

One month down it doesn't seem possible, but it is. How time gets away from us. I know you are no different than me, time flies!

Which is why we must make the most of every opportunity as the Word of God says. We never know if we will have that opportunity to plant a seed of faith, show kindness, speak an encouraging word, or be of service to someone.

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:17 NIV

The last few months have been trying to say the least here as well as in Sri Lanka. Dealing with the ups and downs of Covid has been enough to make us all a little crazy. But our God is in control regardless of what comes our way!

This month we tend to focus on love seeing as how Valentines Day lands in this month. But there is no greater expression of love than the love of our Savior Jesus, who gave his life for us!

We also want to express our love to you as faithful supporters of the ministry of Lamp Lighters. You lift us in prayers and give of your finances for which we are so grateful! You express your love for us and for those in Sri Lanka who are lost without knowledge of Jesus Christ.

May our God continue to guide, bless, and use you to His glory where you are!

Because of Christ, Steve, Niranjana, and Sona

NEWS FROM NIRANJANA

The first month has passed in the New Year 2021. The Lord Jesus Christ is the King of His kingdom. He rules over all, so he knows everything that is going on. He is in control and allows and forbids the many things that come into our lives.

We are facing difficulties through the way of serving him on this earth but everything will be good in His time. He has only goodness for his people.

We have hope that we will join in His glory one day. I wish to live fighting for good with faith as Paul says in 2 Timothy 4:7, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

All glory to God. God bless you all.

THINGS ARE BECOMING NORMAL AGAIN

We had our first staff meeting during the first week of January for 2021. We made new decisions and all workers attended the meeting and submitted their goals for the New Year.

We have started a day each month for fasting and prayer for all the workers.

We received permission to have meetings once again, worship services and Sunday schools under the hygienic conditions such as wearing masks, keeping distance, proper hand washing etc. Otherwise the Health Department staffs have the authority to quarantine the whole church. This happened to many churches last week.

The churches in Sri Lanka have faced many difficulties to do the work of ministry in past two years due to Easter bomb blast in 2019 and then the Covid 19 pandemic of 2020. Therefore, the coworkers have had the greatest difficulty in achieving their goals. But, now our situation is coming back to normal, so we have encouraged the coworkers to work toward achieving the goals they set for this year.

Please pray for the coworkers that they will be faithful and diligent to fulfill these goals.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE REOPENING

After the long period of vacation the schools are reopening under all kinds of hygienic conditions.

The school committees have prepared the schedules and according to it the parents are to send their children to school. (Many were not going even when the schools were open due to Covid concerns.)

We must follow the same rules and conditions for having Sunday schools. So, our coworkers have been instructed to make plans for restarting the Sunday schools and to be aware of following the proper guidelines.

We are planning to restart the Sunday Schools in all the churches on January 31st.

We held the normal Sunday school teacher training day as we have in the past and all Sunday school teachers attended the classes.

We have been praying and waiting for this to take place and God has answered our prayers!

PERSONAL NEWS FROM STEVE

As much as I want to travel back to Sri Lanka there are still many restrictions at this point in time. Hopefully this will all relax soon and my children will indeed get their visas and be able to come to the States.

My children are doing well. I speak to them every week sometimes by video call when the weather cooperates and we have a good enough connection. At least I can maintain this connection with them but seeing their faces makes me want to go see them in person even more! Please pray that God will be merciful and work all this out soon!

Also Pushpalogini who has lived in our home since 2004, working in the ministry as well as helping in the work and care of the home and our kids has the possibility of marriage.

This has been a real prayer concern for many years. Nothing is set as yet but pray this works out.

Monsoon season has had much of the area flooded which adds it's own set of difficulties. For some of the churches the members have to wade through standing water to get to church. For some of them even their homes and properties are flooded as well.

I am in touch with Niranjana frequently and on occasion with some of the coworkers. I they keep me informed as to what is going on.

Please pray for them and for me!

I am thoroughly enjoying doing the ministry here in Joplin at Villa Heights Christian church, even with all the difficulties of Covid I love doing what I do.

God bless you all!

PRAYER CONCERNS

1. For a new preacher and family to take on the church ministry in Mahiloor.
2. For faithfulness of coworkers and to strive to achieve their goals this year.
3. Prayers to be able to continue the Sunday schools (church and satellite).
4. To locate and purchase property for the Porutivu ministry.
5. Strength and God's wisdom for us as we lead the ministry here.