

**Ilia's Diary**  
(106.10.12~106.10.19)

Day 10 Thursday - Today I tried my first attempt at learning the phonetics system learned here in Taiwan, but it's like a completely different alphabet. Hopefully with practice, I'll get the grasp of it, and my host mother also gave me a children's book on how to go about learning 'bopomofo'. I've also been translating one of the hymns sung at the Church meetings from Chinese into English. However, unfortunately, I've started resorting to google translate quite often. I'll try not to make it a habit. I also sent off the first week's recording of my blog today.

Day 11 Friday - Working at the school was the usual, gaining new experience, marking student's papers, learning the phonetics, hopefully picking up some new chinese words along the way. After school I went with Kate to two seperate church meetings, one for some of the kids at Zhongping, singing a hymn and studying a passage from the Bible, both again in Chinese. I ended up attempting to sing one of the songs solo, which was kind of nerve wracking as I'm no proffessional singer. I also discovered the Church meeting room is not above a garage, but in fact is just on top of a tea shop. The second group was one for young adults. Again, everyone was extremely welcoming, and although I have too many questions to be able to voice them all, I think I'm beginning to understand more about faith.

Day 12 Saturday - Kate and I went out today at 1.30, and had planned to go to the zoo and take a ride on a gondola to the top of this mountain, but it was absolutely pouring outside, so we just ended up going to the local Arts Center and getting my passport photo taken, which proved surprisingly difficult. In the evening we went to a PTA handover ceremony dinner at a lovely hotel, which was quite an experience! I had to introduce myself to everyone over the microphone again and met the head of the Education Department of New Taipei City and the new and ex-PTAs, before heading back home.

Day 13 Sunday - I didn't do much today except help my host family's kids with their homework. Then I slept in and completed some of my own homework.

Day 14 Monday - I introduced myself to all of the homeroom teachers this morning. I don't know what I ended up saying as my self-introduction, but I'm fairly sure it wasn't Chinese! In the afternoon, because of my disorganisation and belatedness in getting my Resident Visa sorted before I'd probably be shipped back off to Scotland, Kate had to give me a ride on the back of her scooter all the way into Taipei City to

get a medical check-up and hand in all the appropriate documents to the National Immigration Agency before 5pm. On the way we passed by the old Gates of Taipei City, apparently one of Taiwan's "ancient *relics*" of only about 100 years old. We also saw the Presidential Office Building, Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall, and Taipei 101. Finally we paid a trip to the youth shopping district, where I picked up a new handbag and a pair of slippers, as my own backpack was too small, and my heels were killing me!!

Day 15 Tuesday - Honestly, all I did today, apart from preparing for the Scotland presentation, was to find out that Taipei has almost no buildings over 200 years old! How is that even possible?

Day 16 Wednesday - At 1.30 pm I carried out a practice for my Scotland presentation tomorrow with Joyce and Kate, and felt extremely unprepared for it. So I just finished practicing my Chinese introduction. Hopefully I won't forget it all by tomorrow.

Day 17 - Thursday - This morning I did my first presentation on Scotland to 160 students. It wasn't as scary as I expected it to be, but then again I already knew all of the facts about Scotland beforehand, and I was happy to share them with everyone.