

Asia Calling: Jastrams to Japan



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Golden Week, Golden Opportunity



Kobe Lutheran Theological Seminary (Kobe, Japan)



Side trip to Tokyo Dome, home of the Yomiuri Giants. (Darin is a baseball fan!)

It's the middle of Golden Week—one of the busiest travel weeks in Japan with its cluster of three national holidays. Dan and Darin have just left the JLC convention when Darin suggests that Dan head to Kobe for the Lutheran Golden Symposium. A flurry of phone calls ensues, an invitation is extended, and before you know it, Dan is barreling towards Kobe Lutheran Seminary on the bullet train.

But just a minute. Darin who? And a convention? Darin Storkson was sent as the LCMS presidential representative to our partner church's tri-annual convention in Tokyo. Dan was at his side

throughout, serving as his informal translator and transportation coordinator, all the while also making introductions to Japan Lutheran Church officials. "The days were full" as they say!

And Kobe? Three hours after leaving Tokyo, Dan arrives. It's his first visit to the only other Lutheran seminary in Japan. He is impressed with the three foreign lecturers during his two-day stay. He also is happy to engage with the seminary president, a doctoral graduate of Concordia Seminary Saint Louis. Dan came away with a full notebook—it was indeed a golden opportunity for this theological education facilitator!

Heading to the (Hong Kong) Office



The Asia Leadership Team (ALT), a group of ten or so missionaries, has been meeting regularly in Hong Kong this past year and a half during the Regional Director vacancy. This past May they were in the midst of plans for a new communications system that Roy Askins, our Communications Director is developing. The system will not only enable the folks in Saint Louis to connect better with LCMS Asia

missionaries regarding their plans and activities, but serve as a vital communication tool among the missionaries. For Dan, this means more accessible information about theological education programs, guest lecturers in the area, and better publicity for the same, resulting in better and more effective use of theological resources which help strengthen and build our partner churches and emerging new church partners.

Sunday Morning



As usual, last Sunday Dan and I worshipped at one of our partner church congregations, but had the unusual opportunity of interacting with THREE different pastors: the aging Pastor Kazuteru Mastukawa, pictured to the left; his son, who is also a pastor; and their guest pastor, who is the former president of the Japan Lutheran Church.

As the general population in Japan is aging, so are the pastors of the church. Please remember them in your prayers, asking that God will lead young men to serve the Lord in His church. This is also one of Dan's prayers and a large part of his motivation for theological education.

Questions or comments? Drop us a line—we'd love to hear from you: daniel.jastram@lcmsintl.org

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