



In 2 seconds ...

Did you know that a child is born in India, on average, every 2 seconds?

Every child needs Jesus, who came to be our Savior – the Savior of everyone, young and old, rich and poor, from every nation and tribe on earth.

Providing theological education to evangelists, church planters and pastors is essential to reaching the many, many people who still need to hear about Jesus.

Thank you for your support, and your prayers for this mission, so that more people can come to a saving faith!

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.

Naumanns in South Asia The Peace that Surpasses All Understanding

I have often prayed for my congregation, immediately after preaching a sermon, that the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, may keep their hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of Christ Jesus (Phil 4:7). We pray for peace, because it is not something that we can get for ourselves, by our own human effort. Rather, peace is a gift of God, given freely by His grace. This kind of peace isn't a quietness from noise, like when the kids are finally asleep. Nor does it mean freedom from having to work, like being on perpetual lazy vacation. What is peace, then, and how do we get it? Scripture tells us plainly that Christ himself brings us peace. God has reconciled us to himself through Christ. (2 Cor 5:18) "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Rom 5:1) The peace of Christ, for which we pray every week at the Lord's Supper, "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; grant us peace," was purchased at the high price of His blood, shed for us on the cross. And in return for so great a gift, we can only offer to God our thanks, which it is truly good, right and salutary that we give Him at all times and in all places. Through the forgiveness of our sins, therefore, God's peace gives to all who believe a much-needed rest from the stinging pangs of conscience, which cause us to be aware – when we are honest with ourselves – of just how much we need our Savior, and how greatly we need Him to continue to purify us daily. When I look at my own sins, the many ways in which I fail to be a good husband, father, son, brother, or friend; or a better preacher, a better fundraiser, and so on, I flee for refuge to the peace of God, my loving and forgiving Father, who consigns my sins to oblivion for Christ's sake. Then God's peace, which we receive in the forgiveness of all our sins, also produces peace on earth, so that Jesus is rightly called the "Prince of Peace." For He not only brought peace between God and man, but also brings peace to all nations as they are gathered into Him – Jews and Gentiles, Tamils and Sinhalese, Americans and Indians – who are united as members of one body of Christ, their peace (Eph 2:14-16). His peace comes to vastly different peoples – who would in many cases otherwise hate and kill one another. Yet Christ unites them in worship of the one true God, and this is nothing short of miraculous. Indeed, it truly surpasses all understanding. In Galatians chapter 5, peace is listed among the fruits of the Spirit, in opposition to the manifest works of the flesh, which include rivalries, dissensions and divisions. Such sinful inclinations come naturally to us, but true peace comes only from Christ, and is produced (sweet and salutary) like a fruit in those who are grafted into Him, in whom we can do all things, and without whom we can do nothing. (John 15) Today we see many signs of this struggle between the flesh and Spirit, even in our churches, and the same is true in South Asia. There the works of the flesh—in its constant struggle for vainglory and personal gain—continue to manifest themselves in ugly and discouraging ways. Nevertheless, we may take heart, because Christ has won the victory over all His enemies, and in Him all things are possible. So we continue to pray for peace – that peace that surpasses all understanding – for ourselves, for the Church of God, and for all people according to their needs.

Pastor Edward Naumann



Thank you!

Thank you to all who recently joined our support network, especially Pastor Jerome Panzigrau and John Huss Lutheran Church, in New Kensington and St. John's Lutheran Church, in Brackenridge, PA; Pastor Leonard Payton and St. John's Lutheran Church in Forest Park, IL, and individual supporters at Concordia Lutheran Ministries, in Cabot, PA.

And a special thank you to everyone who responded to my appeal for support last month, which helped to get us the green light!

Please Pray!

With thanks to God that we have received clearance to move to Sri Lanka as soon as possible.

That visa applications will go through on time.

That Monica's pregnancy will continue without complications.

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."

We have a "Green Light" to deploy – What Next?

Last week I called the Area Director, Missionary Pastor Roger James, in Sri Lanka, to tell him that we would not be able to deploy until after our baby was born. In the same call, however, he told me that I had received the greenlight. You can imagine how surprised I was! I think I asked him at least twice if he was kidding.

Although we are still only about 87% funded, the Office of International Missions took into consideration our current condition, and the fact that we needed to leave soon, or else stay in the USA another 4-5 months, and they decided that it was best to send us now. I am continuing, therefore, to work on the support network until we can move, so that our mission can be sustained while we live overseas.

In the meantime, I am also working on getting visas to Sri Lanka secured, so that we can book tickets to fly out by the end of June at the latest. If we can get visas to Sri Lanka secured in time, we can move in June; if not, we will have to stay in the USA.

By now, Monica and I are accustomed to this level of uncertainty in our lives, and it doesn't bother us too much—not knowing which continent we will be living on in a month's time. I suppose you could say that God has trained or disciplined us over the last 10 months to trust in Him, and to endure all the constant changes around us with a certain peace and patience, or "longsuffering." In the coming week or two, we will know if we can get our visas to Sri Lanka.

Please keep us in your prayers during this time, especially that our visas come quickly, and that God provides us with all that we need for this body and life. Who knows—the next time I write to you, it could be from Colombo, Sri Lanka!



Daddy and his boys at Chocolate World in Hershey, PA, before a presentation at the Philadelphia zone LWML rally. (Mummy is taking the picture)

To support our work financially, 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 Edward Naumann." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/Naumann.