

VeAhavta Sri Lanka

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- Since 1983, Sri Lanka has been plunged in civil war that has pitted Sinhalese Buddhists against Tamil Hindus
- The war has claimed thousands of lives and has left an estimated 70,000 orphaned children and thousands more widowed women alone to fend for themselves
- The primary militant rebel group among the Tamils is called the "Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam" or the "LTTE"
- Between September 16-18, the first round of peace negotiations between the government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE took place in Thailand and were hailed by both sides as a success; additional rounds of peace talks are expected to be conducted in the coming months
- Sri Lanka is approximately 70% Buddhist, 15% Hindu, 8% Christian and 7% Muslim (Source: CIA World Factbook)

Grace Church Care Center Opens

On August 31, 2002, the Grace Church Care Center in Trincomalee was declared officially open. Below are portions of the official report of the opening provided by the Secretary of the Church of South India: "Grateful to God for His mercies and guidance in helping us to fulfill the vision of the Church to, among other things, provide assistance to orphans, widows and other impoverished peoples, we do hereby offer our report concerning the opening of the 'Grace Church Care Centre' in Uppuveli, Trincomalee – a milestone event in the life of the Church in Sri Lanka. The

Grace Church Care Centre (the 'Centre') sits on seven acres of real property on which are approximately 15,000 square feet of buildings. The Centre



Rev. Jeyanesan outside the Grace Church Care Center in Trincomalee

has the following facilities: a chapel, a pastor's residence, four guest rooms, residential facilities for the permanent

care of 120 orphans, complete day care facilities, a large conference hall, a dining hall that will accommodate 150 people, a full kitchen, residences for the volunteers and other assistants. The Centre was ceremonially inaugurated by Mr. Eric Parkinson, a lawyer by profession and the Chairman of 'VeAhavta,' a nonprofit charity based in the United States, and was dedicated by our Beloved Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jeyanesan on the thirty-first day of August 2002. Three special volunteer delegates of VeAhavta USA participated at the opening of the Centre in addition to Mr. Eric Parkinson; they

(See, *Opening*, p. 2)

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My Experience in Sri Lanka (By Steven E. Bowen, MD)

I was invited by VeAhavta to take a trip to Sri Lanka this past August. The purpose was to use my medical training to improve the situation in the Northeast. I agreed, hesitantly, after stories from a previous year's trip of mortar shells, military check-points, and other unnerving phenomena. Factoring in the potential for tropical diseases and the dis-

comforts of traveling so great distance to an unfamiliar environment, I really felt it was not something I *wanted* to do. However, I also felt it was something I *needed* to do, if only to break out of my "comfort zone" and grow, and so I accepted the invitation. What I experienced in Sri Lanka, I would not trade for anything. It drove home to me vividly how sheltered my back-

ground is, and how much larger and broader the world is compared to what I've seen. I was, of course, moved by conditions in the refugee camps and in the orphanages, but the encounters that deeply affected me were those I experienced in my capacity as a physician offering medical care to the indigent. I am trained to alleviate suffering, and to

(See, *Dr. Bowen*, p. 2)

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were: Dr. Steven Bowen, a highly regarded physician from California; Mr. Colin Lewis, a reputable computer engineer from California; and Mr. George Shammas, a respected professional real estate broker, also from California. In addition, we were blessed to have Rev. Scott Peterson, an Associate Pastor of Grace Church, San Luis Obispo, California – our sister church in the United States – attend the opening. Approximately 750 people attended the public opening, including government representatives and various religious leaders. We are pleased to report that after a lapse of 15 years, Church members and Pastors from Jaffna, Vanni, Vavuniya, Cheddikulam, Colombo and Nuwara Eliya were able to meet together to participate in this landmark event. Inauguration celebrations commenced at 4:00 with a procession from the main road at 3rd milepost, Uppuveli. The procession was led by the colourful Marching Band of Uduvil Girls' College and the traditional drummers (Nattuva Molam). The public meeting started with prayers offered by Rev. Ranjith Daniel, Pastor in charge of Grace Church, Trincomalee. Mr. N.S.P. Thampoe, Director for Projects, offered a kind welcome to our guests and to other participants and attendees of the meeting. In his address, Rev. Jeyanesan thanked Bishop Jebanesan and the Diocese for their support in allowing him to make his dream a reality; he also thanked VeAhavta USA and all of its donors

for their support and prayers. Rev. Jeyanesan was careful to mention that the Grace Church Care Centre was a facility that would always be a place dedicated to providing care for the indigent, regardless of race or religion, and that –though legal title to the Centre is held in the name of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India – it would be made available for use by all churches and other allied institutions for meetings, conferences, retreats, seminars and meditations and would further be made available for ecumenical gatherings and dialogue designed to facilitate peace and greater understanding among all peoples and religions. The venerable Hindu Swami Sri Vethahama Mamani Pirmasiri Ravichandra Kurukkal extended heartfelt greetings on behalf of the Hindu population of Trincomalee. He kindly welcomed the CSI's arrival in Trincomalee and praised the Church's role in caring for the orphans and widows. Rev. Fr. R.J. Dharmaraj spoke on behalf of the Anglican Church of Sri Lanka and in his message expressed the Anglican Church's solidarity with the Church of South India. In a moving and heartfelt message of peace and brotherhood,

the venerable Manika Mejothy Tissa, Buddhist Priest of Abeyapura Chapter, offered kind greetings on behalf of the Sinhala Buddhist population. He expressed the beautiful message that Tamils, Sinhalese and Burghers are all human beings who are a part of one family and that all must work and serve together hand-in-hand to bring

peace and harmony to our motherland. Rev. Fr. Leo brought greetings on behalf of the Rt. Rev. Dr. Kingsley Swampillai, Bishop of Batticaloa and the Trincomalee Roman Catholic Church. He too welcomed the arrival of the CSI in Trincomalee. Rev. Scott Peterson thanked



Pastors from the Church of South India with Scott Peterson, Associate Pastor of Grace Church, San Luis Obispo, California

the Church of South India for its invitation to the opening of the Centre and presented Rev. Jeyanesan with a cheque in the sum of Rs.245,280 from offerings collected by our sister Church in the United States – Grace Church, San Luis Obispo, California. We are so grateful to our brothers and sisters from Grace Church, U.S.A., for their tremendous kindness and generosity to us. Thereafter, Mr. Eric Parkinson delivered the keynote address emphasizing the connectedness of all

(See, *Opening*, p. 4)

Dr. Bowen

search for the solution to my patient's problems. As a family physician, part of my training is to recognize when my skills are not adequate to either diagnose or treat a specific condition, and to then call on the appropriate colleague or other health care professional for assistance. The most frustrating and heartrending problem for me in

Sri Lanka occurred when I was able to diagnose, clearly and unmistakably, what the condition of a patient was only to realize that there were no other professionals I could refer the patient to for treatment. Unfortunately, this happened all too often and, in almost each case, the treatment needed by the patient would have been readily available in the United States. A few examples will illustrate my anguish: (1) An old-

erly man with poor vision, who advised that his right eye was deformed because, during his recent cataract operation, the intern performing the procedure dropped an instrument on his eye, scarring his cornea. He was, of course, reluctant to have the mature cataract on his left eye removed after such an experience. (2) A young man whose arms had been quite literally nailed

(See, *Dr. Bowen*, p. 4)

Grace Church Care Center: A Haven From War

Despite the ceasefire in the 19 year civil war in Sri Lanka and the successful conclusion of the first round of peace talks in Thailand this month, the northern and eastern districts of Sri Lanka were the focus of two outbreaks of violence that occurred on October 9 and October 11. On October 9, seven Tamil civilians were killed and fourteen wounded when the Special Task Force (STF), an elite wing of the Sri Lankan armed forces, opened fire on a public demonstration in a town named Kanjirankudah located about 60 miles south of Batticaloa. Just two days later, during a protest of the shootings in Kanjirankudah, seven Tamils were killed and 36 wounded in Thirukdaloor, a suburb of Trincomalee, in an attack by persons suspected to be Sinhalese political activists. In the aftermath of the attacks, Trincomalee town was shut down and a general curfew was imposed to curb widespread rioting and violent reprisals. Rev. Jeyanesan and his assistant, Ranjith Daniel, the pastor of the Grace Church Care Center which is

located in Trincomalee, found themselves in the middle of the violence and were able to offer safety for hundreds who were seeking refuge. The following is an e-mail received from Rev. Jeyanesan on the morning of Monday, October 14, 2002: "Don't worry. We are okay here now. Last night [Sunday, October 13, 2002] at about 10:00 pm Daniel phoned me [Jey was in Batticaloa] and said there were people running into our compound screaming and saying, 'The mobs in uniform are cutting people.' I asked him to open the gates and allow the people into our buildings. I was keeping in touch with him frequently. About 500 men and women and children from the refugee camp and from elsewhere in the neighborhood came for shelter. I asked Daniel to put on his cassock and wait outside. And



Rev. Ranjith Daniel, Pastor of Grace Church, Trincomalee

also I asked him to switch on all the lights. I also had the presence of mind to give calls to the Senior Superintendent of Police, the DIG, the Army Commander in Trinco and to the Prime Minister's Secretary. Miraculously, in 10 minutes time the Army and Police were mobilized and took control of the situation. I thank God for this. Now the situation is under control. Only a few people were injured. We

are proud that the local people had such confidence that they would receive shelter from the Grace Church Centre that they ran into it when trouble started. We could save lives and bring the situation under control. Shantha [Rev. Jeyanesan's wife] and I prayed and made the telephone calls. God is great. The Grace Church Care Center is al-

(See, *Haven*, p. 5)

Freedom for the Prisoners (By Eric Parkinson)

"The Spirit of the LORD is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor." (Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 4:18-19.)

On August 28, 2002, I spent about two hours in the Batticaloa Prison in Sri Lanka. I was accompanied by Rev. S. Jeyanesan and by Mr. Chandran Chiniah, a local attorney. We spent approximately 30 minutes touring the prison and the balance of our time speaking with 18 Tamil prisoners all of whom were arrested and are

being held in prison (some for over three years now) under legislation, originally adopted into law in 1979, known as the "Prevention of Terrorism Act." It was an experience I will never forget; indeed, the tragic stories of each of the young men I met with (all of whom are under 35 years of age), the abominable conditions within the prison they are confined to, and the selfless acts of kindness I witnessed among this small "band of brothers" have weighed heavy on my heart and have troubled my mind since my return to the United States. It is time for their story to be told. Imagine if you will the eyes of a man who has been torn from his wife and children in the midst of war and all its uncertainties and who,

for two or three years, has been imprisoned together with 17 other men in a 25-foot by 25-foot cell without windows, suffered physical and mental torture, been looked down upon as "inferior" by his captors, forced to endure the humiliation of evacuating himself in front of others and sleeping all night in the stench of his own excretion and that of his cellmates, and who takes his one meal of rice a day through a small opening in the wall of his cell. What would the eyes of a man subjected to such conditions look like? Can you see them? They are eyes that lack even a shred of confidence. They are eyes of shock, hate, anxiety, hopelessness, humiliation, embarrassment and insecurity all merged together into the two small windows to the soul which project a light that is

(See, *Freedom*, p. 5)

Dr. Bowen

to a wooden board by members of the army in order to extract a "confession," and experienced daily pain at the scar sites. (3) A promising young electronics student from the Vocational Training Center at St. John's in Batticaloa who walks with tremendous difficulty: He told of one leg being weak from a very

young age (possibly from polio) and of being offered an operation to treat it. The surgeon operated on the wrong leg, making his previously good leg very weak. The proffered solution was to perform the

planned procedure on the bad leg; unfortunately,

the surgery was unsuccessful and left that leg even weaker.

(4) A beautiful four year old girl previously diagnosed with Tetralogy of Fallot (a congenital heart condition), whose mother wanted to hear that I had a treatment other than the impossibly expensive surgery which had been advised. With absolutely no means to obtain the necessary surgery, it is highly probable that the girl will soon die. (5) An entire family I treated for Vitamin A deficiency, knowing they had been treated in the past by other free clinics, but also recognizing that their diet was inadequate and the problem would inevitably recur.

(6) Many children I treated for respiratory infections, knowing the infections were due to poor hygiene and crowded living conditions and that I was powerless to address the root of the problem. (7) A young woman with debilitating daily headaches, who finally admitted that the headaches started, each day, just after her husband beat her. (8) Many people suffering seri-

ous strains of spine or joints from over-use, hard labor in difficult conditions with horrible ergonomics, for whom the only real solution would be a change in activity. I could only treat these people with pain medications and liniments since the cause of their problems was also their only means of livelihood. I came home from these encounters, and many others, with a burning need to communicate the depth of my experi-



Dr. Bowen providing free medical care to the public at the Grace Church Care Center

ences to those who will listen and choose to help. Alone, I can do little to alleviate the pain and suffering I saw, but I can help some and perhaps I can also motivate others to get involved. Imagine the healing and happiness that could be brought to so many people if a team of medical professionals would help! Patients could be provided with nutritional education, physical therapy advice, eye examinations, eyeglass fittings, dental care...the list goes on. Of course, not everybody has the time, money, or health to reach out to help in this manner, but I now know what God expects from me and from each of us. I am proud to be associated with the work being done by VeAhavta, and it is my great privilege to offer what I have been given to help my neighbors.

Dr. Bowen is a family physician with offices in Santa Maria, California. He traveled to Sri Lanka at his own expense and while there conducted four days of free medical clinics, open to the public, in Batticaloa and Trincomalee, in addition to providing free medical services for some 500 children at the orphanages operated by Rev. Jeyanesan and the Church of South India. He was assisted by Dushy Jeyanesan, a very capable medical student and the daughter of Rev. & Mrs. Jeyanesan.

Opening

humanity and expressing the truths that – whether black, white or brown, Tamil, Sinhalese or Burgher – all peoples are united by blood, which runs red in all; that among the people of God's amazing creation, all are equal, no one is superior to another; that our external differences are cause for offering praise to the LORD, and should not be deemed a reason for separation; and that, as brothers and sisters, it is our responsibility, indeed our privilege, to take care of each other. Our Beloved Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan, then delivered his kind greetings and insightful address. He was proud that during his term of Bishopric the vision of the Grace Church Care Centre was being fulfilled, and he congratulated Rev. S. Jeyanesan and his staff for their dedication and commitment to making the vision a wonderful success. The vote of thanks was offered by Rev. G. Nadarajah, Secretary of the JDCSI, after which traditional dances were performed by the children of the St. John's Church and Herman's Girls Home of Batticaloa. The choir of St. John's Church also sang a special lyric composed for the opening of the Centre. The meeting concluded with the benediction pronounced by our Bishop, and a reception followed thereafter. Following the inauguration of the Grace Church Care Centre, a Youth Conference was organised on Sunday, September 1, 2002, in which 300 youth from all over Sri Lanka participated. The theme for the conference was 'Commitment & Discipleship.' Our beloved brother, Rev. Scott Peterson, was the Chief Speaker at the Youth Conference. The conference created awareness among the participants of the need to commit to the LORD'S work. We thank Rev. Peterson for his insightful preaching and teaching."

Freedom

just barely visible. They are like the eyes of a frightened and wounded animal but more dreadful because behind them lurks the intelligent mind and the sensitive soul of a human being. During the time I was in Batticaloa Prison, I saw 18 pair of such eyes when they dared to look up at me. Under legislation that can only be described as “draconian,” the “Prevention of Terrorism Act” (PTA), authorizes various officers of the Sri Lankan police force and their delegates to, “without a warrant... (a) arrest any person; (b) enter and search any premises; (c) stop and search any individual or any vehicle; and (d) seize any document or thing connected with or concerned in or reasonably suspected of being connected with or concerned in any unlawful activity.” Any person so arrested under PTA: (1) must be ordered detained by a Magistrate “until the conclusion of the trial of such person” if application for such detainment is made by the police officer, or (2) can be held without the order of a Magistrate (i.e., at the whim of the police) for as long as 18 months, during which time the decision of the police

“shall be final and shall not be called in question in any court or tribunal by way of writ or otherwise.” Moreover, while in custody, the police are given the “right of access to such person and the right to take

such person during reasonable hours to any place for the purpose of interrogation and from place to place for the purposes of investigation.” Despite the apparent limits on the length of time that an arrestee may be detained, there are numerous persons who are held “legally” under PTA for periods that exceed sometimes three years; this is accomplished in a number of different ways: cases are not brought to trial, the length-of-detainment “restrictions” are read together such

People arrested under PTA or the emergency regulations typically just “disappear” one day leaving family members and friends with no clues as to their whereabouts and no way of finding them.

that a person may be detained by the police for 18 months and only then presented to a Magistrate who is then required, upon application by the police, to order them detained until trial. Alternatively, prisoners are held under a combination of PTA and “emergency regulations” promulgated by the President of Sri Lanka in May 2000, which convey even broader powers of arrest and confinement. As a result, the apparent limits placed on the length of detention are circumvented and the arrestees, most of whom are unable to afford legal counsel, simply languish in prison. People arrested under PTA or the emergency regulations typically just “disappear” one day leaving family members and friends with no clues as to their whereabouts and no way of finding them. For many arrestees held under PTA, the only evidence against them is a “confession” extracted through torture. Last year, VeAhavta was instrumental in securing the release of two Tamil political prisoners from a prison in Colombo and the only evidence the government had against them was a so-called “confession,” written in Sinhalese (a language they could not read) and signed after a week or more of torture. (By the way, the total fee charged by the attorney we retained in Sri Lanka to assist us was just \$220.) Of the 18 men

we spoke with in Batticaloa Prison, all are confined together as “PTA prisoners,” and with the exception of 3 of the men, the only evidence against them is a forced “confession.” Because of the improved prospects of peace brought about by the recent peace talks in Thailand, a very rare window of opportunity to secure the release of political prisoners has been opened in Sri Lanka and VeAhavta is determined to take advantage of it. Despite all of the human agony I witnessed in the Batticaloa Prison, I also saw an act of kindness among the inmates I spoke with that left me astonished. When I informed the men that I only had the financial means to help five of them obtain release, six men immediately

(See, *Freedom*, p. 6)

Haven

ready on its mission in safeguarding the poor and needy who are helpless. I am proud of Daniel for his bravery. I am sharing this with you so that you will join us and praise the Lord for His Works.”

We are grateful to God, Rev. Jeyanesan and Pastor Daniel for their help. We are also very pleased that our neighbors in the town of Trincomalee could find a haven from the violence within the Grace Church Care Center compound.

Fundraising Update

Although the Grace Church Care Center has been purchased and is safely in the hands of the Church of South India, we continue to need your help to payoff the indebtedness incurred by VeAhavta to complete the purchase. On April 1, 2002, VeAhavta obtained a loan in the amount of \$150,000 to fund the final payment for the property, the current balance of which is \$134,000. Interest payments on the loan are being graciously donated; accordingly all contributions to the “Sri Lanka Orphans & Widows Project – Property Acquisition Fund” will be used entirely toward the payment of the remaining principal balance. VeAhavta is planning to build a new youth vocational training center at the Grace Church Care Center, but we cannot start this project until our existing indebtedness has been retired. Will you please help us pay down this remaining indebtedness? Please mail your donation today. VeAhavta is a 501(c)(3) organization – all contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law. Thank you.

Freedom

stepped forward and told me to help someone other than themselves since they had neither wives nor children at home while some of the other inmates did. Two of the six men who stepped forward had been detained under PTA for over three years! Even though they had been treated to some of the worst cruelties imaginable, these men were still able to express kindness. I wondered if I could have done the same had I been in their shoes. As I left

By my own inaction, I have allowed others to suffer. By refusing to act against injustice, I have become a participant in it – as most of us have.

the prison and was met by the fresh outdoor air, feeling it pushing the stench of urine and feces out of my nostrils, I felt an immediate sense of relief to be on the “outside,” and I realized that I had been wound up very tightly the entire time I was inside – so much so that the muscles in my back, shoulders and neck were sore. I don’t know why. Perhaps I was subconsciously concerned that getting into the prison would be easier than getting out. In the days that followed, I kept thinking about what Jesus said when he quoted from Isaiah in a Synagogue in Nazareth so long ago; the words are as fresh and relevant today as I’m sure they were then. Was the “freedom for the prisoners” he spoke of a figurative freedom? Was it nothing more than some spiritual “pie-in-the-sky,” a “freedom” that was

to be obtained only upon death? Or would the “good news” Jesus asked his disciples to spread include something more tangible, more “earthly,” like getting our neighbors out from behind the bars of the Batticaloa Prison? The eyes of the 18 men I visited have made the answers to these questions very clear. It is impossible for me to

concede that *any* human being – no matter what evils he has, or may have, inflicted upon others – should be subjected to the dungeon that is known as the Batticaloa Prison; and it is equally as im-

possible for me to comprehend the callousness of one who is so oblivious to the value of life that he would allow a fellow human being to suffer such conditions. Yet both of these incomprehensible extremes exist at the Batticaloa Prison and, unfortunately, they also exist within me. By my own inaction, I have allowed others to suffer. By refusing to act against injustice, I have become a participant in it – as most of us have. If the feeling of guilt is what we need to open our eyes to the suffering that is all around us and inspire us to help – if moral shame is what is required to get us to respond to the needs of our neighbors – then I pray: bring it on. Because it will then help cause the darkness in our own eyes to be replaced with the light of love. We must do more than

pause on occasion to remember the stories of our 18 brothers whose lives are being destroyed in the dungeons of the Batticaloa Prison. We must do more than pray for them with just the words of our mouths. Through peaceful means, but with all of the resources that God has entrusted to us, we must act with persistence to free them from their inhuman confinements. Otherwise, we risk our own destruction because our “salvation” is inseparable from theirs: “The one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.” (Luke 6:49.)

Eric Parkinson is an attorney and an officer and director of VeAhavta. If you would like to help free the political prisoners in Batticaloa from their nightmarish confinement, we encourage you to do so. For each of the 13 prisoners we have not yet agreed to assist, we need to raise \$100 to retain an attorney. Please designate your tax deductible donations to the VeAhavta “Freedom for the Prisoners Fund” or contact VeAhavta for more information. Through your donation, you can help bring “freedom to the prisoners.”

Dying for a Meal

“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’” (Matt. 25:40.)

On August 28, 2002, Rev. S. Jeyanesan and Bro. Soundararaj Azariah, of the Church of South India, accompanied by Rev. Scott Peterson of Grace Church, San Luis Obispo, California, and Eric Parkinson, the chairman of VeAhavta, made a one hour drive to the Valaichchenai refugee camp located north of Batti-

caloa to deliver desperately needed food and water rations. The team also administered special, high-potency, doses of Vitamin A supplements donated to VeAhavta by “Direct Relief International” of Santa Barbara, California. The Valaichchenai refugee camp



Bringing much needed relief to displaced persons surviving in the northern Batticaloa District

is home to approximately 400 families of displaced persons struggling to survive under extremely harsh conditions including temperatures commonly in excess of 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Victims of the war, the

(See, *Dying*, p. 7)

Dying

residents of the camp undergo untold hardships in their day-to-day lives and had not been provided with any form of assistance for over two months. Many people in the camp suffer from severe Vitamin A deficiency, which is adversely affecting their eyesight. "These people have been forgotten by many, but God has not forgotten them," said Rev. Jey-anesan standing in the hot sun in his cassock, "and it is the Church's ongoing obligation and privilege to also

remember them and care for them as our brothers and sisters. I thank God for giving us the means to provide a little help." For approximately four hours in the hot sun, the volunteers delivered an entire van full of food and water rations to the Palmyra huts inhabited by the residents and administered Vitamin A. As a result, 50 families were provided rations that will provide them with nourishment for 15 days. The total cost for the rations was just 28,000 Rupees, which is approximately \$300. "It is heartbreaking to see so many people in such desperate need for help," said

Eric Parkinson. "It's also astonishing to see how much can be accomplished with so little money," he added. "A \$300 per month food budget would not provide much in the United States for one family of five, but here it can feed 50 families. I hope we can do more for these people very soon."

If you would like to help us begin a regular feeding program for the needy residents of the Valaichenai refugee camp, please contact VeAhavta.

Please Help Us By Sponsoring a Child

Will you help us change the world for children in need? The Grace Church Care Center in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, has facilities for 120 orphaned children, but we need committed sponsors who are willing to pledge their monthly support for each child. For just \$25 (less than the cost of one night of entertainment in the United States) you can provide for all of the needs of a child in the new orphanage for an entire month, including food,

clothing, a safe place to live, a good education, a sense of hope and purpose, and – most importantly – the assurance that he or she is loved by others and by the LORD. Won't you please be a neighbor to others by reaching out in a tangible way to make a difference? To sponsor a child, use the form on the last page of this newsletter. Figure the number of children you would like to support, multiply that number by \$25 and

enter the total in the space indicated for "Child Sponsorship Fund." Then return the form with your check payable to "VeAhavta." We will send you a statement each month for your tax deductible contributions. Approximately two months from now, VeAhavta will be sending all sponsors pictures and short biographies of their sponsored children along with an address to write to them. Please help us to save the lives of these children in the name of the LORD.

The Children of Grace — Photographs From Grace Church Daycare



**VEAHAVTA
A NONPROFIT CORPORATION**

1190 Marsh Street, Suite B
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Phone/Fax: 805.542.9357

Watch for our Website: www.you-shall-love.org



Will You Help?

TO: VeAhavta, a Nonprofit Corporation
1190 Marsh Street, Suite B
San Luis Obispo, California 93401

Dear VeAhavta:

I want to help my neighbors in Sri Lanka. Enclosed is my donation, payable to “**VeAhavta**,” which I understand is tax deductible. **Please use the enclosed gift as indicated:**

\$_____ *Sri Lanka Orphans & Widows Project – Property Acquisition Fund*

\$_____ *Sri Lanka Orphans & Widows Project – Child Sponsorship Fund*

\$_____ *Sri Lanka Orphans & Widows Project – Grace Church Daycare Facility Operating Fund*

\$_____ *Sri Lanka Orphans & Widows Project – Freedom for the Prisoners Fund*

\$_____ *Where needed most*

\$_____ **TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED**

Thank you for caring and giving so that others may know the love of the Lord. Should any fund be oversubscribed, excess funds will be channeled to an equally deserving need unless you indicate otherwise. VeAhavta is a 501(c)(3) registered charity; all donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Thank you for your generous support!