

George Family
VISHAYSHUM

E-MAIL UPDATE – June 2015

*“O Lord, how great are Thy works and Thy thoughts are very deep”
(Psalm 92:5)*

Dear Praying Friends,

Last year around this time we mentioned in a prayer letter that due to Sophie’s Dad’s ailment, we needed to cancel our annual Youth Camp. It was too much of a strain on our family to run the camp while continuing the present ministries and giving dad full care at the same time. Since Sophie is the primary care giver and Santhosh’s presence was needed in the home, we felt we needed to hold off camp for the 2014 year. This was the first time camp had been canceled in the past 15 years; however, ***through your prayers, the Lord was most gracious to strengthen us and guide us to run this year’s 2015 camp.***

With the book of Titus in mind, the theme for the week of April 6-11 was “Christ Centered Life,” and the key verse was Titus 2:12, “To live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.” Thank you for praying with us for this year’s camp. As always, the Lord provided the perfect ratio of campers to counselors (and the needed number of female counselors). This year’s teams, with the boom of Red Thunder and the speed of White Lightning, went in search of water to fill their team’s wells. These 120 well diggers, all with enthusiasm and full of spirit, dug every point possible through various competitions to lead their team to the precious water source. White Lightning, with the speed of light, flashed out of sight with the prized Youth Camp 2015 championship. Praise the Lord for the 20 salvation decisions made. Many rededicated their lives to the Lord and surrendered to full-time service. ***We request your prayers as we begin the follow-up process with these young people.***

A couple of years ago, we shared about a family—Mary and her husband Saju and their children, Sonu and Sanu. Although these young men have yet to come to the faith, when Mary received the Lord, she was fully committed to Christ and believed that the Lord would also call her family. It was not till much later that Saju also received the Lord, but his commitment to follow the Lord was always in question. However, through the prayers of many believers, along with an ongoing Bible study in their home and Mary’s faith and courage in the Lord, we recently were able to conduct a cottage prayer meeting in Fellowship Baptist church in their name. Due to the boys not wanting a house full of church members in their home for prayer night, we conducted our weekly cottage meeting in the church. ***Praise the Lord, this past May, Saju finally obeyed the Lord and made a firm decision to partake in baptism. It was a wonderful Sunday as many believers gathered to see this man baptized. Along with Saju, another gentleman in our church, Parameswaran, who made every excuse to why he didn’t need the Lord or salvation, was also baptized.*** Parameswaran’s family had been praying for years that the Lord would change his heart and make him open toward the Gospel and to realize he cannot live apart from Christ.

For many years, the pitter-patter of raindrops in June signaled the beginning of the new monsoon season, as well as the coming of the new school year. Along with newly-tailored school uniforms, new school bags, lunch boxes and newly-polished shoes, new umbrellas would pop up in various shades of colors and designs as children all over Kerala headed for the first day of school. However, due to our climate change, no pitter-patter of raindrops has signaled the first day of school for years now. “Don’t forget your umbrella” used to be the school of thought, but not anymore. ***The monsoon rains sustain the needs of the State over the course of the year, so please pray that the Lord provides substantial amounts of rain in these next few months; otherwise, we will experience severe electricity and water shortages.*** On June 1, Jonathan turned 17 and entered school as a senior. Joanna completed her sophomore year at Bob Jones University and will be staying there to take an online course this summer. Lord willing, she is planning to be home with us in August before returning back in the fall. Sophie’s dad, Pastor Mathew Thomas, has been experiencing speech difficulty over the course of the past few months. Although he recognizes faces and tries to comprehend his surroundings, this illness has made his speech slurred, so that he is unable to reply or make conversation.

Thank you for your continued outpouring of love and encouragement through e-mails and letters. It’s good to see that our postman still has his job, because in May, June and July, his deliveries of birthday cards are usually numerous. Thank you for consistently praying and sacrificially financing this ministry.

Santhosh, Sophie, Joanna and Jonathan