



Staff Training Conference

In September we held our two-day Staff Training Conference. This was a wonderful event of envisioning, sharing ideas, team building and fun. It was especially encouraging for those who are in remote areas to know that they are part of something bigger and working together to make a difference.

Our theme was 'managing change' as we are growing and we looked at how change can be exciting but also challenging. We reflected on how far we have come in seven years. The organisation has grown to nearly sixty staff and is reaching over 1000 children across Sri Lanka, not to mention their families and communities.

Some staff had never left their local area before...or travelled to West Coast Sri Lanka...or attended such an event. Many shared that it had actually changed their lives and vision for the future for both themselves and the kids. We funded the entire event with the profits from card making last Christmas, in particular a large overseas order from the company that fund our Kelaniya project.



Batti Bus Project.

One of the things we have been working on this year is the purchase of a bus that we can use in the five remote communities in Batticaloa as a computer lab. It will enable us to take the computers to the kids once a week. Thanks to an incredibly generous donor, we were able to buy the bus in July and are in the process of refurbishing it. We are adapting it in such a way that we can also use it for trips. And it had its first outing in September when it brought most of our staff to

the training conference - from East Coast Batticaloa, via Central Hills Kandy to West Coast Negombo. At the conference, staff made huge collages of their ideas and vision for CAL's future (see photo above.) We told them that we had done this exercise as a brainstorm five years ago (with just four plus staff) and had said 'Don't hold back, even crazy ideas!' One of our staff said she thought we should have a CAL bus. We all laughed at the thought and now just five years on that dream is a reality!



Water Shortage

In Killinochchi it has rained for only one day this year. The wells where the population get their water are drying up. The water is getting murky and cloudy. Usually Killi has two months of torrential rain every year which fills the wells. This year it hasn't come. A few of our children now have to come to the well at the centre and draw water from there to carry home. Every evening children as young as seven years old can be seen carrying heavy buckets to supply the whole family. But our project well is also drying up.

In Batticaloa its the same story. Killi and Batti are both in the 'dry zone' where the climate generally is dryer. We would like to provide water storage tanks for each community to help with water storage. At only UK£30/Aus\$50 per tank it will be money well spent for a lasting impact.



Above: The current colour of the drinking water in Killi and Batti



Join us to see lives transformed

Child Action Lanka began six years ago working with street children in Kandy. Debbie and Dilshan Edirisinghe opened the doors to over sixty children who were grateful for a safe place to come and learn, play and have fun. CAL has grown significantly over the last six years and we now have centres in five locations: Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Kelaniya, Killinochchi and Batticaloa.

We would love you to consider partnering with us as we develop and grow as an organisation to give maximum opportunity to the next generation. For further information and how to give time and/or resources to support this important work, please email childaction@slt.net.lk or contact us via our website at www.childactionlanka.org

Current Needs

Several of our children in Kandy are sitting their O'Levels in December. Most of them do not have suitable places to study aside from their afternoons at the centre, and are living in extremely challenging circumstances. For three of them in particular we felt compelled to take action and have found three families supportive of CAL who are prepared to take them in as lodgers until their exams are over. This is a real commitment as these families themselves do not have much money. Our young people are so committed to studying, against all the odds, and having a stable home base for this time will make all the difference. We are looking to fund this for the next three months (UKE40 or Aus\$65 per child per month) to do all we can to help them succeed.

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS
WHO HAVE MADE THIS WORK POSSIBLE—WE ARE SO
GRATEFUL FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT AND HELP.**

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