



**Scott & Angie
PAGEL**

旅行

PLANTING CHURCHES IN NORTHERN TAIWAN

2009 — December

NOVEMBER VISITS

During November, my mother-in-law came to visit, but I never saw her! There are pictures to prove it, though... including the one on right. Here's how it happened...

From November 10 to 24, I was in the USA for Team Expansion's Team Leaders' Summit and the National Missionary Convention. Once my travel plans were set, Patsy worked out a plan to come to Taiwan while I was gone. It is possible that she was avoiding me but the truth is that she wanted to be here to help Angie while I was gone and to surprise Angie for her birthday on November 23. She did tell Angie about the surprise before she came instead of just calling from the airport upon arrival so Angie also received the gift of being able to be excited for her mom's visit.

One of our supporters and a Sigler family friend, Marlene Sharp, also traveled with Patsy. It is always fun to hear people's impressions of Taiwan and we are happy to show supporters around if they can visit. I'm sorry that I missed Patsy and Marlene's visit, but I came home to a family that was well loved and cared for while I was in the USA and for this I am thankful.

My time in the USA was well spent. It is expensive to take trips like this, but I've always found them to be worth it. Thank you for generously providing enough financial support to allow us to give this work our very best effort.

At the Team Leaders' Summit, I joined with about 50 other team leaders to debrief and strategize. I enjoy listening to others share their experiences because we can always keep learning about how to do our work better and/or more efficiently. I'm also encouraged because we sometimes feel like things are progressing slowly in Taiwan and wonder if we are "doing it right". The truth is... it is hard to plant churches here. We **are** doing it right and are actually on the leading edge of our organization's overall philosophy and strategy. We'll keep moving forward in faith!

The National Missionary Convention was great for so many reasons. As simply an attendee, I enjoyed the challenging messages and workshops. As

(Continued on page 2)



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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>

(Continued from page 1)

an exhibitor with Team Expansion, I felt like I was able to talk with students and church leaders (potential recruits!) to show how our work in Taiwan is connected to something larger happening around the world. But my favorite part was attending as the son of the parent of a missionary... I know that is a strange way to say it, but my mom attended with me! It was a special time to be able to experience her first NMC with her and to see her get plugged in with some other parents of missionaries and to be able to share some of her wisdom with the missionary community! The National Missionary Convention is a treasure chest of information and a hub for connections that will make every ministry better and in some cases, make it possible. It isn't just for missionaries. I hope to see you in Lexington, Kentucky in 2010.

The day after I returned from the USA, we headed over to the east coast of Taiwan—Lotung and the Home of God's Love—for our annual gathering to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas with our fellow missionaries. Fortunately, I was able to stay awake to eat lots of turkey and all the other trimmings we need at Thanksgiving! Instead of exchanging gifts, we took up an offering for Ray of Hope, a home for unwed mothers in southern Taiwan. It turned out to be the amount they needed at just the time they needed it!



A Note from Team Expansion's President

Recently, Team Expansion called together all of its team leaders throughout the world. They all met at Emerald Hills, our missions nerve center in Louisville, Kentucky. For 4 days, they dreamed, planned, reported, brainstormed, coached, and re-casted vision. This every-other-year Team Leaders' Summit is one of the most important things we do. It was an exciting event, with some 50 current and future team leaders coming alongside 20 mentors & coaches. It was stupendous, but it's only one small part of the many ways we try to leverage every worker to his or her max. Through these and many other forms of training, coaching, and accountability, we are demonstrating to all our supporters -- you included -- that we yearn to get better. No wonder you care about your favorite Team Expansion missionary. He or she is led by a top-notch, well-trained team leader. Thank you for investing in our future... and thank you for supporting the work of Team Expansion.

Doug Lucas—Louisville, Kentucky

**TAI
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A region that takes pride in its puppetry lost between 400 and 500 of its best pieces to a fire, leaving just one major collection, county officials said yesterday. The fire, which is under investigation, burned most of the large, ornate, one-of-a-kind puppets in a warehouse in Huwei Township, Yunlin County, officials said. The blaze spared only a few that had been taken out for a performance. "This is a big part of the county's culture, so we value its survival," a county government official said. "Each puppet may have had only one or two likenesses, so there's no way to replicate them." Local media called the fire a "burial" and listed the names of the more famous puppets that were lost in the fire. Officials said the county had planned to promote puppetry via films and a new museum to draw international interest.

(From: Taipei Times—November 5, 2009)