

Neil and Kelsie Cullers

2nd Generation Missionaries

Taiwan



Date: 02/19

Prayer Letter Update:

First of all, thanks to all those who have so graciously given us Christmas bonuses and birthday money! We appreciate your generosity. Also, as always, thanks to all those who support us regularly financially as well as prayerfully. We need your prayers - it is essential to getting our mission accomplished. We still hope to be able to leave in the summer, hopefully July or August, and have our schedule quite full with meetings in the meantime. But if you know someone who wants a missionary to come through, I'm sure we could make something work! :)

In other news, we found out that we will be having a boy! We now have a name picked out and everything. We are excited to meet him and take him to Taiwan with us! He will have the advantage of not only growing up in Taiwan, but in the county and with the people to whom we will be ministering. Oh, the advantage of childhood to learn language and culture!

If you would, please continue to pray for safety on the road, especially with winter road conditions through the mountain passes between Oregon and California we will have to cross quite often. Also, if you would continue to pray for the health of mom and baby, and for favor in booking meetings and a willingness of churches to partner with us to see us quickly there to Taiwan. We pray for churches here to stay steadfast, for pastors to stay in the fight, and that we might truly be a blessing to those churches we have the privilege to be in. Although we long to get to the field God has called us to, we recognize that our ministry starts here and now with every person we meet and every church we have the opportunity to visit.

Expecting Great Things,

Nathaneil and Kelsie Cullers

II Timothy 2:1-4

Winning Souls

Baptizing Converts

Discipling Believers

Establishing New

Testament Churches

Victory Baptist Church

Pastor Clint Caviness
179 Kincaid Dr. Roseburg, OR
97470 (541) 672-9589

Macedonia World
Baptist Missions

4418 Highway 332
Hoschton, GA 30548 <http://mwbm.org>

I apologize for the hazy picture, it was taken on the fly. Sometimes it is hard to think to take a picture of what to me is everyday and mundane, but may be strange and interesting to another. Here is a little storefront shop, specializing in selling keys, chops (legal stamps) and religious objects. Chops are used to sign legal and official documents, and is basically a fancy stamp made out of glass, jade, wood, or many different materials. A special red ink will be used in many cases. The chop carries the persons legal name.



In their daily struggle with the sea the people of Liuqiu put their utmost faith in the protection of their gods, and this is why the little island has more than 80 temples—the greatest density of temples in Taiwan. Depending on the sea for their livelihood and the heavens for their sustenance, the islanders are most sincere and reverent in praying to the gods for protection and good weather. They seek the advice of the gods about all things, from medicine to cure an ailment to building a fishing boat, and constructing a new house. On the birthday of the Biyun Temple's goddess Guanyin, the islanders enter into a state almost of religious frenzy.

Another big religious event on the island is the Burning of the God Boat every three years at Sanlong Temple. All of the islanders, whatever their station in life and even if they are fishing in distant oceans, return to Liuqiu at this time to participate. As the religious procession patrols the realm, those living along its path set out rich arrays of food and drink for the celebrants to consume, free of charge, in an expression of island hospitality. The climax of the celebration comes on the last day, when the God boat is burned.

In every one of the island villages you can see ancient houses built of coral rock, a material which early settlers found abundantly at hand. On the old streets you can also see aged buildings in the Western baroque style. A unique feature of the architecture here is screen walls with the shapes of calabash gourds, which the residents built to solicit blessings and keep evil at bay.

Caves in the coral rock on the island were used by the residents as bomb shelters during wartime, giving them cultural as well as geological value. Along the Shanfu Ecological Corridor you can see cannon batteries from the early days, still with their original layouts—Zhongshan assembly hall, armory, storerooms, sleeping quarters. These are witnesses to history: military strongholds of the past, which have become tourist attractions of today.

I hope the words are not too small! Here is the English translation found on the island of Xiao LiuChiu (Little Okinawa). This is an island found off of the coast of Ping-Tung, part of the county administratively. This illustrates the need in this corner of the county, and how many of Taiwan's country areas are most steeped in superstition and entrenched in their ways. The English is quite good. In fact, the man who worked for the government as the tourism director went to our (my parents) church. He was keen on getting foreigners to help accurately translate various signs and pamphlets. We actually helped proofread and translate the text of some of those signs, though not with this one specifically I don't think. But who knows!