

From Thailand

March 2019



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Lutheran Pastors are False Teachers?

During our last theological training session, one of the Hmong pastors in the group shared with us that he attended many theological training programs from many teachers in his country. One of the things that he learned was church history, which included Luther and the reformation. Xiong wanted to know why there are no Lutheran Christians or churches in his country? For two years he asked the Christians in his country about the Lutherans, but no one knew of them. One day a salesman came to Xiong's village selling medicines. Xiong found out that the salesman is a Christian and a member of a Lutheran group. He is one of the students in our theological training program in Thailand. Xiong asked the salesman if he could join him in Thailand to learn directly from the Lutheran pastors. Months later, the salesman called Fungchatou and permission was granted for Xiong and his wife to attend the theological training with us. Whatever they learned, they taught and practice it with the members in their village even though the name of their church is not Lutheran. This is a good example of what John H.C. Fritz says in his book *Pastoral Theology*, "If, for instance, a minister of the Roman or the Reformed Church would come to a knowledge of the truth, he would not have to demand that his congregation at once adopt the Lutheran name, but should at first be satisfied if such a congregation will consent to hear and believe the true doctrine and to receive the Sacraments as the Lord has instituted them" (p. 49, 2000). Fritz also wrote that "the name Lutheran is a distinguishing mark of orthodoxy, and therefore we ought not to be ashamed of it..." (p. 48).

Being missionaries in Southeast Asia to the Hmong people, we are serving the Lord along with many other non-Lutheran missionaries. What set us apart are our Lutheran doctrines, confessions and teachings of the Word of God with clear distinction of Law and Gospel. These important teachings of ours sometimes led other non-Lutheran Christians to accuse Fungchatou of being a false teacher. If being a Lutheran pastor means he is a false teacher, then

Fung gladly accepts the title, because he is not ashamed of being a Lutheran pastor and a teacher of the Gospel. Joining Marquis of Brandenburg, we also confess that, "I am, and shall to my dying hour, remain a Lutheran" (Fritz, 2000, p. 49).

Many Christian leaders and pastors in Southeast Asia had been influenced by decision-making, prosperity-preaching, and healing theologies. These led them to believe that they are saved by faith and the good works they have done. This is why Christian pastors and leaders like Xiong, once learned about our Lutheran teachings, doctrines and confessions, would be like they are walking out of darkness into His marvelous light. Please keep our theological training in your prayers. To watch a video of our training, click here: <https://vimeo.com/322275184>.

Furlough Visits

In June and July, our family will be on furlough. If you or your church would like to have us come to and share with you the Lord's mission work in Southeast Asia, please email Fung at LOLEGACY@gmail.com. The sooner you email Fung, the better chance you will get us to come to your church in June or July.

Your Missionaries: Fungchatou, Kalia, and Mercy

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