

Clemente Newsletter

August 2017

David's Discussions

“May I pray for you?” Our friend offered her words of comfort to me and my wife, Sarah. And right there in the kitchen in front of the dishwasher, we joined hands together with her husband and prayed to our God. This request to pray for us is very significant because, a few days back, our friend had shared her desire to minister to people in the area of prayer. But due to the nature of her work, people do not see her as a person to seek counsel from or to ask to share a prayer. With us as missionaries visiting her local church, our friend is able to exercise her gift of prayer and intercession on our behalf. We receive prayers from God’s people, even from those who are seeking spiritual affirmation.

“Please continue to send me your newsletter. I would like to keep on praying for you and your family in Asia.” Our friend is retiring this year and will no longer be the pastor of a local church that has been faithfully supporting the Clemente family. “Of course,” I respond to his email and acknowledge his dedication to pray for missionaries around the world. He also writes of his battle with cancer. I was amazed with his passion for God’s work in the midst of his struggle with a terminal disease. We receive prayers from God’s people, even from those who are going through physical difficulties.

People are praying. They are committed to pray for missionaries and missions work, even in the midst of affliction, lack of affirmation, or financial uncertainty. This summer, we have seen our friends from Michigan, Illinois, and California dedicate themselves to a life of prayer. Visits to the hospital are still present. Tensions at the workplace are still happening. The occasional stress from family meetings, they still come and go. Pain, disappointments, failures, and spiritual struggles, they are never the reason to stop interceding for people in the missions work. I admire the commitment of my friends. It is truly easy to pray for missionaries when the funds are there or when life is joyful and fulfilling. However, when things go wrong, it is more challenging to get down on our knees and pray for people who need our prayers. We receive prayers from God’s people, even from those who are facing challenges in many different forms.

This year, I will be going to Cambodia and Nepal to teach week-long seminars for our ministerial candidates and pastors working in our Free Methodist ministries in these countries. For the next 4-5 years, I will be helping these pastors get ready for ordination and local church work. When I visit these Asian pastors, I will tell them of the prayers of our various friends. “All of them are praying for you, for this week-long seminar we are having.” So, from the city streets of America to the village roads of Asia, prayers are uttered for God’s work. From the woodlands of Michigan to the mountains of Nepal, hearts are joined together for the Free Methodist missions work. “On your knees and pray for harvest hands!” (Matthew 9:39, MSG) We receive prayers from God’s people and we give them away, because we are committed to the Lord’s harvest and we want to be obedient to the call to prayer. Will you pray?

Carmen's Corner

(August 2, 2017)

We are back home! Finally! And yet it feels like we never left. Taiwan greets me with its grey skies and humid weather, and my home looks exactly the way we left it. Two months we were gone, and it feels like two days. Before we can really settle down, we have to unpack our suitcases. Unpacking is probably the most boring and tiring part. So to make it more fun, we turn on some music to full volume and start working.

I run up the stairs and open my bedroom door. I've especially missed my purple bedroom walls, alongside the posters and the books by my bed. My bedroom has always reflected how I view myself: Messy, yet bright and colorful. I unpack all my clothes and books and try my best to make the room look nice... oh well, at least I tried.

The next few days consist of jetlag and lots of adjusting to the fact that this isn't America anymore. Even though it feels like we never left, I still feel the culture shock. As I walk down the streets, already memorized the way to our favorite tea shop, I look around me and see Asians yelling out the language I haven't heard, let alone spoken, in months. So as I approach the tea shop and the lady asks me for my order, my mind goes blank. I stumble over the words and eventually make out actual Mandarin characters.

Now, I'm starting to get the hang of things. I'm going to sleep and waking up normally, and I have adjusted well. I am now preparing myself for this five-day leadership retreat August 5-9. I am really excited, because I remember last year's was really fun and memorable for me.

I have contacted my friends, saying that I've arrived in Taiwan. Some of them are still in America, and some are busy, so I won't get to see them in the next few days. Also, I am still overcoming jet lag, so I am just resting for now. But I am going to see a lot of my friends at the retreat, so I am looking forward to that.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. We are all adjusting very well and are happy to be back. But we still miss the US. For example, I miss waking up to blue skies. Now I am waking up to loud rain and grey clouds. Haha!

All the love,
Carmen

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

-Romans 15:5-6

Jacob's Journey

Long ago in a far away land, there lived...

Nah, I'm joking with you. This is just about my 2017 summer in the U.S. So it began with the flights. They were stressful, long, and they seemed like they would take eternity. Well, if entertainment was never on there... When we got into Peoria, I couldn't sleep a single bit, and I actually knew why (HINT: It's called jetlag). After that, we drove to Macomb where my grandparents lived, and we had so much fun there!

Of course, I forgot to bring toys, paper, and folders. So I couldn't really do anything that didn't involve my journal and sketchpads. Since I couldn't make any animations on my dad's computer (since I only make them on the big computer at my Taiwan house), I decided that this would be a good time to play my 2DS daily.

I only have three games on my 2DS: Tomodachi Life, Sonic Generations 3DS, and Super Mario 64 DS. They're pretty cool games. But the other thing I did was look out for new toys, since I didn't bring any. I settled on two Minecraft Lego sets from Walmart, a rubber mouse, a rubber frog, a rubber shark, and a rubber dinosaur. Too much rubbery stuff!

We went to Greenville because my sister had a basketball camp over there. We got to stay with this couple called the Shaws, and they were pretty cool! This also gave me the opportunity to use my dad's computer every day in Greenville. We also went to Indianapolis to meet up with the Prochinas. Lily was there, too. And, luckily, she brought her 2DS with Tomodachi Life, and we exchanged travelers! Before all of that Greenville and Indianapolis stuff, though, we went to visit my Aunt Susan in Chicago, where we got to be at a baseball game in Wrigley field! I think it was Cubs vs. Marlins. And the Cubs won!

Finally, there was Michigan. There were some people I liked who were pretty cool, and a particular one, Aiden, knew a flash game called Last Legacy. I knew it, too, but nobody I ever was friends with knew about it. He knew about the beta version, but I only knew about the release version and the sequel. Somehow he knows there will be awesome stuff like water levels or custom soundtracks in the threequel. When me and my family had to go, it was a pain I could NOT say goodbye, because everyone was still asleep...

But our flight home was weird. We have three flights on our way home. Peoria to Chicago, Chicago to Tokyo, and Tokyo to Kaohsiung. Each flight, we had to stay at a hotel for one night. Well, that is, except the last one, obviously...

So that leads to today, where I'm now making more animations than ever! Hope you enjoyed reading this!

Jacob out!

Sarah's Sentiments

"It's so strange. It feels like we never left." We are sitting in our living room in Kaohsiung when Carmen makes this statement, something I myself had been thinking of just moments before. We had only been home in Taiwan a couple of days, and already we were back to routine -- ordering drinking water, visiting the fresh fruit stand, shopping at Costco, eating pork dumplings and beef noodle soup. It felt good to be home, but it also felt sad that two months of visiting ministry partners, family, and friends in the U.S. could fade from our minds so quickly.

I find myself sifting through pictures and reviewing my notes to help me remember. One highlight was visiting my sister and watching a Cubs game at Wrigley Field for the first time. Another was celebrating my parents' 50th wedding anniversary with a family reunion and open house. We were blessed with each church visit as we shared what God is doing in Taiwan and Southeast Asia and listened to what He is doing in Illinois and Michigan. We ended on a high note with Manton Family Camp, where Carmen enjoyed sharing about Taiwan and participating in youth activities and Jacob loved playing in the splash pad and running around with friends.

I often find myself saying to people, "I will always wish we lived closer" or "I wish we could be next door neighbors." But there are too many people whom we love for this to become a reality in the physical sense. So I cherish the thought of this worldwide "neighborhood" in a spiritual sense. In Christ we are indeed one family. In the Kingdom of God, we are all neighbors. And I am thankful to God for each and every one of you.

Praises and Petitions

***** Praise God for a fruitful time of Partnership Building in the U.S. and for safe travel throughout the summer.

***** Pray for the teachers and students at Morrison Academy as they prepare for the new school year that begins August 14th. Carmen will be a sophomore and Jacob is in 7th grade this year..

***** Next week (August 14th), Holy Light Theological Seminary will start its intensive Hebrew class. This is a three week course focusing on Biblical Hebrew. Pray for the students and their professor, Dr. Becca Doyle.

***** Holy Light begins its first semester of the new school year on September 11. Pray for the students and faculty. David will teach a class on Theology.

***** The first week of October, David will visit Cambodia for a week-long teaching ministry. Pray for lesson preparation and for the 20+ pastors and participants from our Free Methodist churches in the Phnom Penh area.

**Thank you for your prayers and partnership!
Peace and Joy,
The Clemente Family**

If you would like to write us a letter, please mail it to:

David and Sarah Clemente
PO Box 450 Xinxing
Kaohsiung 80099
Taiwan (ROC)

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