



E. R. Perimbanayagam - by Pretheeva Brainerd (Niece)

Born: 16 September 1939 - Died: 26 January 2021

My name is Pretheeva, I am Mr. Perinbanayakam's niece. I called him "Asai Appa, because my dearest aunt Sathia was Acha to me, or "Asai Amma." I was 11 years old when Asai Appa came into Acha's life and mine! I was truly blessed. Asai Appa was a kind, loving, and unselfish man. A man of few words but his actions revealed his sincere love. Asai Appa saw the love and affection I had for my Acha when he got married and he encouraged it and their love towards me was multiplied.

I lived in Jaffna with Acha and when Acha got married she moved to Colombo with Asai appa. I loved going for holidays to Colombo as I was totally spoiled by Acha and Asai Appa. I missed my Acha very much when she left for Colombo, but both of them would visit Jaffna to see us as Asai Appa's parents were also in Jaffna. I always enjoyed the road trips with them. I was like their pet that they adored and showered their love on. Even recently in an email Asai Appa reminded me that I was Acha's pet.

In 1984, along with my parents I moved to Canada. This was hard as I was going to miss my acha and asai appa very much. Shortly after, in 1987, Asai Appa came to the States to have his first bypass surgery and also came to Canada and visited with us. In 1989, I went back to Sri Lanka for a holiday with my aunt Gnana and we had a wonderful holiday with Acha, Asia appa, Grandma and Vetharajan Mamma. In 1991, Acha and Asai Appa immigrated to Canada. Once again they were close to me. However, due to many challenges Acha and Asai Appa went back to Sri Lanka and there was a painful distance in our relationship.

However, in 2011, when I realized my aunt was sick in Sri Lanka, I knew in my heart that I needed to be with her. I was very nervous to go to Sri Lanka by myself so my husband encouraged me and accompanied me with the children. He knew this was important to me. My husband and four children met Acha and Asai Appa for the first time. We spent a month with them and I saw the deep love Asai Appa had for my aunt Sathia. He would visit her three times a day and we would join him for many of the visits. Each morning he would leave early to be at the hospital for 6:00am because he said "Acha likes to see me when she opens her eyes." A month after we left Sri Lanka my dear aunt passed away and it was so hard for Asai Appa. God used Acha and Asai Appa to help us love Sri Lanka and want to serve our people, so in 2013 as a family we returned to Sri Lanka to live there for four years. During this time my children got to know and experience Asai Appa's love and affection. My children understood how I felt as a child and how Asai appa cares. His affectionate, sincere loving nature had not changed even though Acha was no more. In 2014 December, Asai appa left for Dubai and said he would be back for Christmas. My children wanted him to stay and celebrate Christmas with us, and he did not want them to feel disappointed. We would correspond via phone and emails. I was sad when I got his last email regarding his accident and I prayed and believed that he would recover fully. Even after the accident, asai appa was able to tell me, "I am happy & thankful to our Lord Jesus Christ who had lifted me up from this calamity." Asai appa had a quiet faith.

I am thankful that Asai Appa was able to live his days independently and was cared for by a loving and caring family in Dubai. God who sees the heart, was his faithful saviour and provider. Recently, Asai Appa wrote, and I quote, "although many years have passed I cannot fill the void created by Sathia - my precious wife." Now Asai Appa's prayer is answered, he is united with my aunt and they are both enjoying their eternal home.

Thank you Asai Appa for your sincere and generous love. Rest in peace in Jesus' safe arms.

Pretheeva (Jan 31, 2021)