



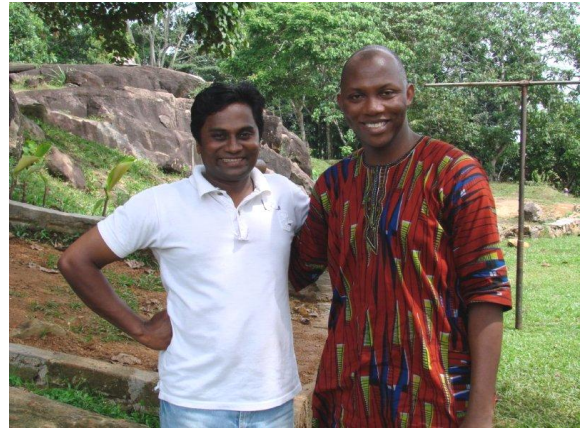
Dear friends and brethren,

after God has opened wide the door and Pastor Solomon got the visa for Sri Lanka, we traveled to Matugama (Sri Lanka) in mid-November.

First of all I want to say it was an exciting and good journey. God proved himself a perfect planner and coordinator.

First we had to overcome some oppositions and hostilities, for example through discouragement, sickness and organisational problems to the point of a mechanical breakdown of the plane which was discovered shortly before departure and could be repaired.

This reminded me of the word in Nehemia 6:16, “And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes: For they perceived that this work was wrought of our God...”



When we are in accord with the will of God, the enemy can do whatever he wants. He will not succeed in thwarting God’s ways.

Our brethren in Matugama experienced similar attacks. Because of an incident in Colombo the Christians were put under pressure massively by the Buddhist majority.

On the day of my arrival Pastor Ruwan had to go to the police station and he was forbidden to hold a mass crusade in the city. Some people even advised us not to sojourn in that area at all.

But it is all about obeying God more than people.

I am happy and impressed by the courage and the devotion of the Christians of the house churches.

They knew about the risk but their trust in God was stronger than the fear.

So almost all of the scheduled programmes could be held. Altogether we had eight programmes.

It was a big request of the local main church in Matugama to organise a three-days youth camp. The future belongs to the youths. They are the future evangelists, leaders and pastors in Sri Lanka.



The youth camp took place in a Christian rehabilitation centre for addicts in Bandaragama. Looking back I can say that this youth camp brought a spiritual breakthrough.

About 300 attendants came for the programmes and seminars. Among them many new converts, coming from a buddhist background.

The people there experienced the life-changing presence of God. Many gave their life to Christ and experienced deliverance from demonic ties. The main topic was aligning our life with God's plan and to ask what God wants from me personally. Many attendants were encouraged to commit themselves completely to God and to serve him with all their strength. Some attendants decided to give up their job to work for the Lord in full time.

One of the house church leaders told me the following testimony. A young Buddhist woman was invited to this conference by a friend. She was touched by the spirit of God, so that she asked for a Bible. At home she often read in her Bible. When her brother saw this, he became very angry. He threatened to kill her for betraying the religion of the forefathers (buddhism). He got a sharp kitchen knife to kill his sister the following day. But God spoke to him in the night. The next day he went to her and confessed his bad plan to her and told her that he needs a Bible to read in it. Praise the Lord for this. Now he attends a small house church with his sister. There are many other testimonies to be told.

I am very grateful for what God is doing in Sri Lanka. Through the spiritual connection between the ministry of ICCF Missions from Nigeria and Sri Lanka the churches in Sri Lanka are encouraged and strengthened. This I recognized when Pastor Solomon preached to the leaders of the house churches. By the help of God the churches will grow more and the gospel will also get to areas yet unreached. This is the plan of God and we want to continue to work on it.



I am also grateful for the opportunity of practical help. Before our journey we received donations from people which God has put in their hearts to help the churches in Sri Lanka. So we were able to buy foodstuffs for some families. Such a packet of foodstuffs is enough for about one month. Of course their joy was great. It is also important to think of the material needs of our brethren.

“...distributing to necessity of saints...”

Romans 12:13

As from next year we have planned further journeys. The churches are already asking when Pastor Solomon is coming back. God has opened this door and we are ready to continue serving the churches in the area of Matugama.

Thanks again for your prayers.

Yours sincerely,
Matthias