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## Growing in God's Word: Theological Education in Asia



JOAN AND DAN JASTRAM



### DR JASTRAM'S CALL

Pastor Jastram serves as a theological education facilitator for the Asia region, based in Tokyo, Japan. As such, he assists the regional director in developing and implementing a strategic mission plan as well as developing, coordinating and supporting theological educational activities; makes periodic visits to seminaries in the region; and supervises and evaluates theological educators throughout Asia.



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Asian guests after enjoying a warm supper on a cold winter's night. (Fort Wayne Indiana, January 2016)

It's January 2016. The temperatures in Fort Wayne have plummeted, making it unimaginably cold for our Asian guests attending the seminary's annual conference. Dan is on a mission: find long johns! In his role as one of the hosts, Dan's packages of thermal underwear were *warmly* received—mission accomplished!

This was one the earlier, more unusual tasks for Dan as theological education facilitator for Asia. Nowadays, when it comes to conferences with an Asian connection, Dan's responsibilities have expanded beyond that of host or presenter after this summer's organizational restructuring. Some of those new responsibilities include that of facilitating nine theological

conferences or activities slated for this fiscal year starting this July as he works closely with our regional director.

Conferences vary greatly, with regard to purpose, attendees, location, budgets, and whether it is in collaboration with other recognized service organizations of the LCMS or partner church bodies. Many moving pieces are involved. One area in which they won't vary, however, is in their distinctly Lutheran character.

### SNEAK PEAK: CHIAYI, TAIWAN

This September Dan and all Asia area missionaries (who are free to attend) will meet for a three-day work conference at Asia's new headquarters. Besides presenting  
*(continued on page two)*



*(continued from page one)*

to the whole group, Dan will be conferring with his fellow theological educators, and in his role as team manager will be building closer relationships with the other educators as they all strive together with one common mission.

### INDIA IN OCTOBER?

For October, our LCMS theological educator in Sri Lanka, Dr. Edward Naumann is in discussion with our sister church partner in India for a possible joint conference. Dan will assist Dr. Naumann in this task as needed. A trip to India will give Dan the opportunity to visit with our church partner faculty and administration. Dan notes an additional bonus: “This gives me an opportunity to spend a significant amount of time with one of our theological educators, getting to know him, his family and working situation so that when budgetary items arise, I have a better understanding of the problems he faces, how he sees them,

and the nature of the church body with which he works.”

Dan will be working hard with Asia partner seminaries, their church bodies, and LCMS theological educators in these countries to provide pastors for congregations all with the help of your wonderful support we receive State-side to the glory of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

### MY CORNER: HEART TUGS

Everett is tugging on his cousin Calvin’s shirt to keep him in the picture, while all five of these little ones are tugging on their grandma’s heartstrings. Yes, I made an all too brief trip back to the States yet again this summer, and loved every minute of it! And I also got to visit just a little with some of you readers, too. :-)



### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *God’s blessing in providing future pastors for our partner church bodies*
- *Smooth transitions into new contexts of work for two of our theological educators in Asia*

### GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *this summer’s scheduled time of home service and network support—raising for seven of our ten theological education team members*

### 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/>

*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](https://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  
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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](https://lcms.org/jastram).