

BRIGADIER DAVID..THE QUINTESSENTIAL PATRICIAN
EMPOWERING AND ENRICHING THE NEEDY WITH
HIS PERPETUAL TRUST FUND

Both Brigadier and I are deeply indebted to the ongoing volunteer work of Eddie Ferdinand, Editor of the St. Patrick's College, Jaffna , Ceylon internet publication 'InterSector' in publishing this article.

This article was compiled and written by Alfred Arulanandam , with the e-mail assistance from Anton Sinnarasa Philip (R.I.P), and Raymond Santhiago, who is still serving the Canadian OBA from its inception and the able assistance of young Brigadier David.

Voluntary writer Alfred Eugene Arulanandam s a CPA, CMA,CIMA, CGMA, CSI.. Senior Executive capacities at the head offices of Fortune 500 Financial Institutions in New York, London and in Toronto & a Past first President (Re- elected) of UK based Accounting Institution..

REASON WHY BRIGADIER'S ORIGINAL INTENTION TO PUBLISH
THIS IN THE YEAR 2000 FAILED ON HIS BIRTHDAY

Brigadier originally intended to release this information about his PERPETUAL TRUST FUND on his 90th Birthday, three e years ago. That was not to be, since his dearest wife Pearly became ill, that devastated Brigadier. Hence he postponed all activities, while he was looking after convalescence and eventually ascended into heave. A deeply grieving, at the loss of his wife after 54 years of marriage, took some time to comes to grip with reality. Very recently, while cleaning up his desk/materials buried in his computer, he came across my Draft that was prepared on the Trust Agreement, and saw this for the first time. Then sought my help to further embellish it and revise this article. Here it is..

If anyone has seen any materials on the Trust Agreement recently , it was an unfortunate error, since an unedited copy of this was sent to Ferdi by an error, by a third party, totally and sincerely unaware that this was neither edited nor approved by Brigadier and myself. Please accept our apologies for this error.

Now this article is a revised, updated, correct and an embellished one, totally edited and approved version by both Brigadier and myself, the writer., that replaces the previous un-edited version .



BRIGADIER DAVID TRUST LOGO

(Logo by Anton Sinnarasa Philip)

"The day "JULY 11TH" has been a UNIQUE day in the life of Brigadier David. It has been a day of reckoning, recollection, remembrance, education, inspiration, and above all EMPOWERING to Brigadier himself and to the rest of us. It is on this day that Brigadier was born almost 93 years ago as if he was destined to do good things to humanity.

Humility has always been Brigadier's virtue, his forte. As humble as he is, here is Brigadier's true story as told to me by Anton Sinnarasa via his 20 plus e-mails about the Trust Fund to me, the author Alfred Eugene Arulanandam, and of his father's eventful beginnings, where at one time his father was not in a financial

position to pay for his own school fees, and based on his father's past experience sprang his magnanimous gesture, with a single-minded obsession, to devote his entire life do good to humanity, to make a difference in the lives of needy children, churches and communities at large.

INTRODUCTION

WHERE DID BRIGADIER'S "SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE" IN EDUCATION AND CAREER COME FROM?

His motivation to excel in life as a whole purely came from the tales that his parents told him as a young lad. His father, Saverimuttu David himself was not born with a silver spoon. His father was an old boy of St.Patrick's College. As a young student, he began to excel in his studies and sports. However, his parents were not well off financially. Consequently, there came a time, Brigadier's grandparents were unable to pay the school fees and the father was unwillingly forced to leave the school. It is at this junction, Providence stepped in from nowhere like an Angel and in the form of a good Samaritan came forward to offer help. Since Brigadier's father has already established himself as a promising student and he also stood out as an excellent sportsman, in Soccer.

A GOOD SAMARITAN COMES FROM NOWHERE TO HELP BRIGADIER'S FATHER FINANCIALLY, A 'MIRACLE OF MIRACLE' CAME FROM PROVIDENCE AND ANSWERS TO THE FAMILY'S PRAYERS.

An administrative officer in Ceylon's Public Works Department, an alumnus of the College invited to preside over the School's Annual Sports Event, LIONEL BASTIAMPILLAI EMMANUEL was that angel of financial help. He was so impressed with Saverimuttu David's talent and tenacity, both in the playing field and in the classrooms, excelling both in education and in sports, he became fond of Saverimuttu David instantly.

AFTER LEARNING THE BAD NEWS from the Rector that Brigadier David's father Saverimuttu David's WAS DESTINED TO LEAVE HIS STUDIES AND THE SCHOOL FOREVER, since his mother was unable to pay his school fees. THIS GENTLEMEN Emmanuel came forward and VOLUNTEERED TO PAY THE ENTIRE SCHOOL FEES OUT OF HIS OWN POCKET.

MIRACLE HAPPENS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS INDEED TO THOSE WHO "PRAY" AND "BELIEVE" IN IT.

To Brigadier's father, this philanthropic gesture of a totally hitherto unknown person, .volunteering to pay Saverimuttu David's entire school fees, so that he did not have to leave school and give up his education entirely was a very unique, extremely touching, and mind-boggling experience. This life-changing unique story of a total stranger in Lionel Bastiampillai

Emmanuel of the Public Works Department (PWD) , got permanently ingrained in Brigadier's mind. Brigadier imagined that suppose no one had come to his father's aid at the time he needed financial assistance most, what would have been his entire family's life...if he continued to live in poverty and therefore no continued education for him, but live a mediocre life?

This philanthropic act of this gentleman to Brigadier's father was a "pivotal point" in his decision to make Brigadier a prospective 'Philanthropist' as his lifelong ambition. At that very moment he SOWED HIS SEEDS OF FAITH AND IN GOD that one day when he is well off financially, he will set up a Financial Fund, that will continue to help the poor and the needy, especially those school children who were unable to pay their school fees to their own children, just like Brigadier's own father's experience.

ST.PATRICK'S COLLEGE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BEGINS ITS NURTURING AT HIS HOME AND AT HIS ALMA MATER

In his own words of Brigadier, "My belief is that religious education and practices were more closely integrated into the curriculum then. The day commenced with prayers in the morning led by his beloved mother, a very responsible & heavily religiously bent as devout Roman Catholics, as Brigadier David himself is, wanted to raise their son Ratnaraja David, giving him the very best of education and making him a 'worthy citizen', as like any other loving responsible parent would normally wish. Unfortunately, they could not afford that luxury due to lack of means to provide for his needs. David's father was not born with a silver spoon and he continued to seek Providence's help in that department.

SOWING THE SEEDS OF 'EXCELLENCE AND PHILANTHROPISM' BEGAN IN BRIGADIER'S MIND

Here is what and where the continuing enormous POWER OF PRAYER in the personal lives of Brigadier and of his parents counted in transforming their own lives.

The Philanthropic inspiration sprang from the memory of Brigadier Anthony Pius Ratnaraja David's late father Saverimuttu David, who in his youthful days endured dire hardships, despite the fact that he was a gifted student but could not find adequate means to tap himself to further his potential in higher education. Hence spurred by his innate desire to help the neediest on the education front, the Brigadier, together with his dearest wife Pearly Philomena David created and established a Charitable Trust to assist financially in the education of youth from his father's birth parish and his alma mater who like his father are facing similar hardships.

WHERE DID BRIGADIER'S BIGGEST MOTIVATION COME FROM...IN HIS DEEP RELIGIOUS FAITH AND HIS PARENTS MENTORING FOR SUCCESS

In Brigadier's own words..."My parents were my first mentors. My mother, a firm but benign disciplinarian a compassionate and generous person instilled my faith in God and values that are sacred to me and abiding to this day. As early as I could discern my father would sit me on his lap and tell me his life stories, more about the difficulties he experienced in his boyhood growing up without a father. Frequently he would chant two or three ethical writings of Tamil sages so meaningful to life that I recall the words to this day. In quieter moments I even soliloquy and, to impress my proficiency in Tamil burst out those words of wisdom occasionally to the amazement of my friends. Its meaning left a lasting impression. To fully appreciate I reproduce below the sayings which I consider gospel according to Saverimuttu David (my father)"

FOUNDATION FOR BRIGADIER'S RELIGIOUS FAITH AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BEGINS...in his own words..

"My belief is that religious education and practices were more closely integrated into the curriculum then. The day commenced with the rosary in the morning led by the Rector and breaking with Angelus in the quadrangle at noon. Sunday morning mass and benediction was compulsory for day scholars as well. Enclosed retreats were an annual feature. My faith was strengthened here and has served me well. Listening to sacred music is very much part of my leisure. My reading includes Vatican lore, the papacy, the bible, church history, and the like.

In Canada, my early religious formation helped me to establish in concert with others, my friend and schoolmate Rev Fr. Christie Joachimpillai, Professor Emeritus, and the Tamil Catholic Community of Toronto (TCCT) which celebrated its twenty-five years of service recently.

Last January I visited my Alma Mater after more than sixty years for the opening of a basket-ball court. There were emotional moments. The college band in attendance played spirited music and smiling students smartly turned greeted us with green and gold flags. And the Patrician spirit was very much in the air.

Much has changed in the physical make-up of the college and the damages wrought by time and long war years were evident but I was particularly pleased to step into the portals of the Long Block, a fitting tribute to that towering architect.

Many generations of people of Jaffna have been the beneficiaries of this great institution and this anniversary is an appropriate time to give thanks to the great men and missionaries who over the years have toiled so that generations that come thereafter will benefit. In a humbling gesture and with grateful thanks for the perennial scholarships awarded to my father, a gifted student, my wife and I have inaugurated an educational trust fund in March of this year, to be managed by the Bishop of Jaffna for the benefit of the needy students of St Patrick's College and children from adjoining parishes who may be in want

. In keeping with the twenty-fifth-anniversary celebrations, the local alumni association is launching a Fund to financially assist students from the Vanni and will be releasing details of this initiative shortly. I applaud this praise-worthy effort by the Committee of Management and ask for the magnanimous support of well-wishers. As the years roll by I have learned to appreciate my Alma Mater as the blest sanctum of learning where the mind is adorned with rich lore. Over the years I may have become one of her best advocates.

With grateful thanks to our Alma Mater and St Patrick guide and bless us in the years to come.

Brigadier A.P.R.David”

Below is an appreciative note that I (Alfred A) wrote when I edited the 25th anniversary of our Canadian Old Patrician's Old Boys Association, where Brigadier served in the OBA Committee as well as wrote a worthy article, inspiring all Patricians at large around the globe.

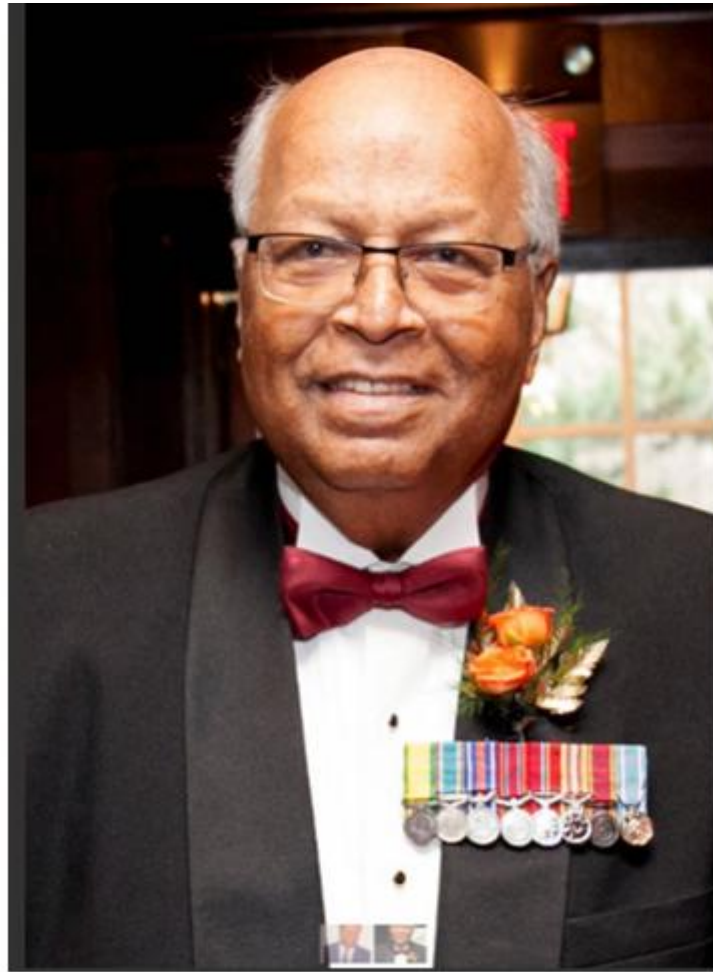
NOTE:

The above article by Brigadier emulates his formative years at St. Patrick's College, which is self-explanatory. Brigadier wrote this article when the Old Boys Association of Ontario, Canada, where he also served on the Committee when they celebrated the 25th anniversary of its founding. It is here, that I, became awe-inspired by the sheer wisdom, knowledge, intellectual prowess, discipline, and unique professional achievements, especially his humility, that came to light when I edited the 25th anniversary Souvenir that was published.

The article above is an embodiment of how he achieved his fame, despite his severe setbacks in his formative years. The setting up of this Fund and helping the most needy – schools, parishes, seminary, people, and setting up a new school – Pearly Preschool at Alapidly is his way of paying back of what he received in the past, when he needed the help most. To give back to the needy, out of gratitude for what

Brigadier's father received, is tantamount to receiving incredible satisfaction, an indescribable ecstasy & happiness in itself. Giving is virtually receiving...Alfred A.

BRIGADIER DAVID REFRESHES HIS PERPETUAL FUND



BRIGADIER'S ADDRESS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Here is a copy of the Funds founder Brigadier David's address to a Fund's Board of RUSTEES Meeting held on February 6 , 2019 ,giving salient details of the Fund, Trust Agreements and thanking the Board members for their contributions towards it success.

Copy of Founder Brigadier David's address to the Board at the meeting of February 6, 2019 at the Bishop's House, Jaffna.

“My Lord Bishop Justin, Very Reverend Father Vicar General, Reverend Fathers and Trustees. Greetings! And welcome to the first meeting of the second session of the Board, in a gathering of the full Board for the first time since inauguration. I feel honoured to convey my thoughts and appreciation by long distance. I certainly would have very much liked to have been present at the meeting.

As you well know the Trust Fund was inaugurated seven years ago on St Patrick's Day and the intervening time can be considered a period of growth. What started off with two beneficiaries and limited objectives is now a robust diocesan affair with three other beneficiaries representative of the diocese. I believe the Board worked harder last year and achieved much consolidation on the past.

The idea of creating a trust for the benefit of the needy of those near and dear to me germinated in my middle teens primarily as a payback for the generosity of a stranger's offer to pay the school fees for my father who was impoverished in his early teens by the sudden death of his father.

This hitherto unnamed benefactor, Lionel Bastiampillai Emmanuel, a distinguished old boy, and a senior public servant was a guest of honour at a soccer match. Impressed at the performance of my teenaged father at the soccer game, the invitee was moved when told by the Rector Fr Chas Mathews that the young lad a gifted student, unfortunately, had no means of paying his fees. This good soul immediately offered to pay his fees for the rest of his school days. I wondered for many years where we would be today if not for this charitable gentleman. On first hearing from my father's lap, I vowed to repay the donor's kindness somehow one day.

Thirty years of war and my moving to Canada delayed the commencement of the Trust. The Trust finally came into being by the untiring efforts and perseverance of Anton Sinnarasa and by the timely intervention of the then Vicar General Justin Gnanapragasam while on a visit to Canada. My grateful and sincere thanks to both of them.

To the originally listed beneficiaries, students of St Patrick's College and the children of the parishioners of St James Parish, The Pearly David Pre School at Allaipiddy was added. Impressed by the vision and dedication of Fr Jeyasegaram and at the sight of half-dressed children at a casual visit to Allaipiddy my wife and I heartily agreed to provide for the early learning needs of the children.

Thank you Fr Segaram for having given us the opportunity to help these needy children. For your information, we have since left our hearts behind at Wennpuravi Nagar, a desert land transformed into a vibrant community with two hundred houses and counting. Thank you and God bless you my dear and good friend.

Later at the instigation of Mr. Sinnarasa we added St Martin's Junior Seminary as another beneficiary. And more recently the differently challenged children cared for by the Sisters of the Holy Family were added to the list. My search for a differently challenged group was shortened by Fr Segaram and I am glad to welcome the Jaffna Sisters of the Holy Family into sharing the benefits of the Trust. This inclusion gives me special pleasure as my whole family, my mother and five siblings were the beneficiaries of this caring sorority. I still remember with love Mothers Colombanus, Annunciation, Visitation, Evangelist and many more. They laid the foundation for my faith and values which was later strengthened by Fathers Long and Augustine.

The Trust has evolved and the growth complete. The endowment is in your care to strengthen and preserve it in perpetuity for those in waiting. The success or failure of the Trust is primarily reposed in the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. Be faithful to the poor; keep faith

A warm welcome to our new Trustees, Fr Baskaran, Professor Antony Christy, Sister Provincial of the Jaffna Sisters of the Holy Family, and other newly appointed Trustees.

I need to provide an explanation for the signing of many Trust documents. One alternative is to attach each amendment to the original deed. As a perpetual trust it such goes through several boards over time. It is better in the long run to have one document encompassing several amendments so as to avoid ambiguities and confusion. Our consolation is that this is the last and final document you will be signing.

We still have one more requirement to complete which is developing Financial Policies and Procedures a tool to manage effectively. I am certain the new board will take care of it. KPMG is standing by.

Thanks are due to past officers especially Fr Jero who pioneered through unchartered waters. I am especially thankful to Fr Thirumahan who as COO has brought in a different perspective to the position. Thank you Father for your attention to details and for prompt and prior action. St James team is doing well for the community with Fr Justin and Mr Rajanayagam who takes special interest in the welfare of his people.

I am glad I met Vicar General Fr Jebaratnam here in Toronto and getting know him I feel assured of the progress of the Trust. Thank you Chairman Bishop Justin for your leadership and guidance. And a big thank you to my good and trusted friend Anton Sinnarasa for working tirelessly towards preserving and securing the Trust for the long haul. God bless you.

Finally, Thanks to God Almighty for having given me and my wife the opportunity to do His work here on earth for His people. In this endeavor I have been inspired by the divine teaching, that “Whatever you do to these the least of my brothers you do it unto to me.”

My dear friends, this is most likely my last opportunity as Founder to speak to this August board. Thank you for patiently listening to my prior urgings in the past. Please keep me in your prayers. Please pray for my wife an enthusiastic Co-Founder who is now seriously ill at home. We thank you for your support and thank God for His blessings. We will keep you in our prayers. Thankfully,”

Brigadier A.P.R. David
To the Chairman and the Board of Trustees.



CELEBRATION OF MASS WISHING BRIGADIER HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY AND PRAYING AND GIVING THANKS FOR HIS PHILANTROPIC EFFORTS.

BRIGADIER DAVID SINGING THE PRAISES OF ALMA MATER
ST.PATRICK'S COLLEGE, JAFFNA, CEYLON AT THE SPC DAY DINNER

St Patrick's College Day 2016 Dinner: Address by Brigadier A.P.R.David

“Good evening: Reverend Fathers, Dear Patricians, Ladies and Gentlemen I am delighted to be here tonight and feel honoured to preside at the Annual St Patrick's Day Celebrations. I thank the management committee for their kind and thoughtful gesture. It is indeed a great pleasure to be with the Patrician family and enjoy the fun and fellowship you have so carefully arranged.

At the outset I want to congratulate the committee especially Gerrard the current president for the dedicated leadership he is providing firstly recording an increase in the number of memberships and for staging quality events. I am glad that Fr Bernard, a former Rector is with us and I thank him for gracing the occasion.

Ladies and Gentlemen: I thought I will let the younger generation get a peep into the years long past which untold may be lost forever. My story goes back to more than seventy five years. At that time Ceylon as it was known then was a colony ruled by the British. In that era while in the college premises, we were compelled to speak English and on every pillar in the quadrangle was pasted a dictum “Speak English”. The Rector was an Oblate from a distant country across the Irish Sea who spoke no Tamil yet was thoroughly conversant with the good and the bad and the idiosyncrasies of the Jaffna man.

Like many of you I had my education at St Patrick's College from second standard to Senior School Certificate; so did my father, my brothers, all my uncles and cousins. All of them were beneficiaries of this blest sanctum of learning where the mind is adorned with rich lore. Academic and spiritual development, sports, and character building were all finely blended towards dispensing at the end a well- rounded being, prepared to deal with the outside world with confidence.

The man at the helm who steered St Patrick's College to greater heights was the legendary Father Timothy Long, a stern disciplinarian who did not spare the rod. I consider myself fortunate to have had Fr Long as the Rector during my entire school years. A Colossus in the field of education, he taught us more than to pass examinations.

In his daily morning addresses, he lectured that we aspire to be men of standing, that we stand up to for what is right and to be fearless in times of adversity. His exhortations stood me in good stead when faced with discriminating stances which confronted me later in my working life. He instilled in us a sense of purpose and worth. For our collective benefit he had it inscribed on the walls of the sports pavilion a slogan for us to emulate.

“For, whence the great scorer comes to write against my name he will not write whether I won or lost, but how I played the game”.

We had a cosmopolitan mix of students. A Sinhalese lad from Kandy Dan Madawela captained our cricket team and a son of a tribal chief from Tanganyika named Kibuka lead our athletic contingent to distinction. A Brahmin from Mysore Subramaniam Iyer taught us English and a French monastic Rev Fr. Charles Chovan music. Latin and Greek were part of the curriculum. The Nayake Priest from the Buddhist temple adjoining the Jaffna hospital was the external lecturer in Pali and Sanskrit. We were fortunate to have had a wonderful team of teachers and a fine set of priests who helped to produce a distinct brood of young men.

Our school days were holidays with good friends to cheer and splendid camaraderie was the norm. It was certainly the best of times in the best school of all. Fr Long brought out the best in us. I firmly believe he laboured and gave birth to the now oft repeat, the Patrician spirit.

This strength and spirit instilled by my Alma Mater in my formative years manifested later in my career in the army. Early in my career I felt comfortable commanding a battalion of nine hundred Sinhalese soldiers, one Burgher Sergeant and nine Tamil soldiers. They accepted me without reservation. I was conditioned earlier to feel second to none.

Sadly the long running war and my early move to Canada made it arduous for me to keep connected with my Alma Mater. Eventually the liaison was restored after forty years at the inaugural meeting of the Toronto Alumni Association. Anton Philip Sinnarasa made that opening more meaningful by bringing Father Jero, the Rector and the former Vicar General now Bishop Justin Gnanapragasam closer which consonance yielded beneficial results.

During this long period of separation I was constantly mindful of a long standing debt I owed my Alma Mater. My father, a gifted student and a good sportsman at school lost his father suddenly in his teens leaving the family in difficult circumstances. An unknown stranger, an alumni, when told of my father's plight, impressed with his classroom performance and his prowess at games readily undertook to pay for his tuition. If not for the benevolence of this charitable stranger our family would not be where we are today. In my kid years my father repeated this tale of kindness.

I was determined to repay the stranger's goodness but surprisingly met with apathy and roadblocks when tangible efforts were being initiated. Once again, Sinnarasa helped me to dismantle the blocks and made my resolve happen. The Brigadier Anthony Ratnaraja David Trust with a Board of Trustees, the Bishop of Jaffna as Chairman, the Vicar General as Vice Chairman, and the Rector of St Patrick's

College as the Chief Executive Officer, and another five Trustees is now in situ and functioning.

It is my delight to have named Anton Sinnarasa a trustee with delegated authority to monitor after our time. When fully funded the Trust will have the capacity to award several scholarships and be on par with other existing Trusts. Currently, it pays for the conduct of after-hours in-house study for day schoolers.

It is my prayer that the trust will benefit the needy children as my father did in his time. Five female students from St James gained entry to the University this year for the first time of a special programme with the help of the Trust Fund

AN OPEN INVITATION TO JOIN THE FUND

A special feature of this Trust is an inviting provision Section C of the Trust Deed which reads:

“ Provided that if a donor specifies at the time of making a donation, the specific for which such object for which such donation should be utilized, such request should be adhered to by the Trustees.”

That will enable donors to fund schoolers, the handicapped, groups, anonymous or named and donors have the peace of mind and avail themselves of the prudent and safe management of a high powered and respected board of trustees.

Contact person for prospective donors is Fr. A.P.Thirumahan, Rector of St. Patrick’s College and Chief Operating Officer, C.O.O of the Fund.

If you want to be inspired, educated, enthused, encouraged, and believe in the popular mantra ‘Giving is Receiving’, like many of the legendary billionaire philanthropists - such as Bill Gates & Belinda Gates, Warren Buffett, and George Soros via his Quantum Fund, etc. in order to make this world a better place, we are lucky and blessed to have a humble, able & willing philanthropist in our midst, Brigadier David , who initiated a charitable plan worth Millions of Rupees by setting up a Perpetual Fund to give away to charities – to Churches, Schools, a Seminary, families, and individuals.

Why should anyone part with their hard-earned money? Here is why. Empirical research and a growing body of scientific evidence also show that philanthropy benefits the giver as well as the receiver in terms of well-being. Researchers have found that philanthropy contributes to the following positive effects:

- **Greater overall happiness**
- **Lower stress levels**
- **Better physical health**
- **Heightened sense of connection to others**

Billionaires and Millionaires also enjoy a fair amount of tax breaks, the moment they contribute to registered charitable projects. Anyone can be philanthropist whether you have millions of dollars or just a few hundred in the bank.

We are truly privileged to have in our midst, a Patrician, and a Jaffna-born good-hearted human being. The good-hearted Brigadier Anthony Ratnaraja David, out of the goodness of his heart and spurred by his philanthropic gestures, initiated a FUND in his name and that of his wife Pearly Philomena David, both permanently domiciled in Ontario, Canada.

This is the complete story of Brigadier's generosity, in setting up a Trust Fund for several worthy recipients to benefit from, which includes our Alma Mater St.Patrick's College, Jaffna, Holy Family Convent, Jaffna, St.Martin's Seminary, and the children of St. James Parish, Jaffna.

For any aspiring youth, his life history itself is very inspiring and motivating. His parent's struggles in his youth to better themselves in life, and his parents and his own tenacity and sheer determination, to reach the upper echelons in his chosen profession- a career in the Army, where he rose rapidly through its ranks, got his ultimate training in the world-famous prestigious Sandhurst, in the U.K. and rose up to the rank of a Brigadier in the Sri Lanka Army and retired as one, so that Brigadier could fulfill his childhood "magnificent obsession" to better the lives of the neediest population that are in dire financial straits, through his Perpetual Trust Fund.

Rather than resting on his laurels, he decided to spend his retirement days to benefit others, and spend his time money, and energy towards this purpose. He also served on the SPC OBA committee.

THE TRUST FUND – WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT ?

SO WHAT IS A TRUST ?

A TRUST IS A FIDUCIARY RELATIONSHIP, A LEGAL ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN ONE PARTY, THE TRUSTOR (DONOR) GIVES ANOTHER PARTY, THE TRUSTEE THE RIGHT TO HOLD ASSETS FOR THE FOR THE BENEFIT OF A THITD PARTY, THE BENEFICIARY.

IN the Brigadier David Trust Brigadier & Pearly David on the one part give assets to Bishop Savundranayagam and named trustees on the second part to manage the assets for the benefit of named beneficiaries. The legal arrangement is contained in the Trust Deed

HERE IS THE GIST OF THE ORIGINAL LEGALLY PREPARED TRUST AGREEMENT-

(Extracted from the original legally drawn Agreement prepared by the Attorney, F.J.& G. De Saram)

The Trust was set up following the legal traditions by the prestigious legal firm of F.J.& G.de Saram, Attorney-at-Law, in Colombo, Sri Lanka and signed, with all updates and amendments on March 17, 2012, THIS TRUST DEED is made and entered into between Brigadier Anthony Pius Ratnaraja David and Pearly Philomena David Toronto, Ontario, Canada and Angelo Maharajah Patrick of in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (all of whom are hereinafter referred to as “the Founders”) of the One Part

And the Other part consists of the Right Rev. Dr. Thomas Savundranayagam, in his capacity of the Bishop of Jaffna in the said Republic, Rev. Justin Gnanapragasam, in his capacity of Vicar General of the Jaffna Diocese in the said Republic, Rev. Fr. Jero Selvanayagam, in his capacity of Rector St. Patrick’s College, Jaffna in the said Republic, Rev. Fr. R C X Nesarajah, in his capacity of Parish Priest St. James Church Gurunagar, Jaffna in the said Republic (hereinafter referred to as “the Trustees” or collectively referred to as the Board of Trustees, which term shall where the context so requires or admit, mean and include the said Trustees and their successors in office) of the Other Part.

The ‘Trustees’ shall also mean and include the Survivors or Survivor of the Trustees.

The name of the Trust will be “The Brigadier Anthony Ratnaraja David Perpetual Trust Fund hereinafter simply referred to as the “Trust” Only the salient points from the Trust and not the full agreements, which is in legal language are shown below for your perusal

WHAT TRUSTEES ALSO MEAN...INCLUSION OF PARTIES.

The ‘Trustees’ shall also mean and include the Survivors or Survivor of the Trustees.

The Philanthropic inspiration sprang from the memory of Brigadier Anthony Pius Ratnaraja David’s late father Saverimuttu David, who in his youthful days endured dire hardships, despite the fact that he was a gifted student but could

not find adequate means to tap himself to further his potential in higher education. Hence spurred by his innate desire to help the neediest on the education front, the Brigadier, together with his dearest wife Pearly Philomena David and her cousin Angelo Maharajah Patrick, created and established a Charitable Trust to assist financially in the education of youth from his father's birth parish and his alma mater who like his father are facing similar hardships. The name of the Trust will be "The Brigadier Anthony Ratnaraja David Perpetual Trust Fund hereinafter simply referred to as the "Trust"

Only the salient points from the Trust and not the full agreements, which is in legal language are shown below for your perusal.

THE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE OF THE TRUST

The purpose and the objective of the Trust shall be to financially assist, in such manner as the Trustees shall deem fit;

(a) In furthering the needs of the children of the parishioners of St. James' Parish, Gurunagar, Jaffna.

(b) In the provision of educational needs for the Pearly David Pre School and for the maintenance of the school building at Allaipiddy, Jaffna

© In furthering the educational needs of students of St Patrick's College, Jaffna, and in the furtherance of the sporting career of needy students who have excelled in sporting activities.

(d) In furthering the educational, formational, and other related needs of seminarians of St. Martin's Seminary, Jaffna.

(e) In furthering the needs of the physically and mentally challenged children resident in Homes and attending Pre Schools established in the Jaffna diocese and are cared for by the Jaffna Sisters of the Holy Family.

For those purposes, the Trustees, at their absolute discretion shall -

i. grant scholarships and bursaries to identified students

ii. provide books, other required materials, and stipends to deserving students

iii. financially assist deserving students, who may be in need of assistance

iv. assist identified students, financially or otherwise, to further their higher education

v. financially support or assist any project(s) and programme(s) that promote developmental activities

vi. award prizes to students who have performed exceptionally well in studies and extracurricular activities

vii. facilitate leasing or renting of premises to provide facilities and to create an environment that is favourable for learning.

In doing so, the Trustees shall preserve the principal investment and only distribute the income derived to beneficiaries and have set up the following proportions in payment to the beneficiaries:

- (a) 28 % of the net income shall be distributed to St Patrick's College Jaffna.**
- (b) 28% of the net income shall be distributed to St. James Parish Gurunagar**
- © 08 % of the net income shall be distributed to the Pearly David Pre School at Allaipiddy, Jaffna**
- (d) 16 % of the net income shall be reinvested in the capital trust property**
- (e) 03 % of the net income shall be allocated for the purpose of administering the Trust**
- (f) 08 % of the net income shall be distributed to St. Martin's Seminary, Jaffna**
- (g) 09 % of the net income shall be distributed to the Jaffna Sisters of the Holy Family**

It is the wish of the Brigadier to appoint the number of Trustees on the following basis..

Ex Officio Appointments

- a) the person for the time being appointed as the Roman Catholic Bishop of Jaffna**
- b) the person for the time being appointed as the Vicar General of the Jaffna Diocese**
- c) the person for the time being appointed as the Rector of St. Patrick's College Jaffna**
- d) the person for the time being appointed as the Parish Priest of St. James Church, Gurunagar, Jaffna**
- e) the person for the time being appointed Director of the Pearly David Pre School at Allaipiddy, Jaffna**
- f) the person for the time being appointed Rector of St Martin's Seminary, Jaffna.**
- g) the person for the time being appointed Provincial Superior of the Jaffna S Sisters of the Holy Family.**

Financial Position

The Fund's Assets are expected to increase to over One Hundred Million Rupees..Rs100,000,000.

There are two distributions per year. The last distribution to beneficiaries for the first half of 2023 are as follows;

ST Patrick's College,	591,557, 42
St James Parish	591,557. 42
HF Sisters	190,143. 47
Pearly David School	169, 016.42
St. Martins Seminary	169 016. 42
Administration	63,381. 59

'PEARLY DAVID PRE-SCHOOL OPENS FOR STUDENTS' .
AT ALAIPIDY, JAFFNA, SRI LANKAN (CEYLON)

The opening of the new Preschool at Allaipiddy, Jaffna, Sri Lanka (Ceylon) , on March 18, 2012 is perhaps the biggest and the fondest project of Brigadier DAVID as a Philanthropist. The foundation for the school building was laid by Brigadier and Pearly David on May 05, 2011.

Brigadier aptly named it “Pearly David Pre-School” out of his love and respect of his now departed wife of 54 years.

This act of building and naming a new school and naming it after his wife of 54 years as “Pearly pre-School is almost tantamount to the builder of the Taj Mahal the seventh wonder of the world...Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan built this in memory of his wife and so did Brigadier build the school at Allaipiddy, Jaffna in memory of his wife, when she was around. Now, after her ascension into Heaven, the students will still continue to remember her name ”Pearly’s PreSchool” and will continue to pray for her and Brigadier on an ongoing basis for time immemorial.

Such is also the “Power of a Trust Fund” for all prospective Investors in this Trust Fund.

Pearly David had been a Montesoori teacher, in Canada alone for nearly 23 years. With no children of their own (unfortunately, both of them lost twin boys due to complications of pre mature birth both Brigadier and Pearly became, so fond of children.

Consequently, all 34 students currently studying at Pearly Preschool are ipso facto considered as their own children. On the flip side, the school children and their parents, are truly grateful to Brigadier’s philanthropic act, they are forever grateful with an attitude of gratitude.

The new school that they founded now boasts of 34 students. The children at their school pray daily for Brigadier and Pearly (when she was alive) for their peace, good health, and happiness, On top of financing the school, both Pearly and Brigadier treat all the school children with their special Luncheon on each of their birthdays.

Perhaps the thoughtfulness in funding this new school by Brigadier in memory of his dearest departed better-half Pearly...taking a clue from the 85 year old teacher Mr. Chipping (Movie ‘Good Bye Mr.Chips)..he has the major themes of mortality, the value of education, and reverence for one’s forbearer’s”..a fascinating theme for anyone....but extremely true for the founders David’s of the ‘Pearly-Preschool

It is gratifying to note that the Funds from the Brigadier David are put to good use, to educate the needy children according to the wishes of the Brigadier. Consequently, Bi – annual meeting are held to ensure that the purposes of the said Fund are duly met.

Brigadier lost his most dear and beloved wife of 54 years, Pearly David rose to heaven on March 18, 2021.May her soul eternally rest in peace.

In the eyes and ears of the school children of the Pearly David Pre-school in Allaipiddy, Pearly David’s memory will linger on...out of an attitude of sheer gratitude for what Brigadier David’s ingenious, self-less, philanthropic gestures in developing a trust fund, that will continue to help the neediest children and institutions for time immemorial.

That is the marvel of Philanthropist at its best.



This picture was taken on the day of the opening of the Pearly Pre School on March 12, 2012



PEARLY DAVID PRE SCHOOL, ALLAP[IDDY





In the picture “AAlathi”...Brigadier David with his wife Pearly David, with Rev. Fr.Francis Jeyasegaram a tower of strength in administering the Pre-school looking on March 18, 2012 the day of opening of the Pearly David Pre-School



Fr.Jeyasegaram Francis, WennpurviNagar , Allaipiddy in September 2020 paying tribute to Brigadier David for his magnanimous contribution in opening the new Pre-School at Alaipiddy, memorably aptly named after Brigadier's wife Pearly David.

General Denis Perera was the Commander of the Army and later the High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in Australia. He was also Brigadier's colleague at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, England and was Brigadier's best friend.

THE OTHER VALID INFORMATION ARE AS FOLLOWS

Before I conclude I commend you reading the homily, a tribute to Brigadier David delivered by Rev Fr. Francis Jeyasegaram on his ninetieth birthday at St. Patrick's College, the Chapel of his Alma Mater.

FR. JEYASEGARAM FRANCIS –of WENNPURAVINAGAR, ALLAIPIDY
“HOMILY” DELIVERED ON BRIGADIER’S 90TH BIRTHDAY JULY 11TH
2020..AT HIS ALMA MATER ST. PARICKS COLLEGE CHAPEL

Readings: Hosea 11: 3-8, Mathew 25: 31-40

Dear Brig. David

On your 90th birthday we extend to you our fondest wishes and congratulations. Yours is a ministry that has left its mark on the hearts of many. Yours is a ministry that is not finished.

Dear Brothers and Sisters and Friends.

To mark the 90th birthday of Brig David we have gathered here to pray for him and seek God's assistance to bless all his accomplishments. At the background of his personality and activities let me share the theology of remembrance based on the act of gratitude and theology of the neighbor.

St Basil says “spirituality of the Bible is not an act of contemplation as in the tradition of Greeks, but an act of remembrance. Fr.G. Gutierri the father of Liberation Theology says Bible is the theology of the neighbor. “ as you did it to one of these least of my brethren you did it to me”(Mat.25:40.) In the Old Testament we find God kept on

reminding his people and made the people remember his loving acts through events. Christ culminated all the past events of the liberation in the Old Testament on himself: In the last supper, He told the disciples “Do this in memory of me” That was the peak of his journey of love for mankind and monumental thanks to the Father. It is continuous reading of the collective memory for the benefit of successive generation.

Here are two elements to remember God for His saving activities and keep on thanking Him for his graces. From Hosea: 11 9 3-5 “When Israel was a child I took them out of Egypt. I took them up in my arms, I led them with cords of compassion

with the bands of love. I became to them as one and bent down to them and fed them.” Here we see how God reminisces the past events of liberation from slavery and convince them of His special love towards them.

We have come here to thank the Lord for the great gift of Brig Ratnarajah David and Pearly to us and also recollect his activities and offer them at the Altar of St Patrick’s College from where he had been groomed for such a great task.

The Divine is always made present through human mediations which are always dialectical. They are divine in the reality of history. God used human mediation in so many ways. Moses was a human mediator to liberate the people of Israel. The land of the Midian desert prepared him and formed him through liberative streams. The slums of Calcutta gave space to Mother Theresa to deepen her love for the poor and dedicate herself fully to working for the poorest of the poor, marginalized and downtrodden etc.

Without exaggeration I would assert the WennPuravi housing scheme and construction of Pearly David Preschool was the terrain for Brig David to systematize his plans, open up new avenues and set aside a programme for the poor, orphans, students, and destitute in Jaffna closer to his intimate interests – the poorest of the poor. Besides allocation to Kurunagar parish, St Patrick’s College and Pearly David Preschool he included Holy Family Sisters and St Martins Seminary.

Since my village project is in the making, Brig David had taken an abiding interest to encourage me and also advertise my project to his friends for help. His very words are:’ The settlement of the poor at WennpuraviNagar is progressing well. All help from single donors have transformed a desert into bloom in a short span of 9 years.’

On my first encounter, I noticed the great qualities of the man, Brig. David. He was very generous and self-effacing. To serve others was almost a part of his nature. He is endowed with the sterling virtue of empathy and takes the message of God’s love to others in simple gestures by identifying himself with anyone in need. His love for others was always seen in concrete action. His life is so firmly entrenched in Christ. His loyalty to the Church characterizes his assistance to various needs in Mannar and Jaffna dioceses.

In spite of so many difficulties besides looking after his sickly beloved wife, he remained calm and sober and keep on encouraging us. As his life is firmly rooted In Jesus his whole life has been poured out in service to the people in Diaspora and Sri Lanka.

Let me cite an example of the transfiguration of Jesus on Tabor Mountain. St Peter asked Jesus why not stay here. He told them to my cross and that of the people. So also Brig David got himself down to serve his people in Jaffna and love his native place Gurunagar, the soil, and the people from where he came. You often mention 'The age is catching on me' and so is your health. We assure you our prayers the Merciful God will keep you on your feet to care for Pearly. 'Give till it hurts' is not only a sacrifice but also an investment that would be the poor in heaven. Amen

*Fr Jeyasegaram Francis
WennpuraviNagar, Allaipiddy*

CONCLUSION

Brigadier lost his sweetheart wife Pearly David of 54 years on 18th March 2021. B They have had 54 years of wedded bliss and helped the neighbour. Even when she was around, Brigadier invested in a new Preschool in her name. Although they have no children of their own, both of them are now twice as blessed with their new children of this school on a continuous basis, even when they are no more.

Their memories shall linger on from the parents of this school children as well as the children themselves, out of sheer gratitude of Brigadiers Trust Fund. Brigadier's parents, and his departed wife Pearly are also smiling now from Heaven, with Brigadier's initiatives and what the Trust Fund has done to make a difference in their status and many lives better.

This is the Power of being a Philanthropist par excellence and the power of a Trust t Fund which will continue to do good to humanity for time immemorial, even after the founder's innings in this world ends.

Brigadier thanks everyone from the bottom of his heart for all the voluntary contributions. May the soul of Anton Sinnarasa rest in peace.

May Pearly's soul rest in peace and may the good Lord keep Brigadier in the best of Health, Wealth, and Happiness forever.

Both Brigadier and I are deeply indebted to the ongoing volunteer work of Eddie Ferdinand, Editor of the 'InterSector' in publishing this article.

Once again, all prospective donors and investors, the Contact person for the Trust Fund is the Rector of St.Patrick's Colelge..Rev.Fr.Tirumahan. MAY GOD BLESS EVERYONE.