

November 27, 2016

Greetings from Taiwan!

Hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving with friends or family. Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays because of how it brings people together and it reminds me (and all of us) that there is so much we have to be thankful for. I feel like I need that reminder more often than I would like! It's definitely different celebrating Thanksgiving here in Taiwan, but I was grateful to have such wonderful people to celebrate with:) The first picture I attached is just a portion of the room where all of the Taipei staff and students came together to have a Thanksgiving meal. We spent some time sharing at each table what we're thankful for personally and then a time of thanking God, together, for all that He's done for us. Even if what you're facing is difficult, there is so much God has given us that we can be thankful for.

I haven't had a chance to update you on my time in Cambodia, either. It was a very productive and encouraging trip. I was able to speak with the YWAM leadership team in Battambang and then meet with all of their individual ministry leaders. It's humbling to hear from people who have committed their lives to these ministries and are a part of seeing the Cambodian people helped and the Gospel spread. I will be taking this information back to the meeting we will have in January in Montana to pray about which nation will be the next Surge location (it will either be in Nepal, Thailand or Cambodia).

The 2 weeks I've spent in Taiwan have been good, but challenging. I knew coming here that there were some things we would need to work through with the leadership; namely that their leadership was not all unified on how the Surge is working here. It's not that they don't like the Surge, but there were disagreements on "how" we were going about accomplishing things. Because this is pioneering (we've never seen something like this done in all of YWAM's history), there are times we (Taipei and Montana) find ourselves with differences of opinion or perspective due to differences in ways of thinking (i.e. culture). It's my job to work with the Taipei leadership to help us find common ground and figure out how to proceed. Overall, it's going well now, but we're still needing a lot of wisdom on how to navigate a few differences in culture that big ramifications if they are not navigated well. We could use a lot of prayer for this.

God is doing so much that we didn't even expect through this Surge. I think He's done more work on building relationships between our two bases than I ever thought would happen. This trip it has been the most obvious to me because at the start I had 6 different Taiwanese ask to meet with me personally, which hasn't happened yet. The Taiwanese are starting to feel that Montana is a trusted group of people and they want to build stronger relationship with us, which means a lot in Taiwanese culture. I also had the Taiwanese leaders on this base tell me that they feel the relationship between our two locations has become so much stronger in the last 2 years. It might not sound like a big deal, but these relationships built between staff at our two bases will be what carries on after the Surge with Taipei is over. These relationships are critical to seeing more students and staff from our base going to Taiwan long-term.

I still have a week left here and a lot of meetings. Please continue to pray for me, for wisdom and discernment as I navigate things cross culturally. We all want what God wants, not just what's comfortable for our individual cultures. And it's obvious that God is doing something new in Taiwan; hearts are softening to hearing His Truth like the Taipei staff have never seen before. Also, please pray for strength and energy for me because it hasn't been the easiest trip, I've also traveled a lot this Fall and can feel the effects of bouncing around, and because traveling alone can be tiring.

The last two pictures I took on the same day...the busy street was in the morning when the weather was nice and later that day I was out by Taipei 101 and it was raining. Taiwan's weather shifts quickly! Lots of rain here, haha. It's been raining all day.

Thank you so much for praying for me and standing with me as I do my best to do what I feel God is asking of me. I know God is moving here and leading us to continue in this partnership with YWAM Taipei. We have 1 year and 2 months left in this Surge with Taipei and we feel God is saying this is going to be the biggest push we make and the most fruit we will see. It's so encouraging for me to know you're all praying and believing God with me (and with YWAM Montana and YWAM Taipei). We're all in this together and I believe we're about to see God do some miraculous things!

For His Glory,
Veronica Thompson





