

Our life in Sri Lanka - By Andrew and Angela Willis

We are living in Norton which is situated about 4,000 feet up in the mountains.

Most of the year temperatures are comfortably warm but the 3-4 month monsoon season (May to August) is much cooler.

During the monsoons it can rain for 3 days at a time almost non-stop. Our home is a top (2nd) floor flat in the main college building that also houses the college kitchen and dining room, some guest rooms and Andrew's office. We have two rooms. The living room/dining room/kitchen is u-shaped around the main stairwell that leads to our front door. We have a 2nd exit onto a balcony and access to the flat roof above our bedroom from where we have amazing views down the valley.

When we arrived in Sri Lanka our expectations were for Andrew to be teaching at the college when it meets for one week (4½ days) each month and Angela would be the school nurse. So far Andrew has taught Old Testament studies on Joshua and the Pentateuch and also run a preaching course. Little did he know that within 5 days of arriving he would be asked by the faculty to take on the role of college Principal. Dr. Sam has many responsibilities and has been the principal since the conception of South Asia Institute of Theology and strongly felt that it was time to hand over the reins to someone else although he is not yet ready to let go completely.

Andrew is responsible for arranging visiting lecturers, planning the timetables, preaching at the chapel service on the Monday evening each month, has meetings with each individual member of the faculty and as a whole group and teaches for 4-5 hours a day.

During the first few months of the college year Angela had quite a few coming for health advice but the last couple of months have been quieter. She would like to be a little busier but she doesn't want the students to be sick. The weather has been too wet to clean and stock the dispensary/clinic room that is accessed from an outside walkway. Hopefully when we return the weather will be drier so this can be done.

Over the last few months we have had the privilege of visiting some of our students. Seeing them in their homes and churches. We have visited four students in Vavuniya, in the north of the country, one on the east coast in Batticaloa and two a little closer to home in the hill country.

Whilst we were visiting in Vavuniya Angela was invited to run a couple of impromptu clinics under the trees to give health care advice and another clinic a mud hut of a camp for internally displaced people. There is a possibility that we may be able to return to this area two or three times a year to work alongside one of the pastors and provide health education to the young adult refugees.

Another possible opportunity for Angela is in Batticaloa. The pastors training at Eastern Theological college is recommencing in October which will involve Andrew for one week each month. The coordinator of the clinics has said they are ready to restart in the area but on a part-time basis. He wants to try to arrange them around my availability as this will mean they don't need to employ a nurse. This, however, is dependent on a doctor being available.

Angela has also been asked if she would help out with the nurses' training school in our local area. The initial meetings were a few months ago and we have heard no more as yet. We have been running a series of seminars in conjunction with the English education officer for English teachers. Angela is also teaching English in the HOMSA playschool and supports an 11 year old who is about 3 years behind in her English. Andrew has been helping a young lad who wants to read the Bible in English.

Please pray for: continued good health; safety in our travels around the country; Andrew as he teaches at both SAIT and ETC; that possibilities for Angela's nursing will become reality; inspiration with English teaching.