



WITNESS SEASON

## MINUTE FOR MISSION

September 15, 2006

### A Community Where the Love of God Prevails

Once known as the Pearl of the Indian Ocean, the island of Sri Lanka is a multiracial (Sinhalese, Tamil, Muslim, Moor, Burgher), multireligious (Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Christianity) land enriched by a multicultural life setting.



Children participate in the Sinhala and Tamil New Year festivities at a preschool run by the Sri Lankan church in Colombo

In 1645 the Reformed faith tradition was transported from the West to this pluralistic society where Roman Catholicism was already established. Presbyterianism was planted and spread. Presbyterians gave priority to education, and many schools were built.

After national political independence from British rule was achieved in 1948, radical political changes brought a close to almost all missionary enterprises. The Sri Lankan church was transferred from the West to the East, fully committed to the care of local believers.

In the process of transformation in politics, economics, education, and religion over the years, our church has adopted a more inclusive and ecumenical approach in church life and practice. The congregation that was exclusively English speaking now embraces the Sinhala and Tamil communities.

Today God is calling us to come forth with indigenous and nonconventional methods of outreach in order to convey relevantly the salvation message of our Lord. The most efficient way to communicate the love of Christ in our pluralistic



WITNESS SEASON

## MINUTE FOR MISSION

September 15, 2006

### A Community Where the Love of God Prevails

Once known as the Pearl of the Indian Ocean, the island of Sri Lanka is a multiracial (Sinhalese, Tamil, Muslim, Moor, Burgher), multireligious (Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Christianity) land enriched by a multicultural life setting.



Children participate in the Sinhala and Tamil New Year festivities at a preschool run by the Sri Lankan church in Colombo

In 1645 the Reformed faith tradition was transported from the West to this pluralistic society where Roman Catholicism was already established. Presbyterianism was planted and spread. Presbyterians gave priority to education, and many schools were built.

After national political independence from British rule was achieved in 1948, radical political changes brought a close to almost all missionary enterprises. The Sri Lankan church was transferred from the West to the East, fully committed to the care of local believers.

In the process of transformation in politics, economics, education, and religion over the years, our church has adopted a more inclusive and ecumenical approach in church life and practice. The congregation that was exclusively English speaking now embraces the Sinhala and Tamil communities.

Today God is calling us to come forth with indigenous and nonconventional methods of outreach in order to convey relevantly the salvation message of our Lord. The most efficient way to communicate the love of Christ in our pluralistic

society is not so much by word but by deed. We are exploring creative, relevant, and acceptable means of conveying the gospel through our lives.

The preschool run by the Sri Lankan Church in Colombo has nearly 150 children and seven teachers. This school has been a tremendous blessing to the church and to the community as well. Children come from all ethnic groups. Our Christian emphasis and ecumenical approach work harmoniously with children, teachers, and parents, in whom we have seen the gracious hand of the Lord. In our community the love of God prevails despite our differences.

We ask for your solidarity with us in our exploration of new ways and means of outreach, and we live by the words of the Lord, as in the Gospel of Matthew 5.

Rev. K. Piyadasa  
Moderator, Presbytery of Lanka  
Colombo, Sri Lanka

society is not so much by word but by deed. We are exploring creative, relevant, and acceptable means of conveying the gospel through our lives.

The preschool run by the Sri Lankan Church in Colombo has nearly 150 children and seven teachers. This school has been a tremendous blessing to the church and to the community as well. Children come from all ethnic groups. Our Christian emphasis and ecumenical approach work harmoniously with children, teachers, and parents, in whom we have seen the gracious hand of the Lord. In our community the love of God prevails despite our differences.

We ask for your solidarity with us in our exploration of new ways and means of outreach, and we live by the words of the Lord, as in the Gospel of Matthew 5.

Rev. K. Piyadasa  
Moderator, Presbytery of Lanka  
Colombo, Sri Lanka

*Do you have a mission story to tell? Would you like to read inspiring stories of Presbyterians in mission? Visit the Witness Season Web site: [www.pcusa.org/witness](http://www.pcusa.org/witness). New minutes for mission are posted on the 1st and 15th of each month.*

*For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or [Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org).*

*Do you have a mission story to tell? Would you like to read inspiring stories of Presbyterians in mission? Visit the Witness Season Web site: [www.pcusa.org/witness](http://www.pcusa.org/witness). New minutes for mission are posted on the 1st and 15th of each month.*

*For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or [Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org).*