

Lamp Lighters World Ministries

January 2021

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

Even with all the challenges and difficulties this past year has brought, the time seems to have flown by. I don't know if I'm fully prepared for a New Year or not but, regardless it's here.

Many changes came to the ministry this past year. The Covid pandemic for one prevented me from travelling to Sri Lanka this past March. This virus led to the shut down of life as we knew it both here in the States and in Sri Lanka. They were faced with all the same difficulties we had here.

This wasn't all bad as it caused me to see the need to find and appoint a director in Sri Lanka for the ministry. After a lot of prayer and some phone calls my nephew by marriage Niranjan accepted this call to ministry. This was new territory for him even though he had always been involved in the workings, becoming director was a totally new area for him and his wife Sona. As things have gone I can see God's hand in this decision and by His grace the ministry has been going well and I'm confident it will continue to grow.

The opportunity to take a full time preaching ministry, at what has been my home church for 37 years, opened up and I was selected to take that position. I have been very happy with that decision and looking forward to serving there for as many years as God will grant me to do so. But still I'm involved with the Lamp Lighters ministry as well.

I know this New Year will bring it's own set of challenges and difficulties but by God's grace He will see us through all of them.

Thank you all for your faithful support of this ministry through prayer and finance! You have been such a blessing to me and the ministry. May our gracious God continue to bless and use you where you are to His glory through this New Year.

Because of Christ, Steve, Niranjan and Sona

NEWS FROM NIRANJAN

HOPES FOR THE NEW YEAR

The year 2020 brought many turning points, problems, difficulties, and unexpected incidents. But it has been an amazing year in my life as our Lord Jesus revealed His will and called me as a servant for His kingdom. He continues to lead me in the way I should live and also in the leading of the ministry work here.

Knowing He is in control gives me great peace as I know I am safe in His hands. Many challenges were faced in 2020 but our God is in control of all things!

Everyone here is expecting the New Year to bring many new and positive things for the ministry. We are waiting with renewed hope for how God will be glorified as we and all the coworkers work to achieve greater goals for Him.

We celebrated Christmas here, just like all over the world, with many changes and pray your celebration of Jesus' birth was a blessing to you also.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATED UNDER SECURITY

This year Christmas services were conducted under the supervision of Security forces and health officers in many areas of Sri Lanka.

With the spread of Covid 19, and the insecure condition of Sri Lanka, many churches were not able to conduct Christmas services as some areas came under the lock down.

Our Periya Kallar church also missed the service because some Covid 19 positive cases were found during the Christmas week so the entire village was quarantined.

The rest of our churches held multiple services as we were restricted to a maximum of 25 people inside the church building at one time. Even with these restrictions by the health department a good number of people attended the services.

CHRISTMAS GIFT DISTRIBUTION

Because of the Covid concerns the churches could not hold our normal Christmas children's programs and distribute gifts to the children at that time. This year Christmas gifts for the Sunday school children were distributed individually in the churches in small groups

Two of the churches the pastors delivered the gifts to the children's homes.

The Sunday school teachers were given a gift as well even though for most of the year we could not hold Sunday school.

Thank you all for the financial support to make this blessing happen.

Niranjan, Sona, Logi
at Eruvil church

Koddai Kallar teachers
giving gift to Sunday school child



MONSOON SEASON IS HERE

It has been raining very heavily more so than we what we had last year. This along with Covid has closed schools, colleges and universities along with many other gatherings.

Life is very difficult when our area floods due to the heavy rains.

NOTES FROM STEVE

Many people ask about my children's visas but due to Covid they are unable to get the necessary documents from the courts as they are closed. Plus the U.S. Embassy is closed as well. So still no movement in a positive direction.

All my kids are doing well. I got to visit with them by video call for Christmas which was good but made me wish I could be with them in person.

PRAYER CONCERNS

1. For a new preacher and family to take on the Mahiloor congregation.
2. Unity among the coworkers and deeper commitment to the work of ministry in these trying times.
3. For relief from the Covid virus that the work of ministry can go forward without that hindrance.
4. Sona and I are looking into purchasing a home for us as our rent is as much as what we can make mortgage payments. Pray for wisdom and guidance.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!