

## **LETTER FROM ANDREW AND ANGELA WILLIS. MAY 2010.**

We want to begin by expressing our grateful thanks for the wonderful service on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January; your encouragement was a great blessing as we set out to begin life in Sri Lanka.

As we write to you we are enjoying the warm sunshine and the lovely views of the hills and tea plantation across the valley. It is a wonderful setting in which to live and work.

We are grateful to the Lord that, despite the snow, we caught our flight safely from Heathrow on 13<sup>th</sup> January, arriving in Colombo early afternoon SL time (5 ½ hours ahead on GMT) the next day. After a quiet couple of days of Colombo we travelled to Norton Bridge.

By the Tuesday afternoon Andrew was teaching on the book of Joshua to the senior students with an interpreter. This continued in the February session (22- 26). We were rather surprised and a little embarrassed when Andrew was approached by a small group and asked to take on the role of Principal – probably not as grand as the title suggests; we are yet to find out all this involves. We were assured that all the staff are in favour of this move and that it will assist Vincent with his heavy workload; He is Dean of studies and a tutor, and also has a role of CEO for Hope Outreach Ministries (HOMSA). Vincent and Milka, with their daughter Sharona, are our next door neighbours here at the South Asia Institute of Theology (SAIT).

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We are also hoping that a meeting in Batticaloa at the end of February concerning the future of the Eastern Theological College will provide opportunities for Andrew to teach 3 or 4 times a year in the monthly sessions that are held there. It may be possible for Angela to travel more often (with other teachers) during these training weeks so that she can work with St. John's Mission in the clinics that they hold in many of the

surrounding villages. Angela's main role (using her nursing experience) has been a little slower to get going.

As of writing (early Feb) the dispensary had not yet been set up. We are also waiting to hear from a Christian surgeon whom we met in Colombo on our first weekend here. He co-ordinates the medical Christian fellowship in Sri Lanka and also organizes medical relief trips to rural villages and could use an experienced nurse. We both expected to be involved in the February session at SAIT with the start of English classes with the new students.

The next session here at SAIT will be 15-19 March and will coincide with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of Every Home Crusade. It is a great privilege to be here for that occasion. We pray that Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January and the following church meeting were fruitful and that you will know the blessing of the Lord in this coming year as together you seek to serve Him and fulfil His purposes for you.

Still praying for revival in Brixham; every blessing,

Andrew and Angela.