

Subject: Report of work in Strathupally School of Preaching and Children's Home

Conversation with Samson on May 4:

Since March 20 things have been extremely stressful from both the effects of the Covid pandemic and the cyclonic storms they has experienced. The upper portion of the construction site for the orphanage was ravaged by cyclonic storms. Debris was scattered over the area and fell on a woman who died from her injuries. The focus has been on making the repairs to the building to prevent other parts from falling and causing more damage. Since the school had to be closed by the Covid crises their funds have been used to try to get materials for the repairs as well as to help the Christians with food. If they had jobs, they lost them and no jobs are available. Agriculture is the main source for jobs are and it is their off season.

There are about 87 families of Christians, including the preachers. Each average family has 4-5 members. It costs about \$100 per month to feed a family with basic rice and bare necessities. Additionally, there are 27 widows who need about \$30 a month. They are struggling the spread their funds to meet the needs throughout the Christian community. Samson sent pictures of himself and some of the young men delivering care packages to widows before the storm.

The government is offering a stipend to some as financial aid. However, if they know them to be Christian, they withhold it. There is propaganda that Christians get money from America.

Samson was so prayerful and thankful for the steadfastness of the Christians. He said many of them had been believers since 1974 from his father's ministry. His words were that they had not compromised their faith or turned back to Hinduism. Most of all he requested our prayers and would be most grateful for any relief we could offer. He is most anxious to see the school opened so the training of preachers can progress.