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## Rejoicing with God's People



"The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress." Psalms 46:6-7.

Sri Lanka is suffering through huge financial and political hardships. Power cuts, fuel shortages, and skyrocketing prices have brought over a month of protests. Recently, violence broke out between opposing sides.

Our family is safe. None of this is directed at foreigners.

The pastors, evangelists, and members of our partner church are safe. But they are suffering due to the economy. Continue to keep them in your prayers.

The Lord of hosts is with us. He is our fortress. In Him we take refuge when the nations rage and kingdoms totter.



Martha and I with Sr. Evangelist Anton and Jacintha and their newly baptized daughter Alicia.

*Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.*  
**Romans 12:15**



Wedding of church property manager Vijay Kumar and Ranitta



Wedding reception for Rev. Nadaraja's daughter Dabinica and Roydas

### 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**

Part of mission work is building relationships with people: To rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. This year I have been honored to baptize a baby, preach at weddings, give a prayer at a funeral, and host an all-church leaders' meeting.

After nearly five years, my affection for the people here has grown. As we grow closer, we are better able to serve the Lord's mission in Sri Lanka.

Our Leaders' meeting was intended to prepare us for Church Assembly, but because of the unrest in the country, we have postponed it. This is a huge milestone in the church, but concern for the safety of those traveling has delayed this wonderful event, but God willing, only temporarily.

Thank you for your partnership in spreading the Gospel of Jesus.



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Gathered at the graveside for Rev. Arulchelvan's father's funeral.



Gathered with some church leaders after a planning meeting.



# Family News

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Peace, stability, and economic recovery in Sri Lanka*
- *Sri Lanka hymnal project*
- *Upcoming CELC Church Assembly*
- *Spread of the Gospel in Sri Lanka*
- *Continued financial support for local congregations and mission work around the world*

## GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *The Good News of Jesus crucified and risen for all people*
- *Successful Leaders' Meeting*
- *Finding suitable transportation*

## PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *Pastors and Evangelists ministering to their people with God's and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with all people*
- *His protection, guidance, and love*
- *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 Zoom or Skype update with your congregation, Bible study, Day School, Sunday School, Women's group, etc...*



Rose about to enjoy a chocolate cake with praline rosettes on top

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of March Rose turned 17! She took some of her closest friends out to go Cosmic bowling and dinner afterwards. If you have never been Cosmic Bowling you should try it. It is done under blacklights and the balls, the pins, and the lane markings are all specially treated so they glow in the dark. There was a lot of giggling going on.

With the ongoing gas shortage and the increasing problems with trying to get taxis Steven purchased a scooter to get around town. We have been talking it over for awhile and finally decided to take the plunge and get one. Until he takes his final driving exam he has to have an "L" on the front and back to let others know that he is a learner. I have a helmet so that I can ride on the back. The scooter is meant for short trips around Colombo.

The kids are doing well in their studies. Duncan has a drama class. They have had extra classes after school to prepare for a taping of their group performance. He enjoys the class and regularly is memorizing lines.



Steven with his new mode of transportation



Duncan dresses up for his Drama class dress rehearsal

## SOCIAL MEDIA

IG: [stevemahlburg](#)

Twitter: [MahlburgMission](#)

FB: [missionSriLanka](#)



My new helmet for when I ride on the back

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

**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](http://lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

To support the LCMS through the work of Steven Mahlburg, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

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](http://lcms.org/Mahlburg).