

SINGAPORE MISSION UPDATE

December 2, 2019

FINALS, FOOD, AND FRIENDS

November, as we have quickly learned, is the busy month at Four Seas College. This month we completed term three with finals and projects and grading, finished the academic year, held the 47th graduation ceremonies, hosted the 12th annual FSC lectureship and island-wide gospel meetings, and handled all the various activities (meals!) associated with each of these. Of course, these many activities are all many reasons to be thankful!

The second year students finished the year strong as did their junior colleagues. Of the eight first year students, only seven will be returning in January as one of our students, Romeo Matavia, will be returning home to the Philippines to help support his family. Four of the first year students and one second year student will be spending their one month December break in internships in two congregations in Malaysia.

Hopefully you were able to see the lectureship activities on our Facebook page. It was good to have so many visiting brethren with us from all over the world. The speakers came from the U.S., Australia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Singapore. Attendees came from those countries as well as Vietnam, Timor Leste, Indonesia, and India. Many of the attendees and some of the speakers were FSC alumni which was very encouraging for us, the local church, and the student body. The theme was encouraging the church to prepare leaders for tomorrow. In many places in SE Asia, the church is either in its first generation of elders or just a few years away from being mature enough to have local elders. This timely theme is something that the brethren here are thirsty for as they desire to have good, godly leadership and to train the next generation to continue faithfulness to God. I spoke on Wednesday to the men about "Training Young Men to Lead." This is a topic that I am extremely passionate about and enjoyed the study, preparation, and presentation. It was so good to see some friends from the U.S. and to make friends among brethren from all over the world.



In conjunction with the lectureship, three of the congregations hosted lectureship speakers for nightly gospel meetings. We were only able to attend at two of the congregations, but we know that each night brought Biblical preaching on pertinent topics by capable men-servants. We trust that God was glorified in these events and the church was strengthened through them.

The lectureship and gospel meetings gave us the opportunity to participate in door-to-door tracting to advertise the meetings. Only Troy and I were able to make it as November has also been a bit of a month of sickness in the Kennedy household. After the tracting session, Troy and I were treated to local desserts with our team. The older children were well enough to participate in a creation observation field trip with their Bible classes earlier in the month; this is just one of the many things the Jurong congregation offers in the Bible class program to build the faith of little ones.



November also brought our first full-month in our new apartment. We were finally able to get the FSC students over on a Friday night for dinner and devotional. They were very excited that we had our own place and were delighted to be hosted. They are gracious, thoughtful, and very helpful both in preparation and cleaning up. We hope to host them regularly in the new year in order to build those relationships and to encourage them in their studies, faith, and growth.

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GRADUATION SPOTLIGHT

On November 23, 2019 the 47th graduation of the Four Seas College of Bible and Missions took place honoring four graduates: Alain Dave Tapiru, James Mira, Thyna Mancía (cum laude), and Jana Del Castillo (magna cum laude). All four of these students are “wrap around students” meaning that they started their time at Four Seas after the traditional start time, so they will each come back after the school break in December. Jana and Thyna have two months before they finish while James and Dave have four months. We look forward to spending a few more months with them before they return home to the Philippines.



CULTURE SHOCK

Singaporeans celebrate many holidays but, as we expected, American Thanksgiving is not one of them. While grocery stores in the states this time of year are filled the staples of an American Thanksgiving meal, that is not the case in Singapore. Although the Four Seas Lectureship took place over Thanksgiving, we still wanted to have a Thanksgiving meal (just a couple of days early), so we began searching for the ingredients for our favorite Thanksgiving foods including turkey, cornbread dressing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, and green bean casserole. After ordering ingredients from three different stores, we found everything we needed including turkey breast (at a cost about 2.5 times what we would pay in the states). Ella and Annie enjoyed helping preparing the meal (Luke and Troy would have also helped, but were both sick that day).

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! Although our holiday was different from our normal routine, we enjoyed a great meal with our family.



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