



The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

# The Taiwan Times

Spring 2024

Andrew and Noel Schaff Missionary Newsletter from ChiaYi, Taiwan

**“But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”**

John 11:4

## So that You May Believe

Dear Family in Christ as you know, the past several years have been challenging and somewhat isolating for me as I faced trials related to numerous problems caused by autoimmune disease. Only about two years ago at this time, I slept 14 hours a day and experienced severe pain, rheumatism, and edema. Miraculously, by this time last year I was doing much better physically and although I was not sure I whether I would have the stamina to return to full time teaching for the first time in years, I stepped forward into teaching this year in faith.

My prayer for the past several years has been like that of the persistent friend knocking at the door – mainly I have been persistently asking God to give me good according to His plan and His desires for His children for the sake of Christ. The Lord has been faithful in answering with restoring my health and granting me strength to teach this school year.

This year I returned to teaching at CMS, teaching seventh grade Bible and English classes, eighth grade Bible classes, and ninth grade English classes. I have been blessed and privileged with the care of almost four hundred students that I am able to teach weekly.

Recently, we have been doing a unit on Jesus’ miracles with my eighth graders. God has provided the opportunity to discuss the purpose of Jesus’ miracles. So many of my eighth graders come from atheist homes and are very skeptical of Jesus’ power – especially when it comes to having authority over the laws of science. I tell them that it is not that the Bible goes against science, in fact, just the opposite. It was at the Word in creation that the laws that govern the universe were set into motion. It would only follow that the Word Himself in the flesh with God the Father would have the ability to rule the laws of the universe.

It has also given me the opportunity to speak intimately with my students about how God has intervened in my life and healed me in ways that even all my doctors would say they find impossible. It has led numerous students to -

admit that God must have blessed me. It has left even the most skeptical students doubting their doubts.

As I have been teaching the miracles these weeks it has also made me think more about why God did these things. It certainly wasn't only so that people would have more wine at a wedding, food to eat, or be physically healed. If it was only to solve earthly problems – perhaps Jesus would not have done these things. The primary reason was so that God would be glorified and so that the disciples and others would believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

I know that God has healed me and is continuing to heal me in ways that the doctors still cannot explain. It occurred to me that although I believed before – God has been doing these miracles in my life that my faith would grow. God is working to refine my faith and cast off the fears and doubts that sometimes still haunt me.

This leads me to think about how in all our lives God uses not only physical illness and weakness to draw us to Himself. He calls us in our loneliness, feelings of inadequacy, fear, doubt, and hurt. He draws us to look to Him who is I AM. He is the healing, companion, confidence, peace and comfort that this world cannot give.

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!  
What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake.

## UPDATE

Andrew and I will be returning again to Taiwan next semester to work at CMS. Andrew will continue his current teaching position as well as working with Friday Night Bible Study at Salvation church. Next year I have been asked to take the position of foreign teacher liaison at CMS. This means that I will be teaching part time while also taking an administrative position that helps assist the foreign teachers as well as the school administration. Please pray for wisdom and courage that I may best serve the school administration, foreign teachers, and students in that capacity next year.

## Please Pray

- Please continue to pray for young Christians in Taiwan and those who face persecution from their peers or families for their faith.
- Please pray for the Church around the world, that the Lord would strengthen our faith to worship and serve together regularly.
- Please pray for our students that the Lord would break down barriers in their hearts and lives to faith in Jesus as their Savior.
- Please pray for those who come to salvation church and Andrew's Friday night Bible study class that God would be with their nonbelieving family members, bringing them to hear the word of God.

## We Thank God for You!

Your prayers and encouragement are greatly appreciated! If you would like to financially support the ministry in Taiwan, please make checks payable to LCMS World Mission, clearly designating for Andrew and Noel Schaff, and send to:

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod  
1333 S. Kirkwood Road  
St. Louis, MO 63122-7295

Or adopt us as missionaries through Mission Central in Mapleton, IA. You can contact our friends at Mission Central using the following address:

Mission Central  
40718 Highway E 16  
Mapleton, Iowa 51034  
Phone: 712-882-1029  
You can email Gary at [Gary.Thies@lcms.org](mailto:Gary.Thies@lcms.org)

"I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints." Philemon 2:4

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St. Patrick's Day Party



Noel's freshman class performing a drama

Good Friday Service  
Salvation Lutheran Church



Andrew's 8<sup>th</sup> grade drama group

