

## 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 ministers in various ways, including as a fitness instructor. Ella has been attending college in the US since the Fall of 2022.

The Bible Chapel has partnered with the Blumenstocks since 2014.

## JULY 2024

### PRAISE

- ❖ Praise God for last month's first graduation ceremony held Manila since 2020. Jim, Karen, and the ABTS staff are grateful for their graduates and celebrate their successful completion of their degree programs.
- ❖ Praise God for the time Jim and Karen are spending with Ella over the summer. Praise God for the work Ella is doing on redesigning the ABTS website, with the aim to complete it by the end of August.

### PRAYER

- ❖ Pray for Jim, Karen, and the entire ABTS staff as ABTS undergoes a significant transition this month with their learning management system. (For background information, ABTS has used Moodle for years, but recently Cornerstone University decided to switch to D2L Brightspace. While Cornerstone's transition will occur in September, ABTS's is happening this month as their next quarter begins on July 22.) Pray for a smooth transition and wisdom as ABTS irons out any issues.
- ❖ Pray for the overwhelming success of Karen's recently launched exercise ministry called, Hard to Hope. The ministry focuses on empowering young women, mainly Thais, who struggle with their fitness and as a result, their sense of self. Pray for the women who partake in this ministry by going through weekly, rigorous expertise programs and by joining a support community, that they will find not only physical healing, but emotional and spiritual healing as well.
- ❖ With just one client for now, pray for Karen as she continues to develop Hard to Hope. Pray for her client, that she will experience growth in fitness, confidence, and her relationship with God. Pray for the Lord to use Karen and her ministry to draw others to Him as the year progresses.
- ❖ Pray for Jim, Karen, and the entire ABTS staff as they prepare for the ATA accreditation in August. Pray for wisdom, discernment, and steadfastness for all involved as there is much preparation still ahead.