

July 2018

Next Steps Program

Ayubowan

Farewell Sri Lanka

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Understanding Culture

During practicals we were able to visit homes of believers and see how they live. Above is Missionary Bro. Mathiasz showing us how the family makes their income through net fishing.

Practical Ministry

As we travelled to different cities and churches we had the opportunity to minister in many ways. We shared our testimonies, led in worship, exhorted in short sermons, and participated in community service.

Team Building

An invaluable lesson we learned during practicals was how to work as a ministry team. As we experienced Sri Lanka we were able to grow in our strengths and stretch our comfort zones together as a group and all for the glory of God.

MEETING THE NATION

It has often been said, for it is so true, that it is the people that make a place wonderful. Sri Lanka is said to be the Wonder of Asia and I think that is no accident. Maybe that term was coined because of the wide variety and beautiful scenery you find here. However, I think is more accurate to describe the people you find in this land. One of my most favorite parts of our practical training was meeting the people of God in Sri Lanka. We traveled to at least 10 different cities. We saw many beautiful sites, but most of all we met and were loved by beautiful people.





ROLLING WITH THE PUNCHES

If you asked the NSP Sri Lanka girls to put our practical experience into one phrase it would be this one. Missionary Mathiasz taught us that ministry takes a lot of effort, hard work, discipline, planning, but most of all it takes flexibility. As a group and as individuals we were challenged to be prepared for anything at anytime .

As we were called upon to order a service as it happened, sing songs, share testimonies, preach sermons, paint buildings, and do construction work, we began to learn a new dimension of ministry and missions. The work of God is not about how talented I am or necessarily how well planned and prepared. It is more about stepping out in the right place and at the right time to watch the power of grace unfold in your life and the lives of those around. This is rolling with the punches. This is missions.

OUR GOD IS MIGHTY

During our time in Sri Lanka we witnessed many miracles big and small. We saw five baptized, two of which were a trinitarian pastor and his wife. At least 15 received the baptism of the Holy Ghost for the first time. People were set free from spiritual bondage. Love was given. Burdens were shared. Mountains were climbed (literally). All of this and so much more all to the glory of our mighty God. If I learned anything in Sri Lanka, and I sure learned a lot, primarily I learned that my God is mighty and good regardless of location or circumstance. He is good and there is no variability or shadow of turning in Him. "God is good, no more we doubt it. We know it's true."

Leaving Sri Lanka again is painful to think about in a lot of ways, but I know I am returning home much richer than when I left. And so I say farewell Sri Lanka and ayubowan, may you have long life. Until I see you again, I'll be doing my best to step out from the sand.

At The Beach

a poem

If life's a beach
 I think we're doing it wrong
 So often I like to stand
 On the sand of my own ideas
 When it's wet and packed together
 It seems firm enough
 But then the waves come in
 And my plans dissolves beneath my feet
 If only I would take a few steps forward
 To stand on the rock
 Then the waves wouldn't so easily
 Cause me to falter
 If I can trust the rock
 To hold me still
 Then maybe I would have the faith
 To step out on to the waves
 Where life should truly be
 That is where I belong
 So if I'm still on the beach
 I'm doing it wrong

