

## Giving a Reason for Our Hope



Most of the time, sharing God's Word with non-Christian neighbors is a challenging, even discouraging experience. We do our best to take any opportunity to "sneak" a bit of His Word into the conversation, but are met with blank stares, a quick changing of the topic, or even outright rejection. Sometimes, however, a golden opportunity is unexpectedly dropped



right into our lap, and our only fear is that we'll somehow mess-up this incredible moment, when our conversation partner is actually intent on learning about the Christian faith. God recently gifted Irene and me with such an opportunity recently with our next-door neighbors. We hadn't really had a chance to get to know them much, but since we were about to move away (more on that on page 2), they wanted to invite us for a simple dinner to talk with us more before we were gone. Our conversation didn't go long before Weirou (the wife/mother) told us of two previous experiences with Christians, both which gave her the feeling that Christians are gentle, caring people. She knew that we are Christian missionaries, so she really wanted to know why Christians are like that. When she asked the question, I was almost dumbfounded and responded with something like, "So you would like to know what Christians believe?" "Yes, that's right." Wow... So I started, later Irene jumped in, and throughout our sharing Weirou was intently listening and asking follow up questions to make sure she understood. This was the first time she'd ever heard about the Christian faith, and she really wanted to understand as best as possible. For a few minutes, their five-year-old daughter Amber even tuned in intently when I was talking about heaven and hell. We've now moved away, and following up with them won't be easy, but Gospel seeds were definitely sown that evening, and we pray for more connections to God's Word for Weirou and her family.



### 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](mailto:michael.paul@lcmsintl.org) with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.

1 Peter 3:15 ESV





## What can you pray for?

### Thanks for:

- the wonderful opportunity to share the Christian faith with Weirou and her family
- a great course on Baptism
- the completion of our move from Hsinchu to Chiayi

### Petitions for:

- Weirou and her family, that God would grant them Christian faith through His Word
- smooth settling in at our new home
- our home service preparation

### Our new mailing address:

No. 21, 5F-1 Xinrong Road, Alley 35  
Chiayi City 600  
TAIWAN, R.O.C



our mission station's crucifix

Our official website:  
[www.lcms.org/paul](http://www.lcms.org/paul)

## All About Baptism

During the first two weeks of March, I translated for the second in a series of five courses to be taught by LCMS seminary professors, designed to help our current Taiwan church workers better grasp Biblical Lutheran theology. This time the topic was Baptism, and the course was taught by Professor Gifford Grobien of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. We all especially enjoyed seeing how Scripture, even from page one, is full of Baptismal language and imagery...God's plan all along was to use the water in Baptism to rebirth us and give us His Holy Spirit. On April 17<sup>th</sup> the local church workers will have a one-day follow-up to the course, discussing practical implications for our service in the Church here.



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## On the Move

The LCMS has hoped for a few years that Irene and I could move from the city of Hsinchu to Chiayi, to be a part of the growing theological education team there. However, until very recently, the local partner synod here, the China Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC), has wanted us staying in Hsinchu, especially to help guide the work of the mission congregation there. With various recent changes in the CELC, they now also would like us serving in Chiayi, so it was obvious that it was time for Irene and I to pack up and move the two-plus hours' drive south. It was definitely not a smooth move, but by our Lord's grace we are now completely out of our Hsinchu apartment and into our Chiayi one. Despite having plenty of missionary work to do, we hope to get the boxes unpacked and be fully settled in before leaving May 2 for our three months of home service in the US.



**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](mailto: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](http://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.