



Reaching Taiwans'
Working Class

Johnson's Prayer Partners November 2018



An Air New Zealand 787 - The Airline and type of plane that will fly us back to Taiwan

We did it!

It is with heartfelt thanks that we can say thank you and give praise to God for his gracious provision; We are returning to Taiwan on January 3rd! After our last prayer letter we had a very generous flow of donations come our way from churches, families and individuals - Thank you so much for your support. It is a pleasure to be serving a gracious God and partnering with you in the process. There were a couple of quite miraculous provisions which I will outline below - but for now we would just like to say Thankyou. For stories of provision and our plans from here, **Please read on...**

Miraculous Provision



You may wonder why there is a picture of a car above - I will get to that. But as mentioned, in our previous prayer letter we still had quite a large outstanding deficit before we would reach our 100% finance target - we were sitting at around 90%. Well soon after sending out the prayer letter we received a reply back from the regional headquarters of a group of Taiwanese Churches in Auckland pledging to take up approximately 50% of the remaining deficit! We were blown away by this. Then within the next few days there were a number of long-standing friends and family and also some new supporters who gave very generously to bump up our percentage considerably.

It was at this time - despite still not having financial clearance, that a friend at church challenged me to go ahead and book our tickets to Taiwan - on faith. This was a bit of a challenge for me, knowing that without clearance from OMF there was not going to be any reimbursement for flight payments should the outstanding funds not come through - but in faith we went ahead and booked our flights.

Within a day or two of doing this I was reading the biography of Francis and Edith Shaeffer one evening before bed. The Shaeffers set up the first L'Abri Community in Switzerland in the mid 1950s. A Christian faith community dedicated to teaching and helping people discover the answers to life's deepest philosophical questions. Through reading this biography I was struck by the Shaeffers' utter reliance on God - for finance, for accommodation and even for the right people become a part of their ministry - all they did was pray - and God provided. After finishing a chapter that particular evening, a chapter where the Shaeffers' had just been gifted enough money to buy a house, I thought to myself, wow, wouldn't it be great to have

financial provision on a scale such as that - then I opened my emails and read this...

'While we haven't been following all of your recent emails, this one caught our attention, we would like to offer what we can. We are no longer living in New Zealand but still own two cars still in Auckland - We would like to gift these cars to you - A Toyota Camry Hybrid and a Lexus GS450h - estimated value between \$15,000 and \$20,000 New Zealand Dollars!'

I couldn't quite believe what I was reading. This was truly an amazing provision and almost exactly the amount needed to pay for the children's education fees for next year. God is truly wonderful and so too have these people been, Taiwanese I might add. Henry and Eva have been going around saying - 'This is my car and that one's yours - they're paying for our school fees next year!' (Henry's taken the Lexus!!!) Praise God for the Taiwanese!!!

So obviously I now have to sell the cars, but at a fair price this should be no problem. And yes all of the proceeds will be given to OMF and go towards our support over the next three years. Praise God!



Zhongpu

Things continue to go very well in Zhongpu with recent church attendance on Sunday up at 40 people! As we mentioned last prayer letter, the challenge is to disciple all of these people

with the limited people resources available. Our team, as well as welcoming us back in the new year, are currently looking at bringing another missionary family, from another part of Taiwan to come and assist with the work.



The picture above also shows the number of people starting to come along to the church. This was at our recent Thanksgiving luncheon - a much-anticipated annual event. We are also very pleased to report that our colleagues have managed to find us an apartment to live in when we return. It was quite an amazing sequence of events that led to the contract on this apartment being signed just two days after we had been given financial clearance. The real estate agent was prepared to wait over the weekend until Monday for our colleagues to sign the contract and it wasn't until the Saturday that we were granted clearance. We look forward to moving in and enjoying the view as pictured below.



Prayer Pointers

Praise God for his faithfulness with OMF granting us full clearance to return to Taiwan.

Please pray for a smooth transition as we pack up home in NZ and return.

Give thanks that our colleagues have found us an apartment in Chiayi to live in.

Also give thanks for the continued growth of the church in Zhongpu.

Continue to pray for our colleagues as they juggle the growing workload, particularly discipleship with this church growth.

Pray that we will reintegrate well into the team.

Pray that a local pastor may be found in 2019 to lead the church.

Pray particularly for our children as they start at new schools. Henry and Eva in a Christian International School and Esme at a local kindergarten.

Where to from here?

We now have only just over two weeks left in our house in Auckland. We depart on December 14th. Obviously we are very seriously in the throws of moving out as well as trying to fit in farewells to friends, commissioning services at church and loads of administrative tasks that need to be done before we leave the country.

After leaving Auckland we will travel to Tauranga for a week spending time with Simon's family before heading north of Auckland to spend Christmas with Helen's side of the family.

We then fly out on January 3rd.

It has been a pleasure partnering with you all throughout 2018. Thankyou once again for all of your prayers and support. It has been a year of spiritual reformation and reconfirmation of our call to Taiwan - Thankyou for sharing this journey with us.

God Bless and Happy Christmas.

Simon, Helen, Henry, Evangeline and Esme.

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. John 15:13,14.



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