

meet the BLUMENSTOCKS



THAILAND



their story

Jim and Karen Blumenstock are from Cedarville, OH and were married in 1996. They have an adopted Taiwanese daughter, Ella, who was born in 2004. Soon after graduating seminary, Jim began serving as a pastor of youth and missions at his church. It was at this time that he had a conversation with the Vice President of Cornerstone University and became interested in Asia Biblical Theological Seminary (ABTS).

ABTS was started by a missionary to Thailand in 1983 because the local Christian leaders there were asking for Bible training. ABTS offers accredited, graduate level education through Cornerstone University for church leaders throughout Asia. Students of ABTS take two weeks of intensive classes at the seminary and then go home and complete their homework over the next three months. This makes theological degrees accessible to Asian church leaders because they don't have to move overseas.

In July of 2001, Jim and Karen were accepted by their sending agency, ABWE, to work with ABTS to provide graduate level education for church leaders throughout Asia. In March of 2011, Jim was installed as the new Dean of ABTS. Jim continues to teach while also overseeing all operational and administrative functions at the school.

In addition to the classes held at the seminary, Jim travels to Myanmar, Cambodia, Singapore, the Philippines, Hong Kong and India teaching a variety of courses in two-week modules. The students include local pastors, Bible teachers, missionaries and lay leaders. Karen works at Ella's school as a substitute teacher.

recent prayer requests

The Blumenstocks praise God for good health and safety for themselves and the ABTS staff. Thailand is seeing a steady decrease in new COVID cases (less than 10 per day), so that is very encouraging also.

Jim and Karen thank God for their daughter Ella who celebrated her 16th birthday on May 2.

So far, ABTS has had to cancel five residential courses due to COVID 19, and Jim expects that they may have to cancel more. In response, they are offering four online classes that will begin May 15. As of May 9, 59 students have signed up for these classes. Please pray for these students and the ABTS professors as online education is still new to many of them. Pray that God's Word continues to go out and that ABTS's students will be trained and equipped by it.

Pray for ABTS's online courses that will take place from May 15 - September 15. Pray for the professors as they prepare and administer the courses. Pray, too, for the students, especially that this will be a valuable learning experience despite the lack of face-to-face interaction with the professor and each other.

Several new opportunities have presented themselves to ABTS. Pray for wisdom as they pursue new locations, partnerships, and degree programs. It looks like the next new teaching location will be in NE India, so pray for ABTS's recruiting process, their local partners in India, and the numerous details involved in getting a new site off the ground. Pray for God's guidance and blessing with all of this.