10/19/2026

Sri Lanka Post Trip Mission Update

Dear Friends and Family,

As promised, we want to share with all of you about our experience on mission in Sri Lanka. For those of you who hadn't heard, our planned extreme trip to India was diverted the week before we left to Sri Lanka. There was a major persecution event that occurred in India involving our local national partners which caused East West (our sending ministry) to change course for all their teams and our team was sent to Sri Lanka. Though disappointed to not be in India as originally planned, God was sovereign in the change and it turned out to be no less incredible in what He had planned.

In our time there, our team shared the good news message of the gospel with over 870 individuals (most who had no to little knowledge of Jesus) and 493 people prayed to receive Jesus! That's about 56% of the people who heard the message and found it compelling enough to receive for themselves.

The local partners there have spent considerable time mapping the country to have an accurate map of exactly which areas have never heard of Jesus, which areas have been reached in some capacity, which areas have baptized believers and where the house churches are. The preliminary work before we showed up just in mapping is a major work necessary for the process of the gospel to go out and to make sure we were reaching the maximum needed areas and not simply covering ground that has already been worked. Then the process is that Short Term mission teams like us come in and do the preliminary

seed sowing of sharing the good news. This is a largely necessary part of the strategy because they use us Americans as “bait” to get access into these people’s homes. They are not likely to allow the local Sri Lanken Christians into their homes on their own initially, but when they come with us, the people are so excited and curious to have visitors that have come so far to share a message with them, that they then receive us into their homes. They give us their attention and are generally willing to engage in conversation. Each person that says yes to Jesus is recorded with the translator and the translators get their phone number and address. Then the critical part is that local pastors will do the follow up with each of these people and will begin discipleship and church planting. This is where the hard work begins. Typically within 3 months of initial contact, they have done enough follow up to have at least one house church planted in each of the villages we worked.

The Sri Lanken people are largely Buddhist, Hindu or Roman Catholic but the people we mostly saw were Hindu. The Hindu temples and gods were in every village and most houses had images of their gods and alters for their sacrifices visibly present. Houses smelled of incenses. Shades were often drawn. The homes were dark and gloomy. People’s foreheads were marked with various markings of worship and devotion to other gods.

We went house to house, village to village, one by one to share the hope only Jesus brings. We trekked day in and day out into the hills, pouring rain, incredible humidity, dense fog and occasionally sun shine, and through leech infested grounds to carry this message to the lost and hopeless people. Each of us 12 Americans were assigned one translator and once in a village, we’d split off and with only our translator, we would work the village.

The Sri Lanken people are generally very respectful and polite and we were ministering to people in remote villages often far out of towns and in the mountains. They are a simple people but incredibly hospitable. Even those uninterested in the gospel opened up their homes to us, stopped their busyness for however long we were there, (sometimes up to an hour) and they listened. Many offered tea and some homemade snacks. They welcomed us to randomly use their toilet (if you could call it that) when needed, or a dry place to congregate when it was pouring rain. Sometimes neighbors would come in and listen or the whole village would gather to hear the message. The first day, my translator and I were directed to a home around the corner and somehow within minutes, 20+ people were intently listening and mostly all of them received Christ that day.

The people are literally sitting deep in spiritual darkness and hopeless toil of continuously trying to please their man-made gods. The message of a living God that created them for relationship, loved them enough to make a way for the forgiveness of their sins by His own death and to give them a hope of eternal life bought by the finished wok of Christ was truly a bright light shining life into their souls. People were hungry for this message and as Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” The power of the gospel going out to these people so desperate was an incredible work to be a part of and deeply convicting of how needed this message of hope and life and light is to this lost world.

One of the hardest things we dealt with among this people group was the pluralism and polytheism (propensity to receive all gods and religions and worship of multiple gods.) The struggle came where it was hard to tell whether these people truly understood what they were receiving. Were they receiving Jesus as the One God or were they adding Him to their

collection of possible gods that they could try out when they were in a time of need? A pinnacle picture I took that was a perfect image of what spiritually was going on there was a large display case on the side of the road with a statue of Jesus inside the case standing right next to Buddha in the case. It was completely acceptable in that culture to pray to whatever god someone wanted in the moment and move on to another hoping one of them would answer. Some people said even if Jesus did a miraculous thing in healing them, they would appreciate the act as just one of the possible "gods" doing the thing and it wouldn't make them follow Jesus alone. It was complicated by the fact that our God lets the sun shine and rain fall on the righteous and unrighteous alike. (Matt. 5:45, PS 145:9) So when one person I talked to was asked why she follows her god Ammon, she said it was because she had longed for a baby for 10 years and when she prayed to Ammon, he gave her the baby so her devotion was to the god Ammon. I told this woman her devotion was admirable but misplaced and I read a passage of Psalm 139 (that He knit us together in our mother's womb and is always present). But this woman failed to see how the living God is the one who actually answered her prayer and opened her womb. To anyone I asked why their chosen god is worthy of all their affection and worship, no one had an answer of the character of that god. None could say one thing about the heart of their god. None were known and loved by their god. (Obviously because their gods aren't living) but the primary reason most are devoted to their god(s) is because their family has followed this god(s) for generations and so why not follow him/her too?

The other interesting thing about this culture is they are very collectivist. So, they often denied accepting Jesus because their family has their own gods. Because their husband

was not home to decide for them. Because the culture says they are Hindu and the community is Hindu. Over time as the week went on, my message became more bold to share with people that God loves us and desperately desires relationship with us but He is coming back to judge the people for their departure from Him. We began boldly proclaiming the truth that they would stand before God one day on account of this message and they would either stand alone and by their works that would never be acceptable to God and therefore separated from His love or stand with Jesus by His blood and be welcomed into an eternal life with the One we were made to be with. There was one elderly man who rejected the message at first but my translator boldly told him, "You are old and experienced in your life. You know this message is true. So man up and lead your family according to truth." This man, sitting in a Hindu home of darkness, with images of man made gods all around accepted Jesus that day. We saw him in another village later that day and he explained to our team members that his heart felt at peace with the hope of Jesus now in him. Interestingly, before entering that home, I felt the darkness, and prayed, "Lord, this ground feels like it will be impossible. I see the alter outside the home and know this is a dedicated follower of Hinduism. Enter this space with me Lord and help us to take this lost ground back for your glory." I entered feeling discouraged to be walking into untouchable ground but God has the final say and He had the victory. The battle was already won in that home before I even entered.

One of the most beautifully evident things about our God that was on display during this trip was just how far God would go to run after us. Our inherent value to God was a constant thing we were made aware of. We took 3 days flying dozens of hours to get to Sri

Lanka. We then bussed 9 hours to the remote areas of the country. Just to bus another 1.5 hr each way to get to where we could access the villages. And then we would ascend down into the villages or up through the steep hills just to reach small villages of people, often with less than 100 people, sometimes with only 5-10 homes. I already mentioned the pouring rain and leech covered grounds. And then of course reversing this after carrying the message to these few people. God loves each of these people enough to call us into this work that we would be a blessing to the nations. We were not saved for our own benefit alone. We were saved for the purpose of helping others also be saved. God will stop at nothing to woo us to himself. It reminded me of Abraham having a conversation with God about Sodom and Gomorrah. “Suppose 50, 45, 30, 20, even 10 righteous were found there… would you spare them? (And God’s answer was YES!) Even for 10 he would have sent us. Even for 1!… Even for 1 who would receive Him, He would have sent us. Much of the time we were asking… is it worth it? Is the time, money, effort, physical exhaustion, apathetic unemotional responses, discouragement and leeches worth it?! And God said YES! Even for 1! But He gave us far more than 1. We can not know the hearts of the people who said yes to Jesus this last week. We can not know the genuineness of their acceptance. But we can know what we did was worth it because heaven is a little fuller for eternity because we said Yes to the calling to GO with the gospel message and because they said YES to the message of hope laid on their hearts. Among the seeds sown, some will fall on the soil and be snatched by the enemy. Some will not grow from a lack of root, some will fall on the soil and be choked out from worry. But some will be fruitful and hold to the message with an honest heart. (Lk 8:9-15) The good news went out. Jesus’ name was

glorified and proclaimed from the hilltops and valleys of Sri Lanka! And some of those people that received Christ this week have been rescued from death and darkness and brought into the kingdom of light. Jesus says: “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.” We may never know the impact this YES had for Jesus until we celebrate in heaven with these once lost people, now found and rescued. But they will be there celebrating with us and our precious Jesus.

This area of trust and letting go of the results was the biggest thing God worked in our hearts while we were there. He asked us to sow seed. We are to trust the process that happens after our work. God, through the local believers there and whatever means He will use will do the work to bring forth his harvest in due time. Without any further input from us, he will grow and protect the seeds we scattered. He will do the work by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue the good thing that was started. He owns the process and we do not. He owns the hearts of these new believers. And he owns the results. We obeyed and did our part and have to trust that He will do the rest. We struggled on the trip because the Sri Lanken people were not very expressive. There was often minimal assurance that they felt anything about the message in front of them. We saw many many people say YES to receiving Jesus. We could only give them the basics. We had to refrain from giving them 40 years of Theology and spiritual food. And we had to walk away from each home trusting we did all we were called to do and the rest was God’s to grow and harvest.

We were led to read 1 and 2 Thessalonians during our trip (interestingly the very passage our team leader was given for this trip as well). It was painfully applicable to our entire trip and why we were there, learning to persevere and the ultimate purpose of sharing the Good News. Our key verse we had laid on our hearts the whole week was 1 Thessalonians: 1: 4-5, 9-10 “For we know brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.”… “ For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

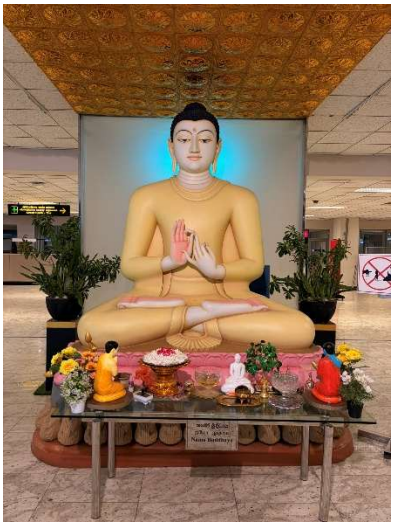
After day 2, we both were so exhausted from the work of walking into darkness, having short, repeated conversations and not reaping the benefit of seeing the final results, we felt surely this was not the work God has for us to do in the future. It was hard. It was heavy. It was dry feeling. But by day 5, we were convicted of the deep need for the gospel message to be brought to the lost and dying world. People all around us are literally chained in darkness, without hope. They need the message of hope. They need the message of peace with the Living God. They need the message of a love so deep, He would send His own son to die for us so we could be with Him. By day 5, we saw the importance and the need. We saw how “hard and tired” does not mean it’s not our thing or our responsibility. Jesus commissioned us all to join the rescue mission locally and to the ends of the earth. As I pondered the implications, I thought of how similar this place is to America and everywhere else. Their idols are more visible. Their futile striving is more immediately

recognizable. But the reality is it's the same in America. It's the same everywhere else. The message is for everyone of every race, culture and economic status. People are sitting in darkness, waiting for light. People are sitting in bondage waiting for someone to set them free. People are sitting outside the Ark and one unknown day, the door will be sealed and the judgement will come. The Bible says "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news." Jesus is the answer of hope needed for every person until the end. So.... Run your race. Say YES to Jesus and help others to find this kind of LOVE... unfailing.

We want to thank you each again for being part of the sending team. Thank you to each of you who have provided the funding for this mission, prayers, support and encouragement in other ways. God used each of you in a powerful way to make His name known in Sri Lanka. Please continue to pray for the seeds we sowed to take root. For the local team of faithful pastors to be strong and courageous and to continue the work. For these villages to go from red to green in each area and that they would be fruitful and faithful to the end. And continue to pray how God may lead each of you to bring His message to the lost and dying world among your workplaces, communities and the world. Our time is limited here on this earth. May we all be found faithful and ready for His return!

In Christ,

Tai and Danny







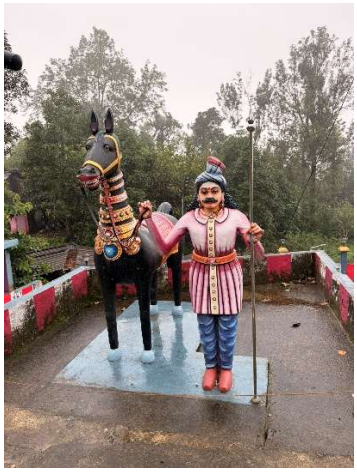










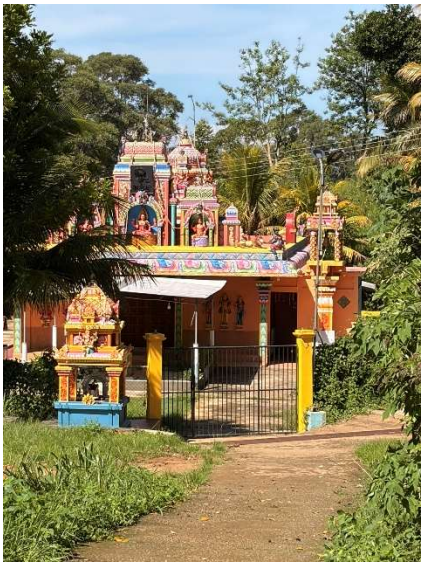
















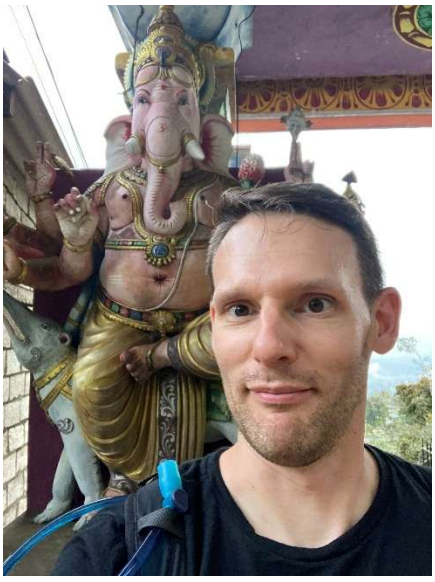






















Thank you all for your love and support!!

All in the name of the Living God Jesus!!!