

God's Love Endures



Richard Ondicho's Newsletter 1/2022 – 27.1.2022

*"I have loved you with an **everlasting love**; I have drawn you with loving-kindness, I will build you up again and you will be rebuilt O Virgin Israel. Again, you will take up your tambourines and go out to dance with the joyful."*
Jeremiah 31:3-4.

These words from an OT prophet were written during dark days of his people. I am claiming them as God's promise even as year 2022 looks like another year dominated by Covid-19 pandemic. By God's help we shall overcome.

The Corona virus seems to be eternal, but God's unfailing love is the only thing in creation that is eternal. I therefore put trust in God and in His good plans for us to reach out the lost. We have endured and continue to endure in every way in keeping the health precautions.



God's lovingkindness has kept us save for the past five years of our immigrant ministry at Luther-Church Helsinki. The past year 2021 was full of challenges due to Covid-19, despite the fact that this is the state worldwide and it has affected everybody in one way or the other. As the Pastor and missionary for this noble work, I have adored participating in, and leading, our weekly Bible studies on Tuesdays and on Wednesdays. I have adored on Sundays during our Divine services to hear inspiring statements of faith from congregation members. Announcing the absolution of their sins has been so amazing to stand on behalf of God.

Last Christmas 2021, we were able to have a special dinner for everybody. We had an attendance of 56 people. I organized that every member should share food with somebody who does not have. Our members immediately suggested that we donate money, and it was not easy to feed the 56 people. BY God's grace Rev. Jari Rankinen donated to us from Sydis Congregation 200 euros. This financial support enabled us to complete the needed sum with what we had. We remain thankful to this gracious offer. We spent more than five hours at the dinner because people were not in hurry to anywhere.



In December 2021 and January 2022, we have also experienced God's blessings as we had had more than three Arabid speakers granted asylum. This has also rekindled hope to others who have waited for their asylum for the last six years. We have also experienced God's provisions in bring more new people to our weekly Bible studies. We continue to open the Holy scriptures to read and get people to read them aloud in their own language.



Our volunteer team continues to support our congregation in one way or the other. Our Sunday school teachers, those who record the sermon and those who keep reading the Bible texts during the Divine service while others make coffee and clean at the end of the meetings. It helps that the Divine service is not a one man show but that all of us do participate in one way or the other.

Thanks for your prayer and financial support for the past year 2021 and kindly walk with us in the year 2022.

In Christ I remain His servant and yours.

Richard Ondicho

Would you like to participate in mission work? If you want to support Richard Ondicho's work, you can choose an amount to Leaf's donation bank account: IBAN: FI13 8000 1500 7791 95 BIC: DABAFIHH.

- Use your personal reference number, so that your support will automatically be shown in your local congregation's mission support total or write into the transaction message field "Richard Ondichon rengas" + your home congregation.
- You can find further information about donating monthly from <https://www.taivaallinenlahja.fi/kuukausilahjoittaminen> or from Leea Gröhn, leea.grohn@sley.fi / 09 2513 9228.
- For a personal reference number please contact Anna-Liisa Markkula, anna-liisa.markkula@sley.fi / +358 50 321 8614.

Your support enables to share the Gospel to those who do not know Christ yet.

Thank you for your support! May God bless your gift.

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