

# Kennedy Family

## SINGAPORE MISSION UPDATE

April 4, 2020

### AN UNUSUAL MONTH AND NEW CHALLENGES AHEAD

The month of March started with some new adventures and ended with some big changes. Lisa and I spent the first part of the month making preparations for our trip to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to work with the Kota Kemuning congregation. After making the necessary preparations for classes, materials, and travel, we were blessed to spend four days (Thursday - Sunday) in Malaysia. We found the brethren from Kota Kemuning to be extremely hospitable, and they took great care of our family. We were able to learn about congregations meeting all around the Klang Valley, enjoy seeing some local sights and eating local food, and be blessed by spending three days with the local members in study and worship. Troy and Ella enjoyed a special treat, being able to spend time with Willy and Sandra Ling. Willy is the son of brother Peter Chin, director of Four Seas; and Sandra is a former graduate of Texas State University. During her time there as a student, we got to know and love Sandra. We have enjoyed catching up with her as she has returned back home to Malaysia. Our whole family was in for another treat and surprise as Sandra's parents, the Leong family, joined us for worship at Kota Kemuning on the Lord's Day. It has been some years since we last saw them in the U.S., and this was a wonderful time.

On Friday night the church met for a special Bible class within their theme: courageous Christianity. I preached/taught on Caleb's faith, courage, and fighting spirit. The following day the church hosted a development workshop for the local members. Lisa taught three lessons to the ladies while I taught three lessons to the men. We spoke on topics relating to leadership, ownership, and servanthood within the local church. Both of us were extremely encouraged by the reception of our family and the lessons brought forward. I was blessed to preach for the congregation on Sunday morning as we worshipped with our brethren there. The church in Kota Kemuning has a number of young, active couples and singles along with elders and deacons. They are doing great work and have great potential to serve in the kingdom!

Just after arriving back from Malaysia (on a flight that was not near capacity) we learned that Malaysia and Singapore had plans to close the borders of each country. Within the following week, Malaysia forbid entrance into the country. Not long afterwards, Singapore began to close the border to foreigners as well. From there the restrictions have increased here in Singapore as they have over the world. Currently, if we leave the country we will not be permitted to re-enter. However, we continue to weather out the Covid-19 pandemic with everyone else. The local people and government are not looking to expel foreigners or create great strains on businesses, and these are good things. Church members have also checked in on us as they know we haven't lived here for very long. Thankfully, we have been able to secure food, groceries, and other necessities with minimal disruption. Please keep this situation in your prayers. And, if we may be so bold, if you know someone not from the U.S. who is currently residing there, check in on them just as the local brethren have checked in on us.



One great restriction from the Covid-19 measures have been the forced closure of all religious “houses of worship.” Much like the rest of the world and churches in the U.S., the church here is attempting to navigate these challenges. We were able to worship together for most of March with added measures of safe distancing, but even that is not enough. So, we are having to meet in homes. Jurong is broadcasting the men who serve as leaders during worship while another congregation in town is having only home based assemblies. While we understand this is not the assembly nor an adequate substitute, we hope to endure through this time. We have been able to have Bible classes online, and the children look forward to receiving their lessons weekly. Lisa has been teaching in the Bible class program and is now teaching online for the junior Bible school as well.

Another government ruling was also handed down just this week: the closures of all schools. For all of March the school was able to operate fairly normally. However, beginning April 7 we will only be able to teach online. While preparations were in place, we now must transition to teaching all courses online, assisting the students virtually, and helping these students, almost all foreigners like us, from afar. Please keep the school and these students in your prayers. March brought some changes in our student body as two of our students were diagnosed with an infectious disease and had to return home. For privacy reasons, we cannot disclose the names or the disease, but it is not Covid-19. Those circumstances created by their illness was not ideal, but the situation was handled well by all, students and administration. Currently, the faculty, staff, and student body are undergoing tests to make sure none of us has contracted the disease. Please keep all in your prayers.

We know that many things are very unusual and unique at this time. We encourage everyone to have faith in God and patience with yourself and others. It is our prayer that the church can use the difficult opportunities to broadcast hope, shine forth light, stand for truth, and be known for our love.

## **STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: ALAIN DAVE TAPIRU**

Dave is one of our returning students, a wrap-around who is finishing up his studies after graduating back in November. He is from the Bayombong church of Christ in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines. His home congregation has about 70 members, and Dave expects to be appointed by the men (leaders of the church) to work in an official capacity with the youth. Over the December break, Dave proved his great value to the church leading the young people from his home congregation in lessons, devotionals, and organizing social fellowship opportunities. Baptized in 2013, Dave did not feel that he was maturing in Christ the way he should be. With the encouragement of his mother and Four Seas alum Alex B. Coloma, Dave enrolled at Four Seas. He believes his time in Singapore has helped him know God better through the detailed study of His Word and then to make the necessary personal changes. Having seen the great evangelistic work of the congregations in Singapore, Dave also plans to being teaching prospects in his local community. He has promised his family, mother and siblings that when he returns home he will begin a personal study with them.



## **CURRENT COURSEWORK AT FOUR SEAS COLLEGE**

**WWW.FOURSEAS.EDU.SG**

**2ND HALF OF 1ST TERM (FEBRUARY 20, 2020-APRIL 10, 2020)**

### **FIRST YEAR STUDENTS**

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES  
PREACHER & HIS WORK I (THE CHRISTIAN MAN)  
NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH  
ENGLISH GRAMMAR I

### **SECOND YEAR STUDENTS**

WISDOM LITERATURE (JOB-SONG OF SOLOMON)  
CHURCH HISTORY  
TOPICAL BIBLE STUDIES  
NEW TESTAMENT GREEK

### **ALL FEMALE STUDENTS**

THE CHRISTIAN WOMAN

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