

SINGAPORE MISSION UPDATE

September 30, 2019

KEEPING COMPANY WITH THE CHURCH

As much as last month gave us an opportunity to get to know many of the people and procedures with the Four Seas Bible College, this month has given us the great opportunity to get to know the congregations and Christians here in Singapore.

Every Bible class and worship service is an opportunity to meet, remeet, and get to know the local brethren better and better. Our home congregation, the Jurong church of Christ, is overseen by 4 elders who take an active involvement in leading and teaching in the local church. In addition to the elders, we are served by deacons and other men who are more than adequate song leaders, teachers, and preachers. I am now in the rotation of serving in worship and hope to be in the rotation to teach Bible classes soon. Our time here has included many opportunities for social fellowship with the church including celebrating the 43rd birthday of the church building, learning new songs during a singing fellowship, advertising for a blood drive held at the church building, and competing in care group challenge games,



This month also marked my introduction to preaching in Singapore. I received an invitation to preach for the Lim Ah Pin church of Christ on the first Sunday in September. While we had visited their midweek studies, this marked the first time our family was able to worship with them on the Lord's Day (it takes about an hour via public transport to get to their building). Their theme for the year is Standing in the Gap, and I was assigned the topic of Standing in the Gap to Serve. We look forward to other opportunities to be with this good congregation as the Lord allows. Also, I was able to preach for the Jurong congregation on the fourth Sunday in September. Brother Yong Yow, the local minister, preaches the majority of the Sundays, but hopefully I will be able to rotate in and share some of the preaching as the elders deem fit. Though I have not been blessed to preach there yet, I did get an informal invitation to the Eastside church of Christ here in Singapore. Eastside is a new church plant made up of members mostly from the Lim Ah Pin congregation. We hope to dedicate more time to this new congregation in a report a few months from now. Our family had dinner with their local minister, Alvin, before midweek services earlier in the month. We are excited to assist in this church plant as we have opportunity and availability.



On September 5 we officially finished the process to obtain my employment pass (work visa) and the dependent passes for the family. Obtaining these passes was a long process that began before we ever got off the plane in Singapore. These passes grant me the right to work in Singapore and permit us to stay in the country legally for more than 90 days. Additionally, these passes allow us to enter into contracts for things like renting an apartment, opening a bank account, and getting local cell phones. We were able to finally sign all of the documents necessary to rent our apartment, and we hope to move in sometime during October.

KEEP UP WITH US

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JANA ROSE SARMIENTO DEL CASTILLO

Jana is a second year student from the Philippines where she worked in the Manila Metropolitan area in the medical industry. While there, she worshipped with the Commonwealth church of Christ. She credits Four Seas alumni like Jess Pat and Jann Dirk Diamante for her decision to attend Four Seas. She looks forward to getting back to working with the church in the Philippines to help with Bible class curriculum, teaching, and teaching development among the children and ladies of the congregation. She has decided that she will plan to change careers into a field that does not require shift work, so she can be more about her Father's business. She said the most difficult thing about Four Seas is the rigorous study required to make good grades. But, she counts the great knowledge gained and "learning to love reading" as her favorite things since she had been a student.



CULTURE SHOCK

Because of the influence of these different countries and cultures, Singapore celebrates many different holidays which we are slowly learning about. It is a small culture shock to see so many different holidays from around the world celebrated by so much of the population. Many Asian countries, following a lunar calendar, have holidays and festivals based on the harvest time of year around what Americans might call a harvest moon. In Chinese culture they celebrate this time of the year during a September holiday called Mid-Autumn Festival. During this past month we experienced the holiday for the first time.

One of the primary traditions during this festival is the giving of mooncakes, pretty rich pastries with many different flavors. Experiencing mooncakes is our culture shock this month. Mooncakes could be found everywhere throughout the month of September, and generous brethren gave us a few different types to try. There are many things in new cultures that everyone knows about it and talks about it, but if you are new, you have no idea. Thankfully, we are learning! Mooncakes are beautifully decorated and a delight to look upon. Tasting the mooncakes was the most shocking part of experiencing them. The traditional cakes have lotus paste and egg yolk baked in them. Others have nuts and fruits. All of them are very rich and quite exotic to the American palette. I enjoyed the taste of all or most of them! After sampling many different kinds and flavors, our family has a favorite mooncake: coffee.



CURRENT COURSEWORK AT THE FOUR SEAS COLLEGE OF BIBLE AND MISSIONS

WWW.FOURSEAS.EDU.SG

2ND HALF OF THIRD TERM (OCTOBER 2, 2019-NOVEMBER 22, 2019)

FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

HEBREW HISTORY I
HERMENEUTICS
PREACHER & HIS WORK (II)
ENGLISH GRAMMAR III

SECOND YEAR STUDENTS

HEBREWS & PHILEMON
EZEKIEL & DANIEL
DENOMINATIONAL DOGMAS
FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH

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