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Whew! It's been a crazy time since our last update. Not only have we been dealing with the newly-born and newly-baptized Charlotte Grace, we've been making preparations for a change that effects our whole family.

As we've gone through this last year with Charles serving as Regional Director for Asia, we've discovered just how difficult it can be to manage a team of 40+ people, spread out over so many Asian countries. This position demands a lot of travel to serve our personnel, projects, and partnerships. With difficulties in regional travel from our current home, and with the relocation of the Asia regional headquarters, we realized that a change was immanent: it meant the sad necessity for us to leave Indonesia.



Cheryl and Charles receive gifts of gratitude from our friends in the leadership of GKLI, our church partners

This change certainly wasn't anything that we sought, as we have become very comfortable in Indonesia. We had invested serious time and energy in learning the Indonesian language and cultures, and in building solid relationships with our Indonesian church partners. The kids were content, and we were well-established. But service in any field, especially in the Church, is about putting the needs of the church before your own desires, and this would be an important move for the good of the Asia team and the position Charles was asked to fill.

So earlier this month, after extensive conversations with our church partners and colleagues, we packed up our house and gave away many of our household

goods. We said our (often tearful) goodbyes to our Indonesian neighbors, and got the exit stamps in our passports.

Rest assured, Charles, as the only Indonesian-speaking LCMS pastor in OIM, will remain heavily involved in the work with our Indonesian partners. In fact, already in late May, he'll be back in North Sumatra to facilitate a workshop on worship and hymnody. We also have great expectations that the Lord will raise up another LCMS pastor to live in Indonesia according to His will and the request of the Indonesian church.

We have now landed in our new home at the new LCMS Asia regional headquarters, still being set up in Chiayi, Taiwan. We are all in good health and spirits, although we miss Indonesia terribly. We are once again completely unable to speak the local language (Mandarin Chinese) but are already working to remedy that. We are also assisted by some LCMS team members who have been living here for some years.

We are so grateful to all of you for giving us the chance to live and work in Indonesia for four incredible years, and we hope that you will stick with us during this next phase of our service. Perhaps we'll even have the chance to return when the time and needs are right. But our partnership, and the work we are doing together, will continue no matter the location: proclaiming the saving truth of Christ, of sins forgiven in Him, and of peace with God through that forgiveness; and helping local people do that even long after we've left.

Next newsletter: a profile of Taiwan, this new place we call "home."



Charlotte Grace with our good friend Aladin Sitio, the bishop who brought us to Indonesia four years ago



Ferry Family Update



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *The recent terrorist attacks on both Sumatra and Java islands by religious radicals, that the Lord would bring them to repentance and thwart their plans*
- *All those in transition during this time, that they have peace and wisdom*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *Safe travels to our new home*
- *Great friends provided by our Lord for us in Indonesia and all over Asia*

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It's amazing to see how comfortable the whole family became over the course of these four years in Indonesia. We've watched them as they learned the language and culture, and embraced for themselves the reasons we were sent to Indonesia on behalf of the Church.



This is especially true of Carissa and Cassie as they attended a local Indonesian-speaking school and made lots of friends there. Can you find them in the picture above?

While our address has changed, some part of us will always be in Indonesia. Our work continues, our partnership continues! We have made it into a new chapter of our Asian service, and everyone is excited to see what the Lord will continue to do through our working together.

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

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



To support the LCMS through the work of The Ferry Family, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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

or

Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Ferry Family." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/ferry.



The Ferry Family shared some BIG news this month in the newsletter. But you may still have questions which weren't addressed. If so, please read on, and we may just answer what's going through your mind...

Are the Ferrys leaving the mission field?

Absolutely not! We're just moving our home from one part of Asia to another. We plan to be serving in Asia as long as the Lord allows, and as long as you'll stay partnered with us.

Were you in some danger, or just sick of life in Indonesia?

Not at all; in fact, the Ferry family was very comfortable in Indonesia. We'd learned the language, had adapted to the culture, and two of our girls were attending a local school. We'd made lots of friends, and the partner church knows and trusts us. We expected to always be living in Indonesia.

So what changed?

Just about a year ago, Charles got appointed Regional Director of Asia for the LCMS Office of International Mission. In that role, he's responsible for the plans, programs, and personnel for all of our church body's work in Asia. It means a lot of travel to visit our team members and to meet with church leaders. It became very difficult to make those visits while located in North Sumatra, and meant lots of time away from the family (sometimes *weeks* at a time!).

Where are you going to live now?

We have moved to ChiaYi, Taiwan, the site of the new LCMS Asia regional headquarters. In this new location, the Ferrys are no longer the only LCMS personnel in the country, which was the case in Indonesia. Cheryl and the kids have others around to support them while Charles is traveling; we're relatively close to a major international airport (TPE), and being located in the same place as others in the Asia leadership will hopefully mean less time traveling, and more time to simply do the work the church has given us to do: telling the Good News of Jesus and helping others faithfully do the same.

Watch for the next "All Over Asia" to learn more about our new home.

What's going to happen to the work in Indonesia?

The work continues, by God's grace. The partner church (GKLI) is still asking for our help in learning theology, building Lutheran resources, and teaching their people. Charles is still heavily involved in the work there, and will be back frequently for events and instruction. We are confident that the Lord of the Church will raise up another LCMS pastor to live in Indonesia; the GKLI has formally requested *two*! And there are some promising candidates already appearing.

How are Cheryl and the kids doing with this whole transition?

In some ways, they've all taken it in stride. This was certainly nothing Cheryl or the kids needed or wanted, and meant leaving a place where we spoke the language to now learn a *new* language: Mandarin Chinese! They had to give up the friends, routines, and context they'd come to adore. But they knew this was important for the work we've been asked to do, and they're all about doing what needs to be done. At the same time, it means we will have a community here they've never had; we'll have a partner church with whom we're in full altar-and-pulpit fellowship; and that we can go without the live-in security sharing our house, and who would have to accompany them when they went out into public places in Indonesia.

I still have more questions that aren't addressed here; what can I do?

Please feel free to email Charles (charles.ferry@lcmsintl.org) or Cheryl (cheryl.ferry@lcmsintl.org) directly and we'll do our best to share with you whatever you'd like to know.