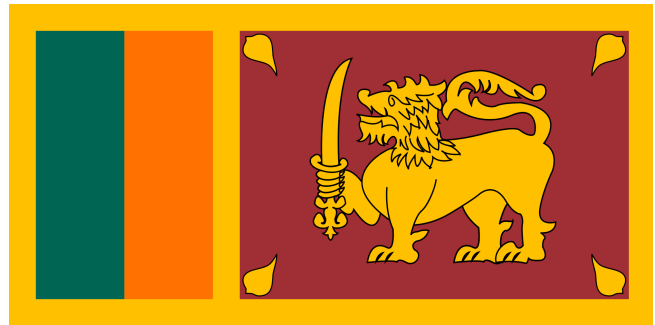


## SRI LANKA

### General Information

- Sri Lanka is an island of the southeast coast of India, not far above the equator.
- Prior to 1972 it was known as Ceylon.
- Population: 21 million in a diverse country of many languages and religions
- Capitol: Colombo
- An important producer of tea, coffee, gemstones, coconuts, rubber and native cinnamon, Sri Lanka has been called *The tear drop of India* because of its shape and location and is known as "The Pearl of the Indian Ocean" because of its natural beauty.
- Ethnic groups: Sinhalese constitute the largest ethnic group in the country, with 74.88% of the total population. Sri Lankan Tamils are the second major ethnic group in the island, with a percentage of 11.2. Sinhalese and Tamil are also the two official languages of the country.
- Religion: 70% Buddhist, 2<sup>nd</sup> is Hindu, 3<sup>rd</sup> is Islam. 4<sup>th</sup> (about 7%) is deemed "Christian," which is comprised of 83% Roman Catholic and the rest split between the Anglican church and various Protestant groups.
- Sri Lanka was ranked the 3<sup>rd</sup> most religious country in the world by a 2008 Gallup poll, with 99% of Sri Lankans saying religion is an important part of their daily life.



### Challenges

- Open to Christianity, but not to exclusive nature, particularly among the Hindus. In other words, they're happy to add Jesus to their deities, but are averse to monotheism that worships the triune God alone.
- Evangelicals comprise approximately only 1% of the country and much of the rural country is unreached with the gospel.

### Pray For

- Continued growth of Sri Lankan churches planted and led by Sri Lankan people, apart from Western influence or assistance.
- Resistance to aggressive proselytizing of the Buddhists.
- Drs. Abraham Masilamani and Sam Thevabalasingham with Ceylon Every Home Crusade, which endeavors to reach every home in the country for Christ, whilst also educating and equipping locals to lead congregations of believers.

### Reference

- <http://www.ceylonehc.org/>
- <http://www.operationworld.org/sril>