

ULLSTROM TAIWAN UPDATE

Church Planting in Semi-Rural Taiwan

OMF Taiwan Vision:

Through God’s grace we long to see reproducing communities of disciples among the working class peoples of Taiwan.

Be Encouraged!
“Investing in Interns”
OMF Video: <https://vimeo.com/449986438>

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Dear Friends,

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ we are reminded that the world he was born into over 2000 years ago was not unlike our world today. Sure, we have



computers, cellphones, and increasingly sophisticated surgical procedures, like knee and heart valve replacements, but the world still faces disease, famine, wars, political upheaval, and the day to day challenges of living as sinful beings in a sin filled world. As foster parents we see the results of parents’ poor choices. And at our church we have widows, divorcees, people thinking about getting divorced, and children from broken homes whose dads have tattoos from temple and/or gang involvement. We are constantly reminded that Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” (Mark 2:17, NIV).

A couple of weeks ago in our Friday night small group we asked people to share one thing that they were thankful for. “P” (Sept. & Oct. letters) shared through tears how thankful

she is for the encouragement and support of the church family as she struggles raising two children on her own while receiving negative texts from her alcoholic husband. Keep praying.



Photo: One of 4 cousins, from non-Christian homes, who join us for Saturday cycling and Sunday School. He is enjoying an oyster omelet at a fishing harbour during last Saturday’s bike ride.

Prayer & Praise

1. Praise God that the couple we asked you to pray for in our last letter have started attending our Friday evening small group Bible study.
2. Praise God that training for our cycling trip in January is going well. We now have 25 people signed up with 14 cyclists and the others following in cars.
3. Pray for a successful orientation meeting in Tainan Dec. 23, with many couples being accepted to take foster care training.
4. Praise God for a good start to Sarah and Ryan's life together. May God bless them and use them to bless many others.
5. Pray for David writing a book about vulnerable children and the need for more foster and adoptive families in Taiwan. Pray for clarity and inspiration!
6. Ruth plans to give out packets of Christmas cookies and an invitation to our church Christmas party to various contacts in the community. Please pray for those receiving these invitations.



On a different note, on November 21st our family was able to celebrate online the very happy occasion of our daughter Sarah's marriage to Ryan Tam, of Lake Forest, Illinois. Ryan's family immigrated to the USA from Hong Kong when he was 10 years old, so like Sarah he is also a TCK (Third Culture Kid) sharing both an Asian and Western cultural background. Ryan and Sarah also share a strong faith in God and commitment to following Jesus.



Back in Taiwan, the Taiwan127 Interest Meeting last month in Tainan has resulted in an orientation meeting for potential foster parents to be held December 23. This is the first step to being accepted by the foster care agency and to becoming certified as foster parents. There is a huge need for more foster families. Just this week we heard about 12 babies being cared for at a home for infants (12 is their legal limit for number of children). One of our church members works at this home. The care at this home is good but cannot compare to care in a family setting where a child can experience normal attachment and the stimulation that their brains need to develop to their full potential.

At our home, E and A have been told about the court ruling removing their parents' parental rights. The children did not show much reaction to this news and we are not sure if they really understand - particularly as A still talks about spending school holidays with his parents (which his mom incorrectly promised him during their last parental visit). Ask the Lord to touch their hearts during this their first Christmas celebrating Jesus birth.

May the joy of the angels announcing Jesus birth be yours this Christmas and throughout 2020,

David and Ruth
歐文忠，李仁惠