

Neil and Kelsie Cullers

2nd Generation Missionaries

Taiwan



Date: 12/19 - Prayer Letter Update:

Time sure flies! It's almost Christmas and I forgot how different it feels in a land that doesn't celebrate it. During Thanksgiving, we got to spend time with a group of other missionaries in another city. We even got to watch some football! It was great to see old missionary friends and even some newer ones I have never met.

In our last letter we requested prayer about our ARC's (visas) to reside as missionaries in Taiwan. Long and disappointing story short, we do not have them and will not be able to until we are in the States for furlough. We will have to leave the country every few months. In fact, we leave Monday for a "quick" day trip out to Hong Kong and back. Also, Logan is behind on his immunizations and I'm not sure what we will do about those. There are no options to get them here without having the socialized healthcare.

BUT, despite this bad news we have other great news. We have a house! We found a property in the town of Neipu whose owners would rent to us despite not having our visas. Who knew? So, for the next two years we have a home. God is so good! We are located right against the low mountains inhabited by the Paiwan tribe. They are a similar tribe to the Rukai (a long ago branch off of the Paiwan) who live in the higher mountains. We live very close to a college and high school which brings it's own opportunities. As for a vehicle, we are looking to buy one soon. Through our Taiwanese pastor friend at my parent's church we can "purchase" a vehicle. It will be ours for all practical purposes though the title will be in his name until we come back from furlough with visas, and we will pay taxes on it through him. So things are looking up! We love our area and God has allowed us to rent just the perfect place. Our house actually has a big enough living room to hold a Bible study. We have been asked several times already, "Are you starting a church here?" This area is actually a Hakka area - a Chinese minority group with their own language and sub-culture. That name in Chinese literally means "Stranger," or "Guest-People" more or less. They are found in regions throughout China and parts of Taiwan.

It is a dark and superstitious area here. We have already witnessed a huge idol procession come down the street right in front of our house one Sunday afternoon. We filmed it quite thoroughly and I wish I could show you. There is a fairly recent phenomenon in Taiwan started by young people to revive interest among their peers in the old gods, the old religion and myths. Along with traditional instruments and music styles there will be jeep-like vehicles decked out with huge loudspeakers blaring modern disco/rock style music. Behind the jeeps are young people parading their favorite idol and immodestly dressed young ladies with banners.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Tribal Bible Study
- A Vehicle
- Language Acquisition

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>



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The whole street booms with the deafening beat and the sizzle of firecrackers. Some of the bottle rockets almost hit me as I filmed on second floor (haha). I would show the clips of modern music from the jeeps except most of the lyrics are nonstop English-expletives. I marvel at Satan's unoriginal methods. It doesn't matter what country you're in, "young people" are attracted to religions by many of the same things.

What really broke our hearts and brought tears to our eyes was seeing our elderly neighbor across the street rushing out as quickly as she could with her stooped back and painful shuffle each time one of the gods she worshipped passed by. She had her incense clutched in her hand hoping for a blessing as she performed "*bai bai*," or worship. Most passed her by unheeding, all the while she continued worshipping with such fervency and hope. She didn't matter to them but to her they meant everything. Oh they saw her, they just didn't care and moved on without a pause in their step. Some of these great gods on carts and towering demon figures would stop in front a business that patronized the particular temple they were from to bless it. But what is one old stooped-backed lady? She in particular affected my wife deeply. She brought home the purpose of our being here. Does Jesus care? Oh yes He does! I know He does!

I am torn between the many needs around me. The tribal people, our elderly neighbor, the dark depressing animism everywhere. Needs everywhere. Laborers?... Laborers?... *Absent*. I keep wanting to start Bible studies and churches everywhere. But God has a mission for us and just because I want to go to all of "Asia" doesn't mean the Holy Spirit wants me there. At least not yet perhaps. Maybe you can come help us? There is such a need. So many heartbreaking opportunities that remain untouched.

Another opportunity has arisen that I am so excited to speak of - I saved it for last! I am child-at-Christmas excited! There is an American business man who goes way out of his way to hold youth camps with an organization in our neck of the woods. Through these camps, he has come into contact with some tribal people in the Paiwan villages that are due east of us geographically. His wife also has a Bible study with a few ladies. I learned that there are two men in one of the villages that want to have a Bible study. The American business man who has developed a burden for these mountain people is willing to take me up to that village to meet these men. A mutual missionary friend who incidentally was himself born in Taiwan to missionary parents put us in contact with each other. This seems to be EXACTLY the foothold into the mountains we have been praying for! I hesitate to bring it up because it could prove to be nothing but... I'm excited! I want that mountain! I have a GPS device capable of leaving a breadcrumb trail that I will take with me if a meet-and-greet is set up. I'm pretty sure google maps won't be too much help (haha)! Please pray with us as we are hoping that this will be a great opportunity to establish a relationship with these tribal men and begin to learn culture and language from them. More importantly, please pray that they will be truly saved if they aren't, and be corner stones to possible future works. We learned from the tribal folk that missionaries came there decades ago but didn't stay or live there. They essentially built buildings and left. We want to live in these mountains with these people and see indigenous works develop all through the hills. Thank you for your prayers and support, and Merry Christmas!

Expecting Great Things,

Nathaneil, Kelsie and Logan Cullers

