

News from Rev. Dr. Edward and Monica Naumann, serving the Lord in South Asia



Recent Events

December 9: Naumann family visits Kuliypitiya, to witness the baptism of 15 believers, who are members of a congregation that is transitioning to Lutheran doctrine and practice.

December 25: Naumann family stays in Colombo for Christmas service followed by cultural program, together with believers from Eila.

January 8: Pastor Naumann starts lecturing on Romans at Colombo Theological Seminary.

SAVE OUR ADDRESS:

82 A, Stratford Avenue
Kirulapone. Colombo 6
Sri Lanka

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

Baptisms in Kuliypitiya

Uphill from the paddy fields, the jungle is cut back neatly, making a clearing for a few simple dwellings and a church, a short walk from the village. There the late morning heat was beginning to fulfill the promise of the still humidity of the early hours. Barefoot parishioners gathered around the font—an open pond—to witness the baptism of those who had been instructed and examined in the Christian faith. For several months their pastors had been teaching about baptism from the Lutheran Confessions, and I myself had visited on several occasions to teach God’s saving work, and the need for all people, even children, to receive the forgiveness of sins. Down the steps the pastor went, his white cassock falling among curious fish. Down followed the military man, the young boy, the old lady, the girl in her finest gown, beneath the water, in the Triune name of God, with Christ to be buried, to drown; and raised again to new life. I only watched and stood to one side, a witness to fifteen purified. There planting my pale toes in the sandy soil, I marveled at the miracle unveiled. And I wondered: What part had I in



all of this? I was His instrument, only doing my duty, but He made this honour mine, to see such fruit within so short a time! But there it

was: the order I had given; they used the prayers, the rites. The neophytes held candle lights; their shoulders draped with robes of white; their foreheads marked with oil as saints and heirs to reign with Christ. To Him let us pray: Preserve your children in the faith, and in the purity of your baptismal grace, and grant them all at last to enter paradise, that they may see you face to face!



Prayer requests

- For protection from diseases, and for the health of all the Naumann family
- For the children's social and mental development as they continue their education in school and at home
- For unity and peace in the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church
- For progress with the publication projects in Sri Lanka, especially with the Sinhala liturgy for the colloquizing students, the translated editions of Luther's Small Catechism
- For ongoing education and colloquy with Sinhalese pastors
- For Pr. Naumann's studies in Sinhala language, and preparations for ongoing lectures on Romans
- For the efforts of pastors and evangelists as they reach out with the Gospel to those who live on the plantations

Let's Talk!

Want to speak with Pastor Naumann directly? Feel free to add him on Skype.
Username: EdwardN82

Translating the Liturgy

We sat tired and not a little frustrated, still smiling as we spoke to one another. And yet, the deepening furrows on our brows betrayed the need for a tea break. For the better part of an hour, the four of us—one Englishman, one Tamil, and two Sinhalese—had discussed, in a patchwork of two languages, the appropriateness of singing to God “we bless you” as part of the Gloria in excelsis. “How can men bless God?” they asked. After comparing Anglican and Roman Catholic translations with the English, Latin and Greek, and the various relevant Scripture quotations, and having discussed theology at some length, still we had no final solution. Similarly we grappled with the problem of translating the plurality of the “highest places”, the competing virtues of different words for “lamb”, the longer or shorter translation for “Lord”, and the general inadequacy and inaccessibility of the Sinhala translations of the Bible. That was last week! The work goes on, but it is not easy. Each word must be rightly translated and fit into place, to ensure that the form of worship properly expresses the biblical faith, and does not encourage or reflect any false teaching. Of course, what matters most is not the form of the liturgy, but the faith of those who come to worship, and the gifts of God's grace that are received. Nevertheless, we are taking great pains over this process, because the services will be so central in shaping the lives of the Christian communities. Please pray that our Father in Heaven may grant His Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide us along this journey!

How are the Students Doing?

At about this time, the pre-seminary students would have applied to a seminary, perhaps in India, the Philippines, England, or even the USA, and would be jetting off for further studies. Arrangements for this were already underway. Unfortunately, neither of the two remaining students decided they wanted to continue studies to become a pastor, so they are now pursuing other careers. We wish them all of God's richest blessings, and still we enjoy seeing them occasionally at youth functions, or at church in Colombo. Meanwhile, the evangelists continue to receive instruction, in order to help them become better evangelists, without any expectation of becoming pastors. Recently I asked the Tamil pastors themselves to take turns teaching on a theological topic of their choice each month, so that the evangelists can learn in their own language. That began successfully in January, and I hope to add further teaching in Tamil, by arranging guest speakers to come from overseas. I continue to teach Pastor Gnanakumar (who was ordained in 2017) on topics of pastoral theology, and the Sinhalese colloquy students, as well as a class of 10 students at Colombo Theological Seminary, where I am teaching Romans this term. This relatively light teaching load has allowed me to focus more on producing publications, about which I hope to have some exciting news to share in the next newsletter.

Your servant in Christ,

Pr. Edward Naumann



There are always a hundred stories we wish we could share, such as how we took this family photo at the park at dusk on New Year's Day, when many other people at the park also wanted a picture of our family! Well, can you blame them?

[Get More Updates on Facebook](#)