

## **Clemente Newsletter**

### **May 2017**

### **David's Discussions**

I am listening to them behind my camera. I am recording their testimonies on video and being reminded of when I was in the same situation. "I do not feel worthy of this calling." All the five candidates said these words in many different ways. Today is the day of ordination of these five pastors at this yearly meeting of the Taiwan Annual Conference CFMC. Children's pastors, Tribal Ministry leaders, local church administrators -- these are some of the responsibilities held by these persons being ordained. What an honor to witness this much-awaited occasion.

Elders are witnesses of Christ's suffering. With much humility, they work hard to shepherd the flock. (1 Peter 5:1-10) Elders are examples for the church. They must be gentle, respectable, and able to teach. (1 Timothy 3:1-7) Indeed, with these explanations of the life of an elder, one cannot help but feel a sense of unworthiness. We certainly do not feel worthy of this high calling to be an elder.

One line that stands out for me during the whole ceremony is the description that "Elders are God's gift to the Church." To the pastors of Taiwan CFMC, we all experience that sense of unworthiness, but God in His divine wisdom has chosen elders of His Church to be bearers of His gifts and leaders of God's grace and servant-authority. And to the five new elders, Honglin Chen (陳泓霖), Wayne Pan (潘暉恩), Jinghuey Chang (張靜蕙), Chioyueh Lu (盧秋月), and Lanhua Hsu (許籣花), we welcome you to this glorious vocation. Rest assured that we will be praying for you. The people of God through the Free Methodist Church around the globe are behind you and interceding for you.

### **Sarah's Sentiments**

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) at MAK had its final meeting in May, where we were given the opportunity to reflect on the past school year and look ahead to the next one. As a representative for Carmen's 9th grade class, I sat with the other high school parents and listened to their stories. I was reminded that, until just a few years ago, MAK only taught up to 9th grade. These parents are among the pioneer families of our high school. I am so thankful for their faith and trust, dedication and hard work. Because of them, our family is able to stay together through Carmen's high school years.

### **Prayers and Petitions**

\*\*\*\*\* Pray for our FM church planting efforts in Southeast Asia. David will work with several FMWM missionaries and, together with our national leaders, we will provide ministry training for our pastors and local church leaders.

\*\*\*\*\* The last day of school for MAK is Friday, May 26. Pray for a strong finish for teachers and students, followed by a good summer of relaxation and recreation. Also pray for those in transition -- teachers and students who are leaving, new teachers and students preparing to come in August, and our Seniors as they gather up all they have learned and embark on the next stage of their life's journey.

\*\*\*\*\* Pray for safety and good health as we travel from Taiwan to the USA on May 30th, as well as travel on the road in Illinois and Michigan during our time of Partnership Building this June and July.

### **Speaking Schedule -- Summer 2017**

#### **Sunday, June 4**

Crossroads FMC, Lewistown, IL

#### **Sunday, June 11**

The Springs, Cedar Springs, MI

#### **Sunday, June 18**

St. Paul's FMC, Greenville, IL

#### **Wednesday, June 21**

Evening Prayer Meeting, Greenville FMC (IL)

#### **Sunday, June 25**

Knox Knolls FMC, Springfield, IL

#### **Sunday, July 2**

The Bridge, Glen Carbon, IL

#### **Sunday, July 16 -- Thursday, July 20**

North Michigan Conference Family Camp, Manton, MI

#### **Sunday, July 23**

Sunday School meeting, Wesley UMC, Macomb, IL

**Thank you so much for your prayers!**

**Love in Christ,**

**David, Sarah, Carmen and Jacob Clemente**

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