

# meet the BLUMENSTOCKS



## THAILAND



## their story

Jim and Karen Blumenstock are from Cedarville, OH and were married in 1996. They have an adopted Taiwanese daughter, Ella, who was born in 2004. Soon after graduating seminary, Jim began serving as a pastor of youth and missions at his church. It was at this time that he had a conversation with the Vice President of Cornerstone University and became interested in Asia Biblical Theological Seminary (ABTS).

ABTS was started by a missionary to Thailand in 1983 because the local Christian leaders there were asking for Bible training. ABTS offers accredited, graduate level education through Cornerstone University for church leaders throughout Asia. Students of ABTS take two weeks of intensive classes at the seminary and then go home and complete their homework over the next three months. This makes theological degrees accessible to Asian church leaders because they don't have to move overseas.

In July of 2001, Jim and Karen were accepted by their sending agency, ABWE, to work with ABTS to provide graduate level education for church leaders throughout Asia. In March of 2011, Jim was installed as the new Dean of ABTS. Jim continues to teach while also overseeing all operational and administrative functions at the school.

In addition to the classes held at the seminary, Jim travels to Myanmar, Cambodia, Singapore, the Philippines, Hong Kong and India teaching a variety of courses in two-week modules. The students include local pastors, Bible teachers, missionaries and lay leaders. Karen works at Ella's school as a substitute teacher.

## recent prayer requests

They have cancelled church services and all April and May classes. They are planning on offering online options, so several profs are scrambling to put these courses together. Large gatherings are restricted and schools, sports clubs, bars, and other entertainment venues are all closed.

ABTS's accreditation visit was a great success. The evaluator was very impressed with the program and they expect a favorable review.

Also last month's board meetings were also very helpful as they assessed the effectiveness of their program and brainstormed ways for improving and expending.

Thailand is moving into pollution season with air quality getting worse until the rains finally arrive in April. Also, the Coronavirus continues to spread, stoking fear and hurting the economy. Pray that God will use this time of uncertainty and distress to draw people to Himself.

Pray that God will give Jim wisdom how to continue on with classes during this time.