

INFORMATION



Class of 2025

“THE WORLD IS WAITING, THE HARVEST IS READY, AND THE LORD IS WITH YOU.”

At CTS graduations we have a special tradition called, ‘The Charge’. This brief and solemn act happens after the diplomas have been awarded and the degrees conferred. A member of the Council or another senior Christian leader is entrusted with the task of reminding our graduates of their high calling as servants of Christ, and urging them to safeguard this sacred trust.

‘The Charge’ is inspired by two occasions in the New Testament where a servant of the Lord is solemnly ‘charged’ with regard to his responsibilities under Christ. These two references are found in Paul’s correspondence with Timothy (1 Timothy 5:21; 2 Timothy 4:1):

On both occasions, Paul uniquely uses, *diamarturomai*, which had the legalistic connotation of a serious nature: “I solemnly warn or urge you”. It is notable that both times Paul accentuates the gravitas by adding the identical phrase: “in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus”.

From the Principal’s Desk



Ivor Poobalan, PhD
PRINCIPAL

In 1 Timothy 5:21 he ‘charges’ Timothy to conduct his ministry “without prejudice or favoritism”; urging Timothy to be a *fair servant* of the Lord.

In 2 Timothy 4:1-5 he ‘charges’ Timothy to “preach the Word” and to “do the work of an evangelist”. Here, he is urging Timothy to be a *faithful servant* of the Lord.

It is our prayer, too, that every CTS graduate will be known for *fairness* and *faithfulness* as Christian leaders for the many ensuing years following their graduation and commissioning.

At the 15th Graduation held in July 2025, Rev Romesh Bulathsinghala, Vice President of the Council powerfully delivered ‘The Charge’. We are pleased to reproduce it in full in this edition of In-Formation.

Beloved Graduates,

Today is more than a conclusion of study—it is the beginning of your sacred assignment.

You have sat under the Word, studied its depths, prayed through its truths, and wrestled with its demands. Now, having been equipped, you are being entrusted. This is not merely a transition—this is a sending.

As a servant of God and a fellow labourer in His vineyard, I charge you today:

Preach the Word – Faithfully and Boldly.

In a world filled with noise and deception, you are called to declare the unchanging truth of the gospel. As the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy: “Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching”.

Do not water down the message to suit the times. Do not trade conviction for popularity. Stand firm. Speak truth.

Let your pursuit of truth lead to a greater love for Jesus Himself.

The goal of theology is not information but transformation.

Study the Scriptures not merely to sharpen your intellect but to deepen your intimacy with Jesus.

As the Apostle Paul declared: “I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death” (Philippians 3:10).

Let every moment in the Word lead you closer to His heart. For to miss Christ in your study is to miss the point entirely.

Practice What You Preach

Your character must echo your message. Let your life be a living epistle, read by all. Pursue holiness, humility, and love—not just in public but in the secret place.

Remember, your calling is not only to speak for Christ but to reflect Him. A life well-lived is the most convincing sermon.



Rev Romesh Bulathsinghala (Vice President of CTS Council) delivers the Charge to the graduates.

Flanking Rev Romesh Bulathsinghala are faculty members Julian Devadason (L) and Michelle Peiris (R), who translated the Charge to Tamil and Sinhala, respectively.

Serve the Church and Reach the Lost

You are not called to comfort but to commission. Build the Church. Love the people. Lift the broken. And, never lose sight of the Great Commission—to go into all the world and make disciples. Be a shepherd, not a celebrity.

Endure Hardship and Stay the Course

Ministry is not a stage—it’s a battlefield. There will be opposition, weariness, and even seasons of silence. But “He who called you is faithful”. When the fire comes, let it purify, not consume, you. When discouragement comes, run to the foot of the cross.

Stay Rooted in the Presence of God

Above all else, stay in His presence. Your success is not in strategy but in intimacy with the Lord. The anointing flows not from a title but from time with Him. Let the secret place always be your source and strength.

Graduates, would you please stand.

We, the faculty and leadership of this Bible school, now send you out.

Go forth in the name of Jesus Christ.

Preach the Word in truth and love.

Live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Build the Church. Reach the lost.

Stand firm in trials. Serve with humility.

And above all—walk closely with your God.

**For the world is waiting,
The harvest is ready,
And the Lord is with you.**

And as you go out from this place, go in the authority of Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and in the love of the Father. Be courageous. Be faithful. Be fruitful.

In Jesus’ name, we charge you. Amen.

On 19th July 2025, CTS held its 15th Graduation Service of Thanksgiving and Commissioning. A total of 165 students were awarded certificates, diplomas, and bachelors and masters degrees. Eleven new books were launched in Sinhala, Tamil, and English.

The trilingual service was the second all-island graduation of CTS. For the first time, the awardees represented all 9 provinces of the island - as well as the Sri Lankan diaspora!

There were students graduating from two new programmes. The Masters of Arts in Counselling programme, which began in 2021, saw 7 from the first cohort of students get their degrees at this graduation.

The first and second batches of the Certificate in Children's Ministry (65 in total) were awarded their certificates. This programme is fully online and includes students from around the country.

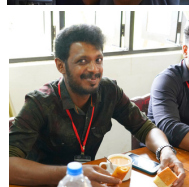
The Chief Guest for the occasion was Eran Wickramaratne, Founder Council Member of CTS and former member of parliament. His challenging message was entitled, "A Life of Faith: Full of Wisdom and Guided by Discernment".

Those who have graduated are engaged in an incredible variety of roles—both inside and outside the Church. They contribute as lecturers, caretakers, bakers, youth leaders, evangelists, directors, counsellors, clergy, children's ministry workers, librarians, lawyers, worship leaders, drivers, plantation workers, mentors, and tailors, among many others.



ALL-ISLAND GRADUATION RETREAT (YGRO CAMPSITE, MADAMPE)

In June, in preparation for their graduation, Diploma, Bachelors, and Masters level awardees from study centres around the country met for two days of reflection, relaxation, and re-commitment to their callings. The retreat leader was Ajith Fernando, Founder President of CTS.



[READ MORE](#)

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

CTS AND WHEATON COLLEGE, CHICAGO, ENTER INTO AN ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP

Since 2018, CTS and Wheaton College have enjoyed partnering to provide opportunities for transcultural learning and growth for faculty and students with a shared vision to prepare Christ-centered counsellors to serve the marginalised and the global Church. In July this year, this partnership was formalised. Both schools look forward to collaborating in mutually enriching academic endeavours and academic partnership opportunities. CTS is grateful for this further enriching of its counselling programmes, which are also accredited by the Asia Theological Association.



Standing left to right: Rev Ravin Caldera, Academic Dean; Dr Ivor Poobalan, Principal; Dr Terri Watson, Professor of Psychology, Wheaton College, USA; Dr Mandy Kallums-Baraka, Associate Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counselling at Wheaton College, USA; Dileeni Abraham, Course Leader: Counselling; Dr Mano Emmanuel, Head of Academic Advancement; Sindujaa Selliah, Programme Coordinator: Counselling.

COUNSELLING SEMINAR

GRACE SPACES: WHERE GRACE ABOUNDS, TRANSFORMATION HAPPENS

PLENARY	WORKSHOPS		
 <i>Where Grace Abounds, Transformation Happens</i> DILEENI ABRAHAM MA (COUNSELLING) Course Leader: Counselling, CTS	 <i>Reflecting Grace</i> Being image-bearers of God's grace in the body of Christ ADELE BELING BIBILE MA (COUNSELLING), CANDIDATE Counsellor, Calvary Centre AG	 <i>Restoring Grace</i> Becoming safe spaces of God's healing grace to the hurting and challenged MANJULA MATHEWS PGDIP (COUNSELLING PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT), MEd Counsellor, Adjunct Faculty, CTS	 <i>Nurturing Grace</i> Creating a grace-filled home that nurtures hearts and relationships MAUREEN ENDERBY CCS (COUNSELLING) Counsellor

In June, over 70 people from different churches attended this special seminar. The seminar featured a plenary session and 3 workshops on 'Reflecting Grace' (in the Church), 'Restoring Grace' (becoming a safe space as a person), and 'Nurturing Grace' (creating a grace-filled home). A highlight was that the three workshops were led by our own alumnae from the counselling programmes!

GATE FACULTY TRAINING

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

Twenty CTS faculty members (full-time and visiting) along with faculty members from four other local seminaries and Bible colleges were richly blessed by the 2nd year training conducted by Global Association for Theological Educators. Sixty-one theological educators attended the faculty training on 'Teaching Methods for Transformational Education', facilitated by the Asia Theological Association (ATA). The facilitators were Dr Gary Griffith and Dr Joanna Feliciano-Soberano.



VISITING LECTURERS AT CTS CAPITAL

'BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS OF GLOBAL WITNESS'

MA Course with
John Daniel, MTh, PhD,
SAIACS, India



Examining the biblical foundations for global mission, emphasising that it originates with God and is empowered by the Holy Spirit.

'COUPLE THERAPY'

MA Course with Professor
of Psychology,
Dr Terri Watson,
Wheaton College, USA



Teaching students MA counselling approaches to theoretical counselling with foundational knowledge of relationship dynamics.

'COUNSELLOR SUPERVISION'

Special workshop with
Dr Mandy Kallums-Baraka,
Wheaton College, USA



A special workshop was held for those in the counselling field. The workshop explored ways in which clinical supervision can serve to advance counselling supervisees' skills.

CTS PUBLICATIONS

CTS PUBLISHING LAUNCHES 11 NEW BOOKS

Eleven new books were launched by CTS Publishing at the recently held Graduation Service. The books include the 19th volume of the *Journal of CTS* and original as well as translated books.

CTS publications are available for purchase at the CTS Bookstore in Kohuwela, and at leading bookstores.

[Click to view publishing catalogue](#)



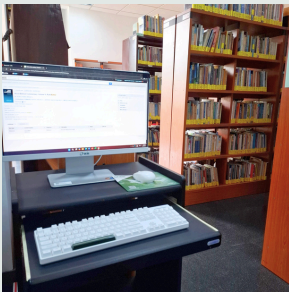
JOURNAL OF THE COLOMBO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



The Peer-reviewed articles in the 19th volume of the JCTS are:

- The Paṭācārā Story and the Book of Job: Suffering and Resilient Faith in Buddhist and Biblical Transformation | G P V Somaratna
- Diaspora Distinctives: Experiences of Dispersion, Identity, and Revitalisation in Old Testament Israel | Ted Rubesh
- Bilingualism in Acts 21:37-22:2 and Language Choice in Ministry | Shari de Costa
- Pentecostal-Charismatic Spirituality and the Shaping of Evangelical Theological Education | Jacob Cherian
- Issues Facing Witness and Discipleship in the Digital Age | Ivor Poobalan
- Proclaiming the Gospel in Sri Lanka: Some Lessons from the Methodist Heritage | Ajith Fernando

SPECIAL GIFT TO CTS FROM THE CLASS OF 2025



Graduating students from CTS Capital presented the seminary with two new computers for the lending and reference sections of the library in Kohuwela.

FAREWELL

Ranmalie Seneviratne

Ranmalie Seneviratne, who served as Registrar at CTS for 13+ years, concluded her service at the end of July. Ranmalie has contributed significantly to the ministry as CTS developed over the years. She is wished the very best as she continues to serve the Lord in different spheres.

WOULD YOU PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER SUPPORTING CTS WITH A REGULAR GIFT?

*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.*

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