



New Hope Outreach Ministries

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Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the Fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. James 1:27

Sri Lanka Special Edition



Evelyn, Elya & John Shane say
Come and join us on a trip to Russia, Ukraine or Sri Lanka.
You will be blessed!

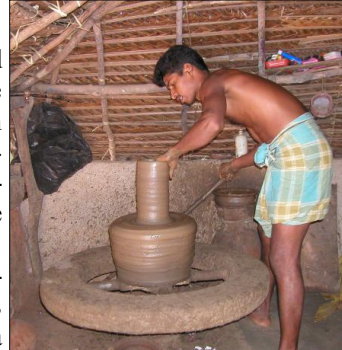
Sri Lanka (Ceylon)

I had a traveling companion on this trip to Sri Lanka named Yevginney Boyko from New York. Our first day in Sri Lanka we took as a rest day after traveling 36 grueling hours with stops in Hong Kong, Singapore and Colombo finally reaching our destination of Jaffna. While strolling on the beach we came to a fishing village and we were confronted by a Sinhalese woman. She insisted we come and see her home.

Both of us felt a little uncertain as to her motives but she insisted we come so we followed her. We discovered that she was a widow. She was extremely poor, her husband had died in a fishing accident and she had two small children.

Her home consisted of a one room 10 foot by 10 foot by 6 foot high ceiling covered with thatch siding and roof from coconut trees. There were no windows but it did have a door opening. She had few personal belongings and virtually no furniture except a broken down bed. She cooked on the floor in an open fire with an aluminum pot. She drew her water from a nearby well. For this she paid \$20 per month.

She had no job, no source of income and no hope for a future and this is the way life is for many thousands of widows in Sri Lanka. While the government quibbles over a senseless war the country is losing its greatest commodity, its people.



Many things in Sri Lanka are very much the same as they were thousands of years ago. Pottery is done entirely by hand (upper left) and coconut oil is still pressed by a rough mill (below). Monkeys are a common site here I am feeding them cookies.



We were near a small fishing village when this widow asked us if we could help pay her rent (\$20 US) for one more month for her and her two children? What would you do?

Important Notice

It was brought to my attention that this newsletter is being read by both leaderships of the Tamil Tigers and Sinhalese via our website. We welcome there input. So please feel free to contact us at our e-mail address on the front of our newsletter if you would like to respond. Our primary objective is to present the truth.



What is the future for children in Sri Lanka without your help? We can't do it without you!

Ministry in Jaffna

We traveled by van to reach our destination of Jaffna. This was a first for me. It took us twelve plus hours to travel a little less than 300 miles. Road conditions were very bad and many times the road was reduced to nothing more than a one lane bumpy path. We saw lots of monkeys, peacocks, mongoose, water buffalo, Buddhist and Hindu temples and the devastation of poverty that comes with a nation at war with itself. We had to travel through Tamil and Singhalese check points and were subjected to searches physically and our personal items.

At the Tamil check station we had to unpack all our luggage. This is a real pain because we had several toys and sandals for the widows and their children in Jaffna. They itemized all that we had and decided we needed to pay a tax on all these items.

I made a plea to several officials until finally I was taken to the senior camp official who reluctantly gave permission to help the widows in the area but told us the next time we come we would have to pay taxes on such items.

We arrived in Jaffna only to discover we would leave early the next morning by motorcycle for four days to the Vanni region which is held by the Tamil Tigers. In our travels I truly do not discuss politics. My mission is not to take sides but to fulfill James 1:27, visiting the fatherless, widows in their affliction and keeping myself unspotted from the world.

Again we crossed the Singhalese and Tamil checkpoints. It is hard to get used to all these machine-gunned soldiers looking at you. Yevginney and I were the only white people in this area so we couldn't hide even if we wanted to. At the Tamil checkpoint they asked where we were going? When we told them we would be going to Vanni region they denied us access. Again we pleaded our case to higher officials. We were directed to the Tamil Tigers headquarters where we had to get written permission to enter this region.

At first they were not going to give us access but later relented when they found out I had been there two times before. We met with a very high official who granted us written permission to enter. While I had his attention I asked him about the tax and told him about our mission. He was very impressed that anyone would want to help the widow and fatherless and said that when I come again to send him an itemized statement of what I was bringing and he would personally grant permission without taxation. He also stated that he was very surprised that I had been to Vanni twice before without him hearing about it. Praise the Lord!



Displacement Camps

No education is given to the kids in the displacement camps so a dedicated young Hindu lady comes and teaches two sessions each day to kids that otherwise would not receive an education (upper photo). The classroom is open with a dirt floor and is very crowded, books are limited and pens, pencils and paper are at a premium but to their credit an education is given. A widow on the left has three children (left photo) and contemplates a future that is virtually non-existent unless government makes changes to help these precious souls. Children (photo on right) have no hope of a future and help is desperately needed.



Deaf & Blind School

Just outside Jaffna there is a school for the deaf and blind children. We visited this place and there are 167 students, a dedicated staff and a government that provides 10 rupees (10 cents American) a day per child for room and board to help these kids.

We touched them, hugged them and their response was so overwhelming I just cried. The fact that someone cared enough to visit them was more than enough for them.

The director has dedicated his life to help these children. One of the cooks had spent over 46 years working for hardly anything in a kitchen that uses a small propane gas stove on the ground to cook the meals. There is no refrigerator, microwave or any appliances to make life easier yet the staff has given all to help these kids.

During the major bombing and attacks in one of the major battles of this terrible civil war, the complex was bombed and many were killed but they are rebuilding and these children are getting educated. These kids realize this may be their only chance at survival.

Dedicated teachers and staff are committed to making life better for these precious children.



Hero's

The two ladies on the left are cooks at the school. There are no stoves, ovens, refrigerators, no modern appliances, there is just a heart to serve those that are even poorer than the poor. The room in which they work was in excess of 100 degrees but there is no complaining.



The widow woman (above right) has spent 46 years working at this school. She has helped many survive the war and the pain of loneliness.

It is by your help and continued giving that we can reach these and so many more children and adults. We need your help and support. Thank You!



We were so touched by these precious kids. Though deaf or blind they knew how to love and be grateful. When we began to hug them or shake their hands they would surround us and sign to us thank you and I love you. Our hearts were so blessed as we spent time with them.

In The Jungle

Even though there are nearly 20 million people in Sri Lanka there is still plenty of wilderness. We went to a small portion of the jungle called the Vanni region. Elephants, water buffalo, cobras, leopards, bats and much more are quite common here. People get bit by poisonous snakes and they just die. There are no hospitals or ambulances or 911 calls. There are no telephones, electricity or even running water except that found in the rivers or streams.

People for the most part don't care about the war because they are just to busy trying to survive daily living. Poverty, as we Americans know it, abounds. But I have found that if we don't tell people they are poor they don't know it. It is their way of life. Jesus says the poor will always be among us. Do I think there is room for improvement? Yes, absolutely yes.

There is a thriving, growing church in the jungle of Vanni and because of dedicated Pastors and faithful congregations the church continues to grow and start new churches. I am so blessed to be with these saints of faith. Life is very simple in the jungle. There are no newspapers, televisions or radios to listen to. Education is at a minimum but I see little difference between the struggles of daily living in their world verses ours. We are not there to change a culture or a way of life. We are there because God sent us to love them.

I stand in awe as I watch the Pastors and their families battle with struggles that we can not comprehend. Wondering day to day whether more bombs will fall? Will my church or my home or my family be bombed or threatened or beaten or killed next?

We preached in churches and homes and interacted with the people as much as possible. We visited friends and helped more widows and their families. We were able to purchase more bicycles for pioneering Pastors so they could more easily get to the place of their calling.

Hero's

One of my hero's of the faith is Pastor Jason. Having his home blown up and his church bombed most people would want to flee but Pastor Jason has stayed the course in Jaffna. Pioneering new churches while heading a Bible School and keeping the faith have blessed so many.



"Hero's of the Faith"



Great-Grandmother

Her daughter was killed in the war. Her grand-daughter died shortly after childbirth. Though not a widow it is all this 75 year-old Great-Grandmother can do to raise her little great grand-daughter.

The great-grandmother was seriously wounded during a bombing raid in Jaffna. The right side of her face was ripped off and most of her teeth were blown out.

She is so worried about what will happen to her little great-grand-daughter. They still live in a very dangerous part of Jaffna. Land mines, guerilla fighting, terrorists and the sheer hardship of daily living add to the stress.

Many of the parents and grand-parents would willingly give up their children if they thought they could be safe.

Terrorism is real and it is real ugly. Let us pray down the strongholds of the enemy.

Hero's

Pastor Mohan and his family stepped into an impossible situation in Kandy and yet he has been firm in his stand for the Lord. Pastoring an English, Tamil and Sinhalese churches is not easy but then God did not call us to a life of ease but of sacrifice.



Kandy

During our stay at Kandy we had the opportunity to witness the pagan ritual of the Buddhist festival of the tooth. In Kandy there is a Buddhist temple that supposedly houses the tooth of Buddha along with other Buddha artifacts. A annual festival and parade is given during this time. Dancing in the streets, elephants decorated and marched in the parade and the climax of the tooth being paraded on the back of an elephant for all to see. These are all part of the week long celebration. People from around the world come to view this festival. The city of Kandy doubles in size from 1 million to 2 million people during this time.

We spent time with Pastor Mohan and preached in his churches. He continues to have a dynamic outreach with children and we are thankful to have a small part in helping support this ongoing ministry.

They have accomplished so much in reaching out to their community with the Gospel with such limited

Hero's

Pastor Robert and his family are truly a blessing to the down and out. A man with so much compassion and love. I watched as he ministered to so many of the people in the displacement camps and truly feel for their situation. I sensed his frustration of not being able to give more help.



Fatherless—Widows—Displacement Camps

Displacement camps still continue to grieve me. There are many in the Jaffna region. Once in a displacement camp the likelihood of getting out is almost an impossibility. Many follow the “caste” system of society. Which simply means they believe they are in a given situation because of what resulted from past lives they have lived. With that frame of mind the conclusion is that there is nothing one can do to change his or her situation and this is carried on even after they have been saved. If one accepts his or her karma in life then nothing will change, there is no incentive to change.

We met one Christian widow and her two daughters. Her husband was killed in the war. Her family was placed in a displacement camp 22 years ago. Her two daughters aged 17 and 19 have never been outside this camp. This is their world. Unless things change for them they will get married, have children and life for them will be meaningless without Christ. There are so many families who are not Christian who are just this way.

There is no help, no compassion, no future and no hope in any of these displacement camps. Mud huts, dirt floors, no electricity, no running water, and thousands and thousands of people live there lives just this way.

My friend Pastor Robert ministers with great love and compassion to these who are so needful. He has limited resources, no financial backing, only a heart to do what is right before God. He asked me if I could help by sponsoring more of the Christian widows in his church? I said I would continue to appeal to our readers about this very need. Pastor Jason’s church has the same need.

We are sponsoring 20 widows with monthly support now. Our widows are using these funds to start home industries to make a living and help be a blessing to their local churches. Please consider sponsoring a widow and her family for \$20 per month.

I personally visited many of the widows we support and all told me to tell those who are helping a great big thank you. Your support is vital to their future.



Pictured on this page are just some of the widows and their families that people like you are supporting with a \$20 sponsorship program.

With the money they receive they are able to start home industries that will eventually help them out of the displacement camps or the great poverty they are in. Some are raising poultry or live stock others are making cloth or clothing. We want to show the world that God's people are responsible and do not want to be a burden but instead be a blessing to the society in which they live. All of them say thank-you for giving them a chance and believing in them and God. Each of these ladies has great horror stories to tell about their lives and living conditions but you have helped make life better for them. For more information check the back page of this newsletter.



Where Do I Begin?

I am asked this question often, where do I begin my ministry? I simply say begin where you are. That is exactly where God wants you to begin. Our ministry began many years ago when God presented to us a particular need. There was a need to be foster parents to children who were desperate for care. We could have made all kinds of excuses why we should not be foster parents but God had shown us the need and we pursued His direction. As a result we had 58 children (not at one time but over a period of years) in our care. We were able to lead about half of them to the Lord and the other half caught a glimpse of what a Christian family is all about.

What is God showing you? It would be easy to see a need and tell God that somebody should do something about it when in fact God chose you to show you the need because He wants you to do something about it.

God showed us a need to help the orphans and widows in different countries and we pursued that need. It began with one orphanage and now it is a far reaching ministry. We can't do it alone, no one can. We don't have the resources, the ability, the stamina, the language skills and so many other areas we are weak in but God says in our weakness He will be strong. We need to quit making excuses about our shortcomings and start doing what we can.

Years ago I read a little saying by a man named Arthur DeMoss which read, "Attempt something so impossible that unless God is in it you are doomed to fail." We have camped out on that statement. We have attempted the impossible and God is in it and we are blessed. How about you? Why not attempt the impossible by entering the ministry that He has chosen for you. Take a trip to Russia, Ukraine, Sri Lanka or the uttermost parts of the world and catch a glimpse of what is beyond your comfort zone.

Look around you. Open your Spiritual eyes and see the need placed right in your path. The need to love your neighbor as you love yourself. To reach beyond yourself and let God work through you. There are so many hurting people in our world and you hold the keys, through Jesus Christ, to bring to them joy unspeakable and full of God's Glory.

We saw this family (picture below) in the ruins of a building that was destroyed by the bombing in Jaffna. They had no where else to live and they were doing the best they could do just to survive. This was a bit of a surprise because these are men with small children, usually it is the other way around. There are over 75,000 widows with small children in the Jaffna region and life for them is much like that of the family below. Won't you be a part of helping us help them? We need your prayers, your support, as we bring hope to the hopeless, New Hope!



Take Time Now

Widows and orphans are waiting for your help. If you are able please pray for us.

Think about helping financially in this very vital ministry. Take time to fill out the form below and send it to us. The sooner we receive funds the sooner we can begin their support.



I need your Help!

Sponsorship Program

Yes, I will sponsor #___Sri Lankan Widow(s) (\$20.00 per month sponsors 1 widow and her family.) (\$240 per year)

Yes, Pastor John Shane I will give monthly support to New Hope Outreach Ministries to help Orphans & Widows in Russia, Ukraine and Sri Lanka in the amount of \$_____ Per month

Please Print.

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Sponsorship Start Date _____

Thank you for making a commitment to New Hope Outreach Ministries. Please make all checks payable to New Hope. Your gifts in support of these families and this ministry are **tax deductible**.



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