

Lamp Lighters World Ministries

June newsletter

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It seems that our April showers brought not only May flowers but more and more showers. We are wet, ten inches ahead of normal. But so far for our area not much for severe weather at least. Hope that you have been able to enjoy the spring and the blessing of new life as our God created it to be. In fact as I'm sitting in the office typing it is such a beautiful day I wish I was outside enjoying it but this needs to be done first.

The last couple of months in the newsletter I've been writing about change and this month has some major change that I will share later. It seems change is rarely easy, sometimes even painful but can bring joy as well, it is a part of our lives whether we like it or not.

We can always be assured that regardless of what takes place our God is always faithful! In Hebrews 13: 5 God has promised, "never will I leave you never will I forsake you", as the old saying goes never is a long time. What joy and peace this should give us that we are never alone, our God is right here with us, leading, guiding, protecting, providing, even carrying us! His Holy Spirit lives in us enabling and empowering us to accomplish all that God wants us to do. This amazing fact is what should drive us on to deeper love, greater service, and unshakeable faith!

You have been such a blessing to this ministry over the years through your prayers and your financial gifts as well. Through you God has provided in amazing ways to further His kingdom in Sri Lanka, You are always held up to our Father in prayer, and He will continue to bless you for what you do for this ministry!

Because of Christ, Steve

Last month I wrote about how I had made the decision to appoint a director in Sri Lanka as I am not going to be able to travel there and spend long periods of time.

Actually the ministry has continued for four and one half years now without my being there, maybe I'm not as indispensable as I thought. With phone calls, emails and text messages things have continued to go well.

I had asked my nephew by marriage, Niranjana if he and his wife Sona would consider taking on the director position there. After praying about it for two weeks he called and said, "we have complete peace that this is indeed

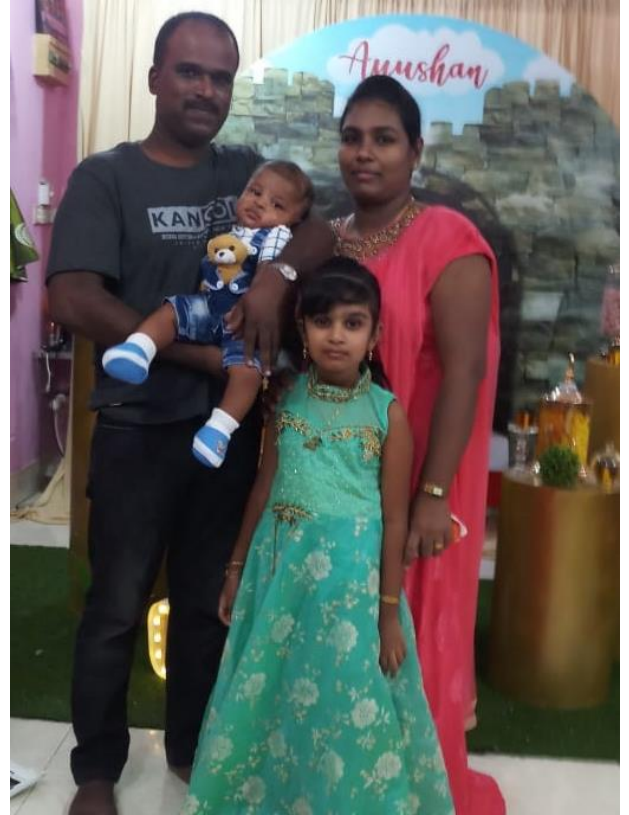
what God wants us to do"! Wow, I started crying tears of joy and couldn't even speak for awhile.

Their decision to do this has made other decisions I needed to make much easier. I am very confident that God will use them in a wonderful way to continue the work there in my absence.

Just this morning I was speaking with him and he wants to do some online Bible courses so that he would be even better prepared to preach and teach.

His wife is Shanthi's niece, her name is Sona and they have two children Nataniya age 5 and Shawn 4 months now I think.

They will begin working full time July first and they are very excited about this change in their lives. Please pray for them!



Now for more change. This could be very long I'll try to keep it short.

I have decided that the best use of my time here in the States is to have a located ministry here. Shanthi and I had discussed this numerous times but could never pursue this due to her illness.

The preacher in the church I have attended here in Joplin, Villa Heights Christian Church, for the past 37 years was retiring. I finally, after MUCH prayer, decided I would put in my application for the position but I really didn't know what to expect for sure.

This was not an easy decision for me to make as Sri Lanka has been my life and ministry for twenty years. I had discussed it with the Lamp Lighters board of directors and my family. One thing that kept coming up was how in life chapters close and new ones open, in other words change.

After about a two month wait I was selected, interviewed, approved by the elders and voted in by the congregation to take on the ministry, my official start date is June first.

So you may be asking, so what about Lamp Lighters ministry? It WILL continue and I WILL continue to be involved but mostly from here.

The monthly newsletter will continue bookkeeping and all things necessary for the ministry I will continue to do here. I hope and plan to go back to Sri Lanka occasionally but probably only every year or two for a short visit.

I will no longer draw a salary from Lamp Lighters as I will be working full time for Villa Heights.

I want to take the opportunity to ask you to continue your support for the ministry as still the preacher's salaries must be paid, properties are yet to be purchased, and buildings yet to be built, along with Christmas, VBS, and other programs that will need funding.

Big changes for me and the ministry but God will be glorified through this. These changes are necessary to ensure the future of the ministry. I am putting on a different hat but the ministry there will continue and will need support.

PERSONAL NEWS

Sowmia's university started online classes this month with still no idea of when they will open the campus. She loves to study. And is busy studying daily.

Tharsha's university didn't start anything but may have online courses next week with no idea when that campus will reopen. All this is due to the Covid 19.

The country is still having curfews, quarantines etc. which make it impossible for the churches or schools to meet.

Tharshini and Prashanth's visa interview dates have not been set yet but that's okay as I can't even fly in to the country as the airport is still closed.

Vijay is running his three wheeler but how much I don't know due to all the other issues there with the virus.

PRAYER CONCERNS

1. Niranjana and Sona as they take on the working of the ministry in Sri Lanka. The adjustment to go well.
2. The preachers to accept Niranjana's leadership and to work in unity with him as he leads.
3. For the believers to remain faithful, so difficult for them dealing with all the virus issues.
4. The country to open up and the interview date to be set for my kids to come here.
5. My new ministry here at Villa Heights, still trying to adjust my feelings but I know this is the best.