

SINGAPORE MISSION UPDATE

October 3, 2020

THE “NEW NORMAL”

September has been a crazy and busy month of getting back into our normal routines, schedules, and challenges. After settling in during the last few weeks of August after our travel and quarantine, we have almost resumed our pre-Covid lives. Of course we are still limited to social gatherings of five or less, have to wear a face mask anytime we leave the house (except vigorous exercise), have to sign in through a cell phone app anytime we enter anywhere, and I have to teach in a face shield. So, I guess this is more of what people here in Singapore call the “new normal.”

The most exciting thing in September for me was returning to the classroom in person. The faculty and staff here worked remotely for the entire second term, but we are now able to go in and teach/work every day. There are still some limitations, but the work is going on well. This half term I teach English Grammar 3, Romans, and Revelation. It will be a challenging term that should end with a graduation ceremony. The first year students are growing in their knowledge, their grades are improving, and their confidence is building. Their chapel sermons, term papers, exams, and class discussions show this growth. Our second year students are pushing hard to finish strong and make their way into the field to work with local congregations. The reality of the work before them is setting in, and they are both nervous and excited to leave school behind and put their hands to the plow.

Since we can now have groups of five in our home, we were finally able to host the students for the first time since March. We had three different groups of five over on three consecutive evenings for dinner. Each night Lisa (with some help) cooked a “regular” meal for our family for the students to enjoy: hamburger steaks, tacos, and spaghetti. Then, we order a few things from some restaurants that the students here would rarely get to enjoy: Indian food, Thai food, and Filipino food. We had a wonderful time each night.

I was also invited to conduct a Zoom class this month for the Jurong church of Christ men. The topic was “Guiding our Children.” The discussion was attended by 30+ men of all ages and stations of life. This is something conducted by the leadership at Jurong every other month. We will look forward to the next opportunity where I can join in without teaching! I have been back on the teaching rotation on Sundays and Wednesdays during the end of September and early October (book of Acts). I also preached for the Jurong congregation this month. Lisa is diligently working with the Junior Bible School here teaching regularly by preparing Bible class videos. Currently, she is teaching our children (and others) in a combined Wednesday night class.



The kids have enjoyed participating in homeschool sports with a local homeschool group. They finished basketball “season” and have moved on to frisbee. September is also a special month in our home because all the males have birthdays this month. Lisa made cakes and goodies as we celebrated each one. Their favorite gifts were the What-a-burger shirts we brought back from Texas and gave them. My birthday was special because of our family’s efforts and the special consideration given by the local brethren who treated me wonderfully. The children also were able to enjoy the hospitality of two local sisters who took them for special night out which allowed Lisa and I to explore Singapore and find an authentic Texas BBQ restaurant.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: CHESSA BOLIBOLI

Chessa is one of second year students. She is regularly at the top of her class in academic performance. Chess is from the central part of the Philippines. Her home town in Bacolod on the Negros Island. She and her mother are both members of the Villa Church of Christ in Bacolod City, a congregation of about 60 members. She came to school to get more grounded in her understanding of and ability to teach God’s word. Her aim is to return to her home congregation where she will be involved teaching ladies’ and children’s classes. Additionally, Chessa plans to be active in evangelism in her home town. Even though she will have to get a secular job, we firmly believe Chessa will be an invaluable asset to the local church. Though Chessa struggled with understanding some of the lessons, especially in English (she said this was her biggest challenge), she has learned the language well and increased weekly in her language abilities. According to sister Boliboli, the greatest part of Four Seas has been the teaching and sound biblical instruction which has increased her faith, her understanding, and her confidence in handling God’s word.



CURRENT COURSEWORK AT FOUR SEAS COLLEGE

WWW.FOURSEAS.EDU.SG

2ND HALF OF 3RD TERM (SEPTEMBER 30-NOVEMBER 20, 2020)

FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

EXODUS-DEUTERONOMY
 ENGLISH GRAMMAR III
 PREACHER & HIS WORK II
 ROMANS

SECOND YEAR STUDENTS

REVELATION
 PREACHER & HIS WORK VI
 FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH
 DENONMINATIONAL DOGMAS

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