



Final newsletter from Sri Lanka!

Last month I received the decision on medical advice that I was unable to live and work in a country with dengue. Therefore with a heavy heart I returned to Sri Lanka from the 7th - 13th July to prepare for closure on what has been an amazing two years. Unfortunately the mossier did get me for the second time and as a result I was seriously ill. The newspaper article is dated the 9th July reporting that the official numbers of dengue patients this year is 80,000. There are fears

that the numbers could well be 100,000, with the death toll being 240. Makeshift auditoriums have been established in the hospitals to cater for the epidemic, whilst many sleep in corridors and floors. Please continue to pray for the over stretched hospital staff as they work night and day seeking to save patients, and for those battling the disease.

Part of the closure has been in sorting out my apartment and office, and preparing to say goodbye to the KMC congregation, that I have had the privilege of ministering with and alongside. Together we have reached out with the love of God to those we have met along the way, including the persecuted church from Pakistan through BSR & the En Route ministry. (Photo on right)



Also through the soup bowl ministry from our table to yours, providing a substantial nutritional meal for those living on the streets, the elderly and street cleaners. A ministry which caters for up to 80 persons every Friday.

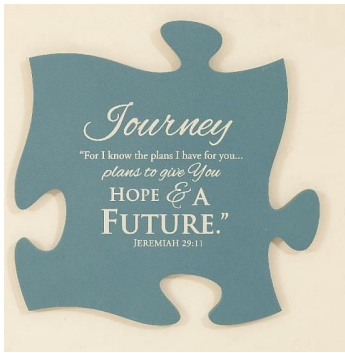
The church has this year once again reached out to those suffering and in great need from the recent flooding. The Maradana/Kollipitya circuit was linked by the Methodist conference to the Hatton circuit. It has been supporting the circuits needs from raising funds for travel for the Evangelists, to re-roofing a church, providing new toilets, and providing leadership training. The Women's Fellowship is seeking to assist and support the women of the Hatton circuit.

The various ministries within the church have been an inspiration to me. These are Sunday School (200 children) YF (youth fellowship) YAF (young adults fellowship) Women's Fellowship, Alpha & Restored lives (for divorced & separated) Adult Fellowship including the gift programme, bible studies & prayer meetings, family camps, monthly youth programme, board of Social responsibility, board of pastoral care, board of worship, local preachers, and so much more. This year the church celebrates 200 years of Christian witness in Colombo, and is reminded of the responsibility each generation is tasked with in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ's life, death, resurrection & ascension. I thank God for the many ways I have witnessed this great commission being exercised during my time in Sri Lanka. I was shocked to learn I am the first female minister in 200 years ministering at the KMC English congregation!

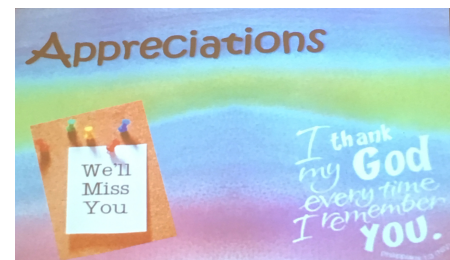


It was a great experience to work alongside a multi cultural team of Ministers at KMC. One was a Korean working alongside the Sinhalese congregation, a Tamil with the Tamil congregation, and a Thai Chinese speaking, building a Chinese congregation, and myself with the English congregation. We worked well together, enjoyed staff meetings, praying and studying the word together. The photo is enjoying a meal together with their families celebrating the Chinese New Year and having fun dressing up!

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My final week was both busy and emotional. I have never been good at saying goodbye but that is the nature of itinerant ministry, and having to move on due to unforeseen circumstances. I was asked to preach at my farewell service and chose to preach on Jeremiah 29 v 11-13, with the theme being "Be still, God is still in control". None of us like change and especially when it is not what we were planning or expecting. Many were struggling at the recent news that I was leaving a year early. So we considered God is in control in the context of he knows the plan he has for us. It was a moving service, in which a number of persons shared their reflections on my time ministering at KMC and sharing their appreciations. A beautiful solo was sung on the prayer I used to say "may the Lord bless you and keep you"



Not only did I receive many tokens of appreciation but also beautiful flowers and a gold necklace with pink sapphires from KMC. I am grateful for the opportunity to see the congregation again and say "goodbye". The photo is taken from a card from the Youth Fellowship, I thank God for the love and welcome I received on my arrival and departure in Sri Lanka, a love that is mutual.



It was a touching moment when Sharmilla, Bishop Asiri's wife escorted me in the early hours of the morning to the airport and prayed with me before my departure.

So what's next? Well I continue to be a Mission Partner. During August/September I will be on furlough and have speaking engagements on my experience serving in Sri Lanka and looking forward to my next placement.

Thank you for journeying with me over the last two years and for your prayers.

God bless you
Angleena



