

The Cullers Family

2nd Generation Missionaries

Taiwan



09-10/21 Prayer Letter Update

It's a girl! Allie Rose Cullers is due around January 17th and we are so excited to meet her. We were able to secure the National Health Insurance without difficulty, which makes life easier medically. It is interesting to compare and contrast having a child in the States with having one here in Taiwan. Sometimes, you don't notice the little details until they are quite different!

We are happy to say that after months of lockdown it appears the restrictions are beginning to loosen. As long as requirements are fulfilled, we have been able to meet in person at church the past few weeks. In turn, that has meant we have been able to journey back into the mountains and feel out the situation there. People in the hills seem much less concerned with the stringent mask wearing policies. We have been able to resume our weekly trips to scout out villages and see what roads exist where, and what condition they are in. The typhoons this year have damaged quite a few roads, especially in the mountains. A few times I did not drive the car over certain spots being fairly certain the tiny road cut into the cliff would have collapsed, or the road had already collapsed down the hill. On the east coast, mudslides in the mountains have resulted in a number of missing people. Fortunately, those same mountains have shielded us here on the other side. We have been praying for the Lord to help us make a "divine appointment" in one of these villages. It has been difficult to find an in with such a tight-knit group of people.

There is a boy in my parent's sending church who was adopted from the Paiwan village of Laiyi near here. Laiyi is considered to be the birth place of the whole Paiwan people and culture, or so I've read. Many old animistic rituals are regularly practiced and protected there. We have recently been praying especially for Laiyi and whether the Lord would have us focus there and seek to begin a work. Although he lives in the US now, this boy has a great burden for Laiyi and the people living there. He has been praying for God to send someone there, a fact we didn't know of until we mentioned our interest in Laiyi to my parents. My parents went with the American couple to go get this boy from Laiyi and while they were there, a witch performed a meat offering ritual and was sprinkling blood with a hyssop-like branch. We do not know as yet what the Lord has in store, but we would covet prayers for wisdom and for a door of opportunity. On a separate note, we have also been able to find a few old village ruin sites, which mark the original location of modern village locations. I am close to hacking my way through and finding an altar of skulls that may represent over 400 years of headhunting, back to the days when the Dutch were in Formosa. The altar was supposedly one of the largest down south in its hey-day. I had hoped to already have found it and include a picture, but I guess that will have to wait until next time.

"Crowded modern cities, or in the mountains wild,

Every soul is just as precious in Your sight.

Anywhere You send, I am prepared to go.

Lord, oh help me love the ones You love!"

Victory Baptist Church

179 Kincaid Dr. Roseburg, OR 97470

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One thing we have been asked about quite often recently is the situation with Mainland China. I will keep my answer simple and brief. While the amount of aircraft invading Taiwanese airspace has been increasing, as well as the frequency of these incursions, this posturing by China has taken place my whole lifetime. It's old news over here. People here aren't very stressed about the situation. Much like a South Korean lives his life without being too worried about the North, people here are used to the unresolved threat of war. In my opinion, China will invade forcefully one day. To me the question is not "if" but "when". It is also my humble opinion that today is not that day. Taiwan is a harder nut to crack than it gets credit for. I do not think the cost-to-benefit ratio is favorable to China at their current capabilities. It would simply cost China too much to take Taiwan at this point. Taiwan is absolutely committed to fighting, and has their own deterrents in place. I have many detailed reasons for this opinion, but at the end of the day, it is just an opinion and I do not have all the facts. We do endeavor to be wise and have a contingency plan in place for that eventuality. In the meantime, we will focus on the work God has for us to accomplish, however much time that may entail. Who knows, Jesus could return tomorrow anyway!

The last update I would leave with you is a prayer request for a speedy and uneventful move. We are moving for the fourth time in under 2 years. The current older house that we rent had a rough time weathering the seasonal rains and typhoons and is falling apart. We signed a contract on a new place a few days ago and officially move in November 1st. We are just hoping it will be a solid place we can live for more than one year :). It is also closer to the Laiyi village I mentioned earlier in the letter. It is in a Taiwanese (Hokkien) town, so unlike living in Neipu, which is a Hakka town, I will have ample opportunities to use the Taiwanese I have been learning. Our neighbor is an older lady that doesn't speak Mandarin. I am hoping to be able to witness to her one day as I learn more and more Taiwanese. It saddens my heart to think of all the people like her that may fall through the cracks because they do not speak 國語, or Mandarin.

As always, thank you for all the prayers and support, the cards you send and the extra offerings, we greatly appreciate each and every one of you! P.S. I will attach a few pictures from these past two months on the next page for your enjoyment.

Expecting Great Things,
The Cullers Family

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LEFT: I am so happy to have a little buddy to help hand out tracts! He does a good job and loves getting to help in ministry. We have had a lot more opportunities to meet and engage people in conversation because of him.



RIGHT: One of the roads in rough shape I mentioned. Pictures never turn out quite like being there in person and seeing with the human eye. The bank above and below had fallen away, leaving most of this section of concrete slab road suspended over nothing. I decided not to drive across :).

A present-day village location, of WangJia (Chinese name) I believe. Many villages have since moved out of the mountains to a safer, more accessible location. I realized I do not have a picture of Laiyi, which I need to remedy before our next prayer letter. This picture is taken from one of our trips driving up in the mountains to get a lay of the land. Many villages have at least two locations, the old site and a new, present site. Laiyi has three. The old site, a newer one halfway down, and an even newer addition situated much like the one in this picture. Some of these villages like Laiyi could not sustain the size of the village with the available resources and had to branch off to farm other areas too and lessen the burden on the other place. It can be very confusing to map out and understand the area, because of the special relationship between clans and villages in a tribal system with a caste structure. I do feel we are making progress to understand how things work.



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