

Clemente Newsletter

October 2018

Hello, my name is Aying, I live in Nantze and I attend Nantze Higher Ground Community Church. Allow me to share with you our ministry and the things that our group is doing right now.

Our church was founded primarily for the purpose of serving Filipino migrant workers working here in Taiwan. As years go by, Filipino workers also come and go. In the past, it was 6 years and now 9 years being the longest workers can stay in Taiwan, after which they must return home to the Philippines. From its beginning until now, our church has been serving over a thousand or more Filipino workers and the majority of them received Jesus as their Savior and Lord here in Taiwan.

Some of our members, like me, happened to find a husband here in Taiwan. That is why around the year 2013 our church decided to have a Bilingual service. Its sole purpose is to serve what we called "International Families" like us. This is also a way to share our faith to our husbands as well as a wonderful beginning for our children to know Jesus and for them to get acquainted and learn how to navigate two different cultures.

Months after having our Bilingual service, we decided to have our women's group. This group is composed of all Filipino wives with Taiwanese husbands. As wives, we face so many challenges and difficulties living here in Taiwan. A great and difficult challenge for us is the language. We want to speak and we want to be heard and we want to be effective and do things quick and fast, but our inability to speak Mandarin limits us. We have to wait for our husbands or Chinese friends to help us. For example, if we need to go to the hospital or any other offices, we need to have someone who can read and interpret for us. Secondly, we do feel that Taiwanese don't really know or care about us. We feel that they just speak to us without thinking or observing first before asking. I had an experience with a Taiwanese lady way back when my daughter was very young. We were inside the elevator and this lady asked me if we speak English in South Africa. In my mind I'm thinking does this lady know South Africa or the people in South Africa? I just politely told her I don't know. She asked me why I don't know and I told her I am not from South Africa. On another occasion, a Taiwanese lady heard me speaking English to my daughter one afternoon in the park. She approached me looking irritated and kind of angry. She asked me why I don't teach my child to speak Indonesian, and I told her because I don't know how to speak Indonesian.

These are just examples of the many challenges we face living here as a Taiwanese spouse. We are always misidentified and being called out in other names and it's hard for us to defend ourselves because of the lack of language skills. In addition to all of these things, there is also a lot of miscommunication inside our families. Our husbands cannot speak much English and we cannot speak good Mandarin, and in our group, some of our children have been diagnosed with speech delay, including my daughter.

That's why we are very thankful to our church for providing a shelter for us that makes us feel so close to home. In our church, we are not a foreigner, but here we have a group that helps and encourages and teaches every one of us, including our children.

In our women's group, aside from our Bible study, what we do is we share our experiences and inform each other about the things that we have learned and know. We eat and we pray together. One time we got a Mandarin teacher to teach us basic lessons in Mandarin. Another time we had cooking lessons to learn how to cook Taiwanese food, and afterwards we cooked it at home and let our husbands taste it. Sometimes we go out in a group with our children. In the past, our group met once a week, but a lot of us cannot make it because of work, so we have decided to meet once a month. But we do still meet on Sundays in the church.

I am glad that I can share to you our ministry and our group. We are so happy that we have a Bilingual service and women's group in our church in Nantze. Thank you very much for listening and please pray for us. God bless you all!

THANK YOU to Durley Camp in Greenville, IL for making the Higher Ground women's group your summer camp snack shop mission project!! Your *generous* donation will go a long way to help support these women.

Faithful Finances

So far this year, the faithful giving of our partners in ministry has kept up with our budgeted monthly expenses. Praise God! Now as we move through the last quarter, giving has fallen behind expenses and we anticipate a shortfall at the end of the year. Please pray with us as we trust God for His provision.

If you feel led to help us meet our goal with a thanksgiving offering or end-of-the-year gift, you may do so online at our FMWM website.

Or you may write a check made out to "Free Methodist Church - USA" with "Clemente MSA" noted in the Memo line and mail it to:

Free Methodist World Mission
770 N. High School Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46214

FMWM will provide you with a receipt as all financial gifts are tax-deductible.

Prayers and Petitions

Pray for God's wisdom and direction to be with the Asia Leadership Team (ALT) as its members meet for a few days of planning at the end of October. David will go to Chiang Mai, Thailand for this ALT gathering, together with other missionaries and our various Country Leaders from Myanmar, Cambodia, Country VN (Creative Access), Nepal, and Thailand.

Pray for God's presence to be with the FM pastors and leaders in the Philippines as they gather together for a few days of fellowship and a time of making decisions during the Philippine General Conference 2018. David will visit this conference November 6-9, 2018, and consult with different Filipino leaders on matters of missionary work in Asia.

Pray for Carmen and her MAK 11th grade classmates as they prepare for and embark on service learning trips to Cambodia and Indonesia November 9-17. Carmen will be going to Cambodia, where her team will visit churches and help lead day camps for children.

Pray for the Set Free Movement (SFM) Taiwan ministry. Katie, one of the Directors of SFM-USA, is coming to Kaohsiung November 10-16 and will meet with our SFM Taiwan family. Pray for a great time of connection and renewed vision for God's work in his kingdom. Pray for our SFM Taiwan leaders, Aying, Tessa, and our new team leader, Eloisa. Also pray for Katie as she speaks and meets with our FM pastors here in the Southern District of the Taiwan Annual Conference (CFMC).

Thank you for your prayers and support!

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