

JOYFUL HOPE SUMMER CAMP



JUNE 30 TO JULY 6, 2012

GOD ALWAYS DOES WHAT HE PLANS, AND THAT'S WHY HE APPOINTED CHRIST TO CHOOSE US (EPHESIANS 1:11 CEV)



Our Lord is Almighty and in control. Tropical Storm Doksuri was our team's first encounter with God as we waited the day before we were to

fly to Taiwan. T8 was raised at 11:00pm on June 29 and many of us on the team were thinking, "Will we make it tomorrow?". With a T8 signal so late, it didn't seem likely that we will be making our Saturday 11:10am flight. However, we had a prayer army in Taiwan and Island ECC all praying along with us that the storm will pass and we can get on our flight.

And is it any surprise that by morning, we woke up to beautiful clear blue skies and sunshine? God's plans will not be denied.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9 NIV)

22 of us – families, couples, singles – anxiously and excitedly boarded our flight to Taipei. We would be meeting up with three of our team members already there and the rest of the Taiwan mission team from Taiwan and US. When we arrived at our kick-off point, Ren'ai Baptist Church

(基督教浸信會仁愛堂) Taipei, a joyful mission team was waiting to welcome us with open arms.

For most of us, this was our first mission trip. It would also be for nearly most of us there, our first evangelical mission trip. We were there for one purpose – to save souls by sharing the story of Jesus Christ – to bring love, joy, and hope to those who needed it. The faithful in the room had anxiety, doubt, worries, and fears as well as anticipation in our hearts and minds. We still didn't know exactly what to expect in Fengyuan Township (豐原區) but we were excited.

God is in control; His will be done. God was everywhere. Our team, commissioned, prepared, and blessed was 72 strong. Coincidence? In Luke 10:1, Jesus sends out the Seventy-Two. We learned:

"Obedience is Success. Success is Obedience."

Although we many of us were first timers, new to each other, running new programs, in a new location, with new leaders, and new local partners, it didn't matter. God was with us! The team was charged and ready!

Then he said to his disciples, *"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."* (Matthew 9:37-38 ESV)

Over the five days in Fengyuan, we taught two VBS programs: one at 7-12 Church of Paiwan Tribe and the other at Fengyuan Junior High School. We also ran a new basketball outreach program during the afternoons in the blistering heat and suffocating humidity. We evangelized at a cycling park, ran workshops, conducted prayer walks around the neighborhood, called upon home owners and shop owners, played basketball, befriended gang members, visited police stations and constantly

prayed and relied on God. At the end of the mission trip, our amazing God blessed a harvest of 3 baptisms, 40 conversions, and 350+ people who heard the Gospel.

God's glory doesn't stop here. Our team was forever touched and transformed by God's presence, His love, and His grace in ways that brought us closer to Him. Here are some of our faithful servant's testimonies:



Jonathan (Jon) Sun
(ICS student)

Going into the Taiwan trip I really didn't expect much. I went on the trip telling myself this was going to suck. I really didn't want to be on this trip. Then as the trip went on, I found myself really enjoying it and enjoying the new youths I was meeting on the trip. It was at that moment, I realized that God sent me on this trip for a purpose, and that was to play basketball with the people and to share God's love with them. Something that changed me during my trip was when I was asked to share my testimony. I was so nervous. I really didn't want to share it to anyone. But again, God spoke to me and I believed He told me to just have confidence and that I can do it. Now, I feel more confident in sharing my testimony to others. I

also saw that God was working in my class. There were 5 girls that attended the grand finale with the lucky draw at the end of the week! I couldn't believe that they would actually come! By the end of the trip, I kept thinking wow! I can't believe it's already over....



Ronna Chao Heffner
(mother joined by son Nick and daughter Allie, students of ICS)

God works in amazing ways. He gave a group of over 70 people, many meeting each other for the first time and many never having been on a mission trip, the opportunity to come together to serve Him through serving others on this Taiwan Mission Trip.

God gives each of us our unique gifts and He also puts us in situations where these gifts can be used. I remember asking Lui, our group leader, whether the



teenage boys could do something other than teaching crafts in the afternoon. I thought, "they would be climbing walls by 3pm! And of the kids they are working with are also teenage boys, no one would want to sit there and string beads." Amazingly, Lui turned out to be a big basketball player/fan as well! He supported the idea but did not really know what to do next. Our Heavenly Father provides for the faithful.

In our group in Taiwan was Chih Mou Hsieh, an inspiring spiritual leader and professor at the National Taiwan Sport University. Together with Lui, Chih Mou, and the pastors, and with input from my son and two other ICS basketball players who had previously attended a camp in LA run by the Federation of Christian Athletes, a basketball program was put together.

The very positive response from the local players was so unexpected. These were a group of random neighborhood boys, some of whom, I was told, were gang members. Lui and Chih Mou had to run many 10-minute games, and the "fans" had to be shuttled to the courts in several carloads. Everyday at the basketball courts, I prayed silently that these boys would see in our players something that appealed to them, something that they did not have, but wanted --- not fancy shoes or Jeremy Lin jerseys, but something that was unique in their character or behavior that could be attributed to their relationship with Christ.

I also prayed (rather hard) that they would join the evening events. For three nights in a row, they came: first to a talk about purity; the next night to a group testimony sharing where they prayed together and apparently, 8 out of the 10 who attended accepted Christ; and finally on the last night, they came to our finale where they watched a movie about Jesus, heard Chih Mou's testimony, worshipped with our group, and witnessed three baptisms. I had my moments of doubt right from the first night, watching them and thinking, "Any second now, I'll bet they're going to get up and leave the room." They never did... I believe these boys, and many others our group taught, played with, spoke to, sang and danced with during our week in Fengyuan were touched by the "joyful hope" (name of our mission trip) that we shared with

them. Why would a bunch of strangers spend time shooting hoops with them? Talking with them? Praying for them? And for NOTHING in return. It is the Joy and Hope that come with being a follower of Christ.

I thank God for equipping each of us with the tools to do whatever He had intended for us to do, and to accomplish those tasks according to His will. I thank God for all the people who put so much hard work into planning and organizing all the details for over 70 people on this trip. I thank God for all the people of Fengyuan who received Him by letting us plant a seed of faith in their hearts. Everything will happen in His time.



Ron & Moonique Leung (husband & wife)

Strong Protection and Answered Prayer

This is our 1st mission trip and our God had blessed us throughout the entire trip. The day before we took off, my husband, Ron, got fever and a strong typhoon was approaching to HK. We were not certain if we could possibly get on the plane. We queued up 2.5 hours in hospital for fever treatment and

when we commuted back to home that we were so blessed that we could easily get public transportation. Plus, once we stepped in our Home lobby, the weather got worse and Typhoon #8 was hoisted 5 minutes after we safely arrived home, in which we were well protect by HIM for not suffering from "waiting bus" nor "get wet".



We've prayed for travel mercy and nice weather the day before we departed. HE had directly answered our prayer as:

- typhoon was gone the day we travelled
- encountered rainbow on the way to airport
- smooth transfer from HK to Taipei
- all mission members arrived on time for all activities

Throughout the trip, HE had also protected us on every tiny event: that we got smooth traffic, decent meals and nice accommodation which Brothers and Sisters who had been to the trip in previous year(s) agreed that this year was a "Honeymoon" Mission Trip.

The greatest protection was on Ron's health. Ron gets heat

allergy whenever he is exposed to the sun for more than 5 minutes and his skin would get skin rashes. We were surprised that throughout the entire 5-day trip, we had been exposed under the sun for a few hours each day, but his symptoms of skin allergy became “INVISIBLE”. We would like to praise our GOD loudly for this strong protection.

This mission trip has changed us:

- Being upfront to tell people that we are Christian and spread the gospel to stranger(s).
- Treasure what we had (i.e. Good living conditions in HK with air conditioner and comfy house).
- Able to use the “Tear-Cross” techniques to spread the gospel.
- Deeper understanding of God’s Will (i.e. Urgent need to spread gospel to all NON-Christian)
- Re-prioritize our lives (i.e. Set God as our 1st Priority), seek HIS will (Matthew 6:33) via prayer or bible study for everything.

GOD is infinite and HE has different plans for different people.



Jeanmarie Lau (with wife Puiman, son Eliam & daughter Kirsten)

Prayer Never Fails

Mission trip has been engraved in my heart, in my mind and on my lips for a few years. As a believer in Christ, I often hear about the miraculous stories and transformation in a mission trip; I have always been looking forward to go to one; after all it’s an opportunity to serve and to step out of one’s comfort zone. I almost went a few month’s back but did not make it because of family reasons. Since then, I have been praying constantly about it so that God would open an opportunity for a family mission trip. I spotted a few like Qinghai and Hubei but somehow didn’t succeed to sign up because my children were too small - probably my wife was right that we are not ready yet until the Taiwan trip show up. After a few checks, I managed to get through and my wife agreed after nagging her many a times and prayers of course. Voila – it was indeed the perfect trip for my entire family of a 4year old Kirstin and 7 year old Eliam and my wife (no age please she said). God knew what was best for us.

He is Good all the time.

The trip started with a typhoon head on to HK on Friday and our flight to Taipei was scheduled in less than 24hours. We were to join a team in Taipei on the Saturday and I believe it would be fairly messy to miss the

flight ; Our parents called worrying about the grandchildren probably and asked us to call off the trip; some of my friends bet that we would have to change the schedule. Prayers were flying around in the team and God is indeed faithful. It was one of the fastest typhoon that hit with a T8 and left within 12hours leaving behind a beautiful morning for us on the next day.

Before the trip, we knew very little what we would be doing beyond the keywords: Taiwan Mission English Love Joy Hope Camp. My wife kept asking me about the logistics, the facilities, the activities, the rundown, the bedtime, etc. I can understand her mum-size concerns but I had no firm answers – “Honey I’m not sure but God sure does, don’t worry; just make ourselves available for His use.” I couldn’t understand before but now I do.

It was the best arrangement ever since this mission trip has started about 10 years now. Accommodation at a hotel; the best food ever with good bento, buffet, pizza, McDonalds, etc; the best & biggest crowd of 72 people from the US, Taipei, Kaoshiung, Tainan and HongKong. It’s just amazing to see how He provides beyond our expectation.

God uses clean and pure vessels

One big question we had is what and how my children will do in such a trip. They would be a bit too young to understand what a mission is about especially for



my 4 years old daughter and that we can end up taking care of them and missing out on the different mission trip activities. What's the point then? Again God has been faithful. Although there were tough times in the trip but our children also learned through the process and so did we. On Day 2, we had to do a street gospel at a bike park. My kids loved bicycle and were already deciding which color to jump on but unfortunately not this time - we had a mission today – to share the gospel .They accepted after some straight but smooth conversions and my son was able to share the gospel using the EV card in mandarin - this was really amazing. It's also a good reminder to myself that in everyday life we are distracted of our real life mission or has too many a reason while the focus should be on Christ . At the end of that street gospel , 3 persons accepted Jesus! Amen.

On another occasion, we did not have the right teaching materials for the VBS because the English standard of the local children was much much lower. By God's grace we were able to simplify the bible stories and teach nursery songs. They were very well received and the kids not just loved them but also remembered the songs almost instantly. "Jesus loves me yes I know" These are the songs that I learned through my daughter and I felt that it was God teaching me these songs through her. What a God?

We were blessed to be part of this team and able to see so many warriors of Christ; despite of our weaknesses, we all become strong in Christ. Everyone was so friendly and I learned that in everything lean not on your own understanding but trust in Christ. I was able to share my own testimony, hear others stories and see the body of Christ in action. Nothing short of what one would expect.

Where are your feet?

One of daily devotions really spoke to my heart and I was to share this with you. When Israel was on the banks of the Jordan River, it was pretty scary but Joshua chose faith. He did not just try the water but step into it. His full trust in his faith was what caused the water to subside. Where are your feet today ?

I'm really grateful to God and to the whole team and the leaders who have made this very first mission trip so wonderful. It has been a perfect training ground for myself and my family to know ourselves more and to know Him more. My prayer is that more families can put both their feet into the troubling water ; that's when His greatness and power are revealed.

Puiman Chui (with husband Jeanmarie, son Eliam & daughter Kirsten)



Be Strong and Courageous

I'm a full-time mom and this is my first mission trip and I was not willing to go at the beginning because of the young age of my children. I always think they are too small to really benefit from the trip and at the end, it's the same old same old routine of taking care of them but a different venue.

I am all for a mission trip but really want them to grow up more when they are more ready so they can understand the meaning and get involved in the trip rather than being a burden. However, it is my husband's dream for many years to go on a family mission trip.

Despite my unwillingness, I chose to submit to his decision (that's what the Bible says unfortunately). I started to pray about it and the verse that jumped out from God: *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."*

During the whole trip, God really showed me His presence. All the worries that I had before the trip, like food and accommodation for kids, nap time for my little daughter, kids' involvement, my own abilities, etc were no longer problems anymore. Although the schedule was packed each and every day, kids behaved so well that was beyond my imagination – much better than being at home. Out of my expectation, kids learned the power of prayers and they are more willing to pray after the trip. Also, obedience is another thing that I learned; when kids saw us as parents acting in obedience, they were easier to obey in the same way.

It was such a blessing to work with so many brothers and sisters from different places as one body to share the good news of Christ. The kids in Taichung are so lovely that it was indeed a great joy to worship and enjoy their company. I am really thankful to God who has allowed for this trip; it has carved in me a lifetime experience of walking with him and trusting in him when I don't have faith in myself.

This is what my kids said about what they learned:

"I've learned how to share the gospel using the EV card and also using just a piece of paper – so cool!!!" Eliam

"I've learned new songs and dance and pray" Kirstin

Kitling Kwan (with daughters Shawn, Valerie & Isabelle)



During this mission trip, He was with us in everyday of our lives. We have sought to go on this mission trip to devote a specific time totally to Him, focus on helping others, thus serving God. With all the kindness and goodness surrounding us all the time, He must have been amongst us.

"In everything we do, in everything we say, we do it in the name of the Lord."

This trip challenged us and helped us more able to open up towards strangers. We were encouraged to share our beliefs in God with others. It also helped us learn to be much more patient in situations outside our control and rely less on ourselves and more on God.



Bill Lee (with wife Julia and son Bryan)

Jesus said, *“Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven.”* (Matthew 18:3)

Thank God for giving me the opportunity to join the Taiwan mission trip to learn from these lovely Taiwanese children. Just like in the movie *17 Again*, we were brought back in time to our good old days when we were still teenagers living a simple but an abundant life (though my wife challenged me on how ‘abundant’ my life could be without God when I was still an ‘undecided’ believer).

During the summer camp, we spent time with many children when our roles were teachers in English, crafts and games. However at the end of the trip, it came out that the children have taught us many lessons – especially those essential virtues in life that have been long-forgotten after years of being a grown-up. They reminded us of those wonderful virtues which we once possessed were long-gone since the moment we started owing our material possessions and continuous to fight for more during our life: from childhood toys and food, to academic results during adolescence, to cars, houses, social status, etc. during adulthood.

After becoming a believer, I know God will forgive my sins if I repent and faithfully ask for His forgiveness. It has been a while that I asked myself how we could have more faith in God. God has provided me the answer at the end of this trip. The children gave me the answer – and it is simple: Trust the Lord, Believe in Him – just like a child trusting their parents – a hundred percent.

When I first learned about the mission trip, I never took initiatives to sign up for one. Thank God for His teaching in the Bible that we cannot live alone by ourselves. God has given me a wife to help me grow spiritually here on earth. She signed both me and my son Bryan up for this trip though neither one of us really knew whether we wanted to do it or not.

However, if someone asked me today what I felt. I would tell them this: “If I were allowed to do only one trip in my whole life, I would not hesitate to do a mission trip – places are not very important. (But if God really gave me an option, I might go for Japan because both Bryan and I love sushi).

My answer is definite: whether it is Champs Elysees or the Silk Road, none of the destinations mentioned in the book *100 Places to Visit Before You Die* is worth going when compared to a mission trip. If you had been on one before, you would understand how wonderful it is to experience ‘traveling’ with God. Believe or not, I could ‘see’ God’s presence - right there, right next to us. This is unlike just ‘feeling’ God’s presence in our daily lives because you really ‘know’ God is there ‘with’ you during the whole trip.”

Indeed, traveling to places like Paris



and Xian could give any person great and wonderful memories, but that personal sense of goodness became insignificant AFTER you experience God's companionship at all time during a mission trip which the purpose is to spread the Gospel.

Today, I have a dream: if I die one day, I would choose to die while I am spreading God's Gospel. Jesus said, *"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation."* (Mark 16:15). If I were really so unlucky that I have to die while lying in a hospital bed, I would do this: grasp the hand of a nearby doctor or nurse and tell them, 'I see Heaven, believe in Christ and you can go to Heaven like me.'

Calvin Hsu (with wife Ann Bridgewater and their two daughters Natalie & Allason)



We joined the mission trip to encourage our kids to help others. We also wanted them to have more exposure to the real world, and to put less value on material things.

While we were somewhat surprised about the extent of gospel preaching, we enjoyed meeting a great group of people from the churches in both HK

and Taiwan. Our kids made friends easily with the other church kids, as well as a few of the local non-church kids.

I myself grew up in a very devout Christian family as my grandfather was a minister. I was very active in the church as a youngster, but had sort of burnt out by my early teens and for many years lost touch with God and the church. Some years back I began to reconnect with God, although somewhat tentatively. My wife and I feel it's good for our girls to go to Sunday school but we're also cognizant of not wanting to load too much into their already busy schedules.

By going on this trip, I was reminded of and touched by the love, devotion and sacrifice of the church members. While I am familiar with the intense focus to convert others to Christianity, for my family it was sort of a new experience. While my eight-year-old had a wonderful time meeting new friends, and was not shy about talking to strangers about God, I feel she is probably too young to really get it. I'm also sensitive about not wanting to plunge our children headfirst into the church life only to later burn out, as I did.

Overall, it was a good experience for the kids - and parents - particularly since we aren't attending church regularly for now. For our girls, they liked making new friends, teaching English to the local kids and being able to communicate with them in Mandarin (which is what

they use in school). For me, I think the trip was something that really forces you out your comfort zone. It was a good way to get back in touch with God and get to know some of the church members.

Finally, have to mention how well organized the trip was. Thanks to Lui and Bridget for all their hard work!





Bridget Sew

(Mission Trip Co-leader with husband Lui Sieh)

When we were lead by the Holy Spirit and partnered with God – His Kingdom will be a SUCCESS!

On our first day mission, we were assigned to share good news at the park. My partner and I (first person from the left, Emily) in two by two we shared and we prayed. Not long after, she said to me “Let’s go to the police station!” I was stunned... and I asked her, “You are not kidding, right?” She said, “No”. Without any hesitation and in obediently, I agreed. When we went into the police station, we saw 3 policemen. They were very nice, they listened patiently to my partner as she shared the gospel and upwardly, I was praying to God so that these policemen were to open up their hearts to receive Jesus Christ and yet, they rejected the gospel.

After we came out from the police station with no joy, I prayed to God. God, where and who do you want us to share the good news? The Holy Spirit prompted my heart, I told Emily – Let’s go to the parking lot! She doubted the idea and she disagreed to go to the parking lot because there would not be any people...but then, she agreed. We walked to the parking lot. From there, we saw our bus driver who had been driving us the whole day. He was sitting by himself, holding a cigarette and blew out a smoke of distress. The picture of a man sitting by himself was exactly what Emily’s pastor told him before that this kind of man needed Jesus. Emily and I went to him and we started to share the love of Jesus Christ. While Emily was sharing, I prayed to God “Please not let the mosquitoes disturbed Emily while she shared, so that she could focus in sharing the gospel smoothly”. Prayer was answered “Hallelujah!!!” The bus driver accepted Christ then and there and no mosquitoes disturbed Emily.

TAIWAN 2012



Basketball Outreach Team

This group helped demonstrate Christ love in action reaching to more than 50 youngsters and young adults at the local basketball outreach camp. Around 10 of these were gang members who played with us every day. 8 of the 10 accept Christ. Hallelujah!



Birthday Celebration

Taiwan mission team picture at celebration dinner with two birthday girls (front row center)!



ISLAND ECC TAIWAN MISSION TRIP 2012



TAIWAN 2012



Members of Taiwan Mission Trip 2012

Krisy Cheung, Bryan Lee, Julia & Bill Lee, Moonique & Ron Leung, Jon Sun and Eric Sun, Bridget & Lui Sieh, Allie Heffner, Nick Heffner and Ronna Chao Heffner, Natalie Hsu, Allason Hsu, Ann & Calvin Hsu, Valerie Kwan, Isabelle Kwan, Shawn Kwan and Kitling Kwan, Eliam Lau, Kirstin Lau, Puiman & Jeanmarie Lau