

PRAYING FOR THE WORLD ONE COUNTRY AT A TIME

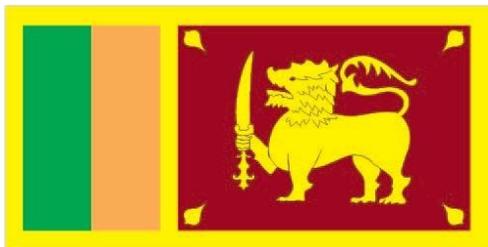
“God so loved the world...” shouldn’t we?

Sri Lanka

Information compiled by June and Jasmine Elgersma

Sunday, Oct 17, 2021

Sources: CIA World Factbook, Britannica, Wikipedia



Capital: Colombo

Location: Sri Lanka is an island in the Indian Ocean, just south of India.

Population: A little over 23 million people live in Sri Lanka.

History: The first Sinhalese came to Sri Lanka late in 6th century B.C., probably coming from northern India. Buddhism was introduced around 250 B.C., and the first kingdoms bloomed from around 200 B.C. to around 1000 A.D. In the 14th century, an Indian dynasty established a kingdom in northern Sri Lanka. The Portuguese controlled the coastal areas of the island in the 16th century and then the Dutch in the 17th century. The island was given to the British in 1796, became a crown colony in 1802, and was formally united under British rule by 1815. Back then known as Ceylon, it became independent in 1948.

Religion: 70% of Sri Lanka’s population is Buddhist, the official religion. The other religions are 13% Hindu, 10% Muslim, & 8% other.

Culture: Sri Lanka has a lot of cultural diversity. Religion is a big part of life in Sri Lanka and contributes to this diversity. Mosques, churches, and Buddhist and Hindu temples are colorful and visible signs of the diversity. Colonialism’s role in history is visible to varying amounts, and so is the modern effect of wealth and income.

Economy: Per capita income is very high (second highest in South Asia). Historically important in the spice trade and tea, it continues to have a robust trade economy but with modern additions like industrialization and finance. Despite these signs of economic health, the country was basically bankrupt in 2016 and was bailed out by the International Monetary Fund and they are now in the midst of an “economic emergency” with COVID-related inflation in prices of food and other basic goods.

Environment: Sri Lanka suffers from many environment issues, including deforestation, soil erosion, wildlife populations threatened by poaching and urbanization, pollution, coral reef destruction, freshwater getting polluted, waste disposal, and finally, air pollution in Colombo.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and petition:

- Slavery and trafficking in Sri Lanka’s largest cities
- Lots of environmental issues, including deforestation, soil erosion, poaching, pollution, etc.
- Ongoing struggle with COVID, here and globally