

THE SCOPE

Quarterly newsletter published by FOCUS

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Students are out on a limb - an experience that has been all too common over the last 25 years and yet we at FOCUS dream on... That the university ministry is indeed a strategic one! As you read this issue of SCOPE we urge you to pray without ceasing for this ministry and invite your church communities to care about the nature and future of education in Sri Lanka and for the growth & quality of the student witness in our universities.

We also say goodbye to Diyan de Silva, who has been with us for over 5 years, overseen the move to Waidya Road, eased a new GS in and established an administrative

structure in keeping with the needs of the ministry! His departure leaves a multi-faceted void and we place before you the need to fill his shoes and staff workers to spend time with and nurture the growing number of students!

The FOCUS AGM (27th August) and a new Council; the world Assembly of IFES (23rd July to 06th August) and the GCF camp (October 08th to 11th) are dates for your diary. We ask you again - your feedback on SCOPE, its content and whether you want it in your post boxes...





FOCUS on Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts

What part do the Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts play in the Kingdom of God? While the characteristics propounded by some fields are directly linked to God's nature and His work in the Bible, it needs a little more work to understand the linkages between God and his plan for some other fields. The Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts are primarily linked to God as a being. The Social Sciences and Humanities explore God's character and creations in viewing God as a social being. The very creation of Adam and Adam's relationship with God as well as his environment reveals the complex yet balanced nature of the Creator. God intended for a community to be formed – a community that depended on and supported each other's wellbeing. The relationship between creation and Creator too shows us that God was a social being. It is these relationships and the processes that emerge from, through and of them that is the substance studied in the Social Sciences and Humanities.

Sociology, Geography, International Relations, Journalism, History or Languages, all these fields are various expressions of studying the concept of 'God as a social being'. The Arts (or Fine Arts as we call them) are another expression of 'God as a creative being'. The creativity found in creation testifies to this aspect of God's nature. While the Arts understands and stems from the beauty and creativity of creations, the Social Sciences and Humanities seek to grapple with the gamut of interactions and relationships of the same.

I will focus on one of the above aspects in drawing a connection between faith and academic disciplines. Language has been a subject that has been looked at primarily through culture. I hope to begin from this point and deviate slightly to look at 'language and the Bible' in its own right. In looking at the connection between language and culture, firstly, different languages embody different cultural perspectives. Language and culture share a reciprocal relationship in the way they shape the way they function. E.g. When learners of English write a letter to 'Dear Honourable Mr. Fernando' they are laughed at. However, if they attempt to write the 'accepted' English equivalent of 'Dear Sir' when writing a letter in Sinhala or Tamil, their letter will be perceived as being 'rude'. These are ways in which the shared

relationship between language and culture are reflected. Secondly, without language there is no thought. While concepts are expressed by language they are also given birth to by the same. Without our grasp of the language, our grasp of the concept will be minimal. E.g. think of a 'tree' without attaching language to it. Entire concepts will collapse without the language to support it. Thirdly, in line with the above point, the process of naming/labeling and language become important because concepts and language are so closely related. While naming gives something/one an identity, it also distinguishes the concept/person from other forms, and perhaps frames and limits its scope to a certain extent. The reason for linking language to culture was to present a different perspective to it, as language is most often linked to communication. The attempt to link language to culture was to open up other avenues of thought and reveal aspects of language that are different from only communication.

If we look at language and the Bible, at Creation Adam and Eve communicate with God with ease. There is no mention of language and the communication is smooth and free. All communication indicates unity, balance and understanding. We see the consequence of the Fall at the Tower of Babel where human beings attempt to revert the command given to him at Creation. Human beings were asked to 'fill the earth' but the result of constructing the Tower of Babel was to also ensure that they would 'not be scattered over



the face of the earth'. It undermines the principle of diversity that God commanded Human beings to create. The judgment, therefore, results in the confusion of language (this was perhaps the birth of dialect variation and language spread) and the scattering of Human beings over the earth. The Tower of Babel was a consequence of the Fall but there was also an act of mercy in God's judgement. While some may choose to see the emergence of languages as a result of the Fall, I believe it was an act of mercy – it gave Human beings another chance and set them on the right track and it fulfilled the Creation mandate. God's judgment came in crumbling the pride and plans of Human beings, but there was an in-built mechanism for redemption in it. The gift of tongues in the NT, can be read in terms of a Redemptive act. The gift of tongues was a promise of unity in diversity. God did not choose to bless those who heard the disciples with an understanding of the language spoken by the disciples. Instead, he blessed the disciples with the mother-'tongues' (in the plural)

of the hearers. The difference between the two choices is important. It is one more



instance where God chooses to favour diversity. In the grand finale, we see the scope of the redemptive act being widened. The 'glory of the nations' and the splendour of the 'kings of the earth' signify the unity of nations, cultures and languages. The mutual understanding of each other's identity and our shared identity as God's people brings about the ability to praise God with our differences and honour him in the multiple languages of praise. At the event of Restoration, God calls for a richly diverse ensemble, not a

cultural monotone.

In this light, let's look at some of our struggles with language in Sri Lanka and attempt to be the salt and light. What can we do to preserve the languages and cultures of our minority linguistic groups (indigenous tribes, minority dialects of Tamil/Sinhala/English, Sri Lankan Portuguese Creole)? Can we prevent language death of minority languages through curbing the use of majority languages? Could we preserve the cultural identity of local languages? Can we find ways of educating children in their mother tongue as means of preserving cultural diversity in the world that promotes certain languages as beneficial? Can we think about the language rights of minority linguistic groups and set up measures to protect their language? Can we create awareness and speak up for these groups wherever possible, trusting that God will use the conversations we have with others to stir their hearts too?

Esther Surenthiraraj de Silva



Governance : A "good to have" or "must have"

Governance is a concept debated at many levels in society and has many a definition. Said simply it is the legitimate distribution of authority within any given entity. It steers the direction of

an entity, controls it and also influences the decisions being made which are in turn operationalized at the management level. The Board of Directors (BOD) governs the entity and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will be the link between the BOD and the management team.

A recently held seminar on governance and good practices especially for faith based organizations opened my eyes to

the many possibilities for FOCUS to adopt some of the good practices and also improve on the existing structure. We reflected on Acts 15 and gleaned some faith based principles for Godly governance!

Some of the key points that came through were;

- Good governance means wrestling with questions on values, beliefs, commitments & vision.
- Robust dialogue is the

cornerstone of good governance where issues are not dodged but discussed openly.

- Policies set by the BOD must be concise & clear.
- BOD policies must solve the problem at hand and affirm & advance the vision of the entity.
- A BOD resolution once made, has to be viewed as one made by the whole board. (A serious concern a member has over an issue can be discussed or deferred and brought out at the next meeting after much thought & prayer)
- BOD's also need to have a thorough process in place to evaluate the CEO's performance and the speaker pointed out the importance of a 360° appraisal format.
- The role of chairman as mediator and facilitator.
- The importance of classifying

the various risks faced by the organization and conducting a risk assessment.

- Importance of boardroom culture and composition and the weightage given to succession planning.
- Transparency in all the BOD procedures.

From the above points it is apparent that "good governance" is an ideal which is difficult to achieve in its totality. As a faith based organization we are more likely to be scrutinized over our governance policies and thus need to strive to achieve some of these practices. In faith based organizations our main accountability and the main decision making lies in our Lord. Yet should we

not also be accountable to those who dutifully fund us year in and year out? This sort of seminar helped me to realize that the need of the hour is good governance practices and the importance of such for FOCUS as an entity to look ahead and adopt such practices in the coming years.

Nilusha Fernando



GRADUATE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CAMP 2011

It's time to get together again to renew those treasured friendships and to re-look at life through the yardstick of the Scriptures

When? 7-10 October 2011

Where? Chinthana Centre, Wennappuwa

Please keep the dates free and pass the news around!

For more details contact

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FOCUS

AGM 2011

will be held

on

27th August

2011

Please keep the date free!

ගීතයක්, යැදුමක් : බලවත් මෙහෙයක සුවඳින් ඇබිත්දක් - "පටු අදහස්"



"පටු අදහස් නම් පවුරින් ලෝකය කැබලි වලට නොබෙදී..."
 තරමක් පැරණි ගීතයක් වුවද පැරණි අමරදේවයන් ශායනා කරන මෙම මියුරු ගීතය මෙ අසා ඇතුළුවා දැක නැත. එම ගීතයේ පදවැල් ගලපා ඇත්තේ මෙලසිතය.

පටු අදහස් නම් පවුරෙන් ලෝකය
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සත්‍ය පසුලෙන් ගලනා පිරිසිදු වචන කොහිඳ ඇත්තේ
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පසු නොබසින වීරය පිරිසුන් බව දෙසට දැන විදනා
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 පියාණෝ

2010 ජනවාරි 1 දා පේරාදෙණිය විශ්ව විද්‍යාලයේ සභාගත මහාදිරයේ දී සර්ව ආගමික අයුත් අවුරුදු උත්සවයක් පැවැත්විණි. එහි දී පේරාදෙණිය විශ්ව විද්‍යාලයේ රෝමානු කතෝලික දේවස්ථානයේ ගරු එංගන් පෙරේරා පියතුමා කම යාවිඤ්ච ආරම්භ කළේ මෙම සිංහල ගීතයේ මූලාශ්‍ර කාව්‍යයෙහි ඉංග්‍රීසි පරිවර්තනය කියවීමෙනි.

බොහෝ සිංහල කිතුණුවන් ද මෙම ගීතය අප දේශය වෙනුවෙන් කරන යාවිඤ්චේ දී ශායනා කරන බව මීට ප්‍රථම ද මම අසා ඇත්තෙමි.
 "මර්ධනයවේ යන සිංහල සිංදුවක්, යාවිඤ්චක් විදීමට, අතීත අමරදේව ගේ සිංදුවක් යාවිඤ්චක් විදීමට ශායනා කරන්න, පියසු ද ඇත්තම?"
 අප අතර සිටින කිතුණු කොයුරු කොයුරුන් සමහරක ගේ ප්‍රතිචාරය එබඳු විය හැක. එසේ ප්‍රතිචාර දක්වීමට ඔවුනට සාධාරණ හේතු සාධක ද සිතිය හැක. පුද්ගලිකව මට මේ ගීතය සම්බන්ධයෙන් එවන් ගැටළුවක් නැති වුවත් මෙම ගීතය ඇසෙන වාරයක් වාරයක් පාසා එය මගේ රට වෙනුවෙන් කරන යාවිඤ්චය ලෙස මා හදවතේ රැඳී දෙනවා පමණක් නොව, 18 වන සියවසේ සේවා කළා වූ මිෂනාරිවරුන් ගේ මෙහෙයේ බලවත් භාවය හා එයට හේතු වූ ශූන්‍ය-විය පිළිබඳ ඔවුන් ගේ ගැඹුරු හා පුළුල් අවබෝධය ද මා හදවතේ නිරන්තරයෙන් නිත්‍යාද දීමට හේතු වේ.

පැරණි අමරදේවයන් ශායනා කරන මෙම ගීතය මහගම සේකරයන් විසින් රචනා කරන ලද්දකි. නමුත් මෙම ගීතයේ මුල්ම පදවැල් රචනා කරන ලද්දේ රබින්ද්‍රනාත් තාගෝර් මහා කවියා විසින් වංග බසිනි. සැබැවින් මෙය එතුමා වංග බසින් රචනා කළ "ගීතාජලි" නම් කාව්‍ය සංග්‍රහයේ අඩංගු එක් කවි පංතියක් පමණි. තාගෝර්තුමා විසින්ම මෙම කවි පංතිය ඉංග්‍රීසියට පරිවර්තනය කර ප්‍රකාශයට පත් කරන ලදී. එසේ



1913 දී සාහිත්‍යය සඳහා වූ නොබෙල් ත්‍යාගය ද මෙම ග්‍රන්ථයට හිමි වීම විශේෂත්වයකි.
 පටු අදහස් නම් මෙම ගීතය පමණක් නොව, ටී.එම්.ජයරත්නගයන් විසින් ශායනා කරන 'පාර කපන නැත...' නම් ගීතය ද මෙම ගීතාජලි නම් කාව්‍ය සංග්‍රහයේ කවි පංතියකින් පරිවර්තනය කරන ලද්දකි.

"පටු අදහස්" ගීතය යාවිඤ්චය ලෙස භාවිතා කිරීමට සමහරුන් අකමැති වීමට හේතු ලෙස දක්වන පොදු කාරණාවක් නම්, එහි මුල් නිර්මාතෘවරු වන තාගෝර් තුමා හා එය සිංහල භාෂාවට පරිවර්තනය කළ මහගම සේකරයන් කිතුණුවන් නොවීමයි. එබැවින් මෙම ගීතය නිර්මාණය වී ඇත්තේ කිතුණු ලෝක දෘෂ්ටියකින් පරිබාහිරවය. තාගෝර් තුමා මෙම ගීතයෙහි "පියාණෝ" ලෙස කෙරෙන ආමන්ත්‍රණයෙන්, කිතුණු අප අදහන දෙවිපියාණන් අදහස් නොකළ බව පැවැය. ගීතයෙහි සඳහන් ස්වර්ග රාජ්‍යය බයිබලීය අදහස තරම් ගැඹුරු නොවන බව ද පැහැදිලිය. නමුත් තාගෝර් තුමා සිය නිර්මාණයේදීත්, සේකරයන් සිය පරිවර්තනයේදීත් කිතුණු ලෝක දෘෂ්ටියක් ඇතිව නිර්මාණ කරණයේ නොයෙදුන ද, මෙම ගීතය කිතුණු අර්ථ කථනයක් ඇතිව අප රට වෙනුවෙන් කරන ඉතා අර්ථවත් මැදුනක් යාවිඤ්චය ලෙස භාවිතා කළ හැකිය යන්න මගේ අදහසයි.

මා මුලින් සඳහන් කළ පරිදි මේ ගීතය ඇසීමේ දී මා හදවතේ නිත්‍යාද වන අතින් කාරණය නම් තාගෝර්ගේ කලා කෘති පසු පස ඇත්තා වූ කිතුණු මිෂනාරිවරුන් ගේ ශ්‍රවණෙහි භූමිකාවයි. තාගෝර් නොබෙල් ත්‍යාගයෙන් පිදුම් ලැබීමට සුදුසු වූ මෙම නිර්මාණය මුලින් ම බිහි වූයේ සිය මව්බස වන වංග බසිනි. ගීතාජලි වැනි ලෝක ප්‍රසිද්ධ නිර්මාණයක් බිහි කිරීමට මුල් වන වංග බසෙහි පෝෂණය උදෙසා විලියම් සෝර් නම් මිෂනාරිවරයා ගේ දායකත්වය ඉමහත් බව පැවැය. වංග බසෙහි ව්‍යාකරණ නීතීන් සම්බන්ධයෙන් වන මුල්ම කෘතිය රචනා කර ඇත්තේ විලියම් සෝරතුමා විසිනි. වංග බස දියුණු කිරීමෙහි ලා සෝරතුමා කළ මෙහෙවර හුදෙක් මිෂනාරිවරයෙකු ලෙස බයිබල් පරිවර්තනය කිරීමට සිලු උනන්දුව හේතුවෙන් කළා යැයි පැවසීමට අපට නොහැකිය. මහේද වංග බසෙහි පෝෂණය උදෙසා බයිබලය පමණක් නොව සංස්කෘත වැනි භාෂා වලින් ලියැවුණු වෙනත් පොත් පත් ද එතුමා විසින් පරිවර්තනය කර ඇති බව පැවැය. වංග බස වෙනුවෙන් ශ්‍රවණෙහි මෙහෙයක් ඉටු කළ සෝරතුමාගේ මරණයෙන් වසර 27 කට පසු උපත ලැබූ තාගෝර්තුමා සෝරතුමා ව හඳුන්වා ඇත්තේ "බොංගලයේ පියා" ලෙසය. සෝරතුමා බොංගලයේ භාෂාව, සංස්කෘතිය හා ජන ජීවිතය වෙනුවෙන් කළ මෙහෙය මින් මොනවට පැහැදිලිය. ගීතාජලි වැනි ලෝක ප්‍රසිද්ධ කාව්‍ය සංග්‍රහයක් නිර්මාණය කිරීමට උපයෝගි වූ වංග බස පෝෂණයටත්, තාගෝර් වැනි ශ්‍රේෂ්ඨ පවිටරයෙකු බිහි වීමට සුදුසු පරිසරයක් ගොඩ නැගීමටත් සෝරතුමා ඇතුළු ඉන්දියාවේ සේවක කළා වූ මිෂනාරිවරු අතින් පිදු වූ මෙහෙය මිල කළ නොහැක. "පටු අදහස්", "පාර හදන නැත" වැනි රසයෙන් හා අර්ථයෙන් අනුභව ගීත සිංහල ගීත සාහිත්‍යය පෝෂණය කිරීමෙහි ලා සෝරතුමා ගේ සේවයෙහි බලපෑම යැයි දෙසින් නොවුනත් චක්‍රාකාරයෙන් හේතු වී ඇතැයි පැවසීම අතිශයෝක්තියක් නොවේ. නමුත් අද අප සමාජය තුළ අමරදේව, සේකර, තාගෝර් ගැන කතාකරුවරුන්ට කතා කළත්, සෝරතුමා ගැන කිසිදු සඳහනක් හෝ කරන්නේ නැත.

සෝරතුමා එංගලන්තයෙන් ඉන්දියාවට පැමිණි බැව්විට මිෂනාරි වරයෙකි. මිෂනාරිවරයෙකු සේ මුහුණයන්ට ශූන්‍ය-විය දේශනා කිරීම එතුමාගේ මූලික අභිලාෂය වූ බවට සැකයක් නොමැත. නමුත් මිෂනාරි සේවය පිළිබඳ එතුමා ගේ අවබෝධය හුදෙක් "ආත්ම ගලවා ගැනීම" ට සීමා වූයේ නැත. සමස්ථය පෝෂණය කිරීම දේවියන්වනන්ගේ ගෙන් ලද වගකීමක් සේ සලකා හේ කටයුතු කළේය. ඒ සඳහා කම හලෙන්හ උනන්දුවෙන් හා වෙහෙසින් යුතුව භාවිතා කළේය. එහි බලපෑම වසර සියයකට වැඩි කාලයකට පමණ පසුව වූව ද, සිංහල ගීතයක් තුළ වුවද චක්‍ර අයුරින් හෝ විද්‍යාමාන වීමට හේතු වී ඇත්තේ එබැවිනි. දේව රාජ්‍ය හා ශූන්‍ය-විය සම්බන්ධයෙන් එතුමාට සිලුණා වූ පුළුල් අවබෝධය මෙයට හේතු වූවාට දැක නැත.

අමරදේවයන්ගේ මවුර කට හඬින් පටු අදහස් නම් ගීතය සඳහා සේකර රචනා කළ පදවැල් ඇසෙන සෑම වාරයක් පාසාම 18 වන සියවසේ ජීවත් වූ විලියම් සෝරතුමා ඇතුළු මිෂනාරි-වරුන්ගේ බලවත් සේවයේ ස්වභාවය අප හදවත් තුළ නිරන්තරයෙන් නිත්‍යාද වන්නේ එහිසාය.

සෝලිත දිසානායක.

Some Thoughts on Luke 10: 38 - 42 from an Undergraduate's Perspective

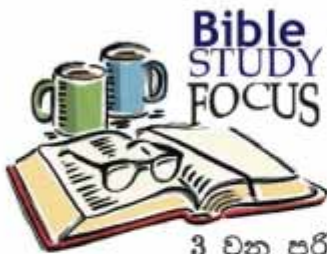
The well known passage begins with Jesus and his disciples being invited to the home of a woman named Martha. Martha, probably being the elder of the two sisters, with typical Middle-Eastern hospitality concerns herself with preparations for her guests. Her sister Mary sits at Jesus' feet listening to what he says. The stark contrast is thought provoking: Was Mary deliberately ignoring/neglecting her duty as co-hostess? Interestingly Luke uses the word "distract" (derived from the word meaning to drag all around/cumber) in describing Martha's behavior – suggestive of something more important than the kitchen preparations. Contemporary Jewish culture would have imposed certain barriers on women, largely restricting them to household chores etc., From this perspective Mary was guilty of neglecting her duty but Jesus looks at things from a Kingdom perspective. Of course this came at a cost – Mary is looked upon

with disapproval by Martha. In her accusation to Jesus, Martha merely refers to her as "my sister" instead of "Mary" – indicative of this relationship strain. Jesus' final reply would have been quite a shock where he commends Mary for choosing what is better.

The story presents certain points applicable to our university lives. We too have grown up with certain societal norms, stereotypes etc. that require courage to go against. And, just like in the case of Mary and Jesus this more often than not, involves a cost. Whether the norm in the university is to associate only with students from your area, or only those following your course of study or only with hostellers or non-hostellers, it requires courage to break stereotypes and build bridges of friendship as part of the choices we make as a whole to be counter-cultural. Even in our daily lives, with coursework to be submitted, assignments to

be handed in quizzes to be studied for and algorithms to be nailed, are we at the level where we are "distracted" by these involvements to the extent of neglecting spending time in His presence? Rev. 2:2 – 7 provides yet another parallel to the story – the Ephesian church to which the Lord says, "I know your deeds, your hard work..... Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love." For when it came to Mary, spending time with Jesus and listening to his voice was "what was better" and "the one thing needed."

Dilranjan Wickramasuriya



විලාප ගී

3 වන පරිච්ඡේදය

සෙරවදන:

ඉශ්‍රායෙල් දේශයේ අඳුරුකම යුගයේදී බිහි වූ මෙම කෘතිය රිටි පසු ජාතියක් ලෙසත් දේශයක් ලෙසත් ව්‍යසනායට ලක්වන සෑම මොහොතකදීම යලි සිනා බැලීමට උපයෝගී විය. ක්‍රි.පූ.586 දී බැබිලෝනියර්ස් වූ නෙබුකද්නෙෂර්, තම හමුදාව සමඟ පැමිණ, යෙරුසලම වටලා, අනතුරුව දේවමාලිතාව විනාශ කර, දුප්පතුන් හා මහල්ලන් හැරුණු කොට අන් සියළු දෙනාවම තම රටට

වහලුන් ලෙස ගෙන ගියේය. මෙම සිදුවීම පාදක කොට රහි සම්පම සංදර්ශයක්, සාහසය, යුද්ධය වහල්කම යන අයුරු නේමාවන් හි කුරිරුබවත් පළමු පරිච්ඡේද දෙක තුළ කතුවරයා මනාව පෙන්වා දෙයි.

- අද එතැන් සිට.....
- පරිච්ඡේද 3
- ප්‍රධාන කොටස් තුනකි.
- : 3:1-18 දේව උදහස
- : 3:19-33 සම්පූර්ණ නිරපේම
- : 3:34-66 දේව දාසයාගේ ඇදහිල්ල

3:1-18 දේව උදහස, බයිබලය තුළ පෙනෙන ප්‍රධානතම නේමාවකි.පාපය රහිත දෙවියන්වහන්සේ, පාපය ඉදිරියේ උදහස් වේ. පාපය විනිශ්චයට ලක් වේ. පාපය හා දෙවියන්වහන්සේ අනෙකුත් වශයෙන් බිහිස්කාරිය.

(මෙම දේවල්/ පුද්ගලයන් දෙක කිසිවිටෙක එකට සිදු නොවේ. උදා:- අඳුර 2 & 5 (ආලෝකය) මෙම පරිච්ඡේදය තුළ පාපය උදෙසා දේව උදහසේ ප්‍රතිඵල දැකිය හැක.

- උදා:-
- 1. රෝග-ව්‍යාධි-ශාරීරික අපහසුතා යන මාංශික රෝග ලක්ෂණ, පාපයේ ප්‍රතිඵලයක් ලෙස දැකිය හැකි අයුරු වටහා ගන්න.(පද3)
- 2. මානසික ආතතිය හෝ ව්‍යාකූලබව ඉස්මතු වන අයුරු සාකච්ඡා කරන්න. (පද 5)
- 3. සාමාජයේ ප්‍රතික්ෂේපවීම හා සිතහවුට ලක්වීම සසඳන්න. (පද 6,14)
- 4. මානසික අවපාතය, බලාපොරොත්තුව නැතිවීම, අපේක්ෂා හ-ගන්වය: මේ සියල්ලේ උච්චතම අවස්ථාව බව ගෙන හැර පාන්න. (පද 17, 18)

පසු විපරම දේව උදහසට ලක්වන මිනිසා, බොහෝවිට කැඩී බිඳී ඇති සම්බන්ධතා ජාලයේ ප්‍රතිඵල

**About
National Camp 2011
from the
Eastern University
Student Christian
Fellowship**

Greetings in the matchless name of the Lord Jesus Christ

The National camp was a fine experience and we thank God for this. We learned there how to act among the Christian and non-Christian students in the university. We also enjoyed and learnt much from the teaching techniques/methods used. The sports organized by the Jaffna Fellowship made us happy and refreshed. Bible studies were interesting and attractive. We students discussed the bible together and found the truths of the bible. The ultimate message received from the camp is "we have to dedicate our selves to the Lord Jesus and we have to do all things for Jesus, even through we are small in size. We express our heartfelt thanks to those who organized this camp perfectly and helped in many ways to end the camp successfully.

On the behalf of the Eastern University Student Christian Fellowship [EUSCF]



V. Jegatheeswaran
Faculty of Commerce & Management
Eastern University Sri Lanka
Batticaloa.

අන්දකී.

සාමය (පද 17) හා බලාපොරොත්තුව (පද 18) එකිනෙක සම්බන්ධ වන අයුරුත්, ලෝක මට්ටමේ සාමය පහා ඒ අනුව ක්‍රියා කරන අය සහ ලෝකය තත්වය අභිබවා ස්වර්ගික බලාපොරොත්තුවක් කෙරේ සිත් යොමා සිටින අයගෙන් වෙනස මෙම පද විස්තර කරයි. අපගේ බලාපොරොත්තුව ල-පුවට කැවෙන්නේ අප විපතට පත්වන අවස්ථාවේය.

3:19-33 සම්පූර්ණයේ නිරූපණය

දෙවියන්වහන්සේ අපට ආදරේ බව අපට වඩාත් ම පැහැදිලිව දකිය හැක්කේ කවර විටද?

දේව ප්‍රේමය අන්දකීමට අපගේ කවරාකාර ගති ලක්ෂණ ඉස්මතු විය යුතුද?

දේව ප්‍රේමය හා දේව උදහස යන කරුණු දෙකම දෙවියන්වහන්සේ ට ගැලපේද?

1. කතෘවරයාගේ මානසික තත්වය වටහාගන්න. (3:19-20)
2. විලාප ගී 3:22-33 මෙම පොතේ තේමාව ලෙස සැලකේ. එයට ඔබ එකඟද? දේව ප්‍රේමය ස්ථිර බව පෙන්වීමට කතෘවරයා ගන්නා වූ උදාහරණය සාකච්ඡා කරන්න.
3. ගැලවීම (පද 26), බලාපොරොත්තුව (පද 24) හා නිශ්චලව බලා සිටීම (පද 26-30) යන කරුණු අද අපට කෙසේ

උපකාරී වේද?

4. දෙවියන්වහන්සේ අපට අනුකම්පා කරන්නේ ඇයි? පද 31-33 තුළින් විස්තර කරන්න.

පසු විපරම

අර්ථ දවසක ආරම්භය හිරු උදාවත් සමඟ පෙහේ. අතීතය - වර්තමානය හා අනාගතය යන කාල රාමුවේ හිර වී සිටින අපගේ ජීවිත බොහෝ විට අපව අනගතයේ හිරකරුවන් බව කෝ අනාගතයේ පාට පාට සිහින දකින්නන් බවට පත්කරයි. දේව ප්‍රේමයේ ඇති ස්ථිර බව අපට බලාපොරොත්තුවක් ලබා දේ. එය දිනපතා අයුක් වේ. ඒ තුළ අප ජීවත්වෙමු.

3:34-66 දේවදාසයාගේ ඇදහිල්ල

ඇදහිල්ල යනු දෙවියන්වහන්සේ සමඟ පොර බැදීමයි. අදේව භක්තිකයා දෙවියන්වහන්සේට ප්‍රතික්ෂේප කරයි. ඒ සඳහා කරුණු ගෙනහැර දක්වනයි. දේව දාසයා තම පොර බැදීම දෙවියන්වහන්සේට කියා දේ. ඉන් නොනැවතී දෙවියන්වහන්සේ සමඟ නිරන්තරයෙන් සම්බන්ධ වේ. (උදා:- යුක් 18: 1-8)

1. මෙම කොටස තුළ දේවදාසයා දකින දේව ගුණ-ග මොනවාද?(පද 34-36)
2. අයුක්තිය ඉදිරියේ කළුර සලන කතෘවරයා ගැන කුමක් කිව හැකිද? (පද

39,48,51,55,63)

3. මෙම කොටස තුළ කතෘවරයා දේව ගුණ-ග හා අන්දකීම් අතර දෝලනය වන අයුරු වටහා ගන්න. ව්‍යාකූල බව අත් දකින අපට අද දවසේ මෙම ප-හිවිධය කෙසේ අදාල වේද?

පසු විපරම

දඩි කම්පනයත්, අධික සතුටත් යන අන්ත දෙකේ දෝලනය වන අපට පද 34-64 ඇති ඡේදය තව දුරටත් එම යථාර්ථ දෙකේ හිර වී නොසිටීමට උදව් වන දක්ෂිණ ලබා දේ. වරෙක දේව කෝපයේ ප්‍රතිඵල අන්දකින කතෘවරයා අනෙක් වරෙක පාපිෂ්ඨයන්ට දුටුවම් කරන ලෙස ඉල්ලීමට තරම් ධේරුමත් වේ. මෙම පරිච්ඡේදය අවසන් වන්නේ දේව රාජ්‍යයේ පරිපූර්ණත්වය උදෙසා කරන යාවිඤාටත් තුළිත්ය.

පද 66 කින් යුත් (22 x 3) මෙම පරිච්ඡේදය විලාප ගී හි ක්ෂේත්‍රය වේ. එම පරිච්ඡේද දෙක (විනිශ්චය සහ ප්‍රතිඵල) හා අවසන් පරිච්ඡේද දෙක (අරාජික තත්වය හා දේව දායා) එකට බැඳ තබයි. සියළු තත්වයන් තුළ දේව හස්තයේ ප්‍රතිඵල සෙවීමට මෙම පද 66 අප උපහ්‍රස්ත කරවයි.

This issue of SCOPE we bring you four students from the University of Peradeniya...

Vennila Thevarajah

(NSE Rep for Pera DC: 2008-2010)
Faculty of Science – Year 4
Statistics and Operations Research

Most people remember Vennila for her quiet nature and ever-helpful ways. She was born into a Christian family, but came to truly know Christ once she joined university and began attending bible studies and discussions. "It was really helpful to my spiritual growth" she says, adding that she has really enjoyed fellowship activities.

She says that entering campus was a challenge as well, describing how freshers are expected to engage in unchristian activities on the basis of 'university culture'. Her heart lies with the belief that "every student must get to know Christ truly and work for Him and establish the kingdom of God in our universities, and not be nominal Christians".

Vennila's future plans involve the industrial field where she hopes to perform well not only professionally, but also spiritually, establishing the kingdom of God in her chosen field.

Menura Jayanga Perera

Faculty of Medicine – Year 2

Unlike Vennila, Menura, son of an Adventist preacher, has dreams of full-time ministry after "a few years" practice as a general physician. He believes in using every available opportunity for His service and is considering the role of Bible teacher as a calling.

Menura is a critical thinker and recognizes the strengths and weaknesses of Pera DC, and is highly motivated to "get Pera future under Christ". He himself gladly accepts the challenge of being a reflection of Christ in a batch of medical students of which he is the only Christian.

He strongly believes that if you "never loose His hands, you definitely win one day", and lives his life in kingdom perspective, asserting that "nothing we happen to face in this world is of more worth than His kingdom".

Derick

Faculty of Engineering (Year 1)

Derick hopes to study aeronautic engineering once he has completed his bachelors and then become a pilot. He too admits that social pressure from friends is a great hurdle undergraduate students need to

**Meet
real
people**

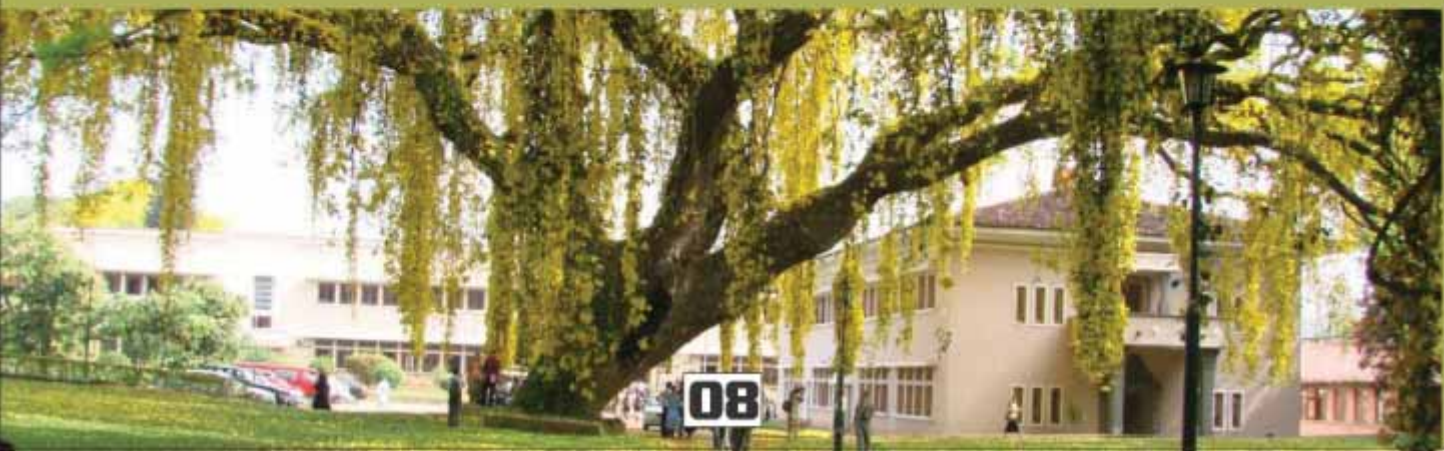


overcome as Christians; "Always remember you are a child of Jesus" he suggests. Though he regrets that he spends more time with his friends than in working for Christ, he feels that he would rather be more involved with Christian activity in the future, especially in encouraging his juniors.

C. Sutharshan

(NSE Rep for Pera DC: 2011)
Faculty of Science (Year 1)
Computation and Management

When his father, a non-christian was healed from a chronic illness, Sutharshan and his whole family came to acknowledge the power of Jesus' name and accepted him as their personal saviour. He continues to grow in Christ as he patiently awaits to know God's calling on his life. Sutharshan echoes all the other Pera DC students we spoke to, when saying that he "cannot talk/live like a believer" among his fellow students. Yet he pushes on to build and strengthen his relationship with Christ, looking forward to the last days and eternity with Christ.





For you and your Church – As agents of God's care over the University...

July 2011

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light"

(1 Peter 2:9)

As we seek to bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Universities in Sri Lanka and nurture Christian students in order that they will submit every aspect of their lives to the authority of the Lord Jesus.

Even as we call on Christian students to bear witness to God's love and concern for our Nation, We write this letter to urge you to partner with us in prayer for the following two issues that have arisen in relation to the University system in Sri Lanka:

First: **The Government's decision to compel those who qualify for University to attend a compulsory three week "leadership training" residential programme conducted exclusively in military/police camps and**

Second: **Negotiations between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Federation of University Teachers Association (FUTA) who are asking for promises to be kept with regard to higher and more reasonable remuneration.**

Leadership Training for the new entrants to the Universities

There is no doubt that Sri Lanka needs better leaders, and leadership training can be of much value to university students who will in their adult life influence significantly the shape of Sri Lankan society. However, this programme has been initiated without consultation with parents, schools, universities or other qualified, experienced and concerned educationists. The proposed content of this programme seems to indicate that these students are being exposed to a high degree of physical training and social conditioning in an environment conducive more to military training with an implicit exaltation of coercion, unquestioning obedience, disrespect for diversity, and authoritarian decision making.

And so we urge you, the Church, to pray over the coming weeks consistently for:

1. The Nation – As we increasingly encounter the growing influence of the military in civilian affairs of the country without recognizing its long term negative impact;
2. Students - That as they take part in this training programme, that they will not give up their spirit of critical inquiry and capacity for discussion, debate and respect for different views being expressed.

3. Impact of the programme - Pray also against the influence of a programme that portrays good and effective leadership as non-consultative and coercive. Pray that in this setting, young men and women who bear the name of Jesus would show compassion and courage in the ways in which they interact with their fellow participants and trainers.

Negotiations between FUTA and the Government of Sri Lanka

At present, the Lecturers of many universities have resigned from their voluntary posts - not teaching responsibilities - as they attempt to make the Government of Sri Lanka take their concerns about a poor remuneration structure and its ill effects in not always being able to retain quality staff, And so we urge you as the Church to pray for this significant sector of the Nation that:

1. The public and Government would recognize the value of free tertiary education system in relation to the long term good of the country.
2. The Government will not adopt policies that undermine the quality of our Universities, but rather formulate and implement policies that seek to attract and retain the services of committed and competent academic staff.
3. The Academic staff of the Universities - that as they think of ways and means to engage with the authorities on issues that are of concern to the University and themselves will model for the students a transparent and creative engagement in the interests of the resources made available to and quality of tertiary education in this country.

We write with prayer, that as the people of God – a people who are called to stand in the gap and intercede for righteousness and justice in our land – you will intercede on behalf of all; that any policy, decision or activity will contribute towards the collective good of all our people, whom God is reaching out in love. In the familiar words of the prophet Ezekiel and in the context of chapter 22 –

"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none." (Ezekiel 22:30)

Yours in Christ,



Dr Shantha Fernando,
Chairman,
FOCUS



It happens to be that Matt Damon plays the main character in both films which is not the reason these movies were selected for review but for the reason that both are very exciting movies to watch.



Adjustment Bureau simply explained, is the story of two people who have fallen in love trying to overcome the various forces keeping them away from each other. The script has chosen to personify these forces as an unseen Chairman and his Agents whose task is to make sure that everything in the world sticks to a certain plan set by the Chairman. Any diversion of the plan is adjusted by certain fixes made to happen by the power vested to the Agents by the Chairman who apparently has authority over everything.



HEREAFTER



The Chairman and his team are portrayed as the 'bad guys' standing in the way of true love. The final minutes of the movie depicts the intense struggle between Love and the evil forces against it resulting in Love winning in the end. The story changes a bit in the end when the personified force holding the lovers from getting together changes his/her mind and chooses to change the plan to accommodate it. Removing the Chairman and the agents out of the story line will leave it as a typical love story which would no doubt have been a good film. It's the twist of a higher power having control over your destiny which gives it a different flavour and makes it great.

on real people and real emotions and is wrapped around the power of human connection beautifully portrayed using the twins. It strongly portrays how life changing a near death experience is and very correctly portrays the life of a person who has an ability which is generally strange but useful to many. The movie emphasises strongly on an 'in-between' which evidently makes us wonder what lies beyond this in-between and whether these connections with the dead can still be established beyond that point.



The messages put across in these highly rated movies have been debated in theological circles for many years. While "Adjustment Bureau" takes us on a trip of twists and turns and grapples with Pre-destination and free will, "Hereafter" explores experiences and asks many questions on the realm of after life on earth.

Clint Eastwoods 'Hereafter' revolves around a psychic who has the power to connect with the dead, a female celebrity who has had intimate experience with the 'other side' due to a near death experience and a twin who loses his other. The story touches a lot

Few questions to ponder on related to both movies...

1. What are the events in your life which you think were pre-destined?
2. What are the events in your life which took place due to free will?
3. What do we believe happens after death?

Movie Lounge



Internship to Life

For the past few months I have been interning at one of the country's premier companies. At the start of this time it was suggested that I reflect on it and contribute to SCOPE, and I have been thinking about what I can say about an engineer's training which is relevant to the readers of SCOPE. This time of training has been a challenge for me to exercise my Christian values rather than just learning the technical aspects of the trade. So when some of you asked me the question 'How is your training?' my reply 'It's mostly a technical training' may not have been entirely truthful.

All this time I was trying to live by my principles and not to go with the flow. For example when some of my friends, thought getting selected to engineering after A/L exam made us special, I disagreed and even laughed at them for thinking like that. But during this training period I felt my inability to stick to those same old principles, even though I thought it was a pretty easy task. One thing that exposed my vulnerability to this way of thinking was the work environment. Since we work in mechanical workshops & machine shops most of the time we have to wear technician overalls. Machinists, trainees with diplomas and engineering undergraduates all become equal in appearance. However, others in the same company

working in the office wear more formal attire, creating quite a contrast between the two working groups. A simple yet suitable example is, how a girl working at the office will almost never give a second look at a guy in an overall (not that I care, by the way). This discomfort in losing the engineering identity showed that unknowingly in my heart I had gotten used to the comfort of being an engineering undergrad. I remember one session Avanka did at a camp a couple of years back on 'Identity'. She challenged us to get away from those identities we have on our minds, maybe the identity of our school, our university etc and have the identity of true Christians. Till now I didn't think it was this hard.

The company's work involves the import and maintenance of automobiles. Everyday hundreds of cars worth many billions are sold and some people spend millions more to make their brand new car look a little bit nicer and unique. It's a place where one sees people spend extravagantly on things that are not really important. Seeing all this I had to question myself, though we don't spend millions, how far are we from living truly simple lives that God calls us to live?

The training also gave me the opportunity to interact with people from various

backgrounds, positions and economic status. I saw some of the people lower in the hierarchy were suppressed not by the highest in the hierarchy but by those who were just slightly higher in status. I also noticed some people were being targeted & discriminated by their own colleagues. These challenged my witness as a Christian, questioning me whether I have the courage to intervene at least to a certain extent, even though they were mostly seniors while I was just a trainee. I saw firsthand how people who had wanted to make changes to the system conforming because of the resistance from others. I had to ask myself whether I am up to the challenge of standing for what is right, since Jesus never compromised on doing what is right. But in an age where everything seems to be done through negotiation, how can Christians grapple with these without compromise or to what extent can we compromise?

These were a few questions that rose up in my mind and challenged me during these past few months. Maybe we all know about these issues in society, but are we prepared (especially as undergraduates who will be in this same system shortly) to face these challenges and be the salt & light?

Buddhika
[SCFUM]



Introducing other ministries...

Wiping away the tears, bringing back the smiles

Kantheni and Samanthi's story is just one of hundreds, but sadly most do not end this way. (The girls' names have been changed for the sake of privacy and protection). These two little 8 year old girls lived a carefree life in a coastal town in Sri Lanka, that is, until they were sexually abused by one of Kantheni's relations. In a society where to a large extent sexual abuse is a taboo subject and carries stigma for the abused, the girls fearfully kept silent knowing that if the incident was discovered it would bring shame on them and their families. However they found the courage to talk about it when two teachers at their school conducted a special seminar on sexual abuse. These teachers had been to one of ESCAPE's training programmes, realized and understood the gravity of the problem, were committed to teaching the children how to protect themselves and to provide them with avenues to seek help incase anything happened. In this particular case, the legal process took 8 years and eventually the abuser was charged & sentenced while compensation was awarded to the children. These were traumatic years for the children and their families. ESCAPE staff visited their families throughout this process, providing counseling and preparing the children for the court procedure

In Sri Lanka, the statistics on Child Sexual Abuse that have recently been coming to light are disquieting: conservative estimates state that approximately 100 children are sexually exploited or abused in a single day. According to statistics

from the Children's and Women's Bureau, 2552 cases of child abuse were reported in 2006, of which 1651 were sexual abuse (65% of the total). In 2007, this rose to 3005 cases of which 68% were sexual abuse. In 2009, the total number of reported cases of child abuse stands at 3248. One can safely assume that these



figures do not convey the whole picture, as it is likely that countless instances of child abuse remain unreported each year.

In 1995 the goal of Eradicating Sexual Child Abuse, Prostitution and Exploitation (ESCAPE) saw the formation of this work in Sri Lanka as a project of LEADS (Lanka Evangelical Alliance Development Service). Today, 16 years later, ESCAPE functions as a division of LEADS, remaining one of the few groups in the country wholly dedicated to working with and for children who have been traumatized through experiences of sexual abuse and exploitation.

The work of ESCAPE is geared towards providing a holistic response to the problem. The Training Department runs awareness programmes for a wide range of sectors including schoolteachers, police and probation officers, childcare authorities, and religious organizations and institutions. The Care for Survivors Department offers therapy to affected children and counsel to their families, as well as legal support to those going through court cases. Where required, the services of lawyers are enlisted to give advice on the legal position of

each child and to be present in court.

A residential therapeutic centre, Kedella, is available as a 'safe house' for children whose abusers are still at large and may have access to them. Kedella was registered under the Department of Probation and child care as a Therapy center on the 1st of September 2010. Kedella, currently, has the capacity to provide care for 16 children.

Furthermore, a regional centre was set up in 2006, in Badulla, to offer services to those living out of reach of Colombo. The ESCAPE programme currently employs 18 members of staff consisting of professional psychologists, trainers, and administrators.

When leaving Kedella, one of the children said:

"My life was in darkness and Kedella brought back the light. I was able to learn many things at Kedella. I was able to share my problems which I could never share with anyone before. Being in Kedella, provided me with care and guidance. If I did not have an opportunity to come here I would have ended up on the road. Even when I was in Kedella I made many mistakes but I was able to correct them. Kedella made a big difference in my life and changed me and now I am a different person."

If you are interested in supporting the work of ESCAPE and would like further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

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அழுத்தம் (Stress)



நாம் வாழும் இவ்வுலகம் மிகவும் பரபரப்பானது. எல்லாத்துறைகளிலும் அனைத்துப் பணிநிலைகளிலும் அனைவரும் ஒரு விதமான மன இறுக்கத்துடனே உழன்று கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். "அழுத்தம்" என்ற பதம் 1930ம் ஆண்டில் உயிரியல் மற்றும் உளவியல் அடிப்படையில் பிரயோகிக்கப்பட்டது. ஆனாலும் இன்று மனிதனுக்கு வரும் நோய்களில் 75% முதல் 90% வரையிலானவை அழுத்தத்தினாலேயே ஏற்படுகின்றன அண்மைக்கால அபிவிருத்தி முடிவொன்று கூறுகின்றது. மேலதிகாரிகளின் கெடுபிடிகளினால் ஏற்படும் அழுத்தம், குடும்பத்தில் காணப்படும் முண்பாடுகளால் ஏற்படும் அழுத்தங்கள் இன, மத, சாதிய ரீதியாக ஏற்படும் அழுத்தங்களான என பலவேறுபட்ட அழுத்தங்களுக்கு மனிதர்கள் உட்படுகின்றார்கள். சக மனிதர்கள் மீதான கரிசனையும் ஆதரவற்றமான அக்கறையும் விலக்கிய நல சிந்தனைகள் விஸ்வரூபமெடுக்கும் போது இத்தகைய இறுக்கமான சூழல் ஏற்படுகின்றது.

அழுத்தம் எனும் சொல்லை அனைவரும் புரிந்து கொள்ளுமாறு நாம் வரையறுத்தால் உளரீதியாகவோ உணர்வு ரீதியாகவோ அல்லது உடல் ரீதியாகவோ எம்மை வருத்தித்திருக்கின்ற நெருக்கடிகளுக்கு உள்ளாகும் ஒரு செயலே அழுத்தம் எனப்படும். தமது தனிப்பட்ட வாழ்விலே தமக்கென ஒரு பிரத்தியேகமான திட்டம் அற்றவர்களும் அதிகமான எதிர்பார்ப்புக்களைக் கொண்டவர்களும் பெரிதும் இவ் உளநோயினால் பாதிக்கப்படுகின்றனர். குழந்தைகள் எதிர்பார்ப்புக்கள் அதிகம் அற்றவர்கள் எனவே அவர்கள் அழுத்தத்தின் பிடியில் சிக்குவதில்லை. அழுத்தம் எப்போதும் நெருக்கடியினால் மாதிரியே உண்டாகுமென கூற முடியாது. திறமணம் பதவியுயர்வு போன்ற நல்ல காரியங்களும் அழுத்தத்தினை ஏற்படுத்தும் அழுத்தம் எப்போதும் எதிர்மறையானதும் தீமையானதுமான விளைவுகளையே ஏற்படுத்தும் என்ற நிலை இது நல்ல விளைவுகளையும் ஏற்படுத்தும். உதாரணமாக பரீட்சை நெருங்குவதால் அதிகம் படிக்க வேண்டுமென்ற அழுத்தத்திற்கு உள்ளாகிறோம் ஆனால் இதன் விளைவு பரீட்சையில் சித்தியாகவோ அல்லது நல்ல பெறுபெறாகவோ அமையலாம் எனவே அழுத்தம் முற்றிலும் தீமையானதென கூறிவிட முடியாது.

கிறிஸ்தவர்களாகிய நாம் எவ்விதம் அழுத்தத்தினை கையாளுகின்றோம். வேதாகமம் அழுத்தமற்ற வாழ்வு (stress free life) வாழ்வதற்கான தீர்மானக் கூறவில்லையா? அல்லது நாம் ஆராதக்கும் கிறிஸ்து எமக்கு அழுத்தமற்ற வாழ்வினை அளிக்கும்மாடாரா? இவ்விரு கேள்விகளுக்கும் விடை ஆம் என்றே அமையும். பொதுவாக எம்மை அழுத்தத்திற்கு உள்ளாக்குபவை எமது

அடிப்படைத் தவைகளும் எதிர்காலம் குறித்த பயமுறாகும்.

இதைக் குறித்து இயேசு கிறிஸ்து மத்தேயு 06:25-33 வரையிலான வசனங்களில் தெளிவாகப்பேசியுள்ளார். அவருடைய வார்த்தைகளை நாம் விகவசித்தால் அழுத்தம் எம்மை மேற்கொள்ளாது. அழுத்தமற்ற வாழ்வு வாழ்வதற்கு வேதாகமம் கூறும் வேறு சில ஆலோசனைகளையும் நாம் கடைப்பிடிக்க வேண்டும்.

1. தேவனுடைய பார்வையிலே காரியங்களை பார்க்க வேண்டும். (we must see things from God's perspective) எம்மை சுற்றி நடைபெறும் காரியங்களையோ அல்லது சம்பவங்களையோ தேவனுடைய நோக்கு நிலையிலிருந்து பார்த்தால் அழுத்தம் குறைந்து போகும் மாறாக மனித நோக்கு நிலையிலே பார்த்தால் அழுத்தம் அதிகரிக்கும். ரோமர் 8:28 "அன்றியும், அவருடைய தீர்மானத்தின் படி அனைத்து காரியங்களும் நன்மைக்கு ஏதுவாக நடக்கின்றன" என்று அறிந்திருக்கிறோம்".
2. பகைகள், வெறுப்புக்கள், குரோதங்கள், முண்பாடுகள் போன்றவற்றினை எமது வாழ்வின் விட்டு அகற்றி விட வேண்டும். இவற்றுடன் நாம் வாழ்ந்தால் அடிக்கடி தேவையற்ற அழுத்தங்களுக்கு உள்ளாவோம். மத்தேயு 5:23-24 "ஆகையால் நீ பல்பிட்ட தீனிடத்தில் உன் காணிக்கையைச் செலுத்த வந்து, உன் பேரில் உன் சகோதரனுக்கு குறை உண்டென்று அங்கே நினைவு கூருவாயாகில், அங்கே தானே பலிபீடத்தின் முன் உன் காணிக்கையை வைத்து விட்டுப் போய், முன்பு உன் சகோதரனோடு ஒப்பு வாக்கி, பின்பு வந்து உன் காணிக்கையை செலுத்து". காலத்தினை பிரயோசனப்படுத்தி கொள்ள வேண்டும். (we must redeem our time) இழந்து போகின்ற ஒவ்வொரு கணப் பொழுதினையும் நாம் திருப்பி பெற முடியாததால்

- எமது காலத்தினையும் நேரத்தினையும் சரியாக பயன்படுத்த வேண்டும். எபேசியர் 5:15-16 "ஆனபடியினாலே, நீங்கள் ஞானமற்றவர்களே போல் நடவாமல், ஞானமுள்ளவர்களைப் போலக் கவனமாய் நடந்து..... காலத்தை பிரயோசனப்படுத்திக் கொள்ளுங்கள்".
4. சகலவற்றையும் ஜெபத்திலே தேவனுக்கு தெரியப்படுத்துங்கள். (Give everything to God in prayer) பிலிப்பியர் 4:6-7 "நீங்கள் ஒன்றிற்கும் கவலைப்படாமல், எல்லாவற்றையும் குறித்து உங்கள் விண்ணப்பங்களை எதிர்கூடிய ஜெபத்தினாலும் வேண்டுகின்றீர்கள். தேவனுக்குத் தெரியப்படுத்துங்கள். அப்பொழுது எல்லாப் புகழ்க்கும் மேலான தேவ சமாதானம் உங்கள் இருதயங்களையும் உங்கள் சிந்தனைகளையும் கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவுக்குள்ளாக காத்துக் கொள்ளும்".
5. தேவனுடைய வார்த்தையை நம்பி விகவாசிக்க வேண்டும். (Trust in God's word) ரோமர் 15:4 "தேவ வசனத்தினால் உண்டாகும் பொறுமையினாலும் ஆறுதலினாலும் நாம் நம்பிக்கை உள்ளவர்களாகும் படிக்கு முன்பு எழுதியிருக்கிறவைகள் எல்லாம் நமக்குப் போதனையாக எழுதியிருக்கிறது".
6. ஒருவரோடு ஒருவர் ஐக்கியமாக இருக்க வேண்டும். (Fellowship with one another) ஐக்கியம் எப்போதும் எம்மை அழுத்தத்தில் இருந்து காக்கிறது. நம்பிக்கையான இனொருவரோடு எம்பிரச்சினையை பகிர்ந்து கொள்வதால் அழுத்தம் குறைக்கப்படுவதுடன் ஆக்கபூர்வமான தீர்வுகளும் கிடைக்கலாம். மற்றவர்களைப் பகிரிந்து கொள்ளாமல் காரியங்களை எமக்குள்ளே மறைத்து வைப்பது அழுத்தத்தினை அதிகரிக்கும் மாறாக மற்றவர்களோடு பகிர்ந்து கொள்ளும் போது அறுதலும் ஆலோசனையும் உற்சாகப்படுத்தலும் அன்பும் வெளிப்படுகின்றது. ரோமர் 15:30 "மேலும் சகோதரரே தேவ



சித்தத்தினாலே நான் சத்தொஷத்தானே உங்களிடத்து வந்து உங்களோடு இளைப்பாறும் படியாக”

இவைகளோடு நாம் அழுத்தினை தவிப்பதற்காக இன்னும் சில சாதாரண உக்திகளையும் பயன்படுத்தலாம்.

1. முன்னுரிமை கொடுக்க வேண்டிய வேலைக்கு முன்னுரிமை கொடுத்தல்.
2. செய்ய முடியாத வேலைகளுக்கு முடியாது என கூறுதல்.
3. எதை செய்தாலும் முன் கூட்டியே திட்டமிட்டு செய்யுங்கள். கடைசிறேன் வரை காத்திருக்க வேண்டாம்.
4. எங்கு சென்றாலும் குறைந்தது ஐந்து நிமிடங்கள் முன்பாகச் செல்லுங்கள்.
5. வீட்டினுள் பொருட்களை அதனதன் இடத்திலே வைப்புகள். அவசரமாக தேடுகையில் அகப்படாத பொருள்

அழுத்தத்தினை ஏற்படுத்தும்.

6. கடந்ததை நினைத்து வருந்துவதை தவிருங்கள்.
7. ஒரு காலத்தில் செய்ய வேண்டிய வேலைகளை எழுதிசெய்யும் நேரத்தினையும் குறித்து செயற்படுங்கள்.
8. ஒரு வேலை தடைப்பட்டால் மற்ற வேலை செய்வதற்கான மாற்று யோசனையை கைவசம் வைத்திருங்கள்.
9. செல்லாமிடம் புதிய இடமானால் அதற்கான வழியை முதலிலே தெளிவாக கேட்டு குறித்து வைப்புகள்.
10. தூர இடம்செல்ல வேண்டி இருப்பின் அதற்கான ஆயத்தங்களை முன்னமே செய்யுங்கள் (உடைகள், பொருட்கள் என்பவற்றை ஒழுங்குபடுத்தல்)
11. காத்திருப்பது சிரமம் என்று கருதினால் ஒரு புத்தகத்தை கையில் வைத்திருந்து அதை இனிமையாக்குங்கள்.
12. எப்போதும் நேராகவே சிந்தியுங்கள். எதிர்மறைச்

சிந்தனைகளை மேற்கொள்ளுங்கள்.

13. சிறிது நேரம் எந்தத் தொந்தரவுமின்றி ஓய்வு எடுங்கள் (கைத் தொலைபேசிகளையும் தொலைபேசிகளையும் (land phone) சற்று நேரம் நிறுத்தி வைப்புகள்)
 14. மற்றவர்களுக்காக எதையாவது செய்யப்படுங்கள்.
 15. தினமும் உங்கள் மனதிற்கு மகிழ்ச்சி தரக் கூடிய ஒன்றிண்டு காரியங்களை செய்யுங்கள்.
- இவற்றிலே சுறுபட்ட காரியங்களை நாம் மனப்பூர்வமாக செய்தால் அழுத்தமற்ற ஆரோக்கியமான வாழ்வு வாழலாம்.
- “தேவன் நாமே உங்களை ஆசீர்வதிப்பாராக”

'ReThink-ReImagine-ReLive' - National Camp - Jaffna April 9th to 12th

NSE Report



Since the last SCOPE its been an active time for the NSE & all the fellowship members. Having the National Students Conference 2011 themed 'ReThink-ReImagine-ReLive', on last April from 9th – 12th in Jaffna helped most people to have a time of learning & to get to know many new people from around the country. It was really a good effort from all, especially from students involved since this time most of the responsibilities were taken by them. We held the NSE AGM as a part of the National Student Conference since it allows more students from different fellowships to get to know about the NSE & God's ministry within universities.

One of the main issues the Sri Lankan university community faced during the past couple of months was the government's introduction of training sessions for new university entrants. There were many

questions raised regarding this idea. As the NSE, we discussed the pros & cons, how it will affect the current system and also whether we should write a letter to the Higher Education Ministry.

The other main issue within the

It is very encouraging to see new student groups forming from Kelaniya university, Ragama Medical faculty & NIBM who are interested in having fellowships there. One of our students at Uva wellassa has contacts at the Sabaragamuwa University and we hope that we would be able to

at Rajarata and Sabaragamuwa
· Pray for everyone working on the FOCUS website

-Buddhika Hapuwatte (NSE Chairperson)



university system is the trade union action taken by the lecturers. Because of this most of the students are free from lectures. Since this happened, 3 Jaffna university students along with Pahee, our Jaffna staff worker came, stayed at the FOCUS office for a week so that they could study the book 'Thy Kingdom Come' authored by Dr Vinoth Ramachandra. During this time the Colombo region fellowships were able to provide them with breakfast and we also had an evening-out together which gave us an opportunity to bond with each other. There is also a study series planned from 23rd June to end July on Thursday evenings for the Colombo region students within this time.

Core members of each fellowship in the Colombo region and the Jaffna students in Colombo met at the FOCUS office on 14th June to work on their fellowship plans for the next six months. We looked again at what our understanding of mission is and planned our next steps

pioneer a fellowship there within the coming year. Since internet is very much in use as a communication tool we thought of re-working the FOCUS website to help with communicating our mission, our activities & events and prayer needs. Currently Janith, a student in the SCFUM is working on this with some graduates to identify the necessary changes.

We would like to ask you to keep us in your prayer, especially with the following prayer points:

- Pray for issues in universities especially about the closure
- Pray for students for guidance to identify and use these free times as an opportunity to cultivate their faith, understand their mission and become more involved in campus ministry
- Pray for the new NSE, especially to have guidance & strength from the Lord
- Pray for the students in the 3 new fellowships- Kelaniya, Ragama & NIBM
- Pray for the pioneering efforts

University of Colombo Christian Fellowship (UCCF)

UCCF conducted a Jumble Sale at the Christian Reformed Church, Wellawatte on the 31st of March and 1st and 2nd of April. The aim of the project was to raise funds for the National Camp. We thank God and all the graduates who helped us make the event a success.

Many fellowship members attended the FOCUS National Camp which was held from the 8th-12th of April. We were all blessed because of camp, as it gave us the opportunity to bond as a fellowship and to make friends with those from other fellowships. We are grateful to God for camp.

Unfortunately we were unable to meet during the month of April due to the New Year holidays. We are happy to note however that in the months of May and June we have conducted bible studies on how to grow stronger as a fellowship



and on evangelism. We also had a day of praise and worship where we had a time of testimony which was very encouraging for all those who were there.

At FOCUS we are encouraged to speak the good news to our fellow students. Keeping this in mind UCCF organised a series focusing on evangelism. The series includes

- An introduction to evangelism and what the good news is.
- Show a video that explains the good news further.
- Organise a discussion focusing on the challenges in sharing the good news and on finding solutions to these challenges.

In addition to this programme we also pray regularly for our non-Christian friends and we request that you would keep this aspect of our ministry in your prayers.

We hope that you will keep UCCF in your prayers. Please pray that we will grow closer to God and to each other through the fellowship. Also pray that fellowship members will act on what they learn at fellowship meetings.

Student Christian Fellowship of the University of Moratuwa (SCFUM)

During the past few months 3 of our members conducted Bible studies. This helped these members, and the others in the fellowship to mature in their personal walk with God. Yohan aiya visited the fellowship one week, and discussed about the issues, problems and questions that the members faced during their quiet times. This helped

MONDAYS

FOR ALL STUDENTS

- That they will learn the art (and science?) of developing an enquiring mind;
- For students away from home and confronted with issues of loneliness, finances, managing time, fears about their future and new found freedom and relationships
- That they will allow themselves the space to widen their interests outside their academic discipline, and make friendships outside their own social circle
- That their experience of university life will be a positive and learning one
- For hearts and minds that seek God and are sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit

TUESDAYS

FOR OUR FELLOWSHIPS AND CHRISTIAN STUDENTS - THAT THEY WILL DEVELOP

- A desire to know God, and to understand scriptures
- A discipline of personal & corporate prayer and bible study
- A commitment to allow the scriptures to shape their thinking, lifestyles and understanding of the world (develop a Christian worldview)
- A desire to read widely
- Fellowships that will nurture students, provide a space for discussion and be a witness to the students around them
- The ability to manage their time
- An increasing awareness of their calling to be a student within their university, and so have an increasing understanding of what the gospel is and be willing to sensitively invite others to faith in Jesus.
- Students who will give Godly and enthusiastic leadership to the fellowships

(University Fellowships @ Peradeniya; Colombo; Keleniya; Ragama Medical; Moratuwa; Jaffna; Eastern; Sri J'Pura)
(Student contacts @ Rajarata; Sabaragamuwa)

WEDNESDAYS

FOR EACH UNIVERSITY AND TERTIARY INSTITUTION - IN SRI LANKA -

- For a faithful student witness to develop in every University
- An academic and administrative structure that will encourage and stimulate a love of ideas, an enquiring spirit, disciplined study and creativity
- Availability of Optimal Resources in Finances, Equipment and Academic & Administrative Staff and the creative use of these resources for maximal effect
- For a faithful student witness to develop in every University
- To learn the art of the possible! That our Universities will become flexible enough to expand their intake as well as explore possibilities of new courses which will increase opportunities for a larger % of students wanting tertiary education



THURSDAYS

FOR CHRISTIAN GRADUATES - IN SERVICE TO THE CHURCH, SOCIETY & THE STUDENT WORLD

- The commitment to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ will continue and develop even as they face the different tensions of life within the family, church and workplace.
- That Graduates will become members of their local churches, and contribute to the life and witness of their churches giving of their gifts and training and time
- For God's hand and presence over those who find it difficult to find employment after graduation; affected by the war - experiencing fear, pain and loss and especially those in the North and the East, those who go overseas for post graduate study and face the pressures of finances, loneliness and the pressures of a different culture and those who migrate to make their homes elsewhere.
- Continue their spiritual journey by making the time to study scriptures and engaging with issues in society through the lens of faith.
- Be a witness for Christ and critically integrate their faith and life within their communities, work-place, professional disciplines and Nation.
- Commit to regularly praying for the student ministry and the campuses in Sri Lanka and be available as a resource for the student ministry by sharing their time, homes, and teaching skills
- Contribute towards the financial needs of the student ministry
- Help in the production of suitable publications/translations necessary for the student ministry and the Church

FRIDAYS

FOR STAFF OF FOCUS

- Kolitha Dissanayake, Yohan Abeynaike, Lakshmi Alexander, Y Paheerathan, Diyan de Silva, Savithri Sumanthiran
- That we will be disciplined in our spiritual disciplines, the way we plan our work and in the activities we do.
- For perseverance and the ability to trust God for the results!
- To understand our individual strengths and gifts and to know what our priorities are
- To mature in character, develop our thinking & faith & understanding of the nature of our ministry and for rest
- For the gift of empathy and the ability to understand real needs and issues
- For the gift of asking the right questions and role modeling right relationships

SATURDAYS

FOR THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

- For the composition of the new Council for 2011/2012 and their contribution to the ministry during the year - for Godly men and women with the right skills, time and commitment who will make board meetings a priority and actively participate in Board discussions.
- That the Council will be prayerful; for the gift of discernment and open discussion and for the processes we employ in policy & decision making
- Will encourage, equip and enable the ministry of FOCUS by their deliberations and decisions
- Be an ambassador for FOCUS
- Safeguard the vision and values of the student ministry.

members share their faith and ideas on some difficult passages in the Bible. We discussed a SCOPE article which was in Tamil. One of our Tamil speaking students explained the contents of the article in English. Since these kinds of activities encourage members to read SCOPE, we plan to continue this practice of reading Sinhala and Tamil articles of SCOPE during the fellowship meetings.

Prof. Amal Kumarage invited the fellowship to visit his place in June. The members went on a boat ride, and played games and had a great time. This event helped all the members to get together and build a closer friendship with each other. We are very thankful to Prof. Amal and his family, and we also thank God for blessing SCFUM with dedicated and helpful lecturers.

We updated the SCFUM notice board recently, after it had lain dormant for about 2 years. We hope to keep it regularly updated and believe that this will help in spreading the good news within the university.

Please pray for the Trade Union action of the university lecturers, so that it will be resolved soon and the students will continue the regular lectures.

Jayewardeneपुरa Fellowship

We regularly meet up for meetings on Wednesdays. These meetings usually consist of bible studies and prayer times. Bible studies are usually conducted by our own fellowship students and this has become a place where we learn many things from God's word. We share our ideas



and suggestions both during these studies and through further discussions. We thank God for his grace and his wonderful guidance towards our bible studies. Pray for us as we plan to continue these studies and that we will have the right type of discussions. Pray also for us as we have started attending a bible study series at the FOCUS Office.

Pray also for us as we meet in three's during the next semester to pray for the fellowship, and

university they are already a part of FOCUS.

Please pray for our Tamil fellowship members. We would like them to come to the weekly studies and to be involved with our fellowship work. The language barrier remains a constraint and we ask for your consistent prayer that the way we relate to one another will become a witness to the God of reconciliation in our University.

It is a real challenge. Now only two non Christian students are in our fellowship.

We have identified some major weaknesses in our fellowship. Most of them are having their own faith & own religion (individualistic) without sharing themselves with others. The girls in the fellowship hesitate to take leadership in the fellowship. Some students have many responsibilities in their local churches and this



help each other grow in our faith and in our relationship with one another in these small groups.

As university schedules remain uncertain, pray for plans especially for the 1st year students to organize meetings at FOCUS office and introduce them more to the ministry.

As our fellowship is not registered in the university we have limited opportunities to move with other university students as a fellowship. We pray that God will provide us with opportunities to co-opt other students as well. As we have very few contacts and opportunities (within the university) to get to know pre university students, we have a limited no of students especially in the medical, physical science and arts faculties. We try to identify pre university students and invite them to our fellowship and to introduce them to FOCUS so when they enter into

Jaffna University Student Christian Fellowship (JUSCF)

Even though we have about forty students in our fellowship only ten to fifteen students come for meetings regularly but all forty do attend some of the fellowship meetings! (so no one is inactive). We gather for meetings at campus twice in a week. In the fine arts campus we have only two girls who are doing different subjects so we were unable to hold the fine arts meetings on a regular basis for the last quarter. These two students are working with us in finding some new contacts & reestablishing the fellowship among the fine arts students. The Medical students join us on Tuesdays. Our regular students bring some of their non Christian batch mates for our meetings too. We thank God for it but following up these contacts has not been easy.

presents a big challenge in taking up responsibilities in the fellowship. We thank God that some churches & similar Christian organizations are willing to help us & our university ministry too.

Students often discuss about the problems which they are faced with in the university but they haven't taken any action in basis to support it or against it as a student body. The national camp was held in Jaffna after many years. We thank God for it.

We discussed topics such as Brain drain, Globalization & Christian gospel & How to live a stress free life during our poya day programmes. Recently during the university strike period three of our students participated in a teaching program in Colombo. We had a wonderful time of fellowship with the graduates & students

in Colombo. We thank God for these our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We thank God for...

- His leading & providing the needs of our fellowship throughout this quarter
- National camp held in Jaffna
- The new students who just joined us.
- People who minister to us.
- The strong relationship between students & graduates
- Other people who pray & help our ministry
- Diyan & Esther's ministry in FOCUS

Pray for...

- Pray for our freshers who have just joined our fellowship. They are regular for the meetings and much involved in our ministry.
- Pray for building strong fellowship among the students
- Pray for the regular attending of the students
- Pray for the Graduates who passed out recently and who need to get suitable jobs. (Selvachandran, Nagenthira, Loshana)
- Pray that the burden for the gospel should be planted in each & every student's heart.
- Pray for a corporate witness through our fellowship.
- Pray that girls will take responsibility in the fellowship in the future.
- Pray for all the forthcoming programs & camps in Jaffna.

Peradeniya Discipleship Cells

Praise

Almost all students have gone home. But, four students came for

the June poya program on "Creation & Evolution". We thank God for the time we spent together.

We also thank God for the students commitment to stay connected to one another during this time of closure. The Peradeniya students come from all parts of the Island and our students keep in touch with emails and telephone calls.

Prayer requests

Pray that FUTA and the Government will soon come to a just agreement. Pray that students will use this time at home well.

Pray for final year students: Shalani, Vennila, Udara and Stephan . They will leave university within a few weeks, Pray for their future lives & decisions.

Pray for student leaders: Menura, Sudharshan, Namali and Sujeewa - that they will use this time of University closure wisely to grow in their faith and that they will also grow in their vision of what their ministry on campus can be.

Pray for other fellowship members Ashen, Jerald, Nishan, Madona, Ragavan, Deric and Kalanka for their growth & commitment to the fellowship.

Pray for the evangelistic program they are planning to have in Tamil.

Uva Wellassa Fellowship

Thank God for the three students who participated for the National camp in April this year.

Pray for Kosala who is in the final year as he plans for his future.

Pray for Sathyan, Shan & Anushke as they provide leadership to the ministry and attempt to organize a regular fellowship meeting within the University premises. Pray for the Regional Camp that these students are planning for September.

Pray for all new contacts we have with first year students and for the plans made to invite them to the fellowship. Pray specifically for Sathyan who has made contact with a few Sabaragamuwa University students. Pray that he will use the coming months to visit these students and nurture a fellowship there with the help of Uva Wellassa students.

Pray for Kolitha as he attempts to visit Uva Wellassa once a month that the time he spends with the students there will be effective and fruitful.

Rajarata

There is now a young Peradeniya graduate who is on staff at the Rajarata University – Pray that she will be able to pioneer a fellowship here with the help of two students in the 3rd and final years respectively who have been in contact with Kolitha over the years at Rajarata.

FOR THOSE WHO CONSIDER UNIVERSITY MINISTRY STRATEGIC



Fellowship of Christian University Students
AN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIAN MINISTRY
COMMITTED TO

SHARING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS IN OUR UNIVERSITIES
AND
ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO BRING EVERY AREA OF THEIR
LIVES
UNDER THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST

FOCUS IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR FULL TIME POSITIONS AS

- (1) STAFF WORKER
- (2) MANAGER OF OFFICE

- ENERGIZED AND EXCITED BY OUR MISSION
- ABLE TO PROVIDE PASTORAL GUIDANCE TO STUDENTS/GIFTED TO BE AN OUTSTANDING MANAGER OF THE FOCUS OFFICE
- FUN, FLEXIBLE, FRIENDLY AND FLUENT IN AT LEAST TWO SRI LANKAN LANGUAGES

ADDITIONALLY, THE ABILITY TO DO ONE OR MORE THE FOLLOWING WOULD BE WELCOME.

- (A) SUPPORT AND SUPERVISE ACCOUNTS
- (B) UPDATE AND DEVELOP THE WEBSITE
- (C) MANAGE AND IMPROVE THE LIBRARY
- (D) KNOWLEDGE OF MAINTAINING A DATABASE

Applications should be sent to:
The General Secretary, FOCUS
25A Waidiya Road, Dehiwela or savithri@focus.lk

Asking you a second time...

Interested?

In continuing to receive SCOPE??
Will you please let us know...



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25A, Waidya Road,
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