

# Footprints from Taiwan



## For prayer:

### Praise God for:

- the sending of new workers to Taiwan, with the arrival of 4 new OMF workers, another 5 in the next few months, and more applying to come
- God's provision of assistance for Mum and Dad after Mum's recent fall
- A refreshing and enriching time over the Chinese New Year

### Please pray for:

- God's continuing working in Pei-Fang, Felicia, Jessie, and Fiona
- Ongoing heart among Christians to witness at language school, through Morning Tea Time and individual friendships
- Mum and Dad, especially for strength and wisdom for Dad as he cares for Mum



Dear Family and Friends,

After a short-lived winter, spring is well on its way, signaled by cherry blossoms and other flowers in full bloom at the moment. I love the changing seasons, because they remind me of God's faithfulness. God continues to display His faithfulness both in my life and in the lives of people here in Taiwan. My prayer is that His faithfulness be evident in your life, wherever you are, and whatever joys and burdens you are facing.

*With Christ's grace and peace,*

*Charissa*

### *Taiwanese Chinese New Year*

Sounds of fire crackers went off throughout the 15-day celebration. The Taiwanese believe that the sounds from the firecrackers ward off bad spirits. It was a memorable first Chinese New Year here in Taiwan. Over my week-long break, I was able to enjoy some of the beauty that caused the Portuguese to give Taiwan the name 'Formosa' (Beautiful Isle). Nantou is home to some of Taiwan's indigenous communities, and I was fascinated by their customs.

I spent New Year's Eve in Kaohsiung with a Taiwanese friend and her family, with lots of food. There was a divine appointment on the train ride back to Taichung (see 'Stories from Taiwan' below).

I also visited the Chens, involved in church planting in Chiayi. It was a greatly encouraging time praying for Taiwan, and reflecting upon my first few months here.

Friends from church took me to Lugang, an old fashioned town, deeply entrenched in Buddhist religious practices. Chinese New

Year is a popular time for people to go to temples to seek their fortune and ask for protection for the coming year. *Please pray for the people of Taiwan, that they will know the one God who loves, blesses, and protects them.*

### *Mission sharing at church*

The testimony I thought I would be giving at the youth Mandarin service at church was in fact the talk for the service. With help from my friend Felicia translating, the talk and testimony was delivered with a mix of Mandarin and English (see photo below). *Please pray that God will use what they heard to challenge the young people about mission.*



### *A peanut in Taiwan*

It's funny how the more I attempt to speak Taiwanese, the more language blunders I make.

During class, when my teacher asked me in Taiwanese what I'll be doing after Taiwanese studies, Instead of saying I would be doing 'thoan kau' (mission work), I said that I was going to be a 'tho tau' (peanut)!! It takes a lot of language learning to qualify as a peanut in Taiwan!! I couldn't stop laughing for 5 minutes. My tummy was so sore from laughing, but it was good for the soul :)

### *Morning tea time*

The morning tea time at language school, for students and teachers to hear a Christian testimony or message, continues each



Monday. Local teachers have found it encouraging and helpful. I've been getting to know a few Japanese students at the language school. *Please continue to pray for a strong Christian witness at the language school, and a common vision among Christians, to reach out to others with the gospel.*

*'God-footprints:'  
Stories from Taiwan*

Thank you for praying for people whose lives God is leaving His footprints upon. Here are more stories from Taiwan...

*Pei-Fang:* On the train home to Taichung from Kaohsiung, I met a lady from Tainan. As we chatted, I found that Pei-Fang had heard about Jesus numerous times. I shared the gospel with her and answered questions she had about what being a Christian would involve. She wasn't ready to make a decision but I taught her how to pray to receive Jesus.

When I last spoke to her over the phone, she told me that she has prayed, and since she stopped burning incense to ancestors and household gods, she has been getting nightmares and feeling unwell. Since then, I have not been able to get in contact with her, but trust that God will continue to watch over her. *Please pray that she will keep calling on Jesus and for God's provision of a Christian in Tainan to help her in her Christian journey.*

*Felicia:* My friend Felicia is a gifted Christian who loves God and actively serves at church. She has had a heart for mission, since two overseas mission trips. She is about to finish her English course and is praying about the next steps to equip herself for mission.

*Please pray for Felicia as she continues to seek God's direction about theological training and speaks to her church leadership.*

*Jessie:* Because of classes that clash with her Bible study group, Jessie is not currently attending a Bible study group. *Please pray that she will be willing to attend another group for fellowship.*

*Fiona:* My language teacher Fiona and I have been meeting weekly for Bible study and prayer, together with another friend at language school. Fiona has asked many questions about her faith, and it has also been a great encouragement to me, as I've missed studying the Bible with others. Since we use Mandarin, it also provides a good opportunity to learn new terms in Mandarin.

Thank you for prayers for Fiona's witness to her family. Her non-Christian brother has started asking her to pray for him. Pray that he will come to know God personally and pray to Him himself.

*Reflections*

There are other people like Pei-Fang whom I meet that I may not see again. I have a deep sense that, as Apostle Paul preached, "the God who made the world and everything in it...has determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us" (Acts 17:24, 26-27). Knowing God has brought people into my life to point towards Himself, it gives me boldness and courage to share Christ. *Pray that God will use each encounter as a link in the chain to bring them closer to Himself.*

*KEEPING IN TOUCH*

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*Looking ahead*

12-17/3  
Trip to Manila for workshop for missionaries who were Third Culture Kids

23/3  
Taiwan Prayer Group in Sydney 7:45pm (contact Anthony Choong at [anthony.choong@gmail.com](mailto:anthony.choong@gmail.com) for details)

28/3  
Homeside Ministry Team Meeting

