

Trip to Sri Lanka  
Monday March 14, 2016  
Day Four



***The buildings across from ours***

The second man in the pink shirt was the translator from Singala to Tamil.

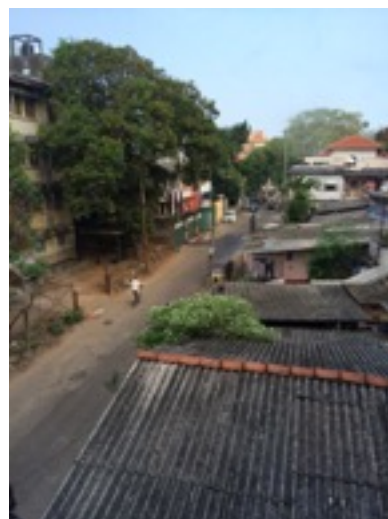


***Our residence***



This morning one of the pastors arrived for BOA (Board of Administration) meetings at 5 am. I heard him come in, but was able to keep sleeping until after 6:30 am. At that point I was ready to get up, so I did. I have developed a habit of looking out of my bedroom windows, just taking in the otherness of the place. Because we had a bit of a slower morning I decided to get some pictures to share.

After a while, Sister Hilda came and got us and we were off to “The Heart of Free Methodism” course. This is a standard course for the denomination and is an important one for pastors of independent churches who are considering joining the denomination. Pastor Kumarasiri, who was the early arrival, was teaching.



***Down the street***

One of the men whom I met at the course was translating into and out of English for Dan and I. He had an amazing story. As I spoke with him he kept referencing his accident; I asked him what had happened. This man had been thrown from a bus, was in a coma, sent to the mortuary because they didn't realize he was in a coma, avoided being ‘frozen’ there (I'm not sure what that meant), and then woke up. He suffered from amnesia but after a few weeks recovered his memory. He continues to enjoy music even though he is down to the tambourine and the bongo. He also writes music and he is going to play his song for me tomorrow morning.

We spent the morning with the pastors taking the course and spoke in a few places during the morning. After lunch we came back to the residence and did some work. In the later afternoon Pastor Kumarasiri and Pastor





Solomon came back to the residence as well. In the morning I had a chance to speak with Pastor Kumarasiri and hear about his family, his ministry and his conversion. In the evening I was able to hear Pastor Solomon's story. They both have such powerful stories of God's intervening grace.

It was also wonderful to hear Pastor Solomon's vision for Sri Lanka. He is praying and believing that Sri Lanka is in a building time from a spiritual point of view. His hope is that the majority of Sri Lankans are going to become Christians

which is going to heal the previous divisions between the two peoples each with their own religion. What is particularly amazing is how he understands the role of the church is not only to tell the gospel but to live it — the two people becoming one — very biblical!

