

Email: angelawillis1410@gmail.com
UK mission: www.impcharity.org.uk
SL Mission: www.ceylonehc.org

Andrew and Angela Willis
SAIT
Norton Bridge
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Dear Family and Friends,

We arrived in Colombo early this morning (19th) having travelled on the overnight bus from Batticaloa. This month ETC week followed SAIT week. We are in Colombo just for the one night before returning to Norton Bridge on Sunday (20th) after church. We had no health camp when we arrived in Batticaloa this time so we had a slightly more relaxed day getting the premises ready for use. Yohan joined us again this month so Andrew had less teaching hours. This meant we could get all the student records up-to-date. This month at ETC we celebrated the first anniversary of its re-launch. The students organised a programme and invited family, friends and local pastors. This was held on the Friday evening and finished too late for the night train – which is why we returned to Colombo by luxury overnight a/c bus (it was a chilly ride).

Angela had two mornings at the Batticaloa General Hospital teaching a communication course to the oncology team. They are a very lively mixed group of doctors, pharmacists, nurses and medical students. The sessions are of a practical nature and include a lot of discussion and role play. Some of the group should definitely be on stage! Chrishanthi, the consultant who invited Angela to run the course for them, has now asked what else she can teach as they would like to continue with other training sessions once the communication course finishes next month. So watch this space! We are very happy and encouraged with this and pray that she will have regular teaching sessions during the ETC weeks in Batticaloa.

Andrew has been invited by the Baptist Sangamiya (equivalent to the Baptist Union in the UK) to be their resource person at The Theological Training College, near Kandy. This is a college run jointly by the Baptists, Anglicans and Methodists. He is teaching Homiletics and Worship to the 2nd year students. It is a shared course with another lecturer who takes the worship side and Andrew takes the preaching side. This means travelling to Kandy at the beginning and end of each SAIT week (Monday and Friday), going there straight from Batticaloa v. early on Friday morning (leaving 4am, arriving Kandy about 11.30am) and then for the other two weeks in the month he will need to stay at TCL for 2 nights and teach Mondays and Wednesdays (mornings). So we have

one night at Norton together tomorrow (20th) before Andrew goes off to Kandy early Monday morning. He returns Wednesday 23rd. Angela will finally have a couple of weeks in her own bed.

The vision clinics went really well. We ran 9 clinics, saw 978 patients and gave out over 1,000 pairs of glasses. Only one place during the first week had electricity, so we hired a generator for the optometrists to use their illuminated sight chart. One place was opposite an army camp and we were inundated with soldiers coming. In the end our team leader offered to run a clinic just for them in the camp on out last morning. Accommodation was near to luxury – that means a good bed, mosquito net, fans, indoor showers and an indoor sit-on toilet. The men's' showers were a little more al-fresco. We had a variety of visitors including a scorpion, 5 snakes all together, a praying mantis and an unidentified flying animal that had lizard type feet, teeth and wings. Saturday morning (5th Nov) involved a 5.30 start, not because of the distance to travel but, because the roads were so bad, it took 3 hours to get there. That was the only day we had electricity and a new toilet block with a complete roof and running water. Other days we had toilets without a roof and had to carry water from the nearby well to flush. It is the monsoons in the north and east at the moment so when it rained dry sandy ground was very quickly turned into a small stream. Once the downpour stopped about an hour later it just as quickly returned to dry sandy ground again.

Sunday 20th – Cinnamon Gardens Baptist (the English service we attend in Colombo), then bus back to Norton

Monday 21st - Andrew travels to Kandy, teaching at TCL

Wednesday 22nd – Andrew teaching TCL, returns to Norton

Friday 24th – Angela teaching nurses in Hatton

Sat 25/Sun 26 weekend in Norton Bridge

Monday 28th - Andrew travels to Kandy, teaching at TCL

Wednesday 30th – Andrew teaching TCL, returns to Norton

Thursday 1st December – Angela teaching nurses in Hatton

Friday 2nd – travel to Colombo

Saturday 3rd – overnight train to Batticaloa

Sunday 4th – visit student and hold health camp

Angela and Andrew Willis