



SPECIAL DRY RATION PROJECT DECEMBER 2023

*"It is better by far to light a solitary candle than to curse the
darkness"*



This is the cartman Mr. Don William, the first recipient of our Volunteer Coordinator, Mr Ralph Gunawardena's dry ration quota of 10 given by CandleAid.

He supports a family of five. The daughter works in a house in Mount Lavinia, while the son-in-law, a painter, is without a job. The two grandchildren have recently finished school and are not employed.

Mr. Don William is the primary earner for the family, pushing his cart along Galle Road with the recent food hamper given by CandleAid.

It is a poignant snapshot of the challenges faced by Mr. Don William, juxtaposed against the backdrop of affluent multinational companies such as KFC, Singer, LAUGFS and luxury vehicles such as Toyota, Honda, BMW, BENZ etc. This sadly is one story of Xmas 2023.



We share a poignant story about Dinil Damsith Perera, a 24-year-old university student at the Colombo Campus residing in Payagala. Dinil's life took a tragic turn following a severe accident, resulting in significant injuries and an extended stay in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Initially, doctors held little hope for his survival, but miraculously, he managed to pull through, albeit at the cost of losing his eyesight.

Adding to the family's challenges, Dinil's father, a retiree, already in poor health, sustains the household through odd jobs. Meanwhile, his mother, a housewife, now bears the responsibility of assisting her son with transportation, to and from the university. Dinil has two brothers – the elder one resides separately but provided substantial support during Dinil's hospitalization, while the younger brother is engaged in a modest job.

These tales of adversity, unfortunately not uncommon, often go unnoticed in our daily lives. It is precisely in such circumstances that organizations like CandleAid play a crucial role, extending a helping hand to individuals like Dinil and others facing hardship nationwide.



Some of the others who received a bag of dry rations this December



**Chathurika Sandamali from Uswetakeiyawa
Volunteer Coordinator – Ms Malsha Paris, a young
trainee Pilot**



**Dilusha Lashani Pieirs from Egoda Uyana
Volunteer Coordinator – Dhananath Fernando**



**Families from Kilinochchi distributed by Rev. Fr. Melvin Roy Fernando
Volunteer Coordinator – Father Nadeep**

Some of the others who received a bag of dry rations this December



**P. Priyadarshini from Talawakelle
Volunteer Coordinator – Inoja**



**Suresh Peiris from Korlawella
Volunteer Coordinator – Mrs Arundathy Gunawardena**



**Chandrapala Gunawardena from Dikkumbura
Volunteer Coordinator – Tharindu Asintha**