

Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As I'm typing this we are experiencing our first severe thunderstorm of the year! This is coming on the heels of the ten year anniversary of the Joplin tornado which makes it a bit disconcerting to say the least. Strange how these types of things can affect us for years after the fact.

Memories of an event or people are an amazing thing that God has given to us. Sometimes the memories are good and we can rejoice other times the memories are not as pleasant, but we have to keep trusting in our God and keep going.

This month I had the memory of my marriage to Shanthi in May 1997, this is one of the memories that is bittersweet. It was a difficult day but, I did spend some time thanking God for the years that we shared together. She was such a blessing to so many not just me. People still share with me their memories of her and how she had blessed their lives as well.

I send out a daily Bible verse to several people each morning and this mornings verse was a good reminder from John 3:17, God did not Jesus to condemn us but to save us. A wonderful and amazing fact that our God loved us that much!

Many people all over the world have never experienced this peace, knowing they are no longer condemned for their sins. Some don't even know they are sinners condemned to a Christ less eternity because of their sins.

Your prayers and financial gifts make it possible for the saving message of Jesus to go out to the people of Sri Lanka. Even though I'm not there the word of God is being faithfully preached and people are hearing the wonderful message of salvation and peace with God by the coworkers with Lamp Lighters.!

May God bless you for your partnering with us in this ministry.

Because of Christ, Steve, Niranjana and Sona

NEWS FROM NIRANJANA

Jesus Christ is the King of the kingdom. Our God is the one who has drawn us on his palms, who is our favorable companion in the day of trouble, and who delivers us from evil.

He is among us and keeps us in peace even when the messages we hear every day make us uneasy.

We do not look at the situation, we look to him. We have to wait patiently for him. He gives us comfort, peace, and happiness. All things are possible to him that believes.

God protects us from being intimidated during this Covid 19 pandemic situation.

I praise and thank him for everything. Glory to God!

OUR SITUATION DURING THE THIRD WAVE OF COVID

Sri Lanka is in a very bad situation these days due to the impact of Covid 19 virus. Victims have been identified from cities to villages island wide.

This time, it has caused the worst damage in all parts of Sri Lanka. Such a situation could have been avoided if some restrictions had been imposed in the early days.

Sri Lanka has the highest virus outbreak in South Asia. The country has been in total lockdown from the 15th of May to the 7th of June. Only occasionally are people allowed to leave their homes to purchase essential items by the government.

This has brought much hardship to many people here. Please pray we can continue to minister in some way to people and they can see the love of Jesus Christ.

CHURCHES UNABLE TO HOLD WORSHIP SERVICES

The government has imposed a number of restrictions in an attempt to help control the virus.

Gathering in church meetings has been temporarily banned until further notice.

Therefore, the coworkers of Christian church communicate with believers through telecommunications to help them grow spiritually.

Some are conducting online worship services, some offer personal prayers, and some give Bible lessons.

We have asked all the coworkers to encourage the believers in any way that they can so the believers will maintain their faith and grow spiritually, until the time we can meet in person again.

PROVIDING SOME PHYSICAL RELIEF DURING THE LOCKDOWN

Many of our believers in the churches are day laborers.

Considering the inability for many to them to go work during this lockdown period, we provided some relief assistance to the people through the churches.

The Lord gave us the idea to do this to encourage them and show them that Christians from America are helping to provide for their needs during this time.

Please pray for them so that they would continue to stand firm in the faith.

PERSONAL NEWS FROM STEVE

People constantly ask me how my children are doing in Sri Lanka.

They are doing well considering that universities and schools are shut down due to Covid. Sowmiya and Tharsha do their university studies online but public schools are open then closed again continually.

God has been gracious and protected all of them from the Covid virus.

I speak to them each week, usually on Saturday morning our time and sometimes when the connection is good enough we can do a video call which is great to see their faces but, difficult too as I do miss them terribly!

No news on visas for Tharshini or Prashanth, just continue to pray!

PRAYER CONCERNS

1. For a preacher and family to take on the Mahiloor congregation.
2. For the control of the Covid virus that we can restart worship services and other programs.
3. VBS usually is held in August pray we will be able to hold these programs.
4. For all the believers to stand firm in their faith.
5. For all our coworkers to use every opportunity to share the Gospel in spite of the restrictions due to Covid.