



**Scott & Angie
PAGEL**

旅行

PLANTING CHURCHES IN NORTHERN TAIWAN

2008 — March

The Year of the Rat

One of the interesting things about living in a culture other than the one in which one was born and raised is that you constantly bump into ideas/concepts/notions that you just assumed were universal... but are not.

In early February, Chinese around the world welcomed the beginning of the Year of the Rat. In the West, a rat is a dirty, thieving pest. But in Chinese culture, the rat generally does not suffer from such a negative impression, although people still don't want to see them out and about. Rats are seen as leaders, pioneers and conquerors. They are charming, passionate, charismatic, practical and hardworking. People born in the Year of the Rat are seen as taking on these characteristics.

Of course, the Chinese Zodiac, like the Western version (e.g. horoscopes) is mystical nonsense at best, but both reveal something about humanity... that we are born with an inherent desire to find an explanation for our world—our universe—our relationships—and our eternity. We not only want to explain our place in the universe, we want to know about tomorrow!

I'm thankful that the Bible, fulfilled prophecy, the life of Jesus, and the witness of His Church (flawed as she is at times) fit nicely alongside physics, chemistry, biology, archaeology and other sciences to provide reasonable answers to the questions that humanity asks universally. We may see rats differently, and we might celebrate the new year at different times, but we are all in this thing called "life" together. We share the same questions.

It is fun to learn about other cultures. It is fun to share ours with others. However, one of the greatest things in life is to share in the pursuit of the answers to life's most important questions.

One more thing about the Year of the Rat—it is seen as a time of hard work, activity, and renewal. We certainly plan to work hard this year to continue to share about God's great love for humanity and build up His Church in Taiwan. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to pursue this great work.



Pictures of our Family, Friends, Ministry and Taiwan:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/sqjtaipei>

To receive (fairly) regular email prayer updates:

Send a blank email to: pagelsintaiwan-subscribe@yahoo.com

To download past newsletters and financial reports:

Visit our website at: <http://pagels.teamexpansion.org>



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Tidbits

The picture in the sidebar of the frontpage is Mollie's reaction to adding sweetened condensed milk to her desert while at **John & Christine's house** for Chinese New Year.

Our "**Taiwanese Daughter**" Meng-ru has moved into a home for children. It is a great opportunity for her and we are hearing mixed reports on how she is taking advantage of this opportunity. Please pray for her.

Joshua and Mollie both started school in February. Joshua in Kindergarten at the local Chinese Elementary School and Mollie at the preschool Josh attended last year. This should help them improve their Mandarin.

Bethanie and her friend Caitlyn Edwards **choreographed a Chinese folk dance** and performed it for the Bethany School Talent Show. It was awesome! They are talented!

Zach received the game Memoir '44 at Christmas. He's **really taken an interest in history**, particularly D-Day and other battles he reads about in library books.

Scott's back is healing well and he's back on his bike and exercising more. **Angie** is preparing for another Kids' English Club.

Recently on the Blog

- ◆ 33 years ago today...
- ◆ First 10 Songs
- ◆ www.sportsandenglish.com goes LIVE!
- ◆ Thomas Sowell—Shared Items Hog
- ◆ 36 Hours in Taipei
- ◆ Back on the Bike
- ◆ Dr. Bock's Blog



<http://pagels.teamexpansion.org/sqjtaipei/>



Some of the boys that attend church here (L to R) Andy, Sean, Jones, Jeff, Dick, Benjamin (in front)

A Note from Team Expansion's President

My wife, son and I recently watched 'Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End' together for a family night. Confession: I was lost for much of the movie (it was a sequel to a movie or two that I hadn't caught). But as the plot continued, the movie climaxed with a major showdown between pirates and their enemies. (I don't want to give away too much of the plot. :-)) I enjoyed hearing Elizabeth Swan passionately give a 'call to arms' near the end of the movie, asking her colleagues to "Hoist the colors!" In her case, it was the "skull & crossbones" flag. As I was stirred by her emotional call, I reflected on how much greater is our own call... to spread the word worldwide about a humble man who contained the Words and the Spirit of God in his fleshly body, ... a man who turned redeemer and hero, ... a man who was so much more, in fact, than a man. No **wonder** we travel to the four winds of the earth! No **wonder** we risk life and limb. And to you, who make possible this work, we say, thank you for providing the wind for our sails! May God bless you as we hoist the colors of our Savior... the red of his shed blood and the white of his saving grace. God bless your new year!!!

Doug Lucas—Louisville, Kentucky



Taipei—January 26, 2008—National ID card numbers will no longer have more than one number "4", Minister of the Interior Lee Yi-yang said in a news release yesterday. "Because the number '4' is traditionally considered an unlucky number, [the ministry] stopped issuing national ID cards ending in '4' in 2000," the statement said. The number "4" is considered an unlucky number because the Mandarin pronunciation, si, sounds similar to the word for "death." The statement said avoiding the number "4" completely would be too difficult because 45 percent of national ID numbers would have to be replaced. Instead, the ministry will allow no more than one "4" on new national ID cards.

(From: <http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2008/01/26/2003399016>)