



Langley Institute of Ministry

TRAINING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Today!

We are sorry to once again begin our LIM Update with an apology. It has been too long since the last update but now it is here, we hope you find it has been worth the wait and provides fuel for prayer.

As you will read later, our Director, Mark was able to attend our student graduation in Sri Lanka and also made a strategic visit to our centre in Nepal as well as a potential new one in Pokhara.

In a few 'idle moments', I counted up all those who have studied with Langley Institute of Ministry since we started in October 2015. I was amazed to discover that over 6,000 students



Students Graduating in Guntur, India

are now playing an active part in their local church and community. This flags up the exciting prospect that next year we will be able to celebrate LIM's 10th Anniversary and we are planning to punctuate the whole year with opportunities to do just this. If you would like to be involved in helping us with the preparations please send us a message. We will not only be thanking God for the past but also sharing some of the exciting events that lay ahead. At present

LIM Update (28) 6,000 + BLESSINGS

we have approximately 2,210 students registered with us – 1,084 in Asia and 1,210 in Africa. We are always being asked to start new centres – Malawi, Zambia, Ethiopia and West Bengal, but experience has taught us to look carefully at the context and ensure Leaders have the right motive and training first.



Mark and I have been working hard to upgrade our Theological Accreditation and we are pleased to inform you that we are accredited members of NATA – the 'Nations Association for Theological Accreditation' until May 2027. They are based in Bangalore, India and accredit Colleges and Universities in India and other countries.

I want to thank you also for your prayers regarding my health. Although I have managed to keep plodding on, this year has been quite demanding following my suspected TIA last June. I can't speak highly enough for our NHS and have been helped by the Stroke team, Cardiology and Respiratory departments at various hospitals and clinics. I am

pleased to say I have not needed any surgical intervention, but I am on a very interesting array of coloured medications and I await further tests to come.

Please visit our LIM website which we are updating all the time. It will keep you in the loop regarding our present student numbers as well as the where, how and why of what we do – <https://lim-study.com>. We are so grateful to Mark and Nathan Haddock for their help with this.

From our Director, Mark

Looking back at the last issue of the LIM Ministry Update it is easy to wonder where the time has gone and what has happened since. My last report was full of details about the development of our strategic plan and the hopes that it would result in a stronger, more sustainable ministry for the future. We had not factored in the health challenges that Keith has faced nor the impact that these would have on our capacity and capability for implementing those plans. Keith's passion for ministry was never diminished but his energy levels certainly were and that forced a rethink of our timing and implementation strategy. It also highlighted how important it was to ensure that LIM's future ministry was built on a more devolved and decentralised foundation. We all rejoice in Keith's return to better health in recent months, and with it has come more opportunity to

devote significant focus and effort back onto achieving some of the goals that we set ourselves last year.

I don't, however, wish to give the impression that nothing good has come out of the last twelve months. Together with the Trustees, Keith and I have been able to start to ramp up the fundraising activities that will be required to support the new LIM organisational structure. Grant giving organisations who support the type of ministry that we are involved with, have been identified and we are in the process of developing new promotional material that we can send to them. We also rejoice in the way that God has blessed our finances. The balance of our bank accounts has seen an increase of almost 250% since the start of the year. To our many donors – we thank you for your trust in us and your generosity towards us. We pray that you have been equally blessed in the giving as we have in the receiving.

The most significant event of the year for me, was my mission trip to Sri Lanka and Nepal. This was first scheduled for March to coincide with graduations in Colombo and Kathmandu. Unfortunately, a very severe chest infection left me unable to travel and plans had to be postponed until May which was after the Kathmandu Graduation had taken place. The Colombo Graduation was waiting for my arrival!

One of the great experiences of these types of trips is seeing ministry in action - up close, personal and in-situ. Inevitably and delightfully, it looks different to what we perceive from our UK

vantage point. But it is so real, tangible and authentic that you cannot help feeling totally invigorated and energized by being exposed to it even for just a few days. Starting in Colombo I was welcomed so warmly by the leadership team who were unfailingly generous and, who together with Keith, had organised a first-rate graduation ceremony. Team GB were well represented as both Keith and I had been asked to speak. Keith, dressed in his university gown, brought a great message via zoom and then I followed with a keynote speech. Although we hadn't planned together what we were going to say, the Holy Spirit had been at work and woven some common thoughts and themes into what we both shared. I had been given a scarlet robe and hat to wear, but when I stood up to speak, I asked to take them off. Partly because I was too hot and partly because I felt like David before heading



out to meet Goliath, when King Saul gave him armour, a shield and a sword. It just didn't work for me being dressed up and I wanted to talk to them as myself. It turned out to be a more valuable object lesson for many of them than anything I actually said! It really was a terrific event, and I will long treasure being able to experience first-hand, the joy of the graduating students and feeling their pride and sense of achievement.

In Kathmandu, I was able to meet with the National Leader,

Barnabas, which was mutually encouraging. We also both flew to Pokhara to meet with Pastor Kalu who would like to open up a new LIM centre in the Pokhara



Valley. It was a very special time of fellowship with him and although we still have to follow our process through, I am confident that we shall soon be opening a new centre there.

Forgive the length of this report but I hope and pray that it fills you with hope for the future of LIM, as well as delight at being able to partner with us and enthusiasm for seeing the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ being proclaimed.

DO KEEP IN TOUCH and keep praying for us and our students. Many are facing increased opposition particularly in India and Pakistan. The weather is also more unpredictable with terrible floods and landslides making their lives even more precarious. Don't forget that our website allocates some space for you to: **PRAY, GIVE & SERVE**

<https://lim-study.com/partner-with-us/>

May the Lord richly bless you, your families and all you do to serve Him right where you are.

Keith, Mark and all our Trustees:
Marcella Severwright
John Sadler
Eleanor Cryer
Lynne King
Christine Barrett.

We are so grateful for your partnership with us.