

# OLIVERS LATEST TWIST

SERVING THE LORD IN TAIWAN, ASIA, & THE U.S.

Fall 2019



## The Global South



This African refugee seminary course was being taught by a St. Louis Concordia Seminary professor who received a serious diagnosis just after the course started. Being in cross-cultural mission, I was asked to step in and continue what has been a very fulfilling internet course. Each of the seven students are scattered throughout the US in LCMS churches, serving congregations of African immigrants. Struggling with adapting, English language, supporting their families and serving, they are studying towards ordination. As we have visited around the country on furlough and as I am now here at Concordia Seminary for continuing education, I'm struck by how God has not only sent us out to the growing "Global South" (Asia, Africa & South America), but He is also bringing this rapidly expanding Christian movement to our homeland churches. We have the privilege and mission of instilling here and there the treasure we've been given of the rich and solid doctrine of God's Word, the needed ROOT (Matthew 13:21)!

# Home Service Furlough



Isaac stands with Pastor Lim at Light of Christ Chinese Church in St. Louis on June 16, where he received communion for the first time. Isaac had just been confirmed in Taiwan before we left for our furlough and study time in the U.S.

The Oliver Family Reunion in Flagstaff was one of our favorite blessings on furlough. On June 22, the night this photo was taken, forty-two relatives were present.



Our family's first trip to the Grand Canyon on June 20 was part of the family reunion.



We love to visit Bob, Vicky and Michael Vandervort in Omaha, who have been supporting us for decades!



**Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa**  
Is where we present to crowds of churches that visit for the day and we are thoroughly encouraged, prayed for, supported and propelled out into mission! Missionary Grandpa Gary Thies holds onto Little Missionary Gary as he guides the many visitors to support and pray for us!  
See this: <https://missioncentral.us/>



Missionary reunion is filled with joy at Mission Central. Carl Hanson, Steve Oliver, and Matt Heise are enjoying it!!



We always get our picture taken with our true boss at Mission Central.



Having fun with Gary in San Diego on July 7 and our children having fun with Pastor Jonathan Conner's children at Zion in Manning, Iowa on July 28.



# St Louis

We are at Concordia Seminary, grateful to have a continuing education study time.



Ginny and Gary by the statute of French King Louis IX, from whom the city of St. Louis, Missouri was named.



At the headquarters (LCMS International Center), Stephen had the privilege of preaching on August 30 for the Office of International Mission installation of Mark Wolfram (Mobilization & Training), who is standing with his wife and (from left) Chief Mission Officer Kevin Robson, President Matthew Harrison and Executive Director Daniel McMiller.



### A Little Bit Of Life in St. Louis

Above, Gary & Ginny are walking to school across the beautiful seminary campus, Isaac is practicing violin in the missionary apartment, and Ginny is working on Chinese in her room. Below, we are having one of our regular fellowship dinners in our missionary apartment with (from left) Vincent & Linda Kam, Pastor Mic & Joy Wolfram, Lucy & Mark Wolfram, and Dr. Rowold (Linda, Lucy & Maggie are all from Taiwan); on the right, Pastors Karg & Lim are leading a joint Reformation Worship with Immanuel (English) & Light of Christ (Chinese) congregations.



A hundred years ago, our mission in China had a struggle in which Concordia Seminary got involved: Besides SHEN, can SHANG DI also be the Chinese translation for "God" in the Bible? In this Term Controversy, Concordia Seminary said "yes" and this stained glass window in Koburg hall commemorates it. The Chinese words in the light triangle above the dragon are SHANG DI.

# Fall Is Beautiful

Fall in St Louis is beautiful with the changing color of the leaves into reds, oranges, yellows, etc. I even saw one tree that was half red and still half green. I marveled at how beautiful the death of leaves process is (in fact, I thought the red leaves were far more beautiful than the green ones)! My thoughts then turned to how beautiful it is to die in Christ. All Saints Day is November 1. He has turned an ugly and dark thing into the beautiful door to Heaven, our home with the God who created us, loves us, and has a heart of Grace and Blessing toward us forever!! How beautiful in the sight of God is the death of His saints!



Fall pictures of Isaac & Ginny, with a view from the seminary library in the middle.



## Prayer

Pray for our health, all of our studies, and God's continued care and guidance in every way.



China Lutheran Seminary in Hsinchu, Taiwan



To support the LCMS through the work of Stephen & Maggie Oliver, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

Mission Central  
40718 Highway E 16  
Mapleton, IA 51034

or

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

Make checks payable to "The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod." Include "Oliver-Taiwan" in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at [www.lcms.org/oliver](http://www.lcms.org/oliver)

Check out our OIM website:  
[international.lcms.com](http://international.lcms.com)

To give where needed most in Asia, go to this webpage: <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/asia-where-needed-most>

