

Lamp Lighters World Ministries

August 2022 Newsletter

The heat wave continues here in Joplin, which makes life difficult, but it is evident that this is happening around the globe not just here or in Sri Lanka.

It's been several years since we've experienced anything like this here in Joplin. I've lost count of the consecutive days where the temperature was 100 degrees or higher. With no rain the grass is brown; I haven't needed to mow for three weeks now. Plants and trees are dropping their leaves, and crops in our area are not doing well either.

Struggles like these come to us all, and as difficult as it makes life we need to remember that our God is in control.

Our economy here is not in good shape, but you will read in this newsletter of some the great difficulties they are facing in Sri Lanka. Much prayer is needed for the people there and for our churches and preachers.

Thank you also for your prayers offered up to the Creator and Sustainer of all things! Your prayers are vital for the Gospel to go forward in Sri Lanka.

Not only do we trust in God in these things but we trust in Him for the support for this ministry. I know with finances being tight it is difficult to decide where your finances should go.

We have not had much drop and financially the ministry is in good shape. This is a great blessing and we ask God to bless you for your faithfulness to this ministry.

May God continue to bless and use you to His glory where you are.

Because of Christ,

Steve, Niranjana, and Sona

NEWS FROM NIRANJANA

Greetings to you in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ,

Usually we have hot weather during the months from April to September in Sri Lanka. But this year we received hot days continually up now. It makes all of life very difficult for us to survive in this country. More than 2 hundred thousand people have moved from country within a two month period.

Our country was blessed one; anyone can come and spend their time without any issues. Lots of resources were here to enjoy life. Unfortunately improper leadership in our government has added to the difficult condition of the weather.

We believe that God is merciful and will help our people for rebuilding our country just like Nehemiah did in the past. God allows circumstances in our lives to learn from, correct us and move us towards to him.

CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP

The people of Sri Lanka were looking for a major leadership change in Sri Lanka after having faced the severe economic crisis. They started protests all over the country against the current government and demanded the president, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, to leave office.

We all prayed to God for the changes, after 3 months people gathered in Colombo (Capital of Sri Lanka) and protested against him and the result was the president fled the country and then he resigned.

Parliament chose Ranil Wickremasinghe, as the president for the balance of the presidential term, until end of 2024. People spoke out against him also, but it brought violence against them. However the people are still suffering.

SEVERE SHORTAGES PLAGUE THE COUNTRY

The Sri Lankan rupee value has continued to drop and shortage of dollar investments has brought an economic crisis in the country. Some people don't have money to buy goods, some have money, but there is a shortage of goods to purchase.

My personal experience was I needed to fill my vehicle with fuel. My car was parked in the queue for 8 days and I could only purchase 8.5 liters (2 1/2 gallons) which was the allocation per person on that day.

We are having to use firewood instead of LP gas for cooking due to shortage and expense of gas. Many items are in shortage or simply too expensive to buy.

Many people are using bicycles to go short distances. Our coworkers, including me, are using bicycles for ministry activities such as visiting believers, and prayer meetings.

POSITIVE CHANGE IN KODDAI KALLAR CHURCH

After the resignation of Pastor Sydney, we took over the responsibility of the Koddai Kallar church. We have visited the people and most of them have welcomed the change. We have encouraged them to come to church and take part in ministry activities, they have expressed their interest and started to get involved in fasting prayer meetings and prayer meetings and cleaning of church building once again.

Brother Kethees and his wife Dilu have joined with us in the ministry activities at both Mahiloor and Koddai Kallar churches. Brother Kethees shares the word of God in both churches whenever needed and sister Dilu leads the worship and is teaching Sunday school.

Please pray we can find a new fulltime preacher to take on this ministry in Koddai Kallar.

VBS MAY BE CANCELLED AGAIN

For the last two years due to Covid, and government forced closure of churches and schools we have not been able to hold our VBS programs in the churches.

Because of all this the public school year schedule has been completely disrupted. Now there will be no holiday as we normally have. It was during this holiday from school we were able to hold VBS.

It is doubtful we will be able to have VBS again this year. Consequently our Sunday school program suffers as well due to extra classes on Sundays.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION AT ONTHACHIMADAM CHURCH

Pastor Kireshkaran has decided to distribute cooked meals for widows and poor in the church during these days as assistance during these difficult economic days for five weeks three times per week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday).

They received support from the relatives and believers and have begun this ministry to the believers. It is going on very well, around fifty needy people have benefitted from this. Especially new people experience the love of Christ is food shared with them.

PRAYER CONCERNS

1. For two preachers and their families to join the ministry, for Mahiloor and Koddai Kallar churches.
2. For our new government leaders and for economic stability in our country.
3. That we might be able to conduct VBS this year.
4. For the believers to stand firm in faith during these difficult trials.