

# Clemente Newsletter

October 2011

Jacob is enjoying the beach at Cijin Island.



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## David's Discussions

This year, I made a decision to use Mandarin Chinese during my prayer time. I figured that would help my language learning and accelerate the process of language acquisition. Last month, I encountered a question that brought me to my senses. It was more difficult than I originally thought. The question is: What if God talks to me in Chinese? Would I be okay with that?

The issue of God conversing with me in Mandarin Chinese makes me very uncomfortable. My personal prayers are my most intimate moments. It is in these times of conversation with God that I express things reserved only for my God. My prayer time is my inner sanctuary. In this solitude God visits me and tells me deep secrets and visions in life that encourage me to continue in my journey here on earth. What worries me the most is that, if God speaks to me in Chinese, I might miss a word or two and end up not understanding my Lord's intentions for my life and the life of my family. What if God tells me to go to Mongolia and I end up eating mangoes? (These words 'Mongolia' and 'mangoes' in Mandarin sound very similar.)

About two weeks ago, I was at the church service of Fong Shan Free Methodist Church (FSFMC). At that time, God spoke to me in Chinese and it was the most liberating experience in my life. I felt his presence. I sensed his assurance. I received his words of comfort and encouragement. All the fears and all my worries left me. God is with me and he is speaking Chinese. \*\* \*\*

## Carmen's Corner

Dear Family and Friends,

I hope you guys (and girls) are having a great time! We're praying for you and God bless you.

October 10th to October 16th was Fall Break. The first day was when my family, Auntie Susan Yu, Uncle Tim and Auntie Lily, Auntie Becca, and the Griffins went to Cijin Island. We went to the beach, went to a fishy restaurant, and me and Jacob bought some pretty seashells. On Tuesday, I went to Mom's Chinese school with her. On Thursday, someone came to paint downstairs. So upstairs was now our home. Oh, then Mom, Jacob and I went to someone's house for Mommy's Bible study. On Friday, my family got to go to the zoo! We saw a lot of animals. My favorite one was the monkey who was staring at us and these chickens and birds who were not in cages running around. On Saturday, we visited someone's church and went to the noodle shop for supper. On Sunday at church, me and Jacob painted our own kite. He painted Mario and I painted a scenery with a waterfall and rainbow.

For Halloween, I'm going to be a bat. Not a baseball bat...but an animal bat. Jacob wanted to be an astronaut. I don't know what my parents are going to be, but it's all right!

Hope you guys have a great day and God bless you! Miss you guys!

Love, Carmen \*\* \*\*

## Sarah's Sentiments

This is my fourth year attending an International Ladies Bible Study. Those who attend are from a variety of backgrounds and are here in Kaohsiung for a variety of reasons. Our main purpose for gathering together is to encourage one another as we love God and love others.

This year we are studying the book of Acts, and already it has proven to be both challenging and exciting. As we studied Chapter four, we discussed what it means to "speak the word of God boldly." Sometimes we think of being bold as being loud and pushy. But one definition of being bold could be "to take a risk." Later that week, we heard from one of our new attendees that she had taken a risk and shared her faith with a friend. Her friend was very open and willing to turn her problems over to God and learn more about Him.

Continuing on in the same chapter, we discussed how the early believers were of one heart and mind and they shared everything they had. "And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all, that there were no needy persons among them." At one point, there was a pause in our discussion, and one of the ladies asked, "Do you think that's really how God intended the church to be?" We all just looked at each other. No one said a word. Maybe we were afraid that the answer was Yes.

Just today, we talked about Philip the Evangelist. Our opening question was, "Do you think that you are an evangelist?" Several people said they did not feel that they have the gift of evangelism. They cannot see themselves preaching in front of a crowd of people. But one member quietly shared, "Well, when I read about Philip going off on the desert road, coming alongside someone who is seeking God and inviting him to ask questions, then, yes, I can see myself as an evangelist. I can think of one person here in Taiwan who has received Christ because of me. And who knows how many other lives will be touched because of that one person who

came to faith?" That was a word of encouragement to me.

I am thankful for this group of women, and I look forward to working our way through the Acts of the Apostles. Please pray for us, that we may continue to be challenged and encouraged through study, prayer, and fellowship. \*\* \*\*

## Jacob's Journey

In school, we're learning about



Moses. About Moses guides the Red Sea. When all the fish died, all the land of slavery and water become a door. Rameses wanted Moses. His sign was on the grass. And Moses hurried up in the water. And all of the people followed Moses. Then Rameses got stuck in the water. THE END. \*\* \*\*

## Prayer Petitions

\*\*\*\*\* Classes at Holy Light Theological Seminary are in full swing! Please pray for inspiration for David as he teaches three courses this semester. Also pray for the students as they interact with the lessons and material.

\*\*\*\*\* The Student Mission Fellowship is organizing a music concert for December 6. This will be a fundraiser primarily for upcoming mission trips. Pray that God will be at the center of the planning, the performing, and the proceeds.

\*\*\*\*\* Pray for God's wisdom and guidance as David and students plan for these mission trips, which are scheduled for January 2012.

\*\*\*\*\* Pray for Carmen and Jacob, for their physical, emotional, and spiritual growth.

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