



SRI LANKA

**OPERATION
WORLD**

the definitive prayer guide to every nation



WATCH & PRAY

GIVE THANKS

**Evangelical
growth
continues to
be strong**

This Asian island off the southeast coast of India is reputed to have been King Solomon's source for ivory, peacocks, and valuables, which he imported from the ancient seaport of Tarshish. An important stop on the Silk Road, Arab traders called ancient Ceylon "Serendip", a Sanskrit term referencing the discovery of something by accident, which formed the root of the modern "serendipity". Today, Sri Lanka, or "venerable island", boasts one of the fastest growing economies in the world with over 60% of the gross domestic product coming from the service sector. However, severe income inequality and ethnic prejudice have driven large numbers of its citizens to seek work outside of the country. As a result, these populations are exploited, abused, and at times, enslaved at the hands of unscrupulous employers.

Ninety-nine percent of Sri Lankans say that religion is important in their lives, and the most recent civil war speaks to these strongly held beliefs. The war, waged over religious and ethnic divides, lasted from 1983 to 2009. And yet, despite efforts to preserve their religion and culture, significant increases in alcoholism, suicide, casual violence, and rape reveal a crisis in the belief systems to which Sri Lankans cling. Buddhism, the national religion, is protected and promoted, and while freedom of religion is guaranteed by law, violence and persecution against the 8% mostly Catholic Christian minority are not uncommon.

PRAY FOR

- Pray for physical and relational healing after a generation of civil war.
- Pray for the freedom of religious expression without proposed anti-conversion laws.
- Pray for growth and maturity for the indigenous Church.
- Pray that wise heads of state may prevail, and that peace, reconciliation and freedom for religious minorities might take precedence over ethnocentrism, prejudice and pride.
- A government that will work toward transparency, justice and the fair representation of all communities and their civil, economic and religious rights. Corruption and nepotism are too common. Post-2009, courageous decisions have been and will need to be made to oversee the healthy stewardship and development of this nation





JOSHUA PROJECT

THE UNREACHED

Although there may be a few believers or even a few churches, they are a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize their own people group.

A total of 35 People Groups are Unreached – 20,270,000 (98,1% of population) people who have limited or NO access to the Gospel.



THE 10/40 WINDOW

DAY 15 of PRAYING THROUGH THE WINDOW

In July, a hardline Buddhist group, Ravana Balaya, launched a four-day campaign against “Christian fundamentalism.” The group’s spokesperson said the campaign was in response to complaints received from Buddhist monks about Christian evangelism, and advised Christians to stop their activities or face “firmer action.”

Violent attacks against Christians have increased in the last year. Pray that Christians will have wisdom and choose to live peaceably, and yet be filled with boldness and courage in their faith in Jesus Christ (The Bible, Psalm 122:7).



OPEN DOORS

#45

on the Open Doors WWL of countries who face the worst Christian persecution.

- Pray for the pastors in Sri Lanka who are mocked and frequently disturbed by their neighbours for conducting services. Please pray that they would not waiver in their faith and that they'll draw strength from the Lord when they feel weary.
- The persecution of Christians in Sri Lanka is experiencing a transition from violence (smash) to administrative and legal (squeeze) forms. Believers and churches are unaware of their legal rights and unprepared financially to face charges in courts. They give up the legal battle in many cases. Consequently, if not jailed, they end up having criminal records which can compromise their standing in the community. Pray for legal protection to be with pastors in Sri Lanka, that they will not be abused and bullied by the government.
- In Sri Lanka, a radical political group called “Sinha Le” or “Lion’s Blood” is reported to have risen to prominence since early 2016. This group has been sowing hatred against minorities in the country



PRAY FOR THE BUDDHIST WORLD

Officially, Sri Lanka is a secular state, however, its constitution puts Buddhism first and fosters Buddhism as state religion. This fact strengthens the Buddhist radicals' power over religious minorities in the country, such as over the Christians.

All Sinhalese are perceived to be Buddhist, thus both Tamil Christians and Sinhalese converts are treated as second-class citizens, looked at with suspicion and frequently slandered and attacked.

While Historical Christian communities are not directly persecuted, but rather affected by the overall atmosphere of Buddhist supremacy, more pressure is felt by communities of converts to Christianity from Buddhist, Muslim or Hindu background who are most often seen as traitors and are consequently harassed and subjected to physical and verbal assaults, and by non-traditional Protestant Christian communities, who face legal restrictions by village Buddhist monks and local government officials.

REDEMPTIVE GIFTS OF THE NATION

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