

I pastor Shawn Malan El Roy Ross Thuring began ministry on 15th August 1997 in the village of Watarekka under the name "The Lord is Our Strength Worship Centre." The land at 278/3, Highlevel Road, Watarekka that had a building, which was used for ministry belonging to me. On the 27th August 1999 around 8:00 and 8:30 pm, Ven. Gnyaneswara and his followers came to my house and threatened me that I should stop my ministry and leave the area. They said that I would lose my life if I do not comply with their demands. I made a Police entry for future reference on 28th August 1999 at 1:15 PM. CIB/12/498.

On 5th September 1999, the same monk along with other monks and some villagers had organized a procession to come to the church. The Officer in charge of the Padukka Police and his Officers intervened and ensured that the road to the church was clear so that believers could come. Thereafter the people, who had gathered, surrounded the church building and began to interrupt the service. They threatened that if we do not leave the area, that they would use explosives and bring down the building. All this happened in the presence of the Officer in charge. An entry was made on the same day CIB/165/102. The OIC was able to bring a temporary peace among the parties. However he was subsequently transferred and the problem commenced again.

On 14th May 2002, Ven. Gnyaneswara went around in the area announcing through loudspeakers calling people to gather and attack the church and evict me from the area. I was not at home that day hence my brother Charles Abraham Ross Thuring and Pastor Eardley Stevens went to the Padukka Police Station and requested protection for the service that was to be held on Sunday. As there was no Officer In Charge the request was rejected but was informed to when in case of a need. On 15th September around 8:45 while the members had gathered to worship a mob surrounded the building. Attempts were made to contact the Police but the lines had been disconnected. Ven. Gnyaneswara led the mob. He entered the building and using slang said "I'm the one who is going to preach today" and then began to verbally abuse the believers who had come to worship. Then he ordered the mob to enter into the premises. They were carrying poles and iron rods. Then the monk took his umbrella and began to attack me. Then he lifted a chair and hit me on my head. Then he began to incite people saying "hit them, kill them, break the building, I will look after you." The mob went out of control and began to assault the church members, including children and women who were pregnant. They destroyed musical instruments, chairs, tables and began to attack the building and brought it down. By this time I was seriously injured on my head. They used a sharp iron rod to hit me in the spine and I was bleeding. When I was ready to be taken to the Police Station suddenly a Police Jeep arrived. What happened was explained to them and while they were investigating I was taken to the Police Station. The Police were only able to arrest an old man. The rest fled. While I went to the police, no officer was interested to record my statement and I fainted due to excessive bleeding. Two members who accompanied me to the police took me to the Homagama Base Hospital. Since my condition was serious, the doctors transferred me to General Hospital immediately. There I was warded in ward No. 72- Bed Ticket No.S/564830 and treated by Dr. Lusion Perers. The Police Officers came to record statements from me but as I was not in my proper senses, I was unable to give a statement. However they obtained my signature by asking me to make

some statement. The monks came with a member of the Pradeshiya Sabha Dammika Jayasoriya and pleaded with me not to go to courts. I responded by saying that we could come to a settlement in courts. I became suspicious because my Medical Report stated that there was no bleeding from my head injuries. They had to put many stitches to the wounds in the head. However Dr. Lusion Perera had given me a report saying that many stitches had to be put to my head and that I had to wear a collar. Once I was discharged from the Hospital, I went to make another entry. In it I gave a complete list of details of damages caused. This was done on 27th February 2002. I also made a statement correcting my previous statement given in Hospital. MOCB 254/179 and 255/06. I also gave details of those who attacked and this was attached under CGR 145/2. Number of believers also made entries. I'm attaching detail of complaints made. Also information that I have of those whom have been identified and submitted to the Police and photographs of some of them. There is a case pending in Magistrate Courts Homagama B6730/02. Various excuses are given by the Police for not arresting those who are guilty of the attacks. The Courts on several occasions have ordered the Police to arrest the culprits and produce them to courts. But the Police keep producing some old people and women saying that they are unable to arrest the rest.

LIST OF NAMES GIVEN TO THE POLICE AND ROADMAP

1. Anada (Sampath)
2. Samantha
3. Chaminda
4. Bola Babun Nona
5. Latha
6. Rala
7. Indika
8. Dhammika
9. Jayantha
10. Veerasena
11. Lasantha
12. Giggi (Upasena's son)
13. W. Lakshman 277, Watareldka, Padukka.
14. 20th Mile Post Shooting Range Aramaya woman Buddihist monk
15. Kottaniwa Rohin's son
16. Latha's Husband

ENTRY NUMBERS

- 1) MOIB95/190 Charles
- 2) IIB324/92 02/09/15
- 3) IIB235/93/1425
- 4) IIB 233/91 02/09/15 Nirishani
- 5) IIB 231/90 02/09/15
- 6) CIB (II) 273/308 02/09/15
MOIB95/190 02/09/15
GCR145/02
MOIB254/179 27/11/02
CIBI256/405 256/405 02/09/18
POLICE OFF/NO 15697

MOIB254/179 27/11/02 Ps. Shawn
MOIB 256/180 27/11/02 Charles