

Lamp Lighters World Ministries

December 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I can't believe that Christmas is upon us already. This year has had so many troubles and trials that at times I think when will it all end. We may not know the when or exactly the how but we know that this earth will not last forever. So many trials and problems it makes me long for eternity with Christ! I truly hope you feel the same.

The real meaning behind Christmas is salvation has come; this earth and its sorrows and pain will be taken away because of what Jesus did.

This time of year is an especially joyous time thinking of how much our God loved us that he gave up his glory in heaven to come to this earth give his life for our salvation. What an amazing thought! Truly Christmas is a time of sharing joy and love.

I hope and pray that as we enter into this season it will done with joy, gratitude, and expectancy of our Lord's return to take us home.

His birth means nothing unless we couple it with the reason for his coming, saving us through his death and the reminder that he is coming again.

May you all be blessed through the rest of this year and use the opportunities God gives to share his love and true joy with others.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support this year! You are a vital part of this ministry and I am confident that God will bless you abundantly for your partnering with this ministry.

Because of Christ, Steve, Niranjan and Sona

Merry Christmas!

News from Niranja

It is a celebration month. Days are moving very quickly and even though our lifetime is reducing day by day the love of Jesus and his grace never reduces. In our lifetime we should be doing something for his kingdom.

We have come to the end of another year. Christmas celebrations will be beginning all over the world.

As word says “we live by faith in Jesus not by sight”. Everyday starts and ends with hope and our hope is Jesus!

Monsoon Rains Have Come

Each year during this Christmas month we have rainy season in the eastern part of Sri Lanka, in fact it is raining while I am typing this.

Already the sand bar that separates the river around Koddai Kallar from the ocean has been cut through to allow the flood waters to flow into the ocean. This keeps our small island and all the area from being completely flooded.

Also a tropical depression has formed in the Indian Ocean close to Sri Lanka and it might affect the weather conditions even more.

The rains are needed as this flushes the brackish water out of the river and this keeps our well water drinkable. But the rain makes life very difficult in other ways.

(Just this week the depression became a hurricane which threatened the Eastern coast. By God’s grace all it did was bring some wind and lots of rain and then moved off to the North of the island.)

With the heavy rains and Covid, doing ministry is very difficult. Trying to encourage the believers in their lives and walk with Jesus is a real struggle.

God is in control and he will bless all our efforts for his kingdom.

Schools Reopen

Public schools have been restarted since the last week of November under the hygienic conditions mandated by the government with several restrictions. Attendance of the students is very poor as Covid 19 cases are increasing daily.

Parents are not willing to send their children to school because of fear of the Covid infecting them.

We will also face the same challenges once we restart Sunday schools in the churches.

But God will bless and give new hope to us through all this.

Effects of Covid 19 in Sri Lanka

The number of patients affected by Covid 19 is increasing day by day with more than 70 deaths. It has affected most of the churches activities but the coworkers are visiting some have online service or encourage believers to have prayer meetings at their homes.

As the government did not grant the permission to gather in religious places we will not be able to conduct Christmas programs this year.

The preachers will purchase gifts to distribute to the Sunday School children but will not be able to have the traditional programs they are accustomed to.

Churches were closed in Sri Lanka almost 6 months out of 11 months after the Covid spread here. We are continuously praying for change in the situation for reopening of the churches before Christmas. Our Lord Jesus will answer our prayers.

Some news from Steve

It has been so difficult to be away from my kids and the ministry in Sri Lanka for the last four years.

I am able to visit with my children weekly by phone and sometimes with a video call but I miss them so much. Especially this time of year when I would like to celebrate Christmas with them. But God is protecting and blessing them!

No real update on the visas for Tharshini and Prashanth as Covid has shut everything down. Still waiting for that breakthrough!

Sowmia and Tharsha are doing their university studies online, again due to Covid this makes it difficult.

Vijay, who bought a three wheeler, is trying to sell it now as he cannot get enough hires to make it pay. So pray he will find a buyer and not lose a lot of money in the process.

Prayer Concerns

1. For and new preacher and family to join with us and take on the Mahiloor ministry.
2. For faithful work of our coworkers during a very difficult time due to Covid.
3. Unity among the coworkers, and wisdom to deal with the ministry situations that arise.
4. Praise for God's protection from the hurricane that passed through.
5. God's blessing through this Christmas season even though so many activities cannot be held.