

The Eighth of Twelve
2016 Steinbeck Scholarship Recipients



Dear CNH LWML;

Thank you very much for choosing me as a 2016 Steinbeck Scholarship recipient. As many of you are aware, higher education is extremely expensive and your scholarship has graciously reduced the financial worries and burden that my parents and I feel. This allows me to concentrate on my studies here at Concordia Texas and my parents to be more focused on their work overseas. Your understanding of the unique needs of missionaries and your support in response to those needs is a wonderful example of neighborly Christian love. Again thank you so very much and may God bless each of you.

Sincerely;
Christopher Hasskarl

I was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana during my father's final semester of seminary. A few months later he received his call and we moved to Pampa, Texas. My first few years were spent growing up in rural northwest Texas and attending Zion Lutheran Church. A few years later, my father was called to be the pastor of a very large dual-parish in rural central Texas about an hour east of Austin. We arrived in 2002 and I began my public school education. My father was extremely busy with his parish work and my mother became a schoolteacher. However, there was always time to take me out to the farms and ranches and let me learn about nature and the many different ways rural people made their livings. As I got older I would sometimes accompany my father on his trips to the nearby city hospitals and saw in person how he ministered to people often in difficult situations. These trips allowed my father and I time to visit and we became very close. At the same time in school I was discovering a love of history that I inherited from my parents and both grandfathers. As I moved upward in school and into high school, my teachers noticed my aptitude for social studies and I was encouraged to pursue that as a vocation. At the end of my junior year of high school, my father received a divine call from the Office of International Missions to be the missionary pastor on Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands. Once my father had prayerfully decided to accept the call, I was given a tough choice. I could stay in the town we had been living with some friends and complete my senior year in residence with my classmates, or I could accompany my parents overseas. I decided to go with my parents. However, that meant that due to the education systems of the Caymans and my classification that I had to complete all my senior classes prior to our deployment. So during the next few months while my parents trained, packed and prepared for missionary service, my task was to do online classes in order for my academics to be completed. I accomplished this and was able to deploy with my parents in late August. However, my parents insisted that my education continue and so I was enrolled online with a nearby college to begin taking college classes part time even while overseas. While I was with my parents I was given a much more active role in church activities including learning how to evangelize. I was also exposed to many different cultures since so many people come from around the world to work and live on Grand Cayman. This was an education I would have never gotten if I had stayed stateside. Being in the Caymans also allowed me to experience a whole new ecological world in the outdoors. At the end of May the following year, I returned to Texas to take part in my graduation ceremony with my fellow classmates. It was then that I realized how much I had missed them during the last nine months. Following graduation my parents returned to the mission field and I spent the summer working in Texas. In the fall I enrolled full-time at Concordia Texas where I am still enrolled. My major is in history with a minor in education. My ultimate goal is to teach history at the collegiate level, perhaps even at one of our Concordia Universities.