

Sri Lanka



Today in Sri Lanka...

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) in Sri Lanka, called "Lanka Hope Media," opened its ministry center in 2001.

Lanka Hope Media brings people to Christ by using a Bible correspondence course (BCC) in both native languages of Sinhalese and Tamil. The BCC is mostly promoted by the local newspaper advertisements. BCC enrollment forms are made available and introduced throughout the country by local congregations and volunteers.

Lanka Hope Media enables people to view films in the villages, and distributes tracts and BCC enrollment forms. It also organizes music rallies in the tea plantation areas to proclaim the Gospel through devotional songs.

Lanka Hope Media occasionally airs its radio programs during Christian festival seasons.



The Lanka Lutheran Church, (LLC) a partner church of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Sri Lanka, has more than 650 members. The LLC renders its fullest cooperation to fulfill LHM's mission in Sri Lanka.

"I thank you not only because you have helped me, but also helped my entire family."

Religion in Sri Lanka...

Buddhism is the predominant religion in Sri Lanka. It was introduced by India in the third century B.C. The Sinhalese established Buddhism as the official religion of their kingdoms in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan Buddhists follow the Theravada tradition. They constitute about 70 percent of the population.

Hinduism is the second major religion in Sri Lanka. The Tamils who came from India were already Hindus. They make up about 11 percent of the population. Muslims and Christians constitute about eight percent of the population. Europeans introduced various denominations during their colonial period. Most of the Christians in Sri Lanka are Roman Catholics.

The Country...

Sri Lanka is an island situated in the Indian Ocean off the southeastern tip of the Indian subcontinent. It was originally called the pearl of the Indian Ocean, and it is surrounded by the Arabian Sea to the west, the Bay of Bengal to the northeast, and India to the south. Colombo is the

The Ministry...

Office Established:

Colombo, 2001; Now in Nuwara Eliya, Up Country

Director:

S. Sathiyabalan

Population:

19,905,165

Media Outreach:

Brings people to Christ using a Bible correspondence course (BCC) in both native languages of Sinhalese and Tamil. The BCC is mostly promoted by local newspaper advertisements. BCC enrollment forms are made available and introduced throughout the country by local congregations and volunteers

"Lanka Hope Media" occasionally airs its radio programs during Christian festival seasons

largest, most populated city in Sri Lanka.

The population of Sri Lanka today is about 20 million, and its total area is 25,332 square miles.

Sinhalese and Tamil kings ruled parts of the island periodically until the invasion of the Europeans in the 1500s. The Portuguese, who were the first to capture the island and rule it, did so from 1517 until 1658. The Dutch came next from 1658-1796 and, finally, the British colonized the island from 1796-1948.

Sri Lanka was formerly called Ceylon by the British and gained its independence in 1948. The name "Ceylon" remained until it was renamed Sri Lanka in 1972, when it became a democratic country. An ethnic war that erupted in 1983 between the Sinhalese and Tamils still remains unresolved.

The People...

The major ethnic groups in Sri Lanka are Sinhalese and Tamils, the majority of which are the Sinhalese, at 74 percent. They began to migrate to the island from northern India in about 500 B.C. They speak Sinhalese and traditionally practice Buddhism.

The Tamils form 18 percent of the population. Those known as Sri Lankan Tamils trace their origins to ancient migrants from India. The Indian Tamils came to Sri Lanka as migrant workers during the British colonization in the nineteenth century.

The Sri Lankan and the Indian Tamils both speak the Tamil language. They traditionally practice Hinduism.

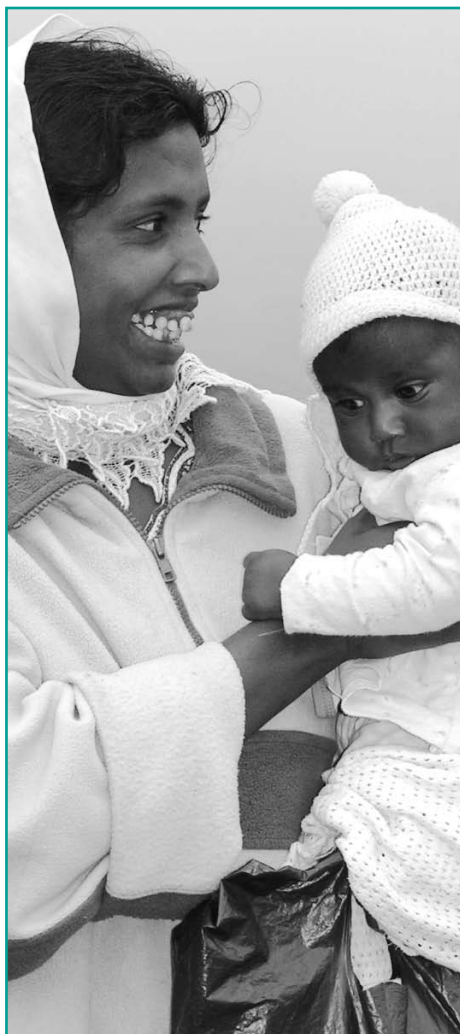
Muslims are considered both an ethnic and religious group in Sri Lanka. They constitute about seven percent of the population.

Your Opportunities to Serve...

Pray to the Lord for He is good... We give thanks for the opportunity given to us by our heavenly Father to bring His good news of hope and salvation to the people of Sri Lanka.

Indifference can be a powerful enemy to the work of the Lord. If we choose to do nothing, those that are without hope in their lives will not know His mercy and salvation. Through the blessed work of Lutheran Hour Ministries, we can break down the barriers of indifference.

Through your support, the ministry of Sri Lanka can continue to reach out to the lost souls around the world. Become a sponsor or increase your level of giving to help us continue our mission of "Bringing Christ to the Nations – and the Nations to the Church."



Contact Information...

International Ministries
Lutheran Hour Ministries
660 Mason Ridge Center Drive
St. Louis, MO 63141-8557
Phone: (800) 944-3450, ext. 4163
E-mail: cheerful@lhmint.org
Web Site: www.lhmint.org

© 2004 Lutheran Hour Ministries International

Our world is full of people who NEED to know they are loved. Please join us in reaching out to them—with God's love.

How You Can Help:

Become a sponsor and assist LHM Ministry Centers around the world. Call 1-800-944-3450 for details, or visit our Web site at www.lhmint.org.

For the latest listing of fact sheets for all the countries in which Lutheran Hour Ministries is carrying out its vision of "All nations, all peoples, all in Christ," visit our Web site listed above.

For more information, write to the Int'l Lutheran Laymen's League at 660 Mason Ridge Center Drive, St. Louis, MO 63141-8557.

The Int'l Lutheran Laymen's League, with its outreach through Lutheran Hour Ministries, is an auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and Lutheran Church—Canada.



K-NVVO
7WE43