

Clemente Newsletter

August 2011

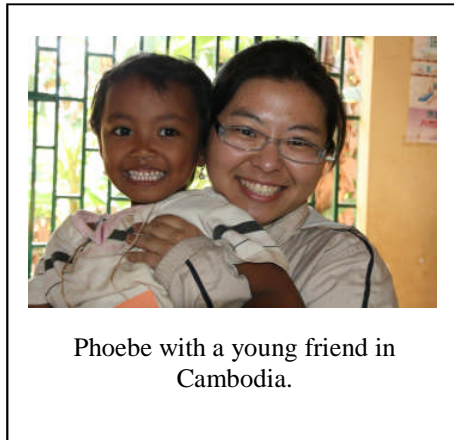
David's Discussions

"Let us meet this Monday." Phoebe and I are setting a meeting time. She just came back from a mission trip to Korea, and now she wants to share with me some of her experiences. "I really want to discuss with you my encounter with Culture Shock," she continues.

Phoebe is one of the many graduate students here at Holy Light Theological Seminary (HLTS). She is on her last year. She has set her heart for missions work and is looking into the possibility of becoming a full-time cross cultural missionary in the future. At present, she is taking many missions courses at our seminary so she can be better equipped for the years ahead. (I think she has taken all of my classes here.) She is also very involved with the Students Missions Fellowship (SMF) of Holy Light. On the weekends, she goes to a Free Methodist (FM) local church in Pingtung for her practicum and local church service.

Personally, I would like to see more of our HLTS students going to FM local churches for ministry and student practicum. Not just any students, but those who are passionate about missions work. Right now, I know of about six students who are very active with the SMF activities and who are serving at several of our FM churches in the area. I like this arrangement; not only because I am biased towards FM work, but also because I would like to see more Free Methodists here in Taiwan get more involved with missions work. If this is a form of answer to the prayer for more workers in the harvest field, then praise be to God (see Matthew 9:38). I would like to see more Taiwanese congregations mobilized for missions work, going and sending their people to "gather the harvest."

Until then, I will start with one graduate student and a talk about Culture Shock. Hopefully, in the future, more workers will come from this seminary to become FM missionaries. These will be the ones who will spread the "fire of the



Phoebe with a young friend in Cambodia.

harvest" and mobilize the many Taiwanese Christians in this island nation. ** **

Jacob's Journey

It was a very special Saturday! I got all dressed up in my white shirt and blue shorts and my red bowtie. We drove to my school to meet all of the other Kindergarteners and their families. My classmates and I had been practicing a long time for our special graduation program. We recited Bible verses, said The Lord's Prayer, and sang a lot of songs -- all in Chinese. (I was so tired.) We also sang an English song, "Somewhere Out There." (My favorite!) I was really excited when we got to serve a glass of tea to our parents. After Mama drank the tea, I gave her a BIG hug! When the program was finished, we went outside and had a water balloon fight. It was so much fun! I love St. Paul's Kindergarten and all of my teachers and friends there. You can see more pictures of my graduation day when you visit our Dropshot web page. ** **

Sarah's Sentiments

Back in May, a friend of mine asked if I would be willing to meet her friend once a week so she could practice her English. I agreed, and since then, we have discussed a different topic each week. The format is that I assign some questions for her to take home, and she prepares answers to share the following week. Her answers then initiate a back-and-forth discussion.

Recently, as I was preparing for our next meeting, it occurred to me that we had never really discussed the topic of God or religion. Was this a good time to bring it up? Since it was already Ghost Month here in Taiwan, I felt like that would be a natural way to ask about spiritual things. I prepared a few questions, such as, "What do people believe happens during Ghost Month?" "What do you believe?" "Does your family do

anything special during this time?" I prayed that these questions would lead us into a relaxed conversation.

When my student came that day, we first talked about the assigned questions from the week before. I was a little anxious to get through that material so that we could start discussing my new topic. The last question was, "If you could meet any three people, living or dead, who would they be?" I usually think of famous people or historical figures with this question. She told me she only wanted to meet one person -- her father. He passed away eight years ago. I thought that was sweet that she wanted to see her father again. She must miss him a lot. But then she said, "If I meet my father, I would ask him about the world of the dead. What is it like? I think if people can know what happens after we die, then we would not be so afraid of death." And so our discussion about spiritual things began.

I can reflect all over the map about this experience and our subsequent conversation, but the one point that strikes me most is the work of the Holy Spirit. That gentle nudging that prompts us to orchestrate an opportunity to share with others, when perhaps the purpose of that nudging was to prepare us to **receive** an opportunity to share. An opportunity orchestrated by the Spirit Himself.

Lord, help me be attentive to your Spirit so that I will be ready to receive more opportunities such as this. ** **



Karin, Eimi, Carmen, Jasmin, and Jacob at the bus stop on the first day of school.

Carmen's Corner

August 15 was the day that I got to go to fourth grade. Jacob got to go with me! He was in first grade. My teacher was Miss Sheppard and Jacob's was Miss Lyon. Even though I'm writing this on the second day of school, I could tell that maybe we might have a lot of homework. There are a few changes in the school. Like some parts of the school walls are painted light blue. I like our new school. But who invited the sun?! It was burning hot these past two days. Even outside at Recess. Miss Sheppard is pretty funny. We have a class store. It's like you have teacher-made money and there are things that the teacher brought and you can buy them with the teacher-made money. And you have to earn the money. Miss Sheppard has 'Sheep Bucks'. I only have one so far. Also there are blank tiny lines like these: _ _ _ _ _ , but more. Then if we were very good Miss Sheppard will write one or more letters on some of the lines. When it's done it will spell out a prize for all of us. I am excited that I'm in fourth grade. I can't wait what happens next! God is still planning my future. Bye now! Love, Carmen ** **

Prayers and Petitions

** David will be traveling to Japan August 31-September 7. He will visit Osaka Theological Seminary and the Hiyodoridai Free Methodist Church. Pray for inspiration as he shares about Free Methodist missions work in Asia. Pray for Sarah, Carmen and Jacob as they remain in Taiwan.

** Holy Light Theological Seminary will start their Fall semester mid-September. Pray for the faculty, staff, and students. Pray for God's leadership.

** Carmen and Jacob have completed their second week of the new school year at Morrison Academy Kaoshiung (MAK). The school's theme this year is "Grace Received And Cast Everywhere." Pray for God's grace to overflow in their lives. Pray for the MAK staff and teachers as they model this grace to the students and their parents. ** **

Financial Facts:

We are encouraged by the faithful giving of churches and individuals who have partnered with us through the years. You are essential members of this missionary team, and we are grateful for your consistent support.

We are still in need of additional giving, apart from what has already been committed, in order to meet our financial goal for 2011. Please join us in prayer regarding this matter.

If you would like to contribute to our missionary support, you may go to our FMWM web page at www.fmwm.org. Click on the blue "Give" button and follow the instructions.

Or, you may write a check to "Free Methodist World Missions." Please be sure to write "Clemente MSA" in the memo line. Mail the check to: Free Methodist World Missions; PO Box 535002; Indianapolis, IN 46253-5002 .

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R. O. C.