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Steven, Martha, Autumn and Duncan at the train station on their way upcountry

Home Service

Every two years, we return to the U.S. in order to share first-hand what is happening on the mission field. There is much more than I am able to put in the newsletters, but I am eager to share them with you in person.

We will in the U.S. at the end of July through the end of September. I would love to visit you and your congregation. Contact me a.s.a.p. to schedule a visit. smahlburg@yahoo.com



CELC Pastors and Evangelists



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to newsletter@mahlnews.com with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

Count It All Joy!



Ms. Rebecca Bartelt at Christ Lutheran Church on the Dunsinane Tea Estate

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials. (1 Peter 1:6)

We all suffer trials in this life. As Christians, we look to the Lord for forgiveness, comfort, and guidance. The mission field certainly has its challenges.

Sadly, two of the CELC pastors resigned citing personal reasons. They split the church by taking three of the fifteen congregations with them. Personally, I am broken-hearted over this. This has caused a huge challenge for CELC to serve the twelve congregations with only two ordained pastors.

I don't rejoice in this trial, but I do rejoice in the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

God has been doing some good things here. The CELC council has been working hard on strategic planning. They developed seven preferred futures to guide the church forward. From these preferred futures, they worked on seven goals to move them toward those

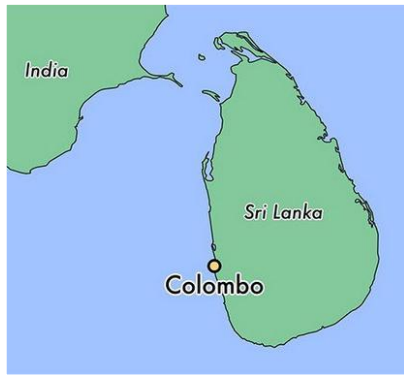
preferred futures in the coming year. These goals still need to be officially adopted, but they are moving along the right path.

The council has started visiting all the congregations to visit with the members and to see the needs.

The evaluation of the evangelists should soon be completed which may produce some more ordained pastors. In addition, there are some young men who have shown interest in becoming pastors.

Recently, we had Ms. Rebecca Bartelt come to Sri Lanka. She is an LCMS music missionary, stationed in Taiwan. She spent some time with our pastors and evangelists teaching about music in worship. Then she went upcountry to teach three Easter hymns to several congregation in Tamil. The people were excited to learn from her and to teach a Tamil Easter hymn.

Continue to pray for God to guide the CELC. Thank you for your prayers and financial support.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Healing and reconciliation
- The Holy Spirit to strengthen the Lutheran Church in Sri Lanka
- CELC hymnal project
- Continued improvement to Autumn's health.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- Ms. Rebecca Bartelt's visit
- The work of the CELC council
- The newly baptized and confirmed

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- His work through the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church
- The gift of music to sing His praises
- More people to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and believe

Mahlburg Moments



Rose comes back for a visit

At the end of the year we attended the Asia Region Family Retreat. This year it was held in Kaosiung, Taiwan. It was nice to see our fellow missionaries

Christmas is always a joyful time around our apartment. In addition to the decorations and special services, we got to enjoy Rose returning during her Christmas break.



Shrine in Kaoshiung

from all around the region. We had some free time while we were there and were able to do a little sightseeing. It is refreshing to be in the word with fellow missionaries.



Stained glass ceiling in the main subway station

While we were up country for Christmas celebrations, we were able to take a couple of hours and visit Horton Plains in the up country. It is a Sri Lankan national park with lots of wildlife. Pictured to the right is a wild Sambur. They are a large deer species.



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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