

Message from the Field Director

December, 2008

2008 has been a very exciting year for SLCT in Sri Lanka! It has been particularly satisfying to see the communities with whom we have worked flourish, as we withdraw our support and develop new relationships in different locations.

Last Christmas, the community building in **Samarakoon Watta** had just opened and I'm delighted to report that it has been extremely well used throughout 2008! The Mothers' Society and Children's Club meet there regularly and the building has been hired out to a wide range of other organisations including one running a drama club for the children. Whilst we have officially marked the end of SLCT's work in Samarakoon Watta, I continue to visit and always receive a warm welcome. Similarly, in **Telwatte**, the ongoing commitment to community development shown by the local women was demonstrated once again when the treasurer of the Mothers' Society donated a stipend she had been awarded for her work over the past year to the community Welfare Fund.

Not all of my working day involves visiting savings groups, however; the playground at **Uplands** has been well used all year and so far I have attended 2 cricket tournaments for school children and for the local community! The children enjoy having a place close by to play sports, and it is a great asset to bring together different community members. The school are still working to create the best space they can for the children which involves making a fence and wall to help prevent soil erosion so that the playground can continue to be used for years to come.

I have spent a lot of time this year developing new projects for the charity at **Galewala** and on a tea plantation at **Rikillagaskada**. This is a particularly exciting time for me as my involvement is very important in helping the communities to decide exactly what they want and need from these new projects. Look out for more news about them in the New Year.

SLCT, our partners and the communities that we work with would like to thank you for your continued support in 2008.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Beth