

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 ministers in various ways, including as a fitness instructor. Ella has been attending college in the US since the Fall of 2022.

The Bible Chapel has partnered with the Blumenstocks since 2014.

NOVEMBER 2023

PRAISE

- ❖ Jim and Karen were in India last week to attend a graduation ceremony and celebrate ABTS's 10 year anniversary in Delhi. They praise God for the 15 graduates in this ceremony, and 40+ graduates since the program began in Delhi.
- ❖ The Blumenstocks praise God that ABTS has 40 students in their intro class, the largest ever influx of new students in a single quarter. They praise God for this, but of course, it is a busy time having so many new students at once. Pray that God will give Jim and other ABTS staff wisdom on how to handle all the details.

PRAYER

- Pray for two new cohorts that ABTS is hoping will get off the ground next quarter. One is in Iloilo, Philippines, where they already have 15 applications, with possibly more to come. The other is in Al Ain, UAE. So far, they have received 11 of the anticipated 15 applications.
- The Bangkok cohort got off to a great start with their first class two months ago. Pray for the students in this course on Spiritual Formation and pray for the teacher, Juan Eclarin, an ABTS graduate.
- An increase in online education since the pandemic has ABTS in need of finding an instructional designer. This individual would need to come alongside professors and help with course design. Pray that the Lord overcomes the difficulty in finding a qualified person for the position and that He provides a suitable candidate. Also pray that the limited funds ABTS has to hire the candidate is more than enough to meet the individual's needs.
- **Next Meeting Tuesday, December 19, 2023 @ 8:30AM**