

New Life Family News

February 2006

"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity..."

...For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore." Ps. 133

Thank you again.

Deb and I again want you to know our appreciation for your gifts and your prayers which enabled us to visit our daughter, Anna Marie in Sri Lanka. We had such a wonderful visit with her and with her friends aboard the MVDoulos. It was a joyful reunion with her. I've told a number of folks that the first hug was worth the entire trip. Our time with her was one where we were consistently amazed at her growth as an adult follower of Christ; grateful for Jesus' faithfulness to keep her and be at work within her; and filled with pride in her just being our girl.

We also had a good time seeing another culture and country. Sri Lanka is a beautiful country and her people are as warm and welcoming as their climate and geography. They reminded me once again of where true hope and happiness comes from. Although many of them live in extreme poverty and with meager possessions, very few didn't offer a huge smile when our eyes made contact with theirs. Their children were quick to offer us a hand-shake in welcome and greet us with a warm "hello." Gratefulness and hope seemed to radiate from their faces. Contentment of heart; security and hope come only from within us (and that from Christ) -not from our possessions. We were also filled with awe as we watched the crew and staff of the ship minister the love of Christ to this very spiritually open society of mostly Hindus and Buddhists.

Through seminars on parenting and on marriage enrichment, to children's programs of all kinds, the crew sought to be the light of Jesus to the 1000's of folks who came "on board." One evening the crew presented a program called International Night in the auditorium of the city hall of Galle (pronounced, Gaul). Dances from a number of countries, skits teaching spiritual truth, songs, and a short message were presented to the folks who filled the auditorium. The closing segment of this presentation is called the "parade of nations." Staff parade onto the stage dressed up in costumes from every country represented on the ship. Without saying it directly, the message that peaceful relationship between every nationality is possible through personal reconciliation with God in Christ. This peaceful coexistence is the wonder of many public officials around the world. They wonder how people from so many different

countries can live together in such close quarters with such peace and hope -people who are volunteers! That wonder filled my heart too. It is the heart of our Father to see His family live in peace with one another - with hearts that are joyful and grateful.

The picture of that stage filled with people from so many countries whose purpose in life is to be the light of Jesus to the world -fills my heart as I write this letter to you. I was moved to tears then and now. I believe I caught a glimpse of that someday written about in Revelation.

“After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation , tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice:

***"Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb." Rev 7:9-10***

What a picture of God's heart for His followers and of those He died for. What a picture of Jesus' followers living out their purpose for being alive. Wow!

Thank you again. We are soooooo grateful for the opportunity to see Anna Marie, to experience life on the Doulos, and to see the country of Sri Lanka -you made it possible.

We love you,

Pastor Dave and Debbie