



photo by Patrick Q.



Friends,

There was a package waiting for us at our local post office; we just didn't know how to get it. Post offices in the U.S. can often be frustrating but imagine that in a foreign language and a different cultural system. We felt *helpless*. This was our first month living in East Asia. We had *painstakingly* deciphered a text of Chinese characters to learn that a package had come.

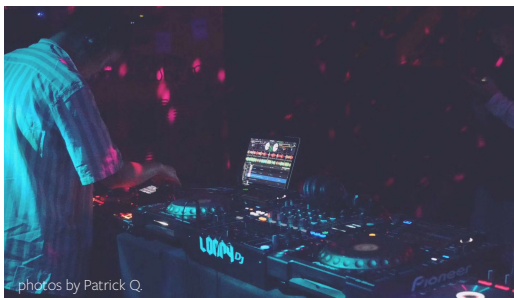
Soon after arriving, we were very confused. Our excitement about getting a package from home quickly faded. We realized our limited knowledge of the language and local customs was still a huge obstacle in living overseas.

Frustrating. Helpless. Painful. Foreign. These are feelings many people experience whether visiting another country or in some cases, fleeing their own.

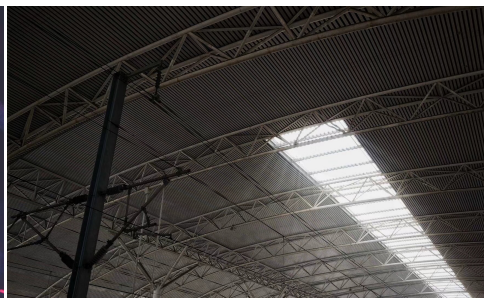
An Unexpected Friendship

As we stood outside, consulting our bilingual dictionary, someone behind us asked, "Can I help you?" Surprised and relieved to hear something we understood, we turned to see a man our age. He had helpful eyes, a soft smile, and a skateboard at his feet. "Hi. My name is Patrick."

Patrick ended up rescuing us that day and also became a dear friend who introduced us to his family, invited us to meals, and made us feel welcome in a land that was not our own.



photos by Patrick Q.



"[God] takes loving care of foreigners by seeing that they get food and clothing. You must treat foreigners with the same loving care— remember, you were once foreigners in Egypt." -Deuteronomy 10:17-19

We pray each of our overseas staff finds a friend like Patrick and through these friendships, they would care for others and feel cared for. We have seen over and over that when people are genuinely welcomed and brought in, they experience God's love sometimes for the first time. Our ministry is built on relationships, as God created us to thrive in community.



Nich, Tricia, Tosh, Rohan, & Naomi

Thankful

As we continue to trust God for this life-giving community for our staff, the people in their communities, and even our own family, we are thankful for you. Your faithful prayers and generous donations have allowed us to continue serving our 45+ International Staff as they connect with and minister to the people of their host country through the love of Jesus.

We are so grateful to the Lord for you and are in awe every day at the way God provides for our family through the love, generosity, and hospitality of others. Thank you for being our friends, family, and partners in ministry.

Praising God for you always, *NICH & Tricia*