



First Anniversary of  
Trinity Reformed Prebyterian Church, Sri Lanka  
斯里兰卡三一归正长老教会一周年纪念

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12th April. 2 a.m. Colombo. Airport. Heat. Noises.

And so this was my first impression of Sri Lanka. Heard many stories. Imagined even more. But nothing beats setting feet on the land itself. Shaped like a teardrop by the Indian sub-continent, this country of 20 million is picking up from a civil war which had ensued for more than 25 years. Stabilising politically, recovering economically, Colombo is one of the most vibrant developing cities in South Asia.

We are mainly here to attend the Bible Camp and the First Anniversary Thanksgiving Service of the Trinity Reformed Presbyterian Church (TRPC), our main outreach in Sri Lanka.

Throughout the 3-days Bible Camp where around 100 people attended, We preached on a series of messages with the central theme “Be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only” (James 1:22). It is indeed very encouraging to see everyone paying attention to what was preached. None of them actually fell asleep despite the sizzling hot weather! The Anniversary Thanksgiving Service was held on the evening of the 18th. Our church there, like the country, comes a long way to what it is now and we thank God for His protection and preservation.



Besides sharing God’s Word with the people (thank God for Rev. Vijay who not only helped us with the translation but also took good care of us during our stay there), perhaps an equally important thing is we got to meet people and connected with them. Besides the session members of TRPC (Rev. VJ, Pr. Thamba, Dn. Donald), we also got to know our missionaries from Hatton (Mr. Jeyamoorthy), Trincomalee (Mr. Vijendran) and their people. They are all very friendly. Despite our language barrier, they tried their best to communicate with us and make us feel comfortable. Their smiles, especially those of the children, made us feel very much at home. The camp ended with a retreat to a resort nearby where people simply gathered together to have fellowship—playing cricket (tell me about it!), soccer, swim or simply

Personally, I was very blessed by how friendly the people were to us and the fact that I could simply slow down and understand what it means to be contented with God’s simple provisions. I was told that at one point of time, the water in the water tank above the church was actually depleted because of the overwhelming amount of campers and they actually waited patiently for the water to be replenished after one whole day in the heat.



But of course there was a much greater culture shock waiting for me up northeast.

After Colombo, we proceeded to Trincomalee—an area where both the civil war and tsunami hit worst. We led in two nights of Bible Study there—in Thambalagamam and Kappalthurai, where even basic commodities like electricity supply are scarce.

We were touched by the love of the people of God’s Word. People came over to hear God’s Word preached under a flickering light bulb. The outdoor Bible study at Kappalthurai was especially heartwarming.



We came intending to encourage and teach; and we returned encouraged and taught. Thank God for this privilege. Dn. Jeffrey will be leading a team back to Sri Lanka to conduct a Vacation Bible School this August. Sri Lanka is also our very first beneficiary for the Calvary Shoebox Ministry. There are many things we can give to Sri Lanka; and there are even more things we can learn from them. Please pray for Sri Lanka, especially for the strength of leaders and members in Colombo as well as our missionaries and brethren in Hatton, Jaffna and



4月12日。凌晨2时。科伦坡。机场。热浪。嘈杂声。

这就是我对斯里兰卡的第一印象。听过许多故事。想像得更多。可是再也没有比亲自踏上这土地来得真实。在印度大陆旁，形状似一滴眼泪，拥有2千万人口的这个国家正在从多达25年的内战中崛起。政治上开始稳定、经济上开始复苏，科伦坡是南亚最蓬勃的发展城市之一。

我们这次来斯里兰卡的主要原因是参加我们在斯里兰卡的主要事工工场——三一归正长老教会——的圣经营和一周年感恩礼拜。

这三天的营会共有约100人参加。我们以雅各1：22“要行道，不要单单听道”为主题传讲上帝的道。看到每个人都聚精汇神地听讲，我们都受到极大的鼓励。尽管天气炎热，却没人打瞌睡。周年感恩礼拜于18日下午进行。我们在那里的教会如同斯里兰卡过去的年日一样，一路走来并不容易——我们感谢上帝的保护与看守。

除了与当地分享上帝的话语（我们为着Vijay牧师的传译与在我们旅途期间所给予我们的照顾感谢神），也许同样重要的是我们这次得以与许多人会面、沟通。除了TRPC的长执会委员（Vijay牧师、Thamba传道、Donald执事）之外，我们也得以认识了来自哈和亭可马里的宣教士（Jeyamoorthy和Vijendran）以及会员。他们都很友善。尽管语言不通，他们都竭尽所能与我们沟通。他们的笑容，尤其是孩子们的，都让我们有宾至如归的感觉。圣经营的最后一项节目在附近一个度假屋里举行——在那里，大家只是简单地聚集在一起团聚——打板球（他们的最爱！）、踢足球、游泳或是简单地在绿荫下喝茶聊天。

得到他们热情的招待以及得以停下脚步思考上帝简单的供给是我最大的福气。我听说曾有一天，营会参与者因为教会屋顶的存水库的水供不足而不能洗澡，但他们还是很有耐心地等待水供的补给。



但更大的文化震荡却在国家的东北角等待着我们。科伦坡之后，我们随即到亭可马里去——那是个内战最激烈、受海啸肆虐最严重的地区。我们在那带领了两夜的查经班——在Thambalagamam和Kappalthurai，连电力供应都缺乏的地方。人们对上帝话语的热爱使我们深深感动。人们都来听上帝的话语在微弱的灯光下被传讲。Kappalthurai的户外查经会尤其温馨。

我们来斯里兰卡的目的是鼓励与教导他人；可是我们回时却深感受鼓励、深被教导。感谢神。苏执事将于8月带领一个团队到斯里兰卡去举办假日圣经学习营。斯里兰卡也是加略鞋盒事工的第一个受益者。我们可给斯里兰卡很多；斯里兰卡更能教导我们许多。请为斯里兰卡祷告，特别是为着科伦坡的领袖和会员们有更坚强的信心祷告，同时也为着我们在哈顿、贾夫纳和亭可马里的宣教士和弟兄姐妹祷告。

