

LCMS WORLD MISSION

1-800-433-3954

www.lcmsworldmission.org

mission.info@lcms.org

The Taiwan Times

By Mark Wolfram

Reporting on God's mission in Taiwan

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² Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.
Psalm 95:2

New Semester and New Teacher

Greetings to all of you. Since my last newsletter, CMS finished up the first semester and we took our Chinese New Year vacation. I wrapped up my classes, calculated my grades, and got all of those scores turned in. Praise God for the end of a semester and a chance for break. I'm so thankful for all everything that happened in our first semester of classes, and also for the chance to have a much needed vacation. We are just finished our Chinese New Year break and are now beginning official classes for the spring semester tomorrow. I look forward to another semester of helping my students learn more about God and helping them to grow as English learners.

The big news out here was that our new teacher arrived on New Year's Eve. Emily Ringelberg has come to Taiwan to teach the 3rd grade and kindergarten students at CELA for the spring semester. This is a huge answer to prayer, as it will free up schedules for the high school teachers who taught extra classes all of last semester. During January, the team and I helped Emily start the process of getting adjusted to life in Taiwan, and gave her a crash course of an orientation.

Up Next This Month

In less than two weeks my cousin Leah, her husband Matt, and their daughter Eve will be coming to Taiwan to help with the ministry. They are going to spend a good portion of their time sharing Christ with the students in music classes at Chia Yi Girls Senior High School. Pray for God to prepare them, the hearts of the students, and to bless the planning that will be finalized in the coming weeks.

In the end of February, we will have a China Evangelical Lutheran Church Youth Camp. Elementary, middle, and high school students from CELC churches in Taiwan will gather in Xin Chu for 2 days of worship, songs, games, and fellowship. Please pray for the preparations for this event.



Pictures from last year's Youth Camp



Israel Trip

Over the Chinese New Year break, I was blessed with the opportunity to travel to Israel. My dad sponsored a trip from the US, and I organized a group of 6 people to come from Taiwan. The trip was a great experience, that was packed with many historical places of the Bible and a ton of information. Below are some pictures:



In Bethlehem, this is the 14 point star above the place traditionally believed to be where Jesus was born. This is located in the cave, in the basement of the church.

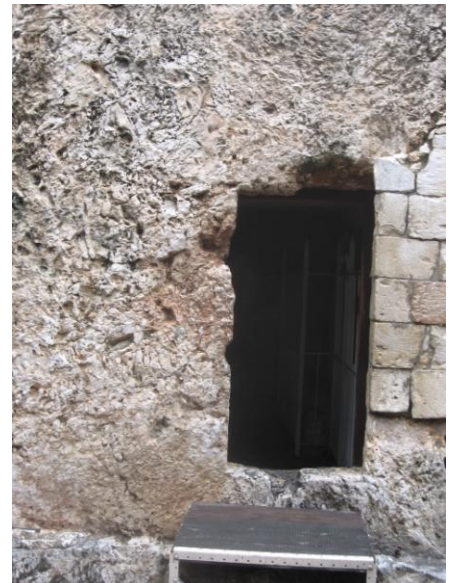


In Nazareth Village, a carpenter shows how they would have worked in Jesus' time.



In the Garden of Gethsemane, these olive trees are over 2,000 years old and would have been there when Jesus was there.

The Garden Tomb, where protestant tradition says Jesus rose from the dead.



For a prayer request, I would like to especially ask you to pray for the Christians in Bethlehem. Our tour guide, who is a Christian, shared with us that Christians are now the minority in the city. This is due mainly to economic difficulties that a force them to move out and leave the area, while Islamic families stay and have many children. Please pray for their families, their economic situation, and for the chance for more people in Bethlehem to know the good news of salvation in Jesus.

Please also pray for our Israeli tour guide, Hezzi. He is a Jew, but is very knowledgeable about Jesus but does not believe in Christ as savior.

Teachers Needed:

Just a reminder that we are in huge need of teachers out here. If you or anyone you know would be interested in teaching here at the school, please let me know. I'd be very happy to share more specific information. Our openings are both for elementary and secondary positions.

Prayer Time:

1. Pray for the new semester, that God may give me preparation, patience, and love as I teach my students.
2. Pray for Emily as she continues to get adjusted to life in Taiwan and gets set to teach her new classes.
3. Pray for my cousin Leah, her husband Matt, and their daughter Eve, who will be coming to serve in Taiwan during February and March.
4. Please pray for the Youth Camp that will take place at the end of February. Pray for God to bless the preparations and prepare the hearts of the attendees.
5. Pray for God to bring more teachers to come and serve here at the school next year.
6. Pray for Hezzi, our tour guide in the Holy Land. May he come to know Jesus as Messiah.
7. Pray for the people of Bethlehem, that they may be strengthened in faith and be blessed to continue financially as well.
8. Please pray for me as I consider God's calling for next year. I'm considering graduate school, seeking teaching positions both in the US, or returning to Taiwan. Pray for guidance and wisdom.

Peace in Christ,

Mark



Email: mark.wolfram@lcmsintl.org

Mr. Mark Wolfram
Concordia Middle School
31 Chien Kuo Road, Section 2
Min Hsiung, Chia Yi County 621
Taiwan ROC

Team Taiwan Official Website: <https://sites.google.com/a/cmsh.cyc.edu.tw/foreignenglish/home>