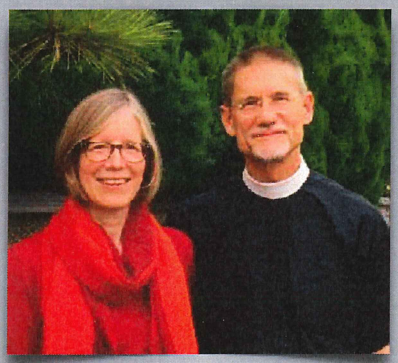
SERVING THE LORD IN
ASIA
NEWS FROM THE JASTRAMS

May/June 2018

https://www.lcms.org/jastram



JOAN AND DAN JASTRAM

DR JASTRAM'S CALL

Pastor Jastram serves as a missionary throughout Asia, based in Tokyo, Japan. As a theological education facilitator, he coordinates theological education opportunities, and also supervises theological educators throughout Asia.

LAND OF THE RISING SUN

Did you know that the Japanese word for Japan is 日本 which is pronounced "Nihon?" It literally means "the origin of the sun."

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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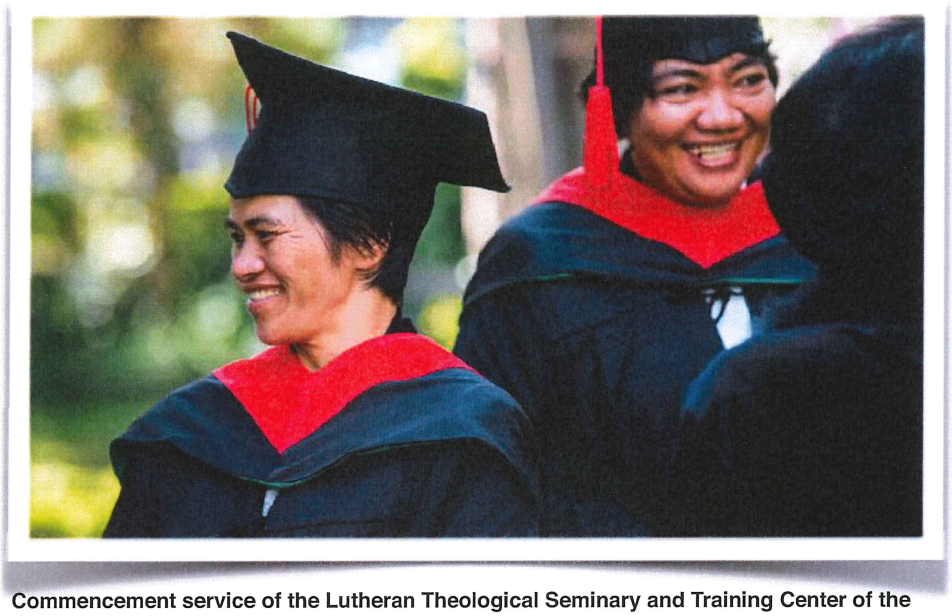
Partnering with Others to Share Christ's Love and Mercy

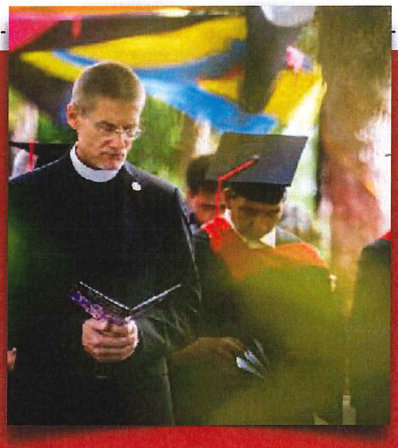


Commencement service of the Lutheran Theological Seminary and Training Center of the Lutheran Church in the Philippines (LCP), Baguio. (Photo credit: Johanna Heidorn)

As the LCMS representative it was a great joy for Dan to speak at the commencement service this June when three new deaconesses received their Deaconess certificates along with the eight colloquized pastors and three seminarians. "The inauguration of this collaborative effort for the deaconess ministry is a huge step for the Philippines," Dan notes. "The LCMS looks forward to other collaborative efforts in the future."

What shape did this joint work take? Our dynamic LCMS Director of the Deaconess Ministry, Grace Rao journeyed frequently and tirelessly to the Philippines from the States over the course of four years to teach intensively the equivalent of a year's worth of courses to the deaconesses. This joint work could not have been accomplished without her dedication and diligence. During those years of course work so ably taught by Grace, the women were also involved in field work; they then completed the program with a final full-time one-year internship, during which they assisted LCP congregations and their pastors in carrying out mercy ministry. We pray for God's richest blessings as they share the Gospel of Christ and His love and mercy!

Dan's four-day visit also afforded him time for further discussions with LCP church leaders about other future collaborative efforts between us and our partner church. Later this summer, one of our LCMS-Asia missionaries, Roger and Amy James, will be moving to Baguio in order to teach at their seminary. We look forward to working side by side in God's Kingdom with the LCP.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *God's blessings in providing future pastors for our partner church bodies*
- *A smooth transition for the James family in the Philippines*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *The fourteen new church workers in the Philippines*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *You! The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and support us*

Archive of our newsletters:

https://jastrams.me/newsletters/

Back on the Home Front...

You might remember me telling you that here in Asia we had a "fruit basket upset," of sorts, with some missionaries and families moving around as a consequence of relocating our Hong Kong LCMS Asia business office to Taiwan. Well, our fearless regional director and his family also made a move—from Indonesia to Taiwan during this transition time—which has cut down on his travel time to other Asian countries tremendously now that he is centrally located.

JAPAN TO SRI LANKA? 4,400 MILES!

Nevertheless, the Asia region is huge with about forty LCMS personnel scattered across 20 plus countries, so his travel was still too unwieldy and difficult to adequately respond and care for so many missionaries. To address this, the next step, which was completed last month, was to re-organize missionaries into vocational work groups, and appoint managers for each. Since Dan's call is as a theological education facilitator it made sense that he manage and support the theological educators (nine of them) in Asia. This new responsibility came at a good time since he had recently completed his formal Japanese language classes. Dan is now focusing much time and energy to this role.

FLOWER POWER

As for me? Well, I have been taking care of our household and also satisfying a hankering for visiting flower gardens. So enjoyable. Oh, and I planned a trip to the States to see our kids and grandchildren, especially the newest. Remember the two babies born in January. They are getting big now!

Our prayer, for the church at home, the church abroad, and the Church Universal: "What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus."

2 Timothy 1:13

- YOUR Missionaries, Daniel and Joan Jastram

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

To support the LCMS through the work of Daniel Jastram, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Asia-Jastram." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/jastram.