

## Sri Lanka

In mid-November last year, a perfecting training was held in Colombo. Three brothers from Taiwan helped us enter into the messages on "The Vision, Practice and Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ" and "The Dream of God's Eternal Purpose". Through fellowship among the local brothers, the goal to raise up 17 churches in the next 6 years was set. All the serving ones received such a glorious commission in one accord.

### Free Medical Treatment

In December, 25 saints working in the medical field came from Taiwan to provide free medical treatment to the locals, not only to heal their physical bodies, but even more to preach the gospel of the kingdom to save souls. During those 10 days the saints passed through 5 cities and treated hundreds of people. Many sons of peace were contacted and 7 of them got saved and baptized.

Following their medical services, this group of saints joined the National Blending Conference in Jaffna from 19th to 21st and shared their experiences of preaching and gospel and shepherding during the conference, which greatly encouraged all the conference attendees. They also declared they would come back again next year with more saints to continue in this service. It was a fragrant testimony of the divine love that these saints paid the price and sacrificed their vacation days to participate in this medical service. The Lord will surely remember them.

### Propagation in Mannar

In the National Blending Conference in Jaffna in December, a total of 128 local saints were present. The brothers spoke about the practice of the new way and encouraged all the saints to become nursing mothers to shepherd the new ones. Nineteen seeking ones came from Mannar, and 4 of them got baptized at the conference. We promised to visit them after the conference, but kept getting deterred due to the heavy rain and the tense situation around the time of the presidential election. All we could do was pray to the Christ who was administrating all things on the throne. Through our prayer, the Lord first prepared our being and then opened the way for us.

The rainy season ended earlier than expected in January and the roads that were damaged by the heavy rain were fixed, enabling us to visit Mannar and Kilinochchi for gospel preaching and shepherding of new ones. Our first stop was a brother's place in

Mannar, where we gathered the 4 newly baptized saints with their family and friends and had a joyful time with them. This could be considered the first home meeting in Mannar. Ever since then we have been visiting them every month. Kilinochchi is very close to Jaffna. A brother got to know many locals there due to his work and developed a burden to share the gospel with them. We went there to preach the gospel upon his invitation. Praise the Lord!

One full-time serving couple moved to Mannar in February for propagation. Then between March and April, several saints from India and Sri Lanka coordinated together for a 3-week gospel move there. They focused on door knocking during the first week, sharing the truth with the gospel friends and encouraging them to get baptized during the second week, and feeding the new believers in home meetings during the third week. In a period of 3 weeks the saints contacted 165 gospel friends and led close to 100 to call on the Lord. They also baptized 10 of them and began having home meetings in 10 homes.

Because of the heavy Catholic atmosphere in Mannar, the saints' original target was to gain 5 solid homes. After the first week of propagation, however, the saints were emboldened through much prayer to establish a golden lampstand in Mannar. All the saints coordinated in one accord and the Holy Spirit operated to gain the seeking ones through the interpreted word of God. Eventually the church in Mannar was raised up on April 12. In the first bread-breaking meeting, there were 23 local saints and gospel friends with 17 visiting brothers and sisters. All broke bread in one accord and praised the Lord's marvelous victory. May the Lord preserve the new believers in Mannar that they would continue to exercise their spirit, enjoy the pure word of God, be brought into the vision of God's economy, and be a strong testimony for the Lord.

### Jaffna

Two college students came from Taiwan at the end of January to participate in a two-week propagation in Jaffna and practiced the corporate God-man living with the saints. Together we contacted the students on campus and had Bible studies to blend with them. The Lord blessed such labor with many miraculous things. One morning as we were calling on the Lord by the beach out loud, a fisherman approached us. We told him,

"God is Spirit, and you have a spirit. God will enter into your spirit if you call on His name."

He then just followed us to call on the Lord.



We also told him he needed to be baptized as water was right there, and immediately he got baptized with much joy.

Another time we met a student on campus, who invited his friend to our place the next day. This friend got baptized right away after he heard the sharing on the meaning of human life. The son of a sister was recently recovered and began bringing his girlfriend to the meetings. Before long his girlfriend was saved and baptized. Praise the Lord! May the Lord gain a few core students in Jaffna to co-labor with us for a strong testimony on campus.

### Testimony on the Free Medical Service

Covered by the prayers of the saints, 25 of us went to 5 cities in Sri Lanka (Colombo, Marawila, Kurunegala, Kandy, and Jaffna) to provide free medical treatment. Prior to our trip we had much fellowship in preparation for such a time and had to prepare ahead of time medical equipment, supply, stationery for children, and message outlines for the meetings. There was much to prepare and we could only look to the Lord for His leading. By taking heed to the sense in our spirit, we packed light and yet lacked nothing. It was truly the Lord's doing.

This was my first time participating in such a service to provide free medical treatment overseas. It was more like a spiritual journey for me than a labor. We learned to give all the unknown matters to the Lord and truly experienced His all-sufficient and indescribable riches in all things.

A brother shared with us that our service was mainly for the preaching of the gospel. So we exercised to have much prayer in our coordination, looking to the Lord that we would be one with Him. Every morning we would begin the day by praying for the Lord to fill and supply us; He was indeed our source. Every day we

felt we were on a battlefield as we had to see so many patients and provide each one with the appropriate care; we were exhausted and yet full of joy. We were resting inwardly with the Lord even though we were so busy outwardly that we had to take turns to eat. One phrase that I spoke the most on this trip was

"Jesus loves you" in both Sinhalese and Tamil. The patients would always hug us with big smiles as we handed them the medicine and said to them, "Jesus loves you!" I had a sense of shame as I realized I rarely blessed the people around me back in Taiwan. So ever since I returned to Taiwan from Sri Lanka, I have been practicing saying to people, "Jesus loves you!"

Thank the Lord for His perfecting and supply on this trip. My faith increased and I was full of joy. May more young saints in the medical field pick up the burden to be channels of life through such a medical service. Our goal was not just to heal people physically, but to labor with God to raise up churches and build up the Body of Christ. This makes the Lord happy.



### Bangladesh—Propagation Testimony

When we first arrived in Chittagong, we were ambitious to do something for the Lord. But the Lord's ways were higher than our ways; He cared more for our being than for our doing. The first lesson we had to learn was to negotiate with the unbelievers in the matter of painting our newly rented house. The Lord led us to deal with our temper, let go of our opinions, and learn to submit to the Lord in all things.

In Chittagong we brought the saints with us when we went out to preach the gospel and visit people in the homes. We also got into Nourishment for New Believers, Life Lessons and semi-annual training messages with the saints. Every time when I felt proud and wanted to do something big, the Lord would come in to restrict me. And when I was down and lacking faith, my wife would secretly pray for me. We truly need the petition of the saints that the Lord would come in and that our end would be God's beginning.

On the one hand we were full of joy to spread the Lord's

testimony to a new city, but on the other hand we were in fear and trembling. This caused us to fully rely on the Lord. Seeing that the Lord had prepared a group of seeking young people, we labored diligently to have morning revival, pray and meet with them daily. In the beginning we could sense the cultural and language barriers between us, but over time they began to open to us. One student brother testified, "Although I was born and raised in a Christian family, I had little knowledge of Christ. But now whenever I read the ministry books, there is light and revelation. I can sense the Lord is near. Now I often pray to the Lord. He is a living Person in me!" Another brother shared, "Thank the Lord for His mercy that I can know the truth." Their testimonies touched us deeply; all the labor was indeed worthwhile. As Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20, "For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at His coming? Are not even you? For you are our glory and joy."

(Brother Jim & Sister Chen)