

Clemente Newsletter

April 2009

David's Discussions

One time Sarah mentioned to Carmen about going home to Illinois this summer. Carmen looked up at her mother and said, "But, we are home." When I heard this, I started asking myself the question, "Where is home?"

Where is home? Whenever I am on the phone talking to my sisters or brothers in the Philippines, I know that home is Manila and Butuan City. Home is the land of the *pansit*, *bulad*, and other exotic Filipino foods. Home is where *kundiman* songs and Hanep songs make sense, and singing the songs of Joey Ayala always brings a tear or two to my eyes.

Where is home? Whenever I see my family chatting on the computer with John and Judy from Illinois using a webcam on Skype, I realize then that home is Avon, Illinois, USA. Home is where I run around Little Swan Lake and enjoy the cornfield scenery and green countryside. Home is where March Madness happens and the Cubs look forward to another year.

Where is home? Whenever I watch Carmen and Jacob play with our friends at Feng Shan FMC here in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, I feel that home is here. Home is the place where I play soccer with Carmen and her Chinese friends. Home is where lighted lanterns and a walk by Love River becomes a memorable family outing.

Where is home? Home is Philippines, USA, and Taiwan. Home is wherever God leads us to. So, where is your home? Where is God leading you? **

Carmen's Corner

When I will be in second grade in Morrison Academy school, I will learn all sorts of things. But right now I am in first grade. I was learning about ants, to feed them with sweet foods. When I grow up I want to be a Kindergarten teacher. It's my favorite Kindergarten class. I go to a field trip with first graders to the zoo. I saw lots of animals and I saw a monkey show and parrots, too. I hope I'll go to the zoo in America. Hope I visit you at America! When I get to America, I'll meet you there! (by Carmen) **



Fun Financial Facts

We recently learned that our Mission Support Account (MSA) finished the year 2008 in the black! We give God the glory and we thank you for your prayers and faithful giving.

Our MSA for 2009 is currently 76% committed! We praise God for those who are stepping out in faith to support us financially, and we trust Him to provide what is needed throughout the year. **

Sarah's Sentiments

In preparation for our first Partnership Building visit to the States, we're taking time to reflect on our three and a half years here in Taiwan. We're also thinking ahead to our second term—what will be our responsibilities and goals when we come back. For me, this is always a bit of a struggle because it's easy for me to start thinking that I'm not DOING enough for God. I see people around me who have dedicated their lives to helping the poor, the helpless, the oppressed, and I wish I could do something big like that. But now is not the time, so I'm left waiting and praying. I offer myself to God and ask Him to use me, although I'm not quite sure what I would be useful for. But He knows, and sometimes He lets me see the result of something I "did" for Him.

Recently I went to lunch with my friend, Tessa. She works for an NGO (Non-Government Organization) that helps migrant workers and foreign spouses. That day, we got to talking about the new nanny for His Hands Taiwan, a relatively new NGO that works with crisis pregnancies and adoptions. I described this ministry to Tessa and gave her some examples of how its founders, Holly and Trena, are helping mothers and children. She was really interested in their ministry. That evening, Tessa called me at home and told me she thought she had a case she wanted to share with Holly and Trena, so I gave her their phone number. They met and talked, and a week later, a young Vietnamese woman, eight months pregnant, moved into the home of His Hands. Holly and Trena will help her with the delivery, and Tessa will see where things go from there. When Tessa called me to tell me how things worked out, I just smiled.

But the story doesn't end there. I kept thinking that maybe I needed to do something more to make sure the mother had a chance to know Jesus. About a week later, I was having lunch with Tessa again when she showed me a text message from Holly. You see, the nanny at the house had a day off over the weekend, and the ladies didn't want to leave the mother alone in the house in case she needed help. So they asked some friends if they knew of anyone who spoke Vietnamese who could come and keep the mother company. Someone did have a Vietnamese friend, who happened to be a Christian, who was willing to spend the day at the house. Another person happened to have a Vietnamese Bible that she offered to the friend who gave it to the mother during her visit. It was after this weekend that Holly sent Tessa a text message to say that during that visit, after talking with the friend and taking the Bible, the mother asked if she could be a Christian, too. When Tessa told me that, we both just laughed.

I am so thankful for this reminder that when we give our lives completely to Him, God is able to use us to do big things, even if we are only able to play a very small part. We are the Body of Christ. We are partners in ministry. Have you surrendered everything to Him so that you can "do" your part? You have no idea what surprises He has in store for you when you do! **

Jacob's Journey

Jacob do it! Did you know I can do it all by myself? My teachers at school are teaching me how to do things, like take off my dirty clothes, get dressed, fold my blanket, and pick up my toys. At home there are even more things I can do, like get my bath ready, find my cartoons on the computer, prepare my cereal with milk, and pour my juice. If Mama tries to help me, I say, "No! Jacob do it!!" Mama says since I can do so many things by myself, then I should be able to do one more thing—go night-night in my bed all by myself. Ummm. . . Mama help???

Jacob practicing his song. To view a video of him singing his own composition, please follow the link below.

<http://www.dropshots.com/dwclemente#date/2009-03-10/08:00:07>



Prayer Petitions

We will be in the USA for six months starting this June 2009 to visit local churches located mostly in the states of Illinois and Michigan. Pray as we manage all of the details involved in preparing for this time of Partnership Building.

Pray that a car will be made available for us to rent or borrow during our time in the USA.

Pray for David's visit to a Creative Access Country these first two weeks of April 2009. Pray for God's inspiration. Pray that the team from Kaohsiung, Taiwan will be a source of encouragement to the Free Methodists hosting our Short-Term Mission trip.

Pray for the churches in Taiwan as they celebrate the risen Savior this Easter season. Many churches baptize new believers on Easter Sunday. Pray for a special visit of the Holy Spirit at each ceremony. **

Mandarin Mishap

I (David) took a two-month break from Chinese language school. The day I came back, I was telling our friends at school that I took a break—Hsio Hsi (sounds like "Sheeoh Shee"). Everyone I talked to gave me a confused look. What did I say wrong this time? I realized later that I had the sounds right but the tones wrong, so instead of saying "I had a break," I was saying "I was baptized." **

David and Sarah Clemente
PO Box 450 Kaohsiung, Taiwan 800

dsclemente@yahoo.com