



Jesus Calling the Disciples, Sadao Watanabe

Serving the Lord in ASIA



News from the Jastrams

Epiphany Season January 2021

*“In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature,
You have manifested the fullness of Your glory.” (Epiphany Season)*

Full Steam Ahead

By far, the highlight of this past month was the official notification of approval AND disbursement of the initial grant portion for our translation project of Walther’s *Law and Gospel*.

I wish I could share with you the great joy I have over this accomplishment after all the preparations, conversations, arrangements, and grant writing which date back to the concept launch almost exactly one year ago. Everyone

involved was extremely helpful and enthusiastic—but pandemic concerns, budget uncertainties, and implementation of a new online grant tracking system all had a role in this extended

launch process. But now, the machinery is working, the engine and its parts are connected, the project is afloat, and we are "steam-ship-sailing" to our destination and goal!! I am reviewing the first portion of accomplished translation work even as this newsletter goes to press.



REVIEWING THE JAPANESE TRANSLATION

*Pastor Jastram is the Asia Lutheran Resource Coordinator:
Making Lutheran resources of theology and worship available in Asia.*

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- *Our partners in mission, for your generous December support, and for the Christmas cards that adorn the season.*

WE PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *The successful arrangement of our Japanese translation project including the LCMS grantor, the recipient organization, project director, and translation professional.*
- *The first disbursement of grant fund portions that make our Japanese translation project an operational reality.*
- *The coordination of thirty-two Asia Lutheran resource projects successfully completed in 2020.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Ongoing Asia Lutheran resource projects especially in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, and Taiwan.*
- *Japan, as it negotiates pandemic spikes and adjusts its national precautions to counter dangers.*

NEWSLETTERS INFO

Want to catch up? Here's our archive link: tiny.cc/dvv9iz

Want to self-subscribe? Go here to receive your own email newsletter: <http://eepurl.com/ddOobf>

To be ADDED or REMOVED from our mailing list, you can also send an email message to daniel.jastram@lcms.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

Life in Japan: Cultural “Clash Course”

In the midst of pandemic precautions and prolonged days of “staying at home”, I treasure opportunities—on nice, bright, sunny days—when I can get outside for a brisk bike ride to one or more of my favorite spots in the vicinity. And when an oncoming biker glides past me, my earliest memory of “cultural clash” often pops to mind.

You see, I grew up as an LCMS missionary child in Japan, but when my family returned to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on furlough—when I was in second grade—I became accustomed to instinctively veering RIGHT when meeting an oncoming biker, because, in the States, traffic sticks to the RIGHT. So, naturally, upon returning to Japan after that long States-side furlough, I eagerly hopped on my bike, sallied forth onto the sidewalks and bikeways, and instinctively stuck to the RIGHT when meeting an oncoming biker. WRONG! (In Japan traffic sticks to the left, if you hadn't guessed.) After several crashes, I got the hang of riding my bike in Japan, once again—one cultural “clash course” completed.

Joan and I continue to navigate cultural differences more and more comfortably, but realize that clashes/crashes are an inevitable part of being a *gaijin* (foreigner) in Japan. It is our prayer that despite these differences, the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ—as revealed in the proclamation of Scripture and as administered at the font of absolution and with the bread and wine at the table of redemption—will overcome all cultural differences the one Body of Christ. In Christ there is true unity in the One Savior for all—everywhere in the world—for everyone trusting in Him for the forgiveness of their sins. We continue to rely on God working through your partnership to carry on this important work.



To support the LCMS through the work of Daniel Jastram, gifts can be given securely online through the LCMS website, at lcms.org/givenow/jastram or

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.”