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NL February - March 2021 final

Cinnamon Gardens

Baptist Church

NEWSLETTER | February/March 2021

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Tamil Service at 7.30 am

Sinhala Service at 9.00 am

English Service at 10.30 am

Newsletter February/March 2021

A Word From Pastor Giyan

A Challenge for the year. is by committing to pray for at least an hour each day, and to read the bible each day. In your Another year has passed by, and for most of us, prayers seek the Lord's guidance to submit to it was a year that should not have happened. His will each day, and in your study of the

Some of us would have had long term negative Bible try and understand God's expectations effects due to the pandemic, others would of those He has taken to be His children. "Ask

have lost employment; many of us would have and it will be given to you; seek and you will had our incomes reduced. All of us had to find; knock and the door will be opened to undergo hardships with the lockdowns and you. For everyone who asks receives; the one movement restrictions. As a Church, we have who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks,

had to forego meeting in Church for worship the door will be opened.” (Matthew 7:7-8). In for a total of about five months, almost half your prayers pray for at least two families of of the year. our Church congregation, and in your studies

Yet, while we look back at all the bad that focus to understand God's love for His people. happened last year, it was in fact a year of “ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love blessings too. Covid-19 is a global pandemic, comes from God. Everyone who loves has and in that context, infections in Sri Lanka been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever compared to many other countries are does not love does not know God, because less, most of us have not been infected and God is love.”(1 John 4:7-8) organizations have not laid off employees en The second challenge is to commit to make

masse. As a Church, we had the opportunity a disciple, because this is what Jesus Christ to have worship services online, our leaders expects from us. The great commission met each week on Zoom, we were even able was not only for His disciples that followed to vote for our Pastoral Team online, and Him together with the twelve, but to all His

there are many more. Thus if we look back disciples, to us who follow Him. I want to intently, it was a year we could really count encourage you to connect with one person, a our blessings. male with a male and a female another female, And one blessing that we have to thank God find time at least once a week to meet together, for were the Bible Studies that we were able pray with that person and study the Bible to conduct over Zoom, most importantly the together with that person, encourage and study, “Being a Disciple: counting the real edify that person and walk with God together. cost”. Thus this year 2021, I want to challenge In 2021, be a true disciple of Christ and make

you to commit to two things. a disciple for Christ.  
Firstly, to all of us who went through the study God bless you this year.  
to commit to be a true disciple of Christ. This  
> Giyan Senapathiratne

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Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church

Associate Pastors

The Diaconate wishes to inform all church members that over 90% of our members living in Sri Lanka have participated in the online vote to accept three Associate Pastors to Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church, and all three candidates have received overwhelming approval by the

Church.

Therefore, Mr Giyan Senapathiratne, Mr Ajith Jayawardena and Mr Kumar Subramaniam were inducted as Associate Pastors at a special service held on the first Sunday in 2021.

We wish them and their families God's blessings as they continue their respective ministries within the English, Sinhala and Tamil congregations, as well as with the entire church. Let's continue to support these three men of faith – and their families – as they commit themselves to serve God through CGBC.

Let us also pray and ask God to lead the Pastoral Search Committee to a Pastor who would be able to work with the three Associate Pastors and be a mentor to them.

> Thilal Nanayakkara

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Newsletter February/March 2021

Carol Service 2020

Dear Church Family, who somehow pulled this all together and made it such a powerful experience.

Both Sue and I were surprised when we were invited to take part in the Carol Service – A powerful hymn written by Priscilla Jane

Baby Born to Save Us All. Owens in 1882 as we move into a New Year.

The annual Carol Service has definitely been one, if not the highlight of our time of serving the Lord through Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church. Steadfast and sure while the billows roll

Watching that service and actually taking part by singing in our home was an uplifting and encouraging time of Worshipping the Lord. It is the first time that we have been really homesick for our Church Family in Sri Lanka. We miss you all so very much. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him would be able to do this during this incredibly difficult and challenging time. So, it is our prayer for you that first, your

What a blessing it was to see the faces of all those who took part. What really touched us deeply was that the Gospel message was so

clearly shared. your life.

It was also a reminder that the Church is Blessings,  
not just about Worship but it is also about > Pastor Gary & Sue Dean | USA  
service. So many of you took part. We are  
especially grateful for Kuveni and Andrew

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Newsletter February/March 2021

Our Newsletter Friends' comments about the online Carol Service

A joyous and beautiful presentation of the Thank you so much!  
true meaning of Christmas. Love and blessings  
Congratulations to all who participated Josh and Chrishmie Stephens | Canada  
and I wish to commend you for doing so  
exceedingly well in training and leading the Dearest friends at CGBC,  
choir. Wow! We just had to let you know how  
God bless. inspired and uplifted we are, having just  
Ernie Ambrose | Australia watched your amazing Christmas Service!  
Even without the difficult circumstances, it  
Thank you so much. been in hospital these was a wonderful achievement, bringing glory  
past two weeks with heart and kidney failure. to God, but in the light of the challenges you  
Watching the CGBC Carol Service were all undergoing, we cannot congratulate  
transported me across the seas, back home to you all enough!  
all the familiar faces. The way in which it was put together in such  
Thank you so much for sending me the link a totally complete and meaningful whole,  
and helping lift my spirits. with the most fabulous singing from such  
May you and your family, and the rest of beautiful solos, children as well as adults,  
the Church family at CGBC have a Blessed from a choir of amazingly harmonised voices,  
Christmas... a truly stunning dance to Mary Did You  
Romayne de Alwis | Australia Know, and such meaningful and significant  
words in between, brought tears constantly  
We watched the Carol service this afternoon to our eyes!  
and enjoyed every bit of it. It was very well We had to write straight away to thank you so  
done. Congratulations! much for the intricate and vital parts you all  
You did a lot of new songs with effortless played - so many familiar faces, but we have  
ease. Thank you for sending the link to us. so few names to write to! So - our eternal  
The technical aspect was also flawless. Please thanks for raising our spirits to an amazing  
congratulate and thank everyone who took height at the end of a long, dark year!  
part in a brave and dedicated endeavour Our Christmas greetings and hopes for a year  
during these difficult days. ahead filled with the light of God's love, joy,  
The commitment you demonstrated in peace and good health!  
bringing hope and joy to a darkened world Blessings and love always,  
was realized in full glory. John & Penny (Leigh-Brown) | England  
We are grateful to God that you undertook  
such a big responsibility in such uncertain Thank you so much for sending the link to

times. your lovely carol service. It must have taken a  
Indira and Rohan Wijesinghe | Canada great deal of work to put it together.  
Like you, we have had our Christmas services  
Wow!!!! Splendid job! You definitely couldn't be disrupted by the pandemic, so our church,  
have put that together without His Grace & Wilmslow Methodist Church, had our Carol  
Guidance. So glad we could be a part of it too! Service via zoom and tomorrow we will have  
We were thrilled to see everyone and felt like our Christmas morning service via zoom  
being at church in person. as well. Very different but it will be good to

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Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church

celebrate together and greet all our friends see all the people again. It has made a great  
in the congregation. Churches were closed Sunday for us. We thank God for all of you  
for about 6 months and are now only open in Sri Lanka.

for limited numbers. John has been editing Sammy Likhali | Kenya

a weekly online YouTube service led by our

minister since April, which has enabled us to Thanks for sharing. Lovely service. Loved

worship together in our homes. the songs, the voices, the message. Well-

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas! choreographed too. And it was wonderful to

Jocelyn and John Fallows (Rev & Mrs J B have messages from past pastors.

Radley's granddaughter and her husband) Dinali Dhammapala | USA

| England

We watched the Carol Service and it was very

The service was amazing. I loved the whole well put together. Mum and Minette watched

thing. Well put together. Well done! Felt it as well and enjoyed it very much. Well done

homesick! and thanks for sending us the link. Wishing

Priyanga Ugorji (Ukwatte) | England you all a very Happy Christmas and a safe

and peaceful New Year.

Loved the carols and readings. The kids were Chris Karunaratne | England

looking so cute, especially George's son.

Ranjit and Ravi you both looked handsome I did watch the Carol Service. It was both

in red ties and black shirts... nice colour inspiring and challenging and you did a

combination as well for everyone. fantastic job putting it all together which was

Lovely ....it was... Andy looked so nice and phenomenal under the circumstances.

suave out there. I am confident that the Service was a blessing

My compliments to everyone for organising to many. Thank you and all who participated

and co-ordinating all of this so well. in proclaiming through music, word, carols

Reema Khan | India and dance the Good News of the Baby who

was born to save us.

Thank you so much. The service was great. Love in Christ,

We like the choir singing and it was good to Vernon Edward | USA

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Let's memorize God's Word

February 2021 March 2021

Romans 12: 12 (NIV) Psalm 33:18 (NIV)

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love...”

News From the Purpose Teams

News from the Worship Team

The worship team continues to help bring the was God’s will. Since then, God directed the CGBC worshippers to the feet of our Lord by team to ask Kuveni Wijeratne to organise the continuing to have online services in Sinhala, Carol Service.

Tamil and English. As most of you already From the beginning, we felt God’s leading, know, we were compelled to have our three seeing us through every single obstacle separate Christmas services and the New we faced. Although we initially planned Year’s watch-night service (trilingual) online to practise online and eventually have due to the current situation in the country. the final practices physically and have the Carol Services physically, we soon realised

CGBC Carol Services 2020 that it would not be possible for us to meet physically. As such, the choir rehearsed only

A Baby Born to Save Us All - English Carol online – all on Zoom. This was challenging! Service The team, together with Kuveni, Andrew

The English Carol Service 2020 was a Meinzingler (Andy). Devika, Thisal and testimony of God’s grace. Pastor Giyan, decided to do an Online Carol

“A Baby Born to Save Us All” was an Service instead. This too, was clearly God opportunity for us to bring the gospel to and directing us. We also had to address the issue remind people that God is in control despite of obtaining licences to use song tracks or everything that happened in 2020 and that obtaining permission from the Copyright He is our only HOPE. owners to avoid infringement.

From the moment God gave the Worship Then we had to figure out how to record team the direction to do the Carol Service under this theme, the team knew that this

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the audio and video of the program. All the because He takes care of everything. He is an choristers recorded their voices for each song amazing, miracle working God and may all and send them to Kuveni for checking. These glory be given to Him!

recordings were then forwarded to Andy, If you haven’t had a chance to watch our who had the difficult task of putting them online Carol Service yet, be sure to watch it together and creating a master track for each on YouTube.

song! We know that this was by no means an Sinhala Carol Service easy task. The Sinhala Carol Service took place under

Then it was a matter of recording the video the theme “We Have Hope”, with the intention

while ensuring the safety of the choristers. of bringing the gospel to people while  
The answer was to record the video at reminding them that despite everything that  
Peoples Church, Assembly of God, which has happened and the uncertainties we face,  
was miraculously available on the date we we have hope in God.

wanted. Thus, the choir met at PCAG one Tamil Services  
time, just to record the video. While the Tamil congregation opted not to  
From the onset, it was decided to do the have a Carol Service this year, they ensured  
children's song virtually, as a precautionary that the Tamil Congregation didn't miss  
measure. They too had regular practices on out on this experience by ensuring that  
Sunday evenings on Zoom. They recorded each Sunday morning service in December  
their song at home and the videos were put resembled a short Carol Service.  
together by Andy. NCC - English Christmas Program

A very special word of thanks to Andy who On a request made by the National Christian  
put in so much time and effort into putting Council we prepared a 30 minute Christmas  
our Carol Service together. We have no doubt Program to be broadcast on radio on  
that he made a lot of sacrifices in time and Christmas day.

effort to make this production what it was. First Sunday of the Year 2021

We cannot thank you enough, Andy! We pray The first Sunday of 2021, was a special day  
that God will continue to bless you and your for CGBC as the three newly appointed  
family as you serve Him. Associate Pastors were inducted during a

Our profound thanks are due to Kuveni for trilingual service. The President of the Sri  
using her God given talents for His glory! She Lanka Baptist Sangamaya, Rev. Heshan De  
put in so much hard work and we know that Silva shared the Word of God with us.

the Lord was giving her the strength to see Further, Rev. Kingsley Perera was felicitated  
this through to the end. Aunty Kuveni, we for his long standing service to CGBC.

pray that God will enable you to continue to None of the above would have been possible  
use your gifts for His glory. without the unwavering support of the CGBC

A very big thank you to everyone who was Audio/Visual team. We especially thank  
part of our Online Carol Service. We know it Abishek, Andy and Thisal for everything  
was not easy, but you all were so committed. they have done to help us with so much  
We thank and praise God for each and every commitment and humility. May God bless  
one of you. you as you continue to serve Him.

Above all, we thank our Almighty Father for

His grace and favour, in showing us, when we > Kaushalya Senapathiratne

bow down to His will and commit something  
to Him, there really is nothing to worry about

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News from the Evangelism Team News from the Fellowship Team

Dry rations were distributed to the people I take this opportunity to thank and praise  
who attend counselling sessions at the God, for guiding and leading us to fulfill our  
Ranasinghe Hall and to the parents of the main focus to build relationships among  
children of the Daycare Centre. CGBC members. Hence we, in the Fellowship  
Team, continue to do this, concentrating only

> Sardha Wickremasinghe on our cell groups at the moment, due to the

Pandemic.

We are happy to announce that some of our groups meet frequently either physically or on Zoom, and have shown great enthusiasm.

We continue to seek God's provision to commence the year 2021, with new ideas. God bless you.

> Booshana Weerasinghe

News from KMM

Kithu Mithu Maga continued with audio classes till mid-November and from 22nd November to 6th December we were able to do the Christmas story for our kids which included a Christmas Carol, the story, memory verse and a craft. We are sorry, however, that we were unable to have our Christmas party and Nativity play this year due to the situation in the country.

I take this opportunity to thank all the teachers for their commitment to do all the lessons and craft for our kids and uploading them via YouTube and audio every Sunday.

We look forward to being able to meet physically in the new year.

> Amali Balasooriya

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News from the Women's Fellowship

We just wrapped up the most unusual year and towards this endeavour. Because of your are now getting used to living a new 'normal' generous support, these families are blessed. life. Amidst all the chaos and uncertainty, May God continue to bless you.

our Loving and Gracious Heavenly Father We look forward to a great new year and seek sustained us and we are truly thankful to God God's guidance in the work of the women of for His grace and faithfulness. Our thoughts CGBC. We seek your prayer support and and prayers are with all those affected by the wish to thank everyone of you who has been COVID 19 pandemic. a source of strength and encouragement.

As it was not possible to meet or visit, many A special thank you to our Pastoral Team - of our planned projects had to be postponed Pastor Giyan, Pastor Ajith and Pastor Kumar, or cancelled. In spite of the restrictions, we our Secretary Devika and the former and managed to continue with our Nutrition present Treasurers Anil and Dinuke. A huge Programme. As has been the practice, a thank you to Chrishanthie, Thomas and Arul. 'Christmas Hamper 'was given to all the May you have a blessed new year!



families who receive the Nutrition Pack and to other deserving ladies. A heartfelt 'Thank > Champika Weerasinghe You' to everyone who contributes regularly

## Photo Gallery

Our kids were invited to sing at the online Rev. Kingsley Perera was felicitated Carols Service of the Sri Lanka Baptist Sangamaya for his longstanding service to CGBC.

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## Newsletter February/March 2021

### Tribute to Malini Ranasinghe

Malini Aunty, as we would call her a lot of time in her company. She always from the time we were very small, left had a very charming smile on her face... distinct memories with those of us who and would never fail to inquire about associated her – when she went to be members of the family when she met with our Lord. someone.

My father and her husband Eddie She loved to share with family and Ranasinghe were brothers, and our friends. When we were growing families were therefore very close. As we up, I recall she would suggest new were growing up, I recall the close bonds dressmakers, fabrics etc. to my mother. Malini Aunty had with her family – this At Christmas time, she would spend a lot included her care and concern for her of time sewing something useful as gifts. father. Also, the love and care she had She had a good sense of humour though for her siblings – I recall clearly when her soft spoken. In conversation she would brother – uncle Timothy was sick, the tell of the fun times she and her cousins deep grief she expressed. had while they were young – especially mentioning Aunty Nalini.

She was a loving, devoted and very supportive wife, a loving and caring Malini Aunty and Eddie Mahappa were mother, grandmother and relative – excellent hosts. They had an open her love and care were amply seen and invitation anytime for friends and family experienced by us as nieces who spent to drop by for meals or stay over.

### Praise Corner

GOD saved me by His grace. after a few days we found 2 people positive and decided to do PCR tests for COVID for the most part had been more the entire office. My PCR test showed as of an abstract thought rather than a true negative. threat until it came so close to me.

My closest colleagues who work next to I have always followed the proper health me (adjoining cubicle) and with whom i guidelines and therefore just assumed shared the same transport van were all that neither my friends nor I will be positive, but God saved me. Finally we

affected by the virus when I went to work found 30 people who were positive across during both lock-downs, as my work our company. Due to early detection, we place fell under "essential services". were able to curb the spread and all of my infected colleagues are now healed. I

Working through the curfew had had to self-quarantine for 14 days and do become normal by the end of November. my second PCR test until I was allowed to However the office decided to have come out of quarantine. random PCR tests for the people coming to office. Initial tests were negative but

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### Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church

She was a prayer warrior, and a genuine children and their families in their walk God-fearing woman of faith. She would with the Lord.

tell me how she would pray for each family's needs – mentioning them by Malini Aunty left us peacefully with the name. She held onto the trust that God knowledge that ' For we know that if the would intervene in whatever matter the earthly tent we live in, is destroyed, we family/person was going through and have a building from God, an eternal provide the relief required. At times house in heaven, not built by human listening to her, I felt encouraged by her hands' – 2 Corinthians 5:1 prayers and conviction, when I had come to a point of giving up. Her life has been > Sujeeva Ranasinghe a good Christian example for us. She continued to understand the importance of prayer, calling out to the family to pray for her when she was sick and even at the time she was reaching the end of her earthly journey.

Malini Aunty continued to be interested in learning the word of God – she and I were in the Sunday morning Bible study class at CGBC. She would be very disappointed if she was not able to come on time or miss the class.

Her strong Christian beliefs influenced and supported Eddie Mahappa, her

I thank GOD for saving me and my family much worse with the passing away of and also for guiding our company to Thisal's grandmother and our inability to detect the spread early and curb the attend the funeral. spread to just 30 people from a staff of over 2500. However, I really felt God's presence the whole time. Especially on the day of my > Lakseth Ratnayake PCR test, I felt an indescribable sense of

peace wash over me, which could only  
"2020 is a year that none of us will ever come from God. I also realised how  
forget" is the common sentiment that amazing and powerful God is. I was with  
most of us share about last year. this Covid positive person the entire  
day, but God was protecting me. What a  
Towards the end of November 2020, I wonderful God He is!  
was informed that I was a first contact  
of a Covid-19 patient and that I needed Thisal and I, thank and praise God for  
to go into self-isolation immediately. I His protection throughout and for being  
was confined to the room while Thisal with us during a very difficult time. We  
was compelled to move in to our guest also thank those who prayed for us.  
bedroom. Understandably, this was a  
very difficult time, which became so > Kaushalya Senapathiratne

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What our readers say

Always enjoy reading the news letter regularly.  
Thanks and God bless Thank you. God Bless you.  
Lakshman Welegedera | Canada Harold de A Jayasinghe | Canada

Thanks for your faithful service of sending the Thank you very much for sending us the  
CGBC Newsletter. Once again it was a very newsletter. We are looking forward to watching  
informative and well compiled document. We the Carol service on the 20th.  
too had to leave Sri Lanka in a great hurry in late Sumudu had sent us an email to say that  
her

March just before Australia closed her borders. mom passed away. We are glad that we were  
We are unsure if we will be able to return on a able to see her and talk with her on WhatsApp.  
long term basis. We wish all at CGBC a Christ- Indira & Rohan Wijesinghe | Canada  
centered and blessed Christmas and a safe and  
happy 2021. Thank you so, so much for faithfully doing this

May God bless all at CGBC and the various and sharing with many who are in different  
ministries parts of the world. Such a blessing!

Ernie and Dami Ambrose | Australia Praying for His strength as you put together  
the first ever virtual Christmas carols.

Thank you for the CGBC Newsletter emailed Blessings,  
recently. I enjoy reading it to be in touch with Josh Stephens | Canada  
the Church of my childhood, teenage years

till now, though with less frequent visits. Rev. Many thanks for the news updates of CGBC...

Eric Sutton Smith is one who influenced and Bless your faithful service for the Lord.

guided me a lot in my early Christian journey Regards,

while Rev. Bullock dedicated me and Rev. Nilima Jeevanandan | Malaysia

Colin Weller baptised me.

I thank God for His blessings to have given Lovely Newsletter.

a dedicated team of people to serve the Thanks for all your efforts!

CGBCChurch family during these difficult George Murimi | Sri Lanka

periods without a permanent pastor on top of  
it the challenges from the pandemic. Regularly, Very good as usual.  
I pray for the Church and its leadership for Kuvera Premawardhana | Wales  
guidance and strength to persevere and carry  
through the work of the Church for His glory. Thanks for the newsletter.  
It is always good to be reminded through the Nice to see this and be encouraged by it.  
Newsletter of the seniors of my vintage or even Blessings,  
more senior, so that we could think of them Thisal Senapathiratne | Sri Lanka  
with gratitude and pray for His blessings on  
them in the evening of their lives. Thank you so much for the church's newsletter.  
I would like to link up with my Sunday's School I read every word of it and am greatly  
friend Jayalath Amerasakera and shall be encouraged.  
thankful to kindly send me his contact details, We have a busy time ahead of us. We invited  
our  
if he does not mind. Sunday School class to come to our home for  
Thank you for sending me the CGBC NL our annual Open House December time. We

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#### Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church

will have it this coming Saturday and Sunday I always enjoy reading your church  
with about 18 coming each day. We need newsletter...207 years of the work of our Lord,  
more space sine we presently have about 150 which is truly special!  
on roll. In addition to teaching in the class Covid 19 will make it difficult for the choir to  
room and on Zoom we offer a videotaping practice for the Christmas Carol Service but I  
on the class blog site. Some time you may have faith that you, led by the Holy Spirit, will  
be interested in viewing our blog. The link is make the 2020 service as special as it has been  
<http://fbd-growinginfaith.blogspot.com/> It is each previous year.  
an open site so no sign-in and no password. May God continue to bless you.  
In December we have the wedding of Jane's  
second daughter. Much of the family will be Rick Almond | USA  
here. After the wedding Julie's family will  
return to South Carolina, so we will celebrate  
Christmas with Jane's, John's, and Cathy's  
families.  
With many fond memories.  
Bob Cullen | USA

Thank you for the wonderful newsletter for Dates To  
December-January. Remember  
And thank you so much for praying for  
us when I tested positive for COVID. Our Ash Wednesday Service  
doctor quarantined Bob with me and had on 17th of February  
us both take hydroxychloroquine and at 5.30 pm  
Azithromycin plus zinc and Vitamin C. Even  
though Bob tested negative, the medications Maundy Thursday Service  
would keep him safe from me. on 1st of April  
One granddaughter and her husband tested at 5.30 pm

positive – they are both U. S. Army medics so they were not sick long. We continually test and are thankful God allowed us to discover this the day before we were to fly to SC to visit family for 3 weeks. We would have exposed Julie and her husband; her four children and their children – four of our great grandchildren.

We are looking forward to the wedding of one of Jane's daughters, December 21, and those of our family who can come for the wedding and/or Christmas.

Stay safe ad we pray God's blessings on you all.

Joy Cullen | USA

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Newsletter February/March 2021

Family News

Please pray for

Osanda, Amy & Liyana Senapathiratne.

Our elders: Prayers are requested for all our elders and those who are sick, including Tiddy Senapathiratne, Lilian TissaAratchy, Nihal & Sunil Perera, Lakshmi Ameresekere, Kingsley & Ranjani de Alwis, Hope Edward, Pathma Arulgnanam, Iroma Jansen, Frank & Beatrice Wickremasinghe, Clarice Perera, Rev Kingsley & Iris Perera, Beulah Perampalam, Lakshmi Raghavan, Doris Vannitamby, Jayalath & Heather Ameresekere, Lionel & Srikanthi Pitigala, Anton & Lalani Amaratunga, Sriyanganie Senaratne, Gratien Amarasinghe, Lakshman & Nelun Herath, Sita Ranasinghe

The sick: Beulah Perampalam, Clarice Perera, Iris Perera, Iroma Jansen, Margaret Goodall, Ranjani & Kingsley de Alwis, Leif & Mihiri Brickner, Tiddy Senapatiratne & Lakshmi Ameresekere, Pathma Arulgnanam, Beulah Stephens, Romaine de Alwis

90th Birthday

Pastor Goodall celebrated his 90th Congratulations birthday on the 25th of January.

Congratulations

May God bless you with infinite Asiri (Bambi) happiness and countless blessings. May Wickramasuriya the Lord protect you and be gracious to on your Masters

you on your birthday and beyond. Degree in Accounting and

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Finance from

Deakin University.

Prayers and blessings  
on your graduation  
and for your future.

Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church

our sympathies

Sumudu Senapathiratne, Saumya Perera, Sirini Herath, Susiri Peeris and their families on the passing away of their Mum, Malini Ranasinghe , in November 2020.

We are saddened by your loss.  
However, we celebrate her life.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Ajantha Perera and family on the passing away of his sister Malkanthi Gamage

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to you and your family.

GREET INGS FR OM KENYA

Greetings from Nairobi, Kenya. We are well, and continue to thank God for His grace and mercies which are new every morning.  
We arrived well and have settled back at home. Thank you for all your prayers. The journey home was quite long and God granted us great favour all through. After the mandatory 14 days quarantine, all of us were free of coronavirus symptoms. Shortly afterwards, our house items also arrived back in Kenya.  
We have continued to pray for CGBC and trust that God will move you forward in the New Year 2021 to continue to have influence in Sri Lanka.  
With the love of Jesus Christ,

> Sammy, Eva, Daniel, Daisy and Dalia Likhali

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Dear CGBC Family, GREET INGS Newsletter February/March 2021  
FR OM

Blessed New Year 2021! CANADA births

The Psalmist confidently

declared 'You crown Covid19 virus was totally Praveeni and Shamir were the year with Your unexpected, but it gave blessed with a baby boy in goodness'; we declare us an opportunity to December 2020. His name is the same over you as you experience what over 7 step into the New Year. million people around Aakash.

We can gratefully testify the globe continue to to God's abundant suffer. Asiri(Bambi) & Windya goodness and mercy that Josh is thankful to God Wickramasuroya, who are now

have pursued us through for opening this door to in Australia, were blessed with a these many years and serve among Sri Lankan baby boy, Yahren in November have undoubtedly youth in Canada. The continued through 2020 journey so far has been 2020. amidst all the chaos, exciting and rewarding. changes & uncertainties. Due to lockdown, they Congratulations on your wonderful When we heard His are not able to meet in blessing. May God be your source voice and stepped out person, which was a of strength and guidance on this of our comfort zone in huge concern at first, obedience, we didn't but thank God for wonderful journey into parenthood. know what to expect. technology, which has However, looking back, enabled him to connect we can confidently say well and continue the we saw the goodness of work that has been the Lord in the land of entrusted into his hands. the living. Looking forward to what THANK YOU CGBC He has in store for 2021. family for standing in the Our prayer is that you gap for us. We definitely will continue to Trust experienced His healing God from the bottom of touch. Contracting the your hearts, and not try to figure out everything on your own. Listen to His voice in everything you do and obey even when it doesn't seem to make any sense. We dearly miss our CGBC family! Love & rich blessings

> Chrish & Josh Stephens

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Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church

Beauty for Ashes

In the Christian calendar, Ash Wednesday is The observance of Ash Wednesday, like the first day of Lent and occurs forty-six days Christmas and Easter, is not a biblical before Easter. It falls on a different date each requirement. year, because it is dependent on the date of Nevertheless, it has been honoured by Easter; it can occur as early as February 4th or Christians for centuries, at the beginning as late as March 10th. of Lent, a six-week season of preparation for Easter. Early Christians who had fallen Ash Wednesday gets its name from the into persistent sin had ashes sprinkled on practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of their bodies as a sign of repentance, even as the faithful as a sign of repentance. The ashes Job repented "in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6).

used are gathered after the Palm Crosses from Around the tenth century, all believers began the previous year's Palm Sunday are burned. A to signify their need for repentance by having paste of this ash mixed with oil is used by the ashes placed on their foreheads in the shape presiding priest to make the sign of the cross, of a cross. Ash Wednesday is not some dour, first upon his own forehead and then on those depressing holy day because it symbolically present before him at the altar rail. As he does anticipates Good Friday and Easter.

so, in orthodox churches, he recites the words: Today, celebrations of Ash Wednesday vary "Remember (O man) that you are dust, and to among churches that recognize this holy day. dust you shall return." More and more Protestant and even some evangelical churches hold some sort of Ash

For the most part, we Baptists have grown up Wednesday services. We at the Cinnamon with only a vague notion of Ash Wednesday. Gardens Baptist Church have celebrated this To me, it was some Roman Catholic holy day day with a special service for many years now, that I, as a Baptist or any Protestant for that even though ashes have not been placed on matter, didn't have to worry about. In my view, our foreheads. Instead, we have been taking "that religious stuff " detracted from what tills home, to contribute sacrificially during really mattered, which was having a personal this season, by foregoing some pleasure we are relationship with Jesus Christ. In the early walk used to and donating the cost of it. What I value

with Jesus, it never dawned on me that some of most about Ash Wednesday worship services is

"the religious stuff " might actually enrich my the chance for us all openly to acknowledge faith. our frailty and sinfulness. In a world that often expects us to be perfect, we can freely confess

Then a few years ago, walking into Court one our imperfections on Ash Wednesday. We can day, I was startled to see a lawyer friend with let down our pretenses and be truly honest a dark cross rubbed on his forehead. At first I with each other about who we are. We all bear wondered if it was a bruise. Then I noticed a the mark of sin, from the youngest babies to few other men and women in Hulftsdorp with the oldest seniors. We all stand guilty before a similar crosses. Here was my introduction holy God. We all are mortal and will someday to Ash Wednesday piety, in the strange experience bodily death, unless the Lord environment of law courts. These men and returns during the lifetime of some of us. Thus, women, who were Roman Catholic or Church we all need a Saviour.

of Ceylon, had gone to services that morning and had ashes placed on their foreheads. I felt >Ravi Algama impressed that they were willing to wear their ashes so publicly, even though it seemed a 19 rather odd thing to do.

Weekly Meetings Associate Pastor - Mr Giyan Senapthiratne  
Mobile - 072 335 9420

Sunday 9:15 am Secretary - Mrs Devika Ukwatte  
Kithu Mithu Maga (Sunday School) Residence - 011 282 1962

Sunday 9:15 am - 10:15 am Mobile - 077 715 4007

Adult Bible Study Treasurer - Mr Dinuke Wijesinghe

1st Monday of the month 6:00 pm Mobile - 071 157 7777

Pastor and Deacons Meeting

2nd Monday of the month 6:00 pm Deacons - Mr Dinesh Singh, Ms Mangeswari

Pastor, Deacons & Leaders Meeting Ravichandran, Mr Thilal Nanayakkara, Mr Thisal



3rd Monday of the month 6:00 pm Senapathiratne, Mr Lakmal Ratnayake,  
Pastor, Deacons and Officers Meeting Mr S.P. Roshan

4th Monday of the month 6:00 pm Purpose Team Leaders  
Pastor, Deacons and Teams Meeting Worship Team

Wednesday 10.00 am Ms Kaushalya Senapathiratne  
Ladies meet for prayer Mobile - 077 714 6575

Wednesday 6.15 pm

Midweek Outreach Service Fellowship Team

Thursday 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm Ms Booshana Weerasinghe  
Ladies' Bible Study Mobile - 077 840 3444

Thursday 9.00 pm - 10.00 pm

Youth Bible Study Discipleship Team

Mr Dinuk Senapatiratne

Mobile - 076 679 1228

Ministry Team

Mr B Mohideen

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