

SINGAPORE MISSION UPDATE

November 3, 2019

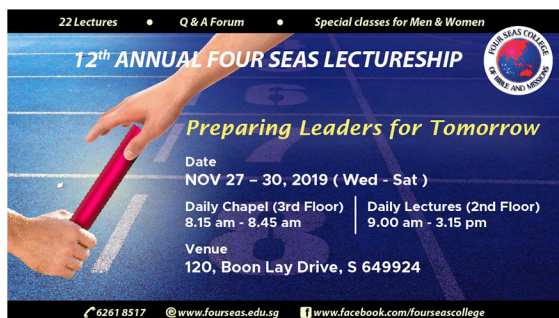
TRANSITIONS, TRAINING, AND THANK YOU

When we were working with college students in San Marcos, October was full of annual events, football games, fall activities, and was the busiest time of the year. While we have very little of those familiar things here in Singapore, October proved to be an eventful month.

Our family was very busy preparing for and finally making our two big transitions here in Singapore. First, our house in San Marcos sold and closed – finally! We owe great debts of gratitude to a wonderful realtor, good friends, and some college-age folks who made it possible for us to complete this transaction from 10,000 miles away. With this closing we were able to see the US Embassy, learn that North American Legal size paper is almost nonexistent in Singapore, and learn that if you pay enough, you *can* get documents from Singapore to Texas in two days.

Our second big transition came with the final hoops and red tape of securing our rental here in Singapore. There were many last-minute details and such that occupied our afternoons. With the help of the student body at Four Seas we were able to move into our place here at the end of the month – finally! Moving into our own place means that we also officially have our own mailing address in Singapore.

October at Four Seas College is the month of preparation. November will be consumed with graduation and lectureship, but October is the month to get ready for all those things. Lisa and I were put to work proofreading and editing manuscripts for the Four Seas Lectureship book on “Preparing Leaders for Tomorrow.” Speakers, over two dozen, from all over the world have worked diligently to deliver a written copy of their topic. We were both glad to help out in this endeavor.



Also in preparation for the lectureship, I have been tasked with assigning and coaching the students to deliver chapel talks during that week. Each morning before the lectures begin, one of the male students will present chapel thoughts. In order to make sure they are ready, October was a month of practice, one-on-one sessions, and much critique. I know they are nervous and excited to speak to an audience of faculty, staff, online instructors, alumni, elders, preachers, teachers, visitors, and friends during the annual Four Seas lectureship.

Late October provided the opportunity for the church at Jurong to host relevant Bible seminar during one of Singapore’s public holidays. This event was meant to open dialogue on some issues that the church faces and will face. Some of the younger men of the congregation were challenged to speak on topics like postmodernism, transgender issues, homosexuality, and abortion. I was invited to serve as a summary speaker for the event. Each speaker handled his topic aptly and Biblically, and I exhorted the attendees to put our new knowledge into loving action.

Please keep us in your prayers next month as we continue to settle in, finish out the school year, prepare for both graduation ceremonies and the Four Seas lectureship.



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: THYNA MANCIA

Thyna Bacara Mancía (pronounced "Tina" and "man-cha") is a second year student from Ilagan, Isabela, Philippines. She was baptized in 2013 after studying with her brother-in-law (Bal Laguna, a former student of mine at the Southwest School of Bible Studies). She is a member of the Osmeña congregation where she plans to work after graduation. Though she struggled with conversational English when she first arrived in Singapore, Thyna worked through those initial struggles and is able to read, write, listen to, and speak English very well. She believes that her time at Four Seas has helped her gain a tremendous amount of Bible knowledge and helped her understand her eternal purpose in this world. Because of those things, she is excited to graduate and finish school, begin working with the church in the Philippines, contribute to teaching ladies' and children's classes, and commit herself to personal evangelism. We are excited to see what God will do through sister Mancía in the future!



CULTURE SHOCK

As many in the US are now experiencing fall temperatures, we are not. In fact, because of Singapore's location near the equator, Singapore doesn't experience the traditional four seasons at all. Rather, summer-like temperatures abound throughout the year with highs ranging in the upper 80s and lower 90s (or around 32 degrees Celsius if you look at a local weather report) with high humidity. If you ask someone about seasons in Singapore they might mention the rainy and dry season, though even the "dry" season can be quite rainy. Weather is also not a frequent topic of discussion among Singaporeans, probably because there is so little variation, unlike what we are used to in Texas where during this time of year you might experience a 30 degree drop in a 24 hour period when a cold front blows in.



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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