

## I LOVE TAIWAN 2017 - REPORT



I left New Zealand on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017 on a direct flight to Hong Kong. Ten and a half hours later I arrived at Hong Kong Airport which was huge. After getting off the plane, my next flight was departing from way down the other end of the airport. I waited for one and a half hours before departing Hong Kong airport for Taiwan. On my arrival in Taiwan the weather was a bearable 30c plus

I stayed in Kaohsiung for 3 days for the first part of the trip @ Chungwa Telecom Co., Telecommunication Training Institute. I spent this time sightseeing and getting to know the local attractions.

Taiwan has a very fast train service which arrives and departs every 5 minutes

We did worshipping, sang songs and played lots of fun activities to get to know each other. We went to a local night market that had loads of food stalls to choose from

On the last day of orientation, we had singing and worship time. I placed a New Zealand stamp on the map of Taiwan and we also had our feet washed. We then transferred to the local Church for 10 days called "Ji Fong."

In the Wufeng District, (Taichung City) I stayed with my host family who were very lovely people

We had to get the Church ready for the kids Summer Camp. We worked with the kids doing worship, singing, baking & drama. We also had a field trip to the rice plantation for the kids to learn about the insects within the rice field itself. We also did a paper mache portrait (using rice fibre)

I enjoyed going to the Earthquake Museum near the Church. We did a lot of trips out and about the attractions such as Cosco (Mega Mall) ~ Ten Pin Bowling ~ Night Markets ~ Old Government House

We did a trip up the mountain, visited a sheep farm where you can feed the sheep and did some bush walking. We visited so many different waterfalls and went to Sun Moon Lake. We biked round the Lake and the thing I noticed most was the loud noise of the cicadas. The cicadas are so loud they can damage a person's hearing.



I tried lots of different foods using chop sticks. I found it very hard to use them but I managed to eat my food eventually.

My favourite foods I tasted was the local Fried Chicken, Mango, Dragon Fruit, Sweet & Sour Pork, Lychee, Grass Jelly to name but a few. Every single meal is served with a bowl of rice

The last day of the Church Group I was with, we did our performance. I was invited to be Goliath (Giant) for the drama. I was very proud at what I had achieved and also very proud to hand over the Maori Taonga carving that is to be posted to the Bunan Tribe who live by Sun Moon Lake. Unfortunately we had no spare time to visit the Church.

I was able to give Pastor Chow and Yen several gifts that I'd had collected for them i.e. the New Zealand Flag ~ a rock ~ a necklace with a Maori carving. The Church gave me gifts of a Certificate ~ 3x T-Shirts ~ Box Of Bible Tea Bags ~ Chinese Chess Game. I thanked them all for hosting me

and for their hospitality. I felt really welcomed and I was invited to return and stay with them any time I wanted to

We spent the last 3 days at William-Sia Memorial Camp, Puli, Nantou. Again, the cicadas were horrendously noisy following a huge down pour of rain & thunder

At this camp we did more worshipping, song sharing and we ran a stall to raise funds for the local church we were with for 10 days. Our local church had to perform a song to share for Shine the church.

The activity I most enjoyed at this camp was called "New Life". This involved going to different stalls. We all had to do an exam remembering 5 different Bible Verses. This determined how much income we would get every 30 minutes.



Grade A was the most expensive down to Grade D which was the poorest. We had to purchase items to survive. Food clothes, medicine, taxes & insurances. If we had no money, we could pawn our items for cash.

Culture night was great. Different countries performed. If there had been more Kiwi's there, I would have had them perform a Haka with me. We had a fake campfire and it was good. The accommodation was okay but the beds were hard and uncomfortable

I would like to say a big thank you to PCANZ, Waiuku & District Combined Churches and the St Andrews Op Shop for their amazing support and help so that I could attend this fantastic trip

I would recommend this Mission Trip to anyone who has never been to Taiwan. It is a great experience that is full of amazing memories. You will have fun and make some great lifelong friends.

I left Taiwan on the 16<sup>th</sup> June and arrived back in New Zealand on Sunday morning

My heartfelt appreciation to everyone who made it possible for me to go on this Mission. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and would definitely go again if the opportunity arose so that I could visit many of the areas I did not have time to see.

If other Mission opportunities came up in other areas of the world, I would gladly look at it and see if I would be suitable to attend.

God Bless each and every one of you

Mark Jane

