

The Winslows



Matthew with his spiritual life class

*Developing Christlike leaders
for the Great Commission*

was not the one leading the students through this mission statement. As I sat in the back of the chapel and listened, I was challenged along with the new students to really think about whether or not I was committed to growing. I was reminded that the Christian life is about continually growing to be more and more like Christ. In Philippians, the apostle Paul reminds us that, *"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus"* (1:6). God is constantly at work within us to make us more like him. At the same time, we

are called to exert ourselves and participate in this sanctification. Paul describes his own journey by saying, *"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have attained this. Instead I am single-minded: Forgetting the things that are behind and reaching out for the things that are ahead, with this goal in mind, I strive toward the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus"* (Phil 3:13-14).

Unfortunately, I know that from time to time, rather than striving to grow with a single-mindedness, I just kind of coast along. I'm more like a man out for a slow Sunday stroll in the park than I am like the runner determined to win the prize. Yet I know that God calls us to pursue him with all that we are. That is what I want our students at EAST to do and that is what I need to continually remind myself of as well. I want my life to be characterized by growth in godliness. Sijie and I also pray for each of you, that your lives would be characterized by a commitment to grow in Christ-likeness; that you would be passionate about sharing the gospel; that you would continue to learn and live out God's word; and that you would effectively communicate God's truth to those around you.

A COMMITMENT TO GROWTH

As many of you already know, the mission of the East Asia School of Theology is to develop and equip Christian leaders for the fulfillment of the Great Commission in East Asia and around the world. EAST seeks to develop spiritual leaders who are:

- ▶ **Committed to growing in Christ-likeness**
- ▶ **Passionate spiritual multipliers**
- ▶ **Learning and living out God's Word**
- ▶ **Communicating God's truth effectively**

When the school year begins we always share this mission statement with the new students and remind them that they are a part of this. We challenge them to commit themselves to really grow as spiritual leaders during their time at EAST. Indeed, this is an important aspect of our whole curriculum. We want the students to understand the goal and to desire to grow as spiritual leaders so that God will use them to make a great impact in Asia and the world!

This year, for the first time in several years, I (Matthew)

WAITING ON THE LORD

The new school year is well underway at EAST but things definitely feel different for us. Since we were originally planning to move back to the U.S. in June, we have both stepped down from many of our roles at the school. It has been a little frustrating to live with the uncertainty of not knowing when we will be able to move but we have been staying busy. Matthew has been helping out by filling in to lecture in a few different classes as needed. He has also been helping to plan out some of the curriculum for the extension centers in other parts of East Asia. This is something that is needed but is often hard to do well in the midst of other teaching responsibilities, so in some regards it has been good that we are still here and able to help out in some ways that we might otherwise have not been able to.



Some of the EAST students

Thank you for being a part of our lives and ministry. We praise God for each of you!

Updates and Prayer Requests

- We hope to move back to the US at the beginning of November, so that Matthew can begin work on his PhD at Trinity in January. However, we are still waiting for Sijie to receive her final approval for her Green Card. Please pray that it would come quickly.
- We are looking forward to being back in the states for 2-3 years before returning to Asia, but there will certainly be some adjustments for us and the kids. Please pray that God would give all of us grace and strength as we adjust to life in the US.
- Pray that we would find a godly community and good mentors both for us and our kids when we move to Illinois.
- Sijie is planning to home school the kids while we are in the States. This will allow them to stay up with the Singapore curriculum (which is fairly distinct from the US) and allow them to better transit back to school here when we return. It will obviously be a lot of work for Sijie though. Please pray for her especially and for all of us as we begin homeschooling.
- Matthew is planning to write his dissertation on Chinese church history. Please pray that God would empower him to learn to read Chinese well.
- Pray that we would continue to grow closer to the Lord and that he would give us many opportunities to declare his glory to those around us!

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