

NOEL A.VIMALENDRAN J.P.
(Reg.No.09/12/NP/WI/341)
PRINCIPAL
email: noel.vimalendran@gmail.com
Mobile: 077 221 0173



OFFICE:
JAFFNA COLLEGE
VADDUKODDAI
SRI LANKA
Tel: +94 21 753 8985
Fax: +94 21 225 0960

JAFFNA COLLEGE

A Tribute to a Great Missionary in the 21st. Century

Conrad Bernard Bavinck (1924-2011)

We salute the life and work of *Ben Bavinck* this day August 11, 2011, when he has completed a life he loved and cherished in this world. I write this as a testimony to this unique missionary to whom we bid farewell though miles away here in Sri Lanka, and in appreciation of his selfless service to all.

He arrived on these shores of Lanka in 1954 from Holland as a missionary. Jaffna College received him with open hands, and made him as the college Chaplain. He learned our language and acquired fluency to speak, read and write.



His assignments at College were numerous. He exhibited his talents in Woodwork, and taught English and Christianity very successfully. His contribution to the life of the scouts and enriching the scout movement was a great gift of him. The good rapport with the students and his great contribution to the outdoor activities was a fatherly effect he showered on our students. He enjoyed, admired and studied nature and the beauty of this part of Sri Lanka. Bird watching was his much sort after hobby. Last year when he made his last visit to his second "Home" he was with Martin and both enthusiastically relished the fresh aroma in the air along the paddy fields, the beaches and the palmyrah grove.

Ben was one of the most dedicated and devoted missionaries who most genuinely and dutifully came to serve the poor people of our area. He had the helping mind to support many needy people financially, visiting them in their homes on a bicycle. He had a passion over the Tamils who underwent hardships and was thoroughly disturbed over the happenings in Sri Lanka, especially in our churches.

The Trustees of Jaffna College Funds found him as a resource person on Sri Lankan issues and the college community at large. He was a sitting member of the Board of Trustees at his time of death. He was known as an independent, unbiased 'situation reporter' on men and matters. Since he has served in JAFFNA for more than 50 years, he held a very important role in maintaining the rich traditions and friendly relationship with the people in Jaffna. He lived in the midst of suffering people during the period August 1988 – 1994, which was brought out as a book entitled "The Diaries of Ben Bavinck". Any one reading this book will know how much his mind was soaked in the sufferings of the innocent Tamil people.

He was the vice-principal of the Christian Theological Seminary(CTS) at Maruthanamadam in Jaffna under the patronage of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India. He performed his duties not only as an administrator but was a counsellor and a friend to the students who entered the Seminary from different backgrounds.

We at Jaffna College remember with heartfelt gratitude the services rendered by Ben, who through his dedication, discipline, generosity and courage led Jaffna College to soar high and become a beacon that would shine through the lives of students who studied under him and came in contact with Ben in the portals of Jaffna College.



My acquaintance with Ben started in 1970 when I joined Jaffna College. He was the supervisor of the Junior School (Grade 1-7) . We worked together in the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India -he in the capacity as Vice-principal at the Seminary and me in the administrative circle at Jaffna College. Later we attended the Board of Trustees meeting very often, we both enjoyed the short journeys to church in Boston always on a Sunday before the first day of our meetings.

He was truly a devoted missionary, a valuable teacher, preacher, a trusted guide and a genuine friend to all whom he associated with. The advantage Ben had compared to other missionaries was he knew our native language Tamil and mastered it very well. I could say Ben used all his talents given to him by our Lord Jesus Christ fully and colourfully to glorify His name and practised a good Christian life – “Love thy neighbour as you love yourself” was very true in Ben`s life in this world.

Let us praise and thank God for his life and wonderful work extended to our land and for the abundant blessings He showered on Ben Bavinck, and for giving him as a missionary and friend to Jaffna College and the down trodden people of Vaddukoddai.

May his soul rest in everlasting peace in the presence of God Almighty and the host of his associates who entered glory before him. May the good Lord give the strength and courage to his family and friends in Holland to be consoled and to understand this deep loss.

Noel A.Vimalendran J.P

Principal & the Jaffna College Family

Vaddukoddai, SRI LANKA