

Clemente Newsletter

March 2016

David's Reflections

"I want to talk to you and ask you many questions," one of the lady pastors speaks to me through an interpreter. The other pastors, mostly men, nod their heads in agreement. "But I do not speak English." I motion with my hand coming from my heart moving towards her and say, "That is okay. Our hearts meet together even without our words." The group are smiling and affirming my motions and explanation.

I am in a mountain, 2000 plus meter above sea level. This is the city of Hakha, the capital of the Chin State in Myanmar. We are taking a break from one of my lectures on missions, a three day seminar training for 21 pastors from the Chin community. It is freezing cold this morning. At ten o'clock, it is still around 40 degrees (F). So, we all huddle close to an open fire for warmth and some relief from the cold. There are no heaters here, no hot water, no insulated houses or rooms for us to run to. We opt for the open yard beside the church to form a ring around this open fire. It is the best place to received some comfort and rejuvenate our cold hands. Also, it is a perfect place and time to share some thoughts and ask each other questions of importance or even mundane things.

"Missions can happen in your local churches, even among poor Asian churches who do not have much financial resources," I keep saying this to everyone in the sessions. Many of them agree and openly repeat the concept to each other. At the end of the day, we have a short period of feedback and sharing time. "Even though we are poor, we can do this mission thing," some of them encourage each other. I see their Superintendent smile and nod in agreement. I pray that this vision of Asian FM workers crossing cultures and reaching to other Asians will start here in the mountains of the Chin State. God is moving among the Chin people and so, we move with Him.

Morrison Academy Kaohsiung

Carmen and Jacob received an enthusiastic welcome back from their friends and teachers at Morrison Academy Kaohsiung (MAK). We were so thankful for good health and a smooth transition. Thank you for praying!

Carmen is once again participating in the Broadcasting quarter course which produces a 10 minute podcast called "The Shark Show" every few weeks.

Recently our whole family attended Olympics Day at MAK. Jacob participated in several of the track and field events and helped Team Ireland advance to a 2nd Place finish!! A fun time was had by all.

Holy Light Theological Seminary

Second semester at Holy Light Theological Seminary is in full swing. Classes started mid-February and will continue through mid-June. David is teaching a class on missions strategies at one of our off-campus sites in Tainan, which is forty-five minutes by train.

February 29th was a holiday. The Student Council officers organized a cultural trip to Pintung to experience some of the aboriginal cultures of the island. The pictures below show the students participating together in a cultural dance.

Prayers and Petitions

***** David preaches six times in the next few months at various local churches and fellowship groups. Please pray for the time of preparation and God's inspiration. Also pray for the preparation for his missions class.

***** David is leading a group of seminary students and members of Kaohsiung local churches on a mission trip to Japan. This mission trip consists of a music ministry team. Please pray as they visit Free Methodist ministries in Osaka, Japan. This will be during the last week of June.

***** Pray for our partnership with various ministries among the Filipino, Vietnamese, and Indonesian migrant workers. Also continue to pray for Aying and the group of wives and mothers she meets with in connection with the Set Free Movement.

***** Please pray for Carmen as she continues to heal from a knee injury that kept her from participating in Olympics Day and the Middle School Soccer Tournament. We are thankful that it was not something more serious. Also pray for Jacob as he balances his busy schedule of school, comic book writing, website creating, and guitar playing.

Commitments for 2016

We are happy to report that we ended the year 2015 in the **black!** We are so thankful for your prayers and financial support that allow us to continue participating in the Lord's work in Asia.

We are still in need of more financial commitments for the year 2016.

If you feel the Lord leading you to make a commitment, please call Pam Sheads at the FMWM home office: 800-342-5531, ext. 236

May the Lord bless you and keep you as you trust in Him with each passing day.

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