

# *Lamp Lighters World Ministries*

*December 2024*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving to celebrate the goodness and blessing of our God. Truly we can always find so many blessings to thank Him for! I actually was able to enjoy three different thanksgivings, one at church, one with my sister Penny, and her family, and one with my brother David and his family. Lots of laughter, and delicious food too.

Now we are in anticipation of another joyous time to celebrate, the birth of our Savior Jesus! It will be here before we know it. Even though we are not told to celebrate His birth, it is a great opportunity to share our love for Jesus by showing it to others who don't know Him as Savior. As I remind the people in the church I serve in Joplin, the birth loses its meaning unless we connect it with His death. This is why Jesus came not to give us another holiday to celebrate, but to remind us of what it cost to purchase our salvation.

The churches in Sri Lanka are busy getting ready for their Christmas celebrations and programs.

You through your faithful prayers and finances make this possible, as through these programs the Gospel message is always proclaimed! I wish I could say that everyone who comes to the programs accepts Christ, that is just not the case. But seeds are planted and watered, and many young children who come to Sunday school do grow in their faith and over the years accept Christ.

So we want to thank you as always for how you partner with us in this ministry. God bless you for all you do for the ministry.

Have a wonderful Christmas season as we celebrate together the goodness, faithfulness, and salvation of our God!

Because of Christ,

Steve, Niranjana, and Sona

## **NEWS FROM NIRANJAN**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Wow, it is December and the cheerful day ahead to celebrate. How the days moved quickly it seems that January just started, but we have come to the end of the year. Time moves faster as we are engaged with the tasks of ministry every day. The season which brings joy and prosperity to every one throughout December because as we remember Jesus Christ's birth, celebrate Christmas and share his love with the people.

Nowadays Sri Lanka is experiencing some new matters here. The people of Sri Lanka voted against corruption in government and selected new parliament members in the last parliamentary election. 175 new faces were selected out of 225 to the parliament. The hope of Sri Lanka is to build up the country without corruptions, make a peaceful environment for future generations, well designed education for future and self-sufficient economy in the country. We believe our God the LORD who will guide the new government to achieve this during their ruling time period.

### **DEPRESSION IN BAY OF BENGAL BRINGS CYCLONES**

The last few weeks of November were very difficult due to the lower depression in the eastern sea of Sri Lanka. Days of heavy rains caused flooding in many parts of Sri Lanka. Especially in the Eastern Province, roads were flooded, large dams were opened, houses were flooded to a height of over 6' and people were forced to vacate.

The flooding also affected the homes of many of our church believers. Some were staying in church buildings; some were staying in government-set shelters. We provided cooked meals to the displaced believers, helped the homeless, cleaned some houses after the rains and shared God's love, and provided dry food items after the floods. As we write this, some houses are still flooded.

Please continue to pray for the safety and needs of the people.

### **PERIYA KALLAR VBS**

Periya Kallar church had VBS on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November and 30 children participated. It is a good starting for Thiruchelvam and Tharshika who minister there. They have some good ideas to encourage the family through Sunday school children. They visit church believers and follow up new families too.



## **CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS**

Due to the rain and flooding, we are experiencing some difficulties in having our Christmas programs as scheduled. The previous plan to have Christmas program the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December onwards, but the situation is still bad in some of those areas.

Therefore, we have decided to reschedule some programs based on the current situation and when things return to normal. Especially the roads to Porativu Christian church and Thumpenkerny mission point are fully covered with flood and government is not allowing any one to travel through it. All the gifts for our Sunday School students have been purchased before the rain.

Lord willing we will be able to conduct these programs which are a great outreach to the families of our Sunday school children.

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

1. A faithful preacher and family to join with us and take on the ministry in Periya Neelavanai.
2. Upcoming Christmas programs, good weather, open roads, people to be encouraged to follow Christ.
3. For good fellowship among the coworkers.
4. Jesus to be presented in the Christmas programs, and people to accept Him as Savior.