

Greetings from the steamy asphalt jungle of Taipei!

An Answer to Prayer

We are thrilled to share with you God's answer to our prayer for a nanny . The answer to this prayer actually began back in June in the mountains of North Carolina ... during a prayer time on our family vacation, Dad (Larry Hart, Terri's father), saw a vision of the woman who would care for Kent and Anna while we were studying Mandarin. This woman had wisdom beyond her years. We believe Mei Yun is the woman in that vision! Mei Yun joins our family highly recommended by Pastor Lo and his wife. Mei Yun is about 40 years old, single (but still eligible, she told us). She loves children and has many years of experience working with them, especially children 0-3 years! She has been a Christian for twenty years. The Lord confirmed through Kent His choice of nanny: the first time Mei Yun came over to watch the kids, Kent looked up at her with his big blue eyes and said, "You gonna take care of me?"

Preparing the Soil

A week or so before we came here to Taiwan, I (Terri) was reading Matthew 13, "The Parable of the Sower." I've read this story many, many times, but it was like I was reading it for the first time. Jesus describes different kinds of soil where the seed, the good news of Christ, fell: soil along the path where the birds were able to snatch the seed away before it could take root; soil overtop rocks – shallow and unable to sustain deep roots; thorny soil; and good rich dirt where the seed could grow deep roots. This time as I read the parable, I realized that if the seed that Chris and I hope to 'plant' in Taiwan falls on any kind of soil but the good ground, the seed will have no chance to take root. Therefore, if we **really** want to see the good news take root in people's hearts, we need to PREPARE THE SOIL in and through regular, focused prayer.

When we arrived in Taipei, Pastor Lo encouraged Chris to take the month of August before school started in September to help get our family oriented in our new environment. After our first week, Chris decided to get in the habit of 'going to work' in the afternoons since that is what he will be doing once we start Mandarin classes (classes in the morning; ministry-work in the afternoon). What kind of work, since he doesn't have an office nor university students (still in summer vacation) to work with? He told me that he would spend his afternoons walking on the Chengchi University campus, praying. I thought then of my devotional a few weeks previous on the Parable of the Sower. I knew that this prayer walking was good work, the **best** work because he would be preparing the soil!! If we want to see the university students at Muzha Church mature in their faith and reach out with the gospel to their friends; if we want to see opportunities open up on the Chengchi campus for Bible study and discipleship groups; in essence, if we want to be a part of any spiritual transformation in the lives of university students in Taiwan, these prayer walks could be more critical than any other work we do in Taiwan. Please join us in prayer that the Lord of the Harvest would prepare the soil for the seed.



Payk Family Update

Two days ago, we had our Mandarin orientation class. The rest of this first week of September we will be engaged in cultural studies. Then we will begin Mandarin classes on September 7th. As classes are starting up again, the university students will be filtering back to Muzha Church so Chris will likely be starting to oversee the spiritual care of that group the first Sunday of September.

We all missed church this past Sunday as Kent first, then Anna, and finally Chris caught a cold. Chris has been quite exhausted the past few days from this cold. may need to ask for prayer again and again against sickness: because directness is not a culturally accepted trait here, I can't ask children to (just) touch the baby's feet like I could in Canada. People - even strangers - are ALWAYS touching Anna's face - ALWAYS. They just find her so cute; she is probably one of if not the first foreign baby they've ever seen. They all and I do mean all say the same thing; that she looks like a little dolly. (She is quite sweet, I must admit. :-)

We have now been here for one month. It has been good to have the time to take care of important details like setting up and furnishing our apartment; getting our alien resident cards; opening a bank account; getting Internet hooked up so that we can keep in contact with YOU; finding out what's where and how to get things (i.e. fresh fruit and vegetables, diapers, safe meat; medicine, envelopes, etc.); spending time getting to know our fellow Muzha Church members, etc. It has been a solid month. Thank you so much for your prayers.

Bits and Bites from Kent and Anna

KENT - Last week, Mom bought a little green potty and told me it was time I learned how to use it. I couldn't pay much attention to what she was saying because I was staring at all the loot on the counter: the night before, Dad and I had gone to XT Mart and had bought loads of SNACKS AND TREATS for our big potty training day. If Mom catches me with a "dry" pull-up, I get a treat, but if I use the potty to stay dry, I get a double treat. (That's BIG around here because Mom has kept a pretty tight leash on me and sugar up until this point.) I have a new "Ayi" (Aunt) who takes care of me and Anna when Mom and Dad have to go to school. Mei Yun Ayi is always trying to teach me Chinese words. One day, Mom was getting ready to go out and I said, "Zai jian, (goodbye), Mama!" (I'll probably learn Chinese faster than my parents, but don't tell them that; they need all the encouragement they can get.) Talk to you again soon!

ANNA - am so busy here in Taiwan trying to keep up to "ge ge" (older brother); in the past month or so, I've learned to sit up from a laying down position (try it sometime; it's not as easy as it sounds!); clap, wave, and now I'm trying to crawl! I'm getting pretty used to women squeezing my cheeks and saying, "Ke ai" (Cute!) This Saturday on our family day, we're all going to go swimming at an indoor pool near here that Mom and Kent went to last weekend when Dad and I were feeling tough. Everyone has to wear a swimming cap; mine is yellow and a bit big, but I still look pretty sharp. I can't wait to get in that pool and show everyone what a good little swimmer I am. OK, everyone, bye for now!