

“Hands That Serve Are Holier Than The Lips That Pray”

One of STC's Finest All-Round Sportsman & Even Greater Humanitarian

MOHAN RUDRA SAMARASINHE 83*



A Star is Born: 08.08.1943, 2:30 AM

“I am driven by my deep desire to help as many helpless, underprivileged and marginalised fellow human beingsI dedicate my work to my father (Sepala) & my mother (Bianca) with whose genes my entire body is “infested” - Mohan

(compiled by Ravi Rudra)

Mohan Samarasinha was born to Mr. Sepala and Mrs. Bianca Samarasinha and was one of eleven children in a remarkable family of five boys and six girls. He entered S. Thomas' College, Mt Lavinia in Form 1A in 1951, having come up from STC Prep School, Kollupitiya.

From his earliest years at College, Mohan distinguished himself in sports as he went on to become one of the finest multi-talented sportsman produced by S. Thomas' College, earning admiration for his skill, discipline, leadership and sportsmanship across numerous sports.

Mohan left STC from College A Form in 1963 when he accepted a planting position with Whittall Boustead, beginning a new chapter in his professional life while carrying forward the values and spirit of his alma mater.

Brief highlights from Mohan's inspiring career:



✚ **STC Captain:** Athletics, 1st XV Rugby & Rifle Shooting.

✚ **STC Vice-Captain:** 1st XI Hockey & Eton Fives.

✚ **STC College Colours:** Awarded and re-awarded College Colours in 1st XV Rugby, 1st XI Hockey, Athletics, Rifle Shooting, Basketball & Eton Fives.

✚ **Public Schools Colours:** Awarded and re-awarded in Athletics & Hockey.

✚ Represented the Sri Lanka winning Hockey team against Mysore State while at College.

✚ Also represented the College in Swimming, Water Polo & U16 Cricket.

✚ College Prefect & Head Prefect of the Boarding House (Copleston Cloughton).

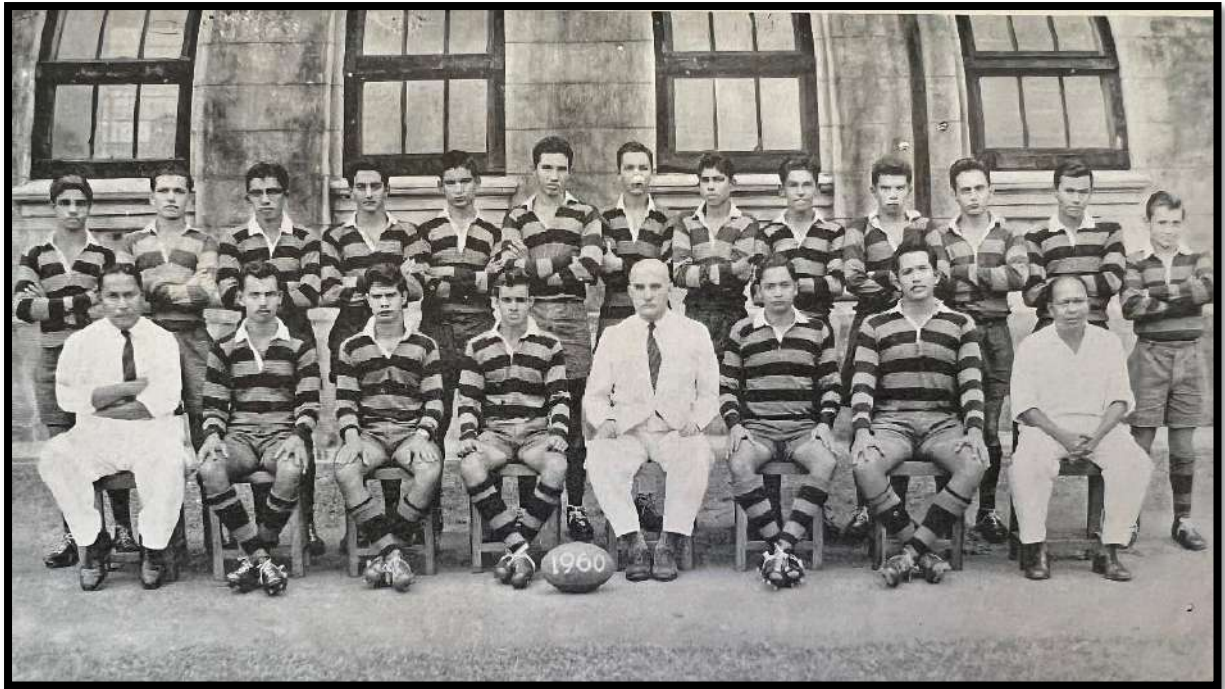
- ✚ At just 15 years of age, Mohan served as a member of the College Security Force established by Canon R. S. de Saram to guard the College following the threat to attack it after his efforts to save a Tamil gentleman who was set on fire during the 1958 communal riots.
- ✚ Founder member and former President of OTAUK.
- ✚ Revived Boxing at College and instrumental in getting a gift of the Boxing ring from his friend Dian Gomes.
- ✚ Established the Mohan Samarasinhe Scholarship Trust with a personal donation of Rs.2 million.
(*His Scholarship Trust was established to honour Mohan's deeply held commitment to reconciliation in Sri Lanka. Its purpose is to support two students—one Tamil boy from the North or East and one Sinhalese boy from the South—who are completing their A-Levels and demonstrate some sporting ability. The scholarship is built on a Buddy System, encouraging the two boys to learn from one another, build friendship, and embody the spirit of unity that the Trust seeks to promote.
- ✚ Has been an ardent supporter of the College and the 'Retired Staff Club' financially and in many other ways since moving to the UK in 1974.
- ✚ As a devout Christian and staunch Thomian, he has been actively engaged since 1995 in the pursuit of his charitable and humanitarian work throughout Sri Lanka, much of it in the hostile eastern and northern war zones.
- ✚ Founder / Chairman of his Charity "S.P.I.C.E.", a charitable English Teaching program.
- ✚ Founder Chairman of 'Ruhuna Children Development Trust' & 'We Are One Sri Lanka'.
- ✚ Mohan Samarasinhe fully deservedly had been commended by King Charles and Queen Camilla for his numerous selfless service to the poor, the needy and victims of war and natural disasters in Sri Lanka.

Illustrious Samarasinhe Brothers

* Four Samarasinhe brothers attended STC: Mohan's older brother Nihal—affectionately known as Baila—and his younger brothers Rajpal and Ranil. Like Mohan, both Nihal and Ranil were gifted sportsmen, excelling in Athletics and Rugby and earning a reputation for their skill and spirit on and off the field.

***Rugby Colours (1960-63)**

1960 – STC 1st XV Rugby Team



Standing (L-R): Mohan R. Samarasinhe, G. Weerakoon, R.N.H. Gunaratne, R.T. Asirwatham, R. Wanigasekera, M.A. Cader, C.L. Perera, J.M. Wanigasekera, B.W.R. Thomas, B.C. Molligoda, R.L. Stork, H. Selva Kanagasabai & M.G. Koch.

Seated (L-R): Mr. Percy Perera (Coach), D.L.R. Kumarasinghe, Tony L. Sirimanne, Nihal Samarasinhe (Capt.), The Warden – Mr. C.H. Davidson, N.V. Algama (Vice Capt.), A. Ellawala, Mr. Lassie Abeywardene (Master-in-charge)

(continued)

1961 – STC 1st XV Rugby Team

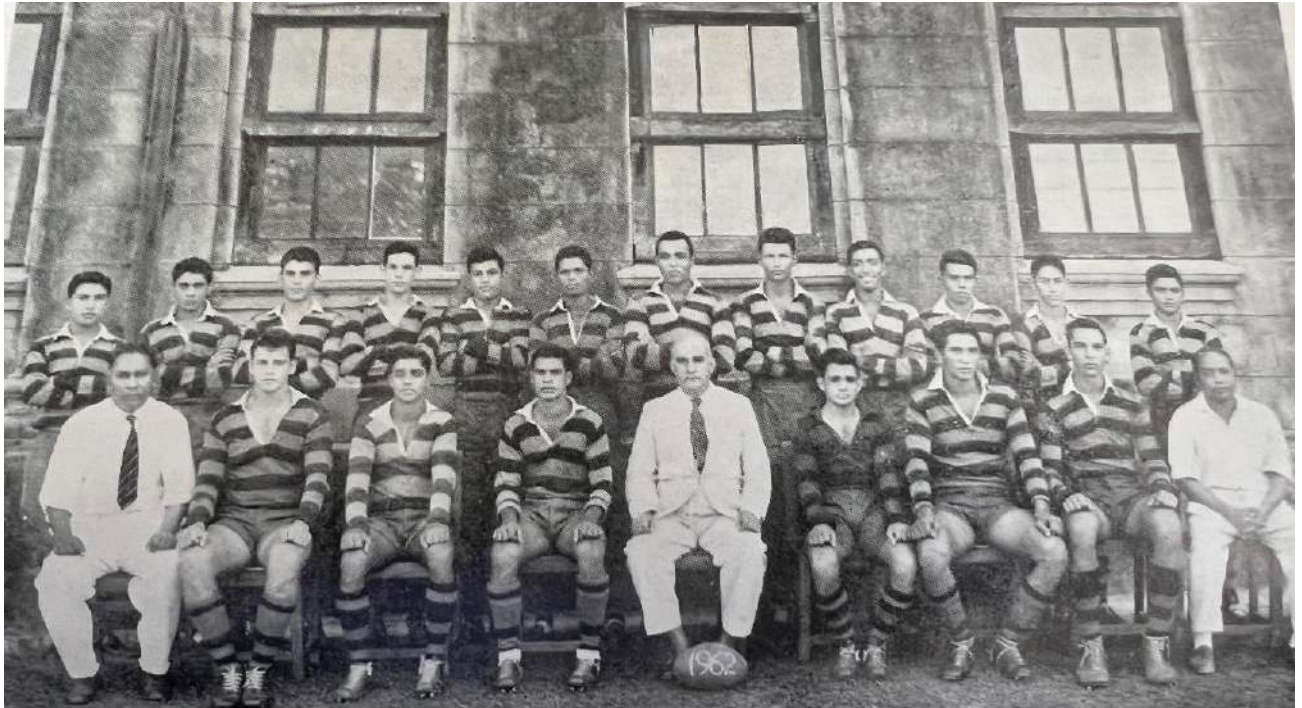


Standing (L-R): M.F. Caldera, C.R. Dixon, H.R.C. D'Silva, M.N.A. Gunasekera, H.L.C. D'Silva, C.L. Perera, D.N.G. D'Silva, S. Gooneratne, B.C. Molligoda, R.B. Jayatilleke, N. Dias Abeysinghe.

Seated (L-R): Mr. Percy Perera (Coach), M.A. Cader, Selva Kanagasabai, Tony Sirimanne (Capt.), The Warden – Mr. C.H. Davidson, M. Koch (Vice Capt.), Mohan Samarasinhe, Mr. Lassie Abeywardene (Master-in-charge)

On Ground: C. Asirwatham, C.S. Weerasooriya.

1962 – STC 1st XV Rugby Team



Standing (L-R): K.P. Dias, R.S.K de Silva, J.H. Vanden Drieson, C.R. Dixon, R. Pathmanathan, N. de Zoysa, M.N.A. Gunasekera, D.N.G. D'Silva, S. Gooneratne, B.C. Molligoda, C. Asirwatham, N. Dias Abeysinghe.

Seated (L-R): Mr. Percy Perera (Coach), H.R.C. D'Silva, Mohan R. Samarasinhe, Tony Sirimanne (Capt.), The Warden – Mr. C.H. Davidson, M. Garvin Koch (Vice Capt.), M.A. Cader, C.L. Perera, Mr. Lassie Abeywardene (Master-in-charge)

Captain of the Unbeaten 1963 STC 1st XV Rugby Team

“CROWNED UNOFFICIAL RUGBY CHAMPIONS”



Standing (L-R): C. Asirwatham, K.P. Dias, R.P. Murray, R.S.K. de Silva, N. de Zoysa, R. Pathmanathan, D. Varney, A. Jayasekera, S.J.P. Gooneratne, S.P. de Mel, Mr. L.W. Abeywardena (Master-in-charge).

Seated (L-R): Mr. Percy Perera (Coach), T.L. Sirimanne, H.R.C. D' Silva, M.R. Samarasinhe (Capt.), The Warden, Mr C.H. Davidson, M.A. Cader, C.L. Perera, N. G. Dias Abeysinghe.

THE end of the rugger season has seen us once again emerge unbeaten and crowned unofficial school rugby champions. The performance of these last two seasons is all the more commendable as we are comparative newcomers to the game. Until barely five years ago we were not even considered a rugby playing school. Now that we have reached the top in such a short time, let us hope we remain there for long.

***Athletics - College & Public Schools Colours (1959-61)**

1959 – STC Senior Athletics Team



Front (L-R): M.D. (Maurice) Fairweather (Captain), The Warden (Mr. C.H.L. Davidson), H.L.C. (Lorensz) D' Silva

Back (L-R): Mr. B.C. (Brookie) D'Silva (Coach), H.S. (Selva) Kanagasabai, Lakshman de Silva, N.U. (Nihal) Algama, M.R. (Mohan) Samarasinhe.

Relay Team Members (Winners of the Jefferson Challenge Cup):

4x 110 yds: Selva Kanagasabai, Nihal Algama, Mohan Samarasinhe & Maurice Fairweather.

4X440yds: Nihal Algama, Lakshman de Silva, Mohan Samarasinhe & Maurice Fairweather.

1960 – STC Senior Athletics Team

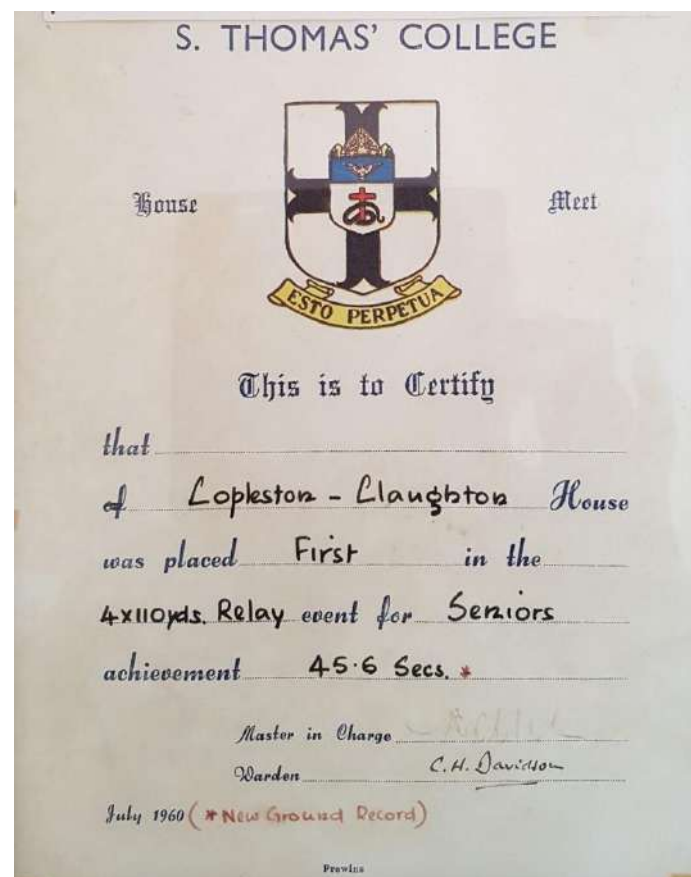


Front (L-R): M.R. (Mohan) Samarasinhe, H.L.C. (Lorensz) D' Silva (Captain), The Warden (Mr. C.H.L. Davidson), H.S. (Selva) Kanagasabai (Vice Captain), A.S. de Silva.

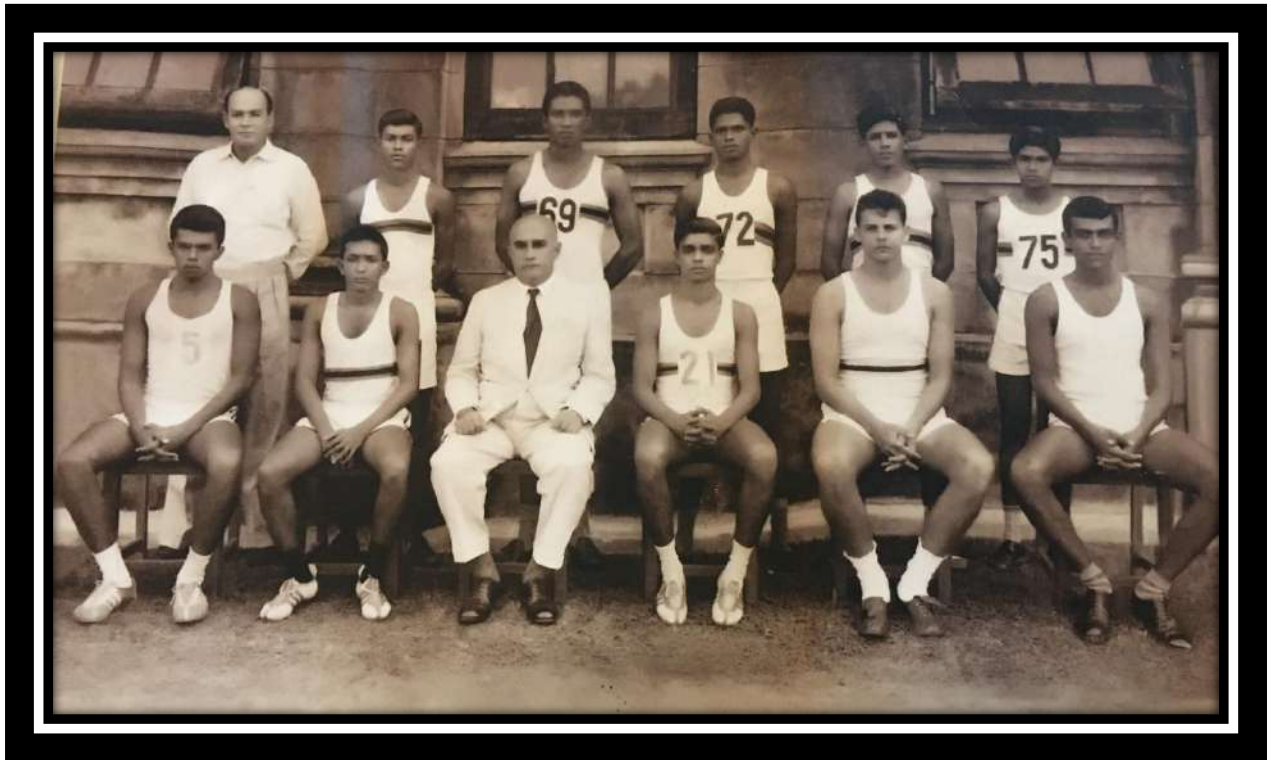
Back (L-R): Mr. B.C. (Brookie) D'Silva (Coach), B.C. Molligoda, R.T. Asirwatham, H.R.C. (Roger) D' Silva, P.S.W. Fernando, C. Karunanandan, G.S. de S. Jayaratne, M. Thiyagarajah, H.P. (Herby) Wanigatunga.



The Copleston-Claughton 4x110 yards relay team (L -R): Mohan Samarasinhe, Selva Kanagasabai, Nihal 'Baila' Samarasinhe and Nihal Algama set a new College Grounds Record with a time of 45.6 secs at the 1960 House Meet.



1961 – STC Senior Team



Front (L-R): B.C. Molligoda, H.P. (Herby) Wanigatunga, The Warden (Mr. C.H.L. Davidson), Mohan R. Samarasinha (Captain), H.R.C. (Roger) D' Silva, P.S.W. Fernando.

Back (L-R): Mr. B C. (Brookie) D'Silva (Coach), K Pathmanathan, M.A. 'Juni' Cader, N de Zoysa, A.G.N. de Silva, Ranjit Ranasinghe.

Recollections by Mohan Samarasinha

1961 Mercantile Invitation 4 x 440yds Relay

"Of all the events that I participated in athletics, I liked the relays most, especially the 4 x 440yds which provided excitement over the best part of 4 minutes.

Winning the Jefferson Cup was by far the best achievement I was involved in, but I think my next best achievement was the STC win in this event at the 1961 Mercantile Invitation 4 x 440 yds event.

If my memory serves me right, we were considered third fastest, behind St Benedicts and St Josephs who were supposed to have had the fastest times that year, but we were never fazed by past performances and reputations.

I ran the anchor leg and all three of my teammates ran brilliantly and did more than what was expected of them.

St Benedicts had a commanding lead, and we were lying second about 10 yards behind. My main concern was to retain our position ahead of the Josephian anchorman who was breathing down my neck.

Given the gap between me and the St Benedicts anchorman, I had no expectation to try and win, but my only thought was to maintain our position and get away from Josephian Brian Buultjens, who was a reputed quarter miler.

Coming to the final straight, I realized that I had caught up and was within striking distance of the Benedictine runner, who I think was one of the Ryan brothers. This gave me a 'second wind' and eventually piped him at the post.

I think the tenacity on my face was evident as the Chief Guest who was a foreign diplomat made special mention of the determination our team had shown by our memorable victory – what we call “Thomian Grit”.

1961 Colombo South Group Meet

This meet was another painful but memorable occasion that is etched in my memory, and I carry the scars to date.

Having won the Senior High Jump beating the much-fancied Hilary Paul of Royal, on a rainy day when the St Peter's College track was flooded and swamped, I proceeded to the start of the 880 yds (3rd lap) which was literally a pool of water.

I was wearing an old pair of Indian spikes that was passed down to me from my brother (amongst other items of clothing and gear) that I guarded like gold. I didn't wish to spoil them and made the terrible mistake of running barefooted.

Unfortunately, I got spiked on my left foot in the melee at the start, but not wanting to pull out (as a potential girlfriend was in the pavilion),

I continued and came 2nd to the elder of the Gunatilleke brothers!

The St Peter's College ground is situated on the banks of the Wellawatte canal which flooded often and spilled over spreading its muck over parts of it.

Arrangements were made for me to be rushed to the College Doctor who lived in Ratmalana and Selva Kanagasabai volunteered to take me in a car that was available.

I seem to remember him driving at break-neck speed as if my life was in imminent danger (I stand corrected by Selva, but I think he was stopped by the Police and he got off saying that he was rushing his badly injured friend to the doctor – it could be one of the many encounters I had with the Police!).

My injury was dressed, and we returned after I was given an anti-tetanus injection and a pair of crutches. My foot was like a balloon the next day and I had to hobble along with much difficulty to collect my certificates.

House Meet 440 yds trial Hurdles event - December 1959

'Brookie' had an idea to introduce this event (440 yds Hurdles) and I was game to give it try at his request. As it happened I won the race with an awful time of around 64 seconds.

However, as this was a trial event there was no trophy, but the prize was more valuable to me than the inferior quality 'cups' I won – A LARGE BUTTER CAKE!

- *Mohan Samarasinhe, 1961 STC Athletics
Captain and Public Schools Colours 1959 - 1961*

"I well remember the incident described above by Mohan. Herbie Wanigatunga used to borrow his father's car for some of our outings, and I was nominated as the official driver, as I had got my driving license soon after turning 18 years of age.

Our portrayal of Mohan's injury as very serious, resulted in the police being sympathetic and allowing me to continue our trip to the doctor.

However, there was a twist to this narrative that was known only to very few others:

Instead of feeling thankful to the police, I kept flashing the headlights to warn oncoming drivers along Galle Road of the speed trap ahead!

Police farther along the road had noted the vehicle number for doing that and had then decided to charge me for the speeding offence. I knew about this only after I received a summons to appear in court.

Mr. Ferdinands at the STC Office (“Ferdy”), a longtime resident of the area, was our “Go To Man” for sorting out problems with the Mt Lavinia police:

He could not get me out of this one and a couple of friends accompanied me to the Colombo South Magistrate’s court for the hearing.

That morning, I engaged the most impoverished looking (“tea and punt”) lawyer, hoping that a student represented by a down-at-the-heel lawyer would sway the court towards a lenient outcome:

Unfortunately, my defender’s performance matched his appearance and when he unconvincingly explained to the magistrate that I was rushing an injured teammate to the doctor, the curt response from the bench was:

“That was no excuse for speeding: He could have killed the poor fellow before reaching the doctor.”

I was fined Rs 25 and still have my old license (a little booklet) with that endorsement dated 1/11/61. That was the cost of being too smart for my own good!

As the money I had barely covered the penalty, a collection from my friends could not muster the lawyer’s fee (Rs 20, I think).

He asked if we had any cigarettes to make up the difference, which, being non-smokers, we could not oblige:

I am afraid we left him with a shortfall in his income for that day, but a potential health benefit! 😊”

- *Selva Kanagasabai (STC Athletics Vice Captain 1960)*

Selva’s episode at the Colombo South Magistrates Court reminds me of a similar experience I had.

Thomma (BWR Thomas) was one of the first of our vintage to own a Honda Motorbike.

One evening Molli (BC Molligoda) and I were able to persuade him to let us go for a ride on it and we took off in the direction of Colombo. I was riding and shortly before the Wellawatte bridge the headlight failed.

A Police Constable, who was on the roadside, flagged us down and I dutifully stopped.

As I recall, I made the stock excuse that a colleague back at college was very ill and we were rushing to fetch a doctor.

Unfortunately for us he didn't buy my story and to make matters worse, made us wheel the bike all the way to Dehiwala junction and up Hill Street to the Police Station.

Things got worse when he impounded the bike and made us sit on a bench until the OIC reported for work in the morning!

I was subsequently charged for riding without lights and retained an Old Thomian lawyer (as I recall, he was the eldest of three college boxer brothers) for a fee of Rs.10/- (20 times my weekly pocket money!).

He gave the very same reason I gave the cop saying that I was in fact, being a Good Samaritan!

I'm sure the Magistrate didn't believe a word of it but warned and discharged me - he either knew my father who was a senior lawyer or was himself an Old Thomian, but I didn't stop to find out 😄

- Mohan Samarasinhe

1963 – STC 1st XI HOCKEY TEAM



Standing (L-R): S.B. de. A. Seneviratne, R. Van Twest, K. Ramachandran. G. Radhakrishnan, A.A. de Silva, A.P.B. Tennekoon, Mr. O.A. Abeynaike.

Seated (L-R): P.N.W. Goonesekere, S.A.H. Abeysekera, L.M. Wickremasinghe (Capt.), The Warden – Mr. C.H. Davidson, M.R. Samarasinhe (Vice Capt.), K.P. Dias, R.C. Morrell.

***Team included four STC 1st XI Cricket Captains – Rany Morrell (1963), Premalal Goonesekere (1964), Sarath Seneviratne (1965) & Anura Tennekoon (1966).**

1969 - Dimbulla Rugby Team



Standing (L-R): H.M. Christoffelsz (Coach), W. Koch, S. Jayasinghe, R. Perera, B. Lieversz, K. Paul, M. Joseph, J. Attapattu, P. Amarasinghe, R. de Silva, C. Munaweera, D. Gunasekera.

Seated (L-R): D. Hermon, H.R.C. D'Silva, S. Kanagasabai, L.M. Schokman (Captain), K.J. Murray, O. Mottau, M.R. Samarasinghe.

On Ground (L-R): A. Herath, M. Jayajumar, N. Samarasinghe.

Absent: B. Smith, F. Trussle, G. Silva, P. Grigson, T. Kelaart, M. de Alwis.

Dimbulla Rugby Team 1970 National League Champions



Standing (L-R): Selva Kanagasabai (coach), Derrick Mattau, Mohan Samarakoon, Brian Lieversz, Michael Joseph, Tony Perera, Cedric Munaweera, Sunil Jayakody, Wilhem Koch, Vernon Tissera, Asoka Herath.

Seated (L-R): Keith Paul, Tommy Kelaart, Roger D'Silva, Mike Waring, Jivaka Atapattu, Ken Murray (captain), Larry Schokman, Mike de Alwis, Owen Mottau, Mohan Samarasinha.

Tribute to Mohan Samarasinghe by Eddie Appadurai

President, STCOBA

“Mohan was a school mate and a year senior to me. Being in the Boarding he spent many hours on the playing field and his talents were admired by many of us day scholars. Living in Mount Lavinia some of my contemporaries also took part in some sports and other activities. As an athlete we could see him training to keep fit.

What was his most outstanding sport?

For sure it was in rugby as vice-captain in 1962 and captain in 1963 and playing as the stand-off was a dreaded player specially partnering his captain Tony Sirimanne as scrum half. In many occasions he could pierce the defense and end up under the goal posts leaving the opposition simply stunned.

A match in Kandy in 1963 against the strong Trinity 15 in Bogambara grounds I recollect the Thomian halves combination was heavily marked by some terrific tacklers of the Trinity third row. The game was scoreless but then just a minute before time in a 5-yard scrum near the touch line he positioned himself well inside and just when receiving the pass sliced through the blind side to score by the corner flag and surprise the packed Trinity spectators.

Mohan was also an excellent hockey player and his speed would see him fly on the wing beating many a opposing player and fire a goal.

Mohan would attend the Sunday morning chapel service faithfully and I as a chorister respected his faith and example to the other boarders.

We left school at about the same time in 1963 when I went to University and he took to the planting profession where he could play for the upcountry rugby clubs.

Serious knee injury affected his sports and then migrated to the UK to become a financial wizard and specialized a tax consultant.

Later on he regularly visited Sri Lanka and never failed to call on me at Mount Lavinia and share his heavy commitment to social service projects.

Particularly after the tsunami he used his influence to raise funds to donate much needed medical equipment for the hospitals affected.

He also visited the tea estates where he had worked earlier to provide help to the estate children improve their education.

He also sponsored foreign teachers to the Gurutalawa school which the students appreciated very much.

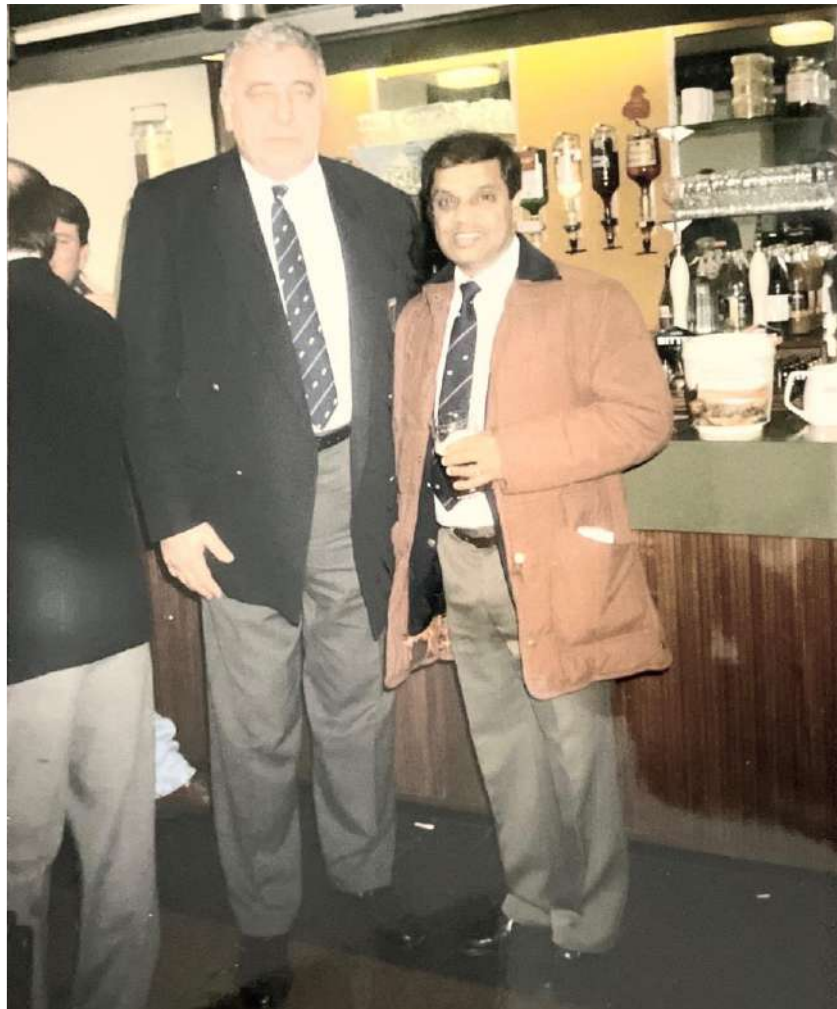
Mohan the Good Lord will reward you as a faithful servant for the numerous contributions and donations not only to your alma mater but also many others in the Northern and Eastern parts of Sri Lanka.

You have also been a wonderful friend and I respect that”

- Eddie

Rubbing Shoulders with Welsh Rugby Greats





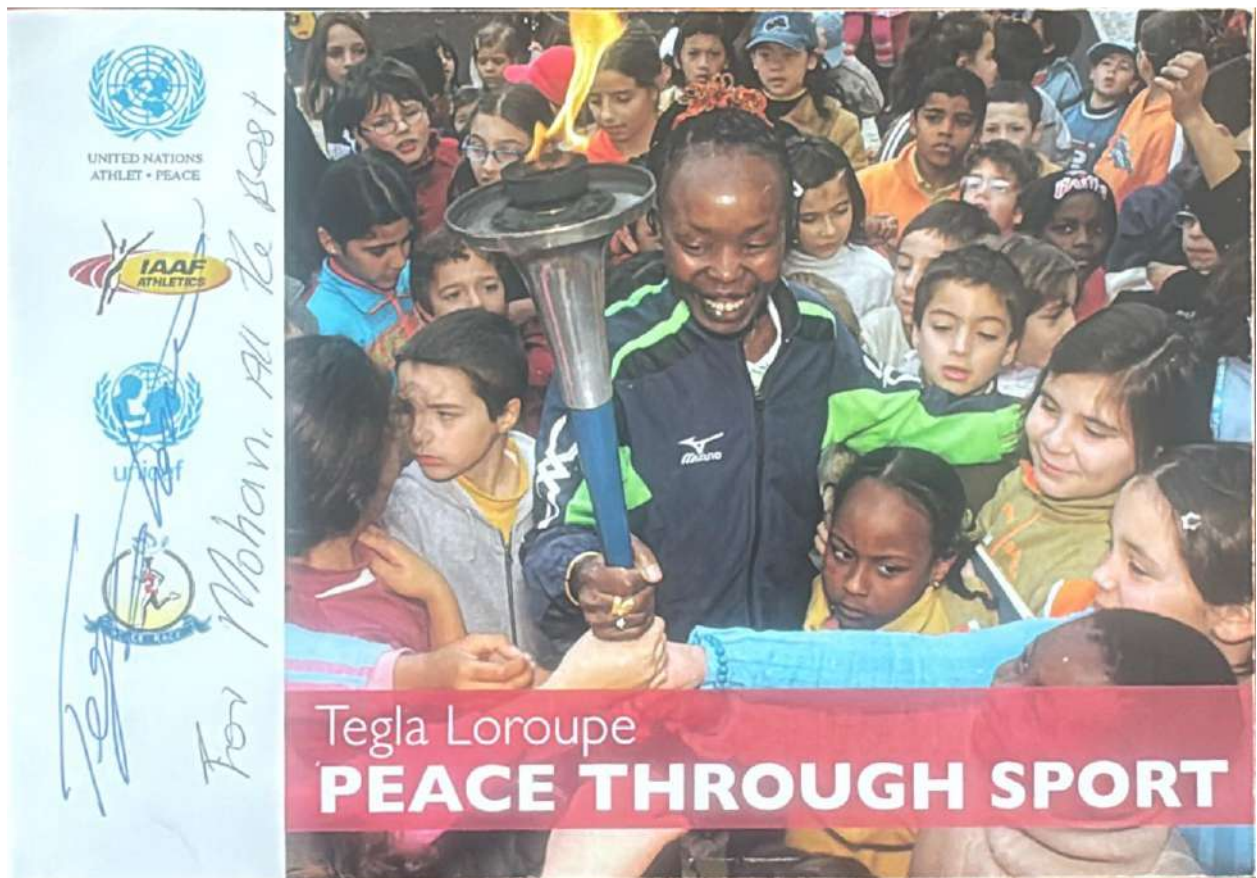
OPENING DAY OF THE 1999 RUGBY WORLD CUP
AT THE MILLENIUM STADIUM







When Mohan first met the indomitable Tegla Laroupe
At the 2009 World Athletics Championships in Berlin





Goodwill

In 2006, Tegla Loroupe was named a United Nations Ambassador of Sport by Secretary General Kofi Annan, together with Roger Federer, tennis champion from Switzerland. She is an International Sports Ambassador for the IAAF, and for UNICEF.

In 2003, Loroupe created an annual series of Peace Races sponsored by the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation "Peace Through Sports". Presidents, Prime Ministers, Ambassadors and government officials run with warriors and nomadic groups in her native Kenya, in Uganda and in Sudan, to bring peace to an area plagued by raiding warriors from battling tribes.



First Kenyan to set a World Marathon Record

- Three-time World Half-Marathon Champion
- Two-time World Record Holder in the marathon
- World Record Holder: One hour run; 30,000 meters; 20,000 meters
- Bronze medal 1993 World Half-Marathon Championships
- Bronze Medal 1995 and 1999 World Championships 10,000m.
- New York City Marathon Champion 1994 and 1995
- Rotterdam Marathon Champion 1997, 1998 and 1999
- Berlin Marathon Champion 1999
- London Marathon Champion 2000

Tegla Loroupe Peace Academy

The Tegla Loroupe Peace Academy is comprised of boarding primary and secondary schools, sports stadium, athletics training camp, health centre and staff quarters. This Academy will offer Educational facilities to children displaced and/or orphaned as a result of conflict and HIV Aids. Acting as a peace-building institution, the school will draw students from the border areas of the Greater Horn of Africa which include Northern Kenya, North Eastern Uganda, Ethiopia and Southern Sudan and Somalia.

Project objectives

The TLPA seeks to achieve the following objectives:

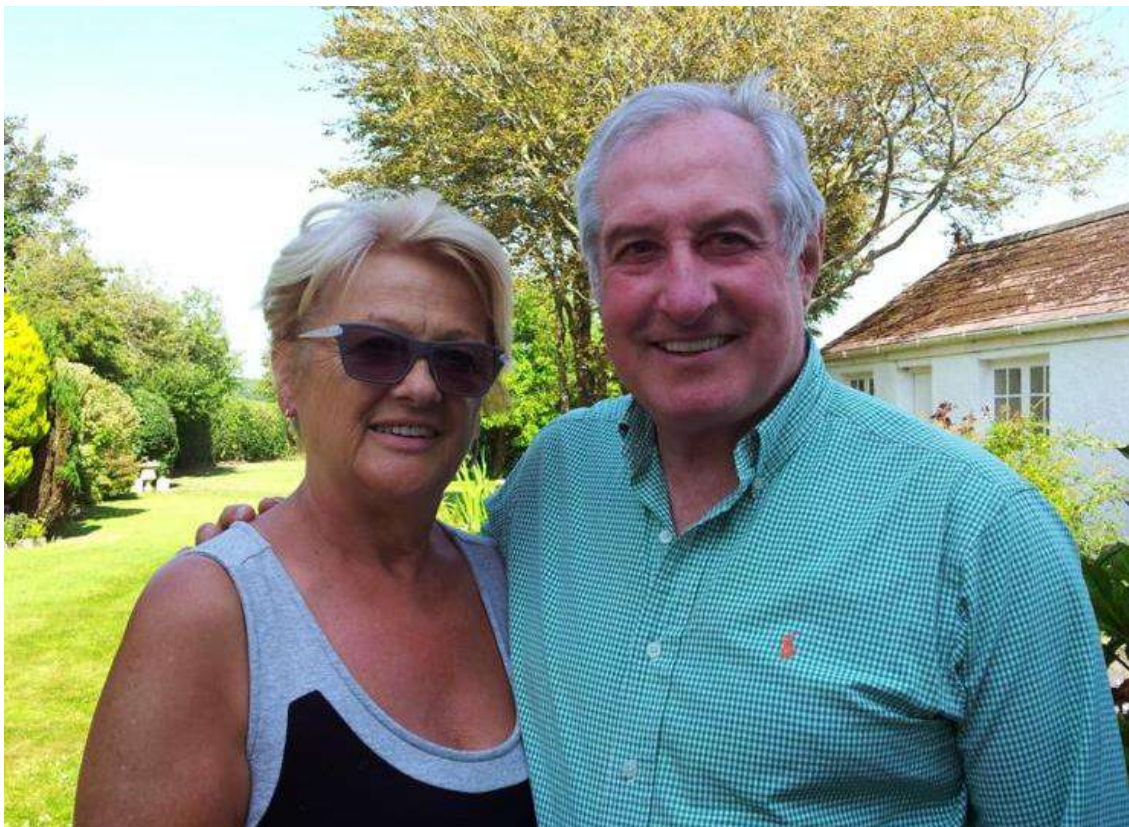
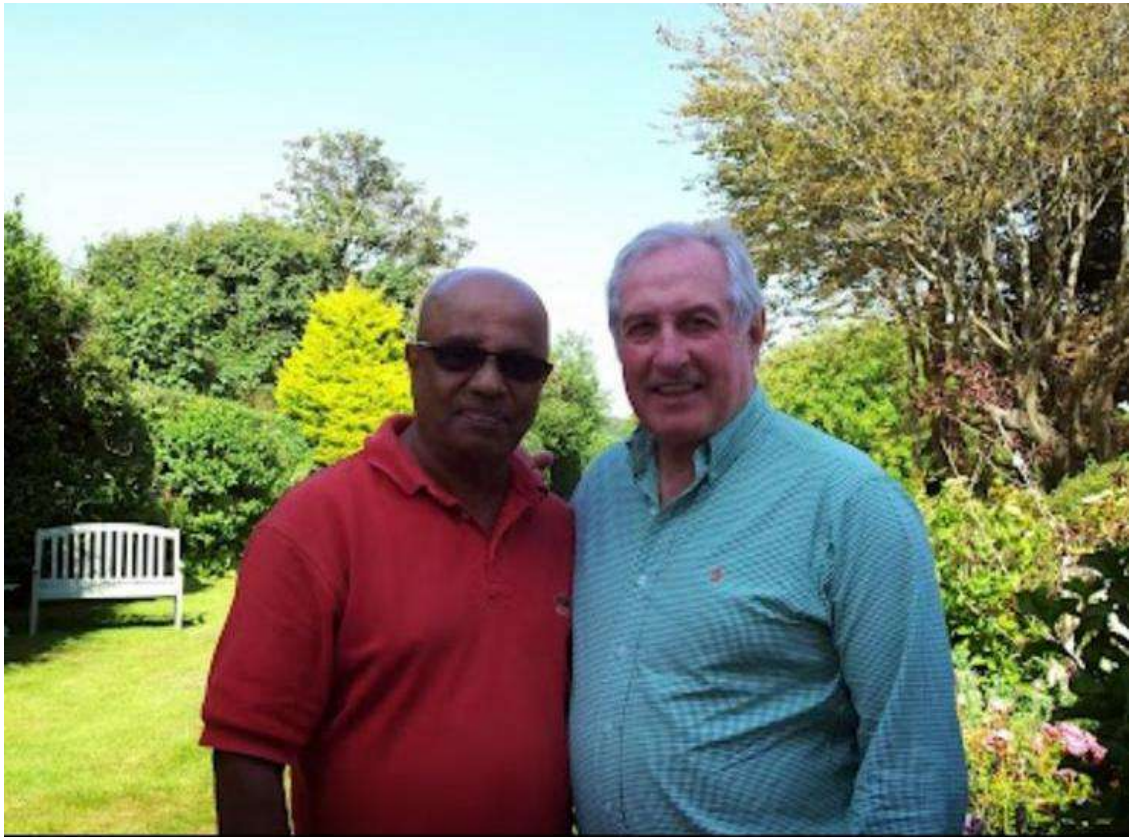
- a) to offer educational opportunities to children displaced and or orphaned by conflict and HIV/AIDS in the pastoral communities of the GHA;
- b) to offer education for the children that will erase negative war and enemy values, by mixing children from various warring communities and nations;
- c) to offer a peace education curriculum as part of its overall teaching curriculum;
- d) to give parents from various warring communities the opportunity to interact through visitation to the schools to see their children;
- e) to provide training facilities for talented youth from these communities who hope to develop or pursue a career in professional sports and athletics, such as soccer;



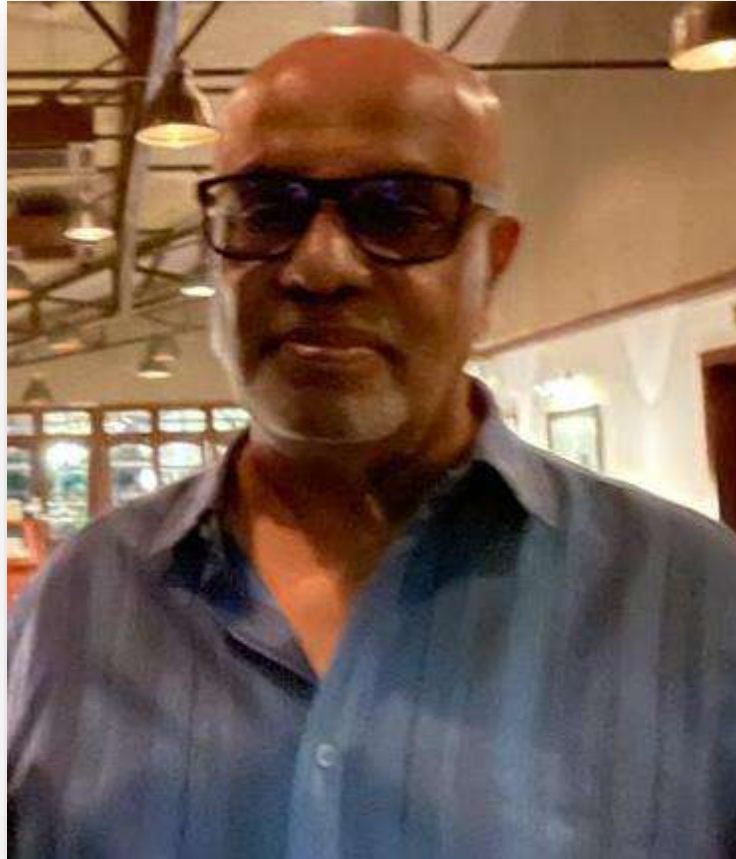
Tegla Loroupe Peace Academie

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With Legendary Welsh & British Lions Scrum Half, Sir Gareth Edwards & his wife Maureen, on his 65th Birthday at their home in Porthcawl, Wales.



Mohan Samarasinha - dedication to his mother country and the Sri Lankans



“Mohan Samarasinha didn’t need any prodding or prompting, extremely vocal, equipped with immense clarity of thought, he knew exactly what aspect of his personality I was looking to highlight through this interview.

Mohan, an old boy of St. Thomas’ College Mt. Lavinia, after a successful planting career here left to London where he and his wife worked until their children finished their education. Although he has made London his home, his love for his motherland has been embedded deeply in his mind.

During the course of the interview I realized that what inspired this energetic and zestful individual was dedication and commitment to help the poor to improve and enrich themselves socially, culturally and financially.

An unique character in Mohan rarely found in most of other Sri Lankans living abroad, is his dedication to his mother country and the Sri Lankans, especially the marginalized.

A very good sportsman, his team building experience always stood him in good stead in his career. Mohan reckons his greatest strength is his ability to relate to people. His school days at St. Thomas' College perhaps may have been what instilled this character trait.

He attributes his deep desire to help the poor to the example set by his Buddhist father, Sepala Samarasinhe, an eminent Attorney at Law in the Southern Province and a champion of the less fortunate, as well as his Christian mother, Bianca, a silent helper of the poor in and around Matara Fort where they lived.

With time his love for his country and its people increased and he volunteered to fully devote himself to provide help for many local institutions especially the health sector by enlisting foreign help to get down urgently needed lifesaving medical equipment.

The Army, Police and Matara hospitals benefited greatly due to Mohan's initiative through an organization called Action for Sri Lanka which he set up following the Central Bank bomb blast. This organisation promoted a programme to counsel victims of the blast by a group of British based consultants who continue to support their Sri Lanka peer groups in this field.

Mohan also assists his wife Celine, who has established three Community Nursing Centres for the elderly amongst the very poor in Kotahena, Payagala and Alagollawe (near Galenbindunuwewa off Kekirawa) as well as a tsunami relief livelihoods programme which he set up in Thirukkivil in 2005 through SHARE Foundation.

He also spearheaded programmes to support underprivileged children through The Ruhuna Children Development Trust that was set up in 2002 together with Professor P.P.G.L. Siriwardena, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Lanka, and a few of his friends.

The objects of the trust are to equip these children with the basic educational and social needs to improve their social mobility and acquire an identity of respectability. English being a world language and vital necessity for progress in the modern competitive world and an important link language in a plural society promoting unity in diversity and social integration,

Mohan organised classes in English for the children of Ruhuna. The classes were held even in Kataragama. Local teachers were recruited to conduct classes, he said. This method proved to be unsuccessful and Mohan realised that the reason for this was the lack of knowledge and the necessary skills amongst the teachers.

Our primary objective, he said was teaching spoken English. It is a challenging and daunting task, the infrastructure being not conducive and the standard of English in these remote villages very poor and the children lacking basic knowledge of the language.



English Training Program at Kilinochchi

Professor P.P.G.L. Siriwardena and I approached the British Consultancy Charitable Trust to fund this project; we got the services of an excellent trainer in Clifford Fathing a former Headmaster and an OFSTED Inspector of the British Education Department to help us in this project to teach English teaching skills to teachers of English in rural schools, with the accent on Spoken English.

The project was initiated at the Management Development & Training Institute in Wakwella with the collaboration of the Department of Education - a residential programme for teachers of English in the Southern Province. Following this course a group of 20 teachers were selected and provided all the necessary training. Clifford's method of teaching the students was a novel experience. He infused confidence building and establishing a rapport between the students and teachers. The teachers were co-operative and showed enthusiasm to learn from Clifford.



2014: Training the Trainers in Mannar.

Since English as a subject is compulsory in all schools under the Presidential initiative, it was a benchmark programme very similar to the more recent Presidential Initiative to teach English as a Life Skill.

The teaching methods taught them team spirit activities, all focused on confidence building and the teachers learned to manage their classrooms. The surge in the teachers' confidence, particularly in the weak and the very shy amongst them, was abundantly evident in the second micro teaching sessions and proves the success of Cliff Farthing's systems.

Group studies were encouraged and the teaching methods enabled students to do things on their own. The teachers became articulate, motivated and self-disciplined. Many literary programmes were initiated and at the end of the long session a concert was organized by the teachers. We want the teachers of outstanding ability to become mentors for other teachers.

"We strongly believe in confidence building which promotes the spirit of equality, friendship and bonhomie. With their increasing knowledge and understanding of the English language the rural kids will stand tall ready to accept new challenges at least in the near future."

Mohan will welcome anyone who wishes to be associated with his work can be contacted by email on mohan@samarasinhe.com".

- Rani Mohamed (Island Newspaper 30.09.2008)

Peep Into A Range of Mohan's Humanitarian Work



1995 – Mohan gifts an Incubator to Governor of the Southern Province, Neville Kanakaratne for the Matara General Hospital.



While Mohan was conducting a Tsunami Relief program in the eastern town of Thirukkivil, he was able to build this Nursery & Daycare Centre for 80 children in the remote poverty stricken Palakuda village in 2007, thanks to the generosity of Mount Zion Lodge of London.



A few years later, Mohan built a classroom for a similar number of children to conduct our spoken English teaching sessions in Kalimodai, Mannar District.



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FEATURES

Ray of hope for the underprivileged

By Lanelle Hills

Namal's father was once a farmer but due to the prevalent drought in the southern province he was reduced to casual labour work. With a lack of finances for his son, a bright student who obtained 10 distinctions at the Ordinary Level, the future seemed bleak. He would terminate his studies after he finished his Advanced Level just as his elder siblings had done before him, and start earning for his family.

But that was before his path crossed with members of the Ruhunu Children's Development Trust who immediately arranged a bursary for him under their child sponsorship scheme to continue his education in computer studies at university. The Trust also provided him a bicycle and recently presented him with a computer.

Namal is among 49 youths born into poverty stricken communities of the southern province who look to the helping hand of the Ruhunu Children's Development Trust (RCDT) for aid to spur their dreams forward. Fatherless children as well as children living under desperate conditions in the Kataragama district have also benefited from this programme for which the total cost has amounted to approximately Rs. 540,000.

This Trust which was set up by expatriates in the UK, seeks to improve the quality of life for underprivileged and disadvantaged children of the South by assisting them in whatever means possible for them to obtain gainful employment and aid in the development of productive citizens in such areas.

Speaking at a fundraising event recently in UK, founder of the Trust, Mohan Samarsinghe said, "The Southern province of Sri Lanka is an area that has been badly neglected by successive governments and the children of this district are at a terrible disadvantage where education and employment are concerned. The Trust was set up to help these children by giving them that little extra help."

Samarasinghe added that the Trust aimed to help these children by providing them with facilities such as academic, vocational, sports related, including scholarships and bursaries for the deserving youths to continue their primary, secondary, and even university education.



Children of Kethsirigama Maha Vidyalaya which was developed under a RCDT programme near Kataragama, attend a Saturday class hoping to compete for the government scholarships.

The Ruhunu Children's Development Trust also provides assistance to children who excel in sports by providing them with sports wear and equipment, it also assists children of very poor families in dealing with such issues as health, food, clothing etc.

Set up in July 2002, the Trust initiated such projects as the rehabilitation of the flood affected Pahata Welvitiya school in Galle. Families of flood affected regions under this programme received a package each of 20 useful items for their houses in the districts of Galle and Ratnapura at a cost of Rs. 425,000.

Its latest efforts have focused their attention on an English teaching scheme which was started in Seenigama based on an idea by Project Manager of the Trust, Kushil Gunasekera. Its success has led to a similar project being started in a school in Kataragama.

Assisting the project is Bob Silva, an experienced member who is qualified in teaching English as a foreign language. Silva who resides in Australia teaches English to Vietnamese refugees.

This project is expected to expand further in the future with help from organizations in the UK and Australia as well as the UK Old Boy's Associations and Old Girl's Associations of the more established schools in the province. "St. Aloysius and Mahinda College's Old Boy's Associations have already indicated their willingness to help," said Samarasinghe.

For Gunasekera and his team, future hopes include the establishment of another rural computer training facility similar to one which was initially started in Seenigama.

The Trust's intentions are to expand this similar facility to other villages and also construct an academy in the south which offers education, vocational training and sports in the long term as well address the needs and upgrade present standards of at least 10 orphanages in the region.

While continuity of their work depends much on donations, foreign funding organizations and other NGOs, Samarasinghe said that they are in the process of setting up of a branch organization in Australia and also hope to organize a similar one in the US.

Although much criticism has been hurled at the Trust and its work as being regionalist, Samarasinghe stressed that he had, and still invites Lankans living in the UK who hail from other parts of Sri Lanka, to liaise with them and form similar organizations to help the poor of those areas. "We are ready to share our experience and knowledge with them, to help them succeed in their efforts," he said.

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வல்பொல ராஹுல ஸ்தாபக நிதியம்
Walpola Rahula Foundation Trust

1294/04/A (126) Buddhist Institute Avenue, Kubukgahaduwa, Parliament Road, Kotte, Sri Lanka.
Tel: +94 112866196, www.walpolarahula.institute, E-mail: info@walpolarahula.institute

14/06/2021

Dear Mr. Mohan Samarasinhe,

I am privileged to write this appreciation letter to you. Thank you very much for making such a huge donation of Sri Lankan Rupees [REDACTED] to expand and expedite the work that has been doing by the Walpola Rahula Institute for the last six years towards uniting the whole Sri Lankan nation. We will use this donation to construct a studio from where we will produce video and podcast educational programs and air online programs targeted to different age groups particularly targeted for children to develop their emotional intelligence.

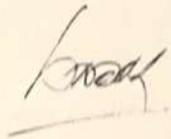
This beautiful country will be a heaven if the people who are living here start trusting each other and find peaceful ways to resolve their problems. We, as a Buddhist institute believe all the religious institutions including the Buddhist institution have failed to build that trust among the people. That is the vacuum that the Walpola Tahula Institute tries to fill. Therefore, supporting to build this studio is to supporting to build that society. Thank you again.

Mr. Mohan, you are making this donation in memory of your father Mr Sepala Samarasinhe who had been a very respected lawyer at Matara since 1928. I read all the paper articles written on him at his departure. I see not only an exceptionally talented lawyer, but a loving father, a loving husband, a great nature lover and a good friend in him. I was surprised to read that he had built a tank at Wellawaya and had cultivated more than hundred acres using that water. Having two jungle habitats, namely Kithulkote and Pallerote according to news articles, it says how much had been his connection with the nature.

No doubt to have a son like Mr Mohan who supports hospitals, schools and community building projects in Sri Lanka from that great father and the loving mother 'Binkie' as she is named in the newspaper articles.

Mr Mohan, We are in the process of recruiting two persons into the existing staff of the WRI now. One person is to develop online programs, producing video and podcast programs and to run the website and social media channels. The other person is to translate all our good messages into Tamil Language. Already a graduate from Hindagala State, Badulla has been selected for this translator position. They both will join to the staff on 1st July 2021. So, I assure you, that we are very much dedicated to our mission, and we are in the move to expand and expedite the sharing of the good message to a larger community in Sri Lanka now.

Your great support in this juncture is very much important and very much appreciated.
May all the blessings be with you for good health, happiness and mental peace,



Galkande Dhammananda
On behalf of the Walpola Rahula Foundation Trust

Mohan meets Ven. Galkande Dhammananda Thero



“I first met Ven Galkande Dhammananda Thero, the erudite disciple of Ven Walpola Rahula, in 2019. His inspirational and thought provoking teachings of the Buddha Dharma concur with my interpretation of my own religious beliefs.

He is fluent in English and Tamil as well as Sinhala. In keeping with the teachings of The Buddha, he keeps well away from politics and politicians.

I feel privileged to be a Christian member of his ever increasing team of supporters.” - Mohan

Walpola Rahula Institute - Mini Recording Studio Construction Project



“I am delighted to have been able to help with the building of this studio and be honoured as one of the Christian Patrons of the 25.

Ven Galkande Thero is a credit to the Buddhist clergy and more a friend. We have belief that our country belongs to everyone irrespective of our ethnicity.” - Mohan

Below are some of the unknown work of an iconic Thomian & lesser known Freemason during 30 years of service, since 1995.





* Freemasonry is a centuries-old fraternal organization that promotes moral development, fellowship, and community service among its members.





2016: Coordinating Flood Relief in Akuressa District with Team Rubicon (at the request of General Sir Nick Parker, Former Commander of the British Land Forces).



Donating Bicycles to Students sponsored in Jaffna.



SPICE: English teacher training program in Kalimodai, Mannar conducted by our lovely TEFL Trainer, Jenny Bartlett CTEFLA, DTEFLA, Dip TESOL.



Donating fishing nets and gear to fisherman in Mannar district who lost most of their equipment to the cyclone of 2016.

Testimonies for Mohan Samarasinha



Mr. Mohan Samarasinghe – A Living Example of Humanity

CI C P Wijemuni (STF War Hero - injured in action).

“I first met Mr. Mohan Samarasinghe several years ago through my close friend and Special Task Force batchmate, Deshapriya. During a visit to his home in Tissamaharama, I had the privilege of meeting a man whose warmth, humility, and generosity immediately made me feel as though I had known him for many years.

The hospitality extended to us during our stay remains one of my most cherished memories.

On later visits to Tissamaharama, I came to know him even better. What impressed me most was not only his kindness but also his extraordinary generosity. He always insisted on paying for the fuel required for our journeys and, before we returned home, ensured that my vehicle's fuel tank was completely filled. Even today, whenever we travel together, he continues this thoughtful gesture without hesitation.

When my eldest son was due to enrol at the German Tech Institute in Kilinochchi, I informed Mr. Mohan about our journey. Without a second thought, he volunteered to accompany us. Using his personal connections, he arranged accommodation through a senior military officer and personally bore many of the travel-related expenses. His willingness to support my family's needs as though they were his own reflected the depth of his generosity.

During that visit, I also witnessed his charitable work firsthand. He had established a scholarship programme for underprivileged families across Sri Lanka. In Kilinochchi, I saw him invite a financially struggling Tamil family to dinner, share a meal with them, and provide them with financial assistance and dry rations. It was an act of compassion carried out with dignity and genuine care.

My son's education became a matter of great concern to Mr. Mohan. Beyond arranging accommodation, he voluntarily contributed towards my son's living and meal expenses for an extended period. Such assistance was offered without expectation of recognition or reward, but simply because of his sincere concern for our family's wellbeing.

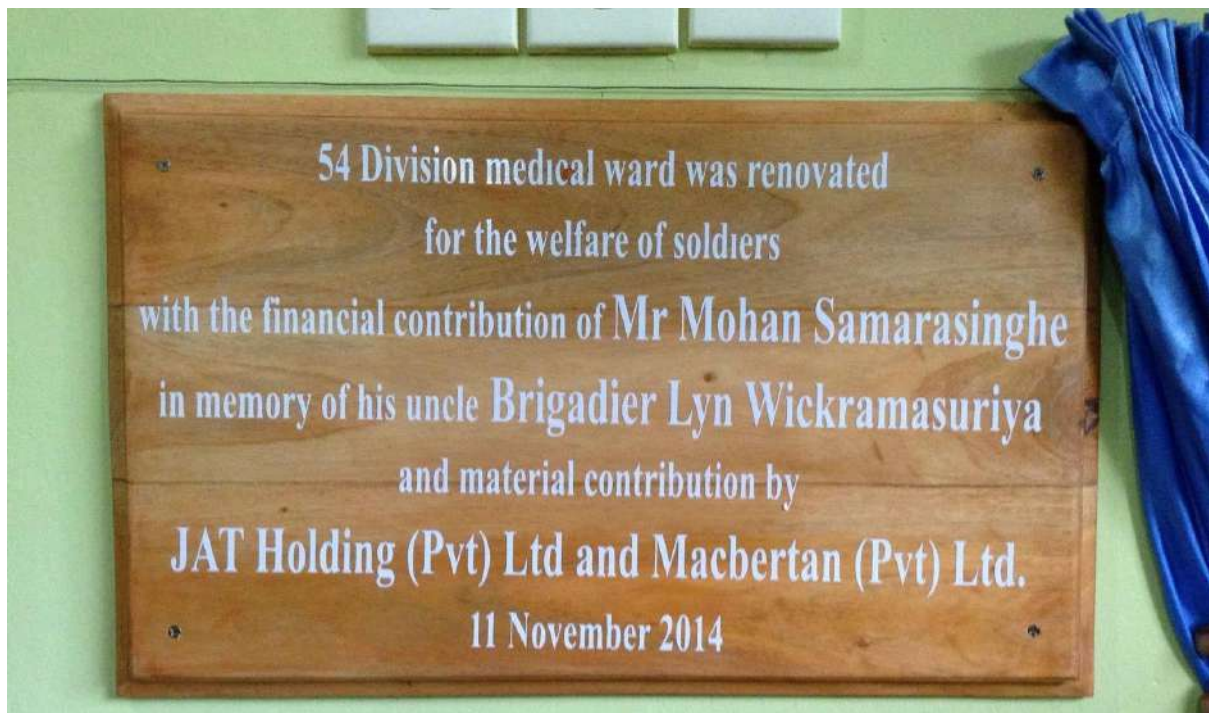
Although he later moved overseas, he continued to support disadvantaged families in Sri Lanka through his scholarship programme. Whenever he planned a visit back to Sri Lanka, he would always ask whether there was anything he could bring for us. That simple question reflected the generous spirit that has always defined his character.

Over the years, he has supported my family in countless ways. From helping with the maintenance costs of my vehicle to encouraging my younger son's education and sporting interests through thoughtful gifts, including high-quality badminton shoes and a side drum, his kindness has touched every member of our family.

His generosity also extended to my war-disabled brother. During the lengthy process of obtaining his military pension, Mr. Mohan provided financial assistance to support the family and personally communicated with senior military officials to help expedite the process.

I had the opportunity to accompany him on visits to Wellawaya, Buttala, and several other areas where he distributed scholarships, dry rations, and financial assistance to underprivileged families.

He also contributed generously to institutions caring for persons with disabilities.



One aspect of his personality that deserves special mention is his remarkable humility. Because he places great trust in people, there have been occasions when others have taken advantage of his generosity. Yet he has never responded with bitterness or resentment. Instead, he quietly distances himself while continuing to show kindness to others. Such humility is rare.

In my life, I have met many people, but Mr. Mohan Samarasinghe stands apart as a gentleman of exceptional character. He extends help without expecting anything in return, treats others with dignity and compassion, and embodies the true meaning of humanity.

His generosity, humility, and selflessness cannot easily be expressed in words.

On behalf of my family, and in grateful appreciation of all the kindness he has shown to us and especially to my brother,

I sincerely pray that Mr. Mohan Samarasinghe will enjoy good health, long life, and continued strength to touch many more lives through his compassion and generosity.”

- C. P. Wijemuni, Retired Police Inspector, Special Task Force.

Dr A G Jayakrishnan - Former Chief Cardiac Surgeon at Nawaloka Hospital

“I have known Mohan Samarasinghe for a decade . First met him through Freemasonry and soon realised that he has a very charitable mindset, just like one of the tenets of Freemasonry .

I personally know he has helped several underprivileged persons for education and health through his various philanthropic organisations.

I wish him well in his endeavour to write a book on his life story which I believe will be an inspiration to many.”

- Dr A G Jayakrishnan (Mangalore, India).

Mrs Kanthi Henayaka - Mother of Piyushani, Student at Bristol University who died of Acute Myeloid Leukaemia in England.

“Mohan Sir is a very rare gentleman who has very good qualities and is dedicated to others. He has done for our family what no one else has done for us and is still doing so today. The help he gave us when our daughter was hospitalized, including the expenses, is indescribable. It is a great strength for us. She did not leave us when she left this world. Even today, the help he gives to the three of us, looking after us and doing everything for us, both financially and mentally, is a source of strength for us.

Mohan Sir is a Living God who helps us. It is impossible to finish writing this on a piece of paper. May you have the strength and courage to help us more and more. May you be blessed with the help of the Triple Gem, the help of all the gods, and a long life. Thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to express these thoughts. With much gratitude,”

- Piyushani's Mother on behalf of her daughter's family members.

Senuk Himanjith - Beneficiary of The Mohan Samarasinhe Scholarship Trust at S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia

“Meeting Mr. Mohan was a chance encounter. I met him in 2016 during a Boxing seminar I attended at S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. He was impressed with my performances and came to talk with me. He said that he would like to help me and my school and gave me his contact details, but by the time I contacted him he had already left the country.

However it turned out that he and my father had a mutual acquaintance and we met again about a year later. He offered me a scholarship to study at S. Thomas' and helped me a lot with my sports career.

Later helped me to come back to college and serve as the assistant coach for the boxing team and he continues to help me today.

He had helped a lot of young children in the past and he continues to do so today. I cannot imagine how my life would have turned out if I did not have his help and guidance. Despite my academic and sports performances I would not have come this far without his help.

I did not have the luxury of friends growing up and I did not get on well with others. It is very difficult to find people who genuinely want to help you and he is one of the very few of such people I've met. I believe one of the most important things in life is to have good company and I was fortunate enough to find that in him and I am truly grateful for having met him.”

- Senuk Himanjith

Malcolm Horne - Mohan's next door neighbour in Highcliffe

“We have known Mohan for a relatively short time, just over 3yrs. However, during that time we have become very good friends. He's a caring and generous man and a good neighbour. He has a calm nature and is someone who you can rely on in a time of need, he is always looking to help the less fortunate and needy in his community and the world. We count ourselves lucky to be able to call Mohan our dear friend.”

- Malcolm Horne

Fr Noel Travers - Dublin

“Hello Mohan, God has given you the desire and wisdom to help and encourage and educate people in so many different projects that you have started in Sri Lanka and you have great energy to continue this great service for many years. You have been a great inspiration and example to me in the way that I should treat people. Thanks Mohan.”

- Noel

Prof Sampath Gunawardena

**Senior Professor of Physiology (Chair) and former Dean, Faculty of Medicine,
University of Ruhuna.**

“Mr. Mohan Samarasinhe is known to me for more than 15 years. He is one of the greatest philanthropist I have ever come across. He helped many a medical students at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna spanning over a decade or more. He goes an extra mile to make sure that the logistics of supporting students and follow up happen efficiently.

At the time of COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Samarasinhe contacted me and offered to provide any equipment urgently required for patient management. Within a very short time he made arrangements to provide a much needed ultrasound scanner to the Emergency Treatment Unit of the Teaching Hospital, Galle. It helped doctors to make accurate diagnosis with minimal risk of exposing themselves to COVID-19 infection. Unique quality of Mr. Samarasinhe is that he did all these things without expecting anything in return. I wish him a long and healthy life.”

- Prof. Sampath Gunawardena

K. Christeena - Kilinochchi

“I, **K. Christeena** from Kilinochchi, am writing this to express my deepest gratitude for your unwavering support since 2010. You helped me complete my studies at Jaffna University and stood by my family during the difficult time when my husband was in the rehabilitation camp.

Your continued support for my child’s education and the help you provide to me and my blind friend, G. Dilviya, has given us hope during our hardest moments.

We are especially grateful for the extraordinary gift of Rs. 500,000.00 that you gave to us recently. It is a life-changing blessing that has allowed us to build our future.

Having suffered under the burden of loans for many years, this generous amount has finally set me free from that debt. We were also so very happy when you visited our home; your presence brought us immense joy and comfort.

Like your parents, who were champions of the less fortunate, you are also kind and helpful to many poor people. You have been a true guardian to us. Your focus on "confidence building" has helped us stand tall.

Last month also when my husband had hernia surgery you support me Sir for our family economy.. we are thank full of you in our lives long dear Sir...

My family and Dilviya’s family are always thanking you, Sir. You are like a father to us, and we will always be like good daughters to you. In our lives, we have never met anyone like you. No one has ever helped us the way you have. You are a very big gift to us from God. Thank you so much, dear Sir.

I pray to God every day for your well-being. May you be blessed with excellent health and a long life. God bless you, our dear Sir.

With deepest respect, gratitude, and love,

- **K. Christeena - Kilinochchi**

Gnanaseela Dilviya - Jaffna

“Respected Sir, my name is Gnanaseela Dilviya and I am currently working as a Development Officer at the Jaffna Divisional Secretariat.

You are the greatest blessing I have ever met in my life. You are the one who helped me with my university studies and made my dream come true.

Even after completing my studies, you never forget to help me on special days like my *Birthday, New Year*.

But the greatest asset you have given me is not money, sir, but the unwavering faith you have in me that you will definitely do well.

I will not waste the faith you have placed in me. I will live my life as a good human being and a responsible citizen and make your name proud. I will never forget your help and love until my last breath. I will never forget you for the help you have done for me throughout my life. You have loved me like my own father and guided me at every stage.

Not only that, you have also helped and extended a helping hand to my dear friend. For that help I am forever indebted. Also, my heartfelt thanks for the help you have given me by depositing Rs. 500,000 in a fixed deposit for my married life and for your continuous help in my various needs. I will never forget your great help and fatherly love in this life. May God bless you and your family with long life, abundant wealth and good health. With gratitude,

Miss G. Dilviya

P.S: “I have received the 5,000 rupees you deposited in my bank account. Thank you very much. May you see many more birthdays. My advance happy birthday wishes sir. I also deposited Rs.5000 in Christeena’s account at the same time,”



Christeena Kangaharan (left) from Kilinochchi and Dilvia Gnanaseelan (blind girl) from the poorest area of Jaffna town - Two of the first five Jaffna University students Mohan sponsored soon after the end of the war (2010 - the second of his 28 visits to Jaffna).

“Sister Amitha“, former Novice Nun in Jaffna

“Dear Respected Sir, I would like to extend my sincere thanks for coming forward to establish a Preschool in our place and begin for the poor and needy. I highly appreciate your grate service towards our people especially it is how nice to see that a Sinhala person has agreed and came forward to help Tamil people. Even though we tried from many people they didn’t give us proper reply. Then only I requested Mr. Mohan Samarasingha. You accepted our request without any hesitation and supports us to begin the school successfully. You have already given nearly four hundred thousand (400,000/-) to renovate the building. Now the building has come up yet we have to do little work to finish So we expect your support in future too. Once again I extend my sincere thanks to your love and grate service towards us. Thank you.” - **Amitha, Colombuthurai**

Sandamali Punchihewa (Kataragama) - her journey from a one room shack in the jungle of Kataragama to the Front Office of The Hilton in Doha

“Dear Sir, I am honoured to write a few words about how I came to know you and the incredible impact you have had on my life. I first met you when I was in Grade 7 at school. At that time, my family was facing many challenges. Your kindness and generosity changed our lives in ways we could never have imagined.



You helped my family build a home, provided us with electricity, and supported our education through scholarships. You also helped my two elder sisters transfer to a better school, giving them the opportunity to receive a quality education. Because of your encouragement and support, I was able to focus on my studies and achieved excellent results in both my O/L and A/L examinations.

Later, you helped me secure a job in Malaysia, where I improved my English language, communication, and professional skills. When I returned to Sri Lanka, your guidance and support helped me begin my career as a receptionist at Mt. Lavinia Hotel. Today, I have built a successful career in the hospitality industry.

Looking back, I can honestly say that many of my achievements would not have been possible without your belief in me, your encouragement, and your unwavering support throughout my journey.



Your generosity has not only transformed my life but has also given my family hope and opportunities for a brighter future. I will always be deeply grateful for everything you have done for us. Thank you for believing in me and helping me become the person I am today.”

– Sandamali, Doha

Sgt Upul Karunaratne, Special Task Force Double Amputee

I am a fully disabled war hero of the Police Special Task Force. My name is Upul Karunaratne. My village is Mahiyanganaya. Actually, I got to know Mr. Mohan Samarasinghe through the Welfare Division of the Police Special Task Force. I am a fully disabled war hero and I can call him a gentleman who helped me a lot. He helped me build a tube well during a time when I was without water facilities. Even today, I and my neighbours get water from that well to thank him. So I wish him a healthy and long life.

- Upul (Mahiyanganaya)

Nimesha Gintotage - Birmingham

“Some people come into our lives at exactly the moment we need them most, and for me, that person is Mr. Mohan.

I first came to know him in the UK during one of the darkest periods of my life. My best friend was diagnosed with leukaemia and was admitted to hospital. We were both far from home, trying to cope with an incredibly difficult journey on our own.

Although Mr. Mohan had never met us in person, he reached out with genuine kindness and compassion. He regularly called my friend, encouraging her to stay strong and to keep thinking of her parents back in Sri Lanka. He also called me often, giving me strength when I was overwhelmed with the responsibility of caring for her and the uncertainty of what lay ahead.

Sadly, my best friend passed away in the UK. Even in that heartbreaking time, Mr. Mohan stood by us. He raised funds to support her family and, to this day, continues to care for them.

Whenever he visits Sri Lanka, he takes the time to visit and support her family, showing that his kindness is not just a moment of generosity but a lifelong commitment.

During another difficult chapter in my own life, when I was struggling with my visa renewals and facing financial hardship, Mr. Mohan never hesitated to help. Despite never having met me in person, he placed complete trust in me and my family, offering both financial support and encouragement when we needed it most.

Mr. Mohan is a truly remarkable man with a pure heart, unwavering compassion, and a genuine desire to help others. His generosity has changed many lives, including mine.

I feel incredibly grateful and fortunate that our paths crossed. Having him in my life's journey has been one of my greatest blessings, and I will always be thankful for his kindness and selfless service to others.”

-Nimesha Gintotage

Baskaran Lingarasa - Jaffna

“It's a great news. To me , known from my RESC ground in 2015. Mr Mohan Samarasinghe, you, started to introduce a project of training 25 teachers of English in the Jaffna peninsula, utilizing two resource persons from the British Council, funding the full cost of the travelling and resource for five days together. At first, then Mr. Kurugularajah the Minister of Education, Northern Province was approached. He directed late Mr Sanmuganathan, the Private Secretary to handle the matters.

He called upon them Assistant Director of Educations, but gone helpless due to negligence of their duty. Finally, I was engaged in the Project. I happened to meet you during the project. It was a great opportunity to meet a philanthropist of various sectors. You introduced me many of your students, one girl is visually handicapped. I was helped through handing over a laptop and a handphone to my daughter, that time she was following her degree at CA Sri Lanka.

Once, he invited my family when we visited our daughter. It was a great honour to us. In my opinion, you are lionhearted boxer you need not to support unpatriotic politicians. Keep your head straight in every circumstance.

God bless you to be healthy and happy with your family and grandson!”

-Baskaran Lingarasa

Prof. Manuel Laso, Professor of Materials Science, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

“I first met Mohan many years ago in Sri Lanka, and since then I have been fortunate to know him as a friend. During all these years, one aspect of his character has impressed me more than anything else: he has always preferred helping people to talking about helping them. His generosity is quiet, practical and genuine.

I have seen him devote time, energy and resources to many worthwhile causes. Whether supporting hospitals during the Covid pandemic or helping young people build a better future after the civil war, he has never sought recognition for what he does. He simply believes that, if he is in a position to help, then he should.

One story has always stayed with me: his long-standing support for Christeena and Dilvia, two young Tamil women whom he helped through university after the war. The fact that, so many years later, they remain part of each other’s lives says a great deal about the kind of relationships Mohan builds with people.

Beyond all this, I have always known him as someone who is calm, reliable and easy to talk to. We have shared many conversations over the years, and I have always appreciated his balanced outlook on life and his quiet sense of humour.

People are often judged by what they achieve professionally or by the success they enjoy. I have always thought that a better measure of a person is how they treat those who have nothing to offer them in return. By that measure, Mohan has earned my respect and my friendship.

I wish him every success with this book, and I hope that anyone who reads it will come to know the thoughtful, generous and deeply human person that I have been fortunate enough to know.”

-Prof. Manuel Laso

Tharmila Ratnagopal, Jaffna Teacher

“It is a great privilege for me to share a few words about a truly remarkable person, Mr. Mohan Samarasinghe, a Sri Lankan of Sinhala origin who has been living in London, United Kingdom. He is one of the kindest and most generous people I have ever met, and I thank God for bringing him into my life.

I first met Mr. Samarasinghe soon after I was appointed as a teacher and was serving in Mannar. We met during an English teachers’ workshop called the SPICE – Training the Trainers Programme. At that time, a group of young and enthusiastic teachers, including myself, participated in the programme. He recognized our enthusiasm and potential and continued to encourage and motivate us.

Later, he invited us to attend another professional workshop in Colombo. He personally arranged everything for us, including our accommodation, meals, and all other expenses. Because of his generosity, we were able to gain valuable knowledge and experience that greatly benefited our teaching careers. I deeply admired his commitment to supporting young teachers.

As I came to know him better, I learned that he was also involved in charitable work. Through his charity, he transformed the lives of many deserving students. One of my students in Mannar came from a very poor family and was living in a hostel while studying for her Advanced Level examination. She had to travel to town for tuition classes, which was extremely difficult. When I explained her situation to Mr. Samarasinghe, he immediately bought her a brand-new bicycle. That simple act of kindness made a tremendous difference in her education.

On another occasion, a student from the remote Adampan area in the Madhu educational zone was selected to the Medical Faculty. His family faced severe financial difficulties. When I requested assistance, Mr. Samarasinghe willingly agreed to sponsor the student by providing financial support every month throughout his university education. His generosity enabled that student to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor.

He also continuously supported a visually impaired student studying at the University of Jaffna. His concern went beyond financial assistance. Whenever she could not answer his calls, he would contact me to inquire about her health, her studies, and her family’s well-being.

His compassion and genuine concern for others were truly inspiring. Mr. Samarasinghe’s kindness was not limited to helping students. He also supported me personally during one of the most challenging periods of my life. As a newly appointed teacher, my salary was very low, and I was struggling to complete my research because I did not own a computer. Understanding my situation, he

generously gave me his used notebook laptop. That laptop became an invaluable resource and enabled me to continue my studies and research.

He also knew about my personal circumstances. Having lost my father, I carried the responsibility of supporting my family. Out of genuine compassion, he helped my sister continue her education.

My mother, who suffers from diabetes, also experienced his kindness. Whenever he visited Sri Lanka from the United Kingdom, he brought her a blood glucose monitoring machine, medicines, and other necessities. He would visit our home, spend time talking with her, and always inquire about her health with sincere care and affection.

Looking back, I realize that Mr. Mohan Samarasinghe has touched countless lives through his generosity, humility, and compassion. He never expected recognition or praise. He simply saw people in need and quietly extended a helping hand.

I feel incredibly blessed to have met such a kind-hearted and selfless person. His life is a beautiful example of generosity in action and reminds us that even small acts of kindness can have a lasting impact on the lives of others.

May God continue to bless Mr. Mohan Samarasinghe with good health, happiness, strength, and many more years of serving humanity. His kindness will always remain in the hearts of those whose lives he has touched. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude for the encouragement Mr. Mohan Samarasinghe has given me in pursuing my own education. Throughout the years, he has always motivated me to continue learning and to aim higher in life. His constant encouragement gave me the confidence to pursue my postgraduate studies.

When I successfully completed my Master's degree and postgraduate qualifications, I shared the photographs from my graduation ceremony with him. He was genuinely delighted by my achievement. To celebrate the occasion and encourage me further, he sent me thoughtful and valuable gifts. Those gifts were more than material presents—they were symbols of his pride, encouragement, and unwavering belief in my potential.

His generosity has extended far beyond financial assistance. He has invested in people by inspiring them to grow, learn, and achieve their dreams. His support has played a significant role in my own professional journey.

Today, with God's grace and the encouragement of people like Mr. Mohan Samarasinghe, I have the privilege of serving not only as a school teacher but also as a Visiting Lecturer at the Advanced Technological Institute, Jaffna. I sincerely believe that his guidance, encouragement, and faith in me have contributed to this achievement.

There are very few people who celebrate the success of others as if it were their own. Mr. Mohan Samarasinghe is one of those rare individuals. His kindness, generosity, humility, and genuine concern for others have touched countless lives, including mine. I will always remain deeply grateful for everything he has done for me, my family, and my students.

May Almighty God continue to bless Mr. Mohan Samarasinghe with good health, happiness, and abundant blessings. May He reward him for every act of kindness and compassion shown to others, and may his life continue to inspire many generations to come.”

- **Tharmila Ratnagopal**

Sachini Ratnayake of Anuradhapura and the Engineering Faculty, Hapugala

“Dear Mr. Mohan Samarasinghe, it is a great pleasure and honour to share a few words about the impact you had on my life.

During my university years, I was fortunate to receive a scholarship provided by you. At that important stage of my life, your support meant much more to me than financial assistance. It gave me encouragement, stability, and confidence to continue my education and work towards my goals. With the support I received during those years, I was able to focus on my studies and successfully complete my degree with a First Class. This was a very proud milestone in my life, and I will always remember the people who supported me along the way.

Today, I am working in Australia as a Civil Engineer in a local council. Looking back at my journey, I realise how meaningful the support I received from you during my university years was in helping me build the foundation for my career and future.

Your generosity showed me how one person’s kindness and willingness to support a young student can make a lasting difference. I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity and support you gave me, and I will always remember it with great appreciation.

I wish you continued success, and I hope the kindness and opportunities you have given to young people will continue to make a difference in many lives.

With heartfelt gratitude and best wishes”

- **Sachini Rathnayaka**

Kamburugamuwa.
Matara.
07th Aug. 2017.

Dear sir,

Miracles happen very rarely. Also, the god is not fair on creating things. But before 73 years, the god got the right decision. That's presenting You to the mother Sri Lanka. In our life time (though it is short and with 30 years) we both haven't met a real gentlemen like you. People always help each other in many ways. But your helps are unbelievable, they are amazing. Nobody feels or like to do that much big helps. Honestly, everyone wishes something in return even after a small help. But you are such an amazing man. You want only the well-being of that person.

The other thing is, you are very simple and down to the earth, though you have every thing. We couldn't give you much at our place. But without any complain you were with us, sharing all. You always feel others, sympathies on people. What we learn from you is, help others and money is not for collecting but for spending. You are such a great man.

So... finally we both would like to wish a very very happy b'day !!! and good luck sir.

Yours
Asela & Suraji



CHILDREN'S WORLD INTERNATIONAL

Reg. Charity No. 1079546

2 St. Edmund's Cottages, Bovetown, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 8JE

Tel: 01458 832925 or Tel/Fax 01458 834484

E-mail: <ArabellaChurchill@childrensworldcharity.org>

Webpage: www.childrensworldcharity.org

Trustees: Michael Freeney, Diane Chamberlain, Anne Harris.

Director: Arabella Churchill

18 May 2005

To whom it may concern:

Children's World International (British Charity number 1079546) is planning to run a 4-person, 4-month Performance, Workshop and Games Tour in Sri Lanka September-December 2005 for the benefit of children who have suffered from the Tsunami.

Through contacts at Millfield School, we made the acquaintance of Mohan Samarasinhe of the Ruhana Children's Development Fund, and he urged us to run a small mini-Tour and recce visit in Sri Lanka in March. Mohan was incredibly helpful to me and Peat Simms (who will lead our Autumn Tour). He accompanied us for 10 days in the South of Sri Lanka, translating for us, introducing us to many useful people and organisations, and facilitating our performances and games sessions in many IDP camps. He also gave us many useful contacts in the East of Sri Lanka which have been extremely helpful to us in the setting up of our Autumn Tour.

Mohan has been involved in all sort of charitable work over the last 6 years, and has established the Ruhana Children's Development Fund.

We found him to be an extremely intelligent, helpful and kind man and he made our first visit to Sri Lanka so much easier and more effective than it would have been without him. I recommend him to any Charity who might want representation in Sri Lanka - not only does he have many extremely useful contacts, but he is totally conversant in the three languages that are spoken in Sri Lanka, being Sinhalese by birth, having been educated in English at the most prestigious public school in Sri Lanka, and having been a tea planter in Tamil speaking estates for 11 years.

Arabella S. Churchill

Arabella Churchill,
Director,
Children's World International.

Apdos correos 148-12579 Alcossebre-Castellon-Spain

To Whom It May Concern

I have been involved in education for a long time and I have known Mohan for many years now, to begin with as a volunteer and now more in a consultancy role, due to other commitments. However, I hope to return to Sri Lanka to do some more training as soon as I can, because I believe his work there is very important to the children and teachers of his country, after so many years of conflict.

SPICE is making a positive impact on the lives of those who most need it through providing a common tongue to different ethnic groups. When I first went to Sri Lanka in 2007 as a volunteer, the teaching of English was focussed on grammar, reading and writing, very little attention was given to the key skills of listening and speaking. This meant that students passed their exams, but when they went out into the real world, they were lost. I met many such students, who had lost employment opportunities because they could not communicate. This was especially true for those from rural communities. Rightly so, Mohan concentrated our work on those areas. There was an immediate impact from our work on teachers who came to our training courses. When I returned in subsequent years and revisited the teachers in their schools, they were putting into effect what they had learned. Through my continued communication with some of those teachers it is still developing. For example, some teachers have been developing professionally through other studies with the British Council and universities in Sri Lanka. I am proud to say they still rate our work as the most valuable in getting them on the right road to effective and efficient teaching.

Clearly, this work needs financial backing and an infrastructure, even though there are a developing number of volunteers. I hope those of you reading this will find it in your hearts to help in this project. A high level of spoken English is essential to the children of Sri Lanka to help them in their lives and their careers. Mohan is the right man to carry through the work of SPICE. When I was there he was essential in talking to local people. He has many good contacts in his country, and he uses them well to support what he has started. Long may this vital project continue.

If you would like to have further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Cliff Farthing

Retired Headteacher, Abbey V.C. Junior School (Northamptonshire)
Dip.Ed. In Management and Administration, Leicester University
Retired OFSTED, LEA Adviser (UK, Nationwide)

To whom it may concern,

I have known Mohan Samarasinhe for several years and early in our association he asked me to go to Sri Lanka and lead a Spice workshop (or two!). Events interjected themselves and it was not until October 2010 that I was able to go to Sri Lanka and do just that.

I should add, that like Mohan, my father was a tea planter in the Kelani Valley and my family go back four generations on the island. My sister and I were the third generation to be born there. At the time of our first contact I had just finished working for the foreign languages department of Ramkhamhaeng University in Bangkok, as an English Teacher. I was employed on the King's Project which focused on the effective teaching of spoken English in Nonthaburi Province. This made me experienced and qualified to lead training programs in spoken English for Sri Lankan teachers.

I subsequently returned to Sri Lanka in 2013 when we ran two workshops in the war ravaged north. The first of these was in Killinochchi and the second in Mullaitivu. Both trainings were of a week in duration. Earlier this year, I returned to run a further two training workshops for the Spice Program. One was in Jaffna and the other in Mannar. I have been asked to return later this year (2014) to run a similar programme for the "Non-Violence Action Group" based in Chevachcheri, near Jaffna.

Mohan Samarasinhe as the inspirational director of Spice, is dedicated and determined to help and bring opportunities to children in rural areas of Sri Lanka through education. In counties that do not enjoy the advantages and privileges of the welfare state, children in these poorer areas can only progress upwardly via the socio-economic ladder through education. English plays a critical role in this process. His SPICE charity is designed to provide this helping hand. He works tirelessly to get his message across. He has been amazingly successful because due to his networking skills. He has been able to enlist the support and assistance of a plethora of influential figures on the island; these range from politicians, to military officers to academics and several people prominent in the business community. His enthusiasm to helping his fellow Sri Lankans in the way he does is truly inspiring and thus deserves full support from the world at large!

I am pleased to call Mohan a friend, and I have personally witnessed some of the set-backs he has faced in offering educational help to deserving areas, like the Northern Province. In order to get his work out in the field he needs support as I have already stated, but above all else his charity (SPICE) needs money to carry out its task. Hopefully, others both inside and outside of Sri Lanka will grasp the importance of this and see a way to helping it progress from a financial point of view.

In appreciation and support

Dr. Alister Bredee B.Ed, Cert, Dip.Ed, Cert Tefl, D.HH, DCN, DD(Hon) MD (Alternativa Medicina) .

Koh Samui, Thailand.

21st May 2014

Mohan Samarasinha

It was October 2010 and we had just finished a SPICE training in southern Sri Lanka. Mohan was disgruntled because our seaside guest house in Polhena, close to Mohan's former family home in Matara, did not have Wi-Fi. Now, this was not unusual in many parts of Sri Lanka. We trundled off to a nearby hotel which promised, to Mohan's delight, full internet access. Well, he was disappointed as the staff were unable to get the internet to work and we were let in an empty and over lit lounge with nothing much in front of us except the prospect of a good dinner. There were three of us in our little party, Mohan, his brother Ranil and myself. I noticed a large TV screen and out of nothing better to do, asked one of the staff to switch on the BBC so we might see what was happening in the rest of the world. This is never a good idea!

We were about 15 minutes into the News, when the programme was interrupted by a newsflash.

"An earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale has hit the western shore of the Indonesian island of Sumatra. A tsunami warning is now in force for Sri Lanka and the region." Ranil's jaw dropped. He knew all about tsunamis. This newsflash dashed him back to the horrors of December 26th 2004 when the family home had been demolished by the tsunami that ravished this particular coast of the island. Mohan, showed his mettle and took charge of the situation.

"Was this genuine?" He phoned the relevant authorities in Colombo. They knew nothing about a tsunami warning. The local media was silent about earthquakes and natural disasters.

"What should we do?"

"It's OK our rooms are on the second floor of the guest house," said Mohan

"A tsunami should pass us by?" He continued. I was not so sure

"What about my mini-bus?" retorted Ranil. "It's a long walk to Colombo!"

I decided to use my mobile to phone Koh Samui to see if anyone had heard about a tsunami heading for Sri Lanka. My contact an avid TV viewer had not seen anything along those lines.

"Should we grab our luggage and head off to relative safety, far distant from the coast?"

Mohan was stoical. "No let's go back to our place, go to bed and wait for a local warning, but first let's eat dinner!"

We did all of that and were not awakened by crashing waves and general devastation. Instead we awoke to a golden sunrise across a calm sea. The warning was a false alarm!

I think this typifies Mohan Samarasinha. He has worked stoically amidst the after effects of the horrific tsunami of 2004 and the vicious Civil War that raged in the north until 2009, first with the Ruhunu Children Development Trust and later with SPICE to help teachers and children in Sri Lanka to improve their lives and enhance their educational opportunities. He has done this with commitment, stoicism and good grace in a way that was very similar to his calm approach to the tsunami false alarm of October 2010. Well done Mohan!

Dr. Alister Bredee DHH, DCN,

August 2016

‘The King & I’ - Royal Recognition





Mohan discussing his humanitarian & charitable work throughout Sri Lanka since 1995 with King Charles & Queen Camilla at the St James' Palace reception in recognition of his work.



2016 - Father & Son Rajiv, bonding time!



Mohan with his favourite grandson Rocco (Rajive's son) who is a brilliant musician, especially on the Organ.



Rocco had the privilege of playing the organ at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge Chapel at his informal interview in June 2026. He does his A-levels next year and plans to do his Classics degree with the accent on organ music, hopefully, at Sidney Sussex College.





Mohan, Rocco & Rajive at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.



“I dedicate my work to my father (Sepala) & my mother (Bianca) with whose genes my entire body is “infested” – Mohan



Ravi Rudra & Mohan Samarasinha – Colombo, 9th Dec 2023.

“Dear Mohan,

I am truly honoured to have been connected with you over these past five years. It has been both a revelation and an inspiration to witness your unwavering commitment to humanitarian service. You give of yourself wholeheartedly and without pause, embracing all people regardless of caste, ethnicity, or religion — a rare and beautiful example of unconditional love in action.

At 83, you continue to radiate the energy and enthusiasm of the 18-year-old who lit up the school sports fields in the early 60s. Your spirit remains as vibrant as ever.

Wishing you abundant health, joy, and blessings as you celebrate your 83rd birthday.

With love and God’s grace,

Ravi Rudra