

George Family VISHAYSHUM

E-MAIL UPDATE – December 2018

"I will declare Thy name unto my brethren : in the midst of the congregation will I praise Thee."

Psalm 22:22

Dear Praying Friends,

The end of this year will mark 20 years of full-time ministry for our family. 2018 is passing by quickly, and all the world events around us point to our Lord's imminent return. As we continue to watch and wait for His coming, let us continue in the ministry God has entrusted to us.

Much has transpired in these past months in our ministry and family, yet we praise the Lord for the grace given to us in due time to carry on the various ministries. Beginning with ministry, Our Second Saturday monthly prayer meetings continue as usual as 100 believers from the planted churches met together in various churches for prayer and fellowship. Past meetings were held at Nedumkanny, Peechangmugal and Edakkatuvayal . Church plant pastors continue to get together twice monthly for discussion, training classes and visitation. During visitation, they passed out over 3,000 tracts and booklets.

Praise the Lord for the seven baptisms that took place among the church plants. Pray for Axa and Daniel, young youths from Calvary Baptist in Aluva. Clinton , a young man from Bethel Baptist in Peechnamughal, Harsha a young lady from Immanuel Baptist Meenangadi. A family of three, husband Aju, wife Jiji and a daughter Anu from Bethel Baptist in Kothamangalam. Six more believers are currently attending the baptism classes given by their respective pastor. Our ministry experienced the passing away of four believers due to illness and old age: Daniel, Varghese, Mariyamma and Stanly. Each funeral was conducted by Santhosh and the church plant pastors.

We praise the Lord for Mary Saju , a lady from Puthencruz, Fellowship Baptist, whose husband passed away several months ago. In past updates, we asked you to pray with us that her faith would not falter in spite of the passing away of her husband. Although he professed salvation and was baptized , he fell wayward and stopped coming to church, but he never hindered her from attending. She is now back in church stronger than ever after facing a most difficult trial from her two sons and other family members regarding her faith.

On to family news beginning with October, this seems like such a blur now. Santhosh was to be in the States for a quick two-week trip in the end of August. We asked prayer for him as he needed to apply for a Re-Entry visa and was waiting to receive his biometric appointment letter. Towards the end of his stay in Arizona, he fell ill and was admitted into observation for 24 hours for high blood pressure, high blood sugar and mild sodium depletion. The doctors began him on blood pressure medication and doubled his diabetes medication. Upon discharging him with 20 mg of lisinopril for his blood pressure and increasing his blood sugar prescription, he began to experience an occasional cough that changed into an unrelenting cough. ***Praise the Lord that once he met for the appointment, he was able to return to India by October 5.***

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Upon his arrival we made another visit to the doctor's office, and he was taken off lisinopril. What the doctor said of the two weeks it would take to dissipate this non-stop coughing continued the entire month. During this time, he became ill brought on by the cough and was laid up for a week with fever and body ache. ***Praise the Lord, God's grace kept us throughout his illness.*** Now we ask you all to ***please pray that the reentry visa will arrive soon as he is planning to return again to the US next year.***

During this time that Santhosh was incapacitated, Pastor Mathew Thomas' urine catheter was being either blocked or leaking causing nothing but trouble, and we had to get him to a doctor right away to find out what was happening to his muscle tone. The doctor explained that his bladder muscles and sphincter control ability to hold and release urine is even less than before, so catheter changing will have to be more frequent. He was also experiencing fevers, a cough and breathing difficulty. During dad's changes in condition and Santhosh's health problems escalating, Sophie topped her capacity of running and hit bottom hard physically herself, just barely being able to stand. By the time Santhosh was picking up, dad was admitted in the hospital for a week, and discharged with a nasogastric feeding tube placement.

Yet by God's grace, we are slowly picking up and trying to meet the challenge of dad's care as it is now more intense as we give him two-hours tube feedings. With no dietician advice upon discharge, trying to gather information from online took weeks as Sophie struggles to make meal plans adjusting the plan each week. Even now it's changing to be able to give dad the optimal nutrition as possible. He has much phlegm that gets stuck up behind his throat, and with no suction machine, it is difficult to see him in this state. We were at our wits' end one horrible night three weeks back when we came up with a plan of using our vacuum cleaner, duct taping the shell of a pen by removing its refill and using that to suction the phlegm till we found a suction machine. Besides the nebulization we have been doing over the years, dad was also discharged with oxygen therapy. Even though we are in a new normal with tube feedings every two hours, we are awed by God's goodness. Because many here and around the world are praying for Dad, we now have a doctor and a dietitian for consultation, as well as a nurse who will come on call and assist Sophie with any supplemental care. ***Thank you for prayers to increase our strength and show us guidance.***

We don't know what the future holds for our family or ministry, but we will continue as God gives the strength. With the holidays around the corner, this is a wonderful time of year to share the gospel and programs are planned in various churches to invite many to hear the gospel. ***Pray for the churches as they plan out their respective programs. January 16-18 Evangelist and violinist Ken Lynch and his friend Pastor Steve Gee will be with us to minister by Word and music. Please pray for their safe travel, stay and ministry with us.***

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There is so much more we want to share about the various churches and prayer groups who have been emailing and communicating with us with financial and prayer support, but time and space is limited. Words can't express our gratitude for the love you have shown our family through e-mails, birthday cards, anniversary cards and Christmas cards that have begun to arrive. The time it takes for you to purchase, sign a card, pass it among your Sunday school class and various fellowships, and then mail each envelope for each member of our family at different times of the year, makes us speechless in being able to express our gratitude and love for you all. God bless you in the most wonderful way with all His bountiful blessings in your families and ministries.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Santhosh, Sophie, Jonathan



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