

Kennedy Family

SINGAPORE MISSION UPDATE

August 31, 2019

PUTTING OUR HAND TO THE PLOW

We've officially been on the ground in Singapore for a month! This past month has been filled with catching up on rest, recovering from jet lag, getting acquainted with many wonderful brethren (including the students at Four Seas College), learning about how every-day things work in Singapore, looking for a place to live, and starting the third term at Four Seas.



Classes commenced for the third term at Four Seas began the week after our arrival. I am teaching two courses during the first half of the third term: Romans (to the first year students) and Revelation (to the second year students). English is not the first language of any of the students at Four Seas, although they all have at least a conversational knowledge of English. Since English is their second (or third or fourth) language, class instruction requires extra care. For example, the pace of the class is usually slower than how I would regularly teach. English words that I would not normally need to define may need to be defined. Additionally, I have been preparing projected presentations for each class. These presentations not only help in the understanding of Bible material but also with learning and understanding English.

We have also spent time with the president of the college, Peter Chin, and his wife Pooi Fun who serves as administrator of the school. This time has been wonderful and informative about the Chins, their family, living abroad, and learning how things function at Four Seas as well as expectations for us and the students. We've learned a little bit about the recruiting process for new students (quite different in many ways than in the states) and are excited to learn more about that process and help out as we can. We recruit and admit students from all over Asia, and we are currently recruiting for the 2020 school year which will begin in January.



Each school day begins with a chapel session. Chapel sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday involve a lesson presented by a male faculty member, male graduates of the school still working in the area, or one of the male students. The students' lessons are critiqued in chapel to help guide them in their lesson preparation and delivery. Chapel sessions held on Monday and Friday are called "Singspiration" and do not include a lesson. Instead, these chapel sessions have an extended singing session and each male student leads at least one song. Our entire family has been able to attend the Friday chapel sessions and our son Troy has even had the opportunity to lead some songs. Ladies chapel sessions are also held twice a month on Monday afternoons, and allow the female students opportunities for presenting lessons, song leading, and leading public prayers. After chapel students have classes into the afternoon with chores beginning shortly thereafter. The evenings for the students are reserved for study.

We are currently still living in our temporary housing arrangements at Four Seas. Although we had hoped to be in our own place by now, we are very grateful for the hospitality of Four Seas and the Jurong church of Christ to allow us to stay at the college for an extended period. The Four Seas students also live at the college in a dormitory setting. We have benefited from this unique situation by getting to see the students' daily routines and the opportunity to get to know them outside of the classroom. Our children have also really hit it off with these students and regularly discuss English or another language, food, fun, and anything else.

KEEP UP WITH US

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JAMES WALTER BLANCO MIRA

James, named with his father's affinity for James Bond movies, is the oldest of six children from the Philippine province of Pangasinan. He primarily grew up in a Christian household after his father was baptized in 2003. Before coming to school he lived in Liberdad Tayug and worshipped with the Tayug church of Christ. He was introduced to Four Seas through an alumnus, Jim Corpuz who encouraged him to dedicate two years to full-time study. While he came to school to learn and be more equipped to serve, he credits his time at Four Seas with helping grow toward spiritual maturity. He said the greatest challenge to his studies were homesickness. When asked to define Four Seas in one word, James quickly responded: discipline. After graduation in November, James plans to return to the Tayug congregation (70-80 members) where he will serve as one of the preachers and teachers to strengthen that congregation and reach out to the community using the evangelistic tools acquired and honed at Four Seas in one of his primary languages, Ilocano. He hopes to pursue a secular degree in education in order to have a more stable earthly living for his family. James has already taken the steps to secure his eternal future in Jesus Christ.



CULTURE SHOCK

Each month we want to share something that is interesting, surprising, or different for us living in Singapore. Since we are in the month of August, around the typical start of the school year for many Americans, we thought it would be interesting to share something relating to schooling in Singapore. Our first week here allowed us quite a bit of free time to venture out into the community since Four Seas was on a term break. As we were out at various places such as grocery stores, malls, and restaurants during the day, one of the most shocking things to notice was the almost complete absence of children. If we had been out at similar locations at the same times of day in Texas, we would have seen lots of children of all different ages, particularly due to the large numbers of homeschoolers. However, in Singapore, homeschooling is incredibly rare (for several reasons), so school age children are at formal schools during the day. Additionally, a large majority of households in Singapore are dual working homes, and it is common for many younger kids to be in some form of childcare.

CURRENT COURSEWORK AT THE FOUR SEAS COLLEGE OF BIBLE AND MISSIONS

WWW.FOURSEAS.EDU.SG

1ST HALF OF THIRD TERM (AUGUST 12-OCTOBER 1, 2019)

FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

EXODUS-DEUTERONOMY
ROMANS
2 CORINTHIANS / JAMES
ENGLISH GRAMMAR (III)

SECOND YEAR STUDENTS

PREACHER & HIS WORK (VI)
PREMILLENIALISM
REVELATION
FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH

Thank you to all our generous supporters (Matthew 5:16)