

The Eleventh of Thirteen

Eli M. James

2018 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 then homeschooled all the way up until college, being active in many events in my church and homeschool groups as well as dual enrollment programs with the local college. During this time, I also joined a youth orchestra. I started to play the violin when I was about 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 end up playing 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, rather than just what its like to live the Midwest! 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 in Fall of 2015. While living there I continued many of my studies online and occasionally played violin for worship services. Of course, we also did a great deal of exploring the countries we lived in.

Now, my parents have made another move to the Philippines! My father has begun teaching at the Lutheran seminary, training young men for the pastoral ministry in Asia. I am now a senior at Concordia University Wisconsin with a major in Business Management and a minor in Philosophy! My hope is that someday I can serve in some aspect of the church as a business man. At Concordia, I am active in many aspects of campus life including, choirs, music ensembles, and Campus Ministry where I co-lead a group that works with international students with my fiancée. That's right, I'm going to be married this coming Summer to Rachel Paul, who is also a missionary kid!

Overall, I'm very blessed to study the variety of things I love from a Lutheran perspective at Concordia. It is a great comfort to know that you, my parents, and I are all still receiving the same gifts of God by his means of grace and I thank you for the great support you have shown me in these past years with your gifts.

In Christ,

Eli M. James