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Carrying Forward the Legacy



JOAN AND DAN JASTRAM



DR JASTRAM'S CALL

Pastor Jastram serves as a manager for theological education in Asia, based in Tokyo, Japan. He assists the regional director in mission planning as well as developing, coordinating, and supporting theological educational activities; makes periodic visits to seminaries in the region; and supervises theological educators throughout Asia.



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



Ruth and Alex Wu with their daughter, Helen and Dan (Chiayi, Taiwan (2019). Inset: Ruth and Alex Wu (St Paul, MN, 1994).

“We’re getting married!” Ruth and Alex happily shared the news with Ruth’s parents, living in Malaysia, on our kitchen phone in St Paul MN over a quarter century earlier when I snapped the inset photo. (That’s right, no cell phones back then!)

Now, in 2019, another photo—Dan is visiting with the Wu family in Taiwan. What is the connection? Theological education.

Alex traveled from Taiwan to the States in 1989 to become a pastor. And Dan was his Greek New Testament professor at Concordia St. Paul University. Later, Alex completed his theological education at the Saint Louis seminary and attained his goal.

Why the LCMS, though? Alex’s parents themselves became Christians as a result of LCMS missionary work in the very early days, and his father went on to work for the Taiwan Lutheran Hour. Now, Alex as part of the second-generation Lutherans, is carrying the

faith forward. But the story doesn’t stop there!

Pastor to the Missionaries?

You might remember in an earlier newsletter that I spoke about the LCMS Asia headquarters moving from Hong Kong to Chiayi, Taiwan. Well, Alex is serving as pastor to the international community in Chiayi and is now a much appreciated pastor to *our* LCMS missionaries residing there.

And why was Dan visiting Chiayi this last month again, you ask? LCMS mission leaders from all over the world gathered there (as well as our esteemed President Harrison) to discuss theological education and Lutheran identity as part of their meeting.

It would be wonderful if individuals such as Alex could receive solid theological education in their own country. This is our church’s aim and Dan’s focus. Thank you for your support towards this goal!

Looking to the Future

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *God's blessing in providing future pastors for our partner church bodies.*
- *Safety and protection in the midst of earthquakes, typhoons, and tsunami.*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *Missionary safe travels.*
- *Concord in doctrine and practice as we work with various partner church bodies.*
- *God's blessings of His clear teaching as witnessed in our Catechism.*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

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



We will be seeing both in the coming months!

(Left: grandson, Saint Paul, MN; Right: Seminarians' children in Baguio, Philippines)

The three girls on the right were full of giggles while adults busily prepared a scrumptious potluck in their shared seminary kitchen and dining room. The men had grilled some of the meats and chicken earlier that day while the women prepared delicious soups, desserts, and side dishes. The meal was a kind gesture towards their guest professor, Dan, which was thoroughly appreciated this past February.

Dan will be filling in again at the Philippine campus in May and later in June, teaching more classes during the time their campus' LCMS missionary professor is in the States for his home service. Speaking of which....

We're no snowflakes, but...

It did seem the better part of wisdom that we shift *our* home service visits to the States from the winter months to the summer, too. We would have needed snowmobiles to get to most of you folks if we had come this past winter in the Midwest it seems!

Sooo... we will have the privilege of seeing some of you face-to-face for our home service time **this coming July and August!**

Home service? Come again?

All LCMS missionaries visit LCMS members and congregations every two years or so, especially those that have been partnering in this work of serving the church and our Lord on the mission field. Today the mission work usually takes the form of—you guessed it— theological education, which is how we support our sister churches in maintaining and growing their congregations by the training of future pastors for their churches.

We are just starting to plan our schedule, but if you have a special date this summer that you know you would like us to visit, please do tell us as soon as possible. Of course, Sundays fill up quickly, but congregations also enjoy more casual evening gathering, too, so don't forget the option of meeting with us on a week-day. We are eagerly looking to the future!



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
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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.