

## 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

It's hard to believe that ABTS has been online for a full year. It's difficult to say when they'll be able to resume residential classes. They're thankful for God's guidance and provision, allowing them to train leaders in Asia even in the midst of a pandemic. Jim and Karen thank you for your continued prayers.

ABTS's third round of online classes start this month. Thankfully, most students have adjusted very well to the new format. One student writes: "I looked forward to the class discussions. I first participated in an online class with ABTS in Spring 2019 and thought it was an excellent option for taking Seminar courses. Of course, the pandemic has forced everyone to have online options for education, ministry etc. but I would appreciate having the Zoom/online seminar class option even in non-Covid times."

The Hirths, ABTS's new counseling professor, are now settled in Chiang Mai. ABTS recently hired one of their graduates, Ritu Agarwal, as their new PR Director. They're thankful that she is willing to take on this role. Pray for these new staff members.

Pollution season has descended upon Northern Thailand, with many days already reaching unhealthy levels. 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.

Pray for ABTS's students and professors as they begin their online courses this month. Over 80 students are signed up. Pray for Jim, as he and the team consider how to best schedule classes for the coming months.

Pray for them and the ministry of ABTS in 2021.

1. Development of a new cohort in NE India and Delhi
2. Third round of online courses starting February 1
3. Decisions regarding resuming residential courses
4. Integration of online courses into their curriculum
5. Welcoming the Hirths, new professor of counseling
6. Developing their partnership with SIL for training Bible translators
7. Return of their professors/administrators who are stuck in US
8. Ella enters her final year of high school
9. Karen's continued ministry at CrossFit
10. Jim's continued ministry at their church while they await a senior pastor