

Newsletter from John & Susan Mehl

LCMS World Mission

May, 2006

HONG KONG - On May 1, Susan, Ted and John arrived in Hong Kong to look for an apartment for the family as well as see to Ted's matriculation into Hong Kong International School. We were able to accomplish these tasks without too much pain. The mission business manager, Ed Strohschein, who lives in Hong Kong, has written to say that he has inked contracts on an apartment. Since returning home we also heard from the school that Ted has been accepted. These were two big concerns out of the way. Ted and Louisa finish the school year on Friday, June 23 and we have just heard that the movers will be here to pack up on Tuesday the 27th. So things are falling into place.

MEETINGS - John stayed on in Hong Kong a week longer than Susan and Ted and met for several days with most of the LCMS World Mission missionaries who make up the Asia Management Team. This provided John with an opportunity to learn a lot about the work going on in Asia. The team is doing a wonderful job and finding creative ways to bring the Good News to the lost. They also took me over to meet with Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod officials, including President Allan Yung, Rev. Daniel Li Yat Shing, Rev. Chan Yuk Sun and their publishing house director, Rev. Kelvin Li.

FAREWELL - Dr. James Rimbach was presented with a book by Rev. Carl Hanson at a farewell dinner held to honor Dr. Rimbach's many years of teaching service at the seminaries in Hong Kong. Dr. Rimbach will repatriate to the US this summer.

SHANGHAI – John and David Birner made the two-hour flight to Shanghai after church on Sunday, May 7 for a short visit to Concordia International School Shanghai. John was able to meet the Head of School, Dr. David Rittmann and many of the teachers. The school had humble beginnings with about 22 students and 17 teachers in 1998. Today they have around 700 students, are planning for 800 next fall, and are making plans to break ground on a new building. It is quite an amazing ministry.

CONNECTED: OBSERVATIONS FROM JOHN - Bob Rosin recently handed me Friedman's book, *The World Is Flat*, which was a really good read on recent airplane rides. The book is about how easy it is now for people to be connected with excellent travel and communications systems. Katrina's school in Concordia, MO just finished up for the year and Katrina said good bye to friends from Lithuania, Norway, Taiwan, Korea, South Africa--overall, from more than a dozen countries including the US. While I write this newsletter, Louisa is playing in a high school softball tournament in England with girls from all over the world, representing European International Schools. In a few moments I am going to push send on this computer, and you will almost instantly receive the pictures and words I have put here.

The point for me is that God has given us many technologies and tools with which we can connect with others and share the Gospel. We can proclaim Christ in ways we never could before and educate others to do the same. The work of the church remains unchanged. We are to be about God's mission. When we pray, "Thy kingdom come," we are asking that the Kingdom of God come to all who don't know Jesus. But the way we work has certainly changed and I can't wait to see where God will lead us in the future.

ASIA MISSION NEWSLETTER - A newsletter which includes contributions from all the missionaries in the Asia region is published four times a year. I have asked that your names be added to the list to receive this newsletter by e-mail. You can have your name removed from the lists by simply asking, but you probably won't want to do that because missions stuff is so interesting!

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray that God will give us eyes to see the opportunities to proclaim Jesus.
- Pray that God will give us the strength to take advantage of opportunities to proclaim Jesus.
- Pray for a smooth transition for the Mehl family.

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