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India: diverse culture, diverse needs



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.



Bottom left: Dan with two IELC church officials upon arrival in India; Right: Sunday school teacher with her pupils where Dan attended Sunday morning church service.

The flower lei was still heavy with water when the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC) officers garlanded their visitors—Dan's introduction to a gracious custom of welcoming guests of honor.

OUR PURPOSE

This past November Dan joined the Asia Regional Director Pastor Ferry, and Mr. Storkson from Church Relations, to learn more about the diverse challenges the IELC faces, understand the context, and also to witness the great progress the seminary has made with LCMS disaster relief funds for recovery efforts after the seminary was severely damaged by Cyclone Ockhi in November of 2017.

IN THE BEGINNING

A little background for you, our readers. The LC-MS began their very first missionary efforts in this most religiously diverse country of the world back in 1894. The India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC) grew out of these efforts, which now has nearly 800 congregations, over 100 of its own national pastors, a seminary, schools and hospitals; eventually they became our partner church in 1959.

MOVING AHEAD

The work looks very different now than it did a hundred years ago or even since this past decade. "We need new efforts as we help our partner church face a new set of challenges compared to the first generation context," Dan notes.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *Safe travels.*
- *The concord which God has provided among missionary team members.*
- *God's blessings of His clear teaching as witnessed in our Catechism.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

PRAISE GOD FOR:

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

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On the left: once a missionary compound, now refurbished church office (Trivandrum); on the right: seminary chapel newly repaired with LCMS disaster relief funds (Nagercoil).

The civil government has changed, the church administration has changed, and the IELC faces new challenges in this second and third generation of missionary work.

So during their week-long visit, the days were packed as LC-MS guests met with administrators, visited IELC office sites and seminary, and learned about the most recent

challenges the church body faces. All of which is so necessary in order for us, the LC-MS, to make appropriate decisions and carry on the work from previous generations in partnership with the IELC.

Thank you for the support you give, which allows us to aid and strengthen our brothers and sisters in Christ here in Asia!

*In the words of St Paul, our prayer for the church at home, the church abroad, and for 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. 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
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

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.