

INFORMATION

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The Ministry of Encouragement and a Second Wave of Church Growth?

"We live by encouragement, and we die without it – slowly, sadly, angrily" (Celeste Holm)

"Encouragement is oxygen to the soul" (George Adam)

Mark Twain, the American author known for his witty sayings, once said: "I can live for two months on a good compliment". Never has an encouraging word or gesture ever gone unnoticed. From the cradle to the grave, we long for – even crave for – encouragement. Sadly, although encouragement is a gift we can so easily afford, it is something few people habitually share. Contrary to what many assume, encouragement is not an optional extra for our journey through life; it is an essential for survival. And, wherever it is found in high supply, one is sure to see strong and healthy growth both in individuals and in communities.

When the first generation of Christians was displaced from Judea, some travelled 100 miles north to Antioch. Being enthusiastic evangelists, they shared the gospel with everyone they encountered, and for the first time with a predominantly gentile audience.



From the Principal's Desk

Ivor Poobalan, PhD
PRINCIPAL

Luke records that "a great number" of gentiles turned to the Lord. I think of this as the first wave of church growth in the remarkable story of the missionary church in Antioch (Acts 11:19-21).

But there was a second wave - which required a second move on the part of the Church.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that large numbers of gentiles had turned to faith, they knew they had to make a crucial decision. These were the historical 'outsiders' to anyone from a Jewish background. How they handled this new reality would determine the course of church history.

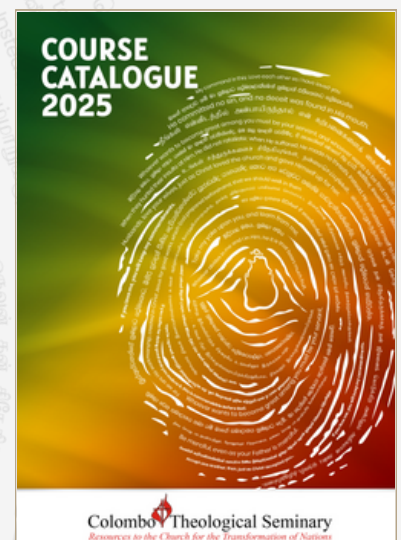
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COURSE CATALOGUE 2025 **THE IDENTITY OF A SRI LANKAN CHRISTIAN**

The cover visual for the 2025 course catalogue symbolically depicts the fingerprint of a Sri Lankan Christian. The ridges and valleys are made up of Bible verses that call us to be Christlike, with the outline of Sri Lanka in the middle. The background showcases the colours of the national flag. A CTS education is designed with the students' holistic formation in mind, and the transforming of head, heart, and hands within the rich heritage of Sri Lankan culture. The cover visual is an invitation to grow into the fullness of our unique God-given identity as Sri Lankan Christians.

[Click Here](#)

to access the Course catalogue
in English, Sinhala and Tamil.



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

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EASTERN PROVINCIAL STUDY PROGRAMME

Batticaloa, October 2024: In celebration of 10 years of forming Christlike leaders in the Eastern province, students, staff, faculty, and pastors from the region came together for a special service and time of fellowship. This provided an opportunity for leaders of churches in the region to learn about the ministry of CTS and how they could partner to strengthen the Church in the East.



Students leading a time of praise and thanksgiving in song



Provincial Studies Manager,
Rajaram Hariharan



Coordinator: Eastern Provincial
Programme, Arulmary Jacob



Students shared powerful testimonies of how their education
at CTS has transformed their life and ministries.



Students of the study centre in Batticaloa, with the staff and faculty

MARKING THE MILESTONES OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

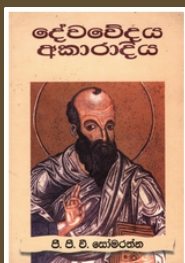
CTS PUBLISHING



Prof G P V Somaratna

CTS Publishing grew out of the growing sense of urgency to develop contextually relevant resources to support theological studies. The first fruits of this vision were seen with the publication of Prof G P V Somaratna's *Sinhala Theological Dictionary*, in 2001.

Today, CTS publications are available at its beautiful bookstore, at leading bookshops, and via online platforms.



Today, CTS Publishing has a title list of over 140, in Sinhala, Tamil, and English and has been steadily producing original and translated resources, which span theological encyclopaedia and commentaries, history, preaching, teaching, and worship-music and resources.

[CLICK HERE TO LOOK AT THE
MILESTONES OF A 30-YEAR JOURNEY](#)



CTS YEAR-END FIESTA 2024

6th December 2024: CTS students, faculty and staff came together for a fun evening of food, music and fellowship along with their families and friends. A live band led by students set the mood for the evening, with guest performances from staff and faculty members. This event, organised by the students, brought the 30th anniversary celebrations to an enjoyable conclusion.



CTS WORLD MISSIONS PRAYER WEEK

The annual World Missions Prayer Week was held in November 2024, and generated fresh enthusiasm in the community for continuing prayer as we pursue Christ's Great Commission in Sri Lanka and beyond. The focus was on praying for Sri Lanka, CTS, the Sri Lankan Church, and the World.



COFFEE WITH AJITH FERNANDO

In October 2024, students, had the joyful privilege of having a face-to-face conversation with Ajith Fernando about life and ministry.

The opportunity to meet with senior and experienced Christian leaders is one of the initiatives in place at CTS as part of its spiritual formation programme.

SPECIAL SEMINAR EMOTIONAL WELLBEING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

A special seminar was held in the Tamil medium addressing the emotional wellbeing of children and youth. The seminar was conducted by Nevedita Jeevabalan, a experienced child and adolescent therapist and counsellor. The seminar was conducted at the CTS study centre in North Colombo, in November 2024.





COLLOQUIUM

WHO IS "THE GOD OF THIS AGE"?

A colloquium was held in November 2024, at which Dr Ivor Poobalan presented his research for his doctoral thesis which argues for the re-examination of the meaning of the Pauline phrase 'The God of this Age' in 2 Corinthians 4:4.

Leaders from different denominations and organisations along with representatives from the Bible translation committee attended the event. Those in attendance engaged in interesting discussion. The proceedings concluded with a formal response by Rev Simon Fuller (former Principal, CTS).



CONGRATULATIONS

Rev Romesh Bulathsinghala, MD, appointed as President of the Foursquare Gospel Church Sri Lanka

Vice President of the CTS Council, Rev Romesh Bulathsinghala, MD, has been elected as the President of the Foursquare Gospel Church Sri Lanka, succeeding Rev Leslie Keegel (a founding member of CTS). Please uphold Pastor Romesh in prayer as he takes on the responsibilities of this new role.

IN MEMORIAM | ELDER YOO SUN AHN

Elder Yoo Sun Ahn, a firm friend of CTS for most of its 30 years of service, passed away in mid-January. Together with Rev Kwon he gave leadership to a network of South Korean believers, who made the commitment to support the fledgling seminary in Colombo, Sri Lanka, through prayer and giving. The support of 'Korea Support Mission' has continued through thick and thin. It was a special joy for CTS Principal, Ivor Poobalan, to share a time of fellowship with [L to R] Rev Kwon, Paul Shin, and Elder Ahn in Seoul last year. We thank the Lord for Elder Ahn, and pray for his family and friends during this time of grief and mourning.



HOW TO GIVE TO CTS

*CTS is reaching new heights because of the support of generous friends like you!
Your gift can make a difference to the training of the finest workers for the Kingdom of God.*

1 BANK TRANSFER AND FOREIGN REMITTANCE (USD AND CAD)

Talk to us for more details

2 CREDIT CARD



Pay through the
payment portal on
the CTS Website.

Go to www.cts.lk
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'Give to CTS' button
on the top right of
the home page
|
Make Donation

3 CHEQUES

Address to Colombo Theological Seminary (Account Payee)
Forward to The Principal | Colombo Theological Seminary
189 Dutugemunu Street, Kohuwela, Sri Lanka

4 CASH PAYMENT

Visit CTS Capital,
Kohuwela

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