

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



## Recent Events

Feb 20-24. Intensive class on the Gospel of Matthew, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

March 2. New website: [www.ctsn.edu.in](http://www.ctsn.edu.in) launched for Concordia Theological Seminary in Nagercoil, India.

March 12. Dr. Naumann attends Commencement (graduation) and installation of the new Principal, Rev. Dr. Christudas at CTSN, India.

March 20-24. Intensive class on Church Growth and Administration, Colombo.

April 7. Pre-seminary students go home for Easter Break.

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## *Naumanns in South Asia*

### Striving to Enter the Sabbath Rest

During Holy Week each year, we meditate on the Passion – the sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, culminating in His crucifixion and death on Good Friday. When it finally comes to Holy Saturday, the ‘Sabbath’, I often think of those words from Genesis 2:2, “And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done.” At this time we see Jesus on the cross, God incarnate, finishing his work, until He declares, “It is finished!” And on the seventh day, God in Christ Jesus rested from His work of Redemption, just as in the beginning He rested on the seventh day from His work of Creation (for through Him all things were made – John 1:1-3). By His perfect obedience to the Father, in His holy Passion and death, Christ earned for Himself all glory and honour, but He also accomplished all that is necessary for our salvation, so that we may share with Him in the Sabbath rest that awaits all who believe and persevere in the Faith until the end. So the Holy Spirit instructs us through the words of the book of Hebrews, saying, “there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.” (Heb 4:9-10) The Apostle is here speaking about the rest that awaits us after this temporal life, when we shall rest in Christ for eternity. Yet he is also speaking with this admonition, that we should not harden our hearts in disobedience to God’s Word, as the Israelites did who perished in the wilderness and never entered the Promised Land; so he adds, “Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.” Such an exhortation might make us despair, if we thought that such perseverance in the faith depended on our own feeble efforts, so the Apostle adds what we need to hear, that Christ is our High Priest, to whom we may boldly present our supplications for divine assistance. “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (v. 16) As I consider for myself all of the work that lies ahead for me in this life, it seems like an insurmountable task and an impossible burden. Yet Christ promises that all things are possible with God; surely His burden is light, because He carried, and carries it for me. Though Christ rested in the tomb from His work of Redemption, today He continues to work, to call, gather, and enlighten you and me, by the power of His Holy Spirit, through the Word and Sacraments, so that we may come to the place of His rest, that house with many rooms, which He has gone to prepare for us in heaven.

We know that Jesus did not rest forever in the tomb, but that He rose again on the third day. Just as He calls us to share in His blessed rest, He calls us to share with Him in the bodily Resurrection of everlasting life. And to prepare us for this, He joins us to Himself in Holy Baptism, so that we may be crucified and buried with Him, become dead to sin, and raised to walk in newness of life in Him, no longer living for ourselves, but alive for God in Christ Jesus. May God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless your own meditations on the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ this year.

Praying for you and yours – have a blessed Holy Week and Easter!

Pastor Edward Naumann



## Thank you!

Thank you to all of you who support this mission and work with your prayers and financial contributions.

## Please Pray!

With thanks to God for the completion of the pre-seminary Epiphany Term, and that the Lord will bless the Easter Term.

That we will get everything in place needed to construct a new sanctuary and expand seminary facilities in Colombo.

For the Sri Lankan Evangelists, as they reach people with the Gospel and continue to study, that God will guide all their words and their actions.

For peace and concord in our partner churches, both in Sri Lanka and in India.

That God will bless the work of the new Principal of CTSN, Rev. Dr. Christudas, and move faithful men to apply and study to be pastors.

That our visa applications to India may be successful.

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."

## Epiphany Term Ends: Easter Term Approaches



Pre-seminary community: students, professors, and 'the Porter' Vijay Kumar

The days and weeks of the pre-seminary Epiphany Term flew by quickly, and all four students have been invited to return for the Easter Term, beginning on April 17. Meanwhile, plans for developing the campus further are still progressing. We have asked an architect to consult with engineers, and draw up some sketches for construction of a new sanctuary and pre-school hall, with additional bathrooms, classrooms, and dormitory space. With such a small property at our disposal (about a quarter acre), it is difficult to plan too much! We trust, however, that God will provide what is needed at the right time. Some smaller improvements are being made over the Easter break, including a new water tower.

## Baby Emily Healthy, Crawling, and Giggling...

There is always a lot going on with the Mission work, but I also try to appreciate and cherish the memories made at home with Monica and the children. Baby Emily is our golden child, healthy and happy, and now she can scoot around the floors, while Monica schools the boys in their maths, reading, geography, history, and science. In this photo you can see Emily inherited her mother's eyes! God bless you and keep you this Easter. Pastor Edward and Monica.



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