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Challenges In Sri Lanka

Recently I purchased a scooter to better get around Colombo, as transportation became more difficult after the pandemic lockdowns. Since then, I had to downgrade to a bicycle due to the lack of gas in the country.

The economy has continued to decline. Sri Lanka continues to experience daily power cuts, a scarcity of cooking gas, vehicle fuel, and skyrocketing inflation (54.6% in June). The people in Sri Lanka are suffering, and it looks like it will get worse before it gets better.

Our family is okay. We only face minor inconveniences at this time.

For the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church, it means the Church Assembly must be postponed.

We pray for God's mercy upon Sri Lanka and look for ways this may give us opportunity to share the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Sri Lankan Pastors at Concordia Seminary, Nagercoil, India



(Left to right) Rev. Gnanakumar, Mr. Ravi Jesupathan, Dr. Detlev Schulz, Rev. Steven Mahlburg, Rev. Devanesan, Rev. Arulchelvan, Rev. Nadaraja

Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24.

Myself and the pastors of the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran were blessed to travel to Concordia Theological Seminary in Nagercoil, India. We attended the pastors refresher course on the theology of the cross.

In 2017, cyclone Okchi destroyed much of the seminary in Nagercoil. Thanks to the generous donations of LCMS people and congregations, LCMS Disaster Relief was able to rebuild and restore this beautiful campus, a beacon of God's Word from the India Evangelical Lutheran Church.

After the refresher course, we gathered around God's Word in a Service of Thanksgiving and rededication of the seminary. The picture on the bottom right is all the pastors, deaconesses, students, and professors who attended.

The following day was a special day, highlighting the value of the seminary. Thirty men graduated from the seminary with their Bachelor of Divinity degrees. We were blessed to be a part of these great events, and we give thanks to God for His work in India and Sri Lanka.

These events were a great learning experience for the Sri Lankan pastors and for me. There are many crosses we must bear, but they are all worth it to follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



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PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *God's mercy on those suffering in Sri Lanka*
- *Opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ*
- *CELC hymnal project*
- *That the Church Assembly may take place soon.*

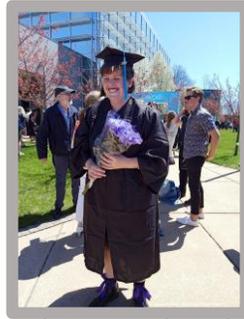
GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *Thirty graduates of Concordia Seminary, Nagercoil*
- *The Sri Lankan pastors participation in the pastors refresher course*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *Thirty graduates of Concordia Seminary, Nagercoil*

Mahlburg Moments



Autumn graduates!

At the end of May, Skye celebrated her 19th birthday. While we were not there to celebrate with her, we were able to see her open her presents over WhatsApp video.



Skye poses with Buster Bronco



Rose in school play

Towards the end of the school year Rose performed in the interhouse drama competition. The theme this year was the British comedy series "Fawlty Towers". Rose was Hotel Inspector #1. She delivered her line with feeling and gusto.

We are looking forward to this summer. Rose and Duncan will not only have a break from studies, but also will be able to attend the Higher Things conference at Valparaiso, IN. They are looking forward to hearing speakers, hanging out with kids their age, and worshipping God. They have heard from their older sisters how great Higher Things is.



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."

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Steven & Martha Mahlburg. Make checks payable to:

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