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Three weeks in Taiwan!



On Tuesday, January 27th, we will have been in Taiwan for three weeks! This photo is after church our first Sunday. I apologize for taking so long to write again. As I'm sure you can imagine, there's been a lot going on, but we're glad to be here. This will be a longer letter so buckle up.

I'll start with the big stuff. We reached out to a few people and asked them to pray specifically for one apartment we especially liked and that they would allow us to have a cat. And then I took a week to tell them that we did in fact get the apartment! And what's more, they will allow us to have a cat! We have not yet moved in as we are waiting for the owners to fix some things first. Even if those tasks are not completed, we can still move in February 1. That is only one week away!



process of switching to another method that will not charge fees.

Then we needed WiFi to do pretty much anything digitally. Henry, another CBM missionary, took us out to lunch and then helped us with his fluent Mandarin to get two Sim cards to use as hotspots. Terry has a temporary Taiwan phone number. Once we've been here a month and have our Alien Resident Cards (ARC) we will get more traditional WiFi in our new apartment and a permanent Taiwanese phone number on someone's phone. But we all still have our own T-Mobile numbers (including Samuel!...and Ezra has an email for iMessaging) so we can text normally and/or use WhatsApp. Don't be afraid to text us! Our mornings are your evenings so that's the best time. We're 15 hours ahead of Mountain Standard Time.



On January 12 we had quite the adventure. Pastor Nanson borrowed us his car for Terry to drive us all to Taipei's immigration office in order for us to apply for our ARCs! He did great, though, we were all a little nervous. We thank the Lord for Mei, CBM's member care missionary, whom we nicknamed "Google Mei," since she answers all of our questions. The immigration office had a misunderstanding with a number on our VISA's but that was cleared up the next day and we should receive our cards sometime this coming week. Once we have that we will be able to be allowed to stay for a year at a time, get a local bank account, apply for Taiwanese health insurance (after six months), get long-term WiFi, buy things on Amazon (which we might never try again b/c of how complicated it turned out to be), and sign up for LinePay, the app they use for communication and paying for all sorts of things (including machines at the local laundromat).



We have been living in a nice three bedroom apartment and have been exploring our temporary neighborhood, which we really like. It's all very "convenient," (the buzzword locals use for everything). There's a huge bougie mall right across our street and it is *not* dead like the one in Rapid City. It's always busy. Terry used his temporary phone number to get us into the Taiwan YouBike app so we can rent bicycles to ride around

The second week here was very busy. We organized for the kids to join track at the local international school called Morrison, the same place where we did the Short Term Mission (STM) trip last summer. Evie also decided to join a choir class! So we bike to school (15-20 mins) just about every day, but the kids should soon be able to go independently. "Taiwan is *very safe*," everyone assures us.





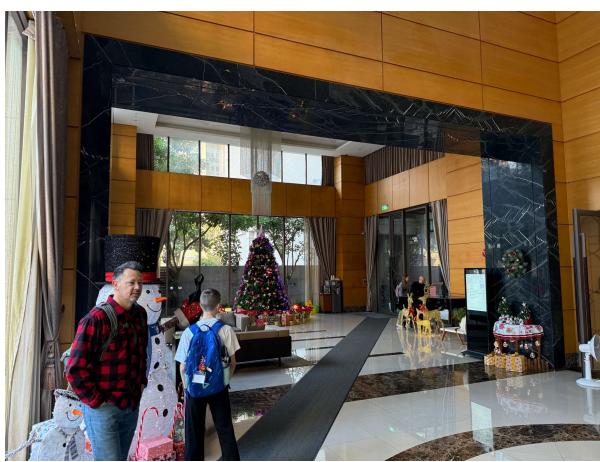
On Tuesday, January 13th, we looked at four apartments with our friends we met two summer's ago on our initial vision trip here, Lillian and Ken. Evie became good friends with their daughters last summer at camp. Ken is a realtor and they helped us look at apartments last summer and throughout the fall. We liked one of the apartments but it wasn't until we saw three more that we were sure we wanted it. I nicknamed this place the "many beds apartment" for obvious reasons - there were tons of beds! Hahaha. We are SO thankful for the temporary apartment that we are in. It's pretty much unheard of to rent a place just for a month. But our teammate, Mei, knew the owner and b/c she's a Christian, she offered it to us and is even covering the utilities. Such a huge blessing!! And yet we are very much looking forward to moving into a larger place. Currently, Samuel is sleeping on a pad in a small room and Ezra is on a leaky air mattress in the dining room. A few nights ago I thought it was hilarious when he said, "I just want a door and walls," in total seriousness. I mean, is that too much to ask? I don't think so. We're all ready, as we've been living out of suitcases, bags, and totes this entire time.

God's blessing and care has been all over the new apartment too. The owners are *again Christians!!* When they heard we were missionaries they offered us the apartment for a lower price than they were asking, waived the management fee, included a parking space (for guests or just in case we get a car), and will allow a cat! For those of you who don't know, we're unapologetic cat people. The kids agreed to come to Taiwan only if we could get a cat. So this is a huge deal for us. We've got our

which they don't like.

You can mail letters to our new place. Also you can reply to this email! Our address will be:

Terry and Eva Biers
4F-1, No. 335-9, Section 1, Wenhua 2nd Road
Linkou District, New Taipei City, 244008
Taiwan (R.O.C)





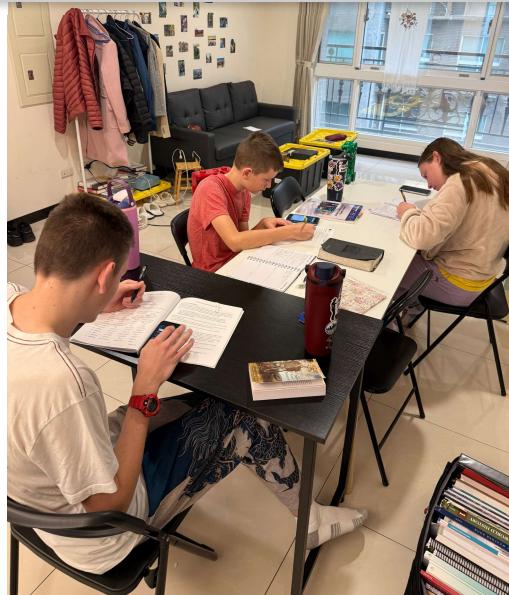


We visited IKEA this week to buy some needed basics - mostly bedding and kitchen supplies. That was a huge day. Henry drove us all. We left at 10am and didn't return until 4pm. Getting all the bedding back to our temporary place to wash required us to bike to the new place, make sure all the bedding sizes were correct (they were! That required a lot of research and math to convert from inches to centimeters), load them into IKEA bags, and walk it all *back* to the our place *in the rain*. That was after we biked the kids to track (also *in the rain*). Not my favorite. Not having a car is annoying sometimes. We have people who are willing to help us move all of our stuff over to the new place whenever we have the go-ahead.

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Otherwise, the kids have restarted homeschool at our small tables. We have to use extra patience with each other in these close quarters and sometimes we fail. The kids have made some friends, or are starting to in the boys' cases. They have gone to the church youth group, which meets every other week. They will also go to the Morrison youth gathering Friday nights. All three kids will be bussed to their first track meet on the south part of the island on January 31. That'll be an experience. As for us adults, we met a Christian coffee shop owner one of our first days here. It was such an encouragement. She wanted us to pray for their business. Terry has been giving out One Trillion Dollar Bill Mount Rushmore tracts (and tracts in Chinese) to lots of people - grocery store clerks, bible study attendants, coffee shop employees, security guards, and game store attendants. We are praying about what comes next for us. Getting settled has been the primary thing and will continue to be since things take longer here - especially budgeting and banking.



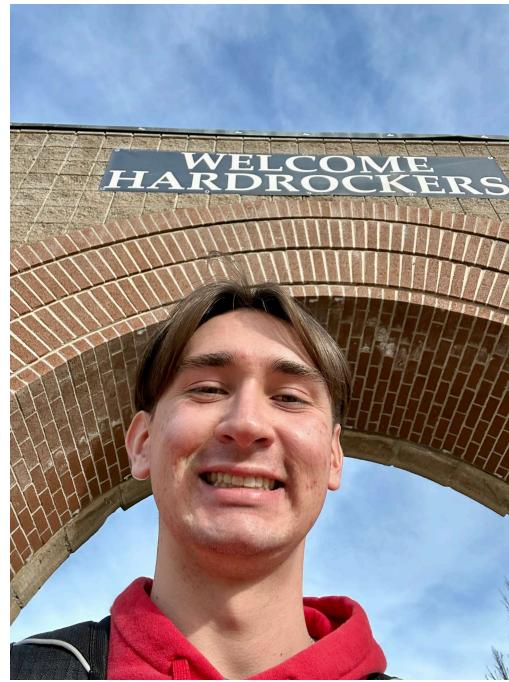
I am still kind of struggling in the cooking department. Meat is expensive here, I have very little space, and exactly four pots/pans. It's like I'm back to the beginning of our marriage in learning how to cook all over again. I've had several successes, but need more. We're all so big and mature...or growing still...or increasing our caloric intake b/c of track (and lots of walking and biking), that we're hungrier here than we were at home. I've always said that it seems like the Taiwanese use meat like a garnish. There are very small amounts in a dumpling or soup (like 5 small pieces no kidding). It's mostly a carb diet which doesn't satiate. I hate spending money on stuff, and that includes food, especially the really expensive stuff like meat. But I'm gonna have to get over it. I think it'll be easier in our new place. I hope so. The fridge is larger and so is the kitchen. Right now I have about 18 inches of counter space to utilize, two natural gas burners, NO oven (tears of sadness), and a very small toaster oven lent to us by the landlord.



All in all we're having good experiences and are happy. We are glad to be here and are figuring life out day by day. Each day I become more familiar with the city. There are so many different buildings and businesses that it looks different every time you go by. Therefore it takes time to recognize things. The kids are getting more independent - they biked to and from church youth group tonight all by themselves! I successfully made Qdoba bowls tonight. I can make a home favorite, stovetop popcorn, so that's happy. We've been using WhatsApp to talk to family. I do laundry every day. We have all started running and walk a lot more than at home. It's below-zero temps at home but between 50 (cold) and 70 (amazing) here. There are flowers. IN JANUARY. Here are some insights into our every day lives. Thank you for caring for us and praying for us! We couldn't be here without you!



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Prayer Requests

Prayer Requests

1. Praise for our apartment and cat allowance!

3. For our ARCs to come through with no problems and future banking setup.
4. Smooth setup in our new apartment including WiFi, washing machine, rent payment, etc.
5. Connection and relationships for the boys.
6. Direction for future ministry & language learning.

Financial Update

We thank all of you for being such a generous and supportive ministry team. If you would like to be a financial supporter select the “support” button below and indicate “US 106 Terry Biers” or connect with Terry and Eva.

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