

GOD

IS ALWAYS WATCHING

OVER US

On 18th January this year, not knowing the outcome of the COVID-19, my husband Daniel and I left, with a group of our friends, for a holiday to Kerala in India. I was worried and prayed very much before the trip, for a safe holiday, because except for 3 persons, the rest of our group of 15 were in our late 70 and early 80s. We prayed few times during the trip asking God for His protection and mercy for each one of us. We had a wonderful time of fellowship, and we returned safely on the 24th of January to our respective homes in Australia, Sri Lanka, UK, USA and Singapore. Two days later we heard, that three students who had returned from Wuhan to Kerala on the 25th of January had been tested positive for COVID-19. I was thankful to have left Kerala a day before that.

I went to Sri Lanka on the 7th of March, as I had to carry out some repairs to our flat. I had hoped to return on the 2nd of April. As the COVID-19 problem arose, the Sri Lanka government announced on the 16th of March that all the foreigners should register themselves at the nearest police stations and quarantine themselves where they were staying. Once you're registered with the Police,

*Let us then approach
God's throne of grace
with confidence, so that
we may receive mercy
and find grace to help us
in our time of need.*

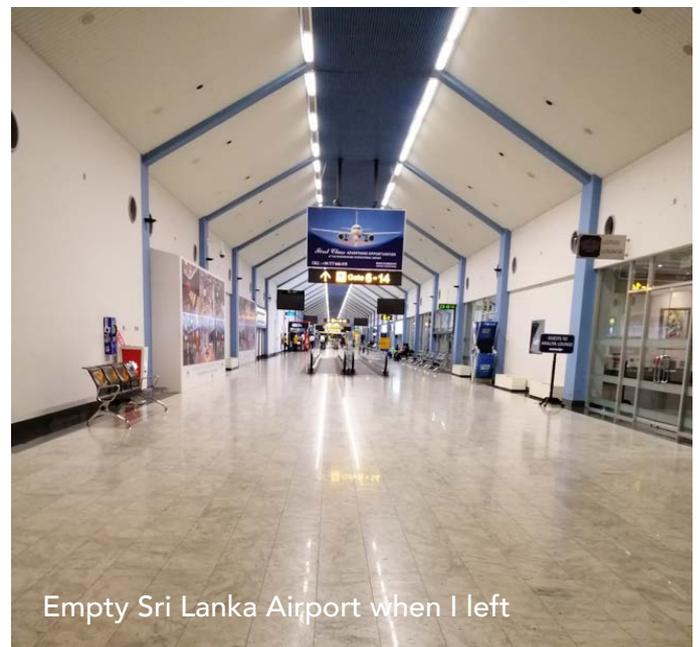
Hebrews 4:16

**This is a verse which
I felt very much true,
during the past few
months.**

ANGELICA ARIARATNAM,
7AM SERVICE

the Environment officers drop in at all odd hours, to check whether you are in or not. Since I had started work on my flat, I couldn't leave earlier.

To my horror, on the 25th of March, Malaysian Airlines informed me that my return flight on the 2nd April was cancelled. I quickly bought a ticket on Sri Lankan Airlines for the 10th of April, but I was informed on the 28th of March, they would not be flying until the end of April. To add to my worries, we were informed that the Sri Lankan Airport



Empty Sri Lanka Airport when I left

was closed for all flights. Furthermore, a 24-hour curfew was enforced and everything came to a stand still.

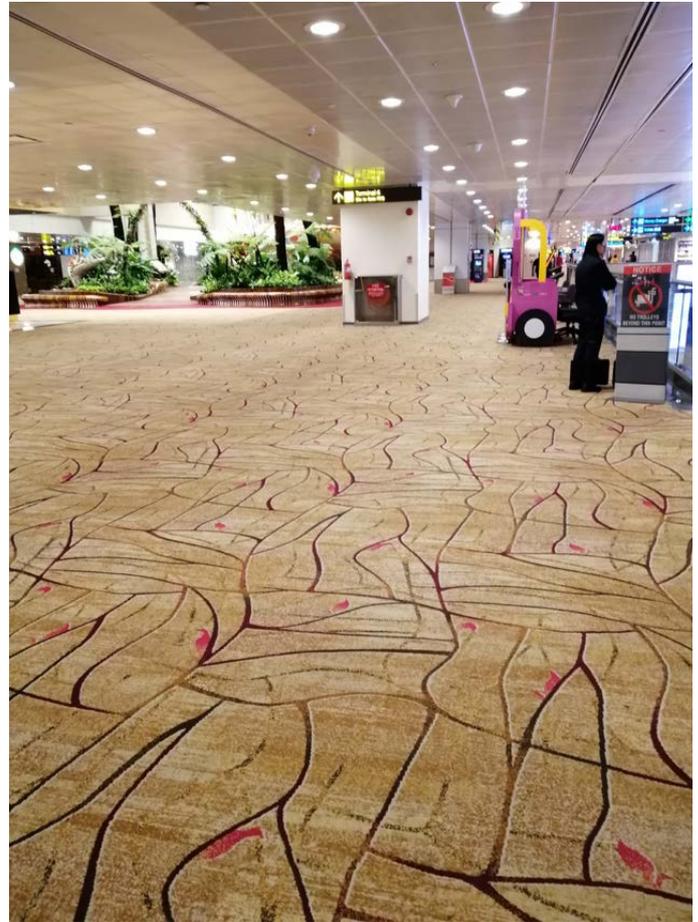
I was in a dilemma as to what to do. On the 28th of March, I called the Singapore Consulate in Sri Lanka and asked for help, and I prayed hard. I was surprised when Singapore Airlines called me on the 30th and informed me, there was a special flight on the 30th night to bring home all those who were stranded in Sri Lanka. It was a miracle! It was again a real trauma as I had to get a quarantine certificate from the Health Ministry, in order to get a curfew pass from the Police to go to the Airport. At the Airport I was so glad to see about 40 Singaporeans there to take the flight, and we reached Singapore the next morning. It was such a joy that the main hurdle was over and I thanked the Lord for bringing me out.

I was issued a 14-day stay-home notice, but I couldn't go home because my grandson was going to school. Hence, I quarantined myself in a hotel close by. The view from my room was amazing. It had a breath-taking view of Singapore, which at times lifted my spirit and helped me to be thankful to see how God has blessed our nation.

The two weeks being shut in a room was solitary confinement. But this time was an undisturbed time when I was able to spend more time to read the Bible and pray. I had opportunity to listen to David Pawson's Bible commentaries and understand in greater detail the background of each book of the Bible.

It was an out-of-the-world experience to be alone. Though it was lonely at times, to be able to sit quietly in God's presence and experience His presence was comforting.

I always believe that God hears our prayers and though He may not answer immediately, He is in control of the situation and will help us as we put our trust in Him. We should not feel down that we are stuck in our homes but thank God that we have a home and a God who watches over us.



Empty Singapore Airport when I landed



Angelica and husband, Daniel

DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER, LET US NEVER FORGET, THAT YOU ARE WATCHING OVER US AND YOU ARE IN CONTROL OF EVERY SITUATION WE GO THROUGH, AND WILL HELP US, AS WE PUT OUR TRUST IN YOU. WE GIVE YOU THANKS FOR YOUR IMMEASURABLE LOVE FOR EACH ONE OF US. AMEN