

I served as a member of the YF from 1964 to December 1983 (19 years)

I served with (remember) 5 presidents Rev.Coilpillai, P.S.Ratnaraj, Kumar Durairaj and Bobby Azariah.

My cousin Rev. R.J.Darmaraj and I joined the Youth Fellowship of Christ Church Galle Face in **1964**. That year, Rev. Dharmaraj became the Secretary and Mr.Edward Chelliah became the Vice President. During this time the rule was that the Priest in Charge of the Church is the one who can hold the post of President. In 1970 the YF members made a special Constitution written and prepared by the YF members, mainly Mr.P.S.Ratnaraj, that the President should be selected by the members of YF and not the Priest in charge. We also changed the YF name from `Valiber Sangam' to `laigner Mandram'. Before 1964 the Valiber Sangam was a very small unit about 3 to five people. I do not know whether this name still continues. According to my memory, I know Mr.Premkumar was a very active member with him Mrs Violet (Rajendran) Vedamuthu, Miss (Mrs ?) Mercy Daniel, Former Catechist's daughter (I met her during the harvest festival when I came there recently) you can ask her about the old YF, i thik she can give some infomation about the past. Those days parents were not willing to send their children to join the YF. In 1964 Darmaraj and I joined boldly. After we joined the YF many young people joined. From 1964 to 1978 our membership went up to 60. We were one of the strong YF in CCYM.

1965, I became the Secretary,The President was Rev Coilpillai, Vice President - Mr.Edwad Chellaiah. In between new Secretaries were given an opportunity to serve, but since they were unable to continue, again I continued as Secretary. Therefore, **I held the post of Secretary from 1965 till 1978**. Joshua took over from me.

I also participated in Sunday School, Choir, Evangelical Society, Church Committee as Sidesman and Warden.

I want to highlight the following:

During Rev. Cornelius Samuel's period the YF was very active in sports, later 4 of his children played with us became National champions in Table tennis.

We organized convention meetings and vigil, sometimes combined with our Mothers Union.

The first VBS was held in St. Michae'ls Church, I was a teacher for VBS, I was only sixteen years old.

Brother Dhinakaran's first meeting in Srilanka was in our Church. Our YF members were fully involved in organizing his programme.

Harvest festival was very important to our Tamil congregation. This was our major income to the Church. The YF was with the Church organizing committee and helped in all the stalls and raised plenty of funds.

Always Church and Parish Hall decorations was YF.

Poor parishners funerals and weddings, we sing in the choir and grave yard, and do not charge any thing, we use our own money.

For postal and travelling expenses we used our own money.

In 1965 the YF started giving cake and coffee to our parishners after the morning Service on Easter Sundays.

CCYM Annual conference we always participate with good numbers.

1975 or 1976 we had a music show for the first time in our Church, fully organised by YF.

After the communal riots lots of our parishners left Srilanka, rest of our members are still very active in Church activities.

Sports: We had a very good cricket team, we won CCYM six a side tournament twice, joint champions once, our two teams participated at the same time.

Table Tennis: 1978 I was runner up.

1977 Myself with Nesakumar Samuel (Rev Cornelius' eldest son) doubles runners up.

Carrom: 1978 with Joshua we came to semi finals.

1978 Mr.P.S.Ratnaraj and Mr.Bobby Azariah came runners up.

Net ball: Our girls played and came upto semi finals.

Chess: 1977/78 Mr.P.S.Ratnaraj came to the finals.

Tug of war: Unbeatable champions.

Above details I have just mentioned what I had in my memory in case you want to add anything. I thank our God Almighty for enabling an ordinary person like me to serve my everloving CHRIST CHURCH, Galle face, for a certain period of my life.

PEACE BE WITH YOU.

Samuel Anandaraj Balan