

**Release by the National Christian Evangelical Alliance
of Sri Lanka (NCEASL)**

As the National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka we are grateful for the visit of the world Evangelical Alliance goodwill mission at this crucial juncture of our nation's history.

As a country emerging from more than three decades of violence, pain, agony and turmoil, we recognize that the path before us is one strewn with complex challenges. However, we also see hope and an opportunity to build a nation on the principles of justice tempered with mercy, pluralism and equality.

As we welcome the cessation of hostilities and the end of the war we realise that with the new hope and opportunity to build a united nation there also exists a need to translate good intentions into concrete action. We commit ourselves to working with government, civil society, faith groups and business community in order to build a sovereign, united Sri Lanka for all its citizens.

We appeal to the global community to stand with us at this time and support the humanitarian efforts to rebuild the lives of the IDPs, help the families of those who lost loved ones, those injured or emotionally traumatised and also assist in the reconstruction process.

We recognise and affirm the commitment of the government of Sri Lanka as it makes preparations to restore normalcy by expediting the screening process and granting freedom of movement to the displaced persons - especially the aged and others who are vulnerable - as a priority. There needs to be improved conditions in the IDP camps, greater access and resettlement back in their homes as early as possible.

We recognize there is a vacuum in the Tamil leadership and of the importance for minority communities to be brought into the nation building process through a democratic power-sharing mechanism.

We also recognize the deep divisions in our nation and the feeling of alienation by the minority community in the nation building process. We encourage, and will support, efforts by the Sinhalese and the Tamil communities and the government to build trust and bring about reconciliation.

The need of the hour is reconciliation and healing of the deep wounds that we as a nation have experienced. As the church encompasses both Tamil and Sinhalese communities, we are in a unique position to model unity and reconciliation, both at a grassroots and political level. We commit ourselves to work together in unity for the restoration and healing of individual lives, communities and our country Sri Lanka.

8th June 2009