

Kennedy Family

SINGAPORE MISSION UPDATE

January 1, 2020

WRAPPING UP 2019

It is our earnest desire and prayer that each and every person who financially supports us, who sends out words of encouragement, and offers prayers on our behalf know that we are extremely grateful for you. Thank you all so much for supporting our work in the kingdom of God here in Asia. This December was a little different for us. For the first time ever we spent Christmas away from parents (the kids' grandparents) and siblings. We have always been blessed to be with our families during this time, and this year was certainly different. As for us, we spent December getting caught up with the things at the end of November, preparing for the upcoming school year, preaching in Singapore and Malaysia, and working with a youth camp/lectureship.

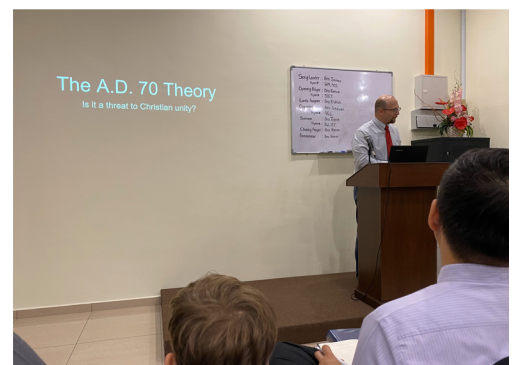
The Skudai church of Christ near Johor Bahru, Malaysia hosted their first youth camp, lock-in, and corresponding international lectureship during the month of December. We were honored to be invited to be a part of this great week. Lisa taught the young ladies for three of the lessons over the course of two days while I taught the young men. Beyond the hour long lessons, each session came with a time for questions and answers both publicly and privately. The brethren in Malaysia were wonderful hosts to the youth and to our family.



The Skudai congregation also hosted four of the Four Seas students on internships during the school break, so the youth camp was a great time to touch base with them, see their work in an area outside the classroom, and watch them work with local brethren. Nove, James, Thyna, and Chessa were all wonderful assets to the church and will continue to do good work as students and after they leave Four Seas and work with various local congregations.

In addition to old students, we also were able to bring along a new Four Seas student to Malaysia with us for the week. In many ways he is a nontraditional yet traditional student. He is the same age as his classmates, he is single and able to study in Singapore, he just finished his secular education and wants to learn more, do more, and be more to the glory of God. Yet, he is an American, he traveled 10,000 miles from home to study, and he has been a great friend to our family for five plus years. This December we were blessed to receive and host future Four Seas student Rance Parker whom we met in 2014 at the McCarty Student Center. Rance has been a tremendous asset to the work in Texas, and we are excited that he will be continuing his formal Biblical education here in Singapore. We were blessed to have him arrive early enough to go with us to Malaysia, see some Singapore sights, and have Christmas with our family.

While we were in Malaysia, our family was able to stay beyond the youth camp and worship with the brethren at Skudai. The local church meets only on Sunday evening because of the Muslim rule in Malaysia that makes Sunday a work/school day. While it is different than what we are used to, it is wonderful to see how local congregations can use their autonomy to carry out the commandments of God. I was asked to preach on an eschatological false doctrine that has plagued some members who say there is no resurrection. They were very open to what the Bible says and were willing to test all things and hold fast to that which is good. It was an honor and privilege to be with these good brethren, to worship our creator with them, and to be received so warmly and graciously.



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CULTURE SHOCK

Legend has it that a young boy playing in a baseball league for his local mill went to bat without shoes on because his new cleats were hurting his feet. He later made the majors and carried that youth nickname: Shoeless Joe to become one of the 10-15 greatest outfielders ever. Shoeless preacher might not stick as a preacher, but being shoeless is something that we have to get used to living in Asia. Taking off your shoes before you enter a home is customary and polite, showing respect. It is also practiced to help keep the floors clean.

For the first few months we were often reminded about taking our shoes off before entering a home because this is so foreign to our family. And, if no one is living in the home (like when we were apartment hunting), then you don't have to take your shoes off!

Sometimes a host will offer house shoes which are slippers that can be worn inside without getting the rooms so dirty. This custom changes the way you shop for shoes and pick which pair you will wear for the day. And, in the case of preaching and teaching in Malaysia where the church building served as "home" for the youth and chaperones for the weekend of the youth camp/lectures, sometimes we get to preach with our shoes off! Different customs but the same gospel. Shoed or shoeless, we can still have our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace!



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: 2020 STUDENT BODY

The 2020 school year will commence on January 2 with eleven new students (ten men and one woman) in the first year class, six students in the second year class, and four "wrap-around" students who are finishing a few months of course work before officially graduating. It will be a full campus with 21 students (20 living on campus)! The students come from many different countries including Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Laos, India, Timor Leste, and the USA. Four Seas also anticipates the addition of two-three more students in the next few months as final arrangements are made for these students to attend.

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

Congregations: Roanoke church of Christ (Roanoke, TX), North Main church of Christ (Weatherford, TX), Mabank church of Christ (Mabank, TX), Ninth & Main church of Christ (San Angelo, TX), Mathis church of Christ (Mathis, TX), Natalia church of Christ (Natalia, TX), Knott church of Christ (Knott, TX), Independence church of Christ (Independence, MS), University church of Christ (San Marcos, TX), Bangs church of Christ (Bangs, TX), Cape Fear church of Christ (Fayetteville, NC), Graeber Road church of Christ (Rosenberg, TX), Katy church of Christ (Katy, TX), Elliott Street church of Christ (Breckenridge, TX), Leander church of Christ (Leander, TX), Luling church of Christ (Luling, TX), Northern Oaks church of Christ (San Antonio, TX), League City church of Christ (League City, TX), Sachse church of Christ (Sachse, TX)

Families of: Doyle Bruce, Jordan Moore, Ron Josselet, Lewis Daltry, Ross Randow, Danlee Queen, Seth Huddleston, Ryan Smithey, Beverly Williams, Grant Puckett, Wes Mayfield, Clay Bond, Mike Haschke, Andy Baker, Garrett English, Carl McCann, Mike Vestal, Charles Hall, Scout Betz, Anthony Castillo, Jerick Roberts, the Haffners & Lopezes, and many families from the University church of Christ in San Marcos, TX.

And other anonymous contributors.