

# SINGAPORE MISSION UPDATE

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September 3, 2020

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## FINAL FURLOUGH FIDDLINGS

The first week of August afforded us with a slower pace than much of our furlough. We were able to split the time between my family and Lisa's family. It was good to spend some slower days with family, especially for the children to spend that quality time with their grandparents. On our last Sunday in the USA, I presented the work in Singapore to the North Main congregation in Weatherford, TX during the class hour and preached during the worship hour.

## TROUBLESOME TIMES TRAVELING

In many ways people all over the world are navigating uncharted waters. Sure, the world has survived pandemic and disease and economic downturns and unrest and so much more. But, 2020 has brought all of these things on so many countries at once. It was these conditions that created difficulty for our planned furlough to the USA back in June. Those same conditions made the return to Singapore at the beginning of this month very difficult. Currently, there are no USA to Singapore direct flights as the country is generally closed to foreigners to mitigate the spread (reintroduction) of Covid-19. In order for long-term pass holders (like my work visa) to return to Singapore, the government must approve of each individual before they can enter the country. Upon arrival, each person must be quarantined for 14 days while being closely monitored for symptoms and then tested for Covid - 19. The reapplication process took great patience and some help in order to navigate all the necessary documents. At first, they approved four out of our six family members to return to the country. Upon appeal, the immigration office granted all six of us the ability to return. After an hour on the phone with United, Lisa was able to get our flights arranged to arrive within the appropriate window and we were set to go. Upon arrival we were screened and immediately taken by bus to a hotel where we stayed for a little over 14 days.

We have tested negative for Covid, endured the long travel, survived quarantine, arrived safely home, and begun our regular routine here in Singapore. We are so thankful to God for these great blessings, and we are thankful for the many prayers offered on our behalf. We had some unplanned expenses arrive with the travel and quarantine, and we were so blessed by the individuals who helped us cover those expenses so quickly. Thank you. Also, while Lisa and I worked through documents to the best of our ability, there were a few people here in Singapore that really went out of their way and carried an extra burden for us to be able to return under these conditions. We are thankful to and for sister Chin (administrator for Four Seas College), sis Sharon Chan (administrator for the Jurong church of Christ), and the elders of the Jurong congregation!



## NOW NEARING NORMAL

When we arrived in Singapore, I began teaching for the third term from the hotel room in quarantine. We are all very excited as the preparations have been made for us to all be back in the classroom, in person, beginning next week. Not only will this help with instruction, but it will also be of great encouragement to the student body as they train to be preachers and teachers of the word. Much of their opportunities and travel has been limited because of the Covid dangers and associated restrictions. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to train. The third term is the final term of the school year for Four Seas students. The second year class has six students, five of whom are set to graduate at the end of November and the sixth who will finish after the new year. Many will go back to works and homes that look different than when they left. We currently have students with family who are infected with Covid, family members that have lost jobs, and close friends facing heightened persecution. Please keep them in your prayers.

How did we pass the time in quarantine? That is a great question, and I don't know. We did watch local television, some of the first we have seen. We played some family games, had family Bible time, and established a routine. The children never had fever, but they did have a type of Cabin Fever that Lisa and I could really appreciate. During this time, Lisa also began the home school year for all four children. Since Annie would be in kindergarten this year in Singapore, she has started school too.

## FILIPINOS FINALLY FLY

We are thankful that the Philippines has opened up a little more this month which allowed James Mira and Dave Tapiru (class of 2019) to finally return and begin their respective works. They have been trying to get to the Philippines since late March/early April. While they were "stuck" in Singapore, they continued taking classes and special projects to better equip them for ministry.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: EMMANUEL LICODINI

Emmanuel is a 2nd year student from Ilagan City, Isabela, Philippines. His home congregation was the Bliss Village church of Christ where his father serves as the local preacher. Upon graduation, Emmanuel plans to join his father in the local work, focusing on evangelism while he works part time as a virtual assistant. He chose to study at FSC in order to become a better preacher and teacher of God's word. Emmanuel's favorite part of FSC is the solid commitment to building a spiritual foundation in students. He credits his time in Singapore and the good influence of the Jurong and Lim ah Pin congregations for reminding him to be continually engaged in the study of the word of God. Brother Licodini has found managing his time in the courses, assignments, responsibilities, and opportunities as a great challenge and as opportunities to grow.



## CURRENT COURSEWORK AT FOUR SEAS COLLEGE

[WWW.FOURSEAS.EDU.SG](http://WWW.FOURSEAS.EDU.SG)

**1ST HALF OF 3RD TERM (AUGUST 10-SEPTEMBER 29, 2020)**

### FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

HERMENEUTICS  
ENGLISH GRAMMAR III  
2 CORINTHIANS & JAMES  
HEBREW HISTORY I

### SECOND YEAR STUDENTS

PREMILLENNIALISM  
HEBREWS & PHILEMON  
DANIEL & EZEKIEL  
FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH

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