

SOUTH INDIA NEWSLETTER – WEEK 4

Greetings and many blessings to each and every one of y'all! Time seems to be going by so fast and I cannot believe that today marks the halfway point of my time here in South India. This week has been much quieter than the last which has actually been a blessing, to have chance to catch up on some rest. After the business of the Art Camp that I mentioned in my last letter it was time to pack everything away, and I am thrilled to see that some of the artwork that was created has now started to be hung around the CSI (Church of South India) Synod Centre. After this we were given the weekend to rest and recuperate.

On Monday I got to attend a Child Protection workshop here at the Synod Centre where a number of representatives from six different dioceses, mainly those who were involved in Children's Work, were given the opportunity to discuss a draft copy of CSI's first organisation-wide Child Protection Policy. I think it reminded me how much we, in the Methodist Church at home, take it for granted that we already have such a widely established safeguarding network, especially when I was told it had taken CSI six years to get to this point in the process. I was also really blessed to see how much effort CSI was putting in to making the church an accessible place for children and young people with additional needs. To the right you will see the conference hall where our workshop was held (which is always so wonderfully decorated by the Synod Centre staff!)



Yesterday I was given the opportunity to do a little bit of sight seeing with the american health students who are also staying here at the Synod Centre (but will soon be heading back to the states to return to their studies at the end of August). It has been wonderful to have a friendly group of people here at the centre who could help 'show me the

ropes' in these first few weeks and I've been very blessed by their kind friendship. We started the day with breakfast at a restaurant called 'Pumpkin Tales' and I got to have some english tea, the first time I've had some since I left for India (now I do love the 'chai' here but I have also really been missing my home comforts, like a good cuppa tea!). Afterwards some of us went to visit the Government Museum which was actually a huge campus formed of six separate museum buildings, so we only really got to see a glimpse of what they had displayed. On your left you'll see one of the carved Hindu statues that were on display in the museum. Truthfully I think the most impressive thing was the architecture of the buildings themselves, how ornate and detailed the stonework was, each one like a palace. Unfortunately we had to cut the day short as a number of the students wanted to make a start on their packing, however we plan to make up for it this evening by going to see a showing of The Lion King in the local cinema (hopefully in English!). Blessings to you all, and thank you for your prayers during my time here. Until next week!



Prayer Points: To make firm friendships with those I am working with, especially with those in the offices at the department of communication and department of youth here at CSI Synod Centre.