



The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

# The Taiwan Times

**Summer 2024**

Andrew and Noel Schaff Missionary Newsletter from ChiaYi, Taiwan

**“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” - Romans 1:16-17**

## Living and Active Word

Much has happened this month, but I would like to share some details of how you and your prayers, as well as all of our partners in the LCMS are a part of what is happening here at Concordia Middle School.

My mother did not grow up in the Church. It was through the witness of a local LCMS pastor to my mother’s family as well as a Lutheran school in my mother’s neighborhood that first introduced my mother to the Word of God. Even now as a retired Lutheran school teacher of many years, my mother shares how it was by God’s Spirit working through the witness and teaching of my mother’s teachers at that school that planted and watered the seed of faith in my mother’s heart and life.

Concordia Middle School is a school that was started in the 1960s by LCMS missionaries to be an outreach to share the Gospel with local Taiwanese people. Today CMS has more than 2,000 students in junior and senior high school. The school also has an after-school cram school with around 500 elementary students and a huge preschool and kindergarten. More than 80% of our students come from Buddhist, Taoist, and Confucianist backgrounds. CMS is the first place many of them hear the Gospel.

Andrew and I are among a group of six Lutheran foreign teachers who teach Bible classes here. We teach a scope and sequence of lessons that covers the message of the entire Bible along with an overview of what is taught in the Small Catechism. We have the opportunity to share the message of how each of us is a helpless sinner rescued by Jesus the Savior of the World. We have the opportunity in Bible class to talk about how God adopts us into his family in baptism.

While in the U.S. there might be several Lutheran schools available for students to attend, this is the only school like this in all of Taiwan. While the national Taiwanese teachers are allowed to lead chapel, it is only the foreign missionaries that can teach Bible class. This is because the government mandates that the only way the Bible can be taught in any school public or private is that it is taught in English.

I had the opportunity just this week to hear my students share with me how God showed that he is both God and Man in a review of the Bible lessons from throughout the semester. They also shared how they have learned that disciples are people who have faith in Jesus, follow and worship Jesus, and tell others about God.

This year I have numerous students like Anna in Bible class. She is not from a Christian family, but she and her brother and sister have been coming to Friday Night Bible Study at Salvation Church. She will sometimes bring up questions that she has from that in Bible class at school.

In another section of eighth grade Bible class, I have a student who often wrote respectfully, but directly why he did not believe the Bible for much of the beginning of the year at the end of assignments when students had an opportunity to share what they learned. This semester, however, he has been one of the most attentive students in class and recently wrote at the end of his assignment about how he believes Jesus is the Son of God.

Another student I have in a different eighth grade Bible class is Samuel who comes from a Christian home but still has many questions about the Bible. Then there's Ashley, another Christian student who rarely can interact with other Christians as Taiwan has so few Christians (about 3.9%). She deeply cherishes the opportunity to talk openly about her faith in class at school.

I could also share about my former students like Tracy, who came from a Buddhist home and was my student about ten years ago. Then a few years ago she returned to CMS as a student teacher teaching English. At that time, Tracy shared with me how she had started attending a Lutheran church in college where she took baptism classes and was baptized. She now attends a Lutheran church near our home. It was her experience and CMS and wanting to share the Gospel that motivated her to become a teacher. She now teaches hundreds of students each week at a nearby school in Yunlin and is able to witness to friends and family members.

Finally, this week I was reminded of how the ministry of this school is so important when I reflected on one of my students, Tony, who died several years ago. He was sixteen years old. He had battled lymphoma for two years. Most of his friends, classmates, and even the staff at our school were unaware of his condition. It is rare that a foreign teacher would know this, but as I was diagnosed with lymph tumors in the past, he shared this with me.

From what Tony shared with me about his family, they were not Christian. In fact, most of what he heard and learned about Jesus was at CMS. Only Jesus knows Tony's heart. I do know that he always responded in class. He always often showed up to class early and asked questions or helped me with things.

For the years that Tony was at this school, he learned about the God that created, and redeemed him from sin in chapels, Bible classes, and from relationships with Christian classmates and teachers. This was his education.

Now it does not matter what other skills he learned or facts he could recall. Not that these weren't important, they were what kept him able to attend CMS where he had these relationships and the chance to hear the gospel.

The other skills and information that our kids learn in school are important. Most will use it to live in the world for many more years than Tony did. Sometimes as an educator (or parent) it is easy to have "worldly perspective" or goals. But people are eternal.

We will all spend eternity either in the presence of Christ our Savior in heaven, or far from him. When it comes to it, there is no amount of knowledge we can obtain, or anything we can do to bring ourselves closer to God.

This is why the Gospel is so powerful. It is about more than knowledge. It is about a living Savior reconciling them to God. This is why your prayers and the church sending missionaries to this school is so important. This is why sharing this with your friends and neighbors is urgent.

**"Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling. Naked, come to thee for dress. Helpless, look to thee for grace. Foul, I to the fountain fly, wash me, Savior, or I die."** – Verse three from "Rock of Ages Clef for Me"

## 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 that our students would hear God's voice as they are taught his Word and that they would not harden their hearts.
- 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.



Enjoying some time with Senior 3 students graduating, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade



---

9<sup>th</sup> grade students working on a project.

8<sup>th</sup> grade Bible class.

## 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

"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

***Pray for Us***  
***Andrew and Noel Schaff***

Andrew and Noel Schaff  
#31hien-Kuo Rd. Sec. 2  
Min-Hsiung, ChiaYi 621  
Taiwan R.O.C.  
Phone: 011-886-9-84397996

*New Email:*

***noel.b.schaff@gmail.com***

