



21st December 2020

Dear Members,

As we grow closer to the end of a most tumultuous year, there may be many things that remind us of these past trying months. Rather than holding onto the difficult times that challenged us beyond belief, we should focus instead on our collective resilience - on our growth, our community, and the fact that we made it through it all.

The year seemed determined to squeeze every ounce of joy out of us before the calendar's end. And yet, here we are. It is December 2020, and what was once a flicker of light at the end of the long tunnel, has become a guiding light.

Despite everything 2020 has thrown our way, the prospect of a new year raises our hopes for a brighter and better future, and that alone is a reminder of joy we should continue to hold onto. I don't have the perfect formula for reckoning with it all, for staying hopeful but not insensitive, solemn but not despondent - but I do know that we have to let ourselves feel happiness amid trauma or injustice because that's how we'll have the energy to keep fighting it. And we have to let ourselves feel exhausted and scared and angry too because that's how we'll remember the fight was worth it.

Next year, what a blessing it will be to end up in a long line at the airport or to stress out about a dinner we are planning for a group of friends. What a gift it will be for parents seeing the screaming hordes of children breaking free from the classroom in the afternoon because they were able to spend the day in school once again.

Until we reach that point, we can find joy in little gestures, kind words, understanding smiles, fond memories and in the fact that we keep going - no matter what. And we can spread it by learning and listening and lending a helping hand.

And if we can't feel joy at this moment, that's alright as well. We can just wait a little longer. It'll be there for us soon enough.

In this sense, my committee joins me in wishing you and your families a...



We not only look forward to seeing you again soon but more often too.

Joyfully,

Marina Fernando
President
Swiss Circle Sri Lanka