



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

knightwatch

WEEKLY



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Knighted for Ministry: Adventures Abroad!

By Guest Writer **Emily Rider** MLC '18

Here am I—send me. We've heard this verse many times. Maybe we've even prayed it. But don't we often add a little clause at the end? *Here am I—send me . . . as long as it's close to home or as long as it's a place I feel comfortable and respected.*

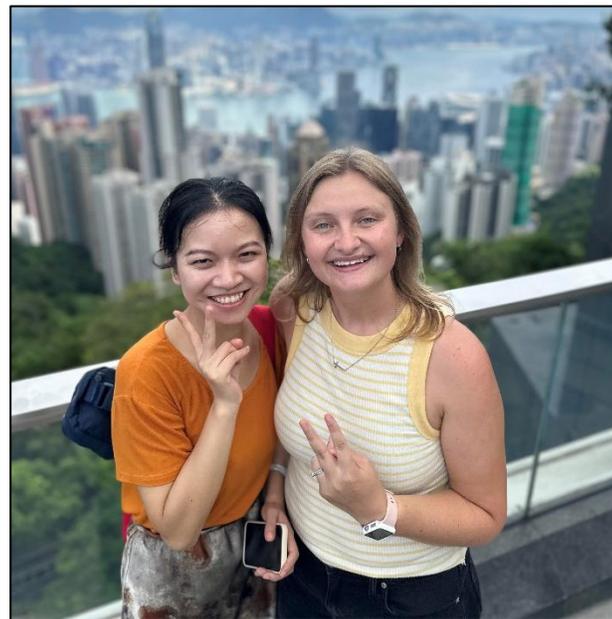
I've been guilty of that, thinking I know best where I can serve the Lord. Looking back, I never could've imagined where God would send me. In fact, if God had answered my prayers in the way I'd wanted, I would've missed out on so much joy and so many adventures.

Called Abroad: Before my husband, Jesse, and I moved abroad to be missionaries, neither of us would've said we'd be the right people for the job. Jesse had spent his whole life in a town of about 800 people, and I only knew ministry in a WELS church or a classroom. Now we find ourselves in a Southeast Asian city of over 12 million people, doing ministry in a culture drastically different from ours.

Being You: Stephen, the Friends Network mission counselor, told us to just do what we love here and ask God to open doors to share the gospel through those gifts and passions. Jesse is involved in a local gym, and several friends have come to our events and Bible studies through that. I love coffee and have met some friends at local coffee shops. Our Friends Network team uses sports, game nights, picnics in the park, English clubs, and more to build connections. It's comforting and freeing to know that God can and does work through everything, even if it looks different from conventional ministry.

The Future: Jesse and I aren't sure if we'll be overseas for just another year or for the rest of our lives, but when we're called—whether it's back to the classroom or on to another country—we know God has another adventure waiting around the corner for us.

So next time you pray "Here am I—send me," leave it at that. Pray it boldly and confidently. Pray it with certainty that the One who calls you to go already knows where you'll end up. He goes before you, and he goes with you on the adventure.



Emily Rider, a missionary in Southeast Asia with the Friends Network, became friends with "Sophie" six years ago. Against the wishes of her family, Sophie took years of Bible study with Emily and Jesse and one day asked to be baptized.

Thinking about Gospel Ministry? Here's Emily's Encouragement for You:

- Ministry isn't a box you have to fit in. It doesn't have to look like the pulpit or classroom you're envisioning. Your ministry could be an adventure you can hardly imagine now.
- Even if you don't think you could be a pastor, teacher, or staff minister, trust the process! You'll get great training at MLC and the seminary—and then you'll learn more along the way. God will equip you.



This article is adapted from a longer MLC InFocus article titled "Knighted for Ministry: The Wild, Unpredictable Adventure of Ministry Abroad." Scan to read more about Sophie's story and see more photos of Emily, Jesse, and their friends.