

**And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations;
and then shall the end come. Matt. 24: 14**

The SARIPALLI *Sent by: East Side Baptist Church (Pastor: Curt Rutledge Sr.)*



to INDIA

Dearly Beloved,

August 26, 2020

This letter comes with much thanksgiving for the amazing grace of our faithful God amidst the present turmoil, as we belonging to the faith with a lively hope. Many daily prayers are made for you all with that hope rooted in all the promises of our awesome God declared in His unchanging Word. As the world is reeling in fear, or rather being gripped by it, it looks to us as the children of the living God for answers, which is one of the greatest privileges to still be winning souls. We know that for the anti-Christ to control the whole world, the only way possible is to bring it under fear. But "God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love, and of a sound mind." And the love of God, and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is the only hope for the perishing world, and I find this a unique opportunity like never before to bring to them the message of salvation that is "committed to us." And "nothing" or "no one" can or should be able to separate us from that love of God of which we are persuaded.

It was a great blessing to have ministered in the way I never did before as the lockdown was imposed rather suddenly, and without any chance for making any prior arrangements. All the mission churches were forced to go online to conduct services, and to reach out to the church members. Some of them could not cope with the situation immediately, as they were not ready with the required technology. And I was able to do online services on FB to three of the mission churches that I oversee, which were also seen by many here in the US under the Philadelphia Baptist Mission page. Eventually as an answer to prayers, we could revert to gathering and there was great joy in worship and fellowship as seen in the Bible. We are trying to maintain "social distancing" as advised by the government, but in a country of 1.3 Billion, it seems only superficial.

The new Children's Home project that was started with the building of a wall first has come to a pause just before it was almost completed due to the lockdown in that state. There is huge labor shortage, which is also the reason for the delay in restarting the work. Rodgers Baptist Church sent the funds from Baptist Charities for the wall, and we look to the Lord for His will in building the structures for that project, and His hand of provision and guidance.

The school (Aleph Academy) did restart, but there is strict government order to conduct only online classes. We are finding it very difficult to bear the expenses of importing the material from the US, as almost 50% customs are levied on the valued amount. And there is also a very close scrutiny as to what kind of books they are, since India does not what any more Christian activities. At present we have eleven children, and we are praying for more of the Lord's heritage to minister to.

I had to come last week on a repatriation flight to be with my family and to preserve my visa before it expires for reentry. Even before I could get over the jet lag, I began working online on the Telugu Bible translation with our office in India from 4 am to 9 or 10am. My body clock took almost a week to get reset after I could catch some sleep here and there and rest. We beg you to continue to pray for the completion and printing of this mammoth project since it seems to be weighing us down.

Our pastor and home church also suggested that we go ahead for naturalization before things change any further. For all these years we had not paid much attention to these, but now it seems that we must use better discretion and godly wisdom as we see America declining from Biblical principles on which it was founded. But the blessings of the Lord are still obvious on this blessed nation, which is a lighthouse for the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to the whole world, as the faithful ones continue to lift it up in daily prayers. Please do continue to pray for all these needs and our respective roles in the ministry in India upon our parents' passing, and as we await our Lord's glorious return.

Our love and prayers are with you all with many thanks for your faithful and prayerful support.

Bro. Rufus Saripalli and family

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