

News from the James family, SERVING 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."

Time has gotten away from me, and I am way behind in keeping all of you informed regarding what is happening with us. Part of the problem is that so much has happened. For two years we have been trying to figure out visas for me and my family to come live in Sri Lanka and work with the church. We never really expected to get missionary visas, but that is exactly what we have gotten. I, along with my family, have residential missionary

visas, renewable each year. This visa gives me free rein to preach and teach and conduct services in Sri Lanka. Our Lord used this man pictured. He is probably a familiar face to any who have seen my past posts. He is **Rev. S. Devanesan, along with his lovely wife Camilla and daughters Andrea and Lydia.** He made the contacts and set up all that was needed for this to happen. The outcome was hardly short of miraculous.



Here in Sri Lanka we have been living in a temporary, rather small and expensive 8th floor flat. (The picture of John with banjo is from our balcony.) We are looking for a better place to live.



Little did we know as the time drew near for our entering Sri Lanka the two last LCMS missionaries to work here were coming back for a visit, **Rev. John and Patricia Temple.** This has given us the chance of picking their memories about the eighteen years they gave to serve our Lord's Church here. Then, as if that were not enough, they learned that the home they lived in for much of their time here is available for rent. It might work for us, too. We will find out.

I keep saying "we," but it's actually down to only "me." Amy, John, and Eli returned to the USA on June 10. Eli will be filling much of his summer with Christ Academy at Concordia Theological Seminary (Fort Wayne, IN). Then both John and Eli will be attending the Higher Things youth conference at Mequon. And remember Pastor Devanesan from the paragraph above? He will also be in the US and will likely also be

attending the conference.

John will be starting college in the fall, so his time in the field is at an end. We are so thankful that he has been able to spend these last months in India and finally in Sri Lanka following several years of waiting and praying. Amy is back in the US getting ready for our eldest son's wedding.

I know that we really have just gotten here, but I, too, will be returning

We have had the joy of visiting these Lutheran congregations in Sri Lanka:

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Colombo

Faith Lutheran Church
Labookellie Tea Estate

ALSO

I had the privilege of representing the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as an observer at the elections of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church

Contact us at

roger.james@lcmsintl.org

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

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Prayer Requests

- Thanksgiving that we have missionary residence visa for Sri Lanka.
- For a home to settle down in here in Sri Lanka.
- For godly and friendly relationships to be established with the pastors, vicars, and people of the Sri Lankan Lutheran church.
- For good health of body, mind, and spirit in our new home.
- For a good renter for our home in Battle Creek, Michigan.
- For on-going funding. Without support we cannot serve.

Visit our **Facebook** page
Thothiram:
James Family in India
 for more updates & pictures



John on our balcony in Colombo 6.



Produce stand near Nuwara Eliya



Eli, Danshun, & Clinton hiking at Horton Plains

to 'Merica, as we have affectionately come to call her. I will preach at my son's wedding and squeeze the grandson as often as I get the chance. Then it is back to Sri Lanka at the end of August.

Many of you have been watching and praying with us during these last years as we have planned and prepared and then waited and waited to come here. We often felt an awkward sense of homelessness, even though we were in our own home! However, the time was not wasted. The months we spent in India was truly a blessing. We came to love that land and so many people.

Now we are actually, finally stationed in Sri Lanka. I confess there is a sense of "Now what?" How to even begin! From time to time I have been gently instructed that there is no rush. First you have to get somewhat grounded in your environment, learn how to get around; not just geographically, but socially. Get to know the people you will be living and working with. Soak it in.

Here is another benefit of having the Temples with us briefly as we first arrived. It reminded us that we are not the beginning, nor will we be the end of this work. Many have gone before us, and until our Lord returns there will be those who follow us. The work of preaching, teaching, and confessing the faith does not cease. The names and faces and, even, languages change, but the Word goes on through the pastors called and ordained to publicly preach it and through Christian souls who simply as a part of their nature open their lips and show forth His praise, proclaiming Jesus Son of God Savior.

As always, thank you for supporting us with your words of encouragement, your gifts, and your prayers. We continue to need you and we thank our Lord for you.

Peace in Christ,

Roger B. James

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.