

## 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 year is flying by, and the Blumenstocks are glad for that! 2020 will be a year to remember, no matter how much they would like to forget it. Overall, though, they are doing well and Thailand is still relatively safe in terms of the pandemic.

The online courses that started in September are going extremely well. ABTS has 89 students registered for the 6 classes, meaning that each class reached maximum capacity. They are thrilled with the response to these courses so far.

ABTS held a live Facebook event earlier this month. The topic was Navigating Through Fear and the Pandemic. The speaker was ABTS's new counseling professor, Brandon Hirth. Pray for those who attended, that they will effectively live out their faith and minister to needs during this time of fear and uncertainty.

Pray for the second round of online courses. The classes being offered are Spiritual Formation, Organizational Leadership, Hebrews, Old Testament Biblical Theology, Foundations of Education, and Systematic Theology 2. Pray for Jim and the ABTS staff, too, as they consider the course schedule for 2021 and whether to offer more courses online.

Pray for the ABTS students as they continue their studies in the midst of lockdowns and restrictions. Pray that they will be filled with the Spirit to minister to those in need and that the gospel will shine brilliantly through them during these dark times.

Pray for Jim and Karen's ministry at their local church, Chiang Mai Community Church. They are currently without a senior pastor, so Jim has been preaching regularly. Pray for him as he prepares and preaches, that God will speak through him to address the unique needs of their church in these uncertain times.

Pray for Ella as she finishes up the semester. The workload this year has been significant for her. She is typically doing homework each day from the time she gets home from school to the time she goes to bed.

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