



**SRI LANKA PARTNERSHIP
PROJECT COMMITTEE
SECOND ANNUAL REPORT: 2010**



Sri Lanka Partnership Project Annual Report 2010

This annual report is for the first full financial year of the Sri Lanka Partnership Project, January to December 2010. It contains the report of the Sri Lanka Partnership Project Committee based in Melbourne, Australia, and the report of the Jaffna Diocese, Church of South India based in Jaffna, Sri Lanka.

The Committee (SLPPC) is grateful for the ongoing support and cooperation between the project partners, the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India (JDCSI), St. George's East St. Kilda Uniting Church, and the Creative Ministries Network (CMN). We are pleased to present this report of the first full year of our partnership.

Fund-raising

Raising funds for the programs and ministry of JDCSI is the core work of the SLPPC. The Committee is grateful for the ongoing support of our direct debit donors, who have their accounts debited each month for an amount of their choosing. We are also grateful for the wonderful support provided for the Samuel Boys Home by a dedicated band of donors organised by Anto Samuel. A generous network of friends of Sri Lanka has also given donations at church services, for children at Christmas, and for special needs as they have emerged. The Committee is humbled by the support we have received from so many for the urgent humanitarian needs being met by JDCSI.

Special projects

Samuel Boys Home

A report from a project sponsor on her visit to the Boys Home was discussed by the Committee. Her concerns were discussed with JDCSI, leading to a number of new initiatives to upgrade the facility and strengthen local management. JDCSI welcomed the feedback and has assured the Committee that visits by donors to JDCSI projects in Sri Lanka are a vital part of the partnership.

Medical equipment for Green Memorial Hospital

The Green Memorial Hospital in Jaffna was badly damaged during the civil war, and equipment stolen. So the Committee was delighted to receive a proposal from John Pathinathan informing us of the possibility of shipping a container of donated medical equipment from a recently closed nursing home in regional Victoria.

The Committee received approval from Bishop Thiagarajah for the proposal. The equipment was checked and in good order. The Committee arranged to clean and pack the equipment for transport, and raised the \$3,200 for the cost of shipping the container to Colombo. The Committee appreciated the dedicated work of Nithi Kanagaratnam in arranging donations for the shipping cost from his extensive network of friends, colleagues and community support. Nithi then faced a difficult two months on arrival in Sri Lanka securing the release of the container from the port. The Committee expresses its gratitude to Nithi for his persistent negotiating with Sri Lankan authorities to have the container released at Colombo. It was frustrating for all concerned to have the container tied up in 'red-tape' in the port, and disappointing that JDCSI had to bear extra costs to resolve the

situation at the port. We were delighted when the equipment finally made the journey to Manipay and could be unloaded for the Hospital.

The Chairperson thanked the donors of equipment on behalf of the Committee.

Varany poultry farm project

What is today known as the JDCSI Varany Mission Multipurpose Development Farm was founded as an ambitious poultry farm in 1975, and for four years it flourished as a successful venture. Unfortunately, the farm became a victim of the political crisis and in the last several years the Sri Lankan Armed Forces took control of it as an army camp.

Though extensively damaged, the entire premises are now being developed again by JDCSI. Much reparation work had to be done and the farm was re-launched to be a parental role model project of rural economic activity.

The Committee immediately made arrangements for initial funding to assist with necessary repairs and redevelopment work. Funding from other sources has enabled JDCSI to bring the farm to working order.

Synod support: the Lenten Appeal

The Committee successfully submitted that support to JDCSI be the international project for the 2010 Share Lenten Appeal of the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. The Share Lenten appeal made a grant of \$16,347 to JDCSI, which was forwarded to the national Assembly's Uniting World for forwarding to JDCSI. The grant will be used to fund a number of projects in Sri Lanka, and the Committee will report to the Share Appeal office on the expenditure of these funds as part of our partnership responsibilities.

Mission worker: Nithi Kanagaratnam

The Committee was excited to respond to Christ's call to Nithi Kanagaratnam to offer as a mission worker with JDCSI. Our Secretary, Angela Tampiyappa, contacted Uniting World, and with the strong support of Uniting World's Kathy Pereira, Angela assisted Nithi to become a volunteer worker as part of Uniting World's 'Experience Program'. Nithi was commissioned by the Committee at St. George's UC for this new role with JDCSI, and then on 29 August an Assembly commissioning service accrediting Nithi as a mission worker was also held at St. George's, with guest preacher Rev. John Barr.

Nithi worked strenuously before leaving for Sri Lanka to raise funds for the projects he is called to undertake for JDCSI, as well as receiving training through Uniting World on his responsibilities as opportunities as an Assembly volunteer mission worker. He reports regularly to Uniting World on his work, where he has been active in developing the teaching program at the Jaffna Agricultural College.

Service of Lament

The Committee marked the first anniversary of the end of the civil war on 18 May at Creative Ministries Network, with a service led by Rev. John Bottomley. The service consisted of prayer and scripture readings to:

- Give thanks for God's presence with JDCSI and other Christian churches.
- Lament for all those who died in the war.
- Lament for all those suffering the burden of injury, homelessness and bereavement.

- Pray for national reconciliation in Sri Lanka
- Pray for healing in the Sri Lanka diaspora.

A small congregation participated in the service. The Committee has committed to hold this service in 2011.

Visit: Thaya Thiagarajah

CMN sponsored a visit by Thaya Thiagarajah to Melbourne to take part in a spiritual retreat at Campion Retreat Centre in November, 2010. Thaya is a Psycho-social consultant and the founder and Director of the JDCSI Centre for Healing and Wholeness. As such, she carries a heavy burden responding to the widespread onset of post-traumatic stress disorder in the civilian population of Jaffna and beyond caused by the civil war. The retreat was a small expression of the Committee's solidarity to care for a carers working in the most difficult circumstance.

Reports

The audit report from JDCSI for the Committee's 2009 funding was received, and published as a joint report with the Committee's annual report for 2009. Copies were distributed to our friends, sponsors, and church leaders, and the report was put on the JDCSI website.

Rev. John Bottomley's report on the pastors' workshops he led while visiting JDCSI was published as "An Inexpressible grief: lamenting the grief and trauma of war-torn Sri Lanka". The report has been placed on the JDCSI website, and limited copies are available through the Creative Ministries Network.

Committee members have spoken at several UCA congregations about the partnership project.

The SLPP Committee

Committee members are appointed by the partners for a term of three years, to June 2013.

Members appointed by St. George's

Angela Tampiyappa, Christina Vejayaratnam, Godfred Bonney, Fiona Vemoa, and Nithi Kanagaratnam

Members appointed by Creative Ministries Network

John Bottomley, Nalin Perera

Member appointed by JDCSI

Christy Thiagarajah

Thanks

The Committee is also appreciative of the developing relationship with UnitingWorld. We value their support for the emerging model for cooperation between our respective local and national responses to the significant humanitarian crisis in Sri Lanka.

To this end, the Committee has supported UnitingWorld's initiative in exploring a further partnership with the Sri Lankan Methodist Church as a further channel for UCA solidarity with the needs of a war-torn church and nation.

**Sri Lanka Partnership Project Committee
Statement of income and expenditure
1st January to 31st December 2010**

Bank Account

Balance Brought Forward			306.50
Receipts		39,733.14	
Interest		144.91	<u>39,878.05</u>
			40,184.55
less Transfers			
Samuel Boys Home	13,450.00		
Poultry Farm	7,704.00		
Agricultural Farm	3,000.00		
Manipay Hospital	1,900.00		
Shipping Costs	1,050.00		
Un-earmarked funds	9,752.10	<u>36,856.10</u>	
Bank Charges		320.00	37,176.10
Balance as at 31/12/2010			<u><u>3,008.45</u></u>

Notes:

1. Shipping costs of \$3,200 for the container to be sent from Melbourne were paid directly by the Creative Ministries Network from funds donated through friends and colleagues of Nithi Kanagaratnam for this purpose.
2. The grant from the Share Appeal of the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania for \$16,347 was forwarded to JDCSI through the national office of Uniting World, not the SLPPC. The acquittal for the expenditure of those funds will be reported to the Committee by JDCSI, and forwarded to the Share Appeal.

Authorised by the Sri Lanka Partnership Project Committee, April 2011

NARRATIVE & FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2010

Presented by

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

Preamble

The 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), known as "SRI LANKAN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME" (SLPP), continued for the second year in 2010.

It was by God's grace this Partnership Programme proceeded unhindered being mindful of the basic understanding of its purpose of providing 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 providing pastoral care and counseling to the Diaspora community that is wounded by the civil war besides being a strong link with mission partners.

The Context

The JDCSI acknowledges with grateful thanks to the members of this Committee for the financial support it received for various programmes and projects through the designated as well as undesignated funds. The JDCSI was mindful of the Mission Statement as prescribed in the Constitution of the Church of South India (CSI) which reads as follows:

- Church is the servant of God, called upon to carry out the Mission of God in the world
- Mission is fulfilling God's purpose revealed through Jesus Christ
- To discern God's presence in life situation is to discern Christ among people
- Jesus Christ proclaimed the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, bringing about transformation of society and wholeness of creation
- The Church is called in every age and place to participate in this transforming and liberating Mission of God in Christ.

The JDCSI, as it entered into another year, continued to find ways of involving and doing multi dimensional Mission which included;

- Proclamation of the Good news (Kerygma)
- Nurturing the People of God in meaningful fellowship and solidarity (Koinonia)
- Service with dedication and commitment (Diakonia)
- Striving to establish justice in society (Peace & Justice)
- Stewardship of God's creation

Review of Activities

JDCSI Samuel Boys Hostel for Boys in Jaffna

We are grateful to Pastor Anto Samuel and her family for the enthusiasm with which she solicited funds from her relatives and friends for this great cause. She has been a loving and caring mother to all the children in this 'Home'. These children continue to receive education from Jaffna Central College and St. Charles School. They, besides the ongoing guidance by the Manager K. Kularanjan and the Warden A. Karunakaran, received additional support from the newly appointed "Home Parents" Rev. Antany Sawerimuthu and Mrs. Jeyarani Antany.

The lease agreement of the place that houses these kids was renewed for three more years by a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Bishop and the owners who came down from the U.S.

It is important to mention that the regulations introduced by the Child Protection Authority and the Provincial Government are such that regular checks are done by a team from the Government side, besides the meetings convened by them for evaluation and study. Admitting children to Homes/Hostels is now entirely in the hands of the Government, which of course, has created concerns for the church.

The house was renovated and necessary colour washing was also done. We are happy that the neighbourhood is very appreciative of this ministry and that they give their support in kind at times.

Rehabilitation and Restoration cum Healing Ministry in the Vanni

A brief background of events

The JDCSI began its extended ministry by stretching its arms to embrace people outside the Jaffna Peninsula in the year 1979 by first going to Kilinochchi area. Ways and means of doing ministry in the greater areas of Vanni were explored since that turning point. Vanni is a large area that consists of two major Districts viz., Kilinochchi & Mullaitivu and part of two other Districts viz., Vavuniya and Mannar. As such the challenges we were faced with have been of great significance. The riots that took place in 1977 and 1981 saw the influx of people of Indian Origin into the regions of Vanni. They naturally looked upon the Church of South India for solace and comfort. Then came the 'infamous' 1983 holocaust which pushed the church to go out of the way to provide space for the suffering community. People struggled through few temporary displacements in the years 1986 and 1990 apart from military advances in 1995 and 1996. They continued to suffer due to the natural disaster, the tsunami, hence again a displacement. The cycle of displacements continued till it reached its peak in 2009 May when the whole community suffered death, loss of properties, subjugation and confinement. The context now can be described as a stage of resettlement.

Ministry in the Vanni

The ministry in the Vanni needs to be looked at from this perspective. Those who live in the Vanni are those who from time and again suffered due to human made as well as nature bound disasters. Whatever help and assistance they received or continue to receive do not make them self reliant. It is in this context the JDCSI moves into newer areas to be in liberative solidarity with the broken ones.

The funds received from and through the SLPP strengthened the efforts of the JDCSI for this important ministry. We were happy to have started a Centre for Holistic Healing (CHH) in Kilinochchi in March 2010. The work of Dr Mrs. Thaya Thiagarajah and her committed team is well received by the community. We channelled assistance to the war affected ones, especially the widows and children besides hundreds of physically challenged due to war through the CHH. The ministry of and through the CHH gives credibility to what the JDCSI is.

Restoration of Churches and Church Centres

We felt the importance of restoring the Churches and the Church Centres which were either damaged or destroyed. People felt at home and safe in these places. Furthermore restoration of these places made our mission easy in terms of concentration and coordination. We are grateful to the SLPP for the funds which were put in to cover partial expenses, about a third of expenditure.

Volunteer Worker – Dr Nithi Kanagaratnam

We were happy to receive Dr Nithi Kanagaratnam as a Mission Voluntary Worker, sponsored by the Uniting Church in Australia at the recommendation of SLPP. He was stationed at the Jaffna College Institute for Agriculture (JCIA). The community in Jaffna received him with both hands. He was commissioned in Melbourne with an inspiring message by the Rev. John Barr from UnitingWorld.

It was envisaged that one of his responsibilities will be to assist the JDCSI in returning the poultry farm to production, and supporting the redevelopment of backyard farms. Nithi started with much enthusiasm. However he had to return to Australia due to health reasons and we are sad to know at the time of writing this report that his return to the country is quite remote. We thank him for the ministry among us though it was rather short.

Shipment from Australia

We are grateful to the team of volunteers who worked tirelessly in seeing to the shipment of medical supplies to our Mission hospitals, especially to Green memorial Hospital (GMH), Manipay. Due to uncertainties of the procedure and other formalities the clearance cost us a lot (refer. Financial Statement). However the hospitals were fortunate to have received those medical equipments which make the medical mission effective. We are grateful to Mr. Joseph Pathinathar and others who made this a reality.

Lenten Appeal of the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania

The support we received through the Lenten Appeal was indeed a great help for the JDCSI. Support for relief, reconstruction and reconciliation in war-torn Sri Lanka from the Lenten Appeal was intended to be used to address three priority programs viz., Support for ministers (book allowance, continuing education programs), Support for the Diocesan Board for Social and Economic Concerns, and Development of a Centre for Holistic Healing Ministry.

We are happy that we were able to conduct a three-day retreat for the clergy as well as lay leaders in Lindula on the theme “Our Common Pilgrimage in Hope”. This was a time of renewal, retreat and re-bonding. It gave the opportunity to all of us to identify new forms of ministry to meet the new challenges and opportunities in today’s context.

The JDCSI provided opportunities to its clergy to attend several seminars and workshops both in Sri Lanka and in India. Workshops on issues related justice and peace provided new insights to the clergy and lay leaders to be focused on the issues.

Dr Thaya Thiagarajah's visit to Australia

It was a great gesture on the part of the SLPP to have made it a reality for Thaya to visit Melbourne in the month of October to spend few days in a retreat centre where she found time to reenergize herself to continue to work through the CHH. This also gave her opportunity to attend a seminar on "Mental health in Sri Lanka" at the University of Melbourne.

Concluding Remarks

We are grateful to the members of the SLPP for their continued commitment of their time, talents and gifts towards strengthening of the mission and ministry of the JDCSI. We express our profound gratitude for the closer links we were able to establish with the UnitedWorld through the efforts of SLPP headed by the Rev. John Bottomley. We received assistance from UW through a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by our Bishop with regard to Emergency Relief. This MoU is due for renewal in 2013.

We like to mention that the monies allocated for the farm were used for our mission through Centre for Holistic Healing as we found some source to fund the farm project for time being. Furthermore, we had to pool in other amounts to meet the shipment charges which were unexpected.

We are thankful to the contribution of the Rev. Mrs. Angela Tampiyappa who goes out of the way to make our requests known and to Christy Thiagarajah who acts as liaison for the JDCSI in Melbourne. Christy's untiring efforts for fund raising through 'Hopper Nights' and 'Music Shows' are commendable.

The visit of Nilani Vijeyaratnam and her family to Jaffna in December also made us feel good that our people continue to remember and support our work.

Our sincere thanks are due to Marg Neith. She has been a dedicated steward who sincerely transferred all funds on time for us to accomplish the tasks entrusted to us.

We are thankful to all who have helped to make this partnership move forward in 2010.

We always feel comfortable with the wise counsel, compassionate support and the spiritual guidance of the Rev. John Bottomley. We thank both John and Marg for their generous contribution as well.

All praises and glory be unto our God who remains faithful.

Respectfully submitted by
The Officers of the JDCSI

Sri Lankan Partnership Programme (SLPP)
A partnership between the JDCSI
&
the UCA Church Council of St George's East St Kilda Uniting Church
and
the Board of Governance of Creative Ministries Network (CMN)

Receipts & Payments Accounts
for the period from 01st January 2010 to 31st December 2010

Receipts	A\$	SL Rs
For Samuel Boys Home	16, 200 – 00	1, 645, 865 – 50
Unearmarked Funds	6, 202 – 10	630, 917 – 74
Vanni Rehabilitation etc.	2, 800 – 00	295, 838 – 00
Towards Shipping expenses	1, 050 – 00	105, 483 – 00
Agriculture	2, 495 – 00	235, 744 – 50
Farms	8, 209 – 00	821, 498 – 65
Hospital Work	400 – 00	38, 182 – 50
Lenten Appeal	16, 347 – 30	<u>1, 760, 604 – 21</u>
		<u>5, 534, 134 – 10</u>

Payments

Samuel Boys Home	1, 645, 865 – 50
Toward Restoration of Kilinochchi Church & environs	620, 000 – 00
Mission through Centre for Holistic Healing in Vanni	640, 000 – 00
Clearance & taxes of Shipment	819, 637 – 00
Bank Charges	4, 500 – 00

Lenten Appeal:

Clergy Retreat/Study – three days	150, 000 – 00
Education on justice & peace	115, 195 – 00
Advocacy for war widows & children	834, 204 – 45
Development of Holistic Healing Ministry	<u>600, 000 – 00</u>

1, 699, 399 – 45

5, 429, 401 – 95

Balance available as at 31 December 2010

104, 732 – 15

5, 534, 134 – 10

Audited by Internal Auditors of JDCSI subject to ratification by the External Auditors

Rev. Dr S.C. Arnold
Treasurer, JDCSI.