

The Prestons' June Newsletter

We have had a smashing time, but “not as you know it!” This letter starts with our bedroom door being smashed deliberately in an effort to get our registration documents.

We were stopped at immigration in Chennai and refused exit to Sri Lanka until we produced them. Hence a 5 am phone call, the door broken down and the documents scanned and sent by email to us.

Unfortunately, they arrived too late and we had to wait for another flight twelve hours later. We stayed with friends in Chennai and gave some much needed help decorating their church for a children’s mission.



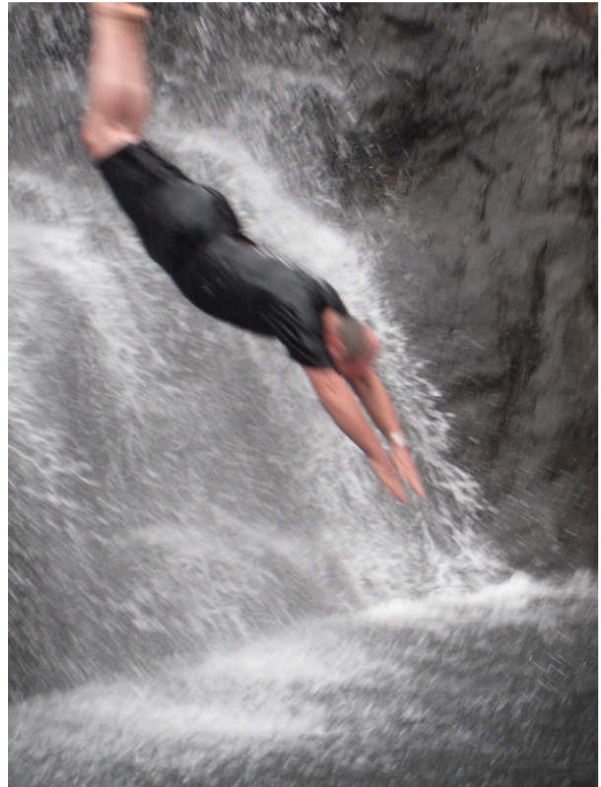
The church decorations

In Sri Lanka David spoke in the Sinhalese & English church services. Their worship times were amazing. The girls had a great time in the two Sunday schools covering the life story of Joseph using puppets, flannel graph and craft material.



The girls at Sunday School in Sri Lanka

They also taught the dance ‘one way Jesus’ to some very enthusiastic children. During the week we joined in a number of cell groups and took part in the “encounter weekend” with the English church. This is an opportunity for church members to get rid of “baggage” which has come with them into their Christian life.



Yours truly trying to be young again

From there we went to Avalanche for a camp where 60 young people between 18-30 came for adventure and fun. We dived into an icy rock pool, crossed rivers blind fold, tried our skill at archery and for the recruits on the team stayed up until 4 am singing round the camp fire and playing games like “Mafia”.

But the highlight was the earnest response to David’s clear challenge to walk righteously in the Christian life. Anonymous slips of paper revealed problems like pressure at work/pornography/sleeping with boyfriend/anger/habitual lying along with the more common issues like laziness and lack of discipline. And on the final night 30 of the campers stood to their feet to signal their commitment to putting things right in their Christian life. It was a great response.

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We came back to India and spent six days on holiday in a hill station in India while the rest of India burned in the summer sun of 45°



The Guest House in Montauban

We returned to Kethanakonda to begin six days of children's mission in different villages. There was a good turn out each day including many adult bystanders. The seed has been sown and will hopefully be harvested by the pastors. The week ended with a party for the UCCI administration staff.

The campus is in upheaval at the moment as the drainage system long needed here is being installed. So far God has held off the forecasted monsoon rains and the cement floor and sides are now firmly in.



The drainage system half floored

On Sunday past we visited Mandadam church. Three weeks ago Pastor Samson's wife died of a heart attack following a stroke of two weeks earlier. It was good to be with him and the church and to grieve with him over his loss.

Our last week has been packed with last team interviews, debriefing & evaluation of the year, opening the last two boreholes and preparing power point presentations for the graduation ceremony on Saturday. We hope to visit our special 'mud' village on Sunday where Joshua is seeking to start a new church.

On the eve of our departure we are joining with Nalini & family for a joint birthday celebration (Nalini, Janet & Hannah). We will also be celebrating God's faithfulness to us throughout the year. Thank you for all your support prayerfully, financially, & through your encouraging emails.

Praise for:

- Money coming in for drainage system, playground equipment & eye operations
- Worship & fellowship in Sri Lanka
- Response of young people in Avalanche
- Restful few days in Ooty
- Dry days & good turn out at children's mission
- Completion of drainage work before heavy rains begin

Pray for:

- A happy graduation day on Saturday 11 June
- Follow up of young people from Avalanche
- Two girls applying for January 2012
- Safe journey home to UK & the States on 14 & 15 June
- Pastor Samson
- Plans for our future

David mobile 00919866268920

Email davidpreston2@yahoo.co.uk

Janet mobile 00919704236826

Email jkpreston55@yahoo.co.uk