

Jane-Claire Turner |
Next Steps Program
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AYUBOWAN: Welcome to Sri Lanka



Around here, Sri Lankans are continually blessing others. This most common greeting, ayubowan, means “may you have long life”. In my experience over the past month, I think that this is reflective of how Sri Lankans consider all people with curtesy and kindness. So here is an introduction to my time here so far, complete with a Sri Lankan blessing of long life. Welcome to Sri Lanka. It is an amazing place with beautiful people. God is doing amazing things here and I feel privileged to be witness to and a participant in His works.

Land Like No Other

We have enjoyed exploring the capitol city of Colombo and our area of Mount Lavinia during our time here. We have met so many lovely people. We were also able to take a trip out to the elephant orphanage in Pinnawala, which is about 2.5 hours drive from Colombo.





Thanks to missionary Bro. Mathiasz and some of the young men from the church, we were even able to learn how to play cricket! Well, sort of at least! And the funny looking thing on the left is one of my favorite fruits here in Sri Lanka called rambutan. Very yummy!



Our God is Mighty

We have been blessed to be a part of the church here in Sri Lanka during our first three weeks of training. We were also given the awesome opportunity to minister in a daughter work south of Colombo as well as the Tamil and Sinhalese services in the headquarters church.



Pictured here is one of our sweet hotel staff members. His name is Susantha. He faithfully served us during our training sessions over the past three weeks. He was impressed by what he felt, so this past Sunday he brought his family to church for the first time!





These cuties above names are Sethumli and Kimera. The picture on the right is of us in 2014 when I was here on AYC. It has been so great to see many of the church people again and humbling to know that they remember me and have been praying for me regularly. To the left is a picture of me with Sethumli and her little brother Seth. Their parents pastor the daughter work we visited.

Also, as a celebration of the completion of our training, we were each awarded a certificate by Global Missions Director Bro. Bruce and Sis. Diane Howell as well as Asia Regional Director Bro. Lynden and Sis. Kathy Shalm. I cannot express how thankful I am to have been able to learn from and get to know these two couples during this time. I'm also pretty positive that Bro. Shalm is saying something to make me laugh in this picture!



Camra, Jessica, and I with our very nice tuk tuk driver!



Community Health Education and CSI

As many of my friends and family know, it has been a dream of mine to be involved is reconciling my passion for nursing and public health with my passion for ministry. This is why I am so excited to have the opportunity to work with Compassion Services International this week. They are implementing a new way of doing short term medical missions work for the first time here in Sri Lanka. This method looks more towards community health education to focus on preventing illness and promoting well-being as opposed to only treating acute needs for a short period of time. Our first health fair was at the headquarters church here in Mount Lavinia on June 27th and it went very well! It has also been wonderful working with my good friend Dr. Camra Faulkner and the rest of the CSI team. I believe this is just the beginning of our work together in the avenue of global health evangelism.



Here is my wonderful translator doing most of the hard work for me. We worked on educating patients non-stop from 9:30 in the morning until 4:30 in the afternoon. To the right is our large waiting area set up in the church drive way.



Coming Up

Here I am enjoying a traditional Sri Lankan snack. It's called a hopper!



The next four weeks are sure to be filled with more fun and powerfully spirit filled moments, which I can't wait to share with you all. Many thanks to each and every one of you for your love, support, and prayers. You are making an impact. Until next time, ayubowan from Sri Lanka!

