

meet the BLUMENSTOCKS



THAILAND



their story

Jim and Karen Blumenstock are from Cedarville, OH and were married in 1996. They have a 14-year-old adopted daughter, Ella. 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 the strength coach and substitute teacher.

prayer requests

The Blumenstocks are thanking God for the publication of Jim's book. It is based on Jim's doctoral thesis.

They praise God Ella just finished her 10th grade year of school. It was an unusual year for her but she adjusted very well to school in the US during the first semester and school in the midst of a pandemic during the second semester.

Pray for ABTS's online courses that started on May 15 and run through 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. 81 students registered for the four courses, which is just over 30% of their student body. Pray for these students as they learn a new mode of education while, at the same time, dig deeper into God's Word.

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.

As with almost all business and ministries right now, ABTS is considering what the pandemic might mean for how they do their work. If travel restrictions are extended, they may have to cancel more classes and offer more online options. Pray for them as they adjust to this "new normal," but also consider how they may innovate and extend the ABTS ministry.

Pray for Jim as he leads ABTS. Pray that God would grant him wisdom and help him to lead well.