

Ayubowan

GREETINGS FROM SRI LANKA

I have been in Sri Lanka now for about 24 days. My first day of classes has come and gone. My first church service has passed. My first experience out and about in the city was eventful to say the least and I have rode in a tuk tuk no less than 20 times. And all of this is combining together and shaping up to be the best thing I have ever done in my life. My first few days here were filled with a lot of adjustment. Adjustment to the time zone, the country, and the new people in my life.



The city where we have been located for the past two and a half weeks of training is called Colombo, and is the capital of the nation. It is divided up into sections, same as you would find in your larger cities in the U.S., and that in and of itself, took some getting used to. Our hotel is located in a little cove from a back road, so our nights are quiet, but the city life is alive and well here in Colombo. I have never lived in a city before. The mass of people, the traffic, the smells, are all things that I have been exposed to throughout my life, but never in such a consistent manner. But now I find myself enjoying the sight of the main road in the distance with its regular congestion of people, tuk tuks, and shops.



The country of Sri Lanka is rich in history, culture, and people.

There are a little over 21 million people living in Sri Lanka today. And though I have not travelled to many different nations, I can honestly say that the Sri Lankans are some of the most genuine and hospitable people that I have ever met. More than once, I have been humbled at the thoughtfulness and kindness of these people that know nothing about me. They are so willing to help us foreigners in whatever way possible. And oh my goodness, if you want to see smiling faces when walking the streets, then look no further. The smiles on the faces of the people outshine anything that this country has to offer. And though I feel at times as if they are laughing at our American antics, my own smile rises to present itself on my face.

For those of you that were not aware, I have embarked on this journey with 15 other young women from all over the United States. We each filtered in slowly but surely and we are becoming more accustomed to the idiosyncrasies of others each and every day. But last night, a few of us were reflecting on the idea that it seems like we were all handpicked by God to come on this trip. We have been blessed to find a unity and dynamic amongst ourselves that is not often found in a group so large and diverse. It has bled over into a lot of the things that we are doing, whether it be in our prayer time, in our classes, or during the church service.

Each and every lady is bringing her own special mix to the table and giving everything that they have. And God is working. In us. Through us. He is showing us things that we were blind to previously, and using each of us in ways that we never thought possible. We have talked to each other of our feelings and thoughts on what God is doing in our midst, and we are, more often than not, speechless to put it all into words. I wish that I could. I wish I could put pen to paper and, somehow, explain to you in a coherent way what is happening here. I fear I will fail to do so accurately.



. The classes or sessions, in which we have spent the past three weeks, have been absolutely life altering. In the first or second day, one of the topics of discussions was Whom God Calls He Equips. And I feel like those two words would be how I could best describe it to you. God called each and everyone one of us to THIS place, for THIS time.

And once here, He had to do a little bit of reconstruction work to get us lined up with what He desired to do. Callings were given and confirmed, mindsets were completely rearranged, and hearts were opened. Then, through divinely appointed instructors, we were given tools to better equip us for the calling and the mission at hand.



And I honestly do not know what is more amazing. The fact that God thinks enough of us to allow us to be apart of His work or to watch 15 young women let Him use them and put the training into action. It's as simple and as complex as that. It's cliché to say that you had to be there, but it's so true. Because then you would have seen what I see, you would know what I know, and you would feel what I feel. The people, the training, the services, the country, the experience. It is all working together to ultimately fulfill God's purpose here in Sri Lanka and in me.

