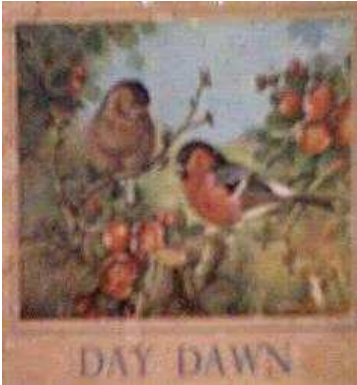


The Ruby Among Rubbles



18 Dec 1911 – 11 Jul 2006

Sister Rajammal Jeyamoni

[3 August 2006]

My [Aunt Rajammal](#) was born in a village called Alwar Thoppu in Tinnevely Dist. of Tamil Nadu, India as the fifth child among seven siblings. My father Late [Mr. JS Alagiah](#) was born next, four years later. Her younger sister [Mrs. Esther Jebamoni](#) who is now about 90 years was the seventh and last child in her family. Her elder sister Late [Mrs. Nesammal Pon](#) lived until her eighties.

The love, sacrifice and devotion among siblings were exemplary. The economic conditions of the family did not bless her with any abundance of attention, comfort or love; perhaps less than what her siblings received. But, later in their life, her parents hailed her as their refuge and support.

'[Walker of Tinnevely](#)' as Rev. Thomas walker was called is the Missionary who transformed the life of my Grandfather [Aunt Rajammal's father - [Mr. Jeyamoni](#)] and his entire family became Christians. Rev. Thomas Walker employed / appointed him as the '[Village Preacher](#)' of Megnanapuram. He was a staunch disciplinarian and aunt Rajammal was shown no lenience.

The family values of simplicity in life, hard work, keenness in education and cooperation with each other ensured every child received good qualifications and employment. She finished schooling and worked as a teacher. Her sincerity, reliability and hard work earned her support from colleagues and superiors. One such superior [[Miss Hewitt](#)] even helped her financially to graduate from Queen Mary's College, Madras, which is a rare achievement and high qualification in those days.

It must have been a disappointment when my father got married [when he was 31 years old] before her, but Aunt Rajammal had the 'love of God' in her heart to overcome it and loved her 'sister in law' [my mother [Mrs. Violet Alagiah](#) who is 81 years old now] who in turn respected aunt Rajammal who was 14 years older to her and reciprocated with God's love. It was a real loving Christian family with genuine understanding and concern for one another. They all stayed together along with her elder sister Nesammal [late] and her family at Megnanapuram.

After working for 17 years as a Graduate Teacher when she was about to become the Headmistress of The Sarah Tucker High School in Palayamcottah [Tinnevely] two important decisions she took. She won't marry [having resisted the last such temptations] and will take up full time Ministry as a Sister of Indian Missionary Society. This was a real Turning Point.

She was the first and only unmarried sister at that time and she did a tremendous job without showing off at Dornakkal and Madhiripuram in Andhra Pradesh, having had to learn a new language [Telugu] and excelling in it. She was a Missionary for 30 years with IMS and a few more years with Bethel [Danishpet] and then stayed in Vishranthi Nilayam from 1984 till the end.

Her dedication and work amongst poor bringing hordes of children and families to Christ and welfare is there for all to see and go through the records; I need not elaborate. **She was indeed a Mother to many!** Still, how much the IMS and our Christian Society has recognized her devoted work and commensurately honoured her I can't say. I don't see any evidence.

During her stay in Vishranthi Nilayam from 1984 to Sep 2003, Aunt Rajammal led a simple life : Attending St.Mark's Church, walking to and from the Church ministering to passers by through 'Tracts', working among slum-children amidst other duties at Vishranthi Nilayam. She proudly talked of 'Vishranthi Nilayam' as her own home. However, she was an integral part of our family too, participating in all our functions.

She was indeed a tower of faith, trust, love, simplicity and prayerfulness and her saintly 'persona' enabled her to know, associate and correspond with many people from different walks of life. She was indeed a 'Lady of Letters' who wrote profusely. I must try and reach all those friends & relatives who deserve to know of her sad departure after her earthly race. I must admit, as her belongings were wet and dusty and remained uncared for [even pilfered] in Vishranthi Nilayam during her 'hospitalization period', it is not going to be easy.

It gives us special satisfaction [reflecting back now] to have celebrated her last Birthday [18 Dec 2005] well and taking pictures of her cutting cake etc. She often enjoyed talking from her hospital bed through cell-phone to all her dear ones. Just a week before her end we even video-clipped her for the last time including her praying for us, as usual, before we leave her.

My website <http://www.wincowalker.com> [updated periodically] contains this write-up and a short video clip of her last prayer.

Angels in her life

Aunt Rajammal led a life of an Angel during her life and brought happiness to many. Deservingly, God blessed her with many Angels in her own life who loved her and ministered to her.

While honouring and praising God for the wonderful life of our dear Aunt Rajammal, it is also my duty to acknowledge and pledge our gratefulness and heart-felt thanks to 'all these angels' for being such wonderful angels in the life of aunt Rajammal.

I have mostly gone by what my Aunt's thoughts were: she having spoken to me often, as well as what I could perceive.

On top of this write-up you find three pictures. The picture of two birds, which was a precious possession of my aunt, which she always kept on her reading table to remind her of her beloved children. She considered all children of her brother Alagiah and sisters Nesammal & Esther as her own and cared for each one.

Then you see a youthful photo of aunt in her prime and charming best. Next to it you see the picture of a card inscribed with the verse John 11:25 in German. I just received it today [3 August 2006], which happens to be the bolstering strength during my sickness to revive me to finish the task of writing this up. It is from my aunt's Friend from Germany with whom and only with whom she was having written correspondence until the end. She is the truest friend and living angel who ministered to my aunt. Her name is [Ms Ingrid Kruedelbach](#) . We feel so sad to think of the grief and sadness caused to Aunt Ingrid and her family of sister [Uschi](#) and husband [Achim](#) due to the passing away of aunt Rajammal.

To quote from the letter I received to day:

“Uschi , Achim and I tell you our heartfelt sympathy [**Herzliche Anteilnahme** = heartfelt sympathy in German]
We have lost a friend and shall miss her letters. We shall often think of her and therefore be connected with her.
Sister Rajammal will be unforgettable for us. ”

Every time Aunt Ingrid writes to us and to Aunt Rajammal [through us] I print out our reply and get aunt Rajammal to pen her reply too.

I had also informed two of aunt's close friends one of whom **Dr. Peter Kulanayagam** promptly rang us up from London to express his sympathy. We can hear the sadness in his voice.

My aunt always had a very high regard about her brother [My dad **Mr. JS Alagiah**] and loved and trusted him totally. Similarly she loved her **Sister Esther** and **Sister-in-law Violet Alagiah** and considered them all as angels in her life. Towards the end she frequently recalled the sacrifices her sister Esther had made for her studies and also the sacrifice and financial contribution made by my mother giving away all her 'bridal money' towards the needs of the family. Also, she frequently talked about her 'mother's tearful prayers' and her strict father in her early life.

I, **Thomas Walker** was the recipient of total trust from my aunt Rajammal after the passing away of my Dad on 22 Sep 1995. My mother in a letter to aunt Rajammal had written that it was God's Plan to bring me [Walker - who is a look a like of you brother] to Bangalore so that what my father could do for Aunt Rajammal could be continued.

Needless to say, I must admit that the loss of Aunt Rajammal means to me losing the person who trusted me most - more than anyone living or not. She was indeed such an angel to me in my life from whom I received total empathy and trust. Trust is such an important aspect of any relationship between two people, which enriches both the giver and receiver; when true trust is given and reciprocated. I consider myself really blessed, for I was totally trusted by my aunt.

While judging the merit of people one hears the saying: 'Tell me your friends and I'll tell about you'. This is exactly true in the case of [Aunt Rajammal](#) as she couldn't have earned such a gem of a friend as [Ms Ingrid Kruedelbach](#) without being a gem herself. My further narrative will bore this out. It is my duty to put it on a pedestal, having received such a 'total trust' from my Aunt Rajammal ; her own friend [Ms Ingrid Kruedelbach](#) having been so 'totally trustworthy' towards her till the end.

During my college days I had penned a quote: **True chums are rare gems.** This truly applies to this friendship. From what I heard from Aunt Rajammal, during her visit to Germany in the early 80s she visited this lovely family of [Ms Ingrid Kruedelbach](#) whose [mother](#) and [aunt Hilde](#) were friends of aunt Rajammal. [Ms Ingrid Kruedelbach](#), [her mother](#), [her aunt Hilde](#), [sister Uschi Buchholz](#) and [her husband Achim Buchholz](#) all treated aunt Rajammal with love and care and they had a great time together.

While taking a train journey together [Ms Ingrid Kruedelbach](#) asked aunt Rajammal : 'What about your future?'. Aunt Rajammal had at that time finished all her employment and retired without any assurance of pension from anywhere. So, she was not sure of her future. When [Ms Ingrid Kruedelbach](#) heard this she told aunt Rajammal , " Don't worry. I will support you".

This was the Angel's promise from a [Golden Heart](#) and praise God how she has kept it. When Aunt Rajammal joined Vishranthi Nilayam [Ms Ingrid Kruedelbach](#) promptly started her regular support, sending a good amount twice a year into Aunt Rajammal's Account till her very end. She never failed. Even Governments will be less reliable. Aunt Rajammal never even had to ask again.

What a tremendous witness of God's Christian love has [Ms Ingrid Kruedelbach](#) shown towards her friend [Aunt Rajammal], full of sacrifice, commitment and trustworthiness.

What a friend Aunt Rajammal has in [Ms Ingrid Kruedelbach](#) indeed !!! Praise God !

She is also the [Guardian Angel](#) who took care of her mum and Aunt Hilde till the end. What a saintly person she is!

" May God protect and keep our precious Aunt [Ms Ingrid Kruedelbach](#) & family under His wings and in His safe arms! "
we pray.

Another unforgettable Angel Aunt Rajammal was blessed with is [Mr. Siegfried Imhoff](#) from Germany who is also my close family friend who showered his love on Aunt Rajammal and us [Walkers]

Aunt Rajammal's life was replete with angels who offered: 'just a sincere and loving smile', friendly disposition towards her, a word of encouragement or appreciation, a card or letter, a gift or Birthday wishes, help in her need, care and nursing at Vishranthi Nilayam or CSI Hospital. Aunt Rajammal responded to each one with loving care. I am sure God shall bless each one of them.

Though I may not be able to draw attention to all these Angels individually and may not even know some of them and the good deeds they did towards Aunt Rajammal, I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Another great blessing God bestowed on Aunt Rajammal is in the form of [Mrs. Rajathi Walker](#) [my dear wife] who took utmost care of Aunt Rajammal in all her needs and she is a wonderful Angel who ministered to her. Without her active and demonstrative cooperation in helping and caring for Aunt Rajammal I couldn't have achieved anything. Most of the times, it was she who made sure we visited her regularly, listened to all her needs and purchased and supplied them to her, interacted with relevant organizations to sort out any problems relating to Aunt Rajammal's health and welfare. Knowing her genuinely caring nature and human relationship skills, I did not mind letting her take the lead and decisions in many issues with full confidence on her. [Rajathi](#) not only cared like this for Aunt Rajammal but for the rest of the family and friends as well. **Rajathi is a real Blessing and a true Angel walking amongst us.** May God bless her and give her strength and vigour in the years to come !

In 2003, while I was away working in Delhi as Dean in a Management Institute, God took care of Aunt Rajammal through two Angels : My friend [Wg Cdr Thomas Verghese](#) and our son [Amit Walker](#). They both interacted with Aunt Rajammal and Vishranthi Nilayam on our behalf [consulting us regularly] and made sure Aunt Rajammal was cheerful and looked after.

[Wg Cdr Thomas Verghese](#) promised me that he will visit Aunt Rajammal every week and kept this up meticulously. How many friends or relatives can take out their time to look after such needs. [Wg Cdr Thomas Verghese](#) is indeed a shining Angel who was a blessing to Aunt Rajammal. In fact he has been doing social work in various forums and has touched the lives of many with God's love. May God bless him abundantly!

Fittingly, it was [Thomas Verghese](#) and [Amit](#) who could visit and talk to Aunt Rajammal on the last eve [before her passing away] in the Intensive Care Unit [while we were in transit trying to get back to Bangalore]. [Wg Cdr Thomas Verghese](#) helped us greatly in the ensuing arrangements for which we are grateful to him.

[Amit](#) is a wonderful Angel who listened to all our requests from Delhi and promptly took care of Aunt Rajammal's needs [Granny to Amit]. He is such a caring and listening son we are indeed very blessed and thank God for him. Amit was sporting long hair until recently. Aunt Rajammal had been often showing her disapproval of his hairstyle, even on the last eve of her life. When Aunt Rajammal passed away, Amit immediately cut his hair saying it was 'Granny's last wish'. Such is the caring love he felt for Granny Rajammal. God shall certainly bless [Amit](#) abundantly!

I must certainly remember the sincere and devoted friends Aunt Rajammal was blessed with of whom she talked to us often recalling their goodness. [Dr. Kitty David](#) and [Mrs. Bala Jeyasingh](#) are two of her longtime friends. Before we came to Bangalore our cousin [Mr. Emerson Samuel](#) was of great help to Aunt Rajammal. There were many silent Angels who visited Aunt Rajammal and other patients in the CSI Hospital and uplifted them spiritually. Our friend [Dr. Gita Muliyl](#) visited Aunt Rajammal often and helped us with medical advice. Aunt Rajammal admired her.

Aunt Rajammal fervently prayed for each child's family by name : [Clement](#), [Walker](#), [Ragland](#), [Evangeline](#), [Jessica](#) [brother's children] [Jeyasingh](#), [Beulah](#), [Hudson](#) [sister's children]. She adored [Late Noel](#) [elder sister's son]. She was very concerned about her [Grand children](#) and enquired of each one and followed up. Her memory was sharp till the end. She strived and helped each one through my father and after his passing away in 1995, through me.

In turn, all her [children and their spouses](#) and [Grand children and their spouses](#) loved her and whenever possible did a good turn to her. Many of them were in correspondence with her [from time to time] which brought her great happiness. God enabled her to see her [Great Grand Children](#) too.

She also cared for and helped all her father's brother's [family in Alwar Thoppu](#). They all were integral with our family as my Grand Father and his brother married wives who were sisters and hence the strong bond. Her entire family was her '[Group of Angels](#)'.

Aunt Rajammal, we miss you !

Romans 10:15 - How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace -

Psalms 116:15 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies.

The above verses are indeed befitting to Aunt Rajammal's life and passing into eternity!

She was a saintly, beautiful person who is now living with Jesus!

She fulfilled all her earthly duties and lived a full life. Her 'persona' evolved in the cauldron of Christian towns such as Megnanapuram, Palayamcottah etc. but matured with National and International exposure to endear herself to one and all. She is survived by her adoring Children and their families. She even outlived a 'normal age-span' of a human being and her last few years can be termed as 'years of praying in bed' to meet Jesus!

From the time she lost her brother in 1995, she had silently been praying to follow in his footsteps. She has been writing her 'Declarations' as to how her belongings are to be utilized and how I must take care of them etc. However, God had other plans and gave her 11 years more. I count these years God added to her as our own blessing.

Praise God for Aunt Rajammal's long life of 95 years !

But for us and me, it is a big loss! Losing an adorable part of our own. As time passes on, the effect of missing her affectionate words and conversation and powerful uplifting prayers weighs heavily on me.

Apart from her 'Total Trust', I also received her 'True Love' and strong Understanding. Maybe her love for me was 'blind', perhaps blind to any faults I might have. Only paralleled by the love and understanding I receive from my own mother [Mrs. Violet Alagiah](#). I am certainly not going to complain about it; rather will ever cherish and crave for !

That is how much I miss her and shall feel her presence always !

[Dear Aunt Rajammal](#), we cherish and remember your [Saintly Life](#) !