

Lamp Lighters World Ministries

September 2021 Newsletter

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

August is gone, rather quickly it seems, and schools are open again. Fall weather is just around the corner. This is my favorite time of year.

I have many memories of growing up and harvest time. Since I am no longer on the farm I enjoy watching farm videos on YouTube. But what I've seen lately is the sad harvest many of the farmers are facing because of severe drought and hail storms.

Several of these farmers farm 1,000's of acres and one in particular didn't even harvest 4,000 acres as there was nothing there. This is a real hardship for them and will be for us as less grain means higher prices at the grocery store.

Harvest is unpredictable, and is out of our hands. This holds true in the harvest of souls as well. This is all in God's hands.

We can go through seasons of trial and "drought" but God will give the harvest. When we think we're in charge of the harvest we won't see many positive results. But we must prepare the soil, plant the seed care for it, but it's in God's hands for the harvest.

May we each look for how God can use us in his fields!

Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and support. Days have been tough for many and your continued support for the ministry is much appreciated and we thank God for you!

Because of Christ,

Steve, Niranjana and Sona

NEWS FROM NIRANJANA

We give you our greetings in the name of Jesus Christ.

Eight months have passed in this year, but it seems nothing was completed due to the country's situation. Everything starts in part and appears to be incomplete.

The grace of God stays and guides us despite having to go through many trials these days. We feel the peace in inner man among the storms.

John 16:33 says, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

We all go through different problems, but in Jesus we have peace internally.

Glory to our Lord Jesus only!

COUNTRY SITUATION CONTINUES TO GROW WORSE DUE TO COVID DELTA VARIANT

After two months everything was slowly returning to normal.

We restarted worship services in churches. But again, many new cases of delta variant virus have been identified in all parts of the country.

Many people have tested positive for Covid. The death rate was higher compared to other countries in terms of population.

So the health department asked the government to shut down the country immediately and after lengthy consultation the whole country was locked down.

But day by day the number of new cases and death toll continues to increase.

NO CHURCH GATHERINGS ONCE AGAIN

As the country's situation gets worse, the Government has strictly ordered not to gather in any places until further notice. Otherwise legal actions will be taken against the places and person in charge. So all worship places were closed once again. Including all Hindu, Muslim, and Buddhist places of worship.

Our pastors continue to use online services using modern communication facilities. We are conducting Bible studies and prayer meetings among our workers by using Zoom application.

Even in difficult times God's word can still go out among the people. Praise the Lord!

SHORTAGES AND HIGH PRICES

There is a shortage of many essential items, food as well as other items in Sri Lanka. Many food items are imported and little if any gets into the country.

In addition to this, the prices of all goods is very high. Price of some goods have doubled. This is due to the shut down of the country.

The daily life of the people is in question. So keep in your prayers the church believers and the people of Sri Lanka.

(Lamp Lighters may need to help once again with some food distribution which we did a couple of months ago. This not a problem financially for the ministry. The problem is some goods are simply not available and may not be for some time.)

While the news from Niranjana and the ministry seems small there simply is not much that can be done right now in the country due to the shut down.

Each time things seem to be getting back to normal another shut down occurs. This is very frustrating to me as well.

What we have to remind ourselves of is that God is bigger than Covid, and He is in control! Not even the gates of Hades can prevail against the kingdom of God!

Still I have no word on my children's visas, again Covid has courts and U.S. embassy shut down.

PRAYER CONCERNS

1. For a new preacher and family for Mahiloor church ministry.
2. For workers to fellowship and to work together in unity.
3. For protection of church believers and people in the country in day to day life.
4. For believers to stand firm in faith during these hard times.
5. For God to grant his mercy and bring Covid to an end.