

News from Rev. Dr. Edward and Monica Naumann, serving the Lord in South Asia



Recent Events

October 31: Dr. Naumann presents reformation lecture at ATA Conference in Ja-Ela.

November 5: Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church joint reformation service in Nuwara Eliya.

November 20-25: Emily and Molly teach Advent and Christmas hymns in Colombo, Nuwara Eliya, and Eila.

November 30: CTS Nagercoil campus is hit by a storm, forcing the seminary to close until repairs can be made.

December 16: Carols and Lessons Service, and Christmas Programme in Nuwara Eliya.

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

CELC CELEBRATES REFORMATION

Sri Lankan Lutherans gathered together on November 5, 2017 to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It was a holiday, so many people – about 500 – were able to attend. Area Director Rev. James preached, and we sang in Tamil some newly-learned Reformation hymns, including *A Mighty Fortress*, *Lord Keep us Steadfast in Your Word*, *Salvation unto Us Has Come*, and *Open Now They Gates of Beauty*, led by the newly formed CELC choir. In addition to strong voices, we praised God in the service with instruments! Monica and three members of the Mahlburg family (the missionaries that arrived in July), formed a quartet. Some Tamil hymns were also accompanied by tabla, a traditional South Asian drum. What a way to celebrate our unity in Christ, despite language and cultural differences!



Monica (far left) plays clarinet with three Mahlburg family members for the joint Reformation service.

External Lectures and Opportunities

After presenting a Reformation lecture at the University of Kelaniya, Pr. Edward was invited to present again at a conference organized by the Asia Theological Association, and subsequently to lecture on liturgy and sacraments at Colombo Theological Seminary (CTS), in January and February. The New Year brings new opportunities to share the Gospel!



PRAYER REQUESTS

In thanksgiving for general good health this year, our children's contentment and success in adapting to a new school, for new relationships and opportunities.

For God's blessings on all our ongoing projects, including:

For pre-seminary students Danshan and Jeyson.

For the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church, as congregations submit their applications for membership;

For the building project in Colombo, that we receive planning permission from the municipal council.

For the slow and painstaking work of publishing books!

For the Sinhalese pastors in Colloquy training to join the CELC.

For Nagercoil Seminary, hit badly by a storm, and now in need of some major repairs.

For all the other activities, which are too numerous to fit into the newsletter!

Let's Talk!

Want to speak with Pastor Naumann directly? Feel free to add him on Skype.
Username: EdwardN82

LESSONS AND CAROLS TRADITION CONTINUES INTO SECOND YEAR

Last year we tried something daring: separating the sacred from the profane, by dividing the Christmas Program into a Lessons and Carols Service, followed by a separate Christmas Program. It was a great first attempt in 2016, although we discovered that



Molly and Emily in Nuwara Eliya

singing the carols was a 'growth area'. Some carols, like *Away in a Manger* and *O Little Town of Bethlehem* were not known at all! So this year Pr. Edward invited two volunteer musicians from the USA, Emily and Molly, who sacrificed their Thanksgiving break to come to Sri Lanka and teach Tamil hymns here in Sri Lanka. The result was amazing! The choir dressed up in



The choir at the Lessons and Carols Service

matching clothes, and looked and sounded beautiful. Monica and the Mahlburgs accompanied again, making this year very memorable and enjoyable.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas!

With joy we remember all of you in our prayers, with thanksgiving, for the opportunity you give us, to live and serve here, and for the prayers you offer up to God on our behalf, which sustain us on our journey in ways we cannot even comprehend. Truly this world is full of mystery and wonder, as we observe the manifestation of God's hidden plans for our lives. Our prayer for all of you is that you too may take time this Christmas to contemplate the mystery and wonder of the miraculous incarnation and Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, who—as the carol puts it—was 'born to give us second birth'. May the Lord keep you in Christ Jesus forevermore. Amen! *Edward and Monica Naumann*