



Recent Events in 2020:

13 March. Schools close until further notice for health concerns, and Monica starts homeschooling the children.

20 March. Sri Lanka government imposes curfew (stay-at-home order) for the weekend. All Church services nationwide are prohibited.

23 March. Curfew extended in Colombo indefinitely, due to high risk. Food and other essentials available only by delivery.

May 11. Curfew remains in effect in Colombo, but employees are permitted to report to office work.

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

Preaching the (Written) Word

Lately I have been focusing on a number of publication projects in Sri Lanka. Over the last few months, “open access” editions of Luther’s Small Catechism have been put online in 10 languages. Similar plans are underway for the Augsburg Confession and the Large Catechism. New colouring books are being printed, and Sunday School materials are being planned. Tamil and Sinhala translations of some of the earliest Christian writings from the first and second centuries are now available for the first time in history. One of the projects I am most excited about, however, is the illustrated Gospel of John, translated into Sinhala.



5' x 5' “The Good Shepherd” illustration and altarpiece, by Nuwan Thenuwara.

Although John’s Gospel was originally written in simple Greek, the Sinhala translations are in high register, and difficult to understand. I am in the process of putting this Gospel into simple Sinhala, so that even children and uneducated people can easily understand. The Gospel can then be printed as a separate booklet, with the accompanying illustrations, as an aid to evangelism among the Sinhalese. The illustrations are all by Sri Lankan artists, and will help Sri Lankans to connect with the Gospel narrative on a more personal level.



Prayer requests

- In thanksgiving for the restoration of the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary, Nagercoil, India.
- For the Faculty and students CTSN, as they struggle through the difficulties of suspended classes and education until the end of the pandemic.
- For resumption of LCMS mission activities in India, which were halted in August 2019.
- For progress with publications of the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church.
- For health and prosperity of the people in Sri Lanka and India, especially the poverty-stricken and suffering.
- For Monica, as she manages homeschool for the four oldest boys, and for the younger children's welfare.
- For Pastor Naumann, as he continues study of Sinhala, and begins learning a new language: Tamil.

To find out how to support this mission, please call LCMS Mission Advancement: 1-888-930-4438 or visit: lcms.org/naumann

Colloquy near Completion

Reverend Father Ariyaratna and his son Sampath, who have for many years served as pastors in a congregation near Kuliypitiya, have traveled a long road with me. Three years ago they came with Luther's Catechism, a gift they had received many years before, saying that they fully believed everything that was contained in that book. After some teaching and many discussions, they came to accept baptism, and baptized the many children and infants who had still not received the Sacrament. Finally they are ready to use the Sinhala liturgy, which I prepared with them, to bring their worship practice into conformity with the Lutheran Church. Now, they say, whether or not the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC) will accept them as members, they will change their name to "Lutheran" and they will believe, teach, confess, and practice their faith according to Scripture and the Lutheran confessions. Let us pray for this Sinhalese church, and, God willing, for their successful integration to the predominantly Tamil-based CELC.

Surviving the Pandemic

We were not ready. The schools suddenly closed. Then—even more suddenly—we were under curfew on March 20, not allowed to leave the house at all for the weekend. On Monday we were allowed to go out to buy groceries, because there would be no chance again until Friday. Then it was announced that curfew would remain, until further notice. We were locked in. For the next seven weeks we stayed inside the house, unable to leave, and unable to get any food or other items except by delivery. Some goods could not be purchased at all, and for many weeks we went without many items. It was a strange feeling, to be reliving something similar to what we experienced last year, after the terrorist bombings of churches and hotels on Easter Sunday 2019. Then too, there was curfew. Then too, church services were cancelled across the country, and we felt the pain, fear, and uncertainty of what it meant that pulpits had fallen silent, altars were bereft of the Sacrament, and sacred spaces lay empty.

We say prayers, we read God's Word, and we sing hymns at home; but we look forward to being able to worship together again with other members of our Lord's body on earth.

Let us pray that day will come soon! Thank you for joining us in prayer, and for your ongoing support.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Edward N.



Monica and the children at Palm Sunday service at home (short procession through the garden)