



Scott & Angie
PAGEL

旅行

PLANTING CHURCHES IN NORTHERN TAIWAN

2009 — April

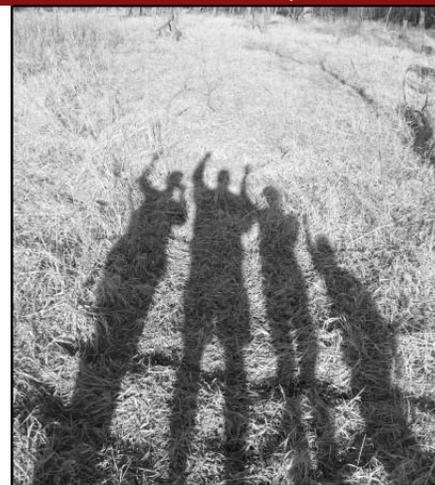
CATHEDRALS

Last month I reported that Angie and I were able to visit England in early March. While in England, we took the opportunity to visit some cathedrals, abbeys, and other similar religious buildings. Some were still in use and some were ruins, but all were hundreds of years old. When I say “old”, I mean European “old”, not American “old”. For example, while at the Bath Abbey, I asked one of the volunteers a question and his response included the phrase, “Oh no... the Abbey is much more recent. It wasn’t built until the early 16th century.”

I expected to find these buildings superficial, cold, and impersonal. To a degree, they were all of these things. However, I was surprised by some strong feelings I experienced while visiting these ancient buildings. I did not expect to be so impressed by the craftsmanship. Of course, I’ve seen pictures of these types of buildings, but I did not know how large these sites are. I did not know how many stained glass windows were in a cathedral. I did not know how much stonework was involved beyond placing some large blocks for the walls.

What really got me was when I started thinking about the craftsmen themselves and how they used their talents to create beautiful things that they believed would honor God. My daily life centers around planting churches that we might call anti-cathedrals! We do not want buildings. We do not want ornate pulpits. We do not want bells. We do not want naves and narthexes.

We do, however, want to see each person use their talents, gifts, and aptitudes to create beautiful things that they believe honor God. “For we are God’s workmanship...” (Ephesians 2:10)



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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>



HOME?

We've been back in Taiwan for a couple weeks now. It seems that a trustworthy saying is this: "When the youngest child has jet-lag, everyone has jet-lag."

We are sad that we had to say goodbye to loved ones in the USA but we have come back to many loved ones here in the Taipei area... our Taiwanese friends and church leaders and our American co-workers, too.

It seems that it is relatively easy for Angie and I to slip back into American culture when we are back in the USA and it takes some time to transition back to Taiwanese life when we get back here. But Taipei is home for our kids and it shows. They loved the open spaces we encountered in the USA, but they love this city and all of its energy too. Of course, being back where their toys and other familiar things are makes them feel at home, too.

The kids enjoy traveling and feel at home in the airports we pass through, too. Often, we hear (or feel) the comments people make about traveling with so many kids, but our kids travel better than most adults!

A Note from Team Expansion's President

Dear friend of Team Expansion,

Since that late-night prayer meeting in my college dorm back in 1978, Penny & I have seen God accomplish one miracle after another. From Caracas to Kherson, Bogotá to Bosnia, the Lord has been faithful as we've prayed. Today, with the help of thousands of individual and church partners, Team Expansion has well over 300 full-time adults creatively serving Christ in projects scattered across 50 countries, most of which were brand new fields for the Christian Churches. These hard-working saints have, with God's help, led some 10,000 people to the Lord and, in pursuit of our ultimate goal, they've established hundreds of new churches. However, we are constantly haunted by the more than 2 billion souls, forming some 6000 unreached people groups that have yet to experience their first valid opportunity to say yes to Jesus. They are non-Christians by circumstance rather than by choice. In view of these and other data, after much prayer, we have started down a path that leads to what we anticipate will be our most effective era ever. Thank you for your partnership in bringing about a global shift back to Jesus!

Doug Lucas—Louisville, Kentucky



The US State Department has finally given the financial go-ahead to build a US\$170 million new office complex to house the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT). A contract for US\$54.4 million has been awarded to start work on the first phase, which includes clearing and grading the site in Taipei's Neihu District. The site will also include a perimeter security system, vehicular and pedestrian access control facilities, recreational facilities, guards quarters, maintenance buildings and a surface parking area. Staff may not actually move into the new complex until 2014. But while most US embassies around the world are guarded by Marines, US military forces have been barred from Taiwan since the US switched diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing in 1979.

(From: Taipei Times – March 22, 2009)