

Neil and Kelsie Cullers

2nd Generation Missionaries

Taiwan



Date: 04/20 - Prayer Letter Update:

Well it's time for another update, and again I marvel at just how much can happen in two months. Can you believe Logan will celebrate his first birthday in just a few weeks? Wow, we have a toddler. He just got his first tooth, and loves to play ball, or "Dall!" As he calls it. We have a fun game consisting of rolling or bouncing the ball back and forth on the floor and yelling, "Dall!" :)

We have a major praise during this Coronavirus pandemic. We are still in Taiwan! We do not think lightly of the privilege to be able to bunker down on our field. We hear from many of our missionary friends who are stuck in limbo on furlough or deputation, or had to evacuate their field. Despite being so close to the source of the virus, it is amazing to me how successful Taiwan's efforts have been to minimize its effect and transmission. While the virus has confirmed cases in places, we regularly go for groceries etc, we are still able to basically carry on with life under certain restrictions.

As you know we have no visa and must leave Taiwan every 90 days, but this time we got to reset our time by going to Manila. What made it special was seeing Katie and Joe McKelroy and their little boy, Levi. Katie is Kelsie's sister, and Joe is like a brother to me. We were just there with them for a day but it was such an awesome recharging time. Logan and Levi enjoyed good cousin time and seemed to really get along, and Kelsie was so happy to be able to speak English and understand what was going on around her. Joe's parents, Pastor and Mrs. McKelroy, were there too and were such a kind blessing to us as well!

We arrived back in Taiwan **the day before** Taiwan shut down travel for non-citizens. We left the country just two days before we absolutely had to, and it ended up making the difference between being forced to leave our home and things behind and immediately catch one of the last few planes back to the States, and being able to enter through customs and bunker down at home. Praise the Lord! Since then the government has extended all visas an additional sixty days, giving us an extra chance to ride out the travel bans into late summer when we will have to leave again.

A few weeks ago we partnered with my parent's ministry to present an Easter program at the Neipu Elementary school (in our town). We have since lost the permission to do this program in schools. From this event we met several of the teachers and staff and were able to explain why we lived in their town and our intents as missionaries. Interestingly, there are also night classes held there to teach foreign wives/laborers Mandarin Chinese, and specifically to award an elementary school degree upon completion of their three year course.

Kelsie will

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PRAYER REQUESTS

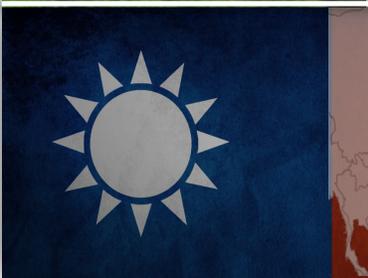
- Tribal Bible Study
- Language
- Acquisition
- Health & Safety

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 have been able to have a few formal Paiwan lessons in Piuma as well. I have since learned this is the appropriate spelling of their village name, not Byuma as I guessed. When you hear things a few times you realize the first impression of pronunciation isn't always accurate. Anyway, the class is designed to train kindergarten and elementary teachers to teach their children how to read and write and formally speak Paiwan. This class is so rich in culture and history and a behind the scenes view of how they think! I was writing furiously the whole time trying to get as much as I could. Humorously, I learned my name Ga'Niu was a derivative of Japanese during their pre-World War Two occupation of the island. The teacher advised me to get it changed to a pure Paiwan name, and hopefully he can do that for me at some point. Oh well, ingratiating myself into the community will be a step by step process.

I have also since learned that the current village is actually New Piuma, because the original is high up on the sacred mountain Dawu. It has been there for as long as they can remember. They denied the Japanese entrance into that area for all but the last decade of their occupation. A few hunters took bribes to show them the path around the village, which led to them being surrounded by hostile forces. They eventually had to sue for peace. They were a very warlike village and some of their warriors were conscripted to train Japanese scouts on jungle warfare techniques. There is a place on Dawu mountain commemorating the men they lost to the Japanese and again during the war. I have not confirmed this yet, but its possible a few might have died on Iowa Jima as well. I was going to be able to take a trek with Maichos and a few others up to sped the night in Old Piuma but that fell through due to a death of an elder in the village. Maichos had some responsibilities that prevented the trip from taking place. We will get to go soon I think. The villagers lived up there until the 1980's. The houses are built out of the traditional slate, and there is no electricity at all. Just the old way of living high on the mountains. In the '80's the elders decided to relocate to the new location for healthcare and convenience reasons. The only way up or down is a long trek, so any sicknesses or injuries may well mean death. Tired of losing children to preventable causes, and fearful in their old age for their own care, they relocated. Many of the children at the time, like Maichos himself, have since grown and view this as the wrong decision. Many wish to return to their old life high in the mountains and leave this new, electrified village. I hope to take this trek soon. It will be invaluable for learning their way of life. I would get to hunt with them, and see the gamut of their traditional life up high on the mountain. I hope to be able to tell you about it next prayer letter! More importantly, if we take the trek, I have permission to bring a Bible and speak to them about any topic. Hopefully this single event unlocks many future Bible studies and gives me greater freedom to influence them for the cause of Christ.

Expecting Great Things,

Nathaneil, Kelsie and Logan Cullers



Driving by a modern version of the traditional slate house.

The Paiwan have a unique instrument called the nose flute. This statue commemorates an elder resident who is considered the best nose flutist on the island.

