

Reflections

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Mufana's Blessing!

Check out the story on Page 03

CONTENTS

02

**Editorial
Message**

03

Cover Story

04

**Staff Testimonies
Highlights**

05

Special Feature

EDITORIAL

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MESSAGE

Giving vs Greed

“

An important question each person should ask is, “How much do I really need? Christ is quite clear about the accumulation of wealth. As in the story of the man who built his storehouse bigger to hold his great crops, Christ also asks each one of us where it is we keep our treasure. Is it on earth, or is it in heaven?

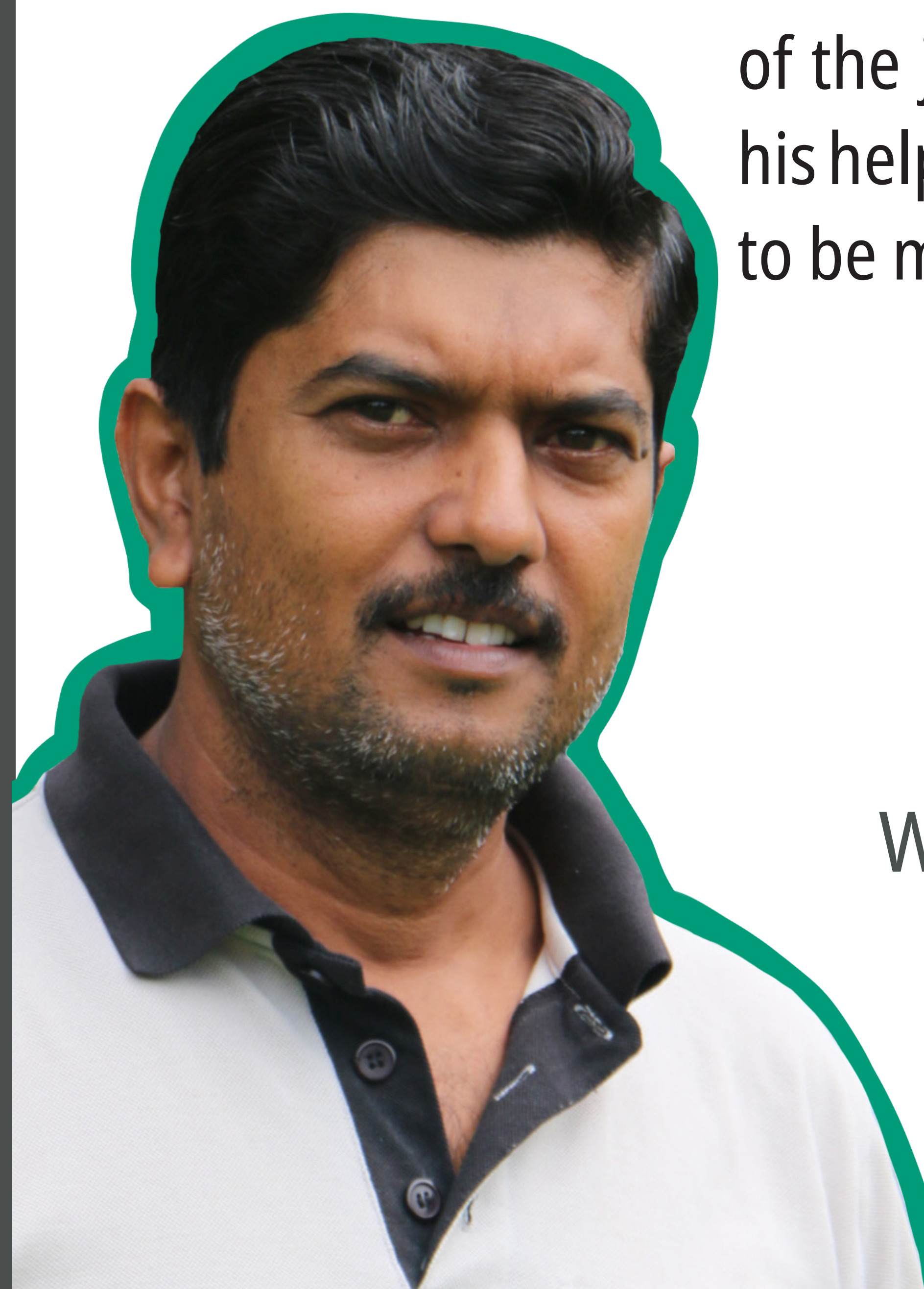
The wise man Solomon say in Proverbs 1:19, “So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof. Surely God wants every person to enjoy life and to share in good times, but He does not find joy in the celebration of a few when many suffer.

A good guideline to follow concerning the possessions of this world is to contemplate the question of what Christ might do with the same possessions if they were His. If this rule were followed, much more would be given and shared and fewer people would have to do without. The Bible says that greed is keeping what we don’t need. God rejoices in the life of a giver but has no part on the greedy person’s life.

Greediness leads to despair. True joy comes to us not from what we own but from what we are able to give others. We were put on this earth to serve one another and when we fail to do so, there is a price to pay. When we give what we have, God will bless us with more and the blessings will be doubled because

of the joy that giving brings and with his help and guidance, we all can learn to be more benevolent and generous.

”



Wernher Reith

WASH Technical Specialist

COVER STORY

Mufana's Blessing

By Shatheesh Sumiethan



Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, many livelihoods have been severely affected and those who depend on daily wages have lost their jobs and sources of income. Mufana lives in Vavuniya town with her two children and her husband who is an immam at a local mosque. Her husband is the breadwinner of their family and the income he earned was not sufficient to manage the family expenses.

Through the second phase of the Local Economic and Social Strengthening (LESS) II project, ADRA supported Mufana to start tailoring in the middle of March, just before the country went in to lockdown. While many of the livelihood assisted beneficiaries

of the project were unable to start their activities due to the pandemic and the subsequent lockdown, Mufana identified the need and the demand for face masks exacerbated by the current situation and decided to produce face masks. So far she has sold more than 2500 masks. While she sells her products to the local market, she is also one of the selected and endorsed suppliers for the MOH (Office of the Medical Officer of Health) staff. At present her husband helps her in marketing and transporting the products, while she tailors and produces them. As a result of ADRA's intervention their monthly income has drastically increased due to the high demand for face masks. As this demand is temporary she has decided to start producing other essential products such as maternity gowns, bed sheets, pillowcases, etc. Moreover, this period has allowed her to network with suppliers and sellers and to earn more which can be utilized to develop her business endeavor further.

Mufana is extremely happy that she was able to earn a considerable income through her self-started business despite the challenges and difficulties. She also expresses her sincere gratitude to the Department of Home Affairs and the entire ADRA project team, for giving her a means of income during the lockdown and living in this unprecedented times.

Local Economic and Social Strengthening (LESS) II project was implemented for two years from 2018 to 2020, funded by the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs. Through the project ADRA Sri Lanka partnered with ADRA India on a cross border effort to assist refugees returnees, through social reintegration and livelihood support in Killinochchi and Vavuniya Districts in the Northern province.



STAFF TESTIMONIES

Khayali John

Health & Nutrition Specialist - ACCEND Project

“Growing up, all my important decisions in education were taken by considering whether or not I would be helping people with my hands. During my dental internship, I used to always have a yearning to be a part of a humanitarian movement and use the skills and knowledge that I have learnt in the health sciences to benefit people who are unreached and marginalized. Though I faced many hurdles after graduation in reaching that goal, God was never far away. Little did I know that God would open up a door at ADRA for me. My current position here requires me to oversee and coordinate the health and nutrition related activities of the EU funded ACCEND project.

I truly believe God orchestrated it in such a way as to not only give me a platform to serve but also placed wonderful mentors to learn from and be guided through as well. Aside from the laughs shared, and memories created - in the office and out in the field, what I am most thankful for is an opportunity to be and extension of God’s hands and feet in a downtrodden world and be part of an organization that raises its mission of faith like a banner drawn high for all to see. ADRA was indeed an answer to my prayers!”

NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

Re-opening Ceremony of the Lower Cranelly Tamil School

The re-opening ceremony of the Lower Cranelly Tamil School in Agarapathana which was renovated through the second phase of the Children Deserve the Best (CDB) project and the Child Centred Communities (CCC) project was held recently. The occasion was graced by Assistant Director of Education, Mr. N. Kirubaran, the In-Service Advisor, Mrs. P. Mangaleshwary from the Nuwara Eliya Zonal Education Office and the Country Director of ADRA Sri Lanka, Mr. Windell Maranan. Through the Czech Republic Development Cooperation funded CDB project, the main school buildings of the school were refurbished and were equipped with age appropriate teaching equipment, while through the ADRA Korea funded CCC Project, a library management system was established within the school and several other trainings were conducted for the staff and students.



Launching the third phase of the LESS Project



ADRA Sri Lanka launched the third phase of the Local Economic and Social Strengthening (LESS) project on July 01st. The project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs and will be implemented in partnership with ADRA India in Mannar, Killinochchi, and Vavuniya districts targeting refugee returnees, youth and ex-combatants. The main objective of the project is to contribute towards creating durable social and economic solutions for communities that displays an out-migration culture.



SPECIAL FEATURE

A handwashing station established through
the emergency response project

ADRA Responds to COVID-19 with the SLM

by Florentia Amarasinghe

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country, the Sri Lankan government took immediate action and placed the country under strict curfew to curtail the spread of the pandemic. With the number of infected people rising in the country, the ADRA Sri Lanka team moved to activate the emergency plan in place within the organization to support the rising needs. The team worked very closely with the duty bearers such as the Divisional Secretariats, Medical Officers of Health, Office of the Regional Director of Health Services and the Urban Councils in the Nuwara Eliya, Vavuniya and Matale districts to narrow down the needs in order to ensure that the identified needs could be responded to, through the set aside funding.

With the approvals being granted, the team in close partnership with the Sri Lanka Mission of Seventh-day Adventists initiated the activities which ranged from the provision of safety equipment to the health service providers to the provision of 497 food packs to vulnerable families living under self-quarantine and families that were dependent on daily wages.

Futhermore, the project supported efforts of disinfection of public locations in the Vavuniya and Nuwara Eliya districts, facilitated trainings sessions to 400 public transport providers (bus and three-wheelers) while also providing material support (spray bottles, gloves, disinfection liquid) for continual disinfection.

This emergency response provided 1,328 families hygiene packs containing disinfection liquid and hand washing and detergent bars of soap which were distributed by health duty bearers during household visits where information sharing was carried out in terms of safety measures to be carried out. The team also shared IEC material alongside all the packs that were distributed and also established IEC boards and put up IEC banners to increase awareness on correct hand washing techniques and on safety/ precautionary measures to be carried out to reduce the spread of the disease. Altogether, the project supported more than 10,000 individuals through its efforts.

This emergency response project titled 'EM 20-018' was funded by ADRA International, ADRA Asia Regional Office, Latter Day Saint Charities (LDS Charities) and the Sri Lanka Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



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