

Of Things Auld and New

Glimpses of Grace in Taiwan

*If it keep on raining, the levee's gonna break.
If it keep on raining, the levee's gonna break.
Everybody saying this is a day only the Lord could make.
—Bob Dylan*

*Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.
—James 5:17-18*



I've often thought that being an intercessor is like being an undercover agent in a spy movie. You seek hidden information that is critical to your mission's success. Danger and risk are part of the job, but you are supplied with the very best equipment—what's a spy movie without cool gadgets? And because you work incognito, no one but your "handler" sees your work until the whole badguy organization is taken down in the end.

So it is with effective intercessors. They pray with ears open to the Holy Spirit, who reveals strategic prayers for specific times. They fight spiritual authorities using the best weapons—spiritual weapons

supplied by God—rather than fighting aimlessly by human means. It is hidden work, and there are times where all visible ministry activities appear fruitless, but it is the most critical work. And there is the very real adventure of depending on a living God who is much more than merely a "handler."

Let's talk a bit about prayer strategy here. Taiwan is a country that has not yet experienced a breakthrough of the gospel. In the advancing of God's Kingdom around the world, there are times that seem very quiet, and times when it seems as if the heavens have broken open and let loose a mighty flood of the Holy Spirit. The strategy in Taiwan is different than in places like Africa and China where, figuratively speaking, the spiritual levees have broken and the Church is growing exponentially. Praise God for such seasons! Whether in drought or flood, God is at work; the question is whether we have eyes to see it and join Him.

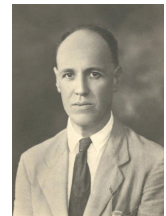
I believe that God has promised rain, and a breaking of the spiri-

tual levees in Taiwan. Not long after I heard God calling me to Taiwan, I had a significant experience of healing and deliverance. In the moments after that experience, I felt God point to Joel 2:25-29. Do read it sometime—the passage speaks of restoration, the removal of shame, and ends with the beautiful promise of an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which St. Peter quotes in his sermon that birthed the Church in Acts 2. In that moment, I felt God affirm that my healing was not just for my family and I, but a foretaste of his promise for Taiwan.

The next day, I flew to Colorado to begin "Candidate Course," the final stage of the application process to become an OMF worker. To my amazement, a rainbow surrounded the plane nearly the whole way. I felt the Spirit confirming His promise to me using His ancient sign of promise.

More than anything else, the work of the Kingdom in Taiwan requires prayer workers that are like undercover spies who operate with

the Holy Spirit as their "handler". Taiwan needs a breaking of the spiritual levees of resistance to the gospel. Only then will the visible work of preaching, bible studies, outreaches, etc. be truly fruitful. This hidden work may be long and hard, but God will accomplish it through (extra)ordinary folk like you and me.



This man's journals changed my prayer life years ago. Read more and see a clip of a new movie about his life:

www.jofraser.org

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Please join me in praying for Taiwan according to God's promise in Joel 2:25-29

Please also pray:

- For a strong prayer/advocacy team at my church (Elm City Vineyard). Plans for this have just begun under the leadership of our global outreach coordinator.
- For those interceding for Taiwan to experience deep faith, spiritual protection, discernment, and growing intimacy with God.
- That God would use me to mobilize believers, especially intercessors, for Taiwan. Pray also for His grace on two trips I will make this month:
 - Chicago & Wisconsin (Oct 16-27)
 - Taiwan Mission Foundation conference in New Jersey (Nov 1)

The banner photo shows Taipei's skyline, with Taipei 101, the tallest building the world, in the distance to the right. Image credit: "Good Morning Taipei" by Alex Lin.