

Footprints from Taiwan



For prayer:

Praise God for:

- Missionaries who persevere serving faithfully
- New teachers, language practice
- Chats with Ms Chang, Mu Jie, Pei En

Please pray for:

- Those affected by Typhoon Morakot
- Opportunities to read the Bible with Sarah, Ms Chang and Mu Jie
- Progress with Taiwanese pronunciation
- Wisdom in decisions made by the Taiwan Field Council about ministry placement for Tim and me
- Tim's preparation for internship in Taiwan



Dear Family and Friends,

It has been quite a month, with a typhoon, a visit from an overseas friend, ministry visits to Taipei and Taiping and Chiayi, time spent with local friends, as well as and regular language classes. God has been teaching me about Himself, and how to love the Taiwanese. I am feeling a little tired and am thankful for a break next month to process these things.

In God's grace and love,

Charissa

A visit from Typhoon Morakot

On 8 August, Typhoon Morakot hit Taiwan and caused much destruction and loss of life. Landslides buried an entire mountain village and cut off access by car to other villages. (See attached statement from OMF Taiwan Field Director Phil Nicholson).

Typhoon Morakot left a huge impact upon the Taiwanese, as the worst typhoon in 50 years. Even those who weren't directly affected have been troubled and saddened, as they watched images of affected lives and regions replayed on the news.

Ms Chang (Footprints, Nov/Dec 2008), works at a nearby shop, and we met in the first month I arrived in Taichung. I pass her shop on my way home from the bus stop. Two weeks ago, I popped in to say hello, and heard that she had not been able to sleep or eat much, so troubled by the news of the typhoon.

Ms Chang knew I was a Christian, and said that it must be good to be a Christian, and go to a place where there is no more suffering. She longs for peace. She let me pray for her, and I gave her a

book with Bible verses. We had another chat since then, and she is willing to read the Bible together. *Praise God for the chats with Ms Chang. Please pray that she will come to know God and turn to God for comfort, along with many other Taiwanese people.*

Language learning

Praise God for many opportunities to practice Taiwanese recently. A friend Grace from church generously spends time with me each week. *Please continue to pray for perseverance and accuracy in my tones, which makes the difference between being understood or not.*

A new school term starts this week at language school, and I will have 5 different teachers, 2 who are not yet believers. I am working through a textbook of spiritual conversations. It brings me joy as I read about Jesus in Taiwanese, reminding me that God's salvation and love is for the Taiwanese people too. While it is a challenge for me to learn many new words, it equips me with words for deeper conversations. *Please pray for good memory to remember new words, and opportunities to talk both with teachers and friends, about God and spiritual things.*

'God-footprints:' Stories from Taiwan

Thank you for your prayers for people whose lives God is continuing to leave His footprints upon.

Mu Jie: Mu Jie (See photo on Pg2) and I had a good chat when I visited her again at her shop. She shared about her feelings about the typhoon and the Taiwanese people needing hope. *Pray that she will seek hope in God.* As we shared our stories, I was able to



understand her better and how her past experienced has shaped her view of God. We talked about God's justice and love, which is seen clearly in the life of Jesus. She finds it hard, having relied on herself all her life, to consider relying on someone, even though she realises that she is limited. *Please pray that she will be open and willing to seek God.*



Pei En: Pei En lives in my building, and has been over to make mantou (steamed bun) and chat. She has a real love for learning, and has a wealth of knowledge on Taiwan culture and history. *Please pray for opportunities for Sin Ee and me to share our lives with her.*

Ministry visits

Ministry visits this month to Taipei, Taiping and Chiayi provided time to experience and learn about shopworkers' ministry and church planting. I was encouraged by the missionaries' faithfulness and perseverance. There is spiritual darkness here and it is only the work of the Holy Spirit that enable people to respond to the gospel. *Please pray for softened hearts to the gospel among the Taiwanese people, and for a clear conviction to spur missionaries on.*

Future direction

Thank you for your prayers for my future direction. I will be finishing

up full-time Taiwanese classes in mid-November, and continue studying language part-time while starting ministry.

Tim is applying to come to Taiwan with OMF as an intern, to experience ministry in Taiwan. God-willing, he will be coming in mid-November, and we will serve in the same city. *Please pray for his preparation and provision of a team of Christians to partner with him. Please also pray for Tim and me as we make decisions concerning the future.*

Where Tim and I will serve will be decided during the OMF Taiwan Field Council meeting (14-16 September). *Please pray for the Taiwan Field Council in their decisions. Pray also that Tim and I will know how to love and serve the people we will work with.*

Reflections

"God is our strength and refuge, an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way

and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

though its waters roar and foam

and the mountains quake with their surging." - Psalm 46:1

After the typhoon, I read Psalm 46:1 in a new light. It has reminded me how small we are in this world. When things are going smoothly in a familiar environment, we can be tempted to believe that we are in control of our lives. Yet, when we face trials or natural disasters that we realise that in reality, we have little power over our lives, and are completely dependent upon God. It causes us see the fragility of life, and drives us to our God who holds our lives in His hand.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

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Looking ahead

20/8-18/9

Ghost Month

14-16/9

Taiwan Field Council Meeting

16-23/9

Vacation

28/9

Taiwan Prayer Group in Sydney 7:45pm (contact anthony.choong@gmail.com for details)



Youth group in Chiayi