

Clemente Newsletter August 2019

David's Discussions

At the FMC-USA General Conference 2019 in Orlando, Florida, I saw a lot of friends from many places. I witnessed, together with all Free Methodists, the election of three new bishops. I talked to several pastors who expressed their desire to participate in the work in Asia. This year's General Conference was a time of encouragement for me.

One retired pastor came to me and said: "God is closing some doors here. Is he opening new ones there in Asia?" My response was in the affirmative. Another pastor was on sabbatical and seeking God's direction for a post-pastorate ministry. I told him that he is welcome to join with me in one of my trips and there he can seek God's will in his life. One church leader came to me and said: "We have FM Asians in our area. Can we connect them with the FM Asians in your region of the world?" My answer was a resounding Yes.

As you can guess by now, my time at GC19 included a lot of meetings with pastors and talking to people about FM missions in Asia. In all these conversations, I saw the hand of God orchestrating our time together and coaching us as we long to serve him in Asia. We wait for God to lead us.

Jacob's Journey

When summer began, my family went to the Philippines for one week to visit my dad's brothers, sisters, and other relatives on his side of the family. What was very surprising was that last time we had a reunion, two kids were just babies, but now they were toddlers and they could talk. It was a total shock! I also got to finally meet the two new babies, and many people told me one of them looked like me when I was a baby. Not gonna lie, they were kind of accurate.

Afterwards, we were staying about a week in our home in Taiwan. I was working on a few songs here and there -- planning out my upload schedule for videos. You know, doing internet stuff.

Then we went to America for the summer, and that was when I was really working on a movie script I've been putting aside for pretty much most of last school year. I'm working on a movie that might span from 50 minutes to 1 hour and 10 minutes. But the point is, I got it done, and I sent it to the voice actors.

My family spent some time in Macomb with my grandparents, and that was when I got my Nintendo Switch and a game called "Super Mario Maker 2" (where you can make your own Mario levels). Then we went to Chicago to visit my Aunt Susan for the 4th of July. After that, we went to Michigan for part of the Manton Family Camp. It was fun. I got to meet a bunch of kids I don't think I remembered from last time.

Then we went to the General Conference in Florida, and the kids were treated to two really fun trips. Well, one of the trips was for a small group including me and my sister (missionary kids) and another trip was practically for all the teens. The first trip was to Sea World, where I went on "Journey to Atlantis" and my sister went on the "Manta" ride. The second trip was to Aquatica, where I rode on a BUNCH of water slides and went on this crazy water playground.

When we got back to Taiwan, and before school started, I was busy editing a song that just wasn't cutting right. I also made a bunch of animation plans for the future, so yeah.

That was an amazing summer!

Sarah's Sentiments

Our printer had been acting up for quite some time, and we finally took it to the store to get it fixed. When the service desk attendant started talking to me, I could tell right away that we were going to have trouble communicating. First of all, he only spoke Mandarin. While I speak and understand a fair amount, I'm not familiar with technology terms, even in English. More importantly, he spoke softly and really fast and if I didn't understand the first time, he just said it again at the same speed. I tried very hard to answer him and ask my own questions, but he soon called another employee to translate. When this employee came, we found out she spoke only Mandarin as well. How could she help? But I knew if only she could slow the conversation down and make sure we were hearing and understanding one another, we would be fine. She did and we were.

Partnership Building in the summer is always too short and passes by in a blur, but I'm so thankful we were able to visit family, friends, and supporters again this year. My favorite part of Partnership Building is sitting down with someone and having a conversation, asking questions and checking in with each other. I treasure every time I was able to share this kind of moment with someone, and I have a long list of people in mind I wish I could have made time for.

Now that we're back in Taiwan, I'll continue to meet with people and enjoy having meaningful, give-and-take conversations as we seek to hear and understand one another. You probably won't read about these relationships in a newsletter, but as you pray for me, I invite you to pray for my friends -- that God may comfort, strengthen, lead and empower us to communicate and demonstrate His Great Love to each another and everyone we meet.

Carmen's Corner

Hello, everybody! Hope y'all had an amazing summer! For this newsletter, I thought I could do something a little different and give you my top 5 moments for the summer of 2019 and also my top five things I am excited about for Senior year. :)

TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE SUMMER:

1. Visiting my grandparents, Aunt Susan, other family members, and friends in Macomb, Illinois.
2. General Conference in Orlando, Florida. I met a lot of amazing people there and really had a blast in Florida!
3. Going to the Philippines for our second Clemente Reunion.
4. Visiting Manton Family Camp in Manton, Michigan. It brought back a lot of memories and I got to make some new ones.
5. I read a really good book called *All the Light we Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr, which was for my upcoming AP Literature class.

TOP FIVE THINGS I'M EXCITED ABOUT FOR SENIOR YEAR:

1. GRADUATING!!!
2. Leadership opportunities, in different fields, from leading worship team to leading middle school trips.
3. Senior Prank Day, one of the many traditions at my school, Morrison Academy Kaohsiung.
4. Overseas sports tournaments: Volleyball tournament in Jeju, South Korea & Basketball tournament in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
5. My **Capstone project**, where I will be filming and editing my own documentary film about Southeast Asian migrant fishermen in Taiwan and how they are subject to human trafficking and slavery.

Prayers and Petitions

***** David is giving a lecture series at Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary, Philippines, for its missions week this September 2019. Pray for the week to be an experience with the presence of God.

***** Asia Pacific FM Missions Association or APMMA is holding its anniversary celebration in the Philippines this September. David will be there to participate in several meetings. Pray for the many decisions to be made for the work in Asia.

***** David is in conversation with church leaders from Indonesia. Pray for a favorable outcome and a possible future partnership with these leaders. Pray for God's discernment and wisdom.

***** Holy Light Theological Seminary here in Taiwan will start a new semester next month. Pray for its new President, Dr. John Guu, and all the staff, faculty, and students as they face a new school year.

***** Sarah will now be serving as Administrative Assistant to the Asia Area Director. Pray for her during this time of learning new tasks.

***** Pray for Carmen and Jacob as they begin their Senior and Freshman years at Morrison Academy.

Financial Facts

We are so thankful for each one of you! Many times during the summer, we were encouraged by someone telling us, "I pray for your family every day." Thank you for your love and faithful support.

At this time, our gifts and pledges total about 80% of our budget for this year. Please pray with us as we trust God with our remaining financial need.

God bless you!

David, Sarah, Carmen, and Jacob Clemente

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