



It is not often that you get to see the very beginning of a new ministry as it emerges from the dreams, visions and plans that God lays on our hearts.

In June 2013, God orchestrated the meeting of CLC's National Director from India, Christopher Robert, and a Sri Lankan named Brian Athisayaraj. Christopher has had a vision for restarting the work of CLC (known as ELS—Evangelical Literature Service) on the war-torn island for some time. After hearing about this vision, Brian became a part of God's plan to make evangelical Christian literature available again through ELS in this needy country. By August, he was on a plane to Chennai and worked for three months with the ELS team learning all about running a literature ministry.

Here is what he said about that training experience in India, "I met some of the best, most friendly and committed staff. I was able to learn the work from these well experienced staff and the work wasn't easy." In November, he returned to Sri Lanka and started to get working on the re-opening of ELS immediately. Brian had this to say about getting the ministry started, "When I inquired about the process of getting a company registered and moving forward, the answers I got were very positive, and it seemed that we could get it all done in a couple of days. But, practical issues were many. It took us nearly a month to get the registration of the company done and for the VAT (Value Added Tax) paperwork to be completed."

Despite these initial challenges, Brian is excited and is looking forward to receiving a shipment of books from ELS India that will be the seed capital of the new ministry. As these books sell at events in the capital, Colombo, and all over Sri Lanka, funds will be generated to rent a shop, make the fixtures and prepare the work for a proper launch in 2014. Brian has a big vision for this new work and this is what he said, "I want us to make a difference, to make ourselves approachable because we are affordable. We want to be able to effectively cater to people's needs."

Please pray for Brian and his wife Sharmila and their young daughter Shema as they begin this new journey of faith. May God use their faithfulness and commitment to bring the light of His word into the lives of many Sri Lankans in the years ahead. You can also contribute to the success of the new work by donating your used Christian books to our BookLink program as some of these books will be sent to help the Sri Lanka team in the future.

In the Beginning

Sri Lanka

