

SRI LANKA RELIEF WORK (JUNE 2019)



AREA:

Sri Lanka is a small country having a population of 25 millions. It is divided into 9 divisions. Batticaloa is a major city in the eastern province of Sri Lanka. It is the seat of eastern university of Sri Lanka and a major commercial city. It has a population of 600,000.

TRAGEDY:

On the day of Easter, 21st April, 2019 around 9:00 A.M. a massive bomb exploded in the Zion Church of Batticaloa. It was a suicide bomb attack. When it happened, there was worship service going on and Church was full of people. There were 700 people in the worship. Bomb was exploded just at the entrance door of church building. Kids were playing and some people were standing outside. Book shop was opened and people were sitting there. The Lead Pastor of the church was in Norway on a preaching trip.



In this explosion 30 people including 14 children were killed on the spot. 86 people got severely injured including 32 children. Even to this day 24 people are still in the District Hospital of Colombo struggling for their lives, out of which 8 are kids. Roof of the Church building was blown off. 34 bikes, 22 cycles became trash, church van, generator set, P.A. system, musical instruments were burnt. Pastor's residence was shattered and became debris.

RELIEF MISSION:

After with prayers, proper consultation and resources the team of CICM reached Batticaloa. During the relief efforts the help was extended to the 85 affected families.



The team was able to distribute food articles and clothing included other needed items such as rice, lentils, sugar, cooking oil, water purifiers, bed sheets etc. The team members were able to visit the families who have lost their loved ones and were in deep emotional distress.

PERSONAL TESTIMONIES :



Bro. Thiru Kumaran is the assistant preacher at Zion Church. He was injured in the blast & lost his **twelve year old son Malikiah**. He continues to do his ministry and **now started a new house church, 12 kilometres away, after the incident.**



Wives of Bro. Shashi & Bro. Ramesh, even after losing their husbands, still very strong in their faith and sharing their witness with many people. Shashi & Ramesh were the two people who interacted with the suicide bomber & brought him outside of church building & were talking to him when he exploded the bomb. Unknowingly these two became life savers of hundreds who were inside the church building.



Uma Shankari, a 22 years old girl was severely injured. She had pallets of bomb in her body and still having pallets in her nervous system. She is admitted in ICU. Her mother also in the Hospital. They both are in the District Hospital of Colombo that is about 320 kilometres from Batticaloa.



Dilani is a 31 year old lady. She has 3 children. There is a pallet of bomb inside her head, the treatment is very difficult. She also having injuries in her leg but she is still strong in her faith and praising God.

TEAM MEMBERS:

The members of CICM team India included Bro. Jeevan Massey, Dr. Daniel Manorath, Bro. Avneesh, Bro. Stanley and Bro. Albert. The church leaders of Sri Lankan Church including Senior Minister Roshan , Bro. Thiru, Bro. Anand and Bro. Vincent worked as a part of CICM team and provided guidance to help the most affected and desperate believers.

GRATITUDE :

Even though the believers are in physical and emotional pain but still were strong in their faith. From the following Sunday of the incident, worship continued in a rented hall and many new people and seekers started coming after seeing the courageous witness of these faithful people. Here are some brief stories of some of the people who are affected:

We praise God that CICM team could go to help these people. They all were very much thankful for help that was provided by CICM in their difficult situation. Their lead minister Roshan extended his thanks to Dr. Ajai Lall, Bro. Josh Howard and all of the CICM members for their love and concern. He mentioned that the relief efforts from the brothers and sisters in USA and India is the witness of God's love and it shows that we are one in Lord. Our love is beyond geographical boundaries.

On behalf of Zion Church family of Sri Lanka and CICM Team we want to extend our sincere gratitude to our brothers and sisters in America who provided the funds in order for the relief efforts, as we minister and will continue to help during our next part of the relief work soon.

With much love, gratitude and prayers,

Ajai & Indu Lall,
Josh & Lashi Howard & CICM Team