything will end in death, I say, “What do I care?” He speaks for many today. When a person faces death realistically, refusing to deny it, but believing that it ends all, what alternative is there to despair?”

*( Contd. on page 18)*

Vol CVIII Nos.01,02,03  
January - February - March  
2026

**The Herald**

Official Organ of the  
Christian Reformed Church  
of Sri Lanka.

**REVD. CHARLES N. JANSZ**  
*JP (All Island)*  
Editor

2, Mudaliyar Avenue,  
Kohuwala, Nugegoda.

Telephone  
Residence : 2852835  
Office : 2360861  
 : 2582469 (Fax)  
e-mail : cnj@eureka.lk

ANNUAL Subscription  
Local - Rs. 250/-  
Overseas - U.S. \$ 10/-

**IN THIS ISSUE**

Editorial ..... 2  
Meditation ..... 3  
The Day Death Died ..... 4  
Youth Page ..... 6  
Children’s Page ..... 9  
Family Page.....12  
Church News ..... 14  
The Tale Of The Tie Pin ..... 19

By Marlon Timothy Jansz

## The Day Death Died

**Scripture:** “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” – 1 Corinthians 15:54

Recently, I found myself pondering the reality of death. It is one of the few certainties of life. No matter who we are, it eventually touches every family. When it comes, it often leaves behind questions, sorrow, and the painful feeling that something final has taken place. In those moments, death can seem as though it has the last word.

As I reflected on this, I thought about the disciples of Jesus. On Good Friday, they watched their beloved Lord die on a cross. The One they had trusted and placed their hopes in was laid in a tomb, and with Him their expectations seemed buried as well.

But the story did not end there.

Early on the first Easter morning, women came to the tomb expecting to mourn. Instead, they heard the astonishing words: “He is not here; He has risen!” (Luke 24:6).

In that moment, everything changed. The grave could not hold Jesus. What appeared to be defeat became the greatest victory the world has ever known.

Because Christ rose from the dead, death no longer has the final word. The resurrection proclaims that sin, suffering, and even the grave itself have been conquered.

This truth invites us to pause and reflect: What does the resurrection mean for us today? Do we see it only as an event remembered each Easter, or as the living hope that shapes the way we face life—and even death?

The risen Christ calls us not only to believe in His victory, but to live each day in the light of it.

**Prayer:** Risen Lord, thank You for conquering the grave and giving us living hope. Help us to trust in the hope of the resurrection and to live each day in the joy of Your victory. Amen.

*(Marlon is a member of the Dehiwela Congregation in addition to being a Deacon and the Mission Fund Treasurer.)*



## THE DAY DEATH DIED

by Dishan Joseph

### He is risen! He is not here!" Mark 16:6

The Resurrection is a call to rejoice as we reflect upon the events of that first Easter morning; we are called to share in the joy of it. This joy is multifaceted. It encompasses not only our personal experience of salvation and renewal but also extends into the global community of all believers. It offers an invitation to engage with one another, promoting unity and mutual encouragement within our congregations, families, and friendships. 'Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?' - 1 Corinthians 15:54-55

Historically and theologically, the Resurrection signifies the promise of new life. In fact, within the liturgical calendar, Easter stands as a beacon of hope, reminding the faithful of the unfathomable love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Each celebration of Easter is a reminder that light triumphs over darkness, hope rises from despair, and life emerges from death. Jesus' resurrection was a true and total defeat of death. As the Holy Son of God, Jesus overcame death once and for all. Christ conquered death because He was sinless. The Bible teaches that a life of inward rest and outward victory is the believer's birthright. Easter is the most important event in the Christian calendar. It is even more important than Christmas. On Good Friday, the Lord Jesus suffered and died for our sins. Then, on Easter Sunday, God raised Jesus from the dead for our justification. Easter, therefore, is the basis of our new life with God. No other event is more crucial for the Christian faith than Easter. The joy of the resurrection emboldens us to proclaim the message of Christ's victory, sharing the good news with those who may feel lost or burdened. It invites us to extend compassion and mercy to those in need, unify with fellow believers, and embody the love of Christ in tangible ways.

Whether rich or poor, famous or unknown, strong or weak, everyone is going to die, sooner or later. Therefore, in the face of death, one is confronted with the great questions of meaning – Where am I going? Is there life after death? Is there hope? According to Sigmund Freud (the great pioneer of psychoanalysis), "The goal of all life is death". But this philosophy contains no comfort at all. Human beings are confounded by death. In many societies it is a taboo subject laced with superstition and fear. Death is the devil's most powerful, terrifying weapon against us.

In Christ there is a new resurrection unto life. The inevitable result of human life in our world is death. But the result of life in Christ is resurrection! Here we find the great comfort of the gospel for Christians. "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive" (1 Corinthians- 15:22). There is hope! Death is not the final end. Death is not the last good-bye. Death is not the concluding word. The good news of the angels on Easter morning is that there is life after death. For Christians, death is not the end, but only the beginning of a greater and happier life in heaven with God and one another. For them, death is the door to a land of everlasting glory.

The victorious Christian life is the life that is lived, by faith, in a moment-by-moment surrender to God. The victorious Christian life is rooted and grounded in faith. The whole of Hebrews 11 tells the stories of men and women who, by faith- were victorious in some way. Our God is always victorious, no matter the enemy. Even the cross of Christ was not a defeat for the Lord, but a victory. The victorious Christian life is a life lived in triumph over "everything in the world"- It is the conquering of fear, knowing God's peace. The victorious Christian life is a journey of faith, not just for eternal salvation, but of daily decisions building up into lifestyle that reflects Christ- this is challenging at times. The world is full of challenges that manifest in many ways, causing us to doubt and lose hope. It is a blessed experience to wake up every morning and know His presence. It is a delightful experience to know, in the evening when the sun is setting, the peace of God. As believers we should enjoy victory in Christ; overcoming in all things, gently dominating our world and reigning in life.

The ultimate reward of seeking God is eternal life with Him. Jesus promised, "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33). Beyond the blessings we experience on earth, those who earnestly seek God are assured of spending eternity in His presence. Life often brings challenges that test our endurance, but seeking God equips us with the spiritual and emotional strength to persevere. Knowing our purpose gives us a sense of direction and fulfillment. As we walk in obedience to His calling, we find that our lives have eternal significance. Our daily actions, no matter how small, become part of God's grand narrative.

In a world filled with turmoil and uncertainty, seeking God leads to a supernatural peace. Philippians 4:6-7 encourages us: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." This peace does not mean the absence of challenges but rather an assurance that God is in control. It's the calm in the storm that allows us to trust Him even when circumstances seem impossible. Believers "are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Romans 8:37). What can separate us from the love of God in Christ? Jesus has conquered death, and believers stand firm on Jesus' words: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies. And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die".

*(Dishan Joseph is a member of CRC-Dehiwela. He is a defence writer & security analyst)*

## The Day Death Died ~ An Easter Sunday Message for Youth

### A Morning That Changed Everything

Imagine waking up to the greatest news ever — the kind of news that changes history forever. Fear turns into hope. Tears turn into joy. Darkness turns into light. That's exactly what happened on Easter morning.

After the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, His followers believed everything was over. Their teacher was gone. Their hope seemed buried behind a heavy stone. Friday felt like defeat. Saturday felt silent. But Sunday?

Sunday was the day death died.

### When Hope Seemed Lost

The disciples had watched Jesus suffer and die on a cross. To them, death looked final. Just like many young people today, they faced questions:

Why does suffering exist?  
Where is God when life hurts?  
Is hope real or just wishful thinking?

Sometimes we feel the same way — when friendships break, dreams fail, anxiety rises, or we feel spiritually empty.

The tomb represented humanity's biggest fear: death wins.  
But God had a different ending planned.

### The Empty Tomb

Early Sunday morning, women went to the tomb expecting to mourn. Instead, they found the stone rolled away.

The grave was empty.  
Jesus had risen.

This wasn't just a miracle — it was a declaration. The resurrection meant that sin, fear, and death no longer had the final word. Easter is not only about Jesus coming back to life; it's about life defeating death itself.

Death thought it had victory.  
But Easter revealed the truth:

Death lost.

## What "The Day Death Died" Means for You

Easter is not just history — it's personal.

Because Jesus rose:

### 1. Your Past Doesn't Define You

Mistakes, regrets, and failures don't get the last word. *Grace* does.

### 2. Your Struggles Are Not Permanent

Loneliness, fear, or doubt may feel powerful, but resurrection power is stronger.

### 3. Your Future Is Filled With Hope

The resurrection promises that life — real, eternal life — is available now and forever.

Christianity isn't about following rules perfectly; it's about walking in new life with a living Savior.

## Living Like Death Already Lost

If death truly died on Easter, how should we live?

Choose hope when the world feels heavy.

Show love even when it's hard.

Stand for faith even when others doubt.

Live boldly, knowing fear doesn't control your story.

Young people like you & I are searching for purpose, identity, and meaning. Easter answers that search: you were created for life, not defeat.

## Easter Challenge for Youth

This Easter, ask yourself:

- 1) What "grave" am I still living in?
- 2) What fear do I need to surrender to God?
- 3) How can I live like Jesus is truly alive?

## The Greatest Victory Ever

The cross looked like the end of the story.

The tomb looked permanent.

But Easter morning proved something unforgettable:

- 1) The darkest day led to the brightest victory.
- 2) The grave was defeated.
- 3) Hope walked out alive.

Easter is the celebration of the day death died – and the day real life began for everyone who believes.

“He is not here; He has risen!” — Luke 24:6

# Youth Page

Edited By: Joshua Aldons

## Just For Laughs

📱 If the disciples had smart-phones, Easter morning group chat would be:

**Mary:** “GUYS!!! The tomb is EMPTY 🤪”

**Peter:** “On my way.”

**John:** “Already running.”

**Thomas:** “Pics or it didn’t happen.”

### \*Easter Notification\*

Ding!

Heaven Update v2.0:

Bug fixed — death no longer permanent.

“Resurrection update installed successfully.”

Google Review of the tomb:  
1 Star



“Stayed three days. Couldn’t hold the guest.” — Jesus Christ



Why was the angel sitting on the stone?

Because even angels like front-row seats to miracles!

What was the disciples' Easter workout plan?

Run to the tomb.  
Be amazed.  
Repeat.

# Children's Page

Edited by Amanda Fraser.



Dear boys and girls,

There's something about Easter that always makes me think of things that are new and growing.

Eggs, baby bunnies, new spring flowers. Everything points to life!

But, at the first Easter, Jesus' disciples thought it was the end. They thought he was dead for good!

But then... Surprise!!!!

Jesus did this super awesome thing where he came back to life!! We call it the resurrection. That's pretty unbelievable huh? Well not for Jesus. It was pretty much a no-brainer because he loved us so very much.

He gave us a way to be with him forever. When he died on the cross and then came alive again, He broke the rule that said we couldn't go to heaven. Now we get a free pass! We get new life, a new heart and a forever home with Jesus!

Happy Easter! Don't forget to say thank you to the one who made us new!

Lots of love,  
Aunty Mandy



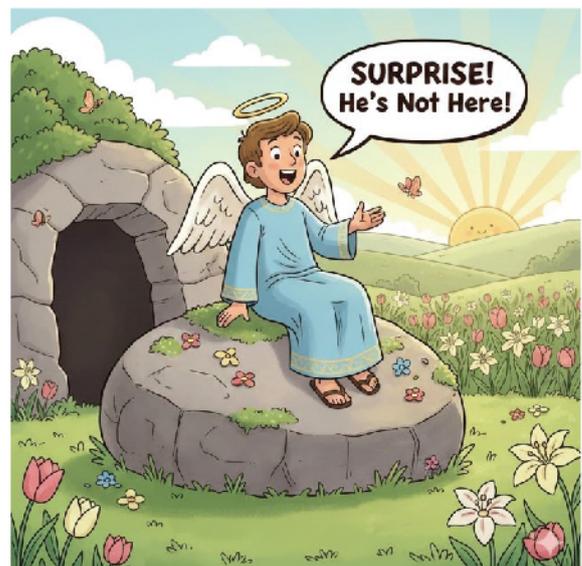
# He's Not Napping

The stone was big, the stone was round,  
It made a heavy, thudding sound.  
They tucked Lord Jesus in the tomb  
They all began to feel the gloom.  
"Goodbye, Jesus! This is sad!"  
(They didn't know they should be glad!)

While they were crying, feeling gloom,  
A ZAP of power hit the tomb!  
He didn't need a key or door,  
He wasn't dead anymore!

He shook his head and stretched his toes,  
And brushed the dust off of his clothes.  
He stepped outside into the light,  
And gave the guards a giant fright!

So don't be sad or feel alone,  
He's not behind a heavy stone.  
He's out, He's up, He's living too!  
Yes! Jesus did it all for you!



Name \_\_\_\_\_

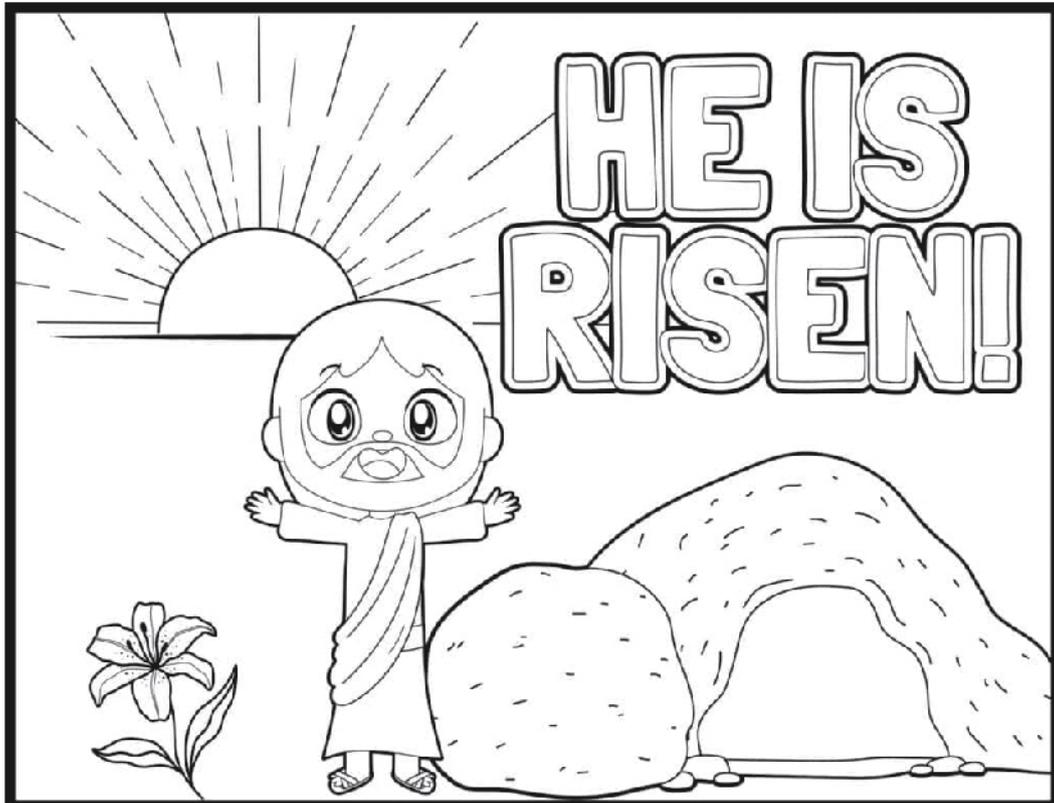
John 3:16 (NIV) Missing Words  
Bible Verse



For \_\_\_\_\_ so \_\_\_\_\_ the  
\_\_\_\_\_ that He gave \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and only \_\_\_\_\_, that  
whoever \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ but have  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.

Directions: Cut and paste the words below to complete the Bible verse.

life	one	God	His
eternal	shall	world	believes
Son	perish	Him	loved



### SOME IDEAS FOR PARENTS OF TEENS

By Marsha Navamanie

#### Coming of Age Ceremonies

*It is important to recognize various transitional milestones for children.* In the Sinhala and Tamil communities the time that a girl comes of age is very important, with various ceremonies and rituals. We should look at these ceremonies and find ways to build Christian principles into the event if it is part of your culture while avoiding superstitions. This stage is tailored for discussing new responsibilities and helping them to understand the changes in their bodies and why God made us this way. It is also a good opportunity to talk about sex-related subjects, not only physical issues, such as cleanliness, but social, emotional and spiritual issues, such as how to handle moodiness, how to avoid sexual temptations, etc. **This is necessary for both boys and girls.**

#### Profession of Faith

Since Good Friday is just around the corner, this is a



good time to talk about another coming of age ceremony. At about this same time (age 13 to 15) many of our children do their Profession of Faith to show their commitment to Christ for themselves, and to become full communicant members of the church. This is a very important milestone in their lives. The Jews have a ceremony (Bar/Bat Mitzvah) for their children at the age of 13, when they have to memorize various passages from the Torah as well as read/explain a portion to the congregation. We require classes for Profession of Faith and Baptism, but do we demand anything as rigorous of our children? Could we not make this an occasion for them to make an informed, public statement of what they believe and why they believe it to their church family?

This is a good time to build a **new ritual** for your child (a coming of age ceremony). Prepare a special meal and invite people who have had an impact on their life, such as a Sunday School teacher, youth pastor, etc. Ask these people to give some charge/challenge to the new member of the church. Talk about their gifts and abilities, share dreams and give some special gifts related to their new responsibility, their gifts and future. Write down what people say and keep these as a record for your

child. A ritual like this can be very helpful in building the self-esteem of the child and helping them make the transition to more responsibility.

#### How much do you really know?

A good measure of a relationship is how much you know about another person. To evaluate how you are doing in your relationship with each of your children, answer the following questions individually, then compare them with your spouse's answers. Discuss the similarities/ differences since it will reveal the level of your involvement (or lack of it) in their lives!

1. *What is your child's favorite song or music group?*
2. *What is a special subject your child has recently studied in school or Sunday School?*
3. *What is your child's favorite game to play?*
4. *What is the name of your child's best friend?*
5. *What is your child's favorite food?*
6. *What is your child's favorite book?*
7. *Who is their favorite teacher?*
8. *What is your child afraid of?*
9. *Does your child have any recurring dreams?*

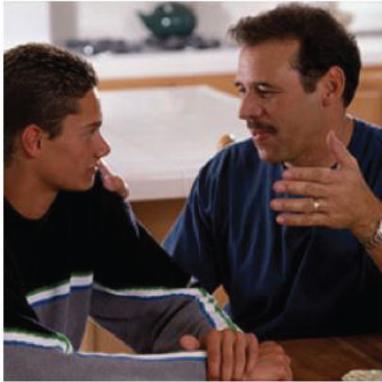
To see how you did, **make it a point to ask your children these questions later.** Share your own favorites when you were their age, what you were afraid of, etc.

#### Important issues for Teens

Discuss again the issues of discipline and boundaries. What are some areas where you now need to re-evaluate and extend the boundaries for your child?

- Since physical punishment is difficult at this age, talk about some other consequences for violations, such as holding back privileges, grounding, etc.
- Think about several things that you can do to show your child you trust them. Set aside a time to talk to your teenager about the rules and guidelines you have had in the past and let them have some say in what should be changed and what should stay the same.
- Family meetings can be very helpful with any age group, but especially with teens. You can discuss as a family how to solve various issues in the home, what the consequences should be when a rule is violated. Let your children help in making rules and punishments. You might try writing a contract with your child. When they break the contract, you are not the bad guy.
- You may have already talked about money. Set up a bank account for them. Make sure they understand how to tithe a percentage of all their earnings to the church and save a portion of whatever you give them. Let them manage their expenses, bus fare, snacks, etc. on their own.

- Talk to your teenager about sex. Studies show that one of the most effective ways to protect our children is for parents to teach them about sex; *'...an essential way an adult can influence sexual behavior is by*



*being a source of accurate information.'* Poor communication is what leads to most problems so we can't leave this to chance anymore. Today just one mistake in this area can lead to HIV/AIDS. Study **I Corinthians 13** with your child and talk about what love means. If they need to spend any time alone with other teens of the opposite sex, then set guidelines for their conduct. Let them help you set the guidelines.

- You need to talk to them about reasons we stay sexually pure; our religious values in this area (biblical passages); the painful consequences of premarital sex; what to look for in a future mate.
- Make sure they are aware of the dangers of pornography and predators on the internet. Pornography is just as addictive as drugs and destroys people's lives and marriages. Teach them how to use the internet responsibly and how to get out of a bad site quickly. Limit internet and television usage. Make sure you know what they are watching and talk about what they see on television, compared to your family's values.
- Study **Proverbs**, especially **Chapters 1-8** with your child. Help them understand that you are available to answer the hard questions; that no question is off-limits. If you think they might be shy to share with you, help them find another trustworthy adult that they will open up to. Develop a network of parents to help encourage your youth to do the right thing and develop Christian friendships. The church youth fellowship can help here. The more time they spend with other Christian children, the less time they will spend with other teens who might be a bad influence on them. Remember, "Bad company corrupts good morals."

**STEPS TO FIGHT PEER PRESSURE**

- Create a sense of belonging at home. They need to belong; that is why they give in to peer pressure.
- Encourage close friendships, do what you can to make sure those friends are the good kind, invite their peers to your home, give them a place to 'hang out.' Then you will know what they are up to.
- Get extraordinarily involved. Be there for them when there is an issue or problem. They want our input, provided we welcome them into our lives and are honest with them.

- Select the environment. Some parents limit peer time. School environment: look for positive role models, tutors, sports coaches, etc. Check them out.
- Provide stability. Make sure things are okay with you and your wife and in your home.
- Become your kids excuse. Set the rules and stick to them unless they can give good reasons why an exception is needed.

Most teenagers know that many things are not really good for them, but they don't have the self-esteem or self-control or self-discipline to reject them. Being able to say, *'my dad won't let me'* gives them a way out in many situations (from *Running the Rapids* by Dr. Kevin Leman, Tyndale House, 2005).

**A TEENAGER'S TEN COMMANDMENTS TO PARENTS**

1. Please don't give me everything I say I want. Saying no shows me you care. I appreciate guidelines.
2. Don't treat me as if I were a little kid. Even though you know what's 'right,' I need to discover some things for myself.
3. Respect my need for privacy. Often I need to be alone to sort things out and daydream.
4. Never say, 'In my day...'. That's an immediate turnoff. Besides, the pressures and responsibilities of my world are more complicated than they were when you were my age.
5. I don't pick your friends or clothes; please don't criticize mine. We can disagree and still respect each other's choices.
6. Refrain from always rescuing me; I learn most from my mistakes. Hold me accountable for the decisions I make in life; it's the only way I'll learn to be responsible.
7. Be brave enough to share your disappointments, thoughts and feelings with me. By the way, I'm never too old to be told I'm loved.
8. Don't talk in volumes. I've had years of good instruction; now trust me with the wisdom you have shared.
9. I respect you when you ask me for forgiveness for a thoughtless deed or word on your part. It proves that neither of us is perfect.
10. Set a good example for me as God intended you to do. I pay more attention to your actions than your words.

(From *Running the Rapids* by Dr. Kevin Leman, Tyndale House, 2005).

*Marsha Navamanie and her husband Ron have been working with the CRCSL in Sri Lanka for the past 23 years. They currently are living in the U.S.A.*

## +++ CHURCH NEWS+++



### ❖ Christmas New Year and Watchnight Services

Christmas day Worship Services, followed by Services on the first day of the New Year were held in all of our local Churches, with large numbers in attendance. The traditional Watchnight Service took place at the CRC Dehiwela on the 31st of December, followed by the traditional Breakfast.

The Carol services took place on the Sunday before Christmas day, led by the church choirs and in some instances with the participation of the Children of the Sunday Schools.

The Annual Trilingual Christmas Carol Service organised by the Women's Federation was cancelled due to the uncertain situation in the Country, caused by the Cyclonic Storm.

The Little Lambs Carol Service of the Dehiwela Montessori took place on Saturday 6th December and the Community Outreach programme of the Dehiwela Congregation on Saturday 13th December. This annual Christmas program, reached out to 150 families with dry rations, and with Schooling necessities to the children. A Magic show, a video of the Christmas story and the Gospel Message were all part of this meaningful morning.

The Annual Christmas get together for Ministry workers, Denominational staff and families which was postponed in view of the destruction and sufferings caused by the Cyclonic storm, took place on the 2nd of March, 2026, at the Hotel Tangerine, Kalutara. It was once again a time of fun, fellowship and food, sustained by a creative programme that filled the day.



### ❖ Regent Street Commemorates 110 Years of the Building...

The Leadership and congregations of Regent-Street had planned a meaningful thanksgiving service to commemorate the 110th anniversary of the Church building. The building had been elaborately refurbished especially for the occasion and did look a thing to behold.

Pastors Sashikumar, Ananda Jayawardena, Suresh Karmegam, Andrew Cottling, Revds: Stanley Nelson and Shirley Faber and Elder David Labrooy participated, whilst Pastor Lakmal Wijeratne brought greetings, as President of the CRCSL and Revd: Bernard Bocks gave the Benediction. The Sermon was preached by Revd: Charles Jansz on the theme "A Church Worth Talking About." The Choir rendered a special item entitled, "Lord For The Years," whilst a video presentation featured historical events of the past. A time of fellowship over light refreshments followed.



### ❖ MINISTERIAL TRANSFERS...

The following Ministerial transfers within the English Language congregations have been effective from January 2026.

Wolvendhal – Revd: Shirley Faber.

Regent-Street – Pastor Ananda Jayawardena.

Bambalapitya – Pastor Christian Sujit.  
 Wellawatte – Revd: Stanley Nelson.  
 Dehiwela – Pastor Lakmal Wijeratne.  
 Kohuwela – Pastor Dhanaraj Ajendran.  
 Rukmalgama – Pastor Jayalath Perera.

❖ **“Little Lambs” Dehiwela Gives Thanks for 41 Years....**

The “Little Lambs” Montessori of the CRC Dehiwela, commemorated 41 years of existence with a Service on Thanksgiving on Thursday 22nd January, 2026, with the participation of the children, parents, grand parents and friends of the School. Revd: Charles Jansz led the opening part of the Service, whilst Pastor Lakmal Wijeratne, preached the Sermon and Pastor Andrew Wickremasinghe participated in the order of Service.

A special feature was the presence of the Revd: Crosbie de Kretser, whose vision with his late wife, Yvonne gave birth to this ministry, and continues to receive the consistent support of their Son and daughter in law, Revd: Michael and Jenny de Kretser who were also present on this occasion.

The Service Organised by Mrs. Menik Perera and the Staff, also featured the children participating in song and prayer. The Service concluded with the cutting of the birthday cake and the singing of the birthday song. A time of fellowship over light refreshments followed.

❖ **Service of Thanksgiving and Tribute...**

A Service of Thanksgiving and Tribute intended to be a “surprise,” to commemorate the 30 years of Ministry of Revd: Charles and Maxine Jansz to the Dehiwela English congregation,



organised by the Leadership and members of the congregation, took place on Saturday the 24th of January, 2026 at 5.00. Pas Lakmal Wijeratne led through the Liturgy, whilst LC members, Lindsay Melder, Tamara Rebeira and Steve Schubert participated. The Sermon was preached by Revd: Crosbie de Kretser on the theme “A Tribute of praise and thanksgiving” whilst Revd: Michael de Kretser led in prayer and together with Revd: Crosbie sang the blessing. Video clips of messages of appreciation from former members, especially domiciled abroad were featured, mostly testifying to Maxine’s influence in their lives. A Memento Booklet with additional messages and pictures and a elaborate bouquet of flowers was presented by Bro Steve Schubert and Sis Tamara Rebeira. The Choir rendered a special item which had been specially written for the occasion, by the Organist and Choir Director, Mrs. Anuradha Mack. Revd: Jansz speaking expressed his gratitude and that of Maxine was all the secretive planning that had its moments when the surprise almost fell through !



❖ **Commemorating 78 Years of Independence....**

The 78th Anniversary of Independence was commemorated on Wednesday the 4th of February, 2026. The Ecumenical Service organised by the National Christian Council was held at the Peoples Church, Assembly of God, Narahenpita, at 6.30 am. The CRC SL Trilingual Service was held at the CRC Bambalapitya at 8.30 a.m with the participation of Pastors Wijeratne, Vijayakumar, Anton, Ratnayake and Sashikumar. Pas Ajendran preached the Sermon. A representative gathering was present.

❖ **General Consistory Office- Bearers 2026.**

The following were elected to Office to serve through this year..

President: Pas Lakmal Wijeratne.

Vice-Presidents: Pas Rickson Anthony (Ministry), Bro. Alex Duckworth (Admin).

Hony Secretary: Revd: Stanley Nelson.

Hony Asst Sec: - Bro. Steve Schubert;

Hony Treasurer: - Bro. Alex Duckworth (Actg).

Hony Asst Treas: - Vacant.

Hony Book Keeper: Bro. Arulkumar Maduraiweeran.

Convenors – Missions – Pas Sunil Gunasekera, Diaconate – Pas Chaminda Ratnayake, Teaching and Training: Pas Chaminda Ratnayake.

Asst Sec: - Bro Lindsay Melder.

Hony Treasurer – Bro Shane Ingram.

Asst Treas – Bro Marlon Jansz.

GCEC representative – Bro. Shane Ingram.

Presbytery Elder – Bro Steve Schubert

Warden – Bro Jerome Marianayagem, Asst

Warden – Bro Sidath Nonis.

❖ **Local Consistory Office- Bearers: 2026. Wolvendhal.**

President: Revd Shirley Faber.

Hony Secretary – Bro Richard Fernando.

Treasurer – Bro Ranjith Thomasz

GCEC Representative – Revd: Shirley Faber.

❖ **Regent-Street.**

President – Asso Pastor – M. Sashikumar.

Hony Secretary – Bro David Labrooy.

Asst Sec:: - Bro. M. Arulkumar.

Hony Treasurer – Bro Aubrey Peiris.

Auditor – Bro. M Arulkumar.

Wardens – Bro. Paschal Herft, Bro Pradeep Amirthalingam.

GCEC Representative – Asso Pas Suresh Karmeham.

Presbytery Elder – Bro. David Labrooy.

❖ **Wellawatte.**

President – Revd: Stanley Nelson.

Hony Secretary – Bro. Sudarshan Croos.

Hony Treasurer – Bro Alex Duckworth.

Warden – Bro R. Rutharthilagam.

Presbytery Elder – Bro Alex Duckworth.

GCEC Representative – Revd: Stanley Nelson.

❖ **Dehiwela.**

President – Asso Pastor Clement Yogarajah.

Hony Secretary – Sis Tamara Rebeira.

❖ **Kohuwela.**

Presidents – Bro Roger Koch / Bro Conrad Van Twest.

Hony Secreary – Bro Romesh Anthony.

Hony Treasurer – Sis Neelani Tissaaratchy

Warden – Bro Romesh Anthony.

GCEC Representative – Bro; Roger Koch.

Presbytery Elder – Bro: Roger Koch.

❖ **Visitors....**

The Revd: Caspar Van Dorp of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands was here on a brief visit and ministered the Word at the morning worship Service of the CRC Bambilapitiya on Sunday the 11th of January, 2026. In the evening he ministered at the CRC Dehiwala CRC Dehiwela.

The Revd: Crosbie de Kretser who served the D/CRC from 1969 to 1986 was on a short visit, together with his son and wife, Revd: Michael and Jenny de Kretser. During their stay they were able to share the joys of reunion with family, extended family and many church families and friends. Revd: Crosbie ministered the Word at Kohuwela, Wellawatte, Regent-Street and Dehiwela. Whilst Revd: Michael brought God's Word to Regent-Street, Dehiwela, Bambilapitiya and Wellawatte.

Mrs. Diane Van Hoff and children, Daphne, Clara and Linda, family of the late Revd Aubrey Van Hoff, who served the D/CRC through many years were also here briefly. They worshipped on Sunday the 1st of February, at the CRC Kohuwela, which was one of the Pastorates, served by the late Revd: Aubrey Van Hoff.

❖ **CHURCH REGISTER**

❖ **Silver Wedding**

*“What God has joined together...”*

Thulitha and Dilhani Piyasena on Saturday 14th February, 2026 of the CRC Bambalapitiya.

❖ **Deaths.**

*“For ever with the Lord”*

**Hilary Brian Moore**, on Tuesday 10th March, 2026, of the Regent-Street congregation.

**Hope Jansen**, on Saturday 14th March, 2026, of the Regent-Street congregation.

❖ **IN MEMORIAM**

❖ **Neelani Lokuge..**

It was with much sadness that we did receive the news of the passing away of Neelani Lokuge after a brief illness. Neelani was part of the Lokuge family who were initially from the Matara Sinhala Congregation. Neelani together with her family was a member of the Dehiwela Sinhala congregation where she together with them, were involved in many ways and still are in the life and ministry of that congregation.

For many years Neelani served the “Suba Asna” Ministry which is the Denominational Sinhala Correspondence course ministry where she was a livewire sharing and posting the material, correcting the scripts and connecting with the students as well as those who completed the course. Many who are part of the Kingdom today, especially from the regions out of Colombo are a testimony to her faithfulness through this ministry.

Neelani also produced a bi-annual Magazine that not only gave information of the ministry, but also served to feed the students and those who were part of it, with Biblical content part of the spiritual nourishment for the sustaining and strengthening of the faith of these new Christians.

Her loyalty to her Lord, to the CRC and the Reformed understanding of the faith remained firm to the end and we can be glad that such a legacy continues with her immediate family and for all of this, to God be all the glory!

❖ **Hilary Moore.**

Hilary Moore went to be with His Lord, on Tuesday the 10th of March, 2026, after a decline in health over a period of time. A member of the Regent-Street congregation he was faithful in worship and service through the years, even though he had to travel a distance. Hilary served as a Deacon in different capacities and also represented the CRC SL at the Union Church, at Welisara, where the CRC SL through Regent-Street, partners in ministry and mission.

Hilary generally gave verbal vent to what was on his mind when it came to discussions and deliberation on Church life and ministry. At times he had his own brand of humour too.

His humour sometimes got the better of him, especially at Denominational AGM elections and at times had to be restrained with a good word!

His faithfulness to the Church at Regent-Street continued to the very end and Regent-Street in turn ministered to him, in every possible way. We do thank God for his life, service and witness and pray the Lord’s peace upon his family and all who grieve.

“To be absent from the body, is to be present with the Lord.”

❖ **Hope Jansen.**

It was with much sadness that we received the news of the passing away of Hope Jansen, after a few months of health issues that finally took its toll. Hope was a faithful member initially of the Maligakande English language Congregation. Living within a stone’s throw of the Ma-

ligakande Church, she together with the family faithfully involved themselves in worship and the ministries of the Maligakande Congregation. When the English language congregation was disbanded and the members transferred to Regent-Street, Hope continued to be faithful in worship and was involved in whatever ways possible and where there was a need. In all of this she was supported by her daughters, Delia and Fortune.

My association with the family goes back to the early eighties and I recall the many visits to their home at Maradana, where Hope was always hospitable and welcomed such visits with much joy.

After my move away from the Congregation, it was always a joy to see her seated at worship in her familiar place in the Sanctuary just by the middle door on the right side of the pulpit.

Needles to say, Regent-Street has lost someone who was faithful and stayed with the Church, its mission and ministry to the very end. At a time when Denominational membership is gradually losing its savour – we can praise and thank God for such people like Hope Jansen, who kept the faith, was faithful to Church and her family and lived up to her name - full of hope in the God of Hope!

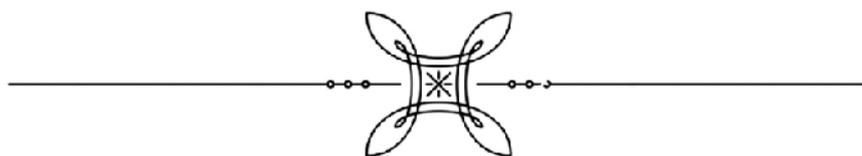
*(The "News" in these pages is gathered from the Bulletins published by the respective local churches and available in the Church office. Any other news of events or involving the membership could be sent directly to the Editor of "The Herald," for publication according to the established criteria. – Ed.)*



*( Editorial Contd. from page 2 )*

But thankfully there is another way...not denial nor despair but defiance! Jesus Christ saves people from the last enemy so that they can face it with defiance. That is what we are celebrating . Some may not like the term. Some believers speak of "sweet death" But death is never beautiful and never sweet. It is not a friend. In the words of the Bible, it is the last enemy. What is on the other side is glorious, but death itself is a terrible enemy. But we do not have to deny that this enemy exists or surrender in despair. The enemy has been smashed. His power overthrown. Jesus, by taking upon Himself our sins and dying our death, has stripped away its dread and power. The Apostle Paul says it so well in that great Resurrection chapter – I Cor:15 – " Death is swallowed up in victory..."

The basis for that real assurance is the bedrock fact of Jesus's resurrection on the third day. That day death died and the background music died too! Jesus conquered death. He's alive forever. And He says to you and me, "Because I live, you shall live also." Let that truth sink in and let that knowledge always be the background music , as we live our lives, today, tomorrow and always !



# THE TALE OF THE TIE PIN



A story of a tie pin in an old biscuit tin button box...

I am now retired and living in Sydney Australia with my family. Many years ago I lived in the beautiful Island of Sri Lanka my motherland.

I worked at a few jobs in Sri Lanka and finally ended up being the Coordinator for Bible Cor Sri Lanka and the Secretary of the Dutch Reformed Church, Sri Lanka for over 14 years before migrating to Australia.

And now comes the interesting part of this short story.

From 1982 to 1996, I worked at Transworld Radio (TWR) an American Christian Radio Broadcasting Organisation as it's Assistant Purchasing Officer.

Towards the end of 1995/96 TWR started downsizing and retrenching its staff, and unfortunately I was one of those to be retrenched and had to seek employment elsewhere.

Finding another job at my age then was a bit of a challenge but I finally was offered a very good job with a lot of perks. Yet, unfortunately it was a company that manufactured and sold liquor, and was not to my liking.

In the meantime, Rev. Charles Jansz knew I was looking for some kind of employment and asked me if I was interested in taking over a challenge to get the Bible Cor correspondence course started again as it had shut down due to the demise of Rev. Thurairajah.

I had heard about Bible Cor that it was a Bible Correspondence Course that was available to students but that was all I knew about this organisation – and that it was being run by the DRC. The remuneration that was offered to me was way below my expectations. I was now paying a mortgage for my house and this would just cover my monthly payment to the bank.

With much prayer, encouragement and support from the family I took up the challenge. And God honoured me and blessed me and my family in numerous ways in the decision to accept the offer from Rev. Jansz.

Daphne my wife had a button box – one of those old biscuit tins – for many years which had all sorts of buttons and other knickknacks in this box. I was looking for a matching button for a shirt when I came across a tie pin – a jade green pin inlaid in gold – was on an open book and a nib of a pen. I didn't know how and where it came from and forgot all about it. This was many years before I joined Bible Cor.

In conclusion to my story I feel it was wayback then that God had in mind to someday use me for His glory in spreading the gospel through the Bible Cor correspondence ministry.

I later found out that the tie pin in the old button box had the organisation's logo inlaid in gold, which may have been presented to someone by this organisation and in a mysterious way ended up in an old biscuit tin full of buttons so many years ago in our home.

I still have the tie pin and cherish it very much.

Brian Pereira  
Sydney, Australia

# TAIL LIGHTS

BY C.N.J



## PILLARS AND CATERPILLARS !



In preparation to preach the Sermon at the 110th Anniversary of the building of the Regent Street Church, I thought I should refresh myself on its history.

In doing so I came across the text that was used for the Sermon 110 yrs ago. I was glad, since I thought I could use that same text ! The preacher had used 1 Kings 7: 22, "**The capitals on the top were in the shape of lilies. And so the work on the pillars were complete.**" it was in the context of the furnishings of Solomon's temple. It could have been a meaningful message but 110 years after, I struggled to think of what could have been said. I was hoping that the Regent-Street building had some Lily shaped pillars, that I could allude to – but no chance !

Then whilst surfing the net, I came across many a sermon on the theme "Pillars and Caterpillars!" Maybe the Sermon that day, alluded to such a theme ? We would never know, but it would have made sense then and certainly does today.

In any Congregation today there are "Pillars and Caterpillars"! More "Caterpillars" than Pillars! Pillars are those who hold up, strengthen, support and stabilize. Caterpillars are those who destroy what is there and crawl in and out! And most of the time crawling out than in !

And talking of Pillars, I thought of the Apostle Paul's description of the Church as the "pillar and ground of all truth." (1 Tim 3:15). If the Church today is to fit that description there must be more "pillars" who know the truth, believe it, walk in it and share it.

So the bottom line would be how we would see ourselves. Pillars or Caterpillars? ! And, in this day of grace, "Caterpillars" can be transformed into butterflies ! But then there must be a faith commitment to Jesus and the new birth (St John 3). The Church certainly needs more "pillars" than "caterpillars" and more "Butterflies" than those who only flutter by !!

## THE HERALD

of the

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF SRI LANKA

No. 363, Galle Road, Colombo 6.

Registered as a Newspaper at G.P.O.