

February 10, 2018

Dear Friends,

We are once again excited to join in the 2018 Overseas Chinese LDS Pioneers Associations 2018 biennial conference and reunion which this year will be held June 28-30 in Irvine, California.

For us, these every-other-year events provide a wonderful opportunity for Chinese Latter-day Saints and the missionaries who served them to gather, renew friendships, share memories, catch up on life's adventures, and strengthen one another in the restored gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Overseas Chinese LDS Pioneers Association has grown beyond hosting reunions. Under Yao Lien Hill's guidance, they are working to become a Chinese version of the Daughters (or Sons) of the Utah Pioneers. As such, they encourage Chinese Latter-day Saints everywhere to record their personal histories – particularly conversion experiences, but also experiences related to the uniqueness of being Chinese. These could include details of what it was like to grow up in a traditional Chinese home, experiences of living in Taiwan under Japanese rule, memories of what it was like to live in a nation torn apart by civil war, or how you and your family came to live in the West. It is important that such memories are captured, formalized and passed on to future generations.

My wife, Bonnie, and I recently returned from a mission to Taiwan. We were called specifically to help with Family History. It was great to reconnect with old friends and make many new friends. We loved returning to Taiwan. We loved focusing our attention full-time on family history work as we worked along side many amazing family historians who are working hard to preserve their family's legacy.

The Church has been diligently expanding the capabilities of FamilySearch, which was originally designed as a genealogy and temple ordinance site, to also help members with the personal history aspects of family history. There are now wonderful tools for posting memories, stories, experiences, photographs, documents, and audio recordings. By posting them on FamilySearch, these memories are preserved forever in a place where they may be easily shared with family members throughout the world. This year's Overseas Chinese LDS Pioneers Association gathering will include sessions on how to make use of these great tools.

We look forward to seeing you in Irvine.

Sincerely,

Kent and Bonnie Bailey