

INFORMATION

Colombo Theological Seminary

[HOME](#)[COURSES](#)[GIVE TO CTS](#)

WHY CTS MATTERS!

This is our 30th anniversary. It was on 31st May 1994 that CTS opened its doors to theologially equip the leaders of the Sri Lankan Church. And, if I may say so, many find the story quite compelling. A single study centre in 1994 has become ten today; about 40 students at the beginning to over 800 in classes now; and, from a graduating class of 17 in 1997 to 824 alumni by 2023!

At anniversary events from May to July, we joyfully celebrated these wonderful indicators of the seminary's steady growth. However, I found myself asking, 'But why?' What makes CTS so necessary? Why CTS for the next 30 years? Here are some reasons I believe CTS matters:

CTS matters because the GOSPEL matters

CTS is not an end in itself. Theological education exists to serve the Church to proclaim the gospel of



From the Principal's Desk

Ivor Poobalan, PhD
PRINCIPAL

of the Lord Jesus Christ to Sri Lanka and the nations. The founders of CTS were men and women who shared this passion. It is our desire to carry out the call to evangelise the world that makes excellent theological education so essential.

CTS matters because the CHURCH matters

We believe – as the Nicene Creed puts it – in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. The whole Sri Lankan Church is the body of Christ and the bride of Christ. This is why CTS is a space where all Christian traditions

[CLICK TO KEEP READING](#)

ANNOUNCEMENT

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN COUNSELLING UPGRADED TO DIPLOMA IN COUNSELLING

From 2025, CTS will offer a Diploma in Counselling

in place of the Advanced Certificate in Counselling!

Following the recent re-accreditation by Asia Theological Association (ATA), CTS received approval to upgrade the existing ACC qualification to a Diploma, as the level of learning met the requirements. A total of 72 credits will be required to complete this qualification.





COMMUNITY CELEBRATION DAY!

7th June 2024: Students, Staff and Faculty came together at the Henry Pedris Grounds for a fun day of games, food, fellowship and friendly competition. It was a special opportunity for online and onsite students of all three mediums to meet and build friendships across denominations. Addressing the gathering, the Principal, Ivor Poobalan, emphasised that a CTS education was not only about theological knowledge but character formation and being part of a community that would support one another beyond the walls of CTS.



Colombo Theological Seminary added 33 photos and a video to the album Community Celebration Day: 7th June. June 18, 2024

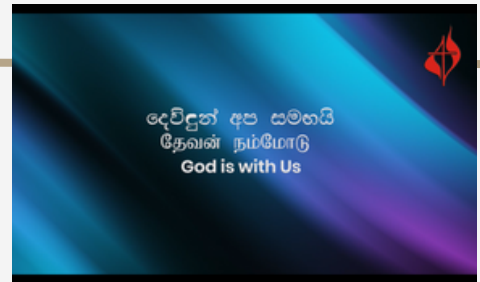


“GOD IS WITH US”

Click Here

to listen to the song on YouTube

An original trilingual composition by students and faculty members of CTS was shared at the 2nd term closing Chapel service. The song is based on Psalm 46, remembering what God has done for the ministry of CTS over the past 30 years.



MARKING THE MILESTONES OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

CTSPROVINCIAL

While the seminary was growing in the capital city, the great need for equipping leaders in the other regions of the country could not be ignored. In keeping with its commitment to be relevant and responsive, CTS took the bold step in 2001 of going into the Northern province to equip church leaders soldiering on in strengthening believers living in the midst of war. In 2005, CTS responded to the call to equip leaders in the tsunami-ravaged Southern province.



Northern Province

Today, CTS study centres are active in 6 of the 9 provinces, and its programmes are reaching out to those in the other provinces through its online courses. CTS intends to make its theological learning accessible to believers in all 9 provinces.



Southern Province



Eastern Province

[CLICK HERE TO LOOK AT THE MILESTONES OF A 30-YEAR JOURNEY](#)

NOURISHING A LEARNING COMMUNITY

VISITING FACULTY AT CTS CAPITAL

'FAITH, SOCIETY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE'



MA Course with Dr Stephen Bailey

'THE PENTATEUCH'



MA Course with Dr Julie Woods

'NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY'



MA Course with Distinguished Professor of New Testament, Dr Eckhard Schnabel

'PASTORAL CARE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES'



Modular course with pastor, counsellor and trainer, Dr David C Goodwin

SPECIAL SEMINAR AND MA COUNSELLING CLASS ON TRAUMA

'TRAUMA AND CRISIS COUNSELLING'

MA Counselling course with Professor, Counsellor and Author, Dr Tammy Schultz.



MA (Counselling) students with Dr Tammy Schultz and Course Coordinator, Dileeni Abraham.

A special seminar was held for counsellors, pastors, and church leaders to gain a better understanding of how to deal with trauma.



The participants examined a biblical trauma narrative, discussed approaches to promote holistic healing, and learnt post-traumatic growth exercises.

CCS: CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WORKSHOPS

The third cohort of students, totalling 86, enrolled on the Children's Ministry programme spent two days at CTS Capital, in August, engaging in their first set of onsite workshops, and having fellowship with their fellow-students and lecturers.

The workshops focused on the areas of study methods, spiritual disciplines, time management, and stewardship. The students also received hands on exposure on how to use the Library as a learning resource.



Students from Sinhala and Tamil medium classes with their lecturers and Course Coordinator, Christnie Edirisinghe.

The students hail from Hambantota, Nuwara Eliya, Kilinochchi, Batticaloa, Colombo, Gampaha, Badulla, Bandarawela, Ambilipitiya. This fully online programme is equipping these men and women to more effectively carry out their service to children and families in their local contexts.

GATE FACULTY TRAINING

4-YEAR FACULTY TRAINING PROGRAMME BY GLOBAL ASSOCIATION FOR THEOLOGICAL EDUCATORS

Faculty members from CTS joined with faculty members from four other local seminaries and Bible colleges around Sri Lanka were richly blessed by the training conducted by Global Association for Theological Educators. Sixty one theological educators attended the faculty training facilitated by the Asia Theological Association (ATA). The facilitators were Dr Theresa Lua, Dr Gary Griffith and Dr Bennet Lawrence. CTS was privileged to host the first of this 4-part training programme.

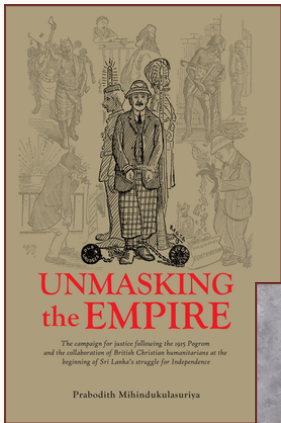


ADDITIONS TO THE CTS LIBRARY FROM DR DALE RALPH DAVIS

CTS had the special privilege of receiving a collection of books authored by Dr Dale Ralph Davis in honour of Dr Davis' 80th birthday. Dr Davis is known to be one of the most readable and reliable expositors/commentators of Scripture, and is described to be a master at illustrations in preaching/expositing. He is now retired, and working on more commentaries.

CTS-IN-ACTION

COLLOQUIUM HOW CHRISTIANS CONTRIBUTED TO SRI LANKAN INDEPENDENCE



Speaker:
Dr Prabodith Mihindukulasuriya

A colloquium was held in May at which Dr Prabodith Mihindukulasuriya presented his research on how Christians contributed to Sri Lankan independence. The presentation and discussion were based on his doctoral thesis on the contribution of British Christian humanitarian organisations to the Ceylonese nationalist 'campaign for justice' following the pogrom of 1915. Dr Mihindukulasuriya, former Deputy Principal and full-time faculty member at CTS, now serves as Assistant Professor in the History of Christianity at Regent College Canada. He continues to serve as the Editor of the CTS Journal (JCTS), and as an adjunct faculty member of CTS.

CTS REPRESENTED AT THE FOURTH LAUSANNE CONGRESS

Several members of the council, faculty, staff, students, and alumni of CTS were part of the Sri Lankan delegation that attended the fourth Lausanne Congress on World Evangelisation held in Seoul in September. Dr Ivor Poobalan, serving as Co-Chair of the Theology Working Group has been instrumental in developing the 'Seoul Statement' which was released at the Congress. This is a pivotal document in evangelical Christianity, outlining core beliefs and addressing contemporary challenges.



CTS COMMUNITY

STUDENT STORIES

ODDAMAVADI: THE UNTOLD STORY

Roshanara DeMel, an alumna of CTS (ACC) and current MA candidate is the author of 'Oddamavadi: The Untold Story'. The book takes the reader through the struggles of the Sri Lankan Muslim community during the Covid-19 pandemic as they were forced to cremate their loved ones who had succumbed to the virus. This tragedy is now being told through written word, photography, and film to record the true story in the hope that it would not be repeated in the future.



“—
From the very outset, Oddamavadi felt very much a sacred undertaking. An opportunity to use the gift of writing to raise a voice for the voiceless. To shine a light on the trauma the Muslim community faced due to discriminatory, unjust policies practised by the state during the COVID-19 pandemic. For, as CTS has imprinted on my heart and mind, we are all called to steward the gifts God has blessed us with to be His instruments of justice, truth, and grace. He who brought me to this project is the One who brought me through. He kept me going every time I was tempted to give up in despair and weariness, He carried me through. To Him be the glory.
—”

Roshi, as she is fondly known, served as the Promotions and Publicity Liaison at CTS from 2019 till June 2024. She has contributed significantly to the CTS ministry through the leadership she provided in publicity strategy, content creation, and developing the different platforms for promotions.

Most notably, CTS was able to launch a tri-lingual newsletter and course catalogue under her guidance. We wish Roshi God's blessings as she completes her studies and moves on in her career path.

BIDDING FAREWELL

ROGER SLEMMERMANN

Roger or “Uncle Roger” as he is fondly known, served at CTS for over 20 years. His deep loyalty to CTS is legendary, as is his ever-helpful nature. His investment in the CTS ministry is deeply appreciated, and we pray for God's continued presence and blessings on him and his family.



HOW TO GIVE TO CTS

*CTS is reaching new heights because of the support of generous friends like you!
Your gift can make a difference to the training of the finest workers for the Kingdom of God.*

1 BANK TRANSFER AND FOREIGN REMITTANCE (USD AND CAD)

Talk to us for more details

2 CREDIT CARD



Pay through the
payment portal on
the CTS Website.

Go to www.cts.lk

↓
'Give to CTS' button
on the top right of
the home page
↓
Make Donation

3 CHEQUES

Address to Colombo Theological Seminary (Account Payee)
Forward to The Principal | Colombo Theological Seminary
189 Dutugemunu Street, Kohuwela, Sri Lanka

4 CASH PAYMENT

Visit CTS Capital,
Kohuwela

FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT THE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, ROCHELLE HAKEL-RANASINGHE
+94 77 350 2930 | ROCHELLE@CTS.LK



WWW.CTS.LK | +94 11 2890809