

Clemente Newsletter
September 2016

Thank you for praying!

David traveled to Butuan City, Philippines August 15-19 to teach a course in "Contextual Theology" at Light and Life Graduate School of Theology. We give thanks to God for safe travel and a good time of sharing and learning. Please continue to pray for these students and pastors as God leads and equips them for His kingdom work.

David also traveled to Phnom Penh, Cambodia August 2-9 for the Asia Pacific Free Methodist Young Leaders Mission Congress, where he served as a resource person and led a workshop on Biblical Theology of Missions. Please continue to pray for all of the participants as they have returned home, charged by Christ to take the Good News to the ends of the earth.

David's Discussions

She touches my face. She smiles and giggles. I try to coach her to follow me as I pat the table with my open hand. She imitates my moves. She laughs whenever she hears the sound of her hand hitting the table surface. We all laugh with her. Our one-year old visitor is visiting us for a day, and we are delighted with her every move. Lucy is here with our family to take a day off from staying at a local orphanage home. Sarah volunteered our family to bring a child to our home for fellowship and social interactions a few times a month. I do my part by helping Sarah. Carmen and Jacob are also engaged. They totally enjoy spending time with little ones like Lucy. We cherish our short moment with Lucy and hope her day with us will help her prepare for her future family.

Little contributions are small. In most cases, they are so insignificant. However, we want to be faithful in both the small and big things that come to our lives. The Bible reminds us that if we are not faithful with little things, then we will not be entrusted with big things (Luke 16:10-13).

This past week, I also went to hang out with Sam, a Filipino migrant worker. Sam works at a local factory here in the south. This is his second year here in Taiwan. We went for lunch and talked about his family back home, his home church, and a few other mundane events. We did not have any earth-shaking conversations or deeply profound theological dialogues. We just talked about ordinary things in life. I really wanted to get to know Sam. He is a new friend. This is only my third time to see him. I am still seeking God's direction on where our friendship will lead us. I still do not know why our Creator has orchestrated both of us to meet up here in Taiwan. Meanwhile, as I wait for God's answer to my petition, I hang out with Sam. We are thinking maybe sometime next month, when the weather permits and Sam has a day off from work, we can go hiking up some Miaolin mountains. I want to be faithful to God in all circumstances, whether it is giving theological lectures to a big crowd or chatting with a person from a nearby factory.

This week is the start of our seminary classes. I am teaching two courses. On Monday, I went to the school library to do some lesson preparations. Christine, one of our senior students, shared to me her dreams for a missionary work among the Chinese people of Asia. Our sharing time was a chance encounter, but I took that as God's providential way of saying "meet with this student." And so I listened to her story. I did my small part of encouragement. As we parted, I said: "Let us continue this conversation." We made plans to continue our sharing time. Nothing grandiose. Just a little sharing time with another seminary student thinking about her future missionary work. I do my small part. Because one never knows if that small part might be a turning point to God's grand design for something. I want to be faithful with little things. God will do the rest.

Carmen's Corner

Toward the end of August, Carmen attended a weekend retreat with her classmates from MAK and students from other Morrison Academy campuses. Even though it wasn't what she expected, God met her in a special way. Carmen shares, "God wants us to expect the unexpected. My friends and I expected a normal retreat, but it was nothing like that. I think it's safe to say that that retreat changed my life. I felt like God taught me a lesson or two, and that was when I wanted to take God more seriously and really focus on my relationship with Him."

Partnership Affirmation - 2017

We are grateful to God for our partners in ministry who are actively participating in the Lord's work in Asia through praying and giving. We cannot continue this work without you.

As we look ahead to our 12th year of service in Taiwan, we invite you to join us! Whether you are a church or an individual supporter, new to this partnership or have been with us since the beginning, we need you to communicate your 2017 prayer and financial commitments by the end of this year.

You can communicate those commitments by calling Pam Sheads at 800-342-5531, ext. 236.

Prayers and Petitions

***** Thank you for your thoughts and prayers as Typhoon Meranti made it's way through southern Taiwan this past week, leaving one person dead and 51 injured. Please pray for affected families and for the cleanup efforts that are still underway.

***** Pray for the students and faculty at Holy Light Theological Seminary as a new school year began this past week. David is teaching two classes this semester - Theology of Missions and Theological English.

***** Pray for Sarah as she undergoes laparoscopic surgery (gallbladder removal) this Tuesday morning, September 20 (Monday evening U.S. time). Pray for David as he serves as her companion for a 3-night hospital stay, and for Carmen and Jacob as they stay with friends and attend school.

Thank you for your love and prayers!

David, Sarah, Carmen and Jacob Clemente

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