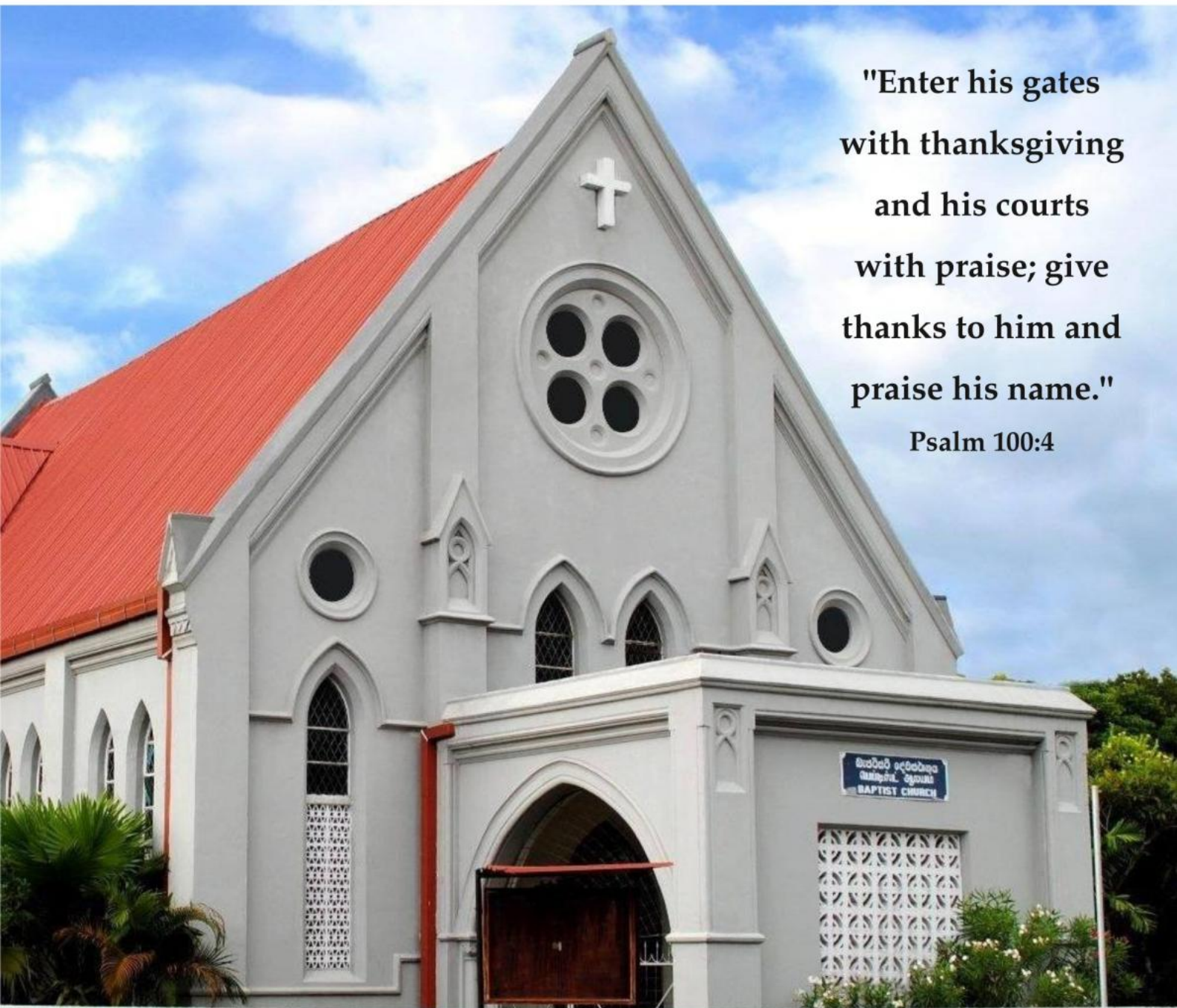




Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church

NEWSLETTER | October & November 2024



"Enter his gates
with thanksgiving
and his courts
with praise; give
thanks to him and
praise his name."

Psalm 100:4



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Tamil 7.30 am
Sinhala 9.00 am
English 10.30 am

**CGBC 211th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service
Sunday 20th October 2024 at 9.30 am.**



A word from Pastor Giyan

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As a country we are just after a Presidential election, and the people have elected a new President to steer our nation through these extremely difficult times. The newly elected President is new, as he does not represent the traditional leadership Sri Lanka has had from the time of independence till now. Some of us may be happy with the new President who came on a platform of the promise to eradicate entrenched corruption, but some may have doubts whether a person without much experience in governance would be capable of guiding the country in these difficult times, and others may even be apprehensive on account of the political party he represents due to past occurrences. Yet we must accept the new President whom the people have elected.

As Christians, whatever thoughts we may have about our new President, we need to accept the fact that all leaders of all nations are installed by God. In Romans 13:1, the Apostle Paul writes "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God." Thus, it is a fact that we need to understand, that this new President of Sri Lanka has been installed by the will of God.

Secondly, we need to realize that the rulers God has established are under

His control. The Apostle John writes in the book of Revelation, 1:5; "and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth." Jesus Christ is the ruler of kings, the king of kings; all rulers on earth are under the authority of the risen Christ, who sits at the right hand of God. In Matthew 28 the risen Christ declares, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." As such, we need to be encouraged that our new President is under the authority of Christ.

Further, this truth that our President in under God's authority, should not only encourage us, but also compel us to pray for the President and his government. The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Timothy 2:1-2; "I urge then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

Thus, let us make it a priority to pray for the President and the government that will be formed in November so "that we may live peaceful and quiet lives", which could only be achieved in a corruption-free economically stable country.

Blessings

Pastor Giyan Senapathiratne



It is with profound sadness that we inform you of the death of our beloved Rev Kingsley Perera (Pastor of CGBC from 1988 to 1995) on 28th September 2024.



Laying the foundation stone for the new DPS building



85th Birthday



Carols at Rev Kingsley's home Dec 2023

Connecting Past and Present: A Heartwarming Visit



Roger Raymond visited CGBC

In our February/March 2024 newsletter, we shared exciting news about Roger Raymond, a great-grandson of John Corner, one of our church deacons from the 1800s.

We are thrilled to announce that Roger recently visited our church with his daughter Meaghan and niece Marlena. This visit was not only a joyful reunion with our church

community but also a meaningful connection to our rich history. It was heartwarming to welcome descendants of John Corner, who we are sure contributed much to our church's history.

Their presence reminded us of the enduring ties that link our past with our present.

Here's what Roger wrote after their visit.....

My daughter Meaghan Raymond, my niece Marlena Raymond and I had the great pleasure of being with you to celebrate the 10.30am Sunday service 4/8/2024. I had been wanting on previous visits to Colombo to visit the church and reflect on the life of my great grandparents, Cecelia Jane Corner and Richard Francis Raymond who I believe were married in the church and spent much of their spiritual life about the church.

So my visit and that of my family occupied a very special place that morning. I was sad to see that the organ that Cecelia had donated on behalf of her aunt, Amelia Krickenbeek wasn't there, but it was fitting to enter the space where it had resided for many a long year. I also reflected on the church in the 1800s and 1900s when my family was active. Finally the best thing we did was to take a photo of us standing to the side of John Corner's plaque. I am sure John had waited an extremely long time for a visit from his relatives!

After the service we had fun talking to many of you who made us feel very welcome. I hope to be back within six months and will make it for service, with much love to you all, we are Meaghan, Marlena and Roger Raymond. and we all had a splendid time in my old home country.

Roger L. Raymond

CGBC Leaders' Retreat

Seventy Five leaders (and potential leaders) met for an extended half day retreat at the People's Church – Assembly of God at Kirimandala Mawatha, Narahenpita on Saturday 27th July. A noteworthy feature was the participation of a large contingent of youth leaders. After a time of devotion led by Pastor Giyan and a time of praise singing, Pastor Dharshan Fernando from the PC-AG led the main discussion based on 'Three Big Questions' --

- What we want people to become (our mission is defined by Jesus in the Great Commission – Matthew 28:19 – 20)
- What we want people to do (The Great Commandment : Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind – Matthew 22:37 – 39)
- Where we want people to be (what is the goal? The destination must be the same from childhood to adulthood)

He illustrated these question topics with the example of Small Groups (Cells) for Evangelism, Discipleship and Fellowship.

- Elaborating on Cell Groups, he explained how to make our cell groups great by ensuring –
- God works in us before He works through the group (life change happens within the context of intentional relationships)
- We do life in community (Genesis 2:18, where God said 'It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him'); and
- Constant Mission orientation (24/7) with the focus on the

Great Commission and the Great Commandment in our Small Groups.

Pastor Dharshan was then joined by his wife Deepika who gave us an interesting introduction to the Kidz Klubs, a programme of the PC-AG with the children from the community, imparting good values and habits to these kids who are exposed to many dangers and temptations in their own environment. Sister Deepika was assisted by a Youth Pastor who also spoke to us and answered questions. We thank these resource persons and the PC-AG for the use of their beautiful premises with all facilities as well as a sumptuous tea which was given to us.

Finally, Prof. Amal Kumarage led a time of discussion with the application of all that was learnt, to the life of our Church. A very good time of questions and answers followed and some suggestions were kept on hold to be discussed at a special leaders' meeting which would follow. These suggestions included the duration of church services, child-friendly worship, issues relating to teens, ministry towards the mentally challenged, improvement of music at services, dissemination of church information, an open day for sharing of ideas, how to get youth who have stopped attending youth programs back, the chapel ministry and the church leadership structure. The retreat ended with a fellowship lunch.

Ravi Algama

Continued ...

Continued from page 2 Leaders' Retreat



Listening intently to the Resource Persons



Lively group discussions



Lively group discussions



Introduction by Pastor Giyan



Group photo



Srikanthi Pitigala

On the 10th July, we lost Srikanthi Pitigala, who had regularly been at worship, till her recent illness. Srikanthi, Srika

she did not forget to share a meal with us. Srika Akka was a person who had genuine love for all and to me she was not just a cousin, but a very good friend.

She also had great faith and walked with the Lord. Even though we all miss her, we know that she is now in the nearer presence of her Saviour.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Lionel, their daughters Shireen and Ruvini and their families along with Lalani Akka who we know will miss Srika Akka very much.

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

Kumudini Senapatiratne

Akka to me, was the daughter of my father's cousin. As a child I remember her when she and her sister Lalani used to visit when we lived on tea estates where my father worked. Later in life, after her marriage to Lionel Pitigala, we used to visit her on and off before they migrated to USA.

After Srika Akka and the family moved back to Sri Lanka, I had the opportunity to be closely associated with her when we met each week at Auntie Sunil's Sewing Group. What I remember most is her hospitality and being well dressed at all times. Even during her illness when we visited her,

Valerie Slegers



Valerie was such a dear friend to me. Our friendship began during our Sunday school days at CGBC and continued through to our Christian Endeavour (CE) days. We both met our 'life partners' there as well. We married in the same year, a couple of months apart. Our children too were of similar ages. So our two families were really close. We had many holidays, spend-the-days and outings together, until they had to leave our shores to go to Australia. That was indeed God's plan for them, and I praise Him for that.

Although miles apart, our friendship continued, firstly through letters, and more recently through phone calls. She somehow made a trip back to Sri Lanka as often as possible, and always made a point to visit us.

She loved her church at CGBC and attended service whenever she was here. I remember one day she was seated at the back of the church when I walked in. What a wonderful surprise that was! She was one for surprises. In fact, I had a surprise from her just a few days before she left us to be with the Lord – when she sent a beautiful bouquet of edible flowers (cupcakes) for my birthday.

Val had a 'heart of gold'. She never forgot her friends in SL. She always visited all her friends and relatives whenever she came, with gifts galore, and there were too many friends to count – even some of her mother's friends in nursing homes! I used to go with her and was always amazed at the joy she brought to all of them with her cheerful chatter and beaming smile.

She never forgot her beginnings. It gave her great joy to go to see her childhood friends. Even though they were now living all over the country, she would somehow make the effort to visit them.

Every 2 years or so, she took great joy and a lot of trouble to make up her "boxes" as she called them. Her friends in Australia know of this project of hers and contributed much towards this. They were not always new things, but things they were not using that would be immensely useful to others. Valerie would clean them up nicely and put them in the box. She filled large boxes with all sorts of things to send to people in need in SL, and all her many friends here. She thought of every person, and wrote their names too, so that we who did the distribution would find it easy. Every child in every family was remembered.

I know it gave her great joy to pack these boxes – that was her 'heart of gold', and it certainly gave so much joy to all of us – the recipients.

She always stayed with me when she came to SL. We enjoyed hours and hours of chatting – often well into the night. She never forgot CGBC and always inquired about everyone she knew. I remember once, she and her sister-in-law Savithri organized a 'Sri Lankan breakfast' of kiribath, hoppers, string hoppers and all the accompanying curries, and sold tickets. She said it was a great success, everyone loved it. She sent all the proceeds to CGBC for something that I cannot now remember.

That was Val – she gave of her best using the little facilities she had, but all her God-given abilities to help others.

I thank and praise God for a beautiful life, well lived. She served the Lord faithfully, she finished the work the Lord had for her and I know she has received the rewards, and is now in His presence eternally.

Sunil Perera

Youth programmes for the months of July/August

During July, the youth met twice after service for a time of fellowship and studying God's Word. On 7th July, Rajinie Senapatiratne led the study on "Growing closer to Christ" and on 28th July, Pastor Giyan Senapatiratne led the study on "How to manage success and failure".

Our youth numbers have increased and we are grateful to God for working in our lives and giving us the opportunity to draw nearer to Him and to one another. During our most recent youth gathering we had 17 participants including visitors, Mel from the USA and Leif from Germany.

The youth also had weekly online Bible Studies every Thursday at 9:30 pm led by Sue Dean.

On 18th August, the Youth led the service and invited Pastor Johan Tranchell from PCAG whose message from 1 Timothy 4: 6-13 was very encouraging.

We praise God for the talented young people in our Youth and their commitment. We also thank God for His guidance in every aspect of our lives.

Shannon Das





CGBC 211th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service
Sunday 20th October 2024 at 9.30 am. Guest Preacher Rt. Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo, Bishop of Colombo.
The service will be followed by a fellowship lunch.

Kithu Mithu Maga Worship led by the Youth



Still Haven't Joined a Home Cell?

Join one of the following groups to study and experience God's Word, enjoy fellowship with others, and share in the joy of praying together.

Please contact Pastor Giyan if you need further details.

Colombo - on Zoom every Friday at 6.30pm
Nugegoda - Zoom and Physical on Sunday

Dates to remember.....

- * Sunday 1st December - Car Boot Sale conducted by the Women's Fellowship after the Sinhala Service
- * Friday 6th December - Kithu Mithu Maga Christmas Party 5 p.m.
- * Saturday 7th December - Women's Fellowship Christmas Party 5 p.m.
- * Sunday 8th December - Gift Sunday
- * Saturday 14th December - English Carol Service 6 p.m.
- * Sunday 15th December - Sinhala Carol Service 8.30 a.m.
- * Sunday 15th December - Tamil Carol Service 6 p.m.

Bible Verses for the month

October 2024
Psalm 100:4

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."

November 2024
Hebrews 10:24-25

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching."



Thanks for sharing the Word of God

Pastor Giyan Senapathiratne, Pastor Johan Tranchell, Pastor Malith Andradi and Brother Andrew Meinzinger

Family News



Anya Weerasinghe in Australia

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, Sita Ranasinghe, 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, Sita Ranasinghe, Sriyangani Senaratne, Lakshman Herath, Pradeepika Subramaniam, Lanil Peiris



Praneedi & Niruban Satchithanandan were blessed with a baby boy Arlo Faith Satchi in September

Congratulations on your wonderful blessing. May God be your source of strength and guidance on this wonderful journey in parenthood



Australia – Roger Raymond, his daughter Meaghan, and niece Marlana



Australia – Romaine de Alwis



England – Shiromi Perera



England – Dinura Gunawardena



USA – Mel Gunawardena



What our readers say

Thanks for a very colourful and informative Newsletter received relating to the months of August and September.

The information on CGBC youth attending the APBY Conference in Malaysia and An Evening of Gospel Music provided great reading. Thank you. It is lovely to stay in contact with various happenings at CGBC.

I was saddened to read about the passing of Valerie Slegers

Blessings

Ernie Ambrose | Australia

Thank you for sending it across. Appreciate all your dedication and hard work.

Much love and prayers

Josh Stephens | Canada

It is so good of you to send us a copy of your well-presented Newsletter with colour illustrations and it is a blessing to see the smiling faces of all your church members. I am waiting for one of my children to help me to get a copy of our newsletter forwarded to you as soon as possible.

Well, I had a birthday on 27th July and I was taken out for a meal to celebrate. Sadly, three people developed stomach upsets after eating a fish dish. Two of us

managed to avoid it and had alternatives. Fortunately, I try to stick with our Sinhala food and that saves me a lot of trouble.

Milton and I are keeping ourselves busy with our church events. Milton is helping to raise funds to pay off our high cost of living, including the church gas and electric bills. We do a weekly Coffee Morning and are starting to serve Bake Potato lunches to children who do not get a hot meal at home during their school holidays. I am sure, just as in Sri Lanka, our food bills are very high.

To share some good news, my brother is recovering well and we speak with each other every other week.

So, please keep in touch with sharing your newsletter. Please say hello to all our church friends.

All blessings

Sujatha and Milton Crosdale | England

Thank you for sending us this lovely, informative newsletter. It is inspiring to see the many ministries at work in picture form.

I heard the musical was amazing. Did you organize it? So much talent. My father would have loved it.

God's blessings to you and yours as you continue in God's kingdom work.

Dinali Dhammapala | USA

Hi Kuveni,

As always it's so good to receive the newsletter with updates from Cinnamon Gardens. Thank you for continuing to keep us informed. I bet the gospel night was a wonderful experience. I always loved hearing the choir sing old hymns during our time in Sri Lanka. We are moving to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia next. We will arrive August 17. Our oldest, Ella graduated from the British school in El Salvador and will go to Uni in the US. It will be hard to leave her but we know God is in control. All our Love,

Erik, Jennifer, Ella, Anna and George Lindholm | USA

Thank you for this newsletter! It seems to have a new look and it's very good. I appreciate all the many reports and information, including all the many pictures.

We Thank God for CGBC's ministry. I pray for CGBC daily and for her ministries.

Let us know how we can pray for you and CGBC.

God bless
Shobana Gunasekera | USA

Thank you. As always much joy and blessings from the letter. Makes us miss you all more.

God bless,
Sue Dean | USA

Thanks a lot for a great job as usual

God bless you
Dinuke Wijesinghe

Thank you, I received the newsletter on email, went through the whole thing.

Enjoyed reading ALL the news, Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church is doing a lot of great work for the people and God.

God bless you all.
Hiranthi Ashborn

Tks for sharing. Very impressive Newsletter.

Shanika Peiris

Thank you for this edition of the newsletter. Some nice clips of the musical "to God be the Glory". Sad to have missed it.

Regards

Sheahan Arasaratnam

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

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



**120, Dharmapala Mawatha,
Colombo 7.**

Phone: 011 269 2414
Email: cgbc@sltnet.lk
Websites: www.cgbcsl.org

Newsletter Team

Ravi Algama
Kuveni Wijeratne