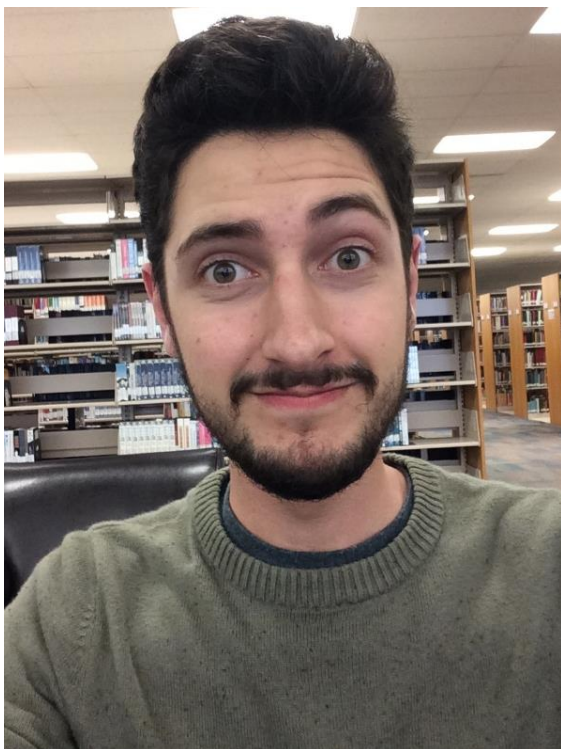


The Third of Twelve 2016 Steinbeck Scholarship Recipients



I was born in 1996 in Minnesota where my father's first parish was, however, I spent the majority of my life living in Southern Michigan where we moved about four years later. I was homeschooled all the way up to college and was active in many events in my church and homeschool groups. I also joined a youth orchestra near where we lived. I started to play the violin when I was seven years old and picked up the mandolin at about twelve. This was great because my brother began to play the cello and banjo and we would play together all the time.

In January of 2014 my family and I moved to South Asia where my father had been called to as a missionary. This changed my life drastically, giving me a whole new perspective on life. I lived in Tamil Nadu, India for about 5 months and then moved to Sri Lanka and lived there up until I went to school last Fall (2015). While living there I continued many of my studies online and occasionally played violin for worship services.

Now I'm a sophomore at Concordia University Wisconsin studying in the school of business. My hope is that someday I can maybe serve in some aspect of the church as a business man. I am currently taking Chinese, Biblical Theology, Christian Apologetics, Business, Management, and String Ensemble, as well as violin lessons and Chapel Choir. It's wonderful that I get to study the variety of things I love from a Lutheran perspective at my school. The only hard part is being so far away from family as my parents are still abroad, but it's also a great comfort to know that they are still receiving the same gifts of God that I am receiving on this side of the planet.

Thanks for all the support,
Eli M. James