



A Ministry News Report of Gospel Grace Churches In Sri Lanka and India January 2022



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Dear brethren!

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

Here is our annual report of our work both in Sri Lanka and South India.

We understand that the evangelical literature is lengthy and consume much time. So in order to both inform our friends and supporters to pray intelligently we are setting it out in 5 sections almost like last year so that you can read as much or as little as you have time and opportunity.

1. A brief summary of the work in the home Church at Mannar where I am serving as Pastor.
2. The other mission stations in Sri Lanka.
3. The work in South India.
4. The literature ministry.
5. 'Seedar (Disciple) Theological Institute' – Church based bible school

One more year we have to face the challenges of the Covid 19 situation. Long lockdown has affected much. We were unable to get together for nearly half of the year. But by the grace of the Lord we were meeting again and enjoying the blessing of the Lord in meeting as his children to hold the truth that has been handed over to the church. The economic fallout from this pandemic continues as we expected. While straggling in many aspects as a church we tried our best to support many families who were unable to handle the situation economically. We provided commodities to over 100 families and for some of them we were supporting for few months during the lockdown. Thank you for those who kindly helped and supported us. Though the situation is challenging our hope is in the Lord, and as we eagerly await His return. His presence and support enable us to be his children in the midst of our inabilities, lack of faith, mistakes and failures. Thank you very much for praying and supporting the work of the Kingdom for his glory.

1. A brief summary of the work in the home Church at Mannar

Last year we were unable to gather as a church for about 6 months but we had our worship via zoom. Around 50% of the members able to participate the worship via zoom. Latter part of the year we have started meeting fully, beginning with the youth meeting, Sunday school

and women's fellowship. At present we have around 70% of the brethren joining the worship, while some still join the worship via zoom for health and other reasons.

Sunday worship at Mannar Church

Though our second quarterly magazine 'VethaVilakku' (Scripture Lamp) is ready for printing we have to hold the work due to financial challengers. Since its an ongoing work we have to raise some support to continue this work. The printing has become very expensive during this pandemic situation along with all other comodities. So we are waiting for the Lord to bring a possible partner for this ministry.

Brother Suhirthan Soosaitasan has joined us in the middle of last year to work fulltime as trainee minister and elder of the church in Mannar. At present Pastor Ravi and Brother Suhirthan are working along with me fulltime in Mannar and they will be our future leaders who will work along with the elders of the church after the membership approve their work and accept them as the pastors of our church in Mannar.

School of theology was interrumped due to Covid 19 situation again in last year. However to train men and women in ministry we have started a church based bible school with online facilities in colobration with our church leaders in India. I have shared about this work seperatly.

We have started a zoom study of church leaders both Sri Lanka and India on church hand book which gives us a great oppportunity to reconsider our statements. Our handbook cover both our doctrinal statements and our administrative stracture. After almost 20 years we are looking in detail through this leaders weekly study. This was started to help one of our friend Pastor John from upcountry who like to explore the possiblity of working in fellowship with us. Infact it's very helpful for all of us and we are also thinking of rephrasing some of the statements to make it more clear for our churches. Please do pray for this leaders studies.

We are unable to launch our website as we expected last year. But as we have informed you our sermons are available in (in Tamil language) YouTube and please visit Ggm-Sermons if you are interested in listening them. Also for those who are unable to attend the worship due

to their health and other issues our worship and bible studies are live-streamed via zoom and facebook now. Please visit Ggm – mission in facebook to participate in the live worship.

We are unable to make any progress in our proposed second space of our church construction work. We are looking above and waiting for the right opportunity to start the construction of our second floor of the church building.

God also gives me the opportunity to partake in wider ministry and I am very much humbled by the way God uses us in the Kingdom. As one of the member of the ‘Tamil Old Version Revision Committee’ of the Bible Society of Sri Lanka I actively participate in the process of revising the Tamil Old Version of the Bible. We use to meet physically two days for a month before Covid 19 and later we spend a day in a week (5 hours) through ZOOM in this valuable work. End of last year we are also able to gather at the bible society office in Colombo for few days and complete the revision work of the entire New Testament. The pilot version of the NT will be released soon by the bible society and hope it will have wider acceptance from the Tamil community worldwide. Next year we will start the revision work of the Old Testament. Please do pray for this amazing work of the Srilanka Bible Society. Also I continue to serve as the chairman of “Anbu Sahostrarar’ child development center which serve in Mannar for the last 20 years to help the orphan and less privileged children. At present we have 10 children at Anbu Sahostrarar children home in Keeri, Mannar.

Translation Comitee meeting via zoom and at the Bible Society of Sri Lanka.

2. Mission in Sri Lanka:

We have 9 other mission stations throughout the Island among Tamils.

Mission Stations

Trincomalee District:

Pastor Kumar work is progressing even though the pandemic has its effect on the work. Kumar and his wife Soba were able to make new contacts and gather more children through their children ministry. Around 50 children from the surrounding attend their Sunday school now. With the support of Dr. and Mrs. J Griffin we were able to construct the small church building which was one of their great need and dream in this work. We had our first worship

at the newly constructed building in November last year and the church definitely benefits from this building in many ways. Especially their children ministry will prosper through this facility. Also we would like to thank those who physically was with Kumar in the construction work and supported him to continue without delay. We would like to thank Dr. and Mrs. J Griffin (USA) for their partnership with this mission and their generous support for our work in Sri Lanka.



Church meets under the tree before. Construction of the building and church meets at the new building now.

Nuwara Eliya District:

Our mission in one of the tea estates stated 5 years back and our missionary Brother Thiruchelvam who is also hailing from this community settled with his family in one of the tea estates and was working hard to help the community, support the children and share the Gospel. Due to their child health situation now the family has temporarily moved to their home town which is in the eastern part of the country. Thiruchelvam continues his work in the hillside in the midst of a hostile situation among the strong Hindu Tamils. He continue his person to person gospel sharing ministry while teaching children through evening classes. He is living in a small rented house and visiting 3 different estates to share the Gospel. I like to thank Rev. Mostyn Roberts and the members of Welwyn Evangelical Church (Welwyn, UK) for their partnership with this ministry from the beginning.

Last year Pastor John from Thalawakkala (From the upcountry) has joined our fellowship for fellowship and partnership purposes. He is serving as the pastor of a church with around 50 members in Lindula, Thalawakkala for the last 15 years. He wanted to work with a church with right teaching and administration so we are in the process of getting to know each other and learning from each other for the last six months. It is because of Pastor John we have

started our zoom study of church leaders on church hand book which gives us great opportunity to relook our statements.

Batticaloa District: Brother Vasan is making slow and steady progress in this work through making good contacts with new people and maintaining good relationship with the existing members of the church. He has completed almost a year now in the Eastern province of our mission which was started as a response to Tsunami in the year 2006. Pastor Ravi who was working in this area continue to support Vasan in his work. We are able to visit Vasan after the lockdown and spent a few days with Vasan and the members of the church.



After Christmas service at Valaichenai Church.



Mission Visit 2021 - Batticaloa Valaichenai Church.

Vavuniya District:

Pastor Jacoppillai is serving in Neriyakulam and Pediafarm in Vavuniya District. Believers from both of these villages are gathering as a church in Neriyakulam. The government has provided a piece of a land for the church in Pediafarm and Jacoppillai waiting for the opportunity to start small building work to establish children ministry and other activities of the church on regular basis in this war affected village.

Kilinochi District:

Pastor Thamilselvam and Dharsini continue their work in Mulangavil among those affected by civil war. in the year 2015. At present 15 families are meeting on Sundays and they have a children ministry with 40 children. They also run catch-up classes for the children in the neighborhood.

Catch up class run by Mulangavil Church.

COVID 19 Relief work by Mulangavil



Christmas program at Mulangavil Church.

Mannar District: Apart from our main church we have three mission stations in Mannar district. **1. Pesalai** Brother Nixon continues the work here with the support of the members. Our elders also visit from time to time and encourage the work. **2. Echchalawakkai** Pastor

Sathiyaraj continues his work among this war affected community. Like any other work his work also affected by the pandemic. However, they continue to witness to Christ in the midst of the difficulties. 3. Brother Rajahan is now concentrating the work in **Adampan** area which is around 12Km from our town. At present 4 families are gathering on Sundays. Rajahan moved to live in Adampan now and he is making new contacts and sharing the gospel. I would like to thank Rev. Stephen Turner (New Zealand) and his church for their one time support to Bro. Rajahan for his work in Adampan. Please pray the blessing of the Lord upon his work.

Children with the joy of receiving their Christmas gift through the support of Hope of Glory Mission (UK) at Echalavakkai.

Adampan – After the Christmas Service.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bro. Anandakumar (Presbyterian Church of America, USA) for his support to four of our missions (Valaichenai, Chettikulan, Mulangavil

and Echalavakkai). He has supported for 7 years as he has promised to us. It's a privilege to have a partner like him who is fully committed to the mission and Kingdom of the Lord. He has carried the financial load of all these 4 missions through these years. His support has come to the end with the end of last year. Unfortunately these churches are not grown financially as we expected. Especially the Pandamic had major impact on financial situation in the churches. People do not have proper job opportunities to support the ministers. This affects our church in Mannar as well. We would be very grateful for someone else to support our missions. This is a real financial crisis that will affect the work. We want to explore the possibility of finding other work [tent making], however this is easier said than done and it will definitely affect the work. Work of any sort is not easy to find. But we need to face the reality like everyone else. We earnestly seek prayer, suggestions and support if the Lord will lay this work on your hearts. Also, we would like to thank Bro. Veeman and Hope of Glory (UK) for their continued partnership in last year in our work in Mulangavil and Echalavakkai to meet the additional needs of the work. Also I would like to thank all the other friends for their partnership and support in our work in time to time.

3. The work in South India

Grace Gospel Church in Madurai

Grace Gospel Church of Madurai was started in the year 2009 and pastor Idhayakani is serving there from its inception. In Madurai Church both Sri Lankan refugees and Indians are worshipping. We have some 12 families worshipping and doing out-reach ministries. Sunday service and Sunday classes for children, Wednesday men's prayer and Friday women's prayer meetings are regular ministerial activities. We have cottage meetings in believers' homes to reach the new people. God has brought some new people in our midst. Idhayakani and Sridharan Kalistas are ministering here. We are training Daniel Pandian and Irudhayaraja to be elders of church. Mrs. Uma and Mrs. Jasintha are doing the children ministry.



Ministry at Keelamathur & Pommanampatti

The Church at Madurai is gathering in a rented building for the past 12 years. They have acquired a piece of land for the church and ministry before 5 years in a nearby place Keelamathur. They have been planning to do pioneering work around the locality since last year, but not yet started because of the pandemic. Another place called Pommanampatti is near Kodaikanal Road where they have been doing children ministry for few years. This was interrupted because of some opposition from the villagers and the pandemic situation. Now they have started it again and they are in need of your prayers.



Grace Gospel Church in Tharamangalam

We have a congregation here within a refugee campsite in a place called Tharamangalam which is some 25 KM from Salem Town. Now this congregation is only for SL refugees. Pastor Abe Thomas (Halland Chapel, UK) and some friends have been supporting the Lord's ministry here for the past two years. Pastor Charles is serving here in taking care of the church and sharing the gospel in the surroundings.

Number of attendances for the worship on Sundays have increased from 20 to 30 and 4 people are being prepared for baptism on January 2022. They are to move the gathering place from the refugee campsite to Tharamangalam. It is difficult to find a rented building for church gathering. Please pray for these concerns. Sunday service and Sunday classes for children, Thursday prayer and Wednesday cottage prayer meetings are regular ministerial activities here. Mr.Thambiraj and a young boy Pravin are new comers since few months.



Pastor Charles and the church members of Tharamangalam church

Grace Gospel Church in Chennai

There are 12 communicants and 19 attendees for Sunday services. Wednesday Bible study, Saturday house visiting and Sunday evening cottage prayer meeting are regular ministerial activities. Pastor David Dhanraj is taking care of this church. His wife got a paralytic attack last year and getting better very slowly. Please pray for her recovery.

Pastor David has started a children ministry near Kanchipuram where he now regularly conducts catch up classes for about 40 children. On Christmas eve school bags were provided for the children. There is a need for a mathematics teacher to be appointed next month. Please pray for these concerns.



Tirunelveli and Aranthanki

There are three families now in Tirunelveli. As our previous efforts with a pioneering missionary proved fruitless Madurai Grace Gospel Church is sending ministers to conduct Sunday services and Bible study for those families from 2022 January with the goal of slowly establishing a church in this ancient Christian centre.

Three families residing in a refugee camp near Aranthanki are worshipping with a nearby Brethren Church. Our ministers visit them occasionally and encourage them with Bible study and prayer meetings.

4. Literature ministry

Our publication department (in South India) has published 24 books in Tamil and we have published one book in Sinhala language in Sri Lanka. As I have mentioned last year majority of our books are translation of sound Reformed theological books from English translated mainly by Sritharan Calistus who is teaching elder of our church in Maduarai and in charge for our literature ministry. Our 25th Tamil book is going to be 'Preaching Pure and Simple' by Rev. Stuart Olyott's. Translation work was finished and the book will be published in coming days. Also the same book is going to be published in Sinhala language as well. Translation work has been completed and we are in the process of printing the book. I like to take this opportunity to thank Rev. Mike Taylor and the team of 'Christian Books Worldwide' for their generous support and partnership through which we are publishing most of the books now.

5. 'Seedar (Disciple) Theological Institute' – Church Theological Training

As a result of a long-term ministry of one of the Baptist pastors from New Zealand, Stephen Turner, a group of men emerged with academic qualification and fervor for Reformed theological education in our Asian context and formed a trust called Seedar Asian Trust in 2013 and started Seedar Theological Institute to provide various theological training courses.

Since last year we are providing Certificate, Diploma, Bachelor and Master level programs through online and extension mode. I am also one of the members of teaching faculty. Now we have 15 students enrolled for BTh and MDiv both from Sri Lanka and India. Please pray that we may provide solid theological and Biblical foundation for those who are in ministry and getting prepared for future ministry.

Word of Thanks

We would like to thank all our partners, friends and prayer partners for their support throughout the years and especially in the year 2021. Without your support we could not have done these works. You have upheld us through your prayers, financial support, and through your various input in our work. We enjoyed working in partnership with you for the Lord's ministry. We experience working with universal Church in the fellowship of the Spirit of the Lord. We are praying as a church and family for our partners in this ministry.

As you are aware I have some physical difficulties due to my health condition. With diabetic, thyroxin, and rheumatoid arthritis, now I am struggling as the result of the slipped disc as well. I continue to wear belt as suggested by a specialist and I start to feel pain again in my back and numbness in the toes continue. I had my appointment with the neurologist last month and I have been advised to get further treatment. I don't really want to have any surgery if it can be avoided at all. Do pray for me.

Please pray for us and pray for our plans and needs and share with us your prayer needs. Pray that we will be faithful to the Lord in spite of our struggles and challenges. It is by his grace we are his people.

Yours in our Master's Service,

Huthin H.R. Manohar, Pastor, Mannar