

The Herald

· OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF SRI LANKA ·

The CRC SL in Vision and Mission



Being a Community of Disciples representing Christ and His Kingdom in the way the Spirit leads us through God's Word



We will glorify our God of Mission by obeying His Great Commandment and fulfilling His Great Commission

"THE CHURCH IN VISION & MISSION" - SEE INSIDE
ALSO INSIDE - "FINDING MY CHILD'S LOVE LANGUAGE"

THOSE OTHER SHEEP !!



This third Quarter issue of "The Herald" is on the theme, "The Church in Vision and Mission". We thought of this mainly keeping in mind the Denominational emphasis during the past year or more in terms of reviewing our Vision and Mission Statements to be perhaps more strategic and not so much only top down!

Now our Vision statement reads, *"Being a Community of Disciples representing Christ and His Kingdom in the way the Spirit leads us through God's Word."*

The Mission statement complements that - "We will glorify our God of Mission by obeying His Great Commandment and fulfilling His Great Commission."

These Statements basically point us to look at the World – outside of the Church - in new and meaningful ways, as we strive to live out the prayer within the model prayer..."Thy Kingdom come and Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven!"

When writing this editorial, I also thought of the fact that in this century a select circle of people have been able to see our world in an entirely new way. I was thinking of the Astronauts. A number of them embarked on that great adventure trip to the moon. From that vantage point they have been able to see our planet. They have seen what no human being had ever seen before.

I thought that we should also perhaps have a fresh vision of the world and its people if our Vision and Mission is to take fruitful shape.

If we are serious about this Vision and Mission then it would be helpful to see our world of people in a new way and from a different perspective. Perhaps we need to be motivated by someone who sees people with steady realism and yet through the eyes of love with a vision of hope. That is why I thought of St. John 10: vs 16 and the words of Jesus, **"I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd."**

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REVD. CHARLES N. JANSZ
JP (All Island)
Editor

2, Mudaliyar Avenue,
Kohuwala, Nugegoda.

Telephone
Residence : 2852835
Office : 2360861
: 2582469 (Fax)
e-mail : cnj@eureka.lk

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In saying what He did, Jesus is speaking first to His followers, the circle of those who believe in Him as God's Son and the world's Saviour. I hope it includes us! But He looks also beyond them and even us to all people across the centuries of time and says, "I have other sheep that are not of this fold." That was certainly one of the most shocking things He could have said to the people around him at that time. To their minds, all of God's sheep were within one fold, the chosen nation. Beyond that fold, there were thought to be no sheep, only wolves! Or if not wolves, at least outsiders, strangers, far from the circle of God's care. But here is a word of the Lord about His other sheep, not of this fold. There are more many more of them, whom He calls by name, whom He leads and for whom He gave His life. To Jesus, His sheep are to be found in every nation, kindred and tongue.

If we see the world in this way, we would get the message of what our task is and what should be our vision and mission. Jesus says, "I have other sheep that are not of this fold, them also I must bring." Note the imperative. "I must!" Jesus lived all His life under the pressure of a great necessity: the will of God. We must want that necessity and vision too. We must see our task always as that of bringing others to faith in the Good Shepherd. And if and when we see this task through the eyes of Jesus, it seems not only an imperative but also a rich privilege: to be able to share in His mission of bringing others into the fold.

One more element must be seen in this Vision of Jesus, which we must take careful note. We can see the assured results that will follow from our witness. Listen again..."I have other sheep which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd." How wonderful to know that Jesus is sure of it. With great authority, He promises that when the Word of the Gospel is brought to people, they will hear it. They will believe.

So let us be that Community of disciples, representing Christ and His Kingdom as the Spirit leads, fulfilling the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. This must take root in each of our hearts and minds, so that the CRC SL will be a Church with a Vision in a Mission, not simply confined to editorially correct statements, but in real and everyday life !



“ WE CANT AFFORD TO LET DOWN OUR CHRISTIAN STANDARDS JUST TO
HOLD THE INTEREST OF PEOPLE WHO WANT TO GO TO HELL AND STILL
BELONG TO A CHURCH !



- A W Tozer.



By Ruba Weerasinghe

THE CHURCH IN VISION AND MISSION !

"Where there is no vision, the people perish..." (Proverbs 29:18, KJV)

Our Foundation

When Isaiah encountered the Lord "high and exalted" and witnessed the seraphim declaring, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory" (Isaiah 6:1–3), the prophet's life was transformed. In God's presence, his inadequacy was revealed, yet through divine grace, he was purified and commissioned for service. The Lord's call followed: "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" Isaiah's response was immediate: "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8).

True vision originates not from human ambition but from encountering God in His holiness. As we focus on Jesus, "the author and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2), our hearts align with His purposes and our steps follow His direction.

Our Vision

To be a community of disciples representing Christ and His Kingdom as the Spirit leads us through His Word.⁴

This vision calls us to embody the character of Christ, who came "to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10), while faithfully living out both the Great Commandment—loving God and neighbor (Matthew 22:37–39)—and the Great Commission—making disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19).

Our Mission

Our mission integrates proclamation and demonstration of the Gospel. As Scripture declares, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:15). Simultaneously, we heed Christ's instruction: "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

We advance this mission not through human effort alone but through divine empowerment: "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord (Zechariah 4:6).

Our Hope

This mission moves toward the fulfillment of God's promise that "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14). This vision finds its ultimate expression in Revelation's prophetic scene of "a great multitude... from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb" (Revelation 7:9).

Our Response

The Lord continues to ask, "Whom shall I send?" Our response echoes Isaiah's: "Here am I. Send me!"—a commitment we maintain until His glory fills the earth.

(Ruba is a Communicant member of the Regent-Street congregation, who has served the Sunday School, Youth Organisation and WMU through the years. An Educator by Profession she finds much joy in serving the Lord with dedication and a deep commitment.)

The Church in Vision & Mission



Proverbs 29:18 says
“where there is no vision the people perish”.
Without such vision, scripture tells us people perish.
This verse emphasizes the importance of having a
clear vision for the Church

Proverbs 19:21 says

“many are the plans in person’s heart, but it is the
Lord’s purpose that prevails”. This word reminds us
that our Church vision must align with God’s pur-
pose. We may have our plans and ideas, ultimately
it’s the Lord’s purpose that will prevail. Therefore, we
must seek God’s guidance and align our vision with
His will.

Vision and Mission of Churches and Secular Organizations

Churches and secular organizations both use vision
and mission statements to clarify their purpose,
provide direction and to align their people toward a
shared goal. However, the Church Vision and
Mission is totally different from the secular world.
The vision and mission of the secular organization
will be based on the shareholder’s ultimate authority,
leadership and market share mainly focusing on
growth and profitability sometimes with some social
responsibilities as well.

The Church is not a business place and therefore its
vision and mission is completely different from the
secular world focusing on God and His Word, Gods
calling, making disciples, transforming lives towards
eternal perspective and Gods Kingdom. It’s not a
measure of results, but spiritual fruit and eternal life.

Its spiritually driven by God’s promises and
purposes. Proverbs 16:9 says “In their hearts humans
plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.
This verse serves as a reminder that although we may
plan our Church vision, it is God who directs our
steps. We must trust in His guidance and be open to
His leading, knowing that He will stablish our path
according to His divine plan

Is there a difference between Church Vision and Mission

Vision is about where we are going, the desired end
results, long term goal or what do we want to
become or want to see? Vision is the lens through
which we see the world and our role in it.

Mission is about what you are doing now to reach
the Vision. It describes the Church’s purpose,
responsibility, and activity. It answers the question
why do we exist and what are we called to do?
Mission is present focused, action oriented.



Christian Reformed Church - Vision statement

*“Being a Community of Disciples Representing
Christ and His Kingdom in the way the Spirit Leads
us through God’s Word”*

Our vision reminds us that we are to represent
Christ and His Kingdom. It also reminds us that this
is not done in our own strength or according to
worldly wisdom. We have to follow the way the spirit

leads us through His Word.

The Church that flourishes is the Church that listens to the Spirit and the Scriptures. This is the vision that prevents us from perishing not only as individuals but as community as well.



Christian Reformed Church – Our Mission statement declares

“We will glorify our God of mission by obeying His Great Commandment and fulfilling His Great Commission”

The mission statement reminds us that our God is a God of Mission and therefore, we are a people of mission. The Great Commandment to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matt.22:37-40) grounds us in the relational heartbeat of God.

The Great Commission to make disciples of all nations (Matt.28:18-20) sends us into the world with Gospel authority and purpose. This tell the Church leaders and the members what they are expected to do: glorify God, love others, share the Gospel and make disciples.

How do we fulfill this mission in this world?

It's important that we reach out through the Word and life transforming message that Jesus Christ lived, died and rose again and offering forgiveness and new life to all who believe.

By words alone are not enough. The Gospel must also be embodied. Jesus did not only preach but he healed, fed, served and his deeds confirmed his message and his love was tangible. To reach out in deeds is to live the Gospel, love the poor, serve marginalized and humble ourselves. In fact, deeds open the door for words

Jesus himself said, “let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven (Matt.5:16)

Living as disciples of Jesus Christ means committing to follow Him in every area of life—heart, mind, soul, and actions. This means:

- Accept Jesus as Lord and Savior (Romans 10:9).
- Stay connected through prayer, worship, and obedience (John 15:4–5).
- Prayer deepens your relationship with Him and aligns your heart with His purpose (Philippians 4:6–7).
- Apply the word- Scripture is the foundation for knowing God's will (2 Timothy 3:16–17).
- Love God and Others: The greatest commandments (Matthew 22:37–39).
- Be transformed - Turn from sin and allow God to refine you (1 John 1:9).
- Make Disciples: Obey the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19–20).
- Live as a Witness: Your life should reflect Christ to the world (Philippians 2:14–16).
- Keep Your Eyes on Eternity: Our hope is not in this world (Colossians 3:1–4).

Practical ways to fulfill the Church's mission in modern World

In modern times, the church faces unique challenges and opportunities in fulfilling its mission. The changing social, cultural and political landscape requires the Church to adapt new methods while remaining true to its foundational teachings based on scriptures.

Use of Technology



With the rapid development in technology, the Churches could fulfill their mission leveraging technology to reach a broader audience engaging in community projects that address the local needs and fostering inclusive communities that reflects our Mission.



Conclusion

We are a people with a vision to represent Christ and His Kingdom and a mission to glorify our God by loving and reaching others

The call for the Church to be anchored in both vision and mission is so important. This is not simply a matter of Strategy or Organisational clarity. It's a matter of transforming lives through word and deed. It's important that Pastors, leaders and the entire congregation of the Church is anchored in both vision and mission. So the next step in this process will be educating the pastors, leaders and the congregation through trainings and brainstorming sessions. There should be posters displaying the vision and mission statements so every time its seen by the Pastors, leaders and the members of the congregation they will be reminded not only the vision and mission statements but also to live as disciples of Jesus Christ committing to follow Him in every area of life—heart, mind, soul, and actions.

1 Corinthians 15:58 says, therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

By this word, we are encouraged to stand firm. We are to give ourselves wholeheartedly to the work of the Lord, knowing that our efforts will not be in vain. Our labor will yield eternal rewards and lasting impact.

In conclusion, we can have confidence and assurance that God will bring to completion the good work he has begun in our Church. Philippians 1:6 says "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Our responsibility is to remain faithful and obedient to His leading, knowing that he will bring about the fulfillment of our Vision in His perfect timing.

OUR



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*"Being a Community of Disciples
Representing Christ and His Kingdom in the
way the Spirit Leads us through God's Word"*



OUR



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*"We will glorify our God of mission by
obeying His Great Commandment and
fulfilling His Great Commission"*



By Dr. Dinesh Kanagarathnam
Vice-President(Admin)
Christian Riformed Church of Sri Lanka

God's Vision: Your GPS for Life

Proverbs 29:18 – “Where there is no vision, the people perish.”

Have you ever tried to put together a puzzle without the picture on the box? It's frustrating! You might have all the pieces, but without a vision of what the final image is supposed to look like, you're lost.

That's kind of what Proverbs 29:18 is saying. “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” In other words, when people don't have God's direction, they lose their way. Life without vision is like running a race with no finish line—you get tired, confused, and eventually give up.



What Does “Vision” Mean?

Nope, I'm not talking about the Marvel comic book character Vision. The “vision” here isn't just about setting career goals, choosing a college, or dreaming of being successful. It's talking about God's revelation—His Word, His plan, and His guidance. When people ignore God's Word, they wander aimlessly. But when they live by it, they thrive.



God's Word is like GPS. Without it, we take wrong turns, get stuck in dead ends, and waste time. With it, we're guided safely to where He wants us to be.

A Quick Story

Take Jake, a school football player. He loved the game but had no plan—he skipped practice, ate junk food, and stayed up late playing video games. When the season started, he was benched most of the time.

Then he watched a teammate who had a clear vision: to play club football. That teammate trained with purpose, took care of his health, and stayed focused. The differ-

ence? Vision. One wandered, the other thrived.
It's the same in life. Without God's vision, we drift. With it, we live on purpose.

Why Youth Need Vision

As teens, you're standing at the crossroads of life—decisions about friends, faith, school, relationships, and your future. If you don't let God's vision shape you, the world will happily offer its own version of "success"—but it usually leads to emptiness.

Jesus came to give life "to the full" (John 10:10). That fullness comes when you see life through God's eyes, not just your own. A God-given vision gives you:

- **Purpose** – You know you're not here by accident.
- **Direction** – You can say no to distractions because you know where you're going.
- **Hope** – Even in tough times, you trust God has a bigger picture

Living with God's Vision

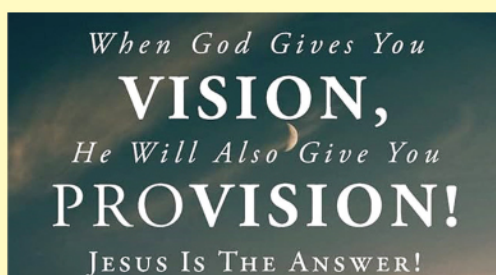
So how do you live this out?

1. **Stay in the Word** – God's Word is where His vision comes alive. Read it daily.
2. **Pray for Clarity** – Ask God, "What do You want me to see?"
3. **Surround Yourself with the Right Voices** – Friends, mentors, and youth leaders who point you back to Jesus help you stay on track.
4. **Act on What God Shows You** – Vision without action is just daydreaming. Step out in faith

Final Thought

Proverbs 29:18 reminds us that life without God's vision leads to emptiness. But with His vision, you can live with purpose, strength, and joy—even in the middle of challenges.

So the question is: **Whose vision are you living by—yours, the world's, or God's?**
Because the truth is, the only vision that gives life is the one that comes from Him.



Youth Page

Edited By: Joshua Aldons

Dig Deeper

Proverbs was written by the wisest man in the world : King Solomon. In Proverbs 29:18 it "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Create a vision for yourself and let it be the same as God's vision. Think about your plan for your life today. Are you doing studies? Are you working on finding a great job? Now ask God for His vision.



Just For Laughs

Why did the church give away free sunglasses?

Because their future with Jesus is so bright!

Why did the Pharisee fail the vision test?

Because he couldn't see past the law.

Why did the Pharisees need bifocals?

Because they couldn't see the law and grace at the same time!



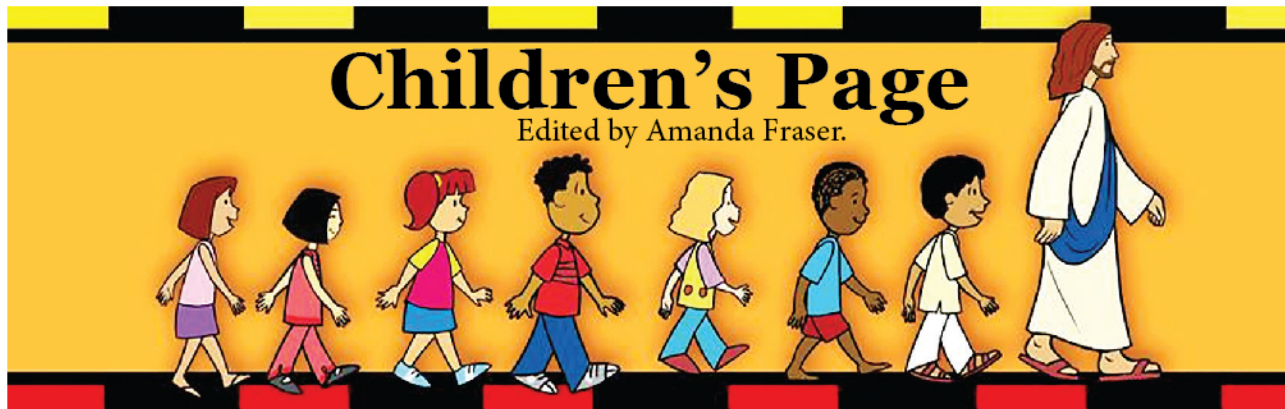
At youth camp, a group of teens were supposed to hike to the lake. One guy proudly grabbed the map and led the way. After 30 minutes of walking uphill, everyone was sweaty, tired, and suspicious.

Finally, someone noticed the problem: he had been holding the map upside down! Everyone groaned, but their leader laughed and said, "Hey, I was just helping us walk by faith, not by sight!"

Lesson: Without the right vision (Proverbs 29:18), we can wander in the wrong direction. God's Word keeps our map right-side up

Children's Page

Edited by Amanda Fraser.



Hi Boys and Girls,

Imagine your mum gave you the most delicious cookie ever. It was so perfect. Soft and chewy and with loads of chocolate chips...mmmm. Sounds amazing huh? Now if you're like me, I would not want to share it with anyone!



But then she gives you a whole box of them! Now you can't keep quiet about something that tastes so good, so you end up telling others about it. Soon enough, you and your friends are all sharing these amazing cookies. Everyone is laughing and happy and talking about how delicious they are. Everyone is having fun!



Good cookies are meant to be shared!

Good news is the same way too. When we hear about good news, we always want to share it with others and that's exactly what the bible tells us to do too.

The good news about Jesus, how he loves so much and how he wants to forgive our mistakes and be our friend is the best news ever! It means that we can live forever with him in heaven and all we have to do is

A -Admit you're a sinner and have made mistakes

B- Believe that Jesus is God's son and died on a cross to pay for our sin

C - Confess that Jesus is our Saviour and King

This is the good news that we should share with others. Sometimes it can feel a bit scary to tell others about Jesus. But He will give you the courage you need to be bold and brave and share the good news!

When we become a part of God's family telling others about him and showing God's love to others is a very big responsibility. I pray you find the courage to do that wherever you go.

With love and blessings,

Aunty Mandy

The Great Commission

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 28:16-20



M X H H S W K T E A C H I N G
O D E L Y O B E Y L L O U O J
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OBEY
JESUS
BAPTIZING
NATIONS

DISCIPLES
MOUNTAIN
HEAVEN
MAKE

EARTH
ALWAYS
COMMANDED
WORSHIPED

AUTHORITY
TEACHING
ELEVEN
GIVEN

Bold and Brave

Lord, help me to be,
more bold and brave
to share my faith
that to me You gave.



Help me to be the Light,
that reflects You
in everything I say
and in all the things I do.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

THEREFORE, GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; AND TEACHING THEM TO OBEY EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND SURELY I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE.

- MATTHEW 28:19-20

Lord, help me to be,
for You more courageous
in a world that's become
ever more dangerous.

Help me to lead the way,
so others may know
the reasons why You love
and care for them so.

Lord, help me to be,
a witness for You bold
so I can encourage . . .
more into Your fold!

Finding My Child's Love Language

By Marsha Navamanie

In a previous issue of the Herald we talked in detail about Love Languages and how important it is to show love in the language that had the greatest impact on your child.

The 5 love languages we shared were,

1. Physical Touch
2. Words of Affirmation
3. Quality Time
4. Gifts and
5. Acts of Service

So, how do you find your child's love language?

You need to start by using all the love languages with your children, show them how to be unselfish. It is not easy with young children but watch them as they grow looking out for how they interact with others. Notice changes. Don't categorize them while they are changing.

1. Observe how your child expresses love to you. From about 5 years of age, they will begin to express love to you in the language they like to receive it. Be aware that teenagers manipulate this.
2. Observe how they express love to others. If they like to give presents to teachers, this may indicate a preference for themselves.
3. Listen to what they request most often. Do they want to play (Quality time), are they asking for affirmation all the time (Word of affirmation), and so on.
4. Notice what they most frequently complain about. This may give an indication of what they are missing. For example, if your child says "you don't have time for me," it indicates they want your time. Look for a pattern.



5. Give your child a choice between two options. This way you can narrow things down. For instance, "I have some free time this evening, would you like to play a



game together, or should I hem your new skirt?" (quality time vs. acts of service), or "would you like to go walking on the beach together or go to the mall and I will buy you some new basketball shoes." (quality time vs gifts) "Would you like to wrestle or read a

story together." (physical touch vs. quality time) Do this for several weeks keeping track of what they chose. There should be some clustering around one of the love languages. If they ask what you are up to, just say you are trying to figure out how they make certain decisions.

If you are really serious about finding this out, you might try the **15-week**

experiment:

Choose a love language to focus on for **two weeks** as you express love to your child. Each day seek to communicate your love through that trait. Then observe their response.

For instance: **Week 1:** Quality time, at least 30 minutes of undivided attention every day. If at the end of two weeks they are sick of looking at you, it is time to look at the next language.

Take a week off and select another language for two weeks.

Week 4. Physical touch: touch your child in a meaningful way at least four times every day. If they say, "stop touching me." you haven't found it.

Draw back for a week and then do something else. Again, don't mention what you are doing, just that you want to show them you love them.

Teenagers especially need their emotional love tanks filled, but it is harder to do this because they are very busy and tend to be moody and unresponsive. Don't give up. Take time to let them know you love them, and don't react when they test you.

When you find out your child's love language, don't **only** use that language with them. Make sure you show them all the love languages so they can also learn to love in different ways, because they will be more effective adults this way.

He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction."
Malachi 4:6



Think about the last time that your kid was sad, or go back to when they were years younger—what were the things that helped them calm down the most? Were they gentle words of kindness while reminding them how amazing they are? Or maybe when your kid was a toddler and having a tantrum, the only thing that would help was picking them off the floor and calmly rocking them until they settled down. Or perhaps when your child was sick and ruined their favorite shirt, you replaced it with a new one before they even asked. “Looking at what brought comfort to your child in the past can often lead you to their love language now.”

Using your child’s love language to benefit discipline.

When they misbehave, or disobey, first show them love through their love language, then talk about what they did wrong and what you need to do as disciplinary correction, such as; no cricket for the next two weeks. Reinforce your love when completing the discipline. Remind them you love them even when they disobey.

It is important not to use their love language for the punishment if possible. If your child’s primary love language is physical touch, don’t use spanking as a punishment. If it is words of affirmation, don’t yell or put your child down through your speech. If it is quality time, don’t withhold your time and affection.

Using Love Languages to motivate your child: Parents are the first and the most important teachers of children. An incredible amount of learning happens before a child is 3. Make sure the home is a place with a lot of sensory stimulation. Talk to them and encourage their efforts at language. Both intellectual and emotional stimulation need to be there.

Children who are emotionally deprived will not learn well. This is clear when there is divorce or another disruption in the child’s life. Grades will suffer. Self-esteem is an important component for learning, using his love language will keep his emotional tank full so he can concentrate on learning.

Where parents are not involved, but leave it to “formal education” there is a definite increase in problem behaviors. Empty love tanks lead to anger, problems evolve from not handling anger in a mature way.

Fathers are particularly important. Many studies have shown that focused attention from fathers made a huge difference in the level of education children completed and happiness in life and in relationships.

If they are doing well emotionally they will have the concentration, motivation and energy to use all their abilities to the maximum. If they are distressed, they can’t focus on the learning at hand. One way to sense anxiety in a child is to try to make eye contact with them. If they can’t look at you, you need to find out what is wrong. First make sure their emotional love tanks are full. That they feel secure and cared for. Then the key to motivation is to get them to take responsibility for their own behavior. We do this in two ways: Note their interests and encourage them in the areas they do well. But let them take the initiative.



Homework: When the parent takes the responsibility, the child will resist. This can lead to passive/aggressive behavior. The more the parents emphasize the importance of grades, the less responsibility the child will take. Let them know you will help, but not do it for them. Show them ways to find the answers on their own. Encourage and use their love languages to show you are proud of them when they do well. Before and after school are good times to do this.

There are various websites that can help you discover love languages, try Dr. Chapman’s link below:

<https://5lovelanguages.com/quizzes/love-language>

or read: *The Five Love Languages of Children*, Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell, Northfield Publishing, Chicago, 1997.



+++ CHURCH NEWS+++



❖ THE ANNUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER TRAINING

The Annual Sunday School Teacher Training organised by the Teaching and Training Committee of the CRC SL took place on the 12th of July, 2025 in the Wellawatte Church premises.



109 teachers from the CRC Sunday Schools from many parts of the Country participated. The training was conducted by a Team from Youth for Christ, on the theme, "Change For Change," with the emphasis on understanding and winning the lives of our children and understanding and building them in this time of rapid change. Lunch and Fellowship followed.

❖ THE ANNUAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The Revd: Tissa Weerasinghe, Founder Pastor of the Calvary Church, led the Annual Leadership Training Seminar for CRC SL Pastors, Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses. Held on the 26th of July, 2025 at the CRC Wellawatte, the theme this year was, "Staying True – Labouring For Reward" Staying true through decades of Ministry, Pastor Tissa was able to challenge and inspire all who did attend through an exposition of relevant Scriptural content.

The programme concluded with a Fellowship Lunch.



❖ The CRC Kohuwela At 75...

The CRC Kohuwela celebrates its 75th year of ministry and mission and programmes have been planned and held in keeping with this milestone...

+ A Shramadhana involving the cleaning of the Sanctuary, Parish Hall and Garden took place on the 10th of June, with the participation of all three congregations.

+ A Scripture Day was featured on the 10th of July. The day began with a message from Revd: Devsiri Peiris followed by a Bible Quiz. Many teams from the congregation participated enthusiastically whilst making that time meaningful to all present.

+ The Anniversary Service is scheduled to be held on the 27th of September, whilst a Community Outreach Programme in the form of a Medical Camp will be held in October/November.

❖ "Little Lambs" – Day Out....

The Little Lambs Montessori, held its Annual Day Out at the P G Martin wonder world with the participation of the children. Video games, Arcade, Bouncy Castles and the Kids play area was well utilised through the day.



We can thank God for His guidance and bless-

ings upon the Staff and the kids. The Board also remembered the late Yvonne de Kretser, who together with her husband, Revd Crosbie, was responsible for the founding of “Little Lambs” and continued to be involved in sustaining this Community endeavour through the years.

❖ **Revd: Miron Passe.**

A former Pastor of the CRC SL Revd: Miron Passe was here on a brief personal visit. He used this time to make contact with former colleagues and members of the Congregations and ministered the Word at the CRC Bambalapitiya and Wellawatte on Sunday the 17th of August, 2025.

❖ **GRADUATES...**

At the 15th Graduation Ceremony of the Colombo Theological Seminary, Pas Rickson Anthony graduated with a Masters Degree in Biblical Studies, whilst Theological Student Christian Jeshuran, was awarded the Bachelor of Theology degree. Pas Rickson serves the Wolvendhal Tamil Language Congregation in addition to being Vice-President for Ministry, within the Denomination, whilst Mr. Jeshuran is associated with the Bambalapitiya English Language congregation.



❖ **CRC Galle – 270th Anniversary Service.**

A Service of Thanksgiving took place on Sunday the 24th of August at the CRC Galle, to commemorate the 270th Anniversary of this historical edifice with the participation of many of the CRC Pastors, including Pastors Clement Yogarajah, Andrew Wickremasinghe, Chaminda Rathnayake, Rickson Anthony and the CRC SL President, Pastor Lakmal Wijeratne, together with Revd: Shirley Faber. Revd: Charles Jansz preached the Sermon on the theme, “Celebrate Heritage – Impact This Age,” which was interpreted into Sinhala by Pastor Lakmal Wijeratne. Greetings was also brought by the Deputy Ambassador of the Netherlands and many Pastors

of the Churches in the Galle District.

An attentive congregation from near and far were blessed through all that was said and done and the service was a fitting tribute to a legacy - not just a building – but a ministry that has been sustained for 270 years. At the end of the service there was a time of fellowship over light refreshments.



❖ **Caring Hands - 2nd Anniversary.**

“Caring Hands” which is a outreach Ministry of the CRC Dehiwela commemorated its 2nd Anniversary on the 2nd of September with a time of fellowship over lunch for all those who gave leadership and the many Volunteers who have served faithfully.



A cooked meal is provided for Children of the Little Lambs Montessori, the Presbyterian Girls School and the Tamil Medium School in addition to those from the Community who would come wanting a meal.

The leadership and volunteers are from all three language streams of the CRC Dehiwela and the ministry which was a brain child of Deaconess Roshni Foenander, was motivated with the information about the high level of malnutrition amongst the children in Schools. The ministry is sustained from re-



sources from near and far through those who see this as a vital need, in addition to the CRC Dehiwela Diaconate. Roger Foenander and David Mutton from Sydney Australia, have been ardent supporters who have got many others on board to sustain this ministry with prayer and resources. The anniversary lunch was also sponsored by them, in sincere appreciation to all who have and do serve in diverse ways.



❖ CHURCH REGISTER

❖ Death.

"For ever with the Lord"

Devereaux Hills, on Wednesday 30th July, 2025, of the Regent-Street Congregation.

❖ ADULT BAPTISM

"As you have received Christ, so walk..."

Sehani Dilshika Porage on Sunday 13th July, 2025, at the CRC Dehiwela.

Moditha Rashmi Lanka Assiriyage, on Sunday 10th August, 2025 at the CRC Dehiwela.

❖ ADMISSION TO FULL COMMUNICANT MEMBERSHIP.

"For we are all baptized by the Spirit to form one body..."

Jade Conrad - on Sunday 10th August, 2025, at the CRC Dehiwela.

Aldora Conrad – on Sunday 10th August, 2025 at the CRC Dehiwela.

Narda Assiriyage – on Sunday 10th August, 2025 at the CRC Dehiwela.

❖ INFANT BAPTISM.

"For the promise is unto you and your children..."

Charlotte Samindya, infant daughter of Narda and Rashmi Assiriyage, on Sunday 10th August, 2025 at the CRC Dehiwela.

❖ In Memoriam

❖ YVONNE DE KRETZER.

Yvonne Miriam de Kretzer (nee Foenander), the dear wife of Revd: Crosbie de Kretzer passed away on the 26th of July, 2025, after many challenging health issues for the past few years.

A dutiful Pastor's wife, Yvonne complimented and supplemented the Pastoral ministries of Revd: Crosbie, in the many parishes he served whilst in Sri Lanka and then the congregations of Boxhill, Dandenong and Casey, in Melbourne, upon their emigration to Australia.

In Sri Lanka, Yvonne was very much involved with the music ministry, especially the DRC Youth Choir, which Crosbie directed for many years. Most of her leadership and ministry was with the children and the Sunday Schools Organisation of the Church where she served as Secretary, taught in the local Sunday Schools, was instrumental in organising the Denominational events, whether the Annual Prize giving, Sports events and Vacation Bible Schools. She gave much of her time and giftedness towards the success of these ministries.

Her love for the children also motivated her and Revd:Crosbie to start the "Little Lambs" Montessori which functions to this very day as a Community service of the CRC Dehiwela. Even after emigration Yvonne together with Crosbie continue to extend their support to this ministry and today this legacy is sustained also through

the generous and faithful support of their son, Pastor Michael and his wife Jenny.

The last few years of Yvonne's life saw many physical changes and limitations, but through the faithful care of Revd Crosbie and the family together with the Carers of the residence she was housed in made each day and time special, until the Lord took her home.

As the family mentioned when the decision had to be made to prolong life and sustain life Yvonne did not wish it and the family knowing that Yvonne was well prepared to leave for her Heavenly Home took the decision to commend her to hospice care.

On the 26th of July, a couple of days after that decision, Yvonne left her earthly house to her Heavenly Home, leaving behind a legacy of love and faithfulness to Revd Crosbie, Michael, Jan, Sean, Keith, and the rest of the family, together with all those who had been blessed through the relationship she shared with them.

The huge attendance at the thanksgiving service held at the CRC Dandenong on the 8th of August, together with the large number present online, testified eloquently to the impact that Yvonne did have through the years of her life.

"To all the saints who from their labours rest – Hallelujah!"

❖ DEVEREAUX HILLS.

Devereaux Hills, passed away on the 30th of July, 2025, a few months after his health situation changed for the worse. A member of the Regent Street congregation, Devereaux served as a Deacon for many years with great faithfulness. Those who do know Devereaux would know that in the Church he was quiet and reticent, until he met the late Harold Herft at a

particular DRC Youth Camp and that had an impactful change in his demeanour. Harold was an outgoing and vibrant personality and some of that personality rubbed off on Devereaux. From that time, Devereaux too became more outgoing, relating to people and also took the decision to be involved in Church life and ministry in a meaningful way.

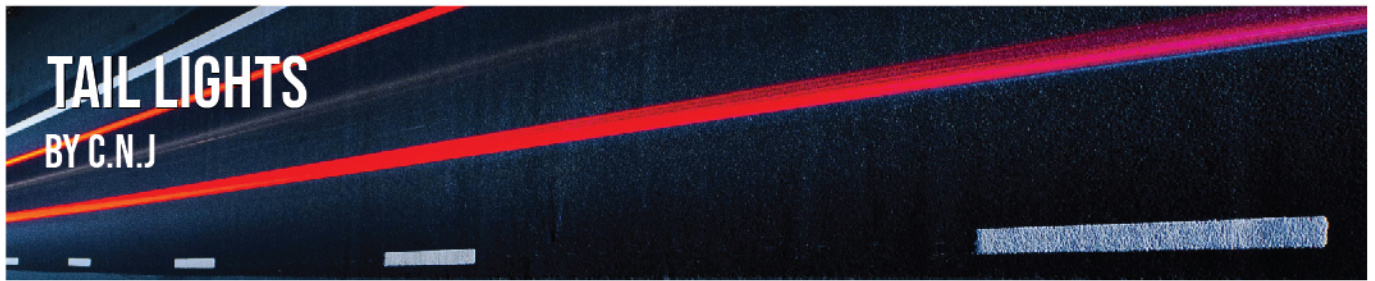
Regent-Street was his home Church and the seat on the first two pews was his place. Even when he left his home at Bamberapiya and was in a retirement Home in Wattala, he made it a point to worship physically when he had the opportunity. His faithfulness to the Regent-Street CRC and to the CRC in general was ingrained in his heart and soul right to the very end.

His wife predeceased him a few years ago. His children, Christangelo and Marieangela, together with his brother David, continued to extend to him the care that he needed especially, in the eventide years of his life.

We give God thanks for his faithfulness to his family, the Church and most of all to His Lord, that finally called him to his eternal Home, to eternal peace and rest.



(The "News" in these pages is gathered from the Bulletins published by the respective local churches and available in the Church office. Any other news of events or involving the membership could be sent directly to the Editor of "The Herald," for publication according to the established criteria. – Ed.).



“ D I E E M P T Y ! ”



This Tail Light title is that of a book authored by Todd Henry. The bottom line was a call “to unleash your best work every day!”

The book highlights the story where a Director was attending a business meeting and asked the question, “Where is the richest land in this world?” One said, “the oil rich gulf states.” – Another said, “Diamond mines in Africa.” The Director said, “No – it is the Cemetery. It is the richest land in the world for millions who have departed are buried with many valuable ideas and work that did not see the light of day to bless and benefit others! It is all in the Cemetery where they are buried.”

The bottom line was, do not go to your grave carrying with you all the best you have, all the blessings you could have shared, all the good you could have done and all the good fruit you could have borne.

Thinking further I thought of the story where Jesus cursed the fig tree which was fruitful in appearance, but barren in fruitfulness.

It is definitely sad, when all the good we could have done, all the blessings we could have shared, all the knowledge that we could have passed on, all the ideas that could have seen light and all that spiritual fruit that we could have borne, will lie buried with us.

So perhaps it is time to start unleashing our best and good works, motivated by our faith, so that when the time comes, all of that would not lie buried in a Cemetery or confined to the flames in the New Crematorium or the Old one !!

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