

SINGAPORE MISSION UPDATE

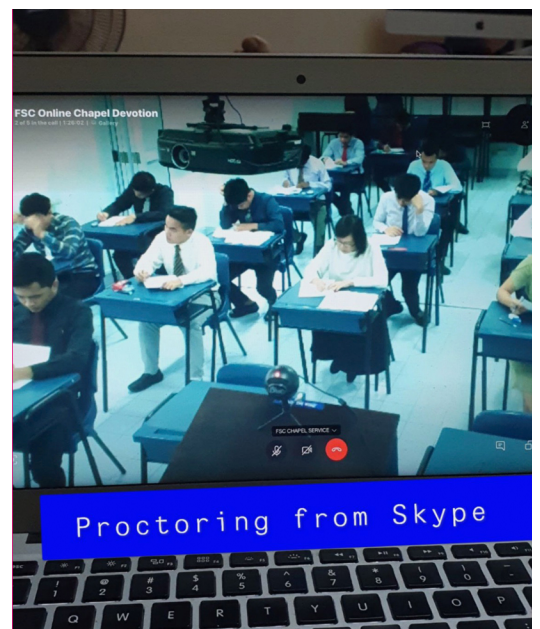
May 2, 2020

"...THE TRYING OF YOUR FAITH WORKETH PATIENCE..."

The month of April has been a trying month for many people across the globe. While we might be worrying in the backs of our minds about a dreaded pandemic, much of that worry has been replaced by staying at home, getting out very little, and slowing down our daily lives to a crawl. Stores, restaurants, shops, and businesses have been shut down in most counties to stop the possible spread of COVID-19. This has presented many challenges and countless opportunities. What we are seeing in Singapore is similar in many ways. So, this month has been a month of transition and adjustment for us. At the beginning of April the Singapore government enacted what they have termed a "circuit breaker" period, essentially stay-at-home orders. Originally, this circuit breaker period was scheduled to end May 4, but the prime minister of Singapore recently extended it until June 1.

Since the beginning of the circuit breaker period started, the restrictions have been increasingly tightened including the strictest measures that were recently enacted. Currently, we are not allowed to leave the house except to exercise or buy groceries. Only one person from a household is allowed to leave the house at a time, even for exercise purposes, so we cannot even take a family walk together. The moment we step outside our apartment, even for something like going down to the basement of our building to check the mail, we are required to wear a mask.

Like many of you and others across the world we have been transitioning and adjusting to life completely at home. Four Seas has transitioned to completely online instruction. Each morning, the students who live on site (19 out of 20) still conduct chapel services which Brother Peter Chin and I attend remotely. With the current change in term, I have been assigned a full schedule of teaching Monday-Friday. To our first year students I teach English Grammar 2 and the Gospel Account of Luke. The second year students and I spend each morning together studying the prophets. One class covers Isaiah and Jeremiah while the other one focuses on the "Minor" Prophets, the books of Hosea - Malachi.



The current state of the COVID-19 situation has changed drastically over the last month. At the time of our writing at the beginning of April, Singapore had approximately 1,200 cases. Now, there are more than 17,000 cases! A huge majority of these cases are associated with foreign worker (migrant worker) dorms and are not actually community cases; however, the huge spike in cases is certainly concerning for the government and citizens of Singapore. We do not feel like we are in a heightened risk, but we hope and pray things will calm down soon. As the number of new cases begins to decline, we expect some of the strictest circuit breaker measures will be eased.

I continue to be on the monthly preaching schedule of the Jurong congregation and preached on the relevance of the Bible in our modern world in April. I will be scheduled for May as well. Lisa and I have both been actively teaching in the Bible class program, and we have had to adjust to teaching live online via Zoom (me) and providing recorded instruction (Lisa for the children). We both look forward to continuing to teach in May. Teaching Bible classes over Zoom has allowed us to have a few select (invited) students from other countries. This past month some members from the Skudai congregation in Malaysia joined us, and my dear brother Phanat Ouch from Battambang, Cambodia joined in when I taught.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JAMES MIRA & DAVE TAPIRU

While we have spotlighted James Mira and Dave TapiRU, some of their situations have changed. Both of these young brethren are from the Philippines and plan to work there long term. They have completed their final finals and course work at Four Seas. But, they are currently stuck here in Singapore as their flights have been cancelled and rescheduled over the course of this month. Currently, they are auditing the second year classes, working through special projects, doing extra study, and awaiting their departure which is scheduled for May 20. Please keep these guys in your prayers. (James (left) and Dave (right) pictured with their graduating class in December 2019.)



CURRENT COURSEWORK AT FOUR SEAS COLLEGE

WWW.FOURSEAS.EDU.SG

1ST HALF OF 2ND TERM (APRIL 20, 2020-JUNE 9, 2020)

FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

LIFE OF CHRIST II (LUKE)
JOHN
PREACHER & HIS WORK II
ENGLISH GRAMMAR II

SECOND YEAR STUDENTS

HOSEA-MALACHI
ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, LAMENTATIONS
NEW TESTAMENT GREEK II
GENERAL BIBLICAL INTRODUCTION

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