

Lamp Lighters World Ministries

Newsletter May 2020

Wow what a month this has been! Who would have ever predicted things would be in the shape there in right now. One more area where trusting in our God and being careful is all we can do.

Trusting God sounds simple enough but we seem to all have concerns about situations besides the Covid virus where trusting Him is not so easy, I know I at least struggle with that and imagine most of us do on occasion.

Proverbs 3:5,6 comes to mind immediately, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.

I think God allows things in our lives we can’t understand or make sense of, so we will be forced to trust Him. It would be easier if we did that from the start not being forced into it. Even now I’m still learning this lesson the hard way some times.

Some things happen that just don’t make sense or we cannot understand and trusting in God to make, “all things work together for good for those who love him and are called according to His purpose”, is not always easy even though it is His promise and it is always true.

Trusting in God for the ministry provision has been one of those areas I’ve had complete trust in Him and he has done that through faithful people over the years like you. Thank you and may God bless you for your faithful gifts and for your prayers.

Changes are bound to come **but God is faithful and trustworthy** even during times of uncertainty and change

Because of Christ,
Steve

BIG NEWS AND GREAT REJOICING

It seems that as soon as I write and send out the newsletter something changes and then I have to wait until the next month to inform you of what has happened.

So here it is, after almost six years of waiting the visas for both Prashanth and Tharshini have been approved! I received news about Prashanth's about the second week of April and then Tharshini's about two weeks later.

Not only have they been approved but the visas have been expedited and sent to the embassy in Sri Lanka for processing. This is due to the fact that Prashanth is under 18 years of age and so he qualifies for automatic citizenship rather than just permanent residency. This was a big change I only learned of during all the additional documents that had to be sent during the last few months.

The only issue is that he must travel before his 18th birthday, which is August 17th, sounds simple. It will be for God, one of those areas we have to trust as we can't see how it will all work out.

Sri Lanka is at this moment still on shut down, no flights into the country due to Covid. I have all the original documents here, due to the applications were made from here. They must be presented during the interview at the embassy. So lots of areas where things could go wrong, but God is in control!

Tharshini's application was also expedited as she is a sibling of Prashanth and will receive permanent residency, as she is over 18 already, meaning she can live here the rest of her life. All the other issues apply though.

Anyway I'm praising God that this is finally drawing to a close! And I am confident God is going to work out all the issues and soon I will have both kids here.

This has been so long in coming and you have faithfully prayed about this so thank you, please continue praying!

CHURCH IN DIFFERENT WAYS

We've all been faced with finding different ways to deal with church and the Covid situation for over a month now. Even though it is difficult here and definitely not ideal we can manage.

Our preachers in Sri Lanka are having to deal with the same things there only without the benefit of internet, Facebook etc. They have had to deal with countrywide quarantine as well. This would only be lifted for a few hours every four days to allow people to buy food items. Most have used their phones to contact the church members on a regular basis to encourage them and pray with them.

One preacher, whose congregation is smaller, reported he was calling every member twice a day to pray with them, was giving them devotions to do, sharing Bible studies for them to do in their homes on Sundays .

As the quarantines have been lifted at least during the daytime just this past week some of the small house churches have met and shared in the Lord's supper and a short prayer service.

If we look into church history the church of the early centuries had to deal with all kinds of obstacles in order for them to meet and encourage one another. But even in those times the church was strengthened and grew. Time will tell if our church members there have remained faithful and by God's grace they will come through this even stronger in faith and determination to share the Gospel with even more people.

NEEDS LOTS OF PRAYERS

A couple of months ago I wrote about changes coming that would need to take place in the ministry in Sri Lanka. As I consider all that is different now for me personally in the ministry I have decided the best thing is to have someone in Sri Lanka who will oversee the ministry in there. This is necessary to ensure that the younger churches primarily continue to work and function in a proper manner.

My time there would be very limited due to visa restrictions and it's too expensive to travel back and forth frequently. With my kids coming here that adds to logistic difficulties. So after a lot of prayer I felt this was the best solution for now.

I have contacted my nephew, by marriage, to see if he would be willing to do this. His name is Niranjana, I spoke with him on the phone and then sent an email so there wasn't any misunderstandings. I asked him to consider this and pray for God's leading.

He is well educated, very capable, deeply spiritual, trustworthy, and able to preach and teach. He is known by all the preachers and is involved in overseeing the youth programs in all the churches.

Currently he works as a chemist assistant for the water purification board in our area.

With God's help I am confident that he would be able to do this.

PERSONAL NEWS

For Sowmya and Tharsha, my two older daughters who are in university, the universities they attend are scheduled to reopen May 18th. Both are ready for this to take place it simply depends on the Covid situation.

Of course I already mentioned the visa approval for Tharshini and Prashanth. Both are excited about coming here, especially Prashanth. God has to work out the details which He will, but they are ready to get here and I'm ready for them to be here too!

I have been doing lots of jobs around my house, first somewhat garden in several years, in the garage, and my work/storage shed with lots more to do yet. But it's been nice to have some time to get a few things done.

I am so looking forward to returning to Sri Lanka very soon even if it's for a short time.

PRAYER CONCERNS

1. The Covid virus to subside and vaccines to be developed that will be effective.
2. God to encourage the believers and for them to be stronger in their faith than ever before.
3. For God to work out all the logistics for Tharshini and Prashanth's visas to be given, me being able to fly there and bring them to the States.
4. For Niranjana to hear God's speak clearly to him about taking the director position in Sri Lanka.
5. The coworkers to continue to work faithfully as life begins to get back to a bit of normalcy.