



Joys and Challenges: Stories from Everyday Life

I'm sure you know how it is: as you live your Christian life, you have victories, and you have, well... those days you feel less-than-golden. That's been the story of life on this side of the world, too. While we give thanks to have continued safety in Taiwan, and especially protection from protest and pandemic, life certainly continues to give us lots of ups and downs. Here are some glimpses of life for the Ferrys in Taiwan recently:



We continue to build up our presence and capacity here at the LCMS Asia headquarters in Chiayi (嘉義市), Taiwan. Just this month, we started announcing our presence to the rest of the city with the new sign on the front of our building. At the same time, our partner church added their own sign, announcing this facility as the their Southern Theology Center. And it comes just in time: we are hosting a weekly theology class for interested people from all over the city, taught by the church's mission department head. What a joy to see these things happening, even in the midst of the pandemic, and people coming to us to hear the Word proclaimed and taught.

We continue to attend weekly Divine Service at our local Taiwanese congregation, Salvation Lutheran Church. The pastor and his family have become good friends, and we are blessed by his willingness to reach the community and to teach the Word. The kids have even been attending the church's bi-lingual Sunday School, and have been singing with the congregation in Chinese.



It was, however, difficult to say goodbye recently to our friends the Sovitzky family. Rick has been serving as our Asia Regional Business Manager for the last two years, and we've been working closely together here in the building during that entire time. Our children had grown very close during those two years, and the walls between our homes grew porous! As life goes, the Sovitzky family decided it was time for a vocational change, and so we had to watch them board a bus out of town, leaving a large void in our professional team and in our personal lives. God bless them as they serve in new ways in the USA.

All of this, of course, is happening while we continue living our everyday lives. Charles is daily directing the work of your LCMS missionaries in Asia, and working hard to clear obstacles from the way so they can reach out in over 12 countries. We may be locked down, but we are completely content where we are, and consider ourselves blessed indeed to have your trust, support, and love as we labor where God has placed us through you, His holy Church.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *The Sovitzky family as they return to the USA for the next chapter in their service to the Lord and His world.*
- *Continued perseverance in language study; Chinese is hard!*
- *The Lord to send the right people to us at the right time to accomplish His mission.*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *Protection and health for your LCMS missionaries as they continue to live out their vocations where you have placed them.*
- *Our healthy and growing children, who love where we live and know they're safe and secure.*

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Congratulations and Happy Birthday to two of our kiddos who celebrated birthdays in August and September...



Caitlin (left) turned eleven years old, and chose to bake her own cake this year for the celebration. It turned out delicious, and it was fun to watch her take charge of the kitchen. She got to watch a movie with her friends for her special day, just before our beloved Sovitzky family moved away.

Caleb (right) turned fifteen years old, and his beautiful mother made him a cake in his honor. In typical teenage fashion, Caleb chose to enter a game tournament on his own for his birthday. He's become much more mature and independent lately, and his Chinese language skills have blossomed. We count on him quite a bit, and he's the primary translator for his father!



Weather for us here in southern Taiwan (台灣) has continued to be hot and muggy, right up until just this week. It has cooled off now with the changing of the seasons, and it's perhaps only 85°F for a high rather than the usual 95-100°F.

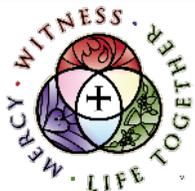
That means we can enjoy some cool breezes on the roof of our building, as in this picture. Please note what looms large in the background: the pagan temple next door to us.



Thank you for sending us to this place, and for your ongoing trust in allowing us to stay here in what has become our home.

God bless all of you for your continued friendship, support, and love.

*- Your Servants and partners in Asia, **the Ferris Family**
Charles, Cheryl, Caleb, Carissa, Cassandra, Chloe, and Charlotte*



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