

## Sri Lanka

### National Young People's Training

A National Young People's training was held in Colombo from April 8 to 14. Forty-eight young people between the ages of 13 and 29 from 14 different localities attended the training. Some were on school breaks and some took leaves from work to participate in this 6-day training.

The message on the first night was to instill in the young people the need to see the proper vision as the next generation of the Lord's recovery and their preciousness and importance in the eyes of God. For this cause, they should prepare themselves in the following five areas: 1) pursuing growth in spiritual life; 2) equipping themselves with the truth; 3) developing good characters; 4) receiving higher educations and learning languages, especially English; 5) learning history, taking heed to the world situation, and knowing the Lord's move on earth today.

These young saints were also helped by the contents taken from "Life Lessons" to know their salvation, the practice of the Christian living, and what God wanted to accomplish in them. Furthermore, they were led to see the step-by-step experience of life from the time they were transferred into Christ to learning to obey the inner sense of life as well as the teaching of the anointing. They were charged to pursue growth in life and learn to experience Christ and manifest Christ in their daily living. Finally, awaiting the Lord's return and expecting rapture must be the attitude of every believer.

There were 3 main aspects of perfecting in this training: 1) ministry—delving into the ministry through daily morning revival to enjoy the Spirit of Jesus and take Christ as their pattern; 2) truth—sharing their enjoyment with mutual Q&A and cutting straight the truth with verse references besides listening to messages in the meetings; 3) life—getting into messages on life and spending at least 10 minutes after each meeting praying individually to digest the message given that it might be constituted into each one.

The young ones were assigned to meal services during the training that they might develop a spirit of serving. They were asked to be punctual and not waste food. Training messages were all



given in English to help the young ones be equipped in this language. They were also encouraged to renew their consecration to the Lord and to join the Full-time Training.

Meeting after meeting the richness of the Lord's word stirred up the young people to respond eagerly. In the end, many young people went up to the podium to consecrate themselves to read the Bible and to pray, and even to join the Full-time Training for 2 years. Joy and glory exuded from their countenance; they were completely different from when they first came to the training! May the Lord continue to mold and transform them, making them the young people who will turn the age and welcome the Lord's return.

### Update on the Churches after the Terrorist Attack

On March 4 of this year, 7 full-time serving ones from Taiwan came to Colombo for propagation on college campuses. Seven weeks later, on April 21, a gruesome series of suicide bombings broke out, which was the worst in a decade in Sri Lanka, and especially in Colombo. It resulted in 253 deaths and 500 people injured. The U.S. government declared that this was the most serious terrorist attack since the September 11 attacks. What was puzzling was that most of the suicide bombers were well-educated young people. Because of the bombings, all the propagation activities were forced to stop. But this only made the saints more earnest in prayer, especially for the campus work. We certainly knew that this was a spiritual battle, the target of which was the young people.

For about a month after the incident, minor discords among people would quickly escalate into major religious or racial confrontations and even eruptions of violence. To prevent further conflicts, the government imposed curfews and shut down social media. Patrolling policemen and military soldiers could be seen everywhere in public places enforcing security checks at entrances and exits of schools, shopping centers, and hospitals. Such fearsome atmosphere pervaded every corner of the city and was



infused into everyone's heart, creating a deep longing for peace in man.

The victims of the bombings were mostly Roman Catholics. The love and forbearance expressed through their families after the incident deeply touched everyone. Sri Lanka is a Buddhist country where monks are highly revered. Christians are despised minorities. But the Lord caused all things to work together even through such a tragic event for His name to be uplifted, Christians respected, and the gospel preached. One time a brother went to visit another brother. When he got on the taxi with his luggage, the taxi driver asked him what his religion was. He replied by saying that he was a Christian. The taxi driver then told him with a smile, "If you were a Muslim, I would have to carefully search your belongings. But since you are a Christian, I feel safe." This truly is the Lord's doing to prepare man's heart for the gospel.

For security reasons, the government enjoined all religious and social organizations to refrain from gathering in groups. Even schools were closed for about a month, Roman Catholic Churches everywhere cancelled Sunday masses. This was unprecedented. Christians could only watch TV at home for worship. But thank the Lord, as the Lord's recovery we take the God-ordained way of



### Prayer Items

1. Pray for the 2 sisters who joined the Full-time Training in Batam, Indonesia, in July and the 3 brothers and 1 sister who plan to apply for the training next year.
2. Pray for the cities which are open that the Lord may raise up faithful ones built up together to be the golden Lampstands: Biyagama (broke bread on June 16), Rambukkana (broke bread on July 28), Point Pedro (scheduled to break bread at the end of this year), Puthukkudiyiruppu, Galewela, and Nittambuwa.

## Turkey



There are currently 40 saints in Turkey; 34 of them are in Istanbul and the other 6 in other cities. The church in Istanbul is the only local church in Turkey. Under the Lord's blessing, last year there were 15 saints who got saved and baptized into the Lord. Many more Christians and gospel friends attend weekly Bible studies and gospel small groups. In order to meet the need of the new ones, in July we started a bread-breaking and prophesying meeting on the Asian side of the city every Saturday, while keeping the existing bread-breaking meeting on the European side on Lord's Day morning. And because the saints meeting on the Asian side have little children, children's meetings are conducted there as well.

The literature work in Turkey is a very important medium. Currently, the free publications from Rhema have reached 1700 readers. Last year 2 Rhema recipients got saved and baptized to become children of God as a result of reading the publications. One of them even brought her good friend to the church meetings and this friend got baptized this year. Ten hymns were translated into Turkish last year and a ministry book—Christ is All Spiritual Matters and Things—was published. It was the 36th ministry title in Turkish. May the Lord bless these publications. Please continue to pray for the online propagation of Rhema books that the Lord would bring more pure-hearted seekers of the truth into His recovery.

breaking bread from house to house and were not affected in any way. We continued to gather together in smaller numbers at home singing, praying, breaking bread, and praising God.

From May 17 to 19, we held a national training for the responsible brothers. Brothers from 17 localities participated in the training to address the new situation. Together we got into messages from the Spring ITERO. We became deeply conscientious of the urgency to preach the gospel of the kingdom to transfer sinners from the kingdom of Satan to the kingdom of God, expanding God's kingdom to every town and province in Sri Lanka. Our burdens were: 1) the responsible brothers must serve as patterns of being joined and built up together by having morning revival, prayer, and fellowship with one another; 2) every local church should practice the God-ordained way of visiting people and preaching the gospel and invite seeking ones to come and blend together every month; 3) we must raise up the next generation by perfecting them to become the Lord's army to carry on the fight for God's kingdom.