

A Light in the Darkness: How I See CandleAid Lanka

The name CandleAid Lanka perfectly embodies its mission. Its founder, Captain Elmo Jayawardena, built the organization on the powerful idea that it is our human duty to "light a candle for someone in the dark." For years, CandleAid has carried out this mission through numerous charitable works, and as a result, many people in need have benefited - including me.

I am a direct beneficiary of their generosity, having received one of their scholarships to pursue my first university degree. However, my connection to CandleAid deepened when I enrolled in their free English course. This program, designed to overcome educational barriers for people like me from remote villages, has been truly invaluable.

The most fantastic aspect of the course is the weekly "Talk Mates" sessions. These sessions provide us with a unique opportunity to practice the language. It's a supportive environment where we can make mistakes without fear. Our Talk Mates not only gently correct our errors but also provide constructive feedback at the end of each session, a practice I highly appreciate.

Additionally, the course encourages a love for reading. We are given a book by Captain Elmo and assigned to read at least five pages per week. This simple practice reinforces the old saying, "Reading maketh a full man," as the more we read, the more we learn. The reading component, combined with the conversational practice, provides a well-rounded approach to language acquisition. The entire course is a testament to the organization's commitment to providing a holistic educational experience.

In conclusion, I want to express my deepest gratitude to CandleAid Lanka, its visionary founder, and every person who selflessly dedicates their time, money, and labor to this cause. My experience has shown me that CandleAid Lanka is more than just a charity; it is a beacon of hope that empowers individuals to build a brighter future for themselves.

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