



Clemente Update

December 24, 2008



A Christmas tradition. Every third Sunday of December, Feng Shan Free Methodist Church (FSFMC) has a baptism service. Today, there are six adults, four young people, and a baby being baptized. I (David) could tell from the look on their faces that they have joy in their hearts—a joy that is from above.



“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him.” (Matthew 2:10-11)

As a pastor, nothing gives me great joy like witnessing the movement of people towards salvation in our Lord Jesus. Today, I see this in FSFMC. Just the day before, the church hosted a Christmas program. It was a festive time. I talked to three church members and they expressed to me their excitement that their friends and family members are coming to church. It was another opportunity for them to hear the story of Jesus and the true meaning of Christmas.

“Go tell it on the mountain / Over the hills and Everywhere / Go tell it on the mountains / That Jesus Christ is born.” (Traditional)

Joy! Excitement! At Chu Guang Free Methodist Church (CGFMC), one church member tells me about his upcoming mission trip to Myanmar. A team from CGFMC will be going this April 2009 for ten days to help a Chinese church in Rangoon. He is so excited. This is his first time to go overseas. I am thrilled, too. I am elated, not only because I am going with this group to Myanmar, but also because I am an eyewitness to the movement of God’s spirit at CGFMC. These people are going! They are responding to the Spirit’s challenge to bring the Good News to other places—to tell it on the mountain.

“When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’” (Luke 2:15)

It is exciting to see people come and go. This January 2009, a team from Troy, Illinois is coming to Kaohsiung to lead workshops in contemporary music and local church ministry. I am helping the six members of this team prepare for their visits to youth groups, retreats, and church services. I am so happy for this Illinois music team

(Harvest Band). They are responding to God’s challenge to go. It is a missiological truth that when Christians go and share God’s story to others, then they gain a better understanding of God’s love and salvation for everyone. What a joyous time when God’s people go!

Pray! Pray with me! Pray for this mission team coming to Kaohsiung, Taiwan. They will be here January 20 to February 3, 2009. Pray for God’s traveling mercies and leadership in the many visits to different Free Methodist churches as well as other congregations. Pray for the mission team that is going to Myanmar on April 1-10, 2009. Pray for Pastor Frank, the pastor of CGFMC, as he leads this team. Pray for Pastor Phillip, pastor of FSFMC, as he continues to disciple these new Christians who have received the rite of baptism. Pray for me as I continue to seek God’s place for me in the life and ministry of the Free Methodist Church of Taiwan.

Next semester, February 2009, I will be teaching an extension class for the Holy Light Theological Seminary (HLTS). This course is the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement. Pray that I will be faithful in providing inspiration to the students of HLTS as well as Taiwanese Christian leaders who are seriously considering going to do missions work in Asia. Pray for humility. Pray that I will be filled with God’s joy.

“Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day walk on water? / Did you know that your baby boy will save our sons and daughters? / Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new? / This child that you’ve delivered, will soon deliver you.” (Mark Lowry, 1984)

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!