



Colombo Theological Seminary

The only division of Colombo Bible College
incorporated by Sri Lanka Act of Parliament 32 of 1971

Member of the National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka (NCEASL)
Member of the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL)

Academic Accreditation by the Asia Theological Association (ATA)
Audited by KPMG Sri Lanka

**Principal's
Annual
Report**

2021

Resources to the Church for the Transformation of Nations

*CTS is called by God to serve the Church:
by training men and women to be rooted in the Scriptures, filled with the Holy Spirit,
mature in Christian character, and competent in ministry,
according to the highest academic standards;
and
by producing quality Christian resources.*

INTRODUCTION

I consider it a privilege to have the opportunity to present the 28th Principal's Annual Report of the Colombo Theological Seminary, covering the period January to December 2021.

The year under review was marked, yet again, by ongoing and fresh environmental challenges that significantly impacted the work of CTS, and at the outset it will be necessary to provide a clearer picture of the context.

At the beginning of 2019, Sri Lanka was poised to move towards unprecedented economic development with market optimism at its highest since the end of the civil war ten years earlier. Tourism being one of the chief sources of revenue was poised to reach record earnings with *Lonely Planet* rating Sri Lanka as the #1 destination to visit that year.

This exuberance was to be short-lived as the devastating Easter Bombings tore at the very foundations of the nation's political stability and led to racist violence and heightened insecurity. The COVID pandemic that followed close on its heels – being tragically mismanaged for political ends – resulted in further disruption of civilian life and pushed more than a million people below the poverty line. It also meant that the country was under lockdown or had severe restrictions on movement and assembly for much of 2021 as well.

In 2021, two further disasters struck an already vulnerable populace. Both blows took place in May and both directly impacted the country's food security. On 6th May, the government inexplicably imposed a total ban on inorganic fertiliser for agricultural farming. This cut rice production (the country's staple) in half, and affected 30% of households (i.e. 6.3 million people), who are dependent on agricultural farming.

Later, on 20th May, a cargo ship laden with chemicals and plastics caught fire off the western coast. Again, with mismanagement of the disaster by maritime officials, the ship spilled 1,680 tonnes of plastic, thousands of tonnes of dangerous chemicals and large amounts of oil into the ocean. Considered the world's worst oceanic plastic-pollution incident, the capsizing of the Xpress Pearl released 75 billion plastic pellets, of which a third washed up on the country's beaches. The remaining plastic has been carried by ocean currents and will affect global marine life for decades. It also spilled 25 tonnes of nitric acid which instantly dissolved long stretches of the coral reef that was home to many species of tropical fish and other creatures and formed the natural coastal barrier. The poisoning of the ocean denied one million fisher-families their ability to make a living.

Thereafter, by August 2021, the Central Bank began to notify the public that the country was facing severe shortages in foreign currency reserves. A combination of mass-scale corruption and ill-advised economic policies, this situation would push Sri Lanka towards total bankruptcy by the end of the year. Sri Lanka has now begun to default on the repayment of her foreign debts amounting to \$51 billion. What was once a hopeful middle-income country would, in three years, be one of the world's poorest nations.

It is in such a context that the Church is called to exercise her mission: the backdrop against which Christian leadership development needs to be forged. It is our hope that the work of the seminary – both in theological life-formation and theological information – will effectively respond to the ground realities of society.

STUDENTS AND ACADEMIC PROGRESS

I am pleased to report that in the year 2021 we had an enrolment of 771 students (477 in CTS-Capital and 294 in CTS-Provincial). Those currently registering in courses from around the world are incorporated within CTS-Capital or CTS-Provincial since CTS-Global (the online learning programme) is still at the development stage. In total, we offered 149 courses within the three language streams. A total of 162 students took classes for the first time at CTS-Capital alone.

It is a remarkable testimony to the grace of God and the sheer dedication of all involved, that CTS was able to continue its mission without a break in spite of the major challenges posed by the environment. Lockdowns, financial constraints, restriction on movement and in-person meetings, and the major disruption to families placed enormous stress on the whole community at CTS. Within these limitations we pressed on using our online resources and experience to ensure that courses were completed and students were assisted to fulfil requirements.

We especially thank Academic Dean Ravin Caldera for his dedicated leadership, together with the whole team of faculty and admin personnel, who lend invaluable support to our core mission. A special word of appreciation to Extensions Manager Rajaram Hariharan in recognition of his hard work to keep our provincial study centres functioning. We are also most grateful to our supporters, who extended additional financial assistance to ensure that no student was left behind on account of not being able to meet the cost of study.

Graduating Classes

During the year under review, 62 students completed their programmes of study and were approved for graduation. Of them twenty-one were in the North-Central provincial centre in Anuradhapura, and 41 at CTS-Capital, centred in Colombo.

The latter had 6 Master of Arts, 22 Bachelor of Theology, 1 Diploma in Theology, 9 Advanced Certificate in Counselling, and 3 Certificate in Christian Studies. In Anuradhapura, there were 14 Diploma in Theology and 7 Certificate in Christian Studies. Due to the restriction on public gatherings, the awardees were presented their official transcripts and the graduation ceremonies were deferred to 2022.

In fulfilment of a Master of Arts degree, students are expected to fulfil course work as well as a 20,000-word dissertation (a copy of each is stored in the reference-library). The dissertations are listed below:

Dissertation	MA Graduate
A Critical Study of Church Leadership in the New Testament in Comparison to Contemporary Leadership Practices of the Local Churches of Assemblies of God	Thiran Perera
Is Lying to One Another Wrong? Lying and Truth-Telling in the Pauline Epistles	Vasanthi Thevanesam
Ministering in an Age of Neuroscience: Personhood, Consciousness, and the Free Will	Noeline Prins
Paul's Gospel and Its Implications for Pentecostal Churches in the Jaffna Peninsula Today: A Socio-Rhetorical Exegetical Study on 1 Corinthians 15:1-28	Yoganathan Paheerathan
The Crucified Messiah: A Socio-Rhetorical Exegetical Study on 1 Corinthians 1:18 - 2:5	Dhanaraj Ajendran
Thy Kingdom Come: A Balanced Theology of the Kingdom of God for the Church in Sri Lanka	Shari de Costa

Launching of the Master of Arts in Counselling (MAC)

In September 2021, we launched a new track in our graduate studies programme. The Master of Arts in Counselling had been under discussion for some time on the initiative taken by our Course Leader: Counselling, Dileeni Abraham. A graduate-level programme in counselling recognises the great need for qualified and competent resource persons for service in the Sri Lankan Church and wider community. It aims to prepare motivated practitioners, who may also work as master-trainers equipping the Christian community to respond to the major challenges facing our society with regard to emotional- and relational- health issues.

The programme began with a course taught jointly by Dr Heather Davediuk Gingrich and Dileeni Abraham entitled 'Counselling Foundations'. The course was based on the comprehensive textbook *Skills for Effective Counselling: A Faith-Based Integration*, co-authored by the lead facilitator, Dr Davediuk Gingrich.

Dr Mano Emmanuel, as Head of Academic Advancement, provided valuable guidance in the design of the programme, and we are also grateful for the important input by Ravin Caldera (Academic Dean) and Earnest Nadeem (MA Programme Coordinator) in finalising the proposal, which was successfully implemented.

Developing the Children's Ministry Track

One of the proposed aims of the Strategic Plan of 2017 was the launching of a Certificate in Children's Ministry. Towards this end, CTS initially developed a curriculum with the help of specialist input by Ms Sohani Fernando but due to COVID the work was temporarily shelved. We are pleased that, in November, we were able to welcome Christnie Edirisinghe as Coordinator: Children's Ministry Track to take the vision forward. Christnie is a BTh graduate from CTS, who studied Holistic Child Development at the Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary (Philippines).

With Christnie's involvement, a pilot programme was planned to be conducted online - in the Sinhala and Tamil languages - and scheduled to commence in January 2022.

FACULTY: CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENTS

Changes in the faculty of a seminary are inevitable but 2021 is marked by a significant number of such changes as some long-serving personnel moved on and others joined the team.

Changes

Prof G P V Somaratna (Research Professor): In April, Prof Somaratna retired upon turning 80, after having served the seminary faithfully for nearly 24 years. In honour of his unique role, and contribution to the CTS ministry in particular and indigenous theological education in general, he has been designated 'Research Professor Emeritus' and continues to play a big part within the life of the seminary-community. Prof Somaratna joined CTS in 1997 and, alongside his teaching ministry, was responsible for producing many seminal works (especially in Sinhala) that have become standard references for the Sinhala-speaking academic and pastoral leaders of the Church. Words cannot adequately capture how grateful we are for his monumental efforts and the rich legacy he has passed on. Many faculty members – both fulltime and adjunct – testify to Professor's formative influence in their lives as academics.

Dr Prabodith Mihindukulasuriya (Deputy Principal): In July, we said a sad farewell to Prabo, whose time had come to migrate with his family to Canada. Prabo joined CTS as a member of the faculty from 2003, and soon became a teacher sought after by students for his cutting-edge thinking and ability to challenge them to raise their academic standards beyond expectations. His commitment to care deeply for his students and his loyalty and service to his colleagues endeared Prabo to the CTS community. Prabo excelled as a scholar and disciplined academic, and completed his PhD research and writing in record time, gaining accolades from his supervisors and the thesis committee for his quality work. In 2014, Prabo was invited to serve as Deputy Principal and fulfilled this role admirably. Although Prabo's absence from the campus is deeply felt, we are thrilled that he continues as an associate of CTS serving as Editor of the *Journal of the Colombo Theological Seminary*, and as a regular lecturer and mentor.

Kumar Subramaniam (Spiritual Formation Coordinator): In August, we had another sad occasion to say farewell to a much-loved faculty member. Kumar joined the faculty of CTS in 2010 after having graduated on the BTh programme. He later went on to complete the Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (CTS, 2017). Kumar gave special attention to student work and undertook the role of the Practical Training Coordinator. Along with additional training in Spiritual Formation he was invited to undertake the wider role of Spiritual Formation Coordinator in 2019. Kumar resigned to be able to take up masters-level study at the Asbury Theological Seminary in the US. His faithful service and hard work played a major part in strengthening CTS during a crucial period of its history, and we are deeply grateful for what God accomplished through his ministry.

Rev Earnest Nadeem (MA Programme Coordinator): Later in October, we faced another departure by a wonderful colleague, who had served as the MA Programme Coordinator since 2015. Earnest was the first student from overseas who came to CTS to study for the Bachelor of Theology. He married Maidhily Kannan (BTh alumna 2003) and moved back to Pakistan, where he was ordained and also served as a faculty member at St Thomas Theological College in Karachi. His relocation to Sri Lanka enabled him to fulfil the role of a theological teacher at CTS while serving as a priest in the Church of Ceylon's Diocese of Colombo (as Assistant Curate at the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour). He was a dynamic coordinator of the MA programme, and under his leadership the cohort of students grew and a number were able to complete their requirements and graduate. We thank God for his work as a teacher and for his deep loyalty to his alma mater that strengthened the development of CTS over the past six years. Being called to give his full-time attention to his parish position in Colombo, we had to sadly say farewell to Earnest and wish him well in all his future endeavours.

Developments

Nathanael Somanathan: In August, Nathanael moved to the UK to commence PhD research at the University of Birmingham. His research will explore theological anthropology from the intersection between Pentecostalism and Eastern Orthodoxy for a South Asian Buddhist context, and is expected to take three years to complete. Nathanael is a young scholar, who joined CTS in 2019 and is an exceptionally astute thinker. In recognition of his potential as an emerging theologian in Asia, he was awarded scholarships by ScholarLeaders International and by Langham Partnership, which have facilitated this opportunity. We are deeply grateful to these generous partners for extending their support. We also congratulate Nathanael on his marriage to Skyler Laney on 26th July.

Dr Ivor Poobalan: From July 2021 to January 2022, Ivor was granted sabbatical leave towards writing projects. He had been invited as a Visiting Scholar for four months at the Asbury Theological Seminary at Wilmore, Kentucky, and alongside working on two books on *Genesis* (i.e. a devotional and a commentary for the use of theological students and pastors), Ivor participated in various activities including preaching at the Estes Chapel and conducting a seminar for faculty members and doctoral students.

Johnson Sandrasegar: We commend Johnson, who is currently enrolled in the Master of Social Work programme at the National Institute of Social Development (NISD), and wish him well as he works towards a successful finish.

Dr Sanath Athukorala: In August, Sanath was appointed Spiritual Formation Coordinator. He will simultaneously undertake responsibility to strengthen the alumni network and organise programmes for CTS' continuing ministry towards over 650 leaders, who have graduated through CTS programmes and are currently engaged in Christian service around the country.

Bernard Costa: In September, we were pleased to welcome Bernard to take up the role of MA Programme Coordinator and Lecturer. Bernard had, previously, been serving as a member of the visiting faculty. He studied at the International Graduate School of Leadership (Philippines) and Dallas Theological Seminary (USA), and has many years of experience in theological education, having previously served at Gospel for Asia Bible School, and at Lanka Bible College and Seminary. He is also involved in a ministry of discipleship and formation for rural pastors.

Julian Devadason: In October, we were also pleased to welcome Julian, who had been serving as an adjunct faculty member for many years. Julian is a Masters graduate of the Asia Center for Theological Studies and Mission (South Korea) and has many years of ministry experience, especially in teaching and mentoring leaders.

Adjunct and Visiting Faculty

CTS is blessed to have the support of over sixty highly experienced and dedicated lecturers, both local and international, who ensure that we continue to provide our students with a comprehensive, quality theological grounding.

Academic Affairs Standing Committee 2021

Rev Dr Ted Rubesh, BA, MA, DMiss (Chairperson)
Co-Founder and former Pastor, Kandy Bible Fellowship Church

Rev Charles N Jansz, GTh, MDiv, JP (All Island)
President, CTS Council | A former President of the Christian Reformed Church | Pastor of the CRC church in Dehiwela

Prof Amal Kumarage, BSc (Eng), PhD
A former President of CTS | A senior academic at the University of Mortuwa

Rev Dharshan Fernando, BTh, MA
Secretary, CTS Council | Pastor - People's Church Assembly of God

Mr Yohan Abeynaike, PgDipM (CIM), BSc, MA
A former General Secretary of the Fellowship of Christian University Students (FOCUS)

Prof S Anbathan Ariadurai, PhD
Senior Professor at the Open University of Sri Lanka | A former Vice Chancellor of OUSL

Dr Ivor Poobalan, BA (Hons), ThM, PhD
Principal, CTS

Dr Prabo Mihindukulasuriya, PGDipM (CIM), MA, PhD
Deputy Principal, CTS

Rev Ravin Caldera, DipAgri, BTh, BA, MA
Academic Dean, CTS

Dr Mano Emmanuel, FCCA, BTh, MA, PhD
Head of Academic Advancement, CTS

Mr Rajaram Hariharan, BTh, MMin
Extensions Manager, CTS

Rev Earnest Nadeem, BTh, MDiv, ThM
MA Programme Coordinator, CTS

Ms Vanaja Rajkumar, BTh
Faculty Representative, CTS

Ms Ranmalie Seneviratne
Registrar, CTS

Faculty 2021

Dr Ivor Poobalan, BA (Hons), ThM, PhD
Since 1-October-1996

Prof G P V Somaratna, BA, MA
(Missiology), MA (Theology), PGDip, PhD
1-October-1997 to 6-April-2021

Dr Mano Emmanuel, FCCA, BTh, MA, PhD
Since 1-April-2001

Dr Prabo Mihindukulasuriya, PgDipM (CIM),
MA, PhD
1-January 2004 to 21-July-2021

Rev Ravin Caldera, DipAgri, BTh, BA, MA
Since 1-October-2004

Mr Kumar Subramaniam, BTh, MA
1-October-2010 to 31-August-2021

Rev Jason Selvaraja, BTh
Since 1-July-2010

Mr Jei Suthagar Nesharajah, BTh, MDiv
Since 1-January-2012

Mr Einstein Fernando, HND (Counselling),
BTh, PGDip (BAPC)
Since 9-July-2013

Dr Sanath Athukorala, BSc, BTh, MA, PhD
Since 1-November-2013

Mr Dilip Gunaweera, BTh
Since 1-August-2015

Rev Earnest Nadeem, BTh, MDiv, MTh
1-November-2015 to 31-October 2021

Mr Cameron Davey, BSc, BTeach, MDiv
Since 1-November-2016

Ms Vanaja Rajkumar, BTh
Since 1-December-2016

Pastor S Johnson Sandrasegar, BTh
Since 1-July -2017

Mr Rajaram Hariharan, BTh, MMin
Since 1-July -2019

Mr Nathanael Somanathan, BEng, MA,
PhD (candidate)
Since 1-September-2019

Mr Bernard Costa, BTh, MDiv
Since 1-September-2021

Mr Julian Devadason, BTh, MDiv
Since 1-October-2021

Administrative Staff 2021

Admin Office

Ms Ramani Perera, CIMA (UK) (Administrator)

Mr Nirmala Fernando, EMSc IS (IT Manager)

Mr Sampath Perera (Administrative Officer)

Mr Roger Slemmermann (Administrative Officer)

Mr Gamini Jayantha, BTh (Administrative Officer
- North Colombo)

Mr Tharshan Mylvaganam, BTh (Administrative
Coordinator - Jaffna)

Mr Sasitha Pramuditha (Matara Admin Coordinator)

Mr S Thilrukshan (Caretaker, Siddampapuram)

Mr W S Shanaka (Maintenance Assistant)

Mr M Gamini (Maintenance Assistant)

Mr Sylvester Robert (Maintenance Assistant)

Academic Office

Ms Ranmalie Seneviratne (Registrar)

Ms Maneesha Silva (Coordinator: Academic
Programmes)

Ms Shanthini Fernando (Extensions Secretary)

Library

Mr Cameron Davey, BSc, BTeach, MDiv (Librarian)

Ms Vanaja Rajkumar, BTh (Assistant Librarian)

Mr Viraj Stephen (Library Services Assistant)

Finance

Ms Kavitha Thurairajah, AAT, BA, PGDip (Accountant)

Mr Dinesh Thambiahpillai, PGDip (Accountant)

Mr Augustin Sebastian (Accounts Officer)

Ms Gothami Thalagala (Accounts Officer)

Resource Development

Ms Rochelle Hakel-Ranasinghe, LTCL, BA (Hons),
MA (Resource Development Manager)

Ms Roshanara de Mel, PGDip (Marketing) , MA
(candidate) (Promotions and Publicity Liaison)

Ms Avanti Pereira (Promotions Officer)

Ms Miriam Emmanuel, BA (Resource Development
Officer)

Publishing

Mr M Waruna Sanjeewa (Assistant Publishing
Manager)

Mr G W Surendra (Publishing Officer)

Ms Geetha Kandasamy (Publishing Officer)

Mr Shehan Silva (Publishing Officer)

Ms Sharlini Rodrigo, BA (Translator/Editor)

CTS PUBLISHING

Although the COVID pandemic created severe difficulties to our work in terms of marketing and sales of books during the year, the CTS Publishing team worked tirelessly to accomplish remarkable results during a difficult year. Aply led by Assistant Publishing Manager Waruna Sanjeeva, we were able to release ten new volumes to the growing collection of Christian publications produced in Sri Lanka. In total, CTS Publishing has produced 132 titles: 80 in Sinhala, 20 in Tamil and 32 in English. The titles that were added to the collection in 2021 are:



The Journal of the Colombo Theological Seminary, Volume 17



Femi Adeyele, *The Prosperity Gospel* (in English, Sinhala and Tamil)



Nathanael Somanathan, ed. *The Faith Entrusted Compendium* (English)*

**A collection of papers presented at the 'Faith Entrusted Theology Conference' held in February 2020*



G P V Somaratna, *Pentecostal Tradition* (Sinhala)



Ajith Fernando, *Sharing the Truth in Love* (Sinhala and Tamil)



Rick Warren, *Bible Study Methods* (Sinhala and Tamil)

BibleProject Videos

Special mention must be made about a unique project involving CTS Publishing in partnership with The Centre Church. This has to do with the translation of BibleProject videos into Sinhala to make these innovative presentations of introductions to Bible books and biblical theology available to the masses in Sri Lanka and the Sinhala-speaking diaspora. The project was initiated by Pastor Sherine Kara and is sponsored by The Centre Church. CTS Publishing is involved in the translation and editorial work.

Publishing Standing Committee 2021

Rev Charles N Jansz, GTh, MDiv, JP (All Island) (Chairperson)
President, CTS Council | A former President of the Christian Reformed Church | Pastor of the CRC church in Dehiwela

Mr Prashan De Visser, BA, MA
CTS Council Member | Founder and President of Sri Lanka Unites and Global Unites

Ms Ruth Surenthiraraj, BA (Hons)
CTS Council Member | An academic at the University of Colombo | Chairperson, Graduate Christian Fellowship of FOCUS Sri Lanka

Mr Suranga Athukorala, BTh, ADCN, DIM
Chief Executive Officer, Onimta Information Technology (Pvt) Ltd | Pastor, People's Church Assembly of God

Dr Ivor Poobalan, BA (Hons), ThM, PhD
Principal, CTS

Dr Prabo Mihindukulasuriya, PGDipM (CIM), MA, PhD
Deputy Principal, CTS | Head of Publishing

Rev Ravin Caldera, DipAgri, BTh, BA, MA
Academic Dean, CTS

Dr Mano Emmanuel, FCCA, BTh, MA, PhD
Head of Academic Advancement, CTS

Mr Einsteen Fernando, HND (Counselling), BTh, PgDip (BAPC)
Faculty Member, CTS

Mr Kumar Subramaniam, BTh, MA
Spiritual Formation Coordinator, CTS

Mr M Waruna Sanjeewa
Assistant Publishing Manager, CTS

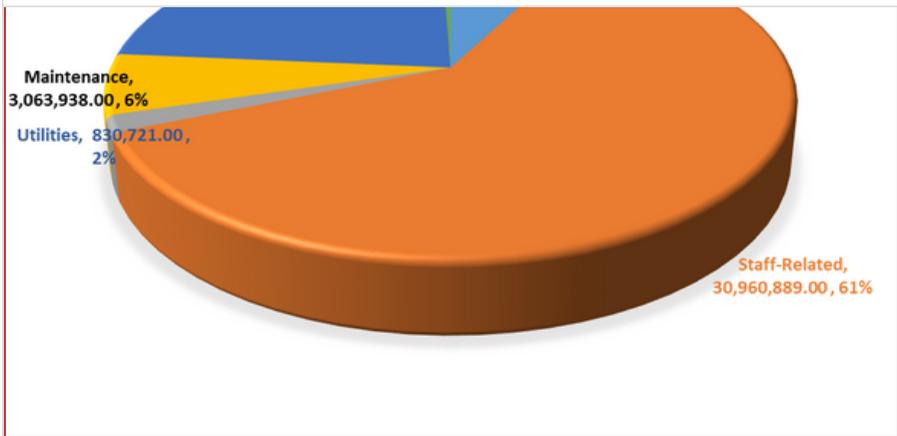
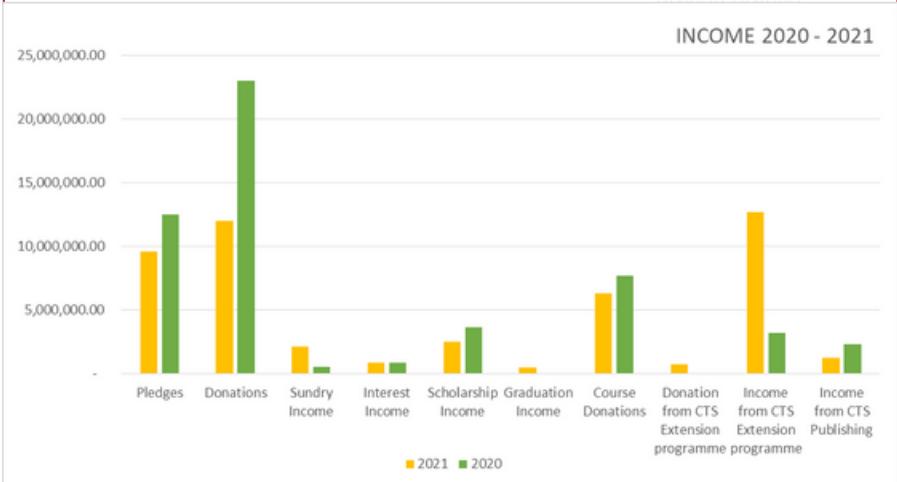
CHURCH-DIRECTED PROGRAMMES

The increased engagement of the Christian community online provided us with new opportunities to serve her educational needs via webinars. During the year, our students, and at times the wider church community, were treated to teachings by specialists in Sri Lanka and world-renowned scholars and speakers covering a wide range of subjects:

Webinar	Speaker
Overcoming Challenges in Online Ministries (Sinhala)	Suranga Athukorala
Current Challenges and Legal Background of the Christian Church (Sinhala)	A panel from the Commission on Religious Freedom at NCEASL
Evidence for the Resurrection of Christ	Dr Josh McDowell
Silence and Solitude	Dr Chris Hall
From Loss and Mourning to Resilience	Drs Bob and Terri Watson
Understanding Isaiah	Dr Lena-Sofiya Tiemeyer
How Many Isaiahs Were There and Why Does It Matter?	Dr Richard Schultz
Understanding Isaiah 66:23	David Nekrutman
The Role of the Holy Spirit in Christian Spirituality	Dr Simon Chan

FINANCE AND FUNDRAISING

A pandemic on the scale of the COVID-19 plague must surely be synonymous with financial ruin; and, it is such an effect that we braced ourselves for as the weeks dragged on into months and then into the second year. It is surely, therefore, by the gracious provision of a faithful God that CTS has been able to come through the second year of the global pandemic in a stronger financial position than when we entered it. The improvement of our balance sheet and the continuing trend of a healthy sum of income over expenditure is cause for gratitude and will be encouraging to our donors and partners everywhere. This is a result of a combination of factors including the thought-through policies by the Council, the supervision provided by our Treasurer, Rev Ramesh Schaffter, and the Admin and Finance Standing Committee, the efforts of the Accounts office, the commitment made by the team to reduce unnecessary expenditure, the reduction in expenditure due to lockdowns, and the notable unexpected increase in Christian philanthropy worldwide following the pandemic.



I take this opportunity to record our deep appreciation to Kavitha Thurairajah, who served as Accountant from May 2019 to April 2021. Her dedicated work – often times single-handedly – was exemplary and enabled us to maintain a strong and verifiable system of accounts. She was succeeded by Dinesh Thambiahpillai, who joined the team in April 2021. Dinesh has long experience working at a large not-for-profit organisation and we look forward to his leadership to take CTS finance to an even stronger position.

During the year, we also said farewell to Accounts Officer Augustin Sebastian, who had served for over 4 years.

Income and Expenditure

In total CTS raised usable income amounting to Rs 66,490,034. A further sum of Rs 10,748,000 was received as compensation for the acquisition of road-front land. This latter amount has been classified as a Restricted Fund to be used for the purpose of new acquisition or development of property.

Our expenses for the year amounted to Rs 51,554,617 - which was significantly lower than the budgeted expenses. The largest single expense was towards staff costs, which is 61% of the total. In 2021, we implemented Phase 1 of a salary revision scheme spread over three years, which sought to reset the salary structure and do away with anomalies that had persisted over time. It also sought to make salaries comparably related to wages offered at other not-for-profit educational institutions in the country.

Donations and Fundraising

The financial viability of not-for-profit ministries like CTS depends largely on the generosity and disciplined giving of God's people, and over the years we have been blessed to see this biblical dynamic at work.

The dedicated work by our Resource Development Manager, Rochelle Hakele-Ranasinghe, is greatly appreciated for the part she has played over the years towards increasing the donor base and building strong partnerships. Credibility and trust are fundamental to sustained giving, and it is a great joy that many donors maintain long-term commitments to the cause. We also appreciate the team of staff in the RD department who provide able support.

While we experienced a drop in pledges and donations, we saw a marked increase in funding related to extensions programmes. In total, we received new donations amounting to Rs 17.5 million.

Admin and Finance Standing Committee 2021

Ms Savithri Sumanthiran, ACMA (Chairperson)

Management Accountant | Regional Secretary for South Asia - IFES

Rev Neroshan Perera, BTh, MTD

CTS Council Member | National Convenor, World Needs A Father Movement | National Director, Awake A Nation | Vice Chairman, Assemblies of God of Ceylon

Dr Roshan Perera, PhD, MPA

CTS Council Member | Economist | Former Director, Central Bank of Sri Lanka | Senior Research Fellow, Advocata Institute

Mr Roshan H Mendis, BTh, MDiv

CTS Council Member | Director, AsiaPacific Baptist Aid | Chair, Global Baptist COVID Task Force | Humanitarian/Development Practitioner

Mr Romello De Soyza

Investments Practitioner | Consultant, SAFE Holdings Pvt Ltd

Ms Rose Cooray, BA (Hons), MSc

Former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka | Chairperson/Non Executive Director, HNB Assurance

Ms Jerusha Crossette-Thambiah, Attorney-at-Law, LLB, LLM

Counsel | Legal Consultant/Advisor | Gender Practitioner | Lecturer

Dr Ivor Poobalan, BA (Hons), ThM, PhD

Principal, CTS

Rev Ramesh Schaffter, FCMA (UK), ACIM (UK)

Treasurer, CTS Council | Managing Director/Group CEO, Janashakthi Ltd | Ordained Clergy, Church of Ceylon | Co-Founder, Swarga TV and Chraft

Ms Ramani Perera, CIMA (UK)

Administrator, CTS

Mr Dinesh Thambiahpillai, PGDip (Business and Financial Administration)

Accountant, CTS

Ms Rochelle Hakel-Ranasinghe, LTCL, BA (Hons), MA

Resource Development Manager, CTS

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

On behalf of the Academic Dean and the faculty I wish to express our deep gratitude to the entire administrative support team for their untiring efforts to ensure that the facilities, technology, systems and procedures are operating at optimal levels to provide high levels of efficiency.

Very special thanks to our Registrar, Ranmalie Seneviratne, who has consistently shown exemplary devotion to her responsibilities and works diligently to keep student-related records and procedures in good order.

Thanks also to Nirmala Fernando, IT Manager, who keeps the IT infrastructure updated and functioning. We also congratulate Nirmala for completing his Executive Master of Science in Information Security (EMSc IS) awarded by Asia e University Malaysia.

Thanks to Ramani Perera, our Administrator, and Sampath Perera and Roger Slemmermann, the Administrative Officers, and the admin team for the valuable support.

We were also pleased to welcome Maneesha Silva, who joined us as Coordinator: Academic Programmes from January 2021.

COUNCIL, MEMBERS, AND COMMITTEES

At the 2021 Annual General Meeting, Sudeni Perera completed her second term as a Council Member. We express our gratitude for her dedicated service in the Council.

We also had the joy of welcoming Roshan H Mendis and Ruth Surenthiraraj to the Council at the 2021 AGM.

From before the inauguration of CTS on 31st May 1994 to this day, the Council has played an honoured role of exemplary governance. We have been blessed to have the finest Christian leaders serving in this leadership role at the seminary, and their vast collective experience has played no small role in shaping and maintaining the ethos and viability of this work.

As Principal, I owe the Council Members – together with our President Rev Charles N Jansz and other office-bearers – an immense debt of gratitude for their godly encouragement and committed professionalism that has enabled me to do my duties better.

We are also most grateful to the members of our three standing committees for their vital role in monitoring operations and progress of the relevant sector, and guiding the Council on necessary procedures.

I also take this opportunity to thank Rochelle Hakele-Ranasinghe for her indefatigable second role as the PA to the Principal, which has enabled me to attend to all my priorities in a timely manner, and for the invaluable assistance she provides as the recording secretary at the meetings of the Council.

Council 2021

Rev Charles N Jansz, GTh, MDiv, JP (All Island)

President | *A former President of the Christian Reformed Church | Pastor of the CRC church in Dehiwela*

Rev Roger Koelmeyer, BA, MDiv

Vice President | *Senior Pastor of Colombo Gospel Tabernacle*

Rev Dharshan Fernando, BTh, MA

Secretary | *Pastor, People's Church Assembly of God*

Rev Ramesh Schaffter, FCMA (UK), ACIM (UK)

Treasurer | *Managing Director/Group CEO, Janashakthi Ltd | Ordained Clergy, Church of Ceylon | Co-Founder, Swarga TV and Chraft*

Dr Ivor Poobalan, BA (Hons), ThM, PhD

Principal

Rev Neroshan Perera, BTh, MTD

National Convenor, World Needs A Father Movement | National Director, Awake A Nation | Vice Chairman, Assemblies of God of Ceylon

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CONCLUSION

It is with a genuine sense of wonder and humility that I bring my report to a close, asking as the psalmist did:

What if the LORD had not been on our side?

and, knowing that if the LORD had not been with us:

*The waters would have engulfed us;
a torrent would have overwhelmed us.*

(Psalm 124)

But we have not been engulfed nor overwhelmed; we have surely been preserved and strengthened for such a time as this!

Ivor Poobalan, PhD
AGM 2022 | May 2022

