



Rev. Roger & Amy James,
serving the Lord at Lutheran Theological Seminary & Training Center, Baguio City
The Lutheran Church of the Philippines

One of the most striking things about the Philippines is the diversity of language, and at the same time the universality of English. On our campus we have people with three distinct dialects. Those from the southern region of the country speak their tribal language. Those from the central islands speak Cebuano. Those from up here around Baguio City speak Ilokano. everyone speaks the “national” language of Tagalog. Finally, thankfully, for us, everyone speaks at least some English.



Lutheran Theological Seminary and Training Institute is an English medium institution., that is, instruction is done in English although as I walk by the classes of my colleagues, I frequently hear them speak other languages than English. Conversational English is one thing. Academic English is another. Reading hefty theological tomes is difficult even for native speakers of

Prayer Requests
We were in the USA June and July for vacation, continuing education, marrying off our youngest, and visiting some of our supporters. (Forgive us that we cannot see you all every year!) We just returned and now the new term begins. Please give thanks for safe travels and ask God for our good health and the ability to serve well in the important work of teaching here at LTS.

English. Writing is an additional complication.

Almost as soon as we arrived one of the students began asking if I could do some English instruction, because he knew how helpful that would be. It was beyond me, since I was already overwhelmed trying to put classes together. Another student, actually a pastor from a Lutheran church in Myanmar, especially needed tutoring in English. So, Amy stepped forward. As you may recall, she had been doing an English club for Sri Lankan youths when we were in Colombo. Soon after, at the request of the dean, she began doing a once-a-week class, overviewing English from many different angles. She admits that she is out of her league. She has no formal training in teaching English, but I watch her put her whole heart and energy into it. As anyone who knows her might expect, she has become a favorite of the campus community.



Amy tutoring Rev. Moses Mung of Myanmar in English.

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Contact us at
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Skype with your congregation or
organization.

To be added to or removed from this
mailing list, send an email message to
roger.james@lcms.org
with the word ADD or REMOVE in the
subject line.





LTS Student Spotlight

John Michael (JM) Bote

Age 22

Home

Mahayag, Albuera, Leyte

Home Congregation
Christ Lutheran Church

Vicarages
Faith Lutheran Church,
Marikina City
St. Stephen Lutheran
Church, Baguio City



What brought you to LTS? I was first encouraged by my pastor and other church members, then my friend from church youth camps invited me along when he was going to start seminary. I began pre-theological studies in April of 2014.

Comments on experience at LTS: I was first very interested in Greek class and found it an exciting and difficult challenge. In the seminary I learned some ways that people are different from each other and that they cause you to adjust and apply what is learned in the seminary classroom. My vicarage experience helped me see the high and low points of ministry and I learned about my own weaknesses and strengths. JM has completed his studies and is awaiting placement and call to serve a congregation.

She has also had some great support from an MK (Missionary Kid), John Plagens (see picture below), although he is not a kid anymore (Sorry, if you read this!). John's father was dean here at the seminary in the 1960s, and John spent some of his most memorable days exploring the hills and old Japanese war tunnels of Baguio as a school boy. For the last several decades John has been teaching English in Japan, but for the last five or more years, at least once a year, he has been coming



Amy teaching her Wednesday afternoon English class.

home to LTS to do some English language instruction for a week or so with our students. Well, John is a professional English teacher, and he has been a wonderful encouragement and guide for Amy, because he knows what a tremendous need there is for this teaching.



Amy and I have marveled aloud at how delightful the students are here: respectful, dedicated, and fun. But what is perhaps most delightful about them is their eagerness to learn. Particularly, they desire to learn God's Word so that they can teach and serve, preach and care in God's Church. Their ears have *tasted* and *seen* that the Lord is good as the word of forgiveness, life, and salvation in Christ has penetrated their hearts and minds. They cannot get enough of Jesus. God grant this joyful craving to us all.

As always, thank you for your kind and constant support. My newsletters are (inexcusably) infrequent. (well, not entirely inexcusable! But I will spare you the details.) I will try to do better. We would love to hear from you. Peace and blessings in Christ Jesus to you all.

Roger B. James

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at

www.lcms.org/service.

Click on "Service Opportunities"

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