

Because we work with people living & serving in secure locations, please DO NOT POST, FORWARD OR SHARE this information. Thank you :)

Taichung | Taiwan

Whether it is a woman alone at a well, an ignored beggar on the street, a despised tax collector, or someone publicly shamed, Jesus always saw people for who they were, beautifully and wonderfully created by God. Martin and Jean embody this character of Jesus - seeing those around them who are alone, ignored, and forgotten, lifting them up in love, engaging with them as persons to be seen once again.

We first "met" Martin, Jean and their daughter Jolene, on the steps of Burger King our first year living in East Asia. It was barely a, "hello" at the time, but what we experienced from them was a pursuit of friendship over that next two years, that helped us feel welcome in that city, and as a



Martin & Jean, serving in Taiwan.

part of their family. Jean, Martin, and Jolene moved from East Asia to Taiwan just two weeks after we moved back to the US, where they now continue to minister to families, students and people around them, with the love and words of Jesus. We had the joy of spending time with them for a week on our way to coach our staff in Thailand.

Over the past 2 years since moving to Taiwan, Martin and Jean, have been going through the process of adopting a little girl into their family. Just within the past 2 weeks, they welcomed their daughter Elena to her forever home.



Naomi, Tosh & Jolene.

Taipei night traffic.

Night market with Martin, Jean & Jolene.

"Stinky" & delicious fried tofu.

Jean writes, "Psalm 34:18 'The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.' Over and over in the night, her forlorn cries broke our hearts. We cannot deny, our flesh cried out in frustration and exhaustion. But our Lord filled our hearts with compassion and mourning. Yes, mourning for this sweet precious life that has started out with such trauma. Yes, mourning that when she cries out for a person, it isn't her birth mom or us at the moment. Yes, mourning that we cannot provide the comfort she needs yet. So we just hold her close as she cries til exhaustion. And we hold her again when it starts all over. But we hope. Yes, we hope for the day when she can find comfort and healing through us because of the love of Christ."

Please pray for Martin, Jean, Jolene (5) and Elena (1.5) as they adapt to being a family of 4. Pray that the Lord would sustain them with peace, rest and joy, as they continue to open to their lives, home and family to others.

If you would like to connect more with Martin and Jean's missionary journey and learn what the Lord is doing in and through them, you can subscribe to their ministry updates via email at: <u>melodyofharmony527@gmail.com</u>

Praise God for how He is bringing people to know their Creator more fully. Thank you for your prayers and gifts that enable faithful men and women, similar to Martin and Jean, to minister to others with the sensitivity, care and love of Jesus. Thank you for continuing on this (exciting, sometimes exhausting, but completely worth it) journey with us!

Much love in Christ, NICH & Tricia

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