

October 2021

Dear Praying Friends,

The sounds outside my office patio door: today the cicada “sing” loudly (70 decibals). Earlier this week I streamed Christian music to drown out the drone of the chanting Buddhist monks and nuns.

Just outside my office patio door, which serves as my window to the outside air is a large Buddhist temple. The grounds are quite tree-filled, so it serves as home to many animals and bugs. I took a picture from my office balcony.

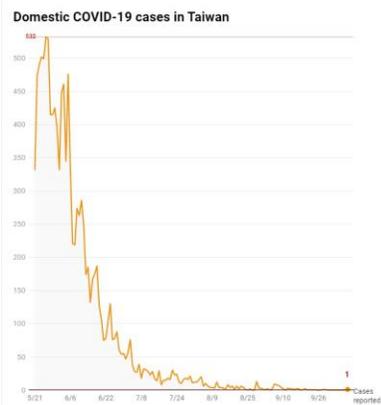


It's been very quiet in my office and living quarters building. Due to Covid our Asia Regional Office Administrator comes only once per month and is mostly working remotely. Also, a week before I was able to return from hotel quarantine, the (Asia Regional Director) Ferry family returned to visit in the USA for the first time in three years. So, when I returned to my home, I came back to a virtually empty building. There is no one working in the office areas of the 4th floor, and no one else living on the 5th floor. It's very quiet!

To break some of the silences, I started a weekly Monday night Bible study with three women, and have invited some people over for dinners—usually one other Christian along with a not-yet Christian, in order to share the good news.

Gratefully, an upcoming speaker who will travel to Taiwan when she is able (i.e. the borders open), Deaconess Sandra Rhein, has sent 52 pages of lecture scripts covering eight topics regarding music, liturgy, and reverence in worship, about which she will be presenting. So I have begun translating those lectures, and am working with Taiwanese Christian sisters and friends to refine the Chinese.

Today I will begin practicing reading the Chinese translations, to learn and engrain the correct tones and pronunciation in my brain. “Tones” refers to the four pitches used in speaking Chinese 1) high level pitch 2) rising pitch 3) falling then rising pitch and 4) sharp falling pitch. There is also a neutral tone. The meaning of the word said depends on the tone with which it is said. For example, “Ma1ma1 ma4 ma3 ma?” means “Is mom scolding the horse?” My biggest problem with communicating effectively in Chinese is learning and remembering the correct tones. Please pray.



Taiwan has had very low local transmission rates of Covid, and has begun to lift some of the regulations regarding dining in restaurants and social gatherings.

Thank you for your partnership in prayer with me. You are a wonderful blessing to me and God's Church!

In Christ's Service,
Barb Rebentisch

Praise Reports:

- *For your prayers, messages, and contributions.*
- *For Taiwanese friends who are willing to help with my translation work.*
- *For Taiwan's effective management of Covid.*
- *For opportunities to share God's Word and the good news of Jesus with those who have yet to know Him.*

Prayer Requests:

- *For improved Chinese (especially the tones when I speak), so that I can be effective in the work that I am called to do.*
- *For Mary's physical and spiritual healing, for Steve, and for Mrs. Lee that their hearts will be opened to saving faith.*
- *For God to be known through the Covid outbreak; that He'll use it for His purposes.*
- *For God to bless all of you one hundredfold for the blessing you are to me 😊*

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Gifts in support of my work can be sent to:

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Gifts can also be given securely ONLINE through the LCMS website at
<https://www.lcms.org/rebentisch>

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