



The Tenth of Twelve
John James
2016 Steinbeck Scholarship Recipients

Hello!

My name is John James. My parents are currently missionaries in Sri Lanka. Born in Minnesota where my dad's first parish was, I moved with my family to Michigan when I was about 6 years old. I was homeschooled through High School, though I took many online, dual-enrollment, and community college classes. I also started cello lessons and played in the Battle Creek Youth Orchestra. I

took up banjo after my brother (Eli James) took up violin and mandolin, and we've enjoyed playing many a tune together wherever we've ended up, in many different genres of music from church music to bluegrass.

My senior year of High School my dad received a call from international missions to become a missionary in Sri Lanka. It became a wonderful opportunity for me to take a gap year and go along with my family to live first in Chennai, India for 5 months, then Colombo, Sri Lanka for another 3. While in India we took Tamil Language classes, and visited many Lutheran churches. I have been blessed greatly by this experience to see the Truth of the Gospel held dear and fostered by the faithful around the world. My brother and I always enjoy returning to Sri Lanka for Christmas breaks.

While in India, I began learning Greek through an online class. I am now enrolled at Hillsdale College as a Classics Major, studying both Greek and Latin. This year, I am leading a spoken Greek group with the Active Classical Languages Club on campus, and student teaching Latin at a local school. I have kept up my musical instruments, playing cello in the College Symphony Orchestra and a student chamber music group called Camarata. I also play as a banjo for hire for student bands. I've served on the board of the young student group, The Lutheran Society, helping to get it to be a sustainable club. We have evening prayer every school night, provide rides to church, and bring in outside speakers to lecture on campus.

Finally, I'd like to thank LWML California Nevada Hawaii for their generous support which allowed me to worry less about financial worries, and helped me to focus on getting the most out of my college experience. Thank you! ~John James