



SERVING THE LORD IN SRI LANKA NEWS FROM THE MAHLBURG FAMILY



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2020

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He Is Risen!

You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. Mark 15:6



We rejoice that God allowed us to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord with people around the world. In reality, we do celebrate with Christians all around the world when we gather around Jesus in worship. Though we are not physically present with believers around the world, the Holy Spirit connects us together as we hear our Lord's Word, receive His sacrament, sing His praises, and offer up our prayers and thanksgiving.

We are thankful that (via YouTube) we were able to share the Easter service with the people who attend the English service at Emmanuel Colombo, many others around Sri Lanka and the world. "My Word that goes from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty." Isaiah 55:11

Family Dates

Wedding Anniversary **August 11**

Birthdays:

- Steven **January 27**
- Martha **December 11**
- Autumn **September 13**
- Liberty **July 15**
- Skye **May 29**
- Rose **March 19**
- Duncan **July 24**

The message and mission of the Church remains the same, especially in the face of the coronavirus. On the cross, Jesus defeated Covid-19 and His resurrection is evidence of Jesus' victory over every virus and disease. Jesus lives, and because He lives, all who believe will be raised on the Last Day, never to face disease and death ever again. This is the hope we have. We get to share this hope with a world fearful of the future.

Because Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to the right hand of the Father, we know that God loves us. He sends His angels to watch over us. He sends His Holy Spirit to guide and comfort us by Jesus' Word and Sacrament. This is the comfort we have from our risen Savior. We get to share this comfort with an anxious world.

Though the message and mission has not changed, day to day life and mission activities have changed. The government issued a country-wide curfew to begin on March 20th at 6 PM. Curfew means that we are not allowed to leave our homes. On Tuesday March 24th the curfew was lifted from 6 am to 2 pm. Since then, the curfew has been lifted once or twice a week except in areas considered high risk. Colombo is considered high risk. All three missionary families are confined to their homes. The government allows food and other essential items delivered or sold from trucks on the road. We all have what we need.

I am keeping in contact with our church partner pastors and evangelists through phone call and social media. There is a lot of concern as so many people are out of work. I started providing a daily devotion and weekly church services through YouTube. Also, I am taking advantage of the time to work on some other projects. Please keep our Lord's mission work and Sri Lanka in your prayers.



The last congregation Steven visited before the curfew was in Kotagala led by Senior Evangelist Muthukumar



Picture from one of my YouTube devotions



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PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Ears to be open to the comfort found in Christ
- Those affected by covid-19
- The unemployed
- Those under prolonged curfews
- Continued financial support for local congregations and mission work around the world

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- Provision of essentials
- Provision of the most essential: God's Word
- Support of brothers and sisters in Christ
- Use of the internet to spread God's Word

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- Jesus' death and resurrection
- Hope in Jesus
- The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage us and partner with us

CONSIDER:

- Adding us to your congregation's mission budget as a Together in Mission partner (Call 888-930-4438 for details).
- Starting, continuing, or increasing financial support for mission work in Sri Lanka (See below).
- Having a Skype update with your congregation, Bible study, Day School, Sunday School, Women's group, etc....

Family News



Skye as an angry towns person

The old saying, "March comes in like a lion and leaves like a lamb" is usually right. This March has been like no other. It certainly started normally for us, but ended somewhere in the Twilight Zone.

We started March with Skye performing in Arthur Miller's "Enemy of the People". It was done very differently with the audience sitting on three sides of the stage. Skye was one of the townspeople and actually sat in the audience until the town meeting when she would jump up and shout out her lines. Made us feel like a part of the play.

The middle of March saw the kids dismissed from the rest of the school term. Rose was planning a birthday party with a few friends and that got cancelled as the Covid 19 virus started ramping up in Sri Lanka. We had a nice quiet family celebration.

By the end of the month the government had put us under continuous curfew. Food is being trucked into our apartment complex. I wait in line, at least one meter from the next person, with a mask on to purchase a bag of fruit or vegetables or whatever the truck is carrying. We are doing fine but are a little stir crazy.

We look forward to curfew being over.



Rose's 15th birthday

SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: [stevemahlburg](#)

Twitter: [twitter.com/MahlburgMission](#)

Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/missionSriLanka](#)



Waiting in line to purchase fruit

Kindly consider a special gift to further support LCMS mission work in Sri Lanka. The instructions below explain how you can give this gift.



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

*Together in Jesus' Service,
Steven & Martha,
Autumn, Liberty, Skye, Rose, and
Duncan*

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