



# Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church

NEWSLETTER | April & May 2025

"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.  
Come and see the place where he lay."

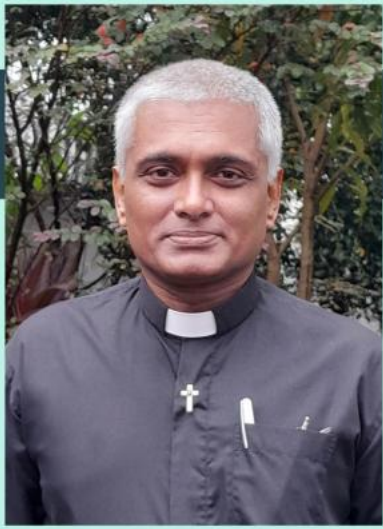
Matthew 28:6 NIV



## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Tamil 7.30 am  
Sinhala 9.00 am  
English 10.30 am





## Message from Pastor Shriyan

**M**y dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we are in another Lenten season, let us focus on what Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross to redeem us from sin. Our God is holy, and He calls His people to be holy as well. Sanctification is vital for

every Christian. When we study the Scriptures, we see that God sanctified days, people, and priests. Even today, God is actively working in the process of sanctification.

Christ has loved the Church and gave Himself for her, so that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word (Ephesians 5:25-26). We are sanctified by the blood of Christ, which sets us apart for our Holy God. Sanctification is a process, and the Holy Spirit helps us along the way. It begins at the moment of salvation and continues throughout our lives, until the day we are perfected in Christ. We should strive to grow more like Jesus every day.

God desires His people to turn away from wickedness and pursue holiness. Each day, we are faced with choices between good and evil. Let us make a covenant with our eyes, our tongue, our hearts, minds, and emotions. In this Lenten season, let us ask God to transform us—"Lord, make my eyes like Yours. Make my heart like Yours. Make my mind like Yours." Our entire being—our mind, body, heart, and spirit—need to be sanctified, for our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray for God to change us from our sinful nature corrupted by lust and deceit but change requires making intentional choices. The renewal of our minds is tied to the concept of repentance. Repentance is not just a change in behaviour; it is a change in mindset, learning to think differently.

Let us use this Lenten season to cleanse ourselves through the Word.

**Pastor Shriyan Jayamanna**

## A Tribute to Aunty Sita

Mrs. Sita Ranasinha (née Abeyeratne), lovingly known to many as Aunty Sita, peacefully entered her rest on January 29, 2025.

Aunty Sita hailed from a traditional Baptist family from Madampe and was the youngest of four children. She was the cherished daughter of Mudaliyar C.A. Abeyeratne and Mrs. Sarah Abeyeratne. Deeply devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ, she spent her life faithfully supporting the Baptist Church in Sri Lanka.

She became a regular worshipper of the CGBC congregation around 2018/19 and was wholeheartedly committed to the Colombo Home Cells group, never missing a Zoom meeting. In fact, she attended the very last meeting before her passing. In the years before the Covid-19 pandemic, she graciously hosted one



of the Colombo Home Cell groups at her home.

Every year, our Home Cell carolers would visit Aunty Sita and her family in their beautiful home at Christmas. The highlight of each visit was the warm hospitality she offered, including a delicious lunch and thoughtful gifts for all the carolers.

Her generosity and kindness left an indelible mark on us. Her daughters, Nilani and Rushika, along with their families, were always equally welcoming, making us feel like family with their gracious hospitality.

We thank God for the gift of her life and for allowing us to be a part of it. Aunty Sita's unwavering faith and love for others will be deeply missed.

**Kuveni Wijeratne**

## Rev David & Janet Kerrigan



We were privileged to have Rev. David Kerrigan and wife Janet, worship with us on Sunday the 9th February. Rev. David Kerrigan was a Baptist Missionary Society missionary to Sri Lanka, and worshipped with us in the Nineties. Their work and witness have left a lasting impact on the Baptist community in Sri Lanka. Rev. David brought the message at our worship service and they were accompanied by Janet's two sisters and their husbands. We pray that the Kerrigans' continued work in the Lord's vineyard, would be filled with joy, renewed strength and anointing from the Holy Spirit.

**Ravi Algama**



## Rev Edwin & Gillian Lam



We were happy to welcome Rev. Dr Edwin Lam to our pulpit on Sunday, the 16th February. Rev Dr Lam also preached at a tri-lingual evangelistic service on Saturday 15th evening and conducted a workshop on Conversational Evangelism after the Sunday morning service.

He is the Senior Pastor at the New Life Baptist Church in Singapore and the Chairman of the Singapore Baptist Convention. He is also the former President of the Asian Baptist Fellowship where he now serves as Director/ Advisor. He is widely travelled in work of Christian missions and is a powerful speaker.

Rev Edwin and his wife Gillian were here as resource persons for meetings of the Asian Baptist Women's Union (ABWU) taking place in Sri Lanka. Edwin is widely known in North East India for his many kingdom ventures initiated and completed there.

### Ravi Algama



## Kithu Mithu Maga (Sunday School)

"If it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach." Romans 12: 7

Dedication of Kithu Mithu Maga Teachers on 2nd February 2025

### Amali Balasooriya



## Dates to Remember

**APR 17** MAUNDY THURSDAY  
Trilingual Service at 5.30p.m.  
(Washing of Feet & Holy Communion)

**APR 18** GOOD FRIDAY  
English Service 10.30 a.m.

**APR 20** EASTER SUNDAY  
English Service 10.30 am



## News from the Home Cells

**The Colombo Home Cell met to welcome Pastor Shriyan & his family.**



## Isaiah 6:8 Program

As the **Isaiah 6:8 program** at CGBC celebrates its first anniversary in February 2025, we have much to praise God for!

- His faithfulness in providing all our needs; physical, mental, emotional, financial & spiritual throughout this past year.
- For the Dev Piya Sevana (DPS), that supports us with a monthly stipend.
- Number of registrations have increased from 21 to 48.
- Starting off with 13 on our team of volunteers, we now number 18.

It is said that **God's work, done under His direction, will never lack His provision.** We praise the Almighty, for truly, this has been our experience.

The program is continually evolving and Parents have asked that we conduct classes more than once a week.

We had had to halt the intake of kids temporarily due to insufficient teachers, but from January 2025, new students have been added on.

We still need more volunteers to teach Maths, Science & Sinhala, especially those who are willing to work one-on-one with those kids who do not benefit much from group lessons.

### Prayer Needs

- That the church leadership & the team might remain in the centre of His will in all future decisions & courses of action.
- That those whom God is calling to volunteer in the program, might respond to His call.

- For resilience, perseverance & trust in God alone, for the team of volunteers, that we might not be discouraged
- Most importantly, a commitment to the total wellbeing of the precious lives that God has entrusted to us, in the face of challenges.
- God's wisdom & sensitivity for the team, to build relationships of trust & confidence with the parents, so we might reflect Jesus well.
- Sensitivity, insight & wisdom from God in helping each child not only to advance in academic proficiency, but also to feel loved, valued & cared for.
- With the average weekly attendance hovering around 30, please pray that parents might be motivated to send their children regularly.
- Opportunities to effectively witness to the truth of Christ's message of salvation to the kids & their families, by word & deed.
- 38% of our monthly expenditure on food, as well as costs for any additional programs (eg Christmas program, teacher training workshop etc) come out of donations from well - wishers. Please pray for continued financial provision.

We are immensely grateful & praise our Lord for each one of you who has partnered with us & continue to do so, through prayer, encouragement & monetary support.

**Roma Ranasinghe**



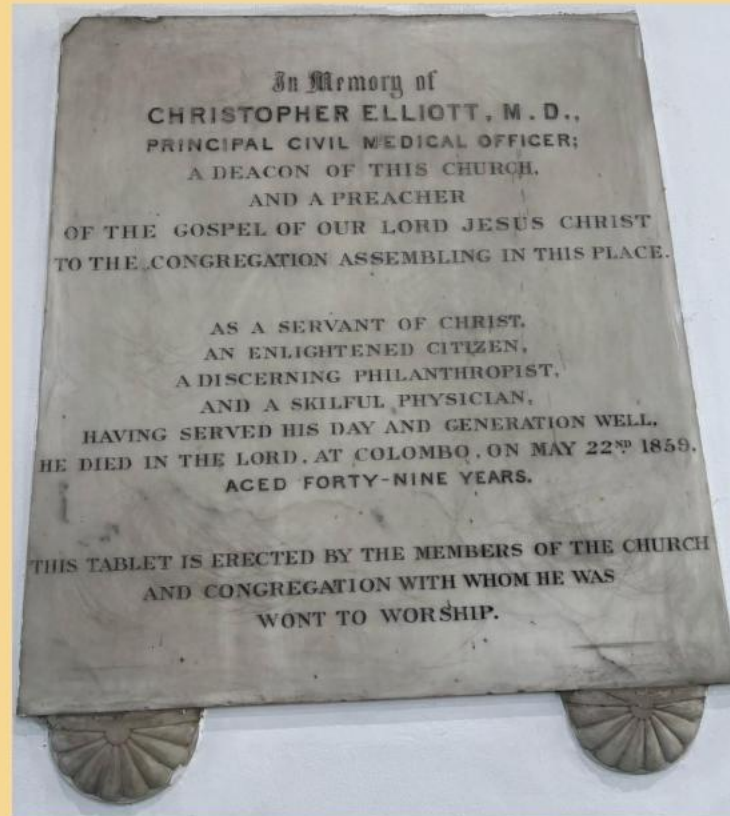
# Reflecting on our roots: a glimpse into the history of our Church

## Christopher Elliott MD 1809 to 1859

Do you remember these plaques in the church?



Yes, these plaques are in memory of Dr. Christopher Elliott and his wife, who were active members of CGBC in the 1800s. We were delighted to connect with Richard, Dr. Elliott's great-great-grandson, and his wife Marilyn, who visited and worshiped with us in December 2024. It was a meaningful moment to make the connection to Dr. Christopher Elliott's legacy.

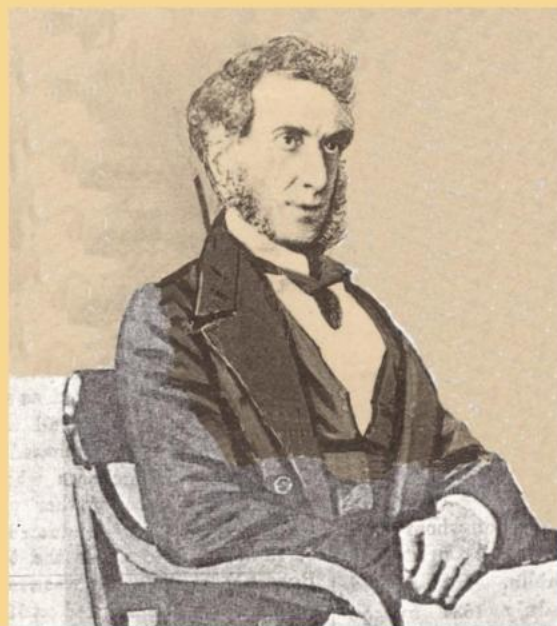


After their visit, Richard sent a brief history of Dr. Elliott, which we are grateful to have received and learn more about this important part of our church's history.

-- KW

### Christopher Elliott MD 1809 – 1859 A Brief History

Christopher Elliott, M.D. was born in Ireland in 1809. He earned his MD Degree in Dublin and in 1834 came to Sri Lanka (called Ceylon by the British) and was posted as Surgeon at Badulla. In 1836, he married Jessie Clark, the daughter of a Colombo merchant. That same year, he resigned his Badulla post to enter private practice and became editor of the Colombo Observer, a bi-weekly newspaper established in 1834 by the merchants of Colombo as a free press. He later purchased the newspaper.



After arriving in Colombo, Dr. Elliott joined CGBC where he remained active for 23 years until his death in 1859.

As editor and publisher of his newspaper, Dr. Elliott was an outspoken opponent of the government during the "Matale Rebellion" of 1848. 1848 was also the year he purchased the residence "Malmaison" later named Temple Trees. His wife died in 1855 leaving him with 7 children ranging in age from 6 to 16 with the four oldest away in school in England. His wife had to be buried in the cemetery at the Wolvendaal Church since CGBC did not have a cemetery. But as a measure of how dear CGBC was to the family, Dr. Elliott arranged for a plaque in memory of his wife to be placed in the church. He sold the Temple Trees house soon after his wife's death. Today, Temple Trees is the official residence of the Prime Minister.



The next year he traveled to Ireland where he met and married Elizabeth (Bessie) Scott in Waterford. The couple then returned to Colombo where Bessie gave birth to a daughter in 1858. Also, in 1858, he was appointed Principal Civil Medical Officer which led him to sell the newspaper. Then on 22 May 1859, Dr. Elliott passed away after serving in his new position only a few months. Dr. Elliott served as a deacon of CGBC and according to the plaque the church placed next to his wife's, he was remembered as a "Preacher of the Gospel" to the CGBC congregation so he would have helped fill the pulpit as a lay preacher when needed. Both plaques are still on the rear wall of the sanctuary. He was buried beside his first wife outside the Wolvendaal Church. Later that year, Elizabeth returned to her family in Ireland where she gave birth to Dr. Elliott's tenth child, a son, eight months after his death.

Dr. Elliott's death did not end the Elliott family's association with Sri Lanka. Two of his children returned to Sri Lanka as adults.

Dr. Elliott's son Edward (1839-1921) took a Ceylon Civil Service position in 1865 and retired in 1897.

Cont ...



Dr. Elliott's son John (1841-1896) returned to Sri Lanka with his new Irish wife about 1869. They lived in Kandy for about 8 years where they had the first four of their eleven children.

Later, the family emigrated to America.



Text prepared by:  
**Richard Charles Elliott (Great-great-grandson of Dr. Christopher Elliott)**  
San Antonio, Texas, USA  
{relliottatsatx@gmail.com}  
January 2025

If you're interested in learning more about Dr. Christopher Elliott and his work in Ceylon (Sri Lanka), please feel free to write to [kuveniwijeratne@gmail.com](mailto:kuveniwijeratne@gmail.com). I'd be happy to share further information with you.

## Bible Verses for the month

**April 2025**  
**Matthew 28:6 (NIV)**

"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."

**May 2025**  
**Psalm 27:1 (NIV)**

"The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?"

*Thanks for sharing the Word of God*

Pastor Shriyan Jayamanna, Pastor Giyan Senapathiratne, Rev David Kerrigan, Rev Edwin Lam, Mr Andrew Meinzingar, Bro. Prasad Perera, Mrs Rajinie Senapatiratne

# Family News



Wedding Anniversary

Celebrating **60** Years of Love and Faith:

**Congratulations to Jayalath & Heather Ameresekere**



As they celebrate this incredible milestone, let us join together in thanking God for their lives.

Jayalath & Heather, may God continue to bless you both with many more years of love and happiness.

80<sup>th</sup> Birthday



Ranjit Wijeratne celebrated his 80th birthday in March

**We wish you a very happy 80th birthday! May every day of your life be filled with good health, boundless happiness and immeasurable blessings.**







With heavy hearts, we share the passing of our dear church family members, who went home to be with the Lord. They were a loved part of our Church community.

**Sita Ranasinha** – beloved mother of Nilani Dias Abeysinghe & Rushika Fernando

**Elianna Jegarajasingham** – cherished baby daughter of Shinead & Joel, & granddaughter of Natalie Whittall

**Prema Perera** – beloved mother & mother-in-law of Premalal & Devika Ukwatte

**Let us continue to lift up the families in prayer and offer support in any way we can as they go through this difficult time.**



Anya Weerasinghe in Australia

Amandi Ekanayake in England

Pastor Kumar Subramaniam, Pradeepika & Jeremy in the USA

Osanda, Amy, Liyana & Imaya Senapatiratne in the USA

Lasantha, Indunil & Oshem Soysa in the Philippines

**Our elders:** Prayers are requested for all our elders and those who are sick, including Sunil Perera, Kingsley & Ranjani de Alwis, Hope Edward, Pathma Arulgnanam, Iroma Jansen, Frank & Beatrice Wickremasinghe, Lakshmi Raghavan, Jayalath & Heather Ameresekere, Lionel Pitigala, Anton & Lalani Amaratunga, Sriyangani Senaratne, Lakshman Herath, Ranjit & Ruth Ameresekere.

**The sick:** Beulah Jeganathan, Hope Edward, Iroma Jansen, Pastor Peter & Margaret Goodall, Ranjani & Kingsley de Alwis, Mihiri Ekanayake, Pathma Arulgnanam, Rev Fred & Hilary George, Sriyangani Senaratne, Lakshman Herath, Pradeepika Subramaniam, Lanil Peiris.



**Rebekah**

Welcome back! We're so happy to have you back with us after spending time with your family in Australia. We missed you!



**Dubai** – Chandima Weerasinghe



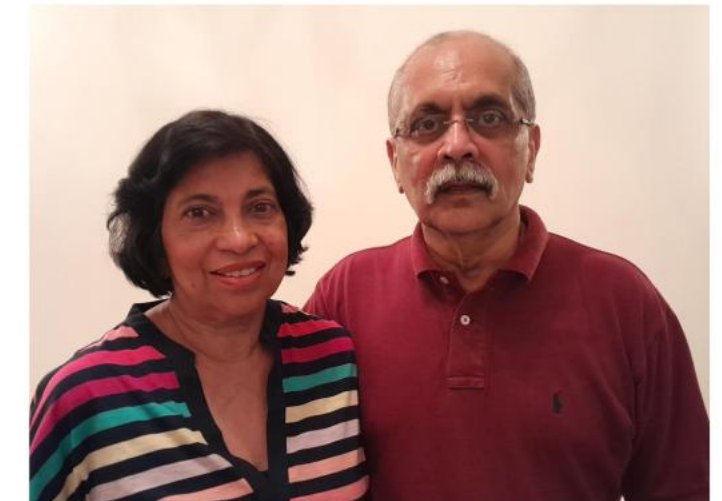
**England** – Ruth & Ranjit Ameresekere



**England** – Rev David & Janet Kerrigan



**Wales** – Kuvera & Sobhani Premawardhana





## Photo Gallery

CGBC Quarterly Meeting held in March



Our ladies helping at the Baptist Women's League Sale





Photo gallery continued...

**Juinar Youth Challenge (for children ages 11 to 15), meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays after the English service. The programme is up to 2 pm.**



**Dev Piya Sevana continues to offer a hot drink in the evening to workers in the neighbourhood, Monday through Friday.**





Invites all Ladies and  
Gentlemen Above 70!

# TIMELESS TREASURES

A day for our elders



Saturday, 5 April 2025



10.00 AM - 12.00 NN



CGBC



It's a day to celebrate, reflect, and a day to enjoy the  
company of those who have shared this journey of faith with  
us.

PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR PARTICIPATION

## What our readers say

Thanks for the newsletter. I enjoyed it.

Fond wishes,

**Roger Raymond | Australia**

Your labour in the Lord is not in vain. Continue the great work you're doing to get this newsletter out to everyone near and far.

Happy to hear about the new resident pastor. Praying for God's blessings on his new appointment.

**Joshua Stephens | Canada**

So lovely to read the news and see photos with you all in them. Wish I could have been at the carol service!

**Neil Walker | England**

Thank you for putting me on the CGBC newsletter list. I am very impressed with the issue I just received and will look forward to future issues so I can keep up with the church.

I didn't know about your newsletter until you mentioned it in a text. Even then I didn't expect the professional publication I received today. You really put out a great publication.

**Richard Elliott | USA**

Many thanks for the Feb/March CGBC Newsletter. I do enjoy reading it, & catching up with the news from there.

By the Grace of God, I am keeping as well as can be expected. Thanks be to His holy Name.

It's winter here!! So we are all bundled up!!

**Yvonne Karamali | USA**

Thank you for the beautiful and informative newsletter. Appreciate the efforts by the Newsletter Team. God bless you!

**Champika Weerasinghe**

Highly memorable!

**George Murimi**



## Weekly meetings

**Sunday** 9:00 am Kithu Mithu Maga (Sunday School)

**Thursday** 10.00 am Ladies meet for prayer

**Thursday** 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm Ladies Bible Study (Fortnightly)

**Pastor -** Rev Shriyan Jayamanna 077 694 0135

**Mentor Pastor -** Rev Priyantha Wijegoonawardena 071 857 7310

**Associate Pastors -** Pastor Giyan Senapathiratne 072 335 9420  
Pastor Ajith Jayawardene 077 663 4263

**Acting Associate Pastor -** Pastor Jeyaraj Sivarajasingam 076 722 7452

**Elders -** Prof. Amal Kumarage, Mr Ravi Algama & Mrs Mangeshwari Ravichandran

**Secretary -** Mrs Devika Ukwatte 077 715 4007

**Treasurer -** Mr Dinuke Wijesinghe 071 157 7777



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## Newsletter Team

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Kuveni Wijeratne