

News from the James family, planning to serve the Lord in Sri Lanka



Serendip

an old name for the island nation of Sri Lanka (once known as Ceylon). From this comes the English word serendipity, meaning, "happy surprise" or better, "unexpected blessing."

Here is a picture of our home in Battle Creek, Michigan and our barn. We have lived here since November of 2000, if I recall correctly. As we continue preparing to deploy to Sri Lanka, we become more and more aware of how much stuff we have as Americans and how much we love our stuff. We have to determine what we are going to keep; what we are going to sell or give away; and what we are going to toss.



After visiting Sri Lanka these two times, it is startling to compare our abundance with their subsistence. It becomes apparent that I could live with much, much less than I now have.

What is apparent to the head is not always so obvious to the heart. We are packaging and laying away numerous boxes of our treasured possessions, thinking that in however many years it might be, we will open them up and make them a part of our lives again.



Maybe, maybe not. There is no promise that our stuff will be here even tomorrow, let alone years from now. In fact we are assured by our Lord that these things are all passing away. You can keep your barn and stuff it with your goods, but you can be good and sure that moth and rust will still cause decay,

even if thieves don't break in and steal.

But one "motto" of the Reformation was "The Word of the Lord remains forever," as from Isaiah 40:7-8: "The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."



Thanks to these

Congregations & Schools

We have had the pleasure of visiting the following churches and schools since the last newsletter:

St. Peter Lutheran School
Eastpointe, MI

St. Andrew Lutheran Church
Memphis, MI

Lutheran High School North
Macomb, MI

St. John Lutheran Church
Rushford, MN

Contact us at
roger.james@lcmsintl.org

if you would like us to visit your congregation or organization.

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to roger.james@lcmsintl.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.



Prayer Requests

- That we would be able to get visas that will allow us to deploy.
- Thanksgiving for the Continuing recovery of Pastor Devanesan.
- For wisdom. We need wisdom regarding what to do with our worldly possessions.
- For fruitful visits to congregations and partners as support raising continues.
- Thanksgiving for the kind and generous support of congregations, individuals, and organizations for our work.
- For our funding to continue without lapse.

That Eternal Word of the Lord became flesh and dwelt among us. He withered and faded away upon the cross, as if He were sinful grass like us, taking our death as His own. But even so, the Word of the Lord endures forever, for Jesus rose again the third day, proof that the cross was His victory.

Now the Word of the Lord that remains forever stuffs His never-withering promises for safe-keeping into our ears and fills our mouths with His never-fading living body and life-giving blood so that we too, who believe in Him, receiving His gifts will remain forever.

We have given up nothing to go to Sri Lanka, for the Word of the Lord remains forever.

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As far as I am informed the only thing holding us back from deployment is our visa. We need your continued support and the support of others as well, but I believe that we have met the critical level of financial support to be able to deploy without immediate concern that we will run short.

As I have said before, so I say again: Thank you, one and all; thank you, congregations, schools, and circuits, for your kind gifts. Your on-going support is crucial for our deployment and work. If you have been considering supporting us, we would be very grateful for your help.

If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at roger.james@lcmsintl.org.

Also check out www.lcms.org/jamesfamily, and if you are able to support us financially, check out www.lcms.org/givenow/jamesfamily. Remember that 100% of your gifts go to our support. No administrative costs are deducted. Also remember that pledges of support are even more helpful than one time gifts.

Peace in Christ,

Roger B. James

Oh, Look!
I have
room for
Clarence
pictures!



Gramma Amy & C
Uncle Eli & C
Uncle John & C
Grampa Yours Truly & C

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at www.lcms.org/service.

Click on "Service Opportunities."

To support our work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 790089
St. Louis, MO 63179-0089.

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Roger James." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at www.lcms.org/jamesfamily.