

TAIWAN UPDATE

DECEMBER 2011 ~ A MINISTRY UPDATE FROM CHUCK BURNETT ~

DECISIONS THAT ARE WAITING TO BE MADE AND THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE: Matt Wasmund informed me that getting a work visa through CELA so that they could hire me as a full-time teacher has some issues. The main one is if they hire me full-time I will have to be a homeroom teacher. Homeroom teachers have to be able to talk to parents in Chinese and-or Taiwanese. That issue alone makes it impossible for me to be a full-time CELA teacher.

Matt also talked to Paul, the principal of CMS, about me getting a work visa through CMS and found out that there were issues there also. However, Paul said he would continue to try to find a solution for me to be able to help out at CMS and CELA.

I also talked to Matt about me getting a visa through Salvation Church. Matt had to return to North Korea, but he insured me that he would get in touch with Pastor Alex and continue to work on those issues. I received an email from Matt a few days ago and I would like to share it with you:

Chuck,

Thank you for your patience. I know that things have been moving slow regarding our discussion, but you know the holidays in Taiwan with church events. Things still are not clear right now from the perspective of the CELC, Salvation, and your situation with the visa, but I wanted you to know that Pastor Alex has been made aware of your situation and desire to remain in Taiwan, serving in whatever capacity possible. I explained the matter of the visa coming due at An Zhong, your travels to the states for medical check-ups, your interest in coming back in August, your idea to change the visa to Salvation, and your willingness to serve as a volunteer with lodging. As you and I know, this isn't a small question for just him to answer, but rather a discussion point and mutual decision between him, Salvation's elders, and CMS. Another factor that I wasn't aware of is that An Zhong actually has its own legal identity so can issue its own visas. Salvation does not. Salvation's ability to issue a visa rests in the legal corporation.

I will be back in Taiwan in February. I know you will not be there, but I will continue to pursue this with Alex and then, at the appropriate time, with Paul as a suitable representative for CMS. Since it is difficult to put this on a timeline, I suggest that you stick to the plan we discussed (if you haven't already) for getting an extension for the visa via An Zhong.

The semester's end is approaching quick (last week, I guess), so I hope you are blessed in it and that your service is a blessing to others.

Please let me know your thoughts and I hope we can make some progress with this before too long.

Matt

MY THOUGHTS: Last Tuesday as I was walking to the CMS snack-bar to buy my breakfast, Paul was riding toward me on his bike. He stopped and started talking with me, even though he was in a hurry because he had to go to Taipei for a meeting. He asked me two questions during our short conversation that brought a “Thank You God” to my lips after he left. The first question was: “Will you help out again during the next school year?” And my answer was: “Yes!” The second question was: “When will you come back from the US?” And my answer was: “The end of July.” Why did those questions make me feel so confident? Because at that moment “I knew” that Paul will find a solution to make it possible for me to help out at CMS and/or CELA the 2012-2013 school year, if that is God’s will.

One of my big concerns has been going back to the US this next semester for doctor appointments. I realized that it was necessary in order to be able to teach all of the next school year but the concern for who would fill in for me was still there. Emily Ringelberg accepting the call to come serve at CELA for this spring semester has alleviated that concern. She arrived at CMS on December 30th or the 31st. She will be teaching the kindergarten Bible classes I have been teaching and E3 English classes which will also take some of the burden off the American CMS teachers.

STICKING TO THE PLAN: I have purchased an airplane ticket. My flight schedule is:

China Airlines (DL7725)	Feb. 06 (Mon.)	Taipei, Taiwan San Francisco, CA	Depart: 11:25pm Arrive: 06:25pm
Delta Airlines (DL4470)	Feb. 07 (Tue)	San Francisco, CA Salt Lake City, UT	Depart: 06:10am Arrive: 09:08am
Skywest (DL7760)	Feb. 07 (Tue)	Salt Lake City, UT Elko, NV	Depart: 11:15am Arrive: 11:21am

If I don’t have any medical or financial problems I plan on returning to Taiwan on July 31st. I am not exactly sure of what I will be doing or where I will be doing it at when I return to Taiwan. For this reason, after a lot of prayer and putting all of this in God’s loving and gracious hands, I have made a decision to not renew my ARC. I will return on a tourist visa. That way, if I need a work visa I can apply for that, or if I need a missionary visa I can apply for that. Even though there are still decisions to be made here in Taiwan I feel at peace with those that have been made, thanks belong to God!

Time for prayer:

†Join me in asking God to guide those that are making the decisions that are waiting to be made.

†Join me in thanking God for guiding the people that have helped to make the decisions that have been made.

†Join me in asking God to continue using me, if this is His will, as His servant in the place He knows that will best fit my spiritual gifts.

†Join me in thanking God for answering our prayers through sending Emily to Taiwan to teach the kindergarten Bible and E3 English classes.

†Join me in asking God to grant me safe and trouble free travel back to Elko, and that all of my medical exams and procedures would go well.

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