



SERVING THE LORD IN

# SRI LANKA

NEWS FROM THE MAHLBURG FAMILY



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[smahlburg@yahoo.com](mailto:smahlburg@yahoo.com)



## WHO?

A new family started attending church services. The father is Sri Lankan. The wife is from a central Asian country. Not long ago, they moved to Colombo.

She doesn't speak much of the Sri Lankan languages, but she is fluent in English. After several months, they asked to join. This month, I began teaching her Luther's Small Catechism.

Who is she? Sometimes, our work with people calls for discretion. This is such a situation. What I can say is that Jesus suffered and died for her. She is His precious creation. He is her salvation.

Also, I can say that God has made this possible through your prayers and financial support. You are making a difference for Christ in Sri Lanka. Thank you.

## Hosanna in the Highest

Palm Sunday Procession at Eila, rubber tree estate, in Yatiyanthota



25.03.2018 14:23

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Matthew 21:9***

Fr. Gnanakumar told me that there has been a long-standing request to the estate management for some land on which to build a church. With support from the community, they were given permission to use some land for their holy week services.

At 4 am Palm Sunday morning, the members constructed temporary church made from trees, palm branches, and plastic sheets. It was not fancy, but it was beautiful.



Temporary church building



Palm crosses were blessed and distributed.



People gathered for Palm Sunday Service

Let's keep them in our prayers. We pray that this temporary situation would lead to a permanent church building. We especially pray that more people will hear about Jesus and come to faith, as His Gospel is faithfully proclaimed and taught.



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**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- *Guidance from the Holy Spirit to carry out the Father's will of proclaiming the Son, who died and rose for all.*
- *Peace in the church and wisdom for her leaders.*
- *For opportunities to build up the church.*

**GIVE THANKS FOR:**

- *New believers.*
- *Good health.*
- *The opportunity to spread the message of Jesus around the world.*

**PRAISE GOD FOR:**

- *People who are not ashamed of the Gospel.*
- *The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage us and support 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).*

# Family News



A man from the village in Eila invited to his home after the Palm Sunday service.

When Rose was born, my mother's first words to me were, "You know. You will have four teenage daughters at once." This month her words came to pass. Rose turned 13. She is a great blessing to us.

Recently Libby and Rose got braces. Soon, Duncan will join them.

This month, the whole family was invited to Eila, rubber tree plantation for their Palm Sunday service. This was their first time there. They had the joy of hiking twenty minutes up a mountain in the hot, Sri Lankan, afternoon sun. We were all sweaty by the time we reached Eila, but were refreshed as we joined our brothers and sisters in Christ processing through the village and gathering around Christ in His Word.

Finally, the children finish their second term of school, and will enjoy a three week break.



*Wishing you all a blessed Easter,  
Steven & Martha,  
Autumn, Liberty, Skye, Rose, and  
Duncan*



Happy 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday Rose.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

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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  
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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).