

Kennedy Family

SINGAPORE MISSION UPDATE

December 1, 2020

CONGRATS TO THE FOUR SEAS CLASS OF 2020!

November at Four Seas is always a crazy month with end of the year events, graduation, and students leaving for their home countries. This November was quite strange as we did not have a lectureship or gospel meeting with visiting brethren from overseas. The graduation could only be attended by 50 people. We cannot eat out in groups of more than 5, so we had to take only half of the graduates out to eat while brother and sister Chin took out the other half. The COVID restrictions and precautions kept us from really celebrating the graduates as we should, but they have completed their studies, passed their exams, and will begin their respective works shortly. Five of the graduates will return to their home congregations in the Philippines. One student, Alacrico Alves from Timor-Leste, will wrap around and finish his studies in 2021.

Currently, we cannot admit foreign students to the incoming class in January. Since we have a number of students who have applied and are looking forward to admittance, it is our prayer that COVID restrictions will loosen allowing us to have the foreign students on campus without the current expense of quarantines. However, it currently looks like two local men will be joining Alarico in the first year class. Lord willing, the foreign students will be able to join this class in the first few months of 2021. Looking forward to the 2021 school year is also very exciting for us at Four Seas because we look forward to brother Jamie Long and his wife Jessica joining the faculty as a full-time instructor and dean located in Singapore. If they are able to fulfill their plans and join us in Singapore in January, this will mark the first time in years that Four Seas has been fully staffed. This is an answered prayer, and we want to give God the glory as we look forward to welcoming brother and sister Long.

Since the COVID restrictions prohibit the current student body (new second year students and our one wrap around) from going back to their homes or engaging in internships like many of their seniors did in Malaysia, we will be conducting a personal development course for the break. These classes will focus on things that we often do not have time to cover as we rush to teach the whole council of God. Skills like leadership, power point development, making effective announcements, writing for communication, relationship building, mission reporting, and such like will be considered over the course of their month break. These classes will be supplemented with WVBS videos to help our students grow and mature.

This month the Jurong congregation has continued an outreach effort using locally produced Facebook programming to evangelize the local area and members' contacts. I have continued hosting "Tuesday Tips" on Facebook each Tuesday evening focusing on practical pointers from Biblical poetry. So far, there has been good reach within the membership, and we plan to continue these efforts into the new year. Please keep the outreach effort in your prayers that contacts can be made, studies can be had, and souls can be reconciled.

Lisa and I continue to teach in the local Bible class programs on a rotating basis. I preached for the Jurong congregation in November, and, Lord willing, I will be preaching again the second Sunday in December.

Since the college and local schools are on end of the year break, Lisa has given our kids a corresponding break from their homeschool studies. They continue to grow, develop friendships, and play with all the neighborhood kids. We had made plans to spend the end of November and all of December in the US this year. This is a very special time for both of our families to get together. Unfortunately, the COVID situation around the world and mandatory quarantine in Singapore prevents us from returning to the US for furlough at this time. We do not know when those restrictions might be lifted allowing us to make our way back to see family, friends, and supporters. Lisa was able to find a butterball turkey breast that we enjoyed for Thanksgiving this year. The kids are big enough to help with all the sides and really enjoyed contributing to the Thanksgiving meal this year.

GRADUATION PICTURES



Graduates, the elders of the Jurong church of Christ, and the faculty & staff of Four Seas.
Back row (from left to right): Chessa Boliboli (Philippines), Levi Dan De Castro (Philippines), Nove Aguilar (Philippines), Alarico Alves (Timor-Leste), Emmanuel Licodini (Philippines), and Rolly Parada (Philippines).
Front row (from left to right): John Chan (elder), Amos Cheong (elder), Eddy Ee (elder), Peter Chin (president of Four Seas), Pooi Fun Chin (administrator of Four Seas), and Trent Kennedy.



Nove Aguilar received the Jack McWhorter Spiritual Education Scholarship and Chessa Boliboli received the Norma McWhorter/Kuin Tattersall Spiritual Education Scholarship.



Alarico Alves received the Most Improved Student Award.

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