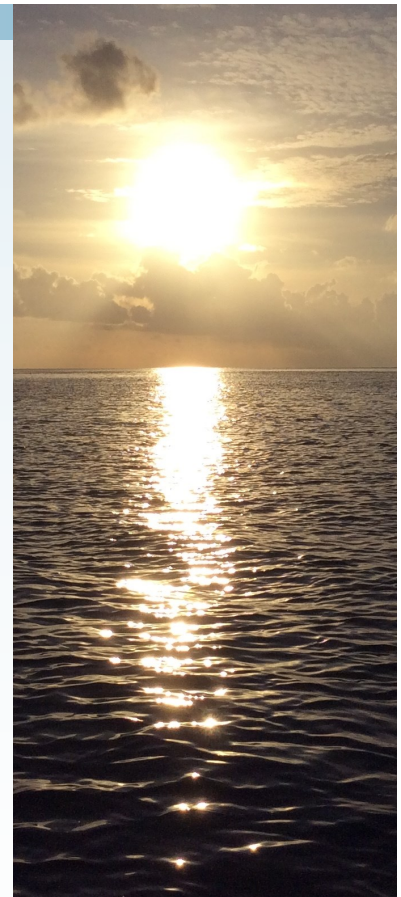


Kiribati Cruising

The Modern Atlantis

... By Ngai Christopher Ngai

The modern day 'City of Atlantis', the island of Kiribati was predicted by scientists that in 50 years time it will no longer exist. The changes in weather patterns and the sea level increasingly rising shows how Kiribati is facing the issue of Climate Change. While I was living in Kiribati there was a lot of discussions, meetings, classes, workshops and exposures that have helped me too understand what is climate change in the context of Kiribati and how it has greatly affected the lives of the people both environmentally and socially. Retrospectively my studies in Taiwan have actually helped me understand the issues faced in Kiribati. Subjects like globalisation, feminism, colonisation, migration and ecology have all helped me in my own reflection and understanding of the issues in the context of Kiribati. There are still unanswered questions that I have concerning colonisation and whether colonisation is the main issue behind climate change. From what I have seen and observed from our exposure programmes, I'm more inclined on the idea that colonisation is the main issue. Without the answers needed to draw up a final conclusion it is hard to make a final decision on whether colonisation is the main issue behind climate change. Meeting with leaders of NGO's, KUC leaders, teachers, high school students, professors, pastors, theological students, USP students and the Minister of Education have all helped me in building up my own reflection and understandings.



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Special points of interest

- Food, Food and MORE FOOD
- The talent and love we can express
- God is with us through every times good and bad
- Be grateful for your Mothers.

Kiribati Friends

Before I apply the TIM I never know have a country called Kiribati, after I apply I still no idea where is Kiribati and I only know she at Pacific Ocean. I very Thank God that give me have this chance to go to Kiribati, this is a lovely country. We spend one month at here, and this one month let me know more about Kiribati. This Kiribati program was another different and special experience for me.

Before came to Kiribati we always heard that Kiribati get serious affects by climate change, so this time we came to Kiribati we have chance to spend a lot time to discuss the issues of climate change with different group people and we also have chance to visit the places affected by climate change.

The discussion for the issues of climate change with different group people, I found that some of them believe climate change is real because they noticed their life and the land get affects, but also have some people think that climate change is fake, because they think that climate change not a big deal for them, so them not really care about this issues and think that no need doing anything for this issues. However, even them believe climate change is real, they still have strong faith on God, they believe God have His own plan for them, so if God think that is time to let Kiribati sink and take their life, them still will obey God's plan. From them, I found that even they are facing the issues of climate change, everyday they still feel very happy, even the water nearly go in to their house, you still can find the smiling on their face. They remind me that even facing the difficult life still can have a joyful heart, Thanks God let me learned this from them. I also thanks God through this program I can know more how the climate change affected the Kiribati, know how the people in Kiribati face the issues, and have chance to talk with them by face to face to know how them think about the climate change. Lastly, also let me reflected that what I can do when I go back to my



country to help about the issues of climate change, I will concern more about the issues of climate change, and do something in my daily life such as recycle, save water and electric, can car pool to go someplace with family or friends, even these all just a little things but if everyone take the responsibility to do these little things, it can be big effect to save our earth.

From this Kiribati program, I have learned few things from the Kiribati's people. First thing, they live with simple life, in Kiribati I can notice that their life were very simple, in their daily life they no need the air-corn even the weather was very hot, they don't have internet, but they are happy. They always appreciate what they have, even just rice with coconut, they still happy and appreciate it. But for us from the development counties, many time we wouldn't appreciate what we have and we always complaint not enough. So that, from them remind me that I have to appreciate all the time with what I have and always wouldn't forgot what I have was given by God.

Second thing I learned from them was spend more time to communicate with people by face to face and share the thing with people. Now a day, we were too much depend on technology, so we always communicate with people through technology such as Facebook, WhatsApp and etc., and the same time now many people also will think that time is money and money is very important thing for them so they wouldn't willing spend too much time with the people and also wouldn't willing share the things with other peoples. So that, many people are forget the important of communicate people by face to face and sharing with the people.

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Kiribati Friends —Continued

But from the Kiribati's people, I notice that they not depend the technology and they know the important to spend time with people and share what they have to the people to build a real and great relationship with the people. They willing spend the time with you to chatting with you or helping you just want to know you more, it no mean that they don't have other things to do but they know that to know you more was more important. By the way, they also always share the things with you without counting. Because they know sharing is loving. One my experience was I fall sick around 2 weeks plus start from first day I arrived in Kiribati, but I didn't felt lonely when I sick because our coordinators, program helper and students in Tangintebu Theological College will always accompany beside me to take care of me, they wouldn't feel spend time with me and take care me is waste their time, I felt very touched especially when at oversea and fall sick is very easy feel homesick, I very thank you to them for what they have done for me. So from this was remind me that when I back to my country I have to spend more time with people and communicate with them by face to face, and also always sharing my thing and my time with people especially those people who need help.

Other thing I learned was give the greetings to other people even that people you don't know. You can say "hello" or give a smile to them. In Kiribati, the peoples are friendly. They were greeting to me all the time when I meet them, even they don't know me but they still will said "Mauri" to me with a big smiling.



This was quite hard can found in my country, but when I go back I will try give a smile to other people even I don't know them. Because I found that we can through with this simple smiling to build the relationship with the community, start with a smile maybe one day can be a friend with them.

Lastly, I want Thanks God because He use my First Aid knowledge and my little preparation of medicine to help those people who need help when I in Kiribati, I am so happy and thankful that I can help them. This Kiribati program is a wonderful journey of TIM in my life, I learned a lot and I experience a lot, I Love all peoples I have meet in Kiribati, I miss them a lot and I wouldn't forgot how much they love me and take care of me. I will keep those memories in my heart for whole life. Thanks God prepared all these for me!

... By Janice Sor Yin Chow





Island Time!!! ... By Faith Mary Taylor

There is a phrase in Kiribati, well basically in the Pacific in general, which is 'island time!' But I think Kiribati uses island time more than any other country I have visited. It's actually quite funny but some of the team found it hard to cope with at first. For example we were invited to a party in our first week, it started at 6:30pm. We arrived at 7, but we were the only ones there. The party eventually started at 8, but still people were coming later. This happened with most things we went to. It was interesting because the only times where island time didn't exist was for when there was a service or devotion. Then it started bang on time, but for everything else it didn't really matter when it started. I actually found I enjoyed this way of life. It doesn't feel tight or restricted, you can just enjoy life and take it at your pace, and it's not like there's nothing that gets done. Actually the people in the Pacific are the most hard working people I have met. It makes me realise how lazy people are in the UK. We want everything done for us, and handed on silver platters. In Kiribati if they want things they work hard for it. Cooking is a few hours job not two min microwave. So even though things might seem to move at a slower pace it does not mean at all that they are lazy people. This way of living is so much more relaxed and enjoyable, and makes me love this island more than ever!

One Big Happy Family ... By Arthur Joel Llewellyn Key

Kiribati. Wow. What a place. During my time there I laughed, I cried, got slightly sunburnt, went swimming in the seas and had singing lessons. That really doesn't cover all the things we did in Kiribati and not all of it was 'fun' but it was all things that in retrospect I can appreciate. I was in hospital for 2 nights (at different times), was sick for nearly all of my time there and didn't really have an appetite for all that time either. However, going through that made me appreciate life more, it made me appreciate a lot of what we have in New Zealand, and also that we don't need our fancy cars, houses, or even stable work or good education. Often we talk about success in the concept of "the American Dream" or on the flipside as giving up that to have a better relationship with God. Those are two extremes (which is not to say that the latter is bad), but I have discovered the real value of Family and Friends, a value which cannot be measured. So through everything else I have learned in Kiribati, don't take family for granted, because you only get one family.

"...don't take family for granted, because you only get one family."

Children of Kiribati ... By Ominell Boyce

Being able to talk to the young people in Kiribati was a great opportunity to ask them questions on one of the greatest issues that is affecting them and that issue is climate change. I feel it will be interesting if we talk to the younger generation and ask them about their views on ways in which they think they can use to combat this issue and their response was a remarkable. They spoke about how they had to move when the water got high and they can't get to go to schools some days. Although they had this problem going on around them they were happy to talk to me and even smile during the conversation.

Kiribati Experience *by Cherry Tang*

For me, “Kiribati” is a completely new word, I do not even know that it was a place! But after August, this word became a great experience and memory to me.

Weather

Still remember the first day when we arrived there, the change of weather there is really fast. It is a very sunny day when we got down the plane and you cannot find a cloud when you look up the sky, suddenly it was raining when we went out the airport. This doesn't really bothering us, however, this is a place always brings me surprises.

On the car driving to the theological college, we can see the blue ocean all the way, and also the simple houses that even do not really have a door or window, it once caused me feel sorry for them, but then I found that it is wrong.

“Maneaba” & “Te kie”

When we arrived the college, we went into a place called “Maneaba”, it is an area without chairs and doors, but have a big roof which made by straw, and we have to take off our shoes before we entered.

Boys and girls were living on two sides, we lived beside the seashore and there was a Maneaba outside our house (the Principal's House), both of the house and the seashore became the most memorable place during the days we spent here in Kiribati. After we settled down, some of us went out to the seashore, and we there were a group of girls inside the Maneaba. We went inside and found that they were using the coconut leaves to make a “Te kie”, it is for people to sit on since they were not sitting on chairs. After greeting each other, they taught us the way to make the “Te kie”, and start chatting with us. This is the first time I experienced their passionate to visitors, although that was only the first day we met, we talked for a long time and have a really warm and funny conversation.

“Coconut Time”

In Kiribati, they have their own “Coconut time”, people always come half an hour late after the meeting time. We have been to a birthday party that met at 6:30 pm, and there was nobody at 7:00 pm, at last the party started at 8:00pm.

Maybe this is also the reason why people could spend their time for helping without looking at the watch. There was once when I wanted to go for a walk, a student came and accompanied me without asking how long would it take; and another student had helped us to wash our clothes, staying with us for more than an hour. When I asked her about why she is willing to stay with us working hard for almost an hour, she said because she wanted to know us more.



For me coming from the context of Hong Kong, we have a quote which is “Time is money”, everything is fast and efficient here. You would not wait longer than three minutes for a train in peak hours, and you can also see breakfast is always on people's hands since we do not have time to sit properly to eat breakfast, or maybe just 20 minutes, rushing inside the fast food shop. We tried to use our time to make money, so people could work from 10 am to 10 pm; we tried to use our time to make money, so in some families, parents usually work for a whole day and leave their children with the grandparents or the domestic helper.

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Kiribati Experience —Continued

Yes, maybe we could use time to get money, but is that everything in our life? When we put aside our family, our hobbies, our holiday, our health to earn money, when all our time became a memory of work, is that really what we want?

“Electricity” and “Internet”

Since there was a construction of the road beside the school, electricity was not available during 7am to 5 pm. Internet was another problem. Since there is no Wifi around the college area, if we want to use the internet, we have to go to the Internet Café, which takes about 30 minutes by bus.

Have you ever imagine what will happen if we live without electricity? Maybe things become inconvenient? Connection between people stops due to the lack of internet? “How could the people live under this condition?” Um.. They still live well in Kiribati.

From the start of using electricity, human started relying on it. People invented light, so we could work even at night; people invented washing machine, so we could now do some more things during the

time the washing machine washing; people found out internet, so we could know everything happens around the world in just a minute, we could connect friends in the other half of the world.

But do we still remember how to talk with people beside you face to face? People nowadays used to communicate through their electric devices even they are in the same room, or having dinner together. Although there is one month that we cannot contact our families much, it enables 12 of us a better chance to look at each other, we talked, we shared, and we played games, we gained a lot more memories and knew more about each other during the days there.

Maybe in the eyes of the world, Kiribati is an inconvenience place, it could not earn much money as people expected, cannot have a high standard life, but it provides the best example of how to live a happy life, and that is we can never find it in developed country.

It is just like a treasure found by scarce people and they rather to pay all they have to get this. I hope that we could put on a new spectacle to see what we precious and what we are pursuing.

DID YOU KNOW?

In Kiribati the water wells that used to be drinkable are now polluted with sea water making them unable to drink it, however they are still used for showers/bathes



Biblical Quote of this Publication

James 4: 7-10

“⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”

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