

Asia Calling: Jastrams to JAPAN

Buddhist Temple Entrance Gate
Musashino, Japan

www.lcms.org 888 THE LCMS

October 2016



The *Other* Temple Guard



This is an equally fierce-looking guard at the temple gate entrance. Martin Luther's words came to mind when I first saw them: **"One little word can fell him."**

NOT Little Red Riding Hood



..but so sweet. This is on the Buddhist cemetery grounds by the temple.

...And the Word (Logos) was God



Dr. Jastram as guest lecturer for the annual Rimbach Memorial Old Testament Theological Conference in Hong Kong. Eighty English and Chinese-speaking pastors, theologians, and other educators were in attendance.

Preaching and teaching **God's word**. Did you know that Dan is the LCMS theological education facilitator for Asia? He is working with the other theological educators in the region (he is one of eight), ensuring that their work together supports the national Lutheran church bodies in strong theological education that prepares pastors for the ministry.

And as a theological educator with background expertise in Philo of Alexandria (a Jewish Hellenistic expositor of the Old Testament), the Hong Kong seminary was happy to ask Dan to speak at their conference last month. Dan notes, **"Every pastor is an exegete, someone who draws out the meaning of Scriptures. So were Luther and Philo."** In his presentation, *Luther and Philo: The Reformation Interpretation of the Hebrew Bible Situated against the Legacy of Old*, Dan delved into biblical issues with which both men had struggled and from which pastors today can learn, so that they, too, can be prepared to preach and teach God's word.

Besides this work, Dan continues to intensely study the written characters (kanji) of the Japanese language in preparation for teaching Greek at the seminary here in Japan in April.

Contact...

Drop us a line! We'd love to hear from you.

daniel.jastram@lcmsintl.org

joan.jastram@lcmsintl.org

Support ...

Online:

<https://www.lcms.org/givenow/jastram>

Mail:

**Lutheran Church —
Missouri Synod**

Mission Advancement
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Memo-line notation:

"Jastram – Asia support."

Phone:

888-930-4438

Call the LCMS toll-free gift line between 8 a.m. and 4:10 p.m. Central Time to make a credit card gift.

Thank You...

for your prayers and support! We couldn't do it without you!



Missionary to Missionary



Dan continues to get better acquainted with the pastors of the Japan Lutheran Church on our Sunday visits. He was happy to *revisit* the Lutheran church in Ikegami this past Sunday—he has now visited all the congregations in the Kanto Plain (Tokyo area) at least once.

Pastor Lee is Japan's first Korean Lutheran missionary. We feel a special connection with their family - both being missionary families in a foreign country and facing similar challenges, such as language and culture learning, and managing separations from family. (Pastor Lee has been a "bachelor" for awhile, ever since his wife went back to Korea for the birth of their second child.) Getting to know the Japanese churches, pastor and congregations, has been a real blessing and will facilitate Dan's work as an LCMS missionary and theological educator .

And what has Grandma been up to?



Yes, I did make it back to the States to meet our newest grandson, Calvin. And what a pleasure to witness his baptism - becoming a part of the larger family of Christ. I also enjoyed time with our other two grandchildren, Lily and Everett, as well as our three adult children, during my two-week stay.

I returned to Tokyo, refreshed and recharged - ready to turn my attention to starting work as clinical psychologist. I hope to work with American expatriates and perhaps with staff and students in the clinical psychology program at the Japan Lutheran College in some capacity. Still plenty of paperwork before this is realized. Please keep me in your prayers!

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to daniel.jastram@lcmsintl.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.