

# *Lamp Lighters World Ministries*

*February 2024*

Greetings to you in the name of the one who died for us, Jesus Christ!

We have survived the extreme deep freeze that hit so much of the country a few weeks ago. Now everyone just needs the extra money to pay what is required by the electric and gas companies. Praying you got through it all without too much hardship.

February the month for cards, candy, and flowers presented with our request of "Be my Valentine". But do you know the story which marks that day as special.

While there are varied accounts the most common explanation was a Catholic priest named Valentine had been performing secret wedding ceremonies of Roman soldiers. This had been expressly prohibited by the emperor as he needed these men to serve in the military.

When Valentine was found out he was executed on February 14th. He was martyred for upholding the importance of love and marriage.

We have one who gave his life out of his great love for us. He was put to death that we might experience the love of God and receive eternal life.

This love is far greater than any human love as good and deep as that is.

God sent His valentine to us saying, BE MINE. And He made it possible.

We always thank God for your faithful prayers and financial support of this ministry.

May God continue to bless you for the blessing you are to this ministry.

Because of Christ, Steve, Niranjana and Sona

## **NEWS FROM NIRANJANA**

Greetings to you all in the name of Jesus Christ,

I praise the Lord Jesus Christ for his guidance in this New Year. Because God's grace is upon us, God's wisdom guides us to do the work to build God's kingdom in Sri Lanka exactly as God wants.

Although we have to face new challenges in the New year, there is no doubt that the Lord is the one who gives us the strength and wisdom to face those challenges.

I praise God for increasing faith in us that no matter what kind of troubles we face this year, the Lord will protect us and lead us to glorify His name.

May the greatness of His grace be revealed among you.

May our Lord Jesus bless your generous offerings and continued prayers.

## **NEW YEAR COMES IN WITH HEAVY RAINS**

This new year started off heavy rain. Flooding in all parts of Sri Lanka.

The front of our Eruvil Christian Church was completely filled with water. Church believers had to come into the church building through a path made of stones.

Many believers' homes were also flooded.

Especially from the ninth to the eleventh of January, the streets and houses were filled because of incessant rains and it was impossible to travel. Even on the main roads were flooded. More than 6 feet of floodwater flowed down some major roads. All traffic was blocked.

We distributed some of the dry food we could to the affected believers after rain stopped.

## **PREACHER IN PERIYA KALLAR RESIGNS**

Our co-worker Pastor Kalaichelvan announced his resignation from our mission on the 15th of last month. He had been with us for about two years.

His reason was that he had received a call to work in the right place suitable for his calling, and that he had no call to oversee the congregation.

Thereafter he very quickly handed over the church's accounts and materials and went from the Eastern part of Sri Lanka to serve in the North-central province of Sri Lanka within two days.

May the Lord bless his ministry.

It is also worth noting that during his stay in our Periya Kallar Christian Church, some members of the church went to other places.

Now Sona and I have taken up the responsibility of preaching, teaching, and leading in this congregation.

Pray that God will lead the right person who will take up this ministry in Periya Kallar.

## **GOALS SET FOR 2024**

Everyone must have goals for everyday life but especially in ministry. If not, we will wander like sheep without a shepherd and get caught up in unnecessary things and get into trouble. God's purpose is for the church to impact others for Jesus. Without goals it is impossible to predict how the congregation will look in a few years.

So the coworkers have sat at God's feet and shared with us the goals for this year. May God grant them the grace to attain them. These days, the activities of the churches have to be monitored very carefully. So pray for those efforts.

## **STEVE'S THOUGHTS**

You cannot imagine how I felt when I got the phone call from Niranjan concerning Kalaichelvan's resignation and his hurried departure. When it happens this way, there are always numerous questions which come to mind. And there is also thoughts that something is trying to be covered up. We have already discovered he was not being faithful with church money, even though there are safeguards in place to try and prevent this.

We knew that the attendance in the church was waning even though he had been encouraged in his efforts from the very beginning. But to no avail it seems.

This always causes unexpected hindrances to the overall ministry.

Pray that God will lead a new preacher and family to take up the work in Periya Kallar very soon.

I'll just mention briefly that some of the Sri Lankan families that we helped sponsor to come to the United States have now taken U.S. Citizenship. This was Shanthi's hope so it is a happy and sad thing at the same time.

This newsletter was delayed by the fact that I was very sick for the last week. The respiratory infection going around hit me with a vengeance so much so I lost my voice from coughing, and wasn't even able to attend church and preach this last Sunday. But I'm doing much better and looking forward to this next Sunday!

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

1. For the goals set by the preachers for 2024
2. For a new coworker who will agree with our vision to Periya Kallar CC.
3. For purchasing land for Porativu church.