



Be Transformed by the Renewal of your Mind. Romans 12:2

Colombo Theological Seminary
Resources to the Church for the Transformation of Nations

INFORMATION

October
2022

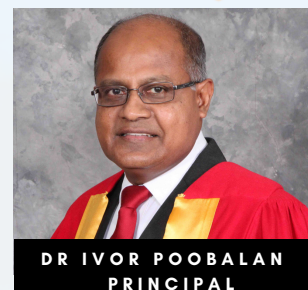
Compassion's Power for Multiplying Goodness

It was 1989 and Sri Lanka was in the grip of a Marxist insurrection. Both sides traded violence and inhumanity. Among the worst of atrocities was the enforced shutdown of healthcare across the country: major hospitals, children's hospitals, and maternity clinics had been ordered to stay closed. Doctors and nurses were threatened with death if they cooperated with the government and showed up to work. Hundreds died and thousands suffered. With a concurrent islandwide 'transport strike', the 'hospital strike' caused unimaginable misery as family members were unable to reach their loved ones and take them home. Many languished in hospital wards with none to care for them, barely surviving. Well into the 'strike' two youth workers were riding past Colombo's National Hospital when they came face to face with this spectacle of human misery. Overwhelmed by the magnitude of the tragedy yet moved with compassion they turned into the administrative section and walked over to find the director of the hospital. After allaying Dr Oliver Fernando's fears that a couple of insurrectionists had come to get him, they explained that they were from the Church: 'Is there anything we can do to help?' Dr Oliver was visibly fatigued and seemed greatly relieved to hear that some help was available.

In conversations about Christian ethics we rarely speak about compassion. Yet, perhaps it is one of the most potent weapons God gives us to overcome evil with good. As someone said: 'Compassion is your pain in my heart'.

on his own. Similarly, compassion caused Jesus to: heal many (Mt 14:14), feed thousands (Mt 15:32; Mk 8:2), restore sight to two blind men (Mt 20:34), cleanse a leper (Mk 1:41), teach the crowd (Mk 6:34), deliver a demon-possessed youth (Mk 9:22), and perform a miracle for a bereaved mother (Lk 7:13).

FROM
THE
PRINCIPAL'S
DESK



DR IVOR POOBALAN
PRINCIPAL

The verb also occurs in three of Jesus' memorable parables; each emphasising the power of compassion to multiply goodness. In the story about the unmerciful servant, Jesus tells of how compassion made a king forgive a man who owed him a debt greater than all the coinage in Ancient Egypt (Mt 18:27). In the story about a certain Samaritan, we hear about how compassion made him take full responsibility to rescue and care for a traditional enemy (Lk 10:33). And, in the story about the lost son it was compassion that made the lovesick father run to reconcile to himself with the most reprehensible son in the New Testament (Lk 15:20).

Sri Lanka has entered her deepest economic crisis in history. We are second in Asia at risk of starvation and malnutrition, and it is estimated that fifty percent of our neighbours slipped silently below the poverty line this year. As corrupt and greedy politicians and multinationals and regional geopolitical powers clash and trash in their mad scramble to acquire more for themselves, our vulnerable fellow-citizens take the brunt, and suffer cascading burdens. Like Jesus, the Church is confronted today by a humanitarian disaster of national proportions and the accompanying question: 'Is there anything we can do to help?'

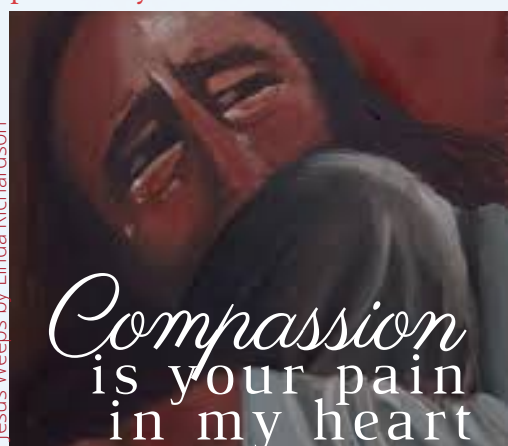
Following Dr Oliver's request the two youth workers returned the next day with some seventy volunteers from local churches. They set to work locating abandoned patients in the sprawling hospital complex. The serious patients were brought to wards where a small staff could care for them. Countless others were taken home by volunteers using their own vehicles. The mammoth effort took two days. A week later the 'strike' was called off without explanation.

Our society's material and spiritual problems are overwhelming. It demands multiplied goodness. Jesus has shown that the first step to generating such powerful initiatives is to let the sufferings of others move us in the gut.



'The Return of the Prodigal'
LUKE 15:1-32

Picture Credit: Grace Carol Bomer ©



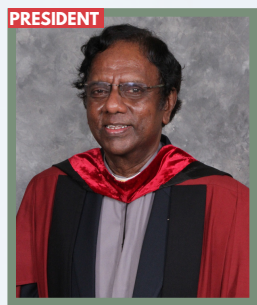
The unusual Greek word, *splangchnizomai* (compassion) comes from the noun for 'internal organs' or 'bowels' (*splangchna*). In ancient times, people thought that human emotions were located in the gut, and so they spoke of compassion as 'being moved in the bowels' - a deep and disconcerting sensation.

Interestingly, 'having compassion' (*splangchnizomai*) is only associated with Jesus in the whole New Testament. It is used twelve times in all: each occasion providing us with unique insight into how compassion moved Jesus to multiply goodness.

His compassion in Matthew 9:36 led to the appointment of the twelve apostles so they could reach more villages with much needed good news and healing than Jesus could achieve

COUNCIL AND OFFICE-BEARERS 2022-2023

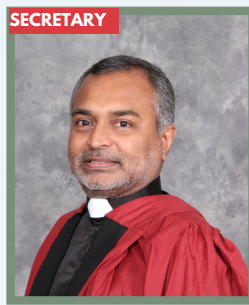
The Council and Office Bearers for 2022/2023 were appointed at the Annual General Meeting held in May 2022. Please uphold the CTS Council as they guide CTS to stay on course with her mission while navigating through the challenging economic and political realities confronting the Sri Lankan Church.



REV CHARLES N JANSZ
GTh, MDiv, JP (All Island)
Former President of the
Christian Reformed Church Sri
Lanka. Pastor, CRC Dehiwela.



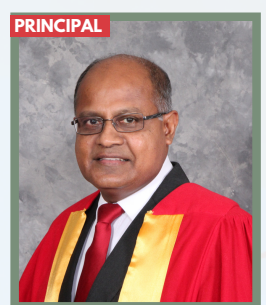
RT REV DHILORAJ CANAGASABEY
BTh, BDiv
Bishop Emeritus, Diocese of
Colombo, Church of Ceylon.



REV NEROSHAN PERERA
BTh, MTD
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God of Ceylon; National
Convenor, World Needs a
Father Movement Sri Lanka.



MR PRASHAN DE MEL
Senior Manager - Finance and
Operations, Transparency
International, Sri Lanka;
Missions Team, The Centre
Church.



DR IVOR POOBALAN
BA (Hons), ThM, PhD
Principal since 1998.
Co-Chair, Theology Working
Group of the Lausanne
Movement. Lay Leader,
Kollupitiya Methodist Church.



DR ROSHAN PERERA
PhD
Economist and public policy
specialist. Senior Research
Fellow, Advocata Institute.
Member of the Methodist
Church Nugegoda.



MR PRASHAN DE VISSER
MA
Director, Sri Lanka Unites and
Global Unites. Member of
Kithu Sevana Church.



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MS RUTH SURENTHIRARAJ
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GCF/FOCUS. Member of Canaan
Fellowship International Church.



REV DR ROMESH BULATHSINGHALA
MD, MA
Vice Chairman, Foursquare Gospel
Church National Board;
Senior Pastor and Supervisor,
Living Way Church, Colombo 3. A
medical doctor by profession.

'Keep The Saltiness – And Do Not Hide The Light'

Excerpts from 'The Annual Word' at the CTS Annual Meeting 2022

CTS President, Rev Charles N Jansz, based his 2022 'Annual Word' on Matthew 5:13-16. Speaking within the context of Sri Lanka's political and economic turmoil, his message was certainly a word 'to keep us motivated and moving on'.

Firmly stating 'As a Theological Institution we are first and foremost disciples of Christ,' he highlighted the two key purposes that CTS was called to fulfill: firstly, to equip CTS students for the work of the ministry; and secondly, to work for the extension of God's Kingdom. He drew on the two familiar metaphors of salt and light as used by Jesus to challenge his disciples to be agents of His grace.

The versatility of its use makes salt a powerful symbol of the positive roles a disciple is called to fulfil. '[Jesus] wants us to be a powerful force for the good... We should serve to check evil, stop corruption, prevent the world from going from bad to worse and be productive, fruitful, agents of change who encourage what is good, righteous and godly.

The metaphor of light reminds us 'we are not only to be active like salt, but to be visible like light. Jesus, through this metaphor, challenges us to reflect on whether our lives contrast with the darkness around us and if our mission and ministries, light up the darkness'.

How does CTS, in these times of darkness, continue to 'keep the saltiness and not hide the light'?

+ 'Let us continue with faithfulness to equip our emerging leaders to read, teach, share, preach and deeply live God's Word.

+ 'Let us continue to equip them with critical thinking skills, theological insight and a worldview that leans hard into cooperating with God's redeeming work and mission – soaked in Christ-like love and grace.'

+ 'Let us understand that knowledge and thinking skills are most potent when they are deployed by leaders who are deeply committed to cooperating with God's redeeming work firstly within themselves.'

Long Service Awards



Seven faculty and staff members were felicitated for their long service at the 2022 Annual Meeting. Pictured here from L to R:

Dr Mano Emmanuel, FCCA, MTh, MA, PhD
Head of Academic Advancement | 20 Years

Viraj Stephen
Library Officer | 9 Years

Avanti Perera
Promotions Officer | 9 Years

Nirmala Fernando
Information Technology Manager | 7 Years

Einstein Fernando HND (Counselling), BTh, PgDip (BAPC)
Faculty Member | 8 Years

Sanath Athukorala, BSc, BTh, MA (Hons), PhD
Faculty Member/Spiritual Formation Coordinator cum
Alumni Relations | 8 Years

M Waruna Sanjeewa
Assistant Publishing Manager | 7 Years

Saying Farewell

Cameron Davey

A graduate of Ridley College in Melbourne, Cameron completed his MDiv in 2013. He had taught for many years in Christian schools and ministered to children through holiday camps in Australia. Following the Lord's leading, Cam along with his wife Jess and their four children, Indiya, Shyana, Xanthia, and Lachlan, came to serve in Sri Lanka in 2016. Commencing by taking on the role of Assistant Librarian, Cam quickly learned the ropes. An inveterate researcher, a passionate learner, and a skilled administrator, Cam found an unexpected niche within the CTS Library. So much so, that when the then-Librarian retired, she was able to confidently pass on the reigns seamlessly to Cam. Under his nurture, the CTS Library continued to develop as a resource hub for faculty, students, and the wider Church. Further, Cam contributed to building up the Sri Lankan Church through his service as a faculty member, notably teaching courses on Bible books as well as science and faith. The Daveys stand as shining examples of incarnational ministry - from their involvement in the community of CTS and their local church in Sri Lanka to their learning of the local languages to the many friendships they have made. In August, they returned to Australia leaving behind a rich legacy of selfless and joyful service.



M Waruna Sanjeeewa

In 2015, Waruna commenced what he thought would be a two-year stint at CTS, and went on to serve for over seven years. A first-generation follower of Christ, hailing from the North Western province, Waruna's first introduction to CTS was through a CTS publication.



Having picked up one of Prof G P V Somaratna's books, he was excited to discover that such resources existed in the Sinhala language. It is thus fitting that having commenced his service as Administrative Officer at CTS Waruna soon went on to serve as Assistant Manager of CTS Publishing. His passion for building up disciples in the faith through the written word saw him tirelessly promoting the production and dissemination of CTS publications far and wide through the country and beyond. With his guidance and motivation, the Publishing team worked fruitfully to provide the Church with new written resources even during the height of the pandemic - including the translation and dissemination of the digital version in Sinhala and Tamil of John C Lennox's *Where is God in a CoronaVirus World?* As Waruna moves into a different form of service, it is our prayer that the Lord will continue to use him mightily for His Kingdom purposes.

Congratulations



We join in celebrating the honour conferred on Rev Dr Adrian De Visser and Mr Prashan De Visser, who were recently awarded honorary doctorates by Gordon College (USA).

Pastor Adrian is a Founding Council Member of CTS. The Founder and Senior Pastor of Kithu Sevana, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity for 43 years of ministry and his contribution to theological education throughout Asia.

Prashan, who currently serves on the CTS Council, is the Founder and Director of Sri Lanka Unites, and Global Unites. An alumnus of Gordon College, he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Divinity for public service.

CTS PUBLICATIONS



අක්කරු ප්‍රමාණය: ලූක් 9-19 The Prodigal Son: Luke 9-19
BibleProject - Sinhala / සිංහල
134 views • 1 month ago

<https://bibleproject.com/Sinhala/AnimatedVideosinSinhala/>

On the 8th of July, the long-awaited launch of the BibleProject animated videos in Sinhala took place. The partnership between The Centre Church and CTS has resulted in the complete series of the Luke-Acts animated videos being freely accessible - with more to follow. These videos, which innovatively present the Bible texts are now accessible on any digital device, and Sinhala-speakers in Sri Lanka as well as in the Diaspora can simply access them with a single click at <https://bibleproject.com/Sinhala/>

TRY IT. SHARE IT. SPREAD THE WORD.

PRAY FOR THE TRANSLATION-PRODUCTION TEAM.

'What is the Spirit saying to the Church Today?'

A day of prayerful reflection led by Dr David Chung and Dr Antoinette Williams

In collaboration with the National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka (NCEASL), CTS was privileged to host over 80 pastors and leaders of the local church in a time of reflection and prayer. The session was led by Dr David Chung and Dr Antoinette Williams from the David Chung Ministries International (DCMi).



In Memoriam | Sylvester Robert

Sylvester Robert, Maintenance Assistant, went to be with the Lord on the 28th of August. Sylvester had been with CTS since 2018, and we thank God for his faithful and willing service. His gentleness, and caring and helpful nature will be deeply missed at CTS. Please uphold his wife, Malar, in prayer.



CTS IN ACTION

resourcing the Church to face the challenges of contemporary times . . .

Get to Know a CTS Student

An Invitation that Changed a Life

Pushparasa Bavani hails from the Eastern Province. An invitation from a fellow-villager to follow Bible studies at a local church started a life-transforming journey for her family, which led to them to accepting Jesus into their lives and making a public profession of their Christian faith by being baptised.

Three years later, at a youth camp conducted by Youth for Christ, I responded to the call to commit my life to serve God. With my pastor's encouragement, I joined the Sunday School ministry in our church. Thrilled to tell stories from the Bible, leading children to God became my priority. I faithfully followed the Bible and taught whatever I learned - like Ezra. I was 14 years old.

After my Ordinary Level exam I committed my life to full-time ministry and started to read the Bible systematically. My church leaders encouraged me to complete the Advanced Level exams before starting theological studies. Yet, eager to begin, I joined a Bible School but stopped halfway because of my A/L exams.

Soon after my A/L exams I got married. During the early stages of marriage I used to feel guilty that I had 'failed' to follow-up on my calling. We were blessed with three children and it was difficult to balance family life and ministry. However, in time, a pastor encouraged me back into full-time ministry and suggested that I study at CTS. I was joyful that God had answered my prayers. Even though my progress has been slow, it has been steady. The courses have really moulded my thinking patterns and deepened my understanding of Scripture. Through the class presentations, I have learnt about preaching and making presentations; and, the group discussions have sharpened my thinking as I engage with other students. I have also been blessed with many friends from other denominations and churches because of CTS. Even though we worship according to different traditions, we don't have any denominational barriers now. We serve like brothers and sisters, like one family.



Bavani leading a time of prayer

EQUIPPING THE BODY OF CHRIST

A glimpse into how members of the CTS community have been sharing a Christian perspective on some of the challenges facing the Body of Christ today.

The Struggle for Sri Lanka's Second Birth

Dr Ivor Poobalan, Principal

[Click to Read](#)

Christians have served well as our society fell apart amid economic crisis. But we still have work to do.

Dear Pastor . . . You Can Serve Both Your Ministry and Your Kids

Ajith Fernando, Founder-President, CTS

[Click to Read](#)

It is not easy to be fully committed to the people we minister to and to our families at the same time. But the strain of doing both (the balanced life) is our cross.

'The visibility of the church in the time of crisis will determine its credibility in the time of nation building'

Dr. Ivor Poobalan, Principal

[Click to Read](#)

INTRODUCING CTS TO A WIDER AUDIENCE

බර්තනික 2022

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Dr Ivor Poobalan,
and CTS alumni,
Rev Dharshan
Fernando
and

Ms Deepika Fernando,
share their insights
and experiences
of CTS
on the SwargaTV
Programme,
Dharmabeesheka.

[Click to Watch](#)

'A Minister as a Leader and a Preacher'

A Leadership Seminar for the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka



Ministers of the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka participated in a special seminar organised by the Methodist Church and CTS on the theme 'A Minister as a Leader and Preacher'. Held over two days at CTS, the sessions were led by members of the CTS Council and faculty, and focused on the theology and practicalities of godly leadership and impactful expository preaching.



The CTS Trilingual Website

Making information more accessible in the language of your choice.

WWW.CTS.LK



CTS is now on Facebook

To stay up-to-date on the latest news on courses and happenings at CTS, visit our page on FB @www.cts.lk

How to give to CTS

Contact the Resource Development Manager (rochelle@cts.lk) for more details.

You can give in any of the following ways: Cash, Cheque, Credit Card, Bank Transfer, Online (USD and CAD).

CHEQUES Address to Colombo Theological Seminary (Account Payee)

Forward to The Principal | Colombo Theological Seminary | 189 Dutugemunu Street, Kohuwela, Sri Lanka

• If you wish to make an online donation, please contact us for details + 94 11 5524257, rochelle@cts.lk