



**Scott & Angie
PAGEL**

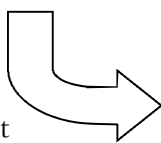
旅行

PLANTING CHURCHES IN NORTHERN TAIWAN

2009 - July

I GUESS 10 YEARS IS A LONG TIME

Do you recognize these people?



This picture was taken just a few weeks after we arrived in Taiwan on July 8, 1999. Bethanie was 1 month from turning 3 and Zach was 15 months.

We've added 2 more children since we've been in Taiwan and Bethanie and Zachary are growing up... but people say that Angie and I still look like we are in our 20s. Or maybe they don't... I don't hear so well anymore. :-). It seems that ministry in Taiwan takes a lot out of a family because the picture below is the best recent picture I could find of our family.



Actually... the truth is that we love to have fun together and our pictures reflect that! We have had a great first 10 years in Taiwan. On the flip side, I'll share a few reflections from serving on the mission field in Asia for 10 years.

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:

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CONTACT US

PO BOX 6-32

YUNG HO 23499

TAIWAN

phone: 886-2-2211-9736

spagel@teamexpansion.org

apagel@teamexpansion.org

<http://pagels.teamexpansion.org>

OUR TEAM SENDING CHURCH

Calvary Christian

10100 Cedar Island Road

Bellevue, NE 68123-5048

402-293-1700

FORWARDING AGENT

Nancy Crouse

701 Diamond Lane

Papillion, NE 68133-2484

402-614-5277

TEAM EXPANSION

4112 Old Routh Road

Louisville, KY 40299-5002

1-800-447-0800

info@teamexpansion.org

REFLECTIONS ON 10 YEARS IN TAIWAN

- ◆ We are often asked how long we've been in Taiwan. Starting at about 3 years (in 2002) people would respond with "oh, a long time". I didn't see how 3 years was a long time and so I usually shrugged. I've found that I now agree with them. Ten years on the mission field is a long time.
- ◆ We love it here. There. I said it. It is hard to say because I worry that people will think that if we love it here, we won't ever come back to the USA or that we don't like the USA or we don't miss our family in the USA. But this is one of the great paradoxes that missionaries must live with... we wish we would be there, but we love it here, too. It is nice to love the city where the Lord puts you, right?
- ◆ Speaking of this city. I really like Taipei. If you remember it from a stay here during the war or even from a visit in the mid-1990s... forget all that you think you know about Taipei and come visit again.
- ◆ People often ask how long we plan to be here. The honest answer is that we don't know. However, we are here for a purpose... to see an Indigenous Church Planting Movement rise up among the Taiwanese people. We have every intention of seeing this through. If we weren't committed to this goal, we'd have probably left already. We're stubborn.
- ◆ The greatest inspiration for the ongoing work here is the lives of the Taiwanese believers. Most are under extreme family pressure because of their faith in Christ. Many are accused of being disloyal to their families, but have discovered what when the source of family loyalty is (God's love for all) + (culture) + (healthy tradition) instead of (culture) + (tradition) they are usually seen as more loyal in the end.
- ◆ The 2 most important of Jesus' parables related to evangelism? The parable of the sower ("Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed...") and the parable of the seed ("The soil produces crops by itself...") That word translated "by itself" is the Greek word αὐτόματος (automotos) which is where we get the English word "automatic". So... there is much we can do here... sharing, loving, caring... planting... but God changes people, not us.
- ◆ **WE TRULY HAVE THE GREATEST SUPPORTERS THAT I'VE EVER HEARD OF. At some point, you heard God's voice calling you to be a part of his work in Taiwan and you've loved us like family. We are so happy to be here and serve as partners in the Lord's work with you. The US economy tanks, but your commitment to our family and to Taiwan is unchanging and inspirational.**

A Note from Team Expansion's President

Experts are beginning to report that the sluggish economy is showing signs of reawakening. I'm sure we all are glad to hear it... because in one way or another, all of us have been affected by the downturn, some much more than others. However, I was thinking this week about those who have little, if any hope of an upturn. Many of our Team Expansion workers serve among down-and-outers that are possibly never going to see "the good life" -- until they get to Heaven. Few of us will have the opportunity to affect change at the macro-end of the scale, among nations, districts, or even cities. But we can and do make a difference in the lives of our favorite Team Expansion missionaries, who are, in turn, reaching out to some of the least-reached people in the world, both physically and spiritually. On behalf of both the workers and those who benefit from their labors, thank you for your support. And may God bless your coming months in Christ.

Doug Lucas—Louisville, Kentucky



Taiwan Railway Administration (TRA) announced yesterday that it would give a 50 percent discount to travelers who would like to carry their bikes on trains starting on July 1. At present, train passengers who take their bikes with them must pay the price of a full-fare ticket to transport the bikes. Groups of 10 passengers or more can transport their bikes at a 20 percent discount. In view of the growing popularity of cycling, the TRA will provide the 50 percent discount to promote travel by train as well as biking activities. If a group of more than 10 are taking bikes with them on the trains, the passengers will also enjoy a 20 percent discount on their train ticket fares, the TRA said.

(From: Taipei Times – June 26, 2009)