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October/November 2015

“What? The Jastrams are *still* in the States?” Yep! And we’re keeping plenty busy these days as we travel around the Midwest building a sustainable network. Enjoy a glimpse of our days this past October and into November.

### The Life of an LCMS Missionary Stateside

IN the Car:



#### A Sometime Office for Dan

Budget work - somebody has to do it! Although we’ve been on the road most days, Dan still makes time to prepare and submit proposals for the Northern Asia 2016-2017 budget. This work is no stranger to him with his eleven-year stint on the Concordia University System Board and twelve years as treasurer for another national organization. With coffee on hand and trail mix nearby he is set to go.

As theological education facilitator for Northern Asia, Dan collaborates with other LCMS leaders of the Asia team to evaluate and recommend projects that are submitted. For example, a number of proposed projects involve translation work. “Once deployed,” Dan remarks “it will be a lot easier visiting face to face for a better feel for...what level of theological education needs most emphasis.” Dan looks forward to this time!

#### And Everything Japanese for Joan

If I’m not sleeping in the car I might be **folding origami cranes** or leaning forward intently, eyes closed, **listening and responding in Japanese** to Pimsleur’s fantastic *Conversational Japanese* compact discs from the local library. Each lesson is 30 minutes long and to be repeated as often as deemed necessary. It’s hard work! Let’s just say that I’m guessing our network support will be completed well before I’ve completed this set of CDs. :-)



## The Life of an LCMS Missionary Stateside (continued)

And OUT of the car:



### Presentations

Since we last wrote, Dan has engaged with fellow Lutherans in **over thirty different congregations throughout South Dakota**, not to mention those in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Phew! He energetically shares about the second-generation mission work our Synod has planned for him: to work with our sister church bodies both in Japan, where seminarians patiently await the arrival of their new Greek New Testament professor, and in other Northern Asia seminaries, where he will facilitate stronger theological education ties with the LCMS. He wants to help our dear sister churches hold fast to our common Reformation heritage: *sola gratia, sola fide, sola scriptura*.

### And Potlucks

What a pleasure for Dan to preach, present his mission work, and then join members for a potluck afterwards. On Reformation Sunday Dan had that privilege at Zion Lutheran Church in Chippewa Falls WITH a special bonus: we shared the potluck meal with the Szedlaks, first generation missionaries who were in Japan when Dan was ten. **“It was like sitting down with long-parted friends, a friendship that centers around a common culture and country, neither of which is our own,”** Dan exclaimed. Erno told him at its highest point the LCMS had forty-six missionaries in Japan. Currently we have ONE second-generation missionary in the area teaching English at Urawa Lutheran School. Dan looks forward to doubling that number with your support!



**Thank you** for your ongoing prayers, support, and encouragement! If you have not yet become a partner and would like to support LCMS Jastram-Asia mission work, please do so through a single donation or a recurring gift in one of three ways:

+Securely online at the LCMS website: <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/jastram>.

+By mail - Send gifts to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Mission Advancement

P.O. Box 66861

St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

(Checks payable to: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; memo- line notation: **“Jastram—Asia support.”** )

+By phone: call 1-888-930-4438.