

# BRO. ABRAHAM PRALEL – FUNERAL ORATION

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Dear Rt.Rev.Dr.Singaroyan, Bishop of Salem, Rev.Bro.Mariannan, Provincial Superior - Trichy, Rev.Bro.Pratab Reddy, Provincial Superior - Hyderabad, Bro.George Pralel, the beloved elder brother of Bro.Abraham Pralel, relatives of Bro.Abraham, Brothers from Yercaud Province and other Provinces, Rev.Fathers, Rev.Sisters, Past students, Staff members from various Institutions, friends and well wishers.

**“The shadow of a tree and of a man cannot be measured until they have fallen”**

*-Carl Sandburg*

Yet another tall fruitful tree has fallen in the garden of Brothers of St.Gabriel! We can never measure the vast shadow of influence cast by this great soul who has taken wings to Heaven, hearkened by the call of the Lord, *“Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, I will give you rest.” Mat. 11/28*

An HONEST man here lies at rest,  
As e'er God with his image blest;  
The friend of man, the friend of truth,  
The friend of age, and guide of youth;  
Few hearts like his, with virtue warm'd,  
Few heads with knowledge so informed;  
If there is another world, he lives in bliss!- *Robert Burns*

We who are still in grief and yet to recover from the shock of our Beloved Brother's death, can find consolation and solace from the words of the Lord - Jn. 14/1f...

*“Let not your heart be troubled... In my Father's house are many mansions – I go there to prepare a place for you...that where I am, there you may also be!”*

And again as the Prophet Kahlil Gibran would say,

*“I have passed the mountain peak and my soul is soaring in the firmament of complete and unbounded freedom; I am in comfort, I am in peace.”*

Bro. Abraham Pralel was born in Neendor, Kottayam, on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1930. He was admitted to Coonoor Juniorate in 1944. He made his First Profession on May 10, 1950. From 1950-52 he did his Teachers' training in Tindivanam. In recent years, he has been sharing his 'long life experiences' with readers of 'TIME,' the Province News Bulletin – wherein he described his difficult days at Tindivanam and in Agraharam as a Pioneer

from 1952-54. But he had a unique inborn quality to transform the difficult and painful experiences into joyful and memorable events! I had many opportunities to listen to him narrating his experiences, especially those from his early days. For an example, when he reached Agraharam in 1952, though they had no money even to buy food on that very first day, with his trust in the Divine Providence and commitment to His calling, he moved forward joyfully.

From 1954 to 1962, except for a short break of seven months in 1956 as a teacher in Nirmala High School, Kolathur, he served as an efficient teacher and HM in St. Antony's Primary School, Coonoor, St. Joseph's Elementary School, Craigmore and Little Flower Hr. Elementary School, Pondur. In all these Schools, he was much appreciated and loved by the little ones and colleagues.

After serving Montfort School, Yercaud as Procurator for an year, he was appointed Socius at St. Aloysius Scholasticate, Kazipet in 1963. From 1964-65, he was the Headmaster at Nehru Memorial School, Warangal. He had an attack of TB and was treated successfully at Chennai.

From 1966-1987, Bro. Abraham had a very successful career as teacher at St. Joseph's, Chengalpat, St. James, Palakurichi, RSK, Trichy, and Santhome, Mylapore. He was very good in English and Tamil. He loved teaching and won the hearts of all his students. In 1996, he went over to Chinnakannal as one of the Pioneers of our new project over there. After being the LS of St. Joseph's, Susaigiri from 1998-1999, he was sent to Good News Colleges as Administrator. From 2000-2001, he was also appointed as the LS at Kalghatgi. After spending one year at Montfort, Anakkara he returned to GNWS, Kalghatgi as Bursar and Administrator. He was in and out of Good News Colleges 3 times. In between he worked in Montfort, Anakkara, Montfort School for the Disabled, Belagola, Montfort Valley School, Murickumthotty and Montfort, Chinnakannal. Bro. Abraham Pralal is one among the few Brothers who have worked in most of the Institutions of the Provinces of Yercaud & Trichy.

\*Bro. Abraham's journey of life in this world came to an end very abruptly and was a shock to all of us. We are yet to recover from it.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September at about 7.45 p.m, Bro. Abraham complained of severe discomfort in the chest and started vomiting. Bros. Niju Thomas & Sebastian Olickal took him to the nearby Hospital at Kalghatgi. As his condition was very critical, the Hospital staff suggested taking him to Hubli for better medical treatment. He was rushed to Hubli in the Hospital ambulance, accompanied by the Brothers. But unfortunately, on reaching Hubli, the Doctors declared him dead.

If we look at the last 15 years of his life, we find that he was either in Kalghatgi or at Anakkara. Kalghatgi was very dear to Bro.Abraham. He spent nearly 8 years in Kalghatgi. What was the secret of his going back again and again to GNWS? Well, right from the beginning in 1999, Bro. Abraham loved this mission for the poor, the people, students and the staff of Kalghatgi. They too respected and loved him as a revered person of integrity and religious values. Bro.Abraham streamlined the functioning of the two Colleges and the Grahni Project at Kalghatgi. He infused discipline and quality in GNWS Institutions. Even at his old age and despite his poor health, he preferred to work at Kalghatgi. In fact in 2013, he requested me for a transfer to Kalghatgi. When I pointed out his poor health, he gave me a beautiful lesson saying, "all our days are marked by the Lord and no man can lengthen or shorten them."

Bro. Abraham's contribution to the growth and development of Kalghatgi will be remembered for years to come!

His practical approach-Eagles' eyes, astuteness and keen observation made him a successful builder at Pondur, Montfort Yercaud, Santhome and St. Louis, Adyar.

Bro.Abraham was affectionately called and known as '**Thatha**', even before he became old enough for such a title! This word meaning grandfather – 'the one who always gives' became 'synonymous' with his name and an '**accreditation**' effectively explaining the life and inborn qualities of this humble but tall Montfortian. He too loved to be called as '**Thatha.**' **Bro.Abraham Pralel was the human face of Montfort Brothers of St.Gabriel, among the people with whom he worked!** His simple lifestyle, transparency and a contagious love for everyone and becoming 'all things for all men' attitude, made him a unique and extra-ordinary person. He had a kind word for all. For the Brothers, he was a wonderful companion bringing cheer to all. He touched the lives of everyone who came in contact with him. He possessed very few things as his own and was ready to move anywhere and take up any responsibility assigned by the Superiors! Everyone felt happy in his company as he sprinkled the perfume of joy and happiness all around him!

He was never concerned too much about his health. Whenever he was seriously ill, he was rushed to Chennai or Madurai for better medical assistance. He suffered patiently all his misfortunes, especially the serious accidents in Thailand, Kerala and the fall at St. Louis Villa resulting in the fracture of his thigh bone. He loved travel and visiting people – as he embraced everyone with dignity in a wider sphere of relationship.

"A great soul serves everyone all the time, A great soul never dies, It brings us together again and again" – Maya Angelou

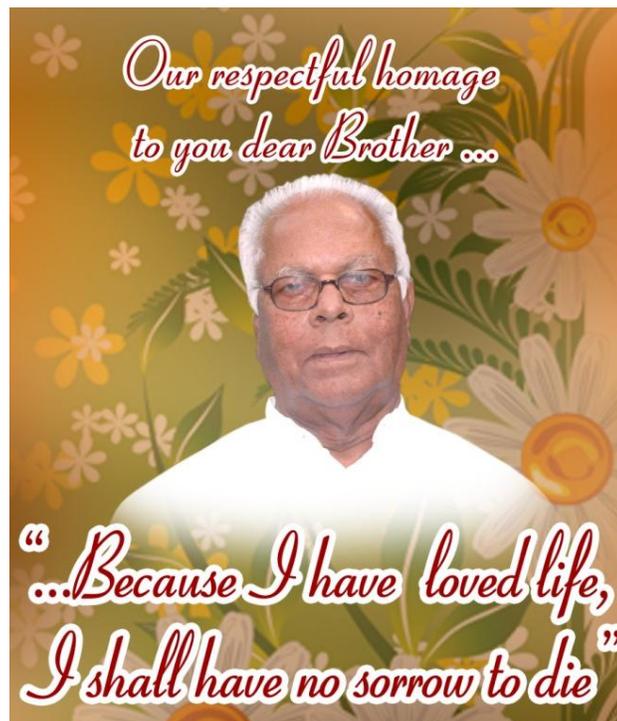
It is true that we have apparently lost a man whose mission was to spread joy and happiness in abundance as a kind father among his children. But we can be best assured that Heaven is richer by this 'Messenger of joy and love.'

"If we know as much about Heaven as God does, we would clap our hands every time a Christian dies" – George Macdonald

Dear Bro.Abraham, you have taken your seat in Heaven by the side of Jesus and Mary. Intercede for us, beget many more worthy Vocations to carry on the mission entrusted to us, by St.Montfort, our Father.

Good bye dear Bro.Abraham, Farewell dear Bro.Thatha !

**"The song is ended, but the melody lingers on..."**



Bro.George Kalangod  
Provincial Superior

Date: 05<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
Venue: Montfort Chapel, Yercaud

## MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCES RECEIVED FOR LATE BRO.ABRAHAM PRALEL

Rev. Bro. John Kallarackal, the Superior General was shocked to hear about the sudden demise of Bro.Abraham Pralel and has expressed his heartfelt and prayerful condolences to Bro.George Pralel, his beloved elder brother, his family members and the Brothers of the Province.



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September 5, 2014

To  
The Provincial Superior and all the Brothers  
Province of Yercaud

Dear Brothers,

We in Rome were deeply grieved when we received the sad news of the sudden demise of our beloved Bro. Abraham Pralel, on 3<sup>rd</sup> evening. All the members of the Central Administration, and all the Brothers and Sisters of the *Casa Generalizia*, join me in extending our heartfelt condolences and our deepest sympathies to each one of you in this hour of grief and loss, and assure you of our sincere prayers for the repose of the soul of our beloved brother. May the memories of the love we have shared with Bro.Abraham and the assurance that we have another intercessor in heaven now, give us peace and comfort.

Every time I had the opportunity to meet Bro. Abraham, especially during the past few years, I was quite impressed by the warmth he exuded in his interpersonal relationships, and the joy he brought into the lives of others through simple gestures like his hearty laughter and warm shake hand or hug. This I guess was the experience of several people because I had the opportunity to hear testimonies from several Brothers, collaborators and former students. He has translated into action the wisdom contained in the exhortation given by Stephen Grellet: *"I expect to pass through this world, but once. Any good thing, therefore, I can do; any little act of kindness I can show to my fellow creatures, let me do it now; let me not defer it or neglect it, for I may not pass through this world again"*. It is a happy coincidence that we bid farewell to his mortal remains today, the Teachers' Day in India. I am sure that Bro. Abraham's former students could not agree more with the English poet Robert Louis Stevenson when he said, *"That man is a success, who has lived well, laughed often and loved much; who has gained the love of innocent children and the respect of intelligent men... His memory is a benediction"*.

Let me also take this opportunity to convey my deepest sympathies to all the members of Bro.Abraham's family, and all the former students, colleagues, friends and well-wishers, especially those from Kalghetgi, where he spent his last days spreading joy all around, in his typical grandfatherly style. May he continue to inspire us to live our lives fully and to make a difference in the lives of others, through our gentle words and through our little acts of kindness! May God grant our dear Brother Abraham Pralel the bliss of eternal life!

Fraternally yours,

Bro. John Kallarackal, SG  
SUPERIOR GENERAL

Rev.Bro. Rene Delorme, the Previous Superior General in his message of condolence has expressed the following sentiments.

*"... I always appreciated meeting Bro. Abraham. I admired his positive outlook, his enthusiasm, his great love for our Congregation, and his generous commitment for the Montfortian mission. I was always impressed by his authenticity and by the way he honestly shared his thoughts and convictions."*

We also have received condolence messages from Bro.Joseph K.M & Bro.Paulraj, the Assts. General, Bro.Georges Le Vern, the Secretary General, Bro.Clement Kandulna, Provincial Superior of Ranchi, Bro.Pratab Reddy, Provincial Superior of Hyderabad, Bro.Franky Noronha, Provincial Superior of Pune, Bro.Mariannan, Provincial Superior of Trichy and Bro.James NA, District Superior of East Africa.

**-Bro.George KJ,  
Provincial Superior**

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