

News from the James family, serving the Lord's Church 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."*

Parenting is full-time work. Everyone knows that. Not just infants, but toddlers to tweens, teens, and arguably even older, need the guidance of their parents. That's the way in the church, too: fathers raising the children. Earthly fathers, called Dad and Grandpa—with the constant guidance and help of Mom and Gramma, of course—and churchly fathers, called Pastor. They have the full-time work of passing on the faith, rearing their children in the Divine Gifts. Psalm 78:2-4 describes it nicely:

*I will open my mouth...; I will utter... things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and His might, and the wonders He has done.*

I am learning that this is also important in missions. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has sent out missionaries for a hundred years and more to rear children in other lands, to raise up the church wherever we go in the world, as the Holy Spirit sees fit. The children might be babies fresh to the light of day, or they might be eighty year olds. They still are children who need to be reared. They are the coming generation of Christians that need to be told "the glorious deeds of the Lord,

and His might, and the wonders He has done." The wonder of all wonders is the cross where God died and from that cross all the other wonders radiate His salvation: the bright beams of Holy Baptism, the Word of Absolution, the glowing food of forgiveness in the Body and Blood. All of these wonders and more we will not hide from the children.



Clinton & I discussing theology with an attentive audience. Clinton is the son of a pastor. He would love to study medicine. He was translating Tamil/English for me.

To put it another way, mission work means delivering all the goods and to keep at it. After all, that's what Jesus said: "Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe **everything I have commanded you.**" All the goods—everything—Jesus mandated to us.

When we stop too soon, and don't deliver all the goods, it is like giving up on being a parent, leaving your sons and daughters to their



## SKYPE VISITS

I recently Skyped with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League of Zion Lutheran Church, Marshall, Michigan. It seemed to work pretty well. The women had gathered at 9AM for a meeting and brunch, which was 7:30PM for me in Colombo. We had a decent picture and we were able to hear one another. I spoke with them, including answering questions, for half an hour or so. If any other organizations would like to do a "Skype Visit," I would enjoy making the arrangements to be with you.

Contact us at  
[roger.james@lcmsintl.org](mailto:roger.james@lcmsintl.org)

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

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with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.





## Prayer Requests

- Thanksgiving that we have missionary residence visa for Sri Lanka.
- Thanksgiving that we have a comfortable apartment in Colombo to call home for the next six months or so.
- For godly and friendly relationships to be established with the pastors, vicars, and people of the Sri Lankan Lutheran church.
- For wisdom as I plan how to proceed in my work in the way that will best serve the Lutheran church in Sri Lanka.
- For good health of body, mind, and spirit in our new home.
- For safe travel as we vacation back in the US for most of August. Then Amy, Eli, and I return to Sri Lanka.
- 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

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](http://www.lcms.org/service).

Click on

“Service Opportunities”

own resources. The results almost always are disastrous. So in the congregation and in the “mission field.” We must not stop short in our teaching the whole counsel of God, especially since we are blessed to have our Biblical faith so excellently packaged in the Small Catechism and the whole Book of Concord, for that matter. If we stop too soon, the results are disastrous. The children will be drawn away from the pure teaching of God’s Word. They will be drawn toward what only seems right in the cloudy sight of sinful men.

More importantly, they will miss the blessed comfort of the Gospel. Christ will be mingled with something else, and to the extent that Christ is mingled, He is diminished. Where He is diminished, life itself is diminished. But where Christ is preached and taught in His fullness, there is fullness of life and hope and joy and strength.

Peace in Christ,

*Roger B. James*

P.S. Missing Amy & the boys. They are back in the U.S., preparing for eldest son’s, Seth’s, wedding. So I am wandering on my own. I will be heading back to MI for most of August, for vacation!



Good Samaritan Lutheran Church, Norwood Tea Estate. You can barely see Vicar Sebastian, who serves this congregation.



Getting a baby fix in anticipation of squeezing this guy.



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](http://www.lcms.org/jamesfamily).