



CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka Pastors' Education Report 2010

Exciting things have been happening in pastors' education in Sri Lanka in 2010. Four students completed their degree in January, bringing the total to eight graduated students. 35 students are currently enrolled in the program, with 9 new students having joined in March this year. Some of these are from new areas of the country from which previously no students were able to attend. One beginners' and two advanced classes were taught during the first half of the year; and five teacher trainees attended a seminar on teaching methods in August. More churches are being established every month and people find new life in Christ through the ministry of South Asia Nazarene Bible College (SANBC) and the impact of the classes on pastors' life and ministry. The harvest is great—and the workers are investing their best.



Following the District Assembly in January 2010, the second SANBC graduation in Sri Lanka was held. Four students graduated with a Diploma in Pastoral Studies. Three of those students were ordained as ministers in the Church of the Nazarene following the graduation ceremony.



One of the main concerns in Sri Lankan pastors' education is the need for local teachers. Two graduated pastors are currently studying for a B.Th. at a local Sri Lankan Bible college (picture below, with SANBC Academic Dean Rev. Simon). Rev. Daniel, District Superintendent, has almost completed his studies. Rev. Kobu is in his second year. We are hoping to soon send more students for further education to become SANBC teachers.



"My name is S. Jeganeshan. I'm in my final year of SANBC studies. I joined this course of study to equip myself to be an effective minister of the gospel. I am serving as a pastor in the Church of the Nazarene and also as a JESUS Film team leader. God has helped me to organize eight new churches in three years, and I hope to start more churches in the coming years.



The SANBC classes help me to gain a deeper knowledge of the Scriptures and to apply those teachings to my spiritual life. The course has shaped me to lead an exemplary life in the society where I live and work. It has helped me to realize where I still lack understanding in my spiritual life. During the course of study I have learned a lot from my teachers and the other students, and have grown more in my personal devotions, prayer, and a life of testimony. I have learned how to share the gospel with different kinds of people and various methods of discipling new Christians and nurturing the spiritual life of the church. I have learned how to interpret Scripture and share the truth with people appropriate to their context and culture. The course has also helped me to understand servant leadership and that helps me to train others to be effective leaders who will serve their community effectively.

After my graduation I intend to be more involved in effective church planting ministries and also to equip myself with further studies."



Three courses have been taught so far in 2010: "Basic Christian Doctrine", taught by Rev. Simon (Academic Dean) in March and attended by 17 students; a course on "Romans" (far left picture), also taught by Rev. Simon and attended by 8 students; and "Pentateuch", taught by DS Rev. Daniel and Rev. Kobu, attended by 8 students (other pictures). An additional three classes are planned for 2010.

SANBC costs (per student):
course: \$ 40
year: \$ 240
degree: \$ 1200

In order to equip Sri Lankan teachers, SANBC President Rev. Sunil Dandge, Academic Dean Rev. Simon Jothi, and Eurasia Regional Education Coordinator Rev. John Haines offered a "Professional Development Seminar" to Sri Lankan SANBC teachers on August 16–19. "The students are very interested in what is being taught," reported Rev. Dandge. Five teacher trainees attended the course and received valuable inputs for course preparation and delivery.



Pastors' Education through SANBC is making a major difference in the Church of the Nazarene in Sri Lanka—in district growth, dedication for the ministry, quality of leadership, and the vision for building God's kingdom.



"My name is J. Arulraj. I'm on Track II in my SANBC studies. I'm a pastor in the Church of the Nazarene and a JESUS Film team leader. We take the JF team to lots of different places with different kinds of people. The SANBC courses help me to relate what I learn to my life and ministry. Since I have learned how to better share the gospel, I have been able to organize four new churches in two years and hope to do this even more effectively in the coming years.

The classes have helped me to set goals and a vision for my community. I have formed a prayer group with whom I share my vision and take advice for doing effective ministry. I have made a lot of friends in the SANBC classes and I learn from their approach and their testimonies, as well as to respect other perspectives and ideas. My teachers have always said that we learn from each other and what I have learned from others has shaped me a lot.



I have learned skills for conducting Bible studies for different age groups by arranging the materials effectively. The classes on Christian Holiness and Leadership Principles encouraged me to develop my spiritual life. I am excited to learn more in the coming years and I sincerely thank you and pray for you for all the support that makes it possible for me to attend these classes."

**Thank you for your support of
pastors' education in Sri Lanka!**

**You are actively helping to build
God's kingdom in South Asia.**

Donations can be made through the **South Asia Partnership: "APT 1017—Pastoral Education Sri Lanka"**