

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

Praises

Jim preached several times last month at their church in Chiang Mai. Jim was thankful it went well and many were encouraged by the sermons. Also, Ella has a 3-week "Spring" break from school due to local holidays and pollution season. She's very happy to have a break from the of stress of school and homework!

Prayer requests

Continue to pray for the country of Myanmar. Over 500 people have now been killed as a result of the military takeover. ABTS students are reporting terrible news of shootings and other violence, not only against protesters but also against ethnic minorities. Pray for peace and stability in this country.

ABTS's 3rd round of online courses are now at the halfway mark. Pray for the 80+ students who are enrolled as they continue their studies in the midst of these stressful times. Many countries in the region are still struggling with the virus. Most recently, the cases in the Philippines have been on the rise. Pray for their many students in that country.

The Hirths, ABTS's new counseling professors are now safely settled in Chiang Mai. Everyone is thrilled to have them in the ABTS office, and look forward to starting the new counseling program soon. Also, ABTS recently hired one of their graduates, Ritu Agarwal, as their new PR Director. This is an important position, so they're thankful that she is willing to take on this role part time. Pray for these new staff members, that God would bless their efforts and their work would bear much fruit.

Pollution season has descended upon Northern Thailand, with many days already reaching unhealthy levels. This is just the beginning, though. March and April are always the worst months with the AQI reaching hazardous levels on many days. Pray for stamina, patience and rain! Pray for the health of everyone associated with ABTS; staff, students and family.