

Hello from Taiwan! After being here for a week, we are starting to settle in and wanted to send you a warm Ni hao (``hello``) and to thank you for your prayers.

As you know, we left for Taiwan July 28th at 5 a.m.: a group of people from Rice Road gathered outside with sparklers and best wishes to see us off. Talk about a church that knows how to make a family feel loved!

SO many prayers have been answered! Our first prayer request was answered at the airport. With our seven heavy suitcases, three carry-on bags, two diapers bags, two laptops, two car seats, and two strollers, we were quite a caravan!!! We had prayed for favor with the check-in personnel so that we would be allowed to take the-extra-but-necessary pieces of luggage. Not only did Jenny give us the all-clear sign for our baggage, but, seeing "pastor" on Chris' Taiwanese visa and telling that she was a Christian too, she also told us that because our flight was not full, we could have an extra seat for Anna who, otherwise, would have had to sit on our laps the entire 15 hour flight! Wow- thank you Jesus!

When we settled onto our first (15 hour) flight, there were three empty seats directly in front of our assigned seats. With these, we were able to make pallets for the kids on the floor to take their naps and to sleep at night. The kids slept really well and were quite well behaved on the flight; Kent had a riot walking up and down the aisles saying hi to everyone and playing with the toys Nana packed for him in his suitcase.

Unfortunately, sleep was not a companion for Chris and I; some loud people talking and a crying baby kept us up the whole flight! But we were very aware that the Lord was with us and that you were praying; in spite of being completely exhausted, we continued to have enough energy throughout the long flight, the layover in Hong Kong and the subsequent 1.5 hour flight to Taipei. By 4:30 p.m., Taiwan-time (exactly twelve hours difference from home), we were at the Taipei airport.

Pastor Lo and Lo Li, a Mucha Church member, picked us up and drove us to our new apartment: what a welcome! Several church members had already been at the apartment, cleaning and getting it ready. They had also loaned or purchased many things for the apartment. We were just so overwhelmed with the kindness of the Mucha Church members. A wonderful goodbye from our Rice Road Church and a welcoming hello from our new Mucha Church family: we are blessed indeed!

Amazingly, Kent suffered absolutely no jet lag at all! The rest of us battled with it, but praise the Lord-- jet lag doesn't last forever and we are all sleeping better now, although we are waking up earlier than in Canada with the earlier rising of the sun and the noise of the local market just outside our windows!

This past Sunday was our first at Mucha Church. We were introduced and began

the process of learning many new names. After the service, we enjoyed lunch with the church members. In Taiwan, a central part of church culture is lunch shared together each week after the Sunday morning service. But the first meal of the month is a special feast of many delicious foods cooked by the ``church mothers.`` Neat that we came on the first week of the month!

To give us time to rest and to set up our apartment, Pastor Lo encouraged Chris to wait to start at the church until this coming Monday. At that time, he will begin to visit with all church members and begin developing relationships at Chengchi University right across the river from Mucha Church. Our Chinese language classes at Chengchi begin the first of September.

I wish we could tell you all that we are feeling about the sights and smells and the newness we are experiencing here, but I want to keep this timely. Here are the areas that we would ask you to join us in prayer about:

•**Adjustment of our bodies to Taiwan's weather:** Almost every day I try to think of a new way to describe the temperature here: stepping into a sauna is one way. Putting a raincoat on and then sitting in a car on a hot summer day with the window's rolled up is another way! In short, it's HOT and MUGGY! Our bodies just don't know what to do with this humidity. I know in the Niagara Region, they say the humidity is high; there must be a different scale for measuring the two places, because if I were to measure the humidity here, it would fly off the richter scale!!! Please pray that God would help us to adjust; this is not only a physical issue, but a practical one for ministry: because Taiwanese people are just getting home from work between 6-8 p.m., if we are falling asleep at 9 p.m. (which is what is happening now), our opportunities for building relationships are severely restricted. Please pray!!

•**Sunday school and need for corporate spiritual nourishment.** Other than one other baby in the church, ours are the only children under five years. Our first Sunday, our kids spent the morning with Mama in one of the church offices. Pastor Lo is concerned that if I am taking care of the children every Sunday morning and therefore missing the service, that I will become spiritually dry. Please pray that God would guide us about what to do in this area.

•**A godly nanny.** A woman who will stay with our children in the mornings when we are in school, Monday to Friday, starting in September. A woman who will love our children and with whom we can work to have consistency in Kent and Anna's lives.

•**Boldness and creativity in reaching out to our Mucha community.** From the first few days here, I experienced a shyness around our Chinese neighbors that is NOT normal to my personality (as many of you know!) We feel that the enemy is trying to create a shyness in us that will hinder us from getting to know our neighbors: we know, he does not want us to witness to them about Christ! Please join me: every day I am praying that the Lord will give us creativity in meeting and reaching out to our neighbors. We are like the man in Mark 9: "We believe; Lord, help us in our unbelief!" Please join us in prayer!

It has been a good first week. We know that Jesus is with us every minute and we are aware of our dependence on him. We miss you very much! Every day I experience moments of intense loneliness, but I am grateful for every person Jesus is bringing into our lives. Already, a woman from Mucha Church (who lives very close to us and whom we see almost every day) is becoming a special "A-yi" (auntie) to Kent and Anna. I thought you might like to hear a bit about the kids too so here's a blurb on each of them.

KENT

Hi. I'm in Taiwan now. Guess what? I'm not in a crib anymore. Now I have a BIG BOY BED (a single mattress on the floor, Taiwanese style) and I really like it a lot! Today I was dancing up a storm on it, showing Mom and Dad my new dance moves. Do you know that everybody here has a cell phone? I like to ask everyone, and particularly Grace A-yi, to let me see their cell phone. Every day Anna and I play and read in our play room which is in the middle of our apartment. Mama says another name for our play room is a (Japanese) tea room; all I know is, I have to take off my Thomas the Train house slippers when I step up in the tea room to play. I'm enjoying life in Taiwan so far; one day, Mom and Dad took me to the 101 building which is the second tallest building in the world right now. At first when I saw how tall it was, I didn't want to go inside, but Dad said I would be safe and that he would try to find me a ride inside to go on (I was hoping to find a Mickey Car ride like the one at the Seaway Mall in Welland). I'm just hoping this typhoon will stop its raining outside so that I can go the park nearby; I really like the see-saws. Bye for now!

ANNA

Hi. I really don't know that I'm in a country called Taiwan. All I know is that it's pretty hot here and I'm drinking a different kind of formula. Mama is trying to get me off pureed vegetables and onto something called homemade mashed vegetables; I cry a lot to try to tell her that I don't want to eat them, but she doesn't seem to take no for an answer. Thankfully, I do really like broccoli which I just started eating in Taiwan. Everything is so new here; the only way I know how to deal with it is to cry whenever Mama leaves the room. (Please pray for us both.) I'll tell you what I DO like; I really like being held by all these aunties. I'm the only bald, blue-eyed baby many Taiwanese have ever seen and they all they say the exact same thing when they see me; they say I look like a dolly. The funny thing is, because they have never seen a bald baby before (Taiwanese babies are ALL born with hair, lucky ducks!), they all think Mama has gotten my hair cut!! Isn't that funny?!

Thanks for your prayers, everyone!