



Hospital Evangelism

Aside from Christian Churches, schools, and homes, perhaps the most common and fruitful place for evangelism in Taiwan is the hospital. First of all, when non-Christians are sick or near death, they are often more willing to hear God’s Word from Christian family members or friends. The Church here often makes special efforts to take advantage of this opportunity, even having

a designated “hospital team” that has team members regularly visiting and caring for patients. The reverse opportunity is when Christians are sick and their non-Christian family members come to care for them. (In Taiwan, it’s expected that patients have a family member or someone the family asks or hires to be with the patient 24 hours a day to take care of any needs that arise.) It was this second situation that Vicar Chen and I were able to take advantage of two weeks ago when one of our members, Damin, had back surgery. His (non-Christian) daughter Rosie had taken off work for at least a week to come to be with her father, and she was there when I came for a visit. I had no idea that Vicar Chen would just happen to be there at the same time, but it worked out quite well. He began our tag-team approach by recounting the events of Holy Week (it was Monday of that week) as a review for Damin, and as an introduction to the Christian faith for Rosie. Vicar Chen was obviously, but very naturally, directing his words at least as much to Rosie as to her father. Nearly all Christians in Taiwan have immediate family members who are non-Christians, and it was a joy to see Vicar Chen presenting the Gospel so smoothly to this young unbeliever. When he was finished talking, he respectfully deferred to me, the pastor, and I read the readings and collects from that week’s Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, finishing with a prayer specifically for Damin and Rosie. Rosie listened very attentively and even asked a few great questions. We of course encouraged her to have more contact with God’s Word, and now continue to pray for her whenever we pray for Damin’s recovery from surgery.

Pastor Paul’s Call

Pastor Paul is a theological educator in Taiwan, serving with the China Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC) and China Lutheran Seminary (CLS). He is called to teach, write, and help plant and pastor Lutheran churches.

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to michael.paul@lcmsintl.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

Jesus said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Mark 2:17 ESV





What can you pray for?

Thanks for:

- successful back surgery for Damin and the opportunity to witness to his daughter Rosie
- Vicar Fred Tan's service in the CELC and the chance to help him grow in understanding
- getting out of the old and into the new apartment

Petitions for:

- Rosie, that God would work through His Word to grant her repentance and faith
- Vicar Tan, that he could learn and serve well
- a quick settling in at new home
- home service preparations

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our mission
station's crucifix

Our official website:
www.lcms.org/paul

Meet Vicar Fred Tan

The China Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC) continues to suffer from a severe shortage of pastors. Since there are so few men within the CELC that are available and/or interested to study for the Office of the Ministry, the CELC is very open, and in the future might even actively pursue, receiving pastors or vicars from other Lutheran Church bodies to colloquize into her midst. One such man is Fred Tan, who graduated with his MDiv from China Lutheran Seminary several years ago and had previously served in two other different Lutheran synods here. He was particularly attracted to the CELC because of her current determined efforts to be as faithful to the Lutheran Confessions in doctrine and practice as possible. He also willingly confessed that he still has much to learn about what a Lutheran Church and pastor is. While he currently is being asked to meet many synodical administrative needs, the synod also wants him to go through a thorough colloquy process to prepare him for eventual service in the worship and teaching life of the Church. The majority of his colloquy program is my responsibility, called as I am to be a theological educator. Thus far we've spent some fruitful time together with the Chinese translation of "Teaching Law and Gospel," and have now moved on to the next book in my initial 14-book curriculum. Aside from my time with Vicar Tan, CELC president Rev. Andrew Miao and Rev. Dr. Joseph Lu will also work with him, especially in the areas of practical theology.



Brief Updates:

- We are now fully out of our old apartment and into our new one. What an effort it's been and still will be in order to get fully settled.
- We are still planning on visiting congregations in the US this summer, but with our move we have not been able to spend time on preparations yet. Lord-willing we will very soon be contacting many of you, trying to arrange a time to visit.



Keeping up-to-date: If you're not receiving this newsletter by email but would like to, please contact us at michael.paul@lcms.org. For frequent Facebook updates, go to the facebook group: "Michael Paul family Taiwan mission."

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at www.lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

To support our work financially, you may make checks payable (memo line: "Support of Missionary Michael Paul") to "The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod" and send your tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861



You can **ALSO** make checks payable to "**Mission Central**" and send your tax-deductible gift to our friends at: Mission Central, 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, IA 51034.