

# 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 that there have been no new COVID cases in Thailand for quite some time. They are thankful for God's protection for their family and for Thailand.

The Blumenstock family enjoyed some time away recently. They can't leave the country yet, so they were very happy to see more of that beautiful country.

Pray for decisions that need to be made at ABTS in the coming months. As everyone worldwide is experiencing, planning for the future is very tricky these days. While Jim has cancelled all residential courses for 2020, he will have to make decisions about the 2021 courses in the next few months. Pray for wisdom as Jim makes plans for the future.

ABTS's online classes have another month and a half to go. Pray for the students as they persevere with the workload and continue to learn this new mode of education. ABTS's next round of online courses is set to start on September 21. Pray for the professors as they prepare these courses.

ABTS exists to equip national church leaders throughout Asia by deepening their understanding of God's Word and upgrading their skills in ministry. Most of their students can not afford the tuition costs so ABTS offers scholarships. Because of Covid, the scholarship fund only has ten percent of what is needed. Pray that God will raise up people to financially give to this fund, thereby raising up a Christian witness throughout Asia.

After years of planning and praying, ABTS launched its first cohort in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in October 2019. The students in this class are pastors and church leaders who deeply appreciate the opportunity to take graduate level theological courses. Pray for these students, and the course coordinator, a man by the name of Sirivuth Ann. Pray that God will use these men and women to raise up many more christian leaders throughout Cambodia who will take the gospel to every part of the country. May God's name be lifted high and draw many to Himself in this nation.