News from Sri Lanka August 2018

Wow! Where has the time gone? We are now approaching the half way break of the first semester when the students and staff have a week free of lectures. Most of the students leave the campus but some plan to stay to work on their assignments or theses.

At the end of June the Methodist Church celebrated the landing of the first Methodist missionaries on 29 June 1814 after a six month journey by sea (Rather than mine of a 14 hour flight). I feel honoured to be a small part of this rich heritage.

We had a circuit service of celebration with Rev. Niles leading us in the singing followed by a fellowship meal.

The same day the Buddhists had a parade round Kandy and we had a good view from the church entrance.

I have managed to visit the world famous botanical gardens and enjoy the amazing orchids in addition to my twice weekly swims at a hotel pool in Kandy.

College Day and Graduation were celebrated on 10 July.

The procession included cultural and church symbols and traditional dancers carrying lotus flowers.

The students had decorated the stage to represent the tree grown from the mustard seed and learnt "Beauty from brokenness" especially for the occasion. They sang the chorus with such enthusiasm……………..turn my spark to a flame!

My teaching and helping in the library continues! In addition to the formal teaching I now see several students, and others in the community, on a 1:1 for English conversation. This is proving so popular that I may have to move to 2:1. I try to be around the campus as much as I can to engage in informal conversations.

The college is going through a time of change. Please pray for

- The principal Rev Dr Jayasiri Peiris as he leaves TCL
- The staff and students during this time of change and uncertainty
- That a new principal and more lecturers will join us shortly
- For us all as we seek to do God's will

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I really appreciate your emails and letters. Please do continue to keep them coming!