



KOREA MISSION NEWS

A newsletter from Rev. Patrick and Jennifer O'Neal, LCMS WORLD MISSION
March 2010



MISSIONARIES MOVING TO KOREA

Matt and Dee Dee Wasmund and their two girls, Lily and Olivia, will be moving from Taiwan to Korea in August to carry on some of the work that we have been doing for the past 4 years.

Matt serves as Strategic Volunteer Coordinator – East Asia working in Taiwan, Japan, and Korea.



Both Taiwan and Japan have established volunteer missionary programs, but such a program for long-term volunteer missionaries aka GEO (Globally Engaged in Outreach) missionaries is not yet developed in Korea. Living in Korea will allow Matt to focus on this effort, while continuing to travel to support the volunteer programs in Taiwan and Japan.

Matt and Dee Dee first came to the mission field as volunteers in Taiwan, where they both taught English at Concordia Middle School. Matt has since transitioned to his current career missionary position, while Dee Dee has been kept busy caring for their two young daughters, sharing the Gospel, teaching English, and preparing gourmet meals for many missionaries and other guests. They are great friends and coworkers and we are excited and praise God that they are coming to Korea. The LCK is also glad to have them coming to Korea.

LCMS World Mission is working to recruit another missionary to replace me (Patrick) in my position of Strategic Mission Developer who will continue to work with the LCK in mission outreach and in furthering our agricultural and development projects in North Korea. But until then, the Wasmunds will facilitate the good relationship between the LCMS and the LCK.

As our family moves back to the USA in late June, we would encourage you to keep your connection with the mission work in Korea by praying for and financially supporting the Wasmund family. They (like all LCMS missionaries) can only be here with your support. In the next newsletter there will be details as to how you can support Matt & Dee Dee and their girls in this mission work.

LUTHER UNIVERSITY'S NEW PRESIDENT

On March 2, Luther University / Seminary (LTU) held the opening worship service for the 2010-2011 school year. LTU's auditorium (which seats 400) was filled with students, alumni, professors, employees, and guests attending the opening worship and installation for Dr. Hae-Chul Kim (on left in photo) as the new President of LTU.

President Kim planted two congregations and has served as pastor at a third. He is a former president of the LCK, and also a Professor for Church History at LTU. At his installation, President Kim announced the plan "to educate new workers who will propagate Christ within this society, through LTU, that was founded on the spirit of Martin Luther's Reformation...."



LTU is putting its new classroom building to good use taking in 200 freshmen (the maximum allowed by the government) for the 2010-2011 academic year.

BUDGET CHALLENGES FOR WORLD MISSION

As we head toward the end of the fiscal year (ending June 30), LCMS World Mission has had to face the reality of a significant shortfall in funds. Here in Asia, most travel has been canceled and program budgets cut or eliminated. The need for the Gospel to be heard around the world is so great. Please see the open letter from the Board for Mission Services found on the LCMS World Mission Web site at: www.lcms.org?14743.

On that page you can also download a special reproduction of the October 2009 Lutheran Witness article (by former Asia Communication Specialist Josh Lange!) titled "Mission Multiplication". It gives a great overview of International Mission with examples from Cambodia, Jamaica, Uganda, North Korea, and a Restricted-Access Country in Eurasia.



GEO MISSIONARIES NEEDED

Two congregations that are north of Seoul are seeking to recruit two long-term volunteer missionaries from the LCMS to serve as relationship builders through English as a Foreign Language (EFL) for one year. The LCK will provide the housing and utility costs. We would like to fill this position in July. Click on http://www.lcms.org/uploads/mission/service-ops/South_Korea-GEO-RBEFL.pdf for more info.

FAMILY CORNER



This month, John, Grace, & James all soaked up a week of vacation for Spring Break. James's senior kindergarden class had a field trip focusing on transportation in which we rode a bus, subway,

boat, and bicycle. John's class finished a section on Greek Mythology with a speaking "wax museum" where the kids dressed as a mythical Greek figure, and spoke in first person about that character.



All the kids loved going to KidZania where they got to try out different kinds of occupations. Grace especially relished the



chance she had to be a fashion model...though working in the hamurger shop was fun too!

Jennifer and I enjoyed hosting her brother, Carl Hanson, and our Regional Director, John Mehl, in early March. While they were here we had them sign our guestbook (which we started at our at our wedding) and we saw that they had signed it when they were here for our installation. Since that time, 33 pages of friends, guests, and colleagues have signed. We are blessed with all of these special relationships.



JOYFUL SIXTH ANNIVERSARY

When we first arrived in Korea, we worked with Pastor Ahn and the members at Joyful Lutheran Church north of Seoul. This month they celebrated their 6th anniversary as a congregation. We joined in their special anniversary worship service. It was good to see friends and to share our congratulations with them. A highlight was a PowerPoint slide show of the history of the congregation. It was amazing to see us and our kids 4 years ago. My, how they have grown!



PRAYER REQUESTS

- + Please join us in praising and thanking God that the Wasmund family is moving to Korea – pray for their final months in Taiwan as they say goodbye to friends and coworkers, and as they prepare to move their household to Korea;
- +...pray for enough funding for LCMS World Mission, not only to support the missionaries, but also their work – the projects of producing native-language materials, traveling to share the Gospel & leading theological education courses, and supporting our partner Lutheran churches in their mission efforts;
- +...pray for a return to peace in Kyrgyzstan;
- +...pray for the Lord to provide a Divine Call for Patrick in the USA to begin near the end of the summer.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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To support our work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to: LCMS World Mission, 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122-7295. Make checks payable to LCMS World Mission. Write "Support of Patrick & Jennifer O'Neal" on the memo line. You may also give on-line at: <http://www.lcms.org/?10729>