



# Lanka Bible College & Seminary

## Centre for Graduate Studies

News updates

September 2021



2021 was a challenging year as the COVID 19 started to spread rapidly in Sri Lanka. The desperation of the situation is seen in many ways, but a few must be highlighted. Our health minister was advocating a magic portion (known as *Dhammika pani*) introduced by the goddess *kali*, and almost the whole country was dragged into taking this magic portion by promoting through the public media. When the death toll was rising one Cabinet minister said “we believe in the vaccination and leave the rest to God” even though Sri Lanka is not a God-fearing nation. The president of the country was not willing to take the country into a lockdown. The public threatened the government that if the government does not go for a total lockdown people will go for a self-lockdown. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of August, the president of the country addressed the nation and he announced about the lockdown saying, if the country is going for a lockdown the people of both government and private sector will have to make a sacrifice. The implication of this statement was understood by people that they must donate part of their salary to the government to save the country from going into bankruptcy. In short these are few highlights of the crisis in Sri Lanka although the reality is even worse.

However, we believe in God of Purpose and Power. God is in control, and nothing happens without a purpose. No evil can overrule God's purposes. God is still on the Throne, and He will accomplish His purposes.

## Updates of LBCS and LBC-CGS

### Extending Our Horizons

COVID opened opportunities for LBCS to reach out to overseas Sri Lankans to do Online Theological Education: Overseas Sri Lankan community has been a haven for false teachers and false prophets to propagate their teachings. COVID 19 has opened doors for these vulnerable community to engage in the sound study of scripture and theological education. We consider this a privilege for serving them.



### New Laptops

Laptops for Faculty: We are thankful for 12 laptops we received for our faculty (LBCS and LBC-CGS) from generous donors for the use of online teaching during this pandemic times.



## Hi-Tech Computers

We also received from a local donor five new high-Tech computers for LBC-CGS with capacity for video editing. We are grateful to God and to this generous donor who have supported LBCS in numerous ways.



[More updates](#)

[Update on CGS Renovations](#)



LBC-CGS building renovation is almost completed. We still have few renovations of the building and changing some of the old wall hangers, garden deco and furnishing of office and guest rooms.

## Constructions at LBCS-Peradeniya



At LBCS we constructing a set of washrooms (male and female) for the Chapel and conference hall. We are thankful to CCS (College of Construction Skills) in Trincomalee for doing this construction for us.

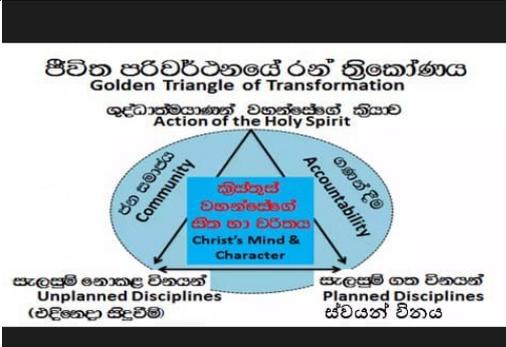


- LBCS Staff and Faculty involved in cleaning environment.
- Regular Moodle Training to Faculty and Students.
- Monday and Friday: Staff and Faculty meeting via Teams for devotion, prayer and sharing.
- We always remember to pray for all the partners and donors of this institution.
- How we work from home during lockdown—TEAMS
- LBCS and LBC-CGS are continuing to train men and women through using online facility.

## Spiritual Formation

We have a syllabus for the 1<sup>st</sup> year students and another syllabus for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students. Classes and prayer secessions are held via MS Teams every Friday from 7.30 am – 12.00 noon by the appointed teacher. All these students are also divided into smaller groups who meet every Wednesdays as growth groups. Their progress is monitored by the appointed growth group leader who in turn will report to LBCS staff about how these students develop their daily walk with the Lord. Their local pastors are also involved in monitoring the progress of students and these pastors report to the appointed staff of LBCS. They post their learning

activities on Moodle and we have three leaders working under the Teacher who does spiritual Formation. The Spiritual Formation program is run by Dr. Upul Nishantha Silva who serves as a senior pastor of a local church.



### A NEW INITIATIVE

By the year 2022-2023 we are hoping to launch out a special training and awareness program in every region of the country. This program is about the necessity of involving the church in holistic mission for social transformation.

### Intended Topics for Training

1. Introduction: Pastoral Theology and Response to God’s Holistic Mission on Earth
2. The Gospel and Personal Transformation: The Church and Social Transformation—Dealing with Ethics, Justice and Environmental Issues.

3. Importance of Knowing the Difference Between Men and Women in Decision Making: The Need for Integration for a Better Society.
4. Dealing with Trauma and Post-Pandemic Crisis: Need for Counseling and Guidance
5. Theological Response to Human Poverty: Empowering the Poor for Transforming livelihood
6. Christian Perspectives on Corruption and Integrity in Managing Resources



## We not only Received, We also Gave

Masks and Sanitizers to Peradeniya Police:

Our IT Manager and Registrar were involved in raising support to purchase necessary health equipment and medicine to Peradeniya hospital.

## Challenges

Due to the economic crisis the whole country is facing, our students are struggling to pay course fees and we are trying to find the 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of support for them. LBCS is raising 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of scholarship from donors. Moreover, some students cannot afford to purchase an online learning device (minimum: a smart phone). Most of them borrow and use the phones of either their brother/sister or father after they return home at night after work. These are challenging times, and we hope to reopen the college for physical classes after completion of vaccination, because it is only then the government will reopen all other schools.

Please pray that we will be able to reopen our physical classes and other relevant activities as soon as possible. All our students are anticipating joining physical classes, because most of them are handicap without IT devices.

#### How you can support

- You can pray for the success of all our programs.
- You can provide scholarships to students.
- You can Providing Scholarships towards our faculty development programs.

**We Deeply Appreciate Your Support and Partnership with Lanka Bible College and Seminary, and LBC—Centre for Graduate Studies. Thank You Very Much!**