

*Kennedy Family*

# SINGAPORE MISSION UPDATE

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May 1, 2022

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## NOT YOUR AVERAGE APRIL

This past month has brought many changes for us in Singapore. Some of them are exciting while others are not. First, the island is opening up from Covid. Masks are now optional outdoors. Almost all church activities have returned to normal. I think “pot luck” style breakfasts or lunches may be the only thing that has not been restored by the Jurong congregation because there is still a prohibition on shared items. In-person Bible classes, fellowships, seminars, and such are all back on the schedule, and we are all very excited. Trace Together, the government’s monitoring system has been suspended. Many prohibitions against unvaccinated people are also being lifted. The loosening of these measures will make the work of the church in evangelism, edification, and benevolence much easier. While all of those things continued for the Jurong congregation, the efforts were more difficult. With the lifting of many restrictions, some things are more relaxed at Four Seas as well. We no longer have to do daily temperature checks, song leaders and preachers can both lead in their respective roles with no masks. Face shields are allowed for teachers. Etc., etc., etc. We are thankful.

In the midst of this good news in Singapore, our family remains separated, and we covet your prayers. The children have spent a few months now with gracious grandparents as Lisa and I have traveled to and fro. After Lisa finished teaching the Christian Woman course to the ladies here, she headed back for a six-week stay in Texas. This will be a time for her to focus on the children, homeschool them in person, tend to their concerns, and much much more. I will be staying in Singapore until we finish our commitment in June. Lord willing, Lisa will travel back to Asia in late May to help close out, pack up, and finish out our time here. This is not the ending we had planned, but we are trying to do our best with the circumstances that we have.

During our time separated from the children, Ella has taken on the role of “other-mama” to the younger ones. She is caring, helpful, watchful, and has the heart of a teacher. Troy has taken on the role of servant, always looking for ways to help his younger siblings or grandparents. He is tender and kind, funny and feisty. Luke and Annie, our younger children, have had a harder time adjusting to not having their mom and dad around. This is to be expected. Both of them have held up well and are being “troopers” during this difficult time. Luke is quiet and pensive. Annie, also a thinker, is often much louder and talkative. All of the children are soaking up the time that Lisa is spending with them.



This month proved very busy in our work with the local congregation as well. Due to scheduling conflicts, our Romans class has gone from four teachers down to two. I will be teaching more classes than earlier in the year, and I expect to teach every week until we leave in June. Each month I have the blessing and privilege to preach for the local congregation in the rotation with other men. In April, we examined what the Scriptures have to say about the beverage alcohol. Some members have requested a follow-up sermon, so I plan to preach that in May. In the process of getting all our events back to the church building, we were able to host a writing seminar in person. This may be the first workshop/seminar in person in nearly two years at Jurong. I was asked to prepare and present in order to help the members become better writers. The church here is unique in that each week one or more of the members writes the article for the Jurong Outreach, our local bulletin. This is one area of service where everyone is encouraged to help out. The articles are from different ages and perspectives and provide a great resource for the church here.

The work with Four Seas has also been busy this month. Peter Chin, the school's president, and his wife, the school administrator, are spending time with family in Malaysia. Jamie Long, our other faculty member, had surgery in Alabama and is recovering in the US. Therefore, I am "holding down the fort" and taking care of the daily affairs of the college. Brother Eddy Ee, preacher and elder of the Jurong congregation, is the other faculty member still here in Singapore. He provides a steady hand in encouraging and educating the students. We finished our first term in April, and the students took their final exams. Then, they spent break week cleaning the campus grounds. Since Lisa was out of town during the break week, I took the students on an exercise day at our favorite neighborhood park. Now, we have started the second trimester of the year. I teach Monday - Friday teaching English and the book of Luke. Please keep the students and staff in your prayers as we begin this new term.



## **CURRENT COURSEWORK AT FOUR SEAS COLLEGE**

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

**1ST HALF OF 2ND TERM (APRIL 25, 2022-JUNE 14, 2022)**

### **FIRST YEAR STUDENTS**

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

LIFE OF CHRIST II (THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE)

1 CORINTHIANS

ENGLISH GRAMMAR II

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