

Clemente Newsletter

December 2010

David's Discussions

Thanksgiving. Every year, I always miss the revelry that we experience in the USA. Watching football! Eating pumpkin pie and pink salad at the Mowery Reunion in Cuba, Illinois. Turkey Day is also the time when we pose for the camera and document how the cousins are getting bigger, or how the four Mowery siblings are growing older. So much for American Mid-west memories.

On Thanksgiving Day, during my evening class in Theological English, we decided to have a shortened class session and to spend the rest of the three-hour period in a "Thanksgiving" party. I read to the class the story of the First Thanksgiving Day, the story of the Pilgrims and the friendly Native Americans. For most of these Taiwanese students, it was their first time to hear this American story of God's guidance and provision for the early settlers. At some parts of the story, I started to choke up. I remembered my experience as a foreign student in Kentucky, and my life as an immigrant in Central Illinois, and how much I received love and "guidance" from the Mowery clan, my in-laws, the families of the Prochinas and the Yardys, and many more friends. I would not have made it if not for these "native Americans" who helped me with my USA experience. God was with me the whole time.

On this night, these Chinese students prepared roasted chicken, a dried spiced up Peking Duck that I cannot remember its Chinese name, and many other delicacies. For a small group of party goers, they did a lot. We played a game of Charades. It was entertaining to see them move between English and Chinese words or phrases. I wished they had brought a Chinese version of these game. (Is there a Chinese version of Charades?) It was a good way to celebrate this special day. It was unlike the Thanksgiving party at the Mowery fellowship in Cuba, Illinois, but this Kaohsiung revelry was similar because God was there and we celebrated Christian friendship together. Thank you, Jesus.

Carmen's Corner

On November 18th, it was my birthday! When I was in school, later on my mom came in my classroom. She had a treat for my class. When Miss Yang let me stand in front of the class, we talked about my birthday and how old I was. When we prayed and I got in my seat, my mom came and read us a book. While she read to us my classmates enjoyed the special treat...peanut butter and chocolate oatmeal cookies! When I came home, there was a stack of presents. I opened each one and found wonderful gifts.

On November 23rd, my mom and I went to E-Da and went ice skating. Other people came. There was a coach that taught us everything we need to know. The people that knew how to skate did even harder lessons. I tried my best. People said I was very good for my first try. I felt more encouraged. When I go back to the United States and get my own pair of ice skating shoes in the winter, I'll skate all my life.

On November 27, there was a Thanksgiving party at my school's building where Anna and Nathan live. My mom made pink salad and we brought Sprite. Jacob and Papa came, too. It was a fantastic meal. They also had turkey pieces...yummy! After the meal, the grown ups got to do a meeting, so the kids get to play in the playground. I played soccer, then I played mummy, then I played soccer again. Then we took a Thanksgiving picture. It was a great time.

Well, my hand is done writing for now. I'll write soon on the next newsletter.

Love and From,
Carmen Adelyn Mowery Clemente



Sarah's Sentiments

This past month, I had the opportunity to speak during a chapel time at Holy Light. I shared the story of how the Lord brought David and I together. I told the group that it's one of my favorite stories; not only because it's how I met my husband, but also because it was such a *surprise* from God. I encouraged them to be ready for and open to receiving a surprise from God, too, as they surrender their lives to Him. The following week, I was able to join David's small group for lunch. I enjoyed sharing with and listening to the students in the group, especially when they started telling jokes. It reminded me of David and my days at Asbury Seminary, getting to know each other and hanging out with friends.

On December 9th, it will be fifteen years since we were married on a *cold* Saturday afternoon in Avon, Illinois. I admire and appreciate David more and more with each passing year, and I am grateful that we are partners in ministry and partners in life. I am hoping I can make time to visit the Seminary more often, so that I can get to know the students better and take the opportunity to support and encourage others who are being led by God in the area of cross-cultural ministry.

David and Sarah Clemente
P.O. Box 450
Kaohsiung 800
Taiwan

Jacob's Journey

Did you know I am writing in a journal now? It's just like Carmen's. Every day I write a sentence and draw a picture of something that happened that day. Here are some things I write about:

- I bleve i eat with emily
- I doo my homerck
- I play webkinz
- I look at the heart
- I sleep but now I sleep agan
- I haved a good dreem
- I brush my teeth at my scoohl
- I wash
- I wach
- I read garden
- I play ball
- I read dragon
- I look at Carmen's homerck
- Mama fix
- I play
- I spy snack

I have lots more pages left in my journal, so I'd better do lots more things!

Prayer Requests

***** Pray for the churches in Taiwan as they prepare for their Christmas programs and outreach ministries. Christmas is not the family holiday that it is in many parts of the world. It is seen as a time for sharing the story of Jesus with others. Ask God to open the eyes and ears and hearts of the receivers of this Good News.

***** Please join us in praying for retired missionary, Dorothy Raber, who is here in Taiwan on a VISA assignment. She was recently diagnosed with stomach cancer and was able to undergo her first chemo treatment last week. Remember Dorothy, her family and the Taiwan FMC, who is helping to care for her while she remains in Taiwan.

***** David will be traveling to the Philippines the third week of January to teach Contextual Theology at the Light and Life Graduate School in Butuan City. Pray for both David and the students as they prepare for this one-week intensive course.

***** Please continue to pray for the short-term mission trip to Cambodia at the end of January. Team members are enlisting prayer partners and raising financial support through activities such as a rummage sale and a music concert. Pray for each member and for several details that are still being ironed out.

***** We thank God for this season of peace, joy, and good health for our family! Pray with us that we are able to create some quality time together during the next few months in the midst of many ministry opportunities.