

The story of Stephen and Rebecca Kanagadas and daughter

I was born in Sri Lanka to a family of Hindu background. As a family we migrated to Canada in 1985. I came to salvation in 1995 after a tragic incident where my brother was killed in a car crash. I also felt the call to ministry shortly thereafter and was active in my local PAOC church. After some time I began taking bible college courses on a part time basis. I also felt a strong urgency to do ministry in Sri Lanka so I worked to earn money for several months and then went to serve the Lord Sri Lanka on short term mission trips ministering to the needs of the people in war torn areas. I was also active in facilitating tsunami relief after the December 26, 2004 tsunami.

Someone suggested that I affiliate with PAOC International Missions. I applied and began the process towards becoming a Global Worker with the PAOC. During this time I also found my life's partner through the traditional marriage arrangement. The official marriage registration was done in Sri Lanka on May 21, 2008 in Sri Lanka and then when Rebecca received immigration papers to come to Canada we had the church marriage ceremony on March 6, 2010.

We did several ministry trips to Sri Lanka as husband and wife to scout out the area where we would eventually base our ministry. We were at the same time praying for financial support and trying our best to connect to churches and people looking for those who might partner with us. At a very crucial time, Murray Cornelius gave us a call and informed us that a church in Alberta (people we did not know) were interested in supporting our ministry in Sri Lanka. Pastor Edwin from FCC sent us tickets to come to Fort McMurray where we were able to share our testimonies and our burden for Sri Lanka. We sensed the blessing of God and a deep connection in the Spirit with the congregation of FCC. The missions committee committed to support us for four years and provided funds for a vehicle. As a result we were approved to go to Sri Lanka as full time Global Workers in January 2012.

We moved to Vavuniya which is located in the centre of the north and east of Sri Lanka where mostly Tamil people live. Most of these people had been affected by the war in various ways and were open to hear the good news. We evangelize and provide care and assistance to those in need as we were able. We have planted a church which is based our own home and the neighbour children and youth constantly come and go as we endeavour to build relationships the neighbourhood. Many of the parents come for prayer and we have seen a number of healings and miracles of provision.

We are also reaching out to villages which there are a large of war widows and orphans. We have struck up a relationship with a community of disabled people who have lost limbs because of war-related injuries. Some are paraplegic. They just need our love as Jesus enables us to love them and to draw them into the circle of his love. It is amazing to see the hope that begins to shine from their eyes as we connect with them. In particular I have been meeting regularly with a leader among them who has turned to Christ and who I am mentoring him into Christian ministry. We have planted five house churches in the villages surrounding Vavuniya. The big need is for workers to shepherd those churches.

A recent family development is the birth of our little daughter (name to be announced later) on August 14, 2013. She is a miracle baby who came after much prayer.

We are very thankful to God for the FCC family who have become our very dear partners in our Sri Lanka ministry. They have made it possible for us to serve in an open door and a very needy people. The vehicle has enabled us to multiply our ministry. May God bless FCC for many years to come.