



SRI LANKA PARTNERSHIP PROJECT COMMITTEE

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT: 2009

New Life



FIRST ANNUAL REPORT SRI LANKA PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM COMMITTEE 2009

Introduction

This is the first annual report of the Sri Lanka Partnership Program Committee (SLPPC) to the program partners, the Church of South India, Diocese of Jaffna (JDCSI), and the Uniting Church in Australia's (UCA) Church Council of St. George's East St. Kilda Uniting Church and Board of Governance of Creative Ministries Network (CMN).

This report also contains a narrative and financial report from the officers of the JDCSI for the same period.

The report is also intended for all those who have supported the SLPPC and for all who are interested in our ministry.

Commissioning of the SLPPC

The SLPPC was commissioned at a service of worship at St. George's East St. Kilda Uniting Church on 25 April, 2009. The program partners mandated the Committee to:

1. Provide financial support and assistance to the ministry of the Jaffna Diocese, Church of South India.
2. Provide an avenue for interested people in Australia and Sri Lanka to contribute to a ministry of healing, justice and reconciliation for all victims of the civil war in Sri Lanka.
3. Provide pastoral care and counselling for the wounds of civil war to the Sri Lankan diaspora in Australia.

Committee members appointed by the Church Council, the CMN Board and JDCSI were commissioned at the service.

Accountability

The Committee appointed CMN Director, John Bottomley as Chairperson and St. George's Minister, Angela Tampiyappa as Secretary.

A bank account in the name of the Sri Lankan Partnership Program was opened with the UCA Synod of Victoria and Tasmania's Cash Management Funds under the auspice of St. George's East St. Kilda Uniting Church Council, with two signatories each from St. George's and CMN. The account will be audited annually by the Church Council auditor.

The Committee agreed to provide an annual report of its ministry and finances to all partner organisations.

Changes to the Partnership Program will be by consensus agreement between the three partners.

Support for JDCSI ministry

The Committee has maintained close contact with JDCSI to better understand their priorities for distributing funds from the SLPPC. This has become even more important as the civil war in Sri Lanka escalated to its dramatic conclusion in the month after the Committee's commissioning. Earlier priorities had to be put aside to support JDCSI's response to the large scale humanitarian and refugee crisis caused by the final months of the war.

The Committee arranged a fund-raising dinner at St. Michael's Grammar School's Bailey Hall to launch an appeal. Mano Manopavan was MC, Dr Thiagarajah Gangatharan an honoured guest, and John Bottomley the official speaker. Christy Thiagarajah screened a message from Bishop Daniel Thiagarajah, coordinated the meal of Sri Lankan food and provided a band. Further musical entertainment was provided by Nithi Kanagaratnam, Marrion College year 11 students, and Bernas and Naomi Hasibuan. The raffle organised by Godfred Bonney and Fiona Vemoa was strongly supported by guests.

Following the dinner, eight people became foundation supporters of the SLPPC, pledging monthly financial support to JDCSI for the first three years of the program.

The Committee appointed Christina Vejeyaratnam the Coordinator for Children's Support Funds as a priority for support, and Christina organised a Christmas envelopes project to fund a gift to homeless children for Christmas.

The Chairperson visited JDCSI for two weeks in October-November with Pastor Anto Samuel from Christian Life Centre. Following these visits, the Committee took a number of new initiatives, including:

1. Making a submission to the Synod's UCA Lenten Appeal for congregations in Victoria and Tasmania to support JDCSI through the Committee.
2. Establishing a transition program for people offering to work in Sri Lanka with JDCSI.
3. Offering a retreat opportunity in Melbourne for Dr. Thaya Thiagarajah as preparation for her new role in establishing a Holistic Healing Ministry Centre in Jaffna.
4. Developing a framework for leadership development programs for:
 - A minister nominated by the Bishop
 - English language training for teachers at JDCSI Colleges, and recruiting English language teachers willing to teach in Sri Lanka for a minimum of 12 months.

5. Support in Australia for the development of an eye hospital at JDCSI's McLeod Hospital.
6. Developing a list of JDCSI pastors for distribution as a prayer list.
7. Appointing Anto Samuel as the Coordinator for the Samuel Boys' Home Support Funds.

The Committee also endorsed the Chairperson's Trip Report for distribution to interested people, including all UCA Sri Lankan born ministers in the Synod.

The Committee

The Committee farewelled Mano Manopavan as he moved to Brisbane. We have been well served in 2009 by Christina Vejeyaratnam, Christy Thiagarajah, Nithi Kanagaratnam, Fiona Vemoa and Godfred Bonney.

The Committee also appreciates the attendance of Kingsley Tampiyappa, Edward Vejeyaratnam, and Selvi Kanagaratnam.

The Committee gratefully acknowledges the support of St. George's Council for the essential work of developing our administrative structures, and the dedication of their administrator, Margaret Neith, for her attention to providing receipts to donors and ensuring the timely forwarding of donated funds to JDCSI.

The Committee concluded its first year with a meeting and dinner at Saku and Christy Thiagarajah's home, mindful of the many blessings we enjoy, and conscious of the need to extend the same hospitality to those burdened by the trauma and suffering of war.

John Bottomley, Chairperson
Angela Tampiyappa, Secretary
March 2010

Sri Lankan Partnership Programme

A Partnership between the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South
India (JDCSI)

and

the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) Church Council of St. George's
East St. Kilda Uniting Church

&

the Board of Governance of Creative Ministries Network (CMN)

NARRATIVE & FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2009

Presented by

The Officers of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India
(JDCSI)

Preamble:

The Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India (JDCSI) is fortunate to have entered into an official partnership with the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) Church Council of St. George's East St. Kilda Uniting Church & the Board of Governance of Creative Ministries Network (CMN) with a service of commissioning of a 'Committee for the Programme' at a special service held at St. George's East St. Kilda Uniting Church on April 26, 2009. This 'partnership' is called "SRI LANKAN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME" (SLPP)

This Partnership Programme was initiated with a three-fold aim viz., provision of financial support to the ministry carried out by the JDCSI, making 'space' for people in Australia and Sri Lanka to participate in the ministry of holistic healing to all victims of the civil war in Sri Lanka and to provide pastoral care and counseling to the Diaspora community that is wounded by the civil war.

The SLPP also liaise with mission partners not only in Australia but also in other parts of the world in the absence of a similar partnership in those countries.

Review of Activities:

The JDCSI recognizes and expresses its gratitude the efforts taken hitherto by the members of the SLPP Committee towards fulfillment of '*missio Dei*' (mission of God) in Sri Lanka. The contribution of SLPP in the year under review consisted of visits from mission personnel, exchange of letters with the JDCSI, liaising with various mission cum funding partners, soliciting funds from well-wishers and potential donors and transferring those funds on time for the ministry in and through the JDCSI.

It was a great privilege for the whole of JDCSI community when the Reverend John Bottomley, Director of Creative Ministries Network (CMN) cum Chairperson of SLPP Committee visited the diocese along with Ms. Anto Samuel in late October 2009. While the Rev. Bottomley conducted various sessions for the clergy Pastor Anto Samuel helped the spouses in meditations and prayer.

It was a milestone in the history of the JDCSI when the Rev. John Bottomley declared open the newly constructed Diocesan Office Complex on the 2nd of November 2009 immediately after a service of praise and thanksgiving for the 62 years of faithful journey of the JDCSI. The Rev. Ms. Catherine Nesabai Joseph was the privileged woman pastor who underwent a retreat with the Rev. Bottomley prior to her ordination as a Deacon in the Church of South India by the Bishop. The JDCSI community was privileged to have listened to the word of God as expounded by the Rev. Bottomley.

The visit of these servants of God to many areas, institutions and projects of the JDCSI helped them to understand and appreciate the ministry of contextualization undertaken by the JDCSI. This made them come to terms with the reality of the context in which the JDCSI is called by God to minister as 'People of God' among the 'Peoples of God.'

Finance Campaign or Fund Raising Efforts and Programme Initiatives:

The JDCSI is grateful to the organizers of several fund raising efforts including a dinner and musical entertainment night that was held on the 29th August 2009 at St. Michael's Grammar School Hall, emphasizing 'New Life' with a clear challenge "Can we forget our responsibility?; Let us wipe the tears." . This also provided an opportunity for Bishop Daniel Thiagarajah to speak to the well-wishers through a video message which was later shared with many at large via You Tube.

The webmaster of JDCSI official website www.csijaffnadiocese.com Mr Arul Abraham aptly wrote, "*Bishop Daniel's message which spoke in volumes the transformation that he is bringing about in Sri Lanka, not just in Jaffna alone. So strong and vibrant is his faith and his visions are fully focused on the good. I am aware of the anguish he has been going through but never lost his faith and courage and the smile on his face is perpetual.*"

The Rev. John Bottomley's report of his visit to the JDCSI titled "An Inexpressible Grief: Lamenting the Grief and Trauma of War-Torn Sri Lanka" brought out the struggle of JDCSI pastors to give voice to the voiceless.

The report helped the members of SLPP initiate a 'UCA Lenten Appeal-2009' emphasizing the priorities as expressed by the Bishop viz., support of ministers with book allowance and continuing education programmes, support for Board for Social and Economic Concerns (BSEC) for education on justice and peace initiatives, advocacy for war widows and children, loan programmes for debt-relief to support community elders and to develop a Centre for Holistic Healing Ministry. The JDCSI is grateful to the committee for this initiative and to all who have contributed generously for a 'Reigno-Centric Mission.'

Another aspect of the hard work of this committee is the establishment of a transition programme for people offering to work/minister in Sri Lanka under supervision of the Rev. John Bottomley.

The third offer was the invitation extended to Dr Thayalini Thiagarajah to visit Australia for a couple of weeks for an authentic experience and preparation for her continued ministry of trauma counseling and holistic healing.

Fourthly, an opportunity was explored for a Minister of the JDCSI nominated by the Bishop for 'leadership development' in Australia along with a short-term study programme.

Finally, exploring links with Aravind Institute of Community Ophthalmology and Fred Hollows Foundation and Christian Blind Mission International towards development of an eye hospital at Mc Leod Hospital, Inuvil (established in 1898).

The JDCSI expresses its profound gratitude to the SLPP Committee that meets at short intervals to evaluate the partnership, discuss the funding requests, monitor the efforts, explore ways and means of soliciting funds and to review the progress. The initiatives included making available of funds for immediate and urgent needs, campaigning for monthly/quarterly pledges and helping other donors such as Deacon Anto Samuel to help transfer funds for 'JDCSI-Samuel Hostel for Boys, Jaffna.'

Statement of Accounts for 2009

Funds Received:

21/07/2009	A\$ 7, 644 - 00	@ 92/25	705, 159 - 00
22/10/2009	A\$ 2, 600 - 00	@ 93/-	241, 800 - 00
04/11/2009	A\$ 3, 591 - 00	@ 94/-	337, 554 - 00
15/12/2009	A\$ 5, 458 - 00	@ 97/20	530, 517 - 60
24/12/2009	A\$ 1, 250 - 00	@ 99/65	124, 562 - 50
TOTAL:	A\$20, 543 - 00		SL Rs. 1,939,393-10
Less Bank charges			1, 250 - 00

Total amount received from MCN:	SL Rs. 1,938, 143 - 10
Advance by the Diocese(*)	776, 856 - 90

TOTAL:	SL Rs. 2,715, 000 - 00
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Represented by:

1. Alfred & Grace Bonney Memorial Building Fund	A \$ 5, 000 - 00
2. Un-earmarked Fund	A \$ 9, 054 - 25
3. Donation from Christy Thiagarajah	A \$ 1, 000 - 00
4. Anto Samuel - for Christmas Gifts (pastors)	A \$ 2, 000 - 00
5. Anto Samuel for Samuel Boys Hostel	A \$ 1, 250 - 00
6. Int'l Nurses Day Offertory	A \$ 141 - 00
7. Offertory - Festival of Lights St Georges	A \$ 907 - 25
8. SLPP - Christmas Gifts for poor children	A \$ 1, 190 - 50
TOTAL:	A \$ 20, 543 - 00

EXPENDITURE:

1. For Diocesan Building Complex	1, 304, 500 - 00
2. Mission to the IDPs	700, 000 - 00

3. Christmas Gifts for Pastors & Families	320, 000 - 00
4. Children's Gifts during Christmas	270, 000 - 00
5. Samuel Boys Hostel	120, 000 - 00
Total amount spent:	2, 715, 000 - 00

Thanks:

The Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India (JDCSI) wishes to place on record its appreciation and gratitude to (i) the members of the SLPP (Christina Vijeyaratnam, Christy Thiagarajah, Nithi Kanagaratnam, Fiona Vemoa and Godfrey Bonney); (ii) the Secretary of the Committee Revd Ms. Angela Tampiyappa, (iii) the Chairperson the Revd John Bottomley, who worked tirelessly; (iv) others who contributed by their participation and counsel - Mr. Kingsley Tampiyappa, Mr Edward Vijeyaratnam and Ms. Selvi Kanagaratnam; (v) Ms. Margaret Neith, the administrator whose efficient and dedicated work made everything easy and up to date gracious; (vi) donors and well-wishers who supported a worthy cause in the year 2009.

"We are filled with immense delight and humble thanks to God for this profound partnership between Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India (JDCSI) and the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) Church Council of St. George's East St. Kilda Uniting Church & the Board of Governance of Creative Ministries Network (CMN). Truly this is a sign of the commitment all partners share to the great vision of bringing peoples and nations together in the spirit of the Gospels that inspire our faith. There is no doubt that we have tremendous challenges ahead of us, but whatever we undertake in faith and dedication we are sure will be guided by the grace of God."

Respectfully submitted,

The Revd. Dr S.C. Arnold (Treasurer)
The Revd I. Rajkumar (Secretary)
The Rt. Revd Dr Daniel S. Thiagarajah (Bishop)
Advent 2010