Dear Friends and companions in the church’s mission,

In this newsletter I welcome you to Fujian Province, China!

This photo of Wuyi Shan national park in Fujian was taken by my colleague, Dr. Wong Pui Fong, who teaches spirituality at the Lutheran Theological Seminary. Our faculty took a trip together to Fujian to connect with alumni in churches and seminaries there and to enjoy the natural beauty of that region.

Our first stop was in Fuzhou, the provincial capital and a historic port city. We were hosted by Fujian Theological Seminary (FTS), the only seminary in Fujian, where several of our alumni work. They showed us not only the seminary but the city of Fuzhou itself and its surroundings. I thought you might enjoy this photo of McDonald’s, Fuzhou-style.

FTS is a very large seminary serving Protestant churches associated with the “Three-Self Movement” (self-leading, self-funding, self-propagating) and registered with the China Christian Council. Many of these churches were founded in the nineteenth century through the work of international missionaries and Chinese evangelists. In the summer, when the lowlands were steaming and there were no air conditioners, these workers headed to the mountains to rest at the resort of Guling, just outside of Fuzhou. In the tumultuous years of the early twentieth century, Guling became a medical center and headquarters for organizing Christian mission further inland. If you are a reader of classic literature, you may know that Pearl Buck, the author of *The Good Earth*, spent her summers in Guling as a missionary kid in the early 20th century. This historical site has been restored, and we went to see it. Being a missionary kid myself (I was born and grew up in the Philippines), I was drawn to this old photo on display of missionary kids enjoying their vacation together in Guling.

Our faculty went further inland the next day and enjoyed our vacation, too, climbing mountains and drifting down the river at the lovely national park of Wuyi Shan, pictured above.
Our last stop was the town of Jianyang, where we worshiped with the local congregation at the largest church in Fujian Province. Here are my faculty colleagues, seated in the front pews just before worship began.

In order to make our flight home to Hong Kong, we took one of China's famous fast trains back to Fuzhou. Here it is entering the station.

Reflecting on our trip, it was good to see how the work we do at our seminary ripples out into China. It's actually your work rippling out, too, because of your church's involvement with the church in Hong Kong through the Lutheran Theological Seminary. I think the Holy Spirit enjoys making such ripples and waves, don't you?

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