

# *Lamp Lighters World Ministries*

## *July 2020 Newsletter*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

After having so much rain earlier we are now dry not much rain my grass in the yard is dried and dead spots have appeared, looks more like late August than July but this is life.

This has been a month of lots of changes and new experiences for me in the ministry. Getting used to going to the church office daily, lots of administrative things that I need to get used to, phone calls to and from Sri Lanka but overall it has been good!

I've asked Niranjan to share some articles in the newsletter each month concerning the ministry and he has done so and with minimal editing will share a more firsthand perspective of how things are going in the ministry there. We will be doing that each month and as he adjusts to changes there and doing ministry I believe you will enjoy and be encouraged with what he shares.

I mentioned last month that my hope was that you as the support for this ministry would continue to pray and financially give. The ministry continues with the same needs as before. Without your help it will be very difficult to continue all that we have begun to do.

You have always been faithful in prayer and finance and I am confident that our God has blessed you as you have been a blessing to so many in Sri Lanka. Because of your prayers and gifts many souls have been brought to Christ. In eternity we will all be able to gather together and rejoice in the fact that you made a difference in others lives.

May our Lord continue to bless you for your faithfulness and use you to His glory where you live.

Because of Christ, Steve, Niranjan and Sona

### **Niranjan's News**

First I must thank our Savior and Lord Jesus for choosing us to do this ministry in Sri Lanka.

He has revealed his will and plans for our life, I want to thank Him forever according to 1 Timothy 1:12, "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that He considered me faithful, appointing me to His service."

I have taken up the responsibilities of the ministry here to work for God beginning June 2nd.

Satan brought many unexpected troubles but our Lord Jesus strengthened me more and more and brought comfort from His word and other men as He promised, God is in control!

I have started visiting all the churches Lamp Lighters has started and have been preaching and sharing the word of God with them. His leading is wonderful!

### **Churches are reopening**

God has been working and the doors of the churches are reopening! The spread of the Covid 19 virus is being controlled in society so the government has decided to allow the opening of various places including churches.

After a discussion with the Health Department officers, they gave the permission to have the services with some restrictions, to insure hygienic conditions were being followed. Hand washing, wearing masks and keeping social distancing had to be followed in the church meetings.

I circulated the health instructions to all the churches and we began having services again June 14th.

The government also lifted the curfews which had been in place during the daytime so it made it possible for the churches to meet.

So far all is going well by God's grace.

### **Times changed for VBS this year.**

All schools have been closed until just recently due to the Covid 19 virus. The government has announced they will reopen the schools in four steps from July onwards. Except no plans are in place for 6 and 7 year old children to restart school as yet.

Normal school term breaks allow us to have VBS in August but this year it will be different. Schools will be in session during August and then be closing in September. During this time they are planning the Advanced Level exams. (This is the final year of high school in the States.)

So this year we are planning, praying, and hoping to hold VBS in September.

Steve here, I might add, this will bring many challenges for them due to the continuing health measures. The same things we are facing here they are facing as well.

### **Prashanth and Tharshini's visas**

We are finally drawing all this to a close by God's grace and leading. It has been over six years since the adoptions were final and the obtaining of visas begun.

I received an email just about ten days ago for them to get their required medical exam completed and come to the embassy on June 30th for the interview. The interview is the final step before the visas are issued.

Even with this just a couple days ago I got another email asking for even more documents. I spent another three hours compiling them and emailing them to the embassy in Sri Lanka but by God's grace it went well.

With God's help this will all be over but there is still the issue of the airport opening so I can get into the country to bring them here.

### **Personal News**

The universities in Sri Lanka are still not open but are doing online classes. This is something very new for them.

Sowmiya and Tharsha tell me they are enjoying doing course online, but I think they would rather attend classes as before. This will just have to wait until things are more settled from the Covid 19.

Prashanth and Tharshini, by God's grace will get their visas and both are happy Lord willing they will soon be here in the States.

I am busy and adjusting to a new ministry but loving what I'm doing!

### **Prayer Concerns**

1. Pray that soon the government Health Department will lift all the restrictions, making it easier for us to have worship services.
2. God to open the way to hold VBS in September this year. Children to be free of fear and come.
3. Unity among all the coworkers to work faithfully for God and along side of Niranjana.
4. For the visas to be finalized and the airport opened so I can bring Prashanth and Tharshini here.
5. For the churches as they too have struggled with this Covid situation for the believers to return to worship and serve God.