

# Kennedy Family

## SINGAPORE MISSION UPDATE

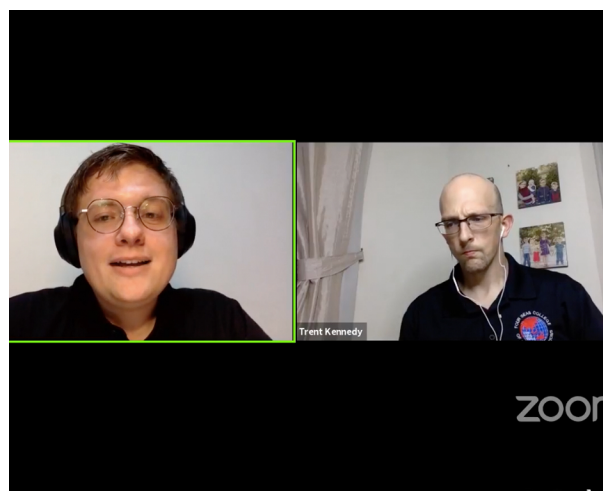
July 1, 2021

### NEWS AND NOTES FROM JUNE

The month of June has been quite busy with the work of Four Seas College and the Jurong church of Christ. We finished the term and the students sat for final exams. Now, we have progressed to the new term and look forward to midterms in just a few weeks. I am currently teaching the book of Luke as well as English.

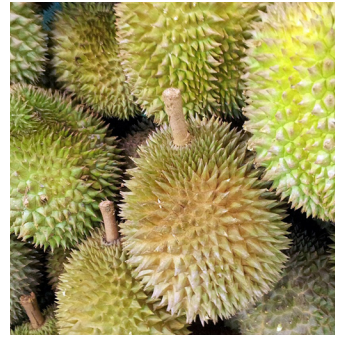
In addition to teaching and administrative duties, my efforts this month and over the next few months will be with our graduating students. Each second year student must submit a plan of what they will do after graduation to our school director, brother Peter Chin. Those plans will be discussed between faculty and with the individual students. For those students who are going into full-time work after graduation, I have tried to help them put their ideas on paper. This includes local ministry, church planting, evangelism, building Bible class programs, demographics, budget, identifying obstacles, and more. Some of these students will be using these plans to request financial support. Others will take these plans to local congregations in their home countries who will then support them to do the work in that place. Still others will look to continue their studies or take up a secular job while assisting their home congregations in preaching and teaching. Much of my effort this month has been to help Alarico Alves who plans to return to his home country and plant the first congregation of the Lord's church. Rico is a great man, a good preacher, an outstanding servant, and a humble student. We look forward to the great things the Lord will do through him. Please keep Rico and the other students in your prayers as they make these plans for their future works.

The month of June is a holiday for many of the school children in Singapore, so the Jurong congregation offered a holiday Bible school during this time. Because of Covid restrictions, the leaders thought it best to conduct this holiday Bible school virtually through Zoom. Lisa was one of the teachers. She taught the primary 5 & 6 class (Ella and Troy's class) over the inspiration and reliability of the Scriptures. Each of our children attended their respective classes in various parts of the house. It was a balancing act, but it was a good event. Troy was able to lead a few songs during the event. He and Luke both love to lead singing, but Troy is more apt to volunteer for that or for anything! I continue to do a short, weekly Bible program on Facebook called Tuesday Tips. This month we studied money and finance. The purpose of the videos and live sessions is to spark interest and engagement with Singaporeans in order to study the Bible in more depth. For the first time, I welcomed a guest, Rance Parker, to the live session where he shared some of what he has studied about the rich and the poor. You can watch the video online on Jurong's Facebook page.



# CULTURE SHOCK: THE KING OF FRUITS

Durian is often called the king of fruits. It looks like a gnarly melon on the outside, but the outside is much harder and must be severed in order to get the fruit. It is banned on all public transportation because it smells like rotting flesh. I have tried durian ice cream, durian chocolate, and even durian cookies. The ice cream was good; the others were not. However, until this month I had never tried the fruit itself. Our first year here, we missed the season and last year we were on furlough during the best time for eating durian. Kelvin Cheok, a member at Jurong and a first year student at FSC, took me to pick out and try my first durian. I found it a bit smelly, almost unpleasant. But, the taste was very nice. It had some qualities of Jackfruit and some qualities of a banana and some qualities that I still cannot describe. It was creamy and overall good. The smell went away after the first few pieces, and I think I ate 8-10 before I thought it best to quit. I look forward to introducing durian to the family!



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

### XAYSAVANH SODAHUK (XAY) & KHAMSOUAY SISALTH (JOSHUA)

We have two students, Xay and Joshua, who came to us last year from the country of Laos. Laos is a communist state (CIA factbook) of 7.5 million people. The religious make-up is 64% Buddhist, 31% nothing (or various local religions), and less than 2% "Christian" in the broadest terms. The church there is very small, but men like Xay and Joshua are working to grow the church spiritually and numerically to train young men to serve by leading in the local assemblies. Currently, these congregations do not have training programs, and Joshua hopes to fill this need.

Xaysavanh Sodahuk ("Xay") (left) has been married to Loun for 5 years. Together, they have a three year old daughter, Thepphaphone whom they call Nounee (Nunee). He lives in Savannakhet near the border with Thailand and worked with the congregation of Savannakhet Church of Christ (Savan short). He came to school in order to be more effective in teaching and preaching because there is a lack of trained men in Laos who can teach others as well. After graduation, Xay hopes to return to Savannakhet to work with the local congregation and teach in Savan Bible Training School to train young Christians. This is a unique ministry of the local church there where they are able to train college students at night who study secularly during the day.



Khamsouay Sisalth (Joshua) (right) is from Northern Laos. Before coming to Singapore, he worshipped with the congregation in Pone-sa-ath. He came to school to have a more accurate understanding of the scriptures in order to teach and preach the gospel full time. After graduation, Joshua plans to return to Pone-sa-ath to work with the congregation where his dad labors as one of the local preachers. Additionally, Joshua is making arrangements to also provide training for about 10 congregations in his province. This will allow him to confirm the brethren in smaller, rural congregations on a regular basis. As a young man, Joshua sees great opportunities to train young men to serve by leading in the local assemblies. Currently, these congregations do not have training programs, and Joshua hopes to fill this need.

## CURRENT COURSEWORK AT FOUR SEAS COLLEGE

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

**2ND HALF OF 2ND TERM (APRIL 26, 2021-AUGUST 6, 2021)**

### FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

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

### SECOND YEAR STUDENTS

1 & 2 THESSALONIANS, 1 & 2 TIMOTHY, TITUS  
PREACHER & HIS WORK V  
GENERAL EPISTLES  
NEW TESTAMENT GREEK II

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