



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka is an island in the Indian Ocean, south of India, and is dubbed the “Teardrop of India” due to its location and shape. Historical and geological records indicate that people might have hopped between India and Sri Lanka on foot, until a cyclone destroyed the limestone path in the 15th Century. Sri Lankans approach life at a calm pace.

More than 22 million people call Sri Lanka home. Sri Lanka is a prime location for rice, sugarcane, Ceylon tea, coconuts, and rubber production. Decades of civil war between the Sinhalese and the Tamil ethnic groups ended in 2006, ushering a time of peace and gradual growth into the country, along with budding tourism. Their nation also contains the world’s largest concentration of leopards.

Less than 8 percent of Sri Lankans are Christian. The majority—70 percent—are Buddhist, the country’s official religion. Another 20 percent are Hindu or Muslim. Most of the population speaks either the Sinhala or Tamil languages.

In 2004, Sri Lanka fell victim to a massive tsunami, one of the deadliest natural disasters in history. Lutheran Hour Ministries participated in relief efforts there. Today, we continue work in Sri Lanka through mass media, technology, and interpersonal channels.



Ministry Response

There is tremendous opportunity to share God’s love and reach out with the Gospel in Sri Lanka. Lutheran Hour Ministries (**LHM-Sri Lanka**) responds to the spiritual hunger across this Asian country through a variety of strategies:

RADIO. Radio is a medium of choice for Sri Lankans. Each week, we broadcast a radio program in the Tamil language on Vasantham FM, a national station owned by the government. The program features music, drama, messages, discussions, and quiz competitions for all ages. We also produce special programs during festive seasons. Listeners can contact LHM-Sri Lanka to participate in Bible Correspondence Courses to learn about Christianity.



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TOPICAL BOOKLETS. We produce topical booklets in the Sinhalese and Tamil languages to meet individuals at their stations in life. Booklets dealing with fear and tragedy bring comfort and practical help to those facing tough situations. Those who want to know more about the faith will find a booklet about the Bible. Our volunteers also use the booklets as they serve the people around them.

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES. LHM–Sri Lanka offers **Bible Correspondence Courses (BCCs)** to introduce the Gospel to people who don't know Jesus, and to reinforce a biblical understanding for people who do. When someone responds to an outreach activity, we typically invite the respondent to begin a BCC as the next step in his or her spiritual journey. Many Sri Lankans have never heard the Gospel due to cultural barriers.

DRAMA PERFORMANCES. For families who call villages, tea estates, and rubber estates home, entertainment is rare. Children and adults gravitate to street performances. Live dramatic events are a unique

YOUTH MINISTRY. Today's young people will become tomorrow's leaders. We welcome individuals of all religious backgrounds to our youth seminars, where we educate them on the Christian faith and, for Christians, provide guidance on how to grow in their faith walk and show God's love to others. These fun seminars include growth sessions, discussion, music, games, and other group activities. We also partner with local congregations to conduct children's gatherings filled with music, devotions, and games.

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS. LHM–Sri Lanka conducts **Equipping the Saints** workshops to provide Christians with practical ways to carry the Gospel into their local communities. After attending these sessions, believers feel more confident sharing the Good News with their neighbors and inviting them to local congregations. We continue to keep in touch with the participants to help them apply what they learned.

Impact

AKILA FINDS HOPE IN JESUS: How God Used a Lutheran Hour Ministries Youth Event to Save a Young Woman from Suicide

Young Akila's life nearly ended. Akila lives in the Central Province of Sri Lanka, where she attends school. Since childhood, she had heard about Jesus but wasn't interested in Him.

Harmful choices caused her life to spiral into darkness. Akila couldn't find hope or peace. Struggles overwhelmed her and left her brokenhearted. Finally, she reached a point of despair but couldn't find the courage to confide in anyone. So she bottled up her sorrow. Soon, Akila considered ending her life.

Amid those suicidal thoughts, she heard about a youth event hosted by Lutheran Hour Ministries' office in Sri Lanka. Akila decided to attend. She needed hope.

The Lord healed her broken heart that day.

Akila tells us God has given her new hope. He used the Good News she heard at the LHM–Sri Lanka event to strengthen her. In the days that followed, the Lord helped her face the issues that had intimidated her.

Today, Akila approaches her days with fresh perspective. She shares Christ's love with her friends and neighbors. Best of all, this girl– once brokenhearted–now praises God for the change His grace has brought into her life.

