

## **Clemente Newsletter**

**December 2017**

### **David's Discussions**

Kul and Minu invited me to their home for a time of dinner and fellowship. I gladly accepted their invitation. It would be a good break for me from my usual time of lectures and teaching. And besides, they have one-year old Joyce, whom I met earlier, and she is such an adorable baby. She has the prettiest smile and would respond to my questions when prodded. It did not matter if she understood my questions, or if I could understand her gibberish baby talk. Her giggles and passionate monologues were always fun to watch. I looked forward to meeting her again. Moreover, I heard they were going to serve good Nepali food. So, I was happy to accept their invitation.

Last month, November 2017, I was in Kathmandu, Nepal to resource our Free Methodist pastors as they prepare for their ordination. It was a five-day Pastors' Training Seminar on "Wesleyan Thinking And The Bible." It was here that I met Kul and his wife Minu. Both are attending the Himalaya Free Methodist Church (HFMC) in this city of Kathmandu. Kul is one of the Assistant Pastors of this local church. Minu is the ICCM (International Child Care Ministry) Director for Nepal FMC. It was such a joy for me to spend time with this family and get to know them better. Of course, it helped that their daughter, Joyce, endeared my heart. If ever I return to Nepal just to see this family, it would all be worth it.

What about our FM work in Nepal? The work is growing. And in response to what God is doing in this country, we, our FMWM leadership team members, are preparing our many local church pastors and getting them ready for ordination. This year, 2017, we had three training seminars headed by different FMWM leaders. My time in Kathmandu was the third one for this year. In the coming years, I plan to visit Nepal again and provide some more seminars for our pastors. Rev. Abraham, our Country Leader, is heading our Mission District in Nepal. We are currently focusing our work on the 18 DL (District Leader) pastors. So, how many pastors, how many local churches and church members? We do not know exactly the answer to this question. One thing is certain though. God is working and FMWM is harvesting in this region of Asia.

Meanwhile, I prepare my lectures and training materials, and on the side, I learn a few Nepali phrases. "Jaya Mashi!" This means "The Joy of the Messiah," and this is the way the Christians greet each other in Nepal. So, whenever I see Joyce, I say this greeting: Jaya Mashi. She smiles and responds in some beautiful baby language. Hopefully, the next time I visit Nepal I will have more words to say to Joyce, and have the courage to carry on a conversation with our Nepali brothers and sisters. Dyanyabad! (Thank you.) Thank you for praying.

## **Jacob's Journey**

So I went on the 7th grade Impact trip which was from November 15-17. At the beginning, me and my group (George, Christopher, Ezra, Daniel, and Yien) went on a three hour hike. The other groups did, too, and we were in a race. We got third place and our prize was ramen noodles for lunch. It was the best!

We got to our camp site, set up our tents, and me and Christopher and Yien slept in one. The next day, we killed a pig and gutted it and ate it, but before we ate it, it was cooked already by the managers. We went on another three hour hike all the way up to the top of a mountain. It was just a shrine at the top of the mountain. At least it was described as a shrine. All there was was a sacred podium of some sort.

We also made necklaces out of beads, and we learned that the beads you choose describe who you are. For instance, red means wisdom, black means warrior, and so on. I chose light blue, which means normal person and white, too, which means courage. So I'm a normal person with courage.

The next day we learned about snakes and we got to see them ourselves. We saw the most venomous snake in Taiwan. We got up close to it, and we did because it's also the most gentle. When you get too close to it, it just hides its head under its body. If you stay there for too long, it just bites you. We also saw the least venomous but most dangerous snake in Taiwan. It just keeps on biting you until you die. We also saw a cobra. I think it's both venomous and dangerous.

This trip taught us that life is no walk in the park. There are struggles in your life that take even more than three hours to shatter. And there are goals that take even more than that to reach. But sometimes you learn stuff that helps you. OK, I guess that was pretty deep there. Still, a good way to end this reflection.

Thanks for reading this! <3 Jacob

## **Carmen's Corner**

As some of you may know, my sixteenth birthday just passed on November 18. It was really fun and I got to spend it with my family and friends, which was really nice. Around that time, however, I was feeling really reflective about my life and how much time is passing by. But I think that everyone feels that way around their birthday, right? I mean, you're one year older, and that kind of gives you a whole new perspective in looking back on your life and seeing how far you've come.

Just the other day I was holding my baby brother in my arms. Just the other day I was bowling on my eighth birthday. Just the other day I arrived in the classroom of my first day of high school, and I remember just sitting there crying, because first of all, I was exhausted. Second of all, that was when I realized that I was growing up, and that also there's this level of maturity

expected from me. In elementary, people don't expect you to be this mature, upright, "I need to get the best grade" student. It was okay to be this wild, day-dreaming, imaginative person because, well, you're young. You dream of owning every zoo in the whole wide world rather than thinking of getting a more "sensible" job. And yeah, it stinks, and it makes me kind of sad.

I do wish I was back in elementary. Sometimes I do imagine what life is like as an adult and stuff, but I miss running around in the playground and wanting to be a mermaid astronaut. But now, things are different. At 16 years old, one of the most important things to me right now is holding on to my child self. Because growing up is pretty scary to me, and sometimes I feel like time just isn't on my side. So I've learned how to keep my childish side, while balancing it out with this new, older side of me that I'm still getting used to and I'm still getting to know.

Thank you to everyone for the birthday wishes, and remember to not be afraid to hold onto your childish self, no matter what other people say!

From, Carmen

### **Faithful Finances**

As the year 2017 comes to an end, we thank God for the faithful financial giving of many churches and individuals who partner with us in ministry. When our supporters make commitments at the beginning of the year, then send monthly or quarterly installments throughout the year, it is very helpful for us as we strive to balance our expenses with our income. We praise God that our finances have remained "on track" this year and we anticipate ending the year in the black.

As we look ahead to the year 2018, we estimate that we will need an additional **\$400 per month in new commitments** to cover our expenses. Please pray with us regarding this need.

### **Prayer Requests**

Pray for our Country Director, Daniel, and other pastors from Cambodia Free Methodist Church. At the end of February 2018, FMWM will assist our Cambodian leaders as they transition to become a Provisional Annual Conference of the Free Methodist Church. This February, we will hold the first annual conference meeting and will ordain six new pastors. Pray for God's presence to be with our Cambodian brothers and sisters.

Pray for our Country Director of Nepal, Abraham, as he continues to lead our Mission District of the Free Methodist Church of Nepal. Pray for wisdom as Abraham visits our 18 or so District Leader (DL) pastors and gives counsel to their work. Abraham travels extensively around the country and represents FM work to the many groups and independent churches who desire to partner with FMWM.

Pray for the students at Holy Light Theological Seminary as they take a week off for Christmas break. Many students assist with evangelistic activities through their local churches during this time.

Pray for Sarah as she continues to serve as a part-time teacher's assistant for the Kindergarten class at MAK this school year.

Pray for peace, strength, and healing for Sarah's father, John, as he continues his cancer treatment.

Pray for Carmen and Jacob and their classmates as they grow together in wisdom and maturity and the love of Christ.

Peace and Joy,

The Clemente Family  
David, Sarah, Carmen, and Jacob

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