

Happy New Year!

I'm truly looking forward to this year because I am confident God has great things in store for me and for the ministry! Many things will be different but many will be the same, regardless God will be at the forefront and my goal is to honor Him in all things.

Change is not usually an easy thing, I am sure there will be many challenges ahead but I know the God who is all knowing, all present and all powerful, so change doesn't have to be something we fear or dread. Seeing God work in new ways maybe even ways we never thought or dreamed of is actually exciting.

In the world New Years is the hope of new beginnings, old is left behind. The scripture says that in Christ all things have become new. If we want "new" we have to include Christ in all things. Changes will come but Christ is the constant!

It's been almost five months since Shanthi passed into eternity. I am so amazed at the level of peace I now have, much is due to the fact that so many people like you have been praying for me. I can never thank you enough for that! So many Christmas cards came expressing your prayers for comfort and peace and God has and continues to answer those prayers. In fact Christmas was better than I ever imagined it would be! I know that this is going to be a good year too because of God working and your prayers.

Thank you seems so inadequate but I will say it anyway. I thank God for your support in prayer and finances. The ministry finances are in good shape because of your sacrificial gifts.

The churches are doing well because of your prayers for them, as well as me, and for this I thank God for you!

May our Lord continue to use you where you are to His glory!

Because of Christ,

Steve

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS WENT WELL



Not enough time has lapsed since Christmas to get full reports from everyone but from photos sent and word from some of the preachers the programs were well attended.

All those who had 90 % attendance or better in Sunday school were given a backpack filled with school supplies. Every child was given a gift based on their attendance.

The churches included something new in Christmas this year. The children who had memorized the verses were given a medal. Honestly we have had them memorize scripture all along but had never thought of honoring those who memorized the weekly verses in this way so a good thing has been added to the programs.

This photo is at the Periya Kallar church.



Christmas at the Mahiloor church

Periya Kallar church program



Giving of school back packs with supplies for those with attendance of 90% or higher at the Periya Neelavanai church

PERSONAL NEWS

I still have not received any word from Immigration here in the States as to Tharshini and Prashanth's visas and interview at the embassy in Colombo. What this means is I still have no definite time frame to return to Sri Lanka. This is so frustrating but I know this is in God's timing which is perfect. There must be a reason but for the life of me I can't figure out why it is taking so long.

The kids are anxiously waiting the news of my coming to Sri Lanka and getting their visas to come here. Please continue to pray for this.

Vijay has been very much involved in helping with the Eruvil ministry which is good to see. Still no job as yet but is finding temporary work hauling in fishing nets at the beach close by.

Sowmiya is back studying at the university. It's been a difficult semester with the teacher strikes and all but she's happy to be able to study.

Tharsha got her Advanced level marks from retaking those tests. She scored slightly higher and got a district rank of 77th which is higher than before. Hopefully this will open other opportunities for her. She has applied for job positions but all are away from home and would require her moving away.

PRAYER CONCERNS

1. For the preachers to do the work of evangelists, for their strength, wisdom and protection.
2. My children's visas to come through and that I would be able to return to Sri Lanka soon for a visit and to bring them here.
3. Praise for good Christmas programs. That seed will have been planted and watered in people's lives and God to bring the increase.
4. Wisdom for the challenges of this New Year and that God would be glorified in all things.
5. Growth in the churches in number and in spiritual maturity.