

## **From Angela and Andrew Willis – Nov 2010**

We started our last letter by saying we were about to start our travels again with the journey to Colombo on Friday 12 November. We had to delay that journey until Saturday 13 November as many parts of the city had flooding as a result of their heaviest rainfall since 1992 and the buses were at a standstill. Then we discovered that Saturday was a Buddhist festival day, which meant buses were few and far between; so we had to travel in a van, and we arrived eventually late afternoon and went straight to the station for the night train to Batticaloa. On Sunday 14 we had an interesting journey to a student's church via a 3- wheeler and a ferry across the river from Batticaloa to Kochadecholi. We arrived late as we had to wait some time for the ferry, but the pastor waited for us to arrive before starting the service as Andrew was to preach. The service was followed by Angela giving a short health talk. There were a lot of young families present, so she talked about training the children with personal hygiene from a very young age and cleaning teeth from the time the 1<sup>st</sup> tooth appeared. She emphasised how a good habit that is started in a very small child can remain a good habit for life; but a bad habit is hard to change. This was followed by a health advice clinic lasting for about 2½ hours when she saw 45 people, ranging from 2 months old to elderly. Two young lads came with wounds that wouldn't heal. On a closer inspection they were both full of grit, so she had a great time cleaning them up and removing the debris before applying dressings. One small baby was extremely colicky. The mother gave her to Angela, who then sat her on her lap and rubbed her back; she burped loudly (much to the watching women's amusement!). Then she put her up on her shoulder, patted her back, and she burped loudly again before settling straightaway. The mother and grandmother's comment was that they had never tried that way of winding her. Maybe she will have the courage to break the mould and try something different to the traditional Sri Lankan way of feeding and winding a baby – they lie them flat all the time. This church is in a Hindu area and many people who

came for the clinic had never set foot in a church before. When we finally arrived at ETC late afternoon we found that the well was contaminated, which meant no running water... and we also had no electricity as the fuse box had burnt out. Electricity was quickly restored but water had to be carried from a nearby borehole each day for us to flush the toilet and wash. We were very grateful to a neighbour who allowed us to use their shower. The ETC week went well. Studies in the Psalms were completed. We are now looking at cooking lunch on the premises rather than purchasing lunch packets each day. The students are planning a Christmas outreach programme to the three local communities on the Thursday of the December school week (13-16 December). We will be visiting another couple of students on Sunday 12 prior to the start of the December school starting: Andrew will preach in the morning; Angela will have a health clinic in the early evening. We arrived back in Colombo Friday 19 November in time for the launch of Every Home for Christ's new website [www.ceylonehc.org](http://www.ceylonehc.org) . Some pages still need a little work. Angela will be involved in updating the website each month when we are in Colombo. We returned to Norton Bridge Monday 22 in the school van ready for the SAIT week. This week has been busy as usual. The students were practicing carols ready for going carol singing in the local village and down the hill in Norton Bridge on 8 and 9 December (during the next school week). They are learning carols in Sinhala, Tamil and also one in English. Several applications have been received and interviews will hopefully start next month ready for the new students to start in February or March next year. Often on Thursday evenings we organise a fun time; for one of the games teams of 7 students had to draw a picture. They were sat in a line; the first person saw the picture and passed the information down the line for the last person to draw the same picture. A good lesson in communication. The results were very interesting!!

Andrew and Angela