



December 2019

Serving the Lord in Sri Lanka

News from the Vanderhydes

Merry Christmas!

This past month we've shifted strategy in a positive way. Our original thinking for the music program was to have youth come from their homes to a central location once or twice a month for a music lesson. After a few months of this, it was becoming clear that we had underestimated how difficult it is to get around in the Up-Country, especially given school schedules. We were asking some youth to travel over an hour's distance from their homes for a 2-hour lesson. It wasn't working.

So, we decided to try travelling to their villages and homes to teach them. The local pastors and evangelists supported the idea. So in the last month, we visited many of the villages where Lutheran churches are found. I brought with me a CD I made with about 45 minutes of music lesson on it. It teaches the Indian solfege (do-re-mi-fa-sol) for one Tamil hymn and it also teaches Mary's Song (The Magnificat) in Tamil. The CD is designed to facilitate practice sessions while I'm away so that more learning can happen despite my only being present in the flesh once a month.

It has been terrific visiting these places, not just for the sake of the music teaching, but because each visit is an opportunity to learn about the Tamil people, spend a little time with them, share Christ with them, and pray with them. It's also an opportunity to get to know the local pastors better, who are so graciously arranging these visits. It's a challenge. We're constantly reminded of the need to progress in the Tamil language. But the little we know is well-received and we feel encouraged to keep trying. Most importantly, God is keeping us and the children safe. Please pray that he continue to do so. Thank you for your support and prayers. We wish you a Merry Christmas!





Larson has become quite the swimmer thanks to the rooftop pool in our apartment building.



We saw some monkeys on our last Up-Country trip!



A traditional Tamil dance at a Christmas program.

Please Pray for Us

For good health and safety.

For time and energy to devote to language learning.

Give Thanks For

Peaceful elections last month.

Two happy, growing children who are up for all this crazy travelling.

Consider

Adding us to your congregation's mission budget as a *Together in Mission* partner. For more information, call 888-930-4438.

Visiting with us over a video call in your bible study, day school, Sunday school, Women's group, etc.

Starting or renewing financial support for the Lord's mission in Sri Lanka.

To support the LCMS through our work, you may send your gifts to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166

Make checks payable to The LCMS.

Write "Vanderhyde-Sri Lanka" in the memo line.

You may also send your gifts to:

Mission Central
40718 Highway E16
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to Mission Central.



Thank you for your prayers and support!



Sri Lankan Vicar-hydes



VanderhydeSriLanka