

SINGAPORE MISSION UPDATE

July 4, 2020

FIRST FURLOUGH

We began June in Singapore and ended June in Texas. It has been a busy month, finishing up the first half of the second term at Four Seas before beginning our travel for furlough to visit congregations across Texas. In addition to touching base with these congregations, we have been able to spend time with family and friends. Our plan is to meet with and speak for a few supporters in Texas as we have arranged, but we will not be able to travel outside of the state this trip. We are so thankful for the kindness and understanding we have received so far.

Singapore slowly began a very cautious reopening at the beginning of June before we left. For the first time in more than six weeks, we were able to take a walk as a family. Most schools in Singapore also began the slow process of moving into in-person classes. Unfortunately, the first half of the second term at Four Seas finished as it began with online instruction. Although most schools in Singapore were allowed to begin reopening in June, Four Seas falls into a separate religious category that was still prevented from having in-person instruction for the time being.

Before beginning our furlough travels in mid-June, I finished teaching the minor prophets, Isaiah and Jeremiah, and the book of Luke. I also taught English, and have continued teaching English while we have been traveling during furlough from 12:30-2:00 am once or twice a week. The students continue to work hard daily with their studies, persevering during a difficult time of separation from not only their instructors but also their physical families and church family.

Although traveling half way around the world was a little more difficult than in pre-Covid-19 times, we were able to safely make it all the way to Texas. Since we've been in Texas we've been able to see both mine and Lisa's family. It has been refreshing to see family and friends that we have not seen in almost a year. The children have been able to have sleepovers and see their grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins. While they are disappointed to not be able to attend summer camp, they have been very patient and understanding.



We've been greatly blessed to connect with supporting congregations and meet together with brethren in-person since we've arrived in Texas. We have attended three supporting congregations, and I have been able to preach at two of those. The Mabank church of Christ graciously received our family and extend family. I was able to briefly report on the work in Singapore and preach for them during the morning worship hour. Then, we were able to visit the Roanoke congregation, the church which oversees our funding and matters of giving and receiving. During their morning worship I was able to preach there as well. Different congregations are going through different measures to social distance, limit hugs, encourage mask wearing, protect the vulnerable, and keep hand sanitizer out. Please remember to wash your hands!



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: LEVI DAN DE CASTRO

Levi Dan de Castro is a second year student with an always positive attitude who lifts up his classmates each day. Levi is from Tayug, Pangasinan, Philippines where he is a member of the Tayug church of Christ. He came to Four Seas in order to be trained in the Scriptures. His hope in coming to school was to be better equipped as a preacher and Bible teacher. He credits the opportunities to speak in chapel as a great part of his personal spiritual growth. Levi has to manage his time appropriately, submitting an outline to his instructors a week early, then delivering his sermon for instructors and classmates. Levi lists this entire process as one of his greatest challenges as a student. However, brother de Castro takes his critiques to heart and seeks to improve his lessons after critique. I have personally found Levi to be very teachable with a great heart for listening, learning, and encouraging others. After school, Levi plans to return to his home congregation where he will serve as a teacher and occasional preacher. It is Levi's desire to help the local congregation grow numerically through evangelism and the members grow through sound Bible teaching.



CURRENT COURSEWORK AT FOUR SEAS COLLEGE

WWW.FOURSEAS.EDU.SG

2ND HALF OF 2ND TERM (JUNE 10, 2020-JULY 31, 2020)

FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES
ENGLISH GRAMMAR II
1 CORINTHIANS
GENESIS

SECOND YEAR STUDENTS

THESSALONIANS, TIMOTHY, TITUS
NEW TESTAMENT GREEK II
GENERAL EPISTLES: PETER, JOHN, JUDE
PREACHER AND HIS WORK V

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