

# Training In Mission Programme Newsletter

Issue 1

May 15, 2017

## Aotearoa Through the Eyes of Foreigners

### Q1: How does the food differ in your country to what you get in New Zealand?

**Felauai:** The food in New Zealand is not really different from Samoan food. The most fantastic thing was on Sunday (May 7) I ate chocolate for the first time after dinner and bun & cheese also! In Samoa, Sunday is the only day we have a lot of food for my whole family. We have soup, pig (pork), fried chicken, fish and many other things.

**Eunsoo:** In Korea, when we have meals there are many side dishes. In New Zealand, almost all of the meals we have are on one plate or we have two to three plates with different foods. I've also noticed that in New Zealand we are able to drink tap water whenever we feel thirsty unlike Korea, we can't drink the water because of pollution, it is not as clean as here.

**Stuart:** 'Everyday' South African food is very similar to the foods that you find in New Zealand however because we have such a diversity in culture many dishes are different to what you would find in New Zealand. In South Africa, many people live in poverty so they only manage to have one or possibly two meals everyday. The main meal of the day is usually dinner but in some household's lunch is the main meal of the day.



### Q2: How does the New Zealand environment compare to your countries environment?

**Renita:** New Zealand's environment is very different to Cayman. There are a lot of mountains and hills unlike the Cayman Islands which are flat. It is definitely colder and windier than my country.

**Wellington:** The New Zealand environment in terms of weather is completely different to Zambia. It is cold and windy in New Zealand but in Zambia it is warm and not as windy. And relation wise so for me the people of New Zealand are good as for me just like Zambia and the infrastructure here is more developed than in Zambia.

**Tetoaiti:** Kiribati has nice warm weather during the day but it usually becomes a lot cooler in the evenings. In Kiribati there are many fruit trees like coconut trees and breadfruit trees.

# Aotearoa Through the Eyes of Foreigners

## Q3: What were your expectations of New Zealand and the TIM Programme?

**Song Ying:** During my time in New Zealand, I have been exploring a lot and learning more about New Zealand's traditions and culture and the way they preserve the history, language, culture, and music of this country. I really enjoy the beauty of nature here and I hope I will be able to climb some mountains and try some extreme sports while I am here. I expect TIM participants to help each other to listen and be open to learning about different cultures and for us to grow close as a family.

**Agnes:** I didn't have any special expectations for New Zealand as I have been to many countries in Europe and I find that all European countries look the same to me. I was surprised with the beauty of New Zealand, it is so green and air is so fresh! I didn't expect much about the TIM Programme so I came open minded and ready to meet everyone that God chose to put in my life throughout this trip. So far, I love them all as brothers and sisters and I come open to be blessed by them every day.

**Wellington:** My expectations were quite high, I really wanted to know and learn more about New Zealand and experience life in New Zealand. I was also inquisitive about the Tim program because I wanted to know more and understand what the program was all about.



## Q4: How did you feel when you first landed in New Zealand?

**Eunsoo:** I don't like Winter, because I really don't like being cold. When I landed in New Zealand, I was afraid the weather would be cold, and it was! This is my first visit to Oceania, I was very nervous and excited but I knew this experience would open my mind and give me a new view on life.

**Felauai:** "Ohhh its too cold!" The airport was big and nice, not like Samoa's airport. It was so big I followed people to find the way out of the airport. Out of all the TIM participants I was the first to arrive in New Zealand.

**Stuart:** I was very excited because I have never been outside of Africa before and I was super keen to learn and experience New Zealand for myself. I was also blown away by how windy it was in New Zealand!

**Wellington:** It was so amazing reaching New Zealand I thought it was a dream and it was not real facing the reality that I was out of Africa and Zambia for the first time and traveling alone until I arrived for this.

**Song Ying:** The air is so fresh and the weather is so comfortable. I love going outside and seeing the beautiful view, the green grassland, and mountains.

**Tetoaiti:** I was so happy to arrive in New Zealand to meet my TIM family and people from other cultures.

**Agnes:** When I first landed in New Zealand I wasn't expecting anything in particular. However, what amazed me the most was the smell of the fresh air.

# EVENTS – Rugby & In Transit

**TIM Participants were immersed in various experiences of cultural activities while in New Zealand**

## Rugby – Blues vs. Cheetahs

Aggression, tackling, shoving, and occasionally blood. These were all commonalities as I joined my fellow TIM Participants to watch my first rugby game at the Eden Park Stadium on Friday evening, May 11. The rugby game featured The Blues (from New Zealand) vs. The Cheetahs (from South Africa). Rugby is a growing sport in the Cayman Islands, but it is more appealing to a lot of the European and South African immigrants who live in the islands.

Despite the weather the evening was very enjoyable and after finally watching my first rugby game I have a new-found respect for the sport. Watching the game of rugby was like watching a depiction of life. Firstly, this is because the ball can never be passed forward only to the side and behind you.

This is so true to life, we can only use the past (behind) and the present (side) as a way of moving forward (future). When the teams threw in the ball from the sideline, teams raised their teammates in the air to catch the ball; similar to situations in life where need others to pick us up or support us as we reach for our goals. Though there is a high level of aggression in rugby, I find that very similar to the terminology of life being a “dog-eat-dog world”.

More importantly, I would like to thank Stuart for helping me to understand the game of rugby, even though South Africa (The Cheetahs) didn’t win, he won a new fan for the sport!

**By: Renita Barnes**  
**From: Cayman Islands**

## “In Transit”

My experience in New Zealand has been so good so far, the production that we went to see (In Transit) was amazing and educative. It was all about a family that lived in Kenya during the war. They found a way to escape to New Zealand where they settled. They had children who were born in New Zealand however these children did not know anything about the culture and tradition (of Kenya). Hence the parents started teaching them about their African culture and tradition, in particular about the country that they originated from. However the children were not interested in their parent’s culture because they adopted the New Zealand culture and saw their parents as illiterate. The children also refused to return to their parent’s homeland because they saw New Zealand as their home. However the parents did not give up and tried everything to teach their kids about their origin and history as well as the importance of freedom, education and hard work. From this production I have personally learnt that as an African it is important to know and understand my heritage, culture and tradition. I have also learnt the importance of hard work and education. More importantly the production spoke to the theme of freedom, which should not be taken for granted.

**By: Wellingtone Bwalya**  
**From: Zambia**



# Church in A New Context



On May 7<sup>th</sup>, we visited St Andrew's church. It was our first time attending church in New Zealand. The New Zealand church has a different style of worship than Korea. There was no lengthy sermon and the saints were more involved than in Korea. The atmosphere of worship was not heavy and there were a lot of families present. The location of the church was also unique with graves on either side of the building. In Korea, it is difficult to see graves around the living environment, however, it was interesting to see a church in the middle of a grave yard. Seeing this showed me that life and death are a part of our lives. Many Koreans are afraid of death to the point where they do not want to put their tombs around their house. The presence of a church with a grave yard seemed to indicate the truth of the important life of death and life.

We saw one video about the mission work of St. Andrew's church. The video was about what they did on this mission trip, it was impressive. It is always touching to know that even though we use different languages, we all believe in one God.

Through this experience, I truly feel God exists. With God, we don't know each other, but can be one. Everywhere I find god's loving plan and I can see his omniscient greatness.

When I heard the phrase from the Bible 'This is my body and this is my blood' during communion, I asked myself if I could ever sacrifice myself for others like Jesus did? This reminds me of how big Jesus' love is and how many times he sacrificed himself. The communion at St. Andrews's church was shared by a glass of wine, which reminded me of how the Czech protestants died because the Catholics did not believe that communion was for all people; I learned this while I was on a mission trip to the Czech Republic; That was why I thought of all those people who sacrificed their lives so that I could take communion. And now I realize that worship and communion is a precious thing to everyone.

The worship of this church reminded me of many things that I forgot to thank God for. It was a very grateful and merciful service. However, the church was composed of "Pakeha" and I would like to visit a church in New Zealand where various people are worshipping together. After the service I felt renewed and I was reminded of things that I forgot about.

**By: Oh Eunsoo**  
**From: South Korea**



# Getting To Know The 2017 T.I.M Team

## Chou Song Ying – Presbyterian Church of Taiwan



Ni hao, I am Chou Song Ying from Taiwan. I love cooking and baking and creating my own dishes. I enjoy traveling and taking photos because I am experience different countries and people. For this reason I volunteer as a host to “house” people who travel from other countries to Taiwan (“couch-surfing”). When I was younger I trained in ballet and modern dance, I hope one day I can do it again.

## Tetoaiti Tappui – Kiribati Uniting Church

Mauri, I am Tetoaiti Tappui from Kiribati. I am so happy to be a part of this programme because I have met and made new friends from different countries. I enjoy game nights with the other participants because it reminds me of playing games at home with my sisters and brothers. I have one brother and one sister, I am the youngest in my family. Some of my favourite things to do are: build things, go fishing, and play football and volleyball.



*Candid Moments*

*Having Fun in Aotearoa!*

