We are Lockdown... everthing is closed.

But we are not lockdown in our hearts - it’s a call to open the windows of our soul.

Let us be open to the reality of the outside world / country even though we are lockdown.

We can open our arms to the needy in a creative way.

We can hear the needs of the neighboring families around us

- In offering a free meal, sharing what we have.
  e.g.: Three wheel drivers, our workers and their families, poor in our vicinity etc.

- Hear the sighs of people who earn a daily living - no one to support them financially, unable to store large amounts of dry rations, starving, hopeless, helpless, depressed and anxious.

As a community making use of the time of lockdown to find creative ways to bond with one another - reading, reflecting, and growing together in deepening our Community Living.

"When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land".

2 Chronicles 7:13-14

*Let us also Update ourselves and faithfully abide by the Government regulations and requirements regarding the present health condition.

Kindly share with us, how you have responded so that we can share these with each other.

Let us Wake Up to a New Reality

Overcome death giving a Rebirth of Love.

In union with the Heart of Jesus and Mary,

Sr. Maryanne and the Leadership Team
Responses towards the global catastrophe – COVID 19
by Good Shepherd Sri Lanka

The present global reality brings us to a very different experience in comparison to other disasters that we have faced in our life time. It is the worst ever crisis to strike the entire world. The Tsunami, flood situations, landslides, and the war are some of the devastating situations that affected our people. In such situations it was possible to support each other and we were able to reach out to the needy. But the reality of today calls us to go beyond our creativity to help those affected in different ways by COVID-19.

Good Shepherd Sri Lanka (GSSL) was able to identify some of the concerns and have responded according to the situation.

With an openness to the ground realities, the PLT have circulated a letter within the province, inviting the sisters and the mission partners to open their arms to the needy in a creative way. Sisters and mission partners have taken many different steps to reach out to the needy especially those who are unable to earn their daily living due to the lockdown which has been continuing for a long period of time. Please see Appendix 1 for Open Arms to the Needy.

People are being educated through the media with regard to the precautions that can be adopted to prevent contracting the virus. Using a mask is one of the best means of prevention. With a high demand for masks, there is a scarcity of masks in the country. With the intention of responding to this need, the young and old came together in producing masks. The distribution took place on the road side and in the locality where we work. This also was an opportunity to introduce preventive measures to the people who are not taking this issue seriously.
Curfew has been imposed. “Time has been given to people to stay at home”. Where families have limited housing facilities overcrowding is a problem, and children of those families are the worst affected. They have no options to spend their time profitably and tend to spend time together with friends. Community based child protection (CBCP) programmes have introduced attractive study materials which are currently used as learning resources to help the children to continue their studies at home, thus preventing them from losing their interest in studies and also preventing them from going out.

A leaflet has been prepared to raise awareness on COVID-19. It contains information about the preventive measures as well as some contemporary thoughts and some values that speak out about the existing situation.
Local public service announcements (PSA) through mega phones are used in housing areas to share the best practices that can be adopted in families as the parents now have more time to be with their children. The PSAs also inform parents to make use of the time to show more affection to their children.

The sisters and the mission partners have taken initiatives to approach the relevant government authorities and the estate management to voice out the financial hardships that the people go through due to their inability to go to work daily.

People have been made aware of the government services available in the area which especially cater to the situation.

Staff of CBCP are involved in planning the strategies to face the aftermath of the virus. Some of the steps to be taken in the future:

• A situational analysis will be conducted to know how the virus had affected the lives of children and women in the areas where GSSL is present.
• Identify the relevant issues and problems that have arisen in these areas.
• Appreciate and acknowledge the sacrifices and the contribution rendered by the house wives in looking after their families during the crisis period.
• Continue further discussion with the estate management and the local government authorities on how possible collaborative actions.
• Conduct motivational programmes for the communities where GSSL is present.
• Explore possibilities of self-help employment with the programme participants.

While being involved in these activities, we raise our hearts to our Shepherd God to extend healing and compassion over all people living in fear and anxiety.

The love we carry may heal the world.