

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

We're getting fall weather right now who knows what it will be like next week. Hope you are doing well by God's grace as well.

Growing up on the farm this was my favorite time of year. Harvest time is what we would work for all year long and now we can see the fruit of our labors.

In the kingdom of God we work planting and cultivating the seed of God's word in people's hearts, and this should be our lifelong endeavor. The thing is sometimes we don't see the harvest from our labor. We don't see the expected change in people's lives. This can be discouraging and even cause us to give up. Don't give up!

In those times we have to remember what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

We may never see or know the impact we have had on lives of others in this life.

Our job whether we see results or not is just press on, continue to do the work, for we know it's not in vain!

You have continued to be steadfast in your support through prayer and finance of Lamp Lighters. You are making a difference in the lives of people in Sri Lanka through the ministry that continues on there. Again you won't see that fruit until we all get to heaven.

God bless you for your faithful support!

May we all continue to be workers in the vineyard of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Because of Christ, Steve and Niranjan.

NEWS FROM NIRANJAN

Each month brings new experiences in the ministry activities. God's grace lifts us up day by day. As he promised his peace is with us among the roar of the waves. Our Lord Jesus Christ gives us wisdom to manage all the different, and sometimes difficult, situations that arise according to His word and will.

I continue to visit the churches sharing the word of God with them during the Sunday services and continue to go to the Mahiloor church every other week to share with them. Please continue to pray for us that we can faithfully carry on this ministry entrusted to us.

BIBLE STUDY RESTARTED

After a long time weekly Bible studies have been restarted with the coworkers and others church members who are involved in their church ministries.

This was begun years ago by the directors Steve and Shanthi while they were serving in Sri Lanka, and has finally been restarted now.

We hold the study every Wednesday evening and it lasts for around three hours. A good friend and fellow pastor from Batticaloa is leading the studies. He has always been very helpful to Steve and Shanthi and is a good friend as well as an excellent worker for the Kingdom.

Through this we and the others are learning more and more from the word of God. It is in knowing his word that the Holy Spirit can use it to produce His fruit in our lives and keep us from falling into sin.

We've had almost thirty coworkers from the churches who are involved in this Bible study time.

NO VBS THIS YEAR

We mentioned last month that due to Covid the churches were shut down for a long time and only have been able to resume Sunday services.

We have not been able to restart our Sunday schools due to Covid as well and we need to get permission from the local government to restart.

Along with this the public schools schedules have changed and the holiday for students is to come in October.

So because of the lateness of the year and all the other considerations it has been decided to not hold VBS this year. This is just another effect that Satan is using through Covid to discourage and prevent the spread of the word of God about Jesus.

All we can do is work toward having VBS next August at the regular time.

FOCUS TO RESTART SUNDAY SCHOOL

As soon as we can get the permission from the local government officials we want to restart Sunday school for the children.

Before this happens we are encouraging all the coworkers and Sundays school teachers to get into the homes of the children to meet and encourage them with the love of Jesus Christ.

Many of the parents allow their children to come to Sunday school but they themselves are not Christians. This gives us more opportunities to share the word of God with them. And it gets the teachers more involved besides just teaching.

And it will give us the opportunity to share about the Christmas programs held each year.

SOME PERSONAL NEWS

I shared last month that my wife Sona has been having a lot of pain and that she might have to have back surgery.

We went for another checkup and after lots of prayer our Lord Jesus has answered in a wonderful way. No need for surgery!

The doctor encouraged her to continue to lose more weight and to wear proper shoes all the time. All praise to our loving God!

SOME CLOSING THOUGHTS

The death of our coworker in Mahiloor has brought about many difficulties. Many things are being misunderstood and the entire situation as well as Niranjana, Sona, and Jino, the wife of the preacher who died, need prayers to handle things wisely and according to the word of God.

Niranjana and I have had several discussion by phone over what to do but the main thing is we want God to be glorified in that church and for it to go forward spreading the love of Jesus Christ in that area.

PRAYER CONCERNS

1. For the ministry in Mahiloor, Jino and family to have peace from God.
2. For all the coworkers to work together in harmony and unity for God's glory.
3. Plans to reopen the Sunday school programs soon. That the government will give us permission to do this.
4. For all to grow from the Bible studies that have been restarted.
5. Niranjana asks for wisdom and strength to carry on the work of ministry.
6. For my children, still no visas but peace and protection for them.