

*Developing and equipping
Christian leaders for the
fulfillment of the Great
Commission in East Asia and
around the world.*

The Winslows

September 2015

New Semester, New Students

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for us and our kids that we would grow closer to God and know him better day by day.
- Please pray for the Iranian refugees in Indonesia (as well as refugees who are fleeing the Middle East to Other parts of the world).
- We are seeking to raise more support for our ministry. Please pray that God would provide all that we need!

The new school year at EAST began in July with new students pouring in from across Singapore and the rest of Asia. Sijie and I are slowly getting to know some of them and listen to their stories of how God brought them here. Hendra came to EAST with his wife and young daughter. They are from Indonesia and have been serving at a church there for a number of years. When they first arrived, I helped them find a place to live and I was impressed at their flexibility and willingness to happily live in a small room as that was all they could afford. Hendra is beginning his MDiv program and has a passion to preach the gospel back in his home country. During the two-week orientation program for the new students, everyone participated in a seminar on evangelism and then went out to share their faith. Hendra was so excited about the training, that he immediately started making plans to train his church in the same method (we were able to do this when we visited Hendra's church during the MG ministry weekend – see next page). It is great to see Hendra's maturity and his passion to know God's word and share it with others.

Another of the new students is a younger guy named David. He graduated from university two years ago and is one of the youngest students at EAST. David comes from a small house church in China. He worked for a couple of years after university but recently decided that he wants to be a pastor. Since his english is fairly good, his own pastor suggested that he come to Singapore to study at EAST. David is a diligent student but he has been struggling to get used to the hot weather and different food in Singapore (this is his first time to leave China). Both Hendra and David are in my Mentoring Group (MG) this year and I am looking forward to getting to know them more as we grow in our love for God.

Please pray for all the new students as they settle into Singapore and EAST.

A Trip to Indonesia

Over the first weekend in September, all the students and faculty at the school went on our annual MG ministry weekend trip. My mentoring group (MG) went to Indonesia where we spent 4 days doing ministry with a local church. It was a really great experience for all of us. The church has a variety of ministries and we spent time participating in several different ones. We visited with refugees from Iran, we went to a drug rehab center, we spoke at a high school, we ran an evangelism seminar, we went onto a college campus to share the gospel and our team preached at the 3 main services that the church has on Sunday morning. It was a busy trip! One of the great things though was that even though we had a fairly large team of 9, each of the students had the opportunity to preach a sermon or give a devotion at one of the different venues. It was great to see them put what they are learning at school into action!

During two consecutive evenings that we were in Indonesia we conducted an evangelism seminar for a group of around 80 young people from several



Our MG group together with a few of the men at the drug rehab center

churches. Our team taught them how to share their faith and practiced sharing the gospel with one another. We then spent one afternoon out on a college campus sharing the good news. It is our prayer that these young people would continue to share the gospel and that many would come to know the Lord!

One of the most meaningful experiences for me, was visiting with the Iranian refugees. In the city that we were in, there are actually around 1,000 refugees from Iran. (I was quite surprised to find this out because Indonesia is not close to the Middle East. Apparently refugees find their way there as they try to apply for political asylum in Australia.) We met with a group of around 40 Iranians for a small Bible study. It was exciting to learn that most of them had become believers in the last few months after arriving in Indonesia. There were also a few people there who were not yet Christians but were still wanting to study and learn a little more about Christianity. One of the students led a time of devotion and shared about how his parents had at one time been refugees as they fled war in Korea. Looking at the life of Joseph, he talked about how we can trust God in the midst of difficulties.

After the meeting, we prayed for several of the refugees. Some of them have been in Indonesia for as long as a year and a half as they wait for a decision on their visa to Australia. It was encouraging to see their faith but also heartbreaking to hear some of their stories. Many of them will receive permission to enter Australia but some will be rejected and will either choose to hide illegally in Indonesia or be forced to return to Iran. Please pray for them!



Sharing the gospel on campus

Blessings,

*Matthew, Sijie, Hudson,
Amber and Alethea*