## The SARIPALLIs sent by: East Side Baptist Church (Pastor – Bro. Curt Rutledge)





Dear Pastors, churches, and praying friends,

March 1, 2024

As we enter the month of March, we are glad to say that we're enjoying the Amazing Grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We hope you got our 2024 New Year card with the mission report it.

The month of February kept us very occupied with celebratory occasions which give us a great opportunity to preach the Gospel because they invite many people. And adding to these we had deaths in the rural mission churches which also gave us even a bigger platforms. We make use of every open door the Lord gives, and we being the missionaries at hand, we need to be available at a minute's notice to attend to the needs. In most of the cases of deaths, we are up against ancient heathen practices that are enforced on the believing family with violent threats. There are severe obstructions caused by the close relatives and their clan heads, or their caste leaders because of the diversity of cultic belief systems that exist here. The caste system which pervades every walk of life, with the so called "lower castes" in the hierarchy having tribal acts are very much active and prevalent even in the 21st century.

The country produces academic intellectuals who can reach the moon, but the prevailing spiritually dark conditions reminds me to be committed to my calling of being a "Native Missionary." The graph for the 1.43 billion people is acutely slant from the upper echelon to the lowest person stricken in poverty. The hard truth is that if not for the love of God, they will perish for eternity following the false "god of this world" who "hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." Their way of thinking of Christianity is mostly in a political sense instead of thinking of the salvation of their soul. And the levels of the ancient yogic practices gives them the false hope of "moksha/heaven."

We thank God for choosing us to serve Him in this land of many strange gods, and to present to them the way to the living God through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The three-fold Great Commission requires us to preach the Gospel, and baptize the believer into His local church, and teach them whatsoever He commanded. After establishing Scriptural churches, we need to provide them with the Word of God in their language to teach them. Therefore, please do continue to pray for the ongoing corrections on the Telugu Bible, and final printing. We are glad for the way the Lord is bringing things into place for this work, and thank all those who are contributing to it.

Please do pray for the Pastor Emmanuel Buruga, of Bethany Baptist Church who met with an accident. And also for the young men going on pulpit supply to be sensitive to the Lord's calling to take up those churches.

We thank God for your prayers and faithful support, and pray for His abundant blessings on you. Serving the Saviour

Bro. Rufus Saripalli and family