



The Nelsons serving in Southeast Asia <http://partners-apart.org>

Celebrating

WARNING!!!!

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Did You Know?

- Taiwan has been hammered by multiple typhoons this year
- OIM SE Asia is headquartered in Chiayi, Taiwan
- The region meets together twice a year—once for just the workers in September, and once for workers & all family members in late December/early January

For more regular updates and images of our life in Medan, Indonesia please visit our blog:
<http://partners-apart.org>

Or click [HERE!](#)

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Most of my work involves teaching. That’s fine by me, as I’ve been teaching in one capacity or another for over 30 years. But sometimes my work involves doing different things than teaching. Like for instance, in October I was required to celebrate.

The Thailand Concordia Lutheran Church was officially founded 20 years ago, building off work by the LCMS and other organizations. They decided to celebrate this milestone in style, with a week-long tour of the major areas of ministry work and an invitation to the many groups who have worked with them to assemble for celebration, sharing, and remembering. It was an amazing opportunity to hear of the Holy Spirit’s work while gaining a better perspective of the many groups working in Southeast Asia for the Gospel.

It was both informative and festive. Plenty of stories shared from past missionaries and current partners. Plenty of hope for the future.

Below Top: Rev. Dr. Ted Na Thalang, organizer of the event and president of the TCLC receiving recognition for his influential efforts over the last 20 years.



Bottom Left: Lots of good food everywhere we went.

Bottom Right: Retired LCMS missionary Rev. Dennis Denow demonstrating how to properly enjoy a Thai-style ice cream sandwich. Which is Thai sticky rice, sweet toppings, and then ice cream sandwiched between two pieces of bread. He swears it’s the best ice cream sandwich in the world and who am I to argue with a man of his wisdom and experience?



Prayers and Thanksgivings

- Prayers of thanksgiving for the TCLC 20 years of ministering in Thailand
- Prayers for the TLCCP and their work in the highlands of Mindanao, Philippines



Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

Malachi 3:10

Mission Central provides incredible financial support to LCMS workers around the world—including us! Contact Mission Central for more information!

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There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at:

lcms.org/service.

Mindanao, Philippines

The typhoon landed before I did, but the rains it brought came in power after the plane touched down, after I arrived at my hotel. After I wandered out in search of dinner. The rains came torrentially as I sought to return to my hotel. Sheets of water pouring from the skies nearly horizontally because of the wind, blinding me and forcing me to walk with my head bent low, my umbrella mangled and rendered useless within a few seconds of deploying it. Clothes soaked, and no time or way to dry them out before leaving the next day en route from Manila to one of the southernmost cities of the Philippines, Davao on the island of Mindanao.

I was scheduled to fly with Rev. Todd Roeske, former full-time missionary to the Tagakalau tribes of the mountains of Mindanao. But canceled flights from the typhoon led to mayhem and bedlam. Our flight was canceled and we were only able to book separate flights that evening. Mine was delayed for over an hour and so we didn't actually rendezvous until Saturday morning, meeting together for the two-hour drive from Davao into the mountains of Mindanao and the San Roque region.

A year ago in Manila at the convention of the Lutheran Church of the Philippines where I was leading teaching for two days, I was introduced to Rev. Roeske and he invited me to join him in going to Mindanao. Although now a pastor in the US he returns to Mindanao twice a year to minister. He proposed a Reformation worship service followed by two days of teaching and I agreed. Plans evolved this past summer. I had no idea what to expect. But certainly my plans didn't accommodate one of my two pairs of pants being soaked and unusable, probably molding in the plastic bag I was able to obtain from the hotel restaurant in Manila.

The car ride was smooth and even included a stop for durian, a Southeast Asian delicacy considered by many Westerners to be foul and putrid, but which I have developed a taste for despite the odious smell and strange texture. And we arrived safely, after a 30-minute rumble over a dirt road where fortunately there had been no rains for a few days, at the home of our host, Pastor Panes, president of the Tagakalau Lutheran Church of Christ in the Philippines (TLCCO). The LCMS helped launch this small church body nearly 20 years ago, and they continue to thrive and grow in the mountainous villages of Mindanao. There are 24 congregations at this point and they have plans to start two more in the next two years in other villages.



They minister among farmers, people who live close to the land as their forefathers have for thousands of years. I am given a small room on the second floor of Pastor Panes' home, and am delighted to be able to air out my drenched clothing from two days earlier. By the next morning the pants are dry and ready to wear again. Another night and the shirts I was wearing are also dry. At least I don't have to worry about molding clothing!

To support our work financially, make checks payable (memo line: "Support of Rev. Paul A. Nelson") 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
888-930-4438

Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page at lcms.org/Nelson.