

A Tribute to Principal Thanapalan

I want to tell few words about our Greatest Principal Thanabalan as I know him for more than 50 years. His time of leading the College as a Principal was different from Rev J.T.Arulanantham, Mr P.T. Mathai & Mr A.W. Rajasegaram. They were looking after The administration , the education & welfare of the college. But Mr Thanabalan went Through the hardship of war & Fear. He had to satisfy Army as well as the others because the helicopters land in front of his bungalow.

We all left for Green pastures & some good teachers went to various countries for their Betterment. But Mr Thanabalan never left the country & he ran the college at Kilinochchi & at various places in the peninsula. Even if I stayed in Jaffna I had to look after my family. But Our late Principal Thanabalan had to look after the College, Teachers, Staff & their Salaries, He had to travel so many times by boat from Jaffna to Colombo to get their Salaries & the administrative meetings in Colombo. At this time he was only an Acting Principal. As far as I know he lived for St.Johns for 55 years & I am sure his Soul will be going round the St.John's Compound.

I know him as relation of mine, friend, Greatest Boxer, Hockey player, Teacher, Head Master, Vice Principal & Principal. I went in 1998, for 175th Anniversary & in 2004 for The 100th O.B.A. He looked after & treated us Very well. When he visited us in Canada In 2004 & I was honoured & privileged that he & Prema stayed with me. Our present President Rajkumar,Kulan, Anton all treated him well. He was taken to all historic places & he told us that this is the Best O.B.A in whole world. He was thoroughly enjoying every minute of his stay. Thanks to all the old Boys honoured him treated him Royally. If I can talk about him not only one day it will take days about his Achievements. I thank Prema & children for cooperating with him in difficult days. Because he was Stressed so much in college the God don't want him to suffer furthermore he has taken him with him Very early.

Great men are placed in earth for a specific reason, the great Mahathma Gandhi came in to the earth for the liberation of India. Once that was achieved God took him off. In the same way God created Our greatest Principal Thanabal for St.John's for difficult times. He finished his job with good education for the children, Big buildings & his wish to finish the 400 metres track etc, etc, etc. to the alma mater.

May his soul rest in Peace. & our help always there for Prema & Family.

I had to thank our President Rajkumar Parameswaran & our St.John's Chundikuli past pupils association & Dr Karunyan Arulanantham for giving this opportunity in front of Dedicated old boys & girls of our colleges & friends & relations of our unforgettable Greatest principal Thanabalan.

Thank you All.

T.Sithamparanathan