

## **Weekend Mission Programme with Link Parish**

Christ Church, Hambanthota

***Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2018***

Following the mission in April 2017 for the Church of the Good Shepherd, Thimbirigasyaya (COGST), Fr. Desmond Goonesekera kindly offered to conduct a mission on **Healing through the teachings, life and ministry of Jesus** for Christ Church Hambanthota.

### ***Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August***

On Saturday morning Fr Desmond, his wife, Fr. Ushantha (the Vicar of Christ Church Hambantota), his wife and participants joined for a fellowship breakfast. Over 150 (estimated 100 parishioners & visitors) men, women, old and young with their children participated in the Mission. Many came from long distances in buses, lorries, three wheelers, bicycles and some had even walked. It was so encouraging to see such faith and devotion.

Fr. Desmond taught from the Word of God that Jesus healed people mentally, emotionally, physically, spiritually and many other ways. The programme comprised of lessons and intermittent praise and worship singing. The choir sang lustily and the congregation joined joyfully. Fr. Desmond played his guitar which brought in beautiful harmony.

Fr. Desmond had an alter call for many who sort healing. The program comprised of repeated cycles. There was instant healing, casting of evil spirit, being slain by the Spirit etc. and the testimonies that followed were numerous. An amazing manifestation and witness of the work of the Holy Spirit was evident. Fr. Desmond & Fr. Ushantha were both full of awe and praise at the outcome. A fellowship lunch was served in between the mission and the day concluded with a fellowship tea at 4pm.

### ***Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August***

On Sunday from 8.30am to 9.30am Fr. Desmond addressed the Sunday School

Fr Desmond showed of the blessings received to each of them when he asked them, if anyone present was ever hungry and had nothing to eat, if they had slept on the street, if they had eaten from the garbage and had faced situations with no clothes. The children replied that they had experienced none of the above. He said that they were blessed and to appreciate the blessings they already had, and not crave for worldly objects such as cell phones, iPads essentially man made objects that can distract them.

Thereafter the Sunday school children were provided breakfast sponsored by the Church of the Good Shepherd Thimibirigasyaya.

### ***Eucharist Service on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August at 10:00 AM***

The Mission was followed by the normal Sunday morning Eucharist service. Once again Fr. Desmond's sermon was about having faith in the holy spirit, to an overflowing congregation about the power of the Holy Spirit. Fr Desmond spoke about the Holy Spirit acting in ways that seems mysterious to us, and even referred to the simple example that the people had all experienced on the days of the Mission.

The Church of the Good Shepherd convey thanks and blessings to Fr. Desmond for conducting the Mission and Delani and Anil for coordinating the Mission.