

buried in the common grave yard first was shifted to the church compound and a suitable tomb erected there. His life partner Mrs. Anbu David predeceased him.

Rev. Packianathan David had great poetic talents and composed several lyrics to be sung in churches. Five of them had been selected by missionary "Meadows" for publication in Christian lyrics. A great tribute was paid by Rev. Dr. Dayanand Francis, the general secretary of CLS, who serialised the biographies of several such Christian poets in the Tamil monthly "Pookoodai" (Basket of Flowers), under the pseudonyms Parivinban and later compiled them into a book entitled "Arul Kavingyaragal". An article entitled "Behold! A Christian poet", written in chaste Tamil, provided clear details about Rev. Packianathan David's several contributions to the church, including his lyrical compositions.

The writer visited years back Sivakasi for preaching at the local church. It was then recalled that Rev. Dr. Dayanand Francis wanted the lyric number 109 in the Tamil Christian Lyrics to be sung at the church service specially because the song was composed years back by a Christian pastor who had worked in Sivakasi.

The lyric was composed in Sivakasi in the year 1872 when Rev. Packianathan David was 31 year old. A church was constructed in that year adjoining the highway, which passed through the centre of the town. Rev. Packianathan David composed the lyric, "Jesus, the Christ, the Lord, Savior of all is He" to be sung at the function in connection with the dedication of this church. There is a note recorded that the Christian folk sang this lyric as they went round the church building in procession. Dr. Savarirayan Jesudasan has

mentioned this in the brief explanatory note appended to this lyric as reproduced in his song book "Aasirama Paamalai". Rev. Packianathan David was present at the time of the dedication of a new church built there in 1872.

He greatly desired that Christians should realise and understand the fact that Jesus Christ offered salvation freely to all mankind. This lyric has been resounding in all Tamil Christian Churches over the last one hundred years.

It is understood that a relative who summarized the poet's biography has indicated that the poet has composed many more such lyrics. The missionary "Meadows" once asked the poet for a few songs, to be included in a book of songs he wished to publish. It is said that immediately he gave all the five lyrics

The other ordained ministers/presbyters in the family are his brother Rev. S. David, his sons Rev. Solomon David and Rev. Jebamani David, his grandsons Rev. Sutham David and Rev. Thomas David, and his granddaughter's husband, Rev. M.S. Jesudasan Devan Bahadur. S.G. Grubb, his sister's grandson was a distinguished District Collector of Ramanathapuram Madurai. He was the chairman of No.2 Federal-Public, Service Commission at Bangalore at the end of the second world war for selection of officers to the IAS, IFS, and all other India cadres. He also became an ordained minister in CSI and served in an honorary capacity.

Rev. Packianathan David had four sons and nine daughters. Among them only two sons and four daughters whose names appear below survived and got married. The sons were Rev. Solomon David (03.12.1863 - 02.12.1912) and Rev. Jebamani David

(27.09.1883 - 09.10.1957) and the daughters were Mrs. Mariam Manonmani, known as Thayammal (15.07.1867), Mrs. Mariam Sironmani, known as Ponnammal (09.10.1868), Mrs. Kirubai Kannammal (21.08.1879 - 21.03.1911) and Mrs. Angel (18.09.1891 - 01.02.1989)

Mrs. Angel married G.V.Samuel eldest son of Rev. A. Gnanaprakasam and the writer Aruthur James is their son Arthus James married Ruby, daughter of late Vedanayagam, a jailor in Myanmar on 28.10.1942 and have a daughter Hannah Vijayakumari and a son Paul Rajakumar.

My maternal grand father Rev. Packianathan David's lyrical talents are widely acclaimed and all would agree the lyrics would continue to inspire every one, present and future, and lead them to "Jesus, the Christ, the Lord Savior of All".

ARTHUR JAMES