



“Simply obey, our Father is always in control.”



Lui Sieh (Mission Trip Co-leader)

Each year on this mission, God reveals even more of Himself to me and how the Bible is the living word. Because of my busy June schedule flying for work from the Middle East to India, to Malaysia, I had so little time to personally prepare for “leading” this mission trip. I had no control and was pretty much “winging it” going where God is leading, relying on prayers only. In fact, I was physically exhausted due to the non-stop flying. Trust in the Lord, He will prepare the way for us. Simply obey, our Father is always in control. Rely not on our own efforts.... This trip I experienced more what that meant. We had even less information this year except we knew that things were still being worked out in the ground and we needed lots of prayers because there was spiritual warfare on the ground.

In the Gospel of John Chapter 4, Jesus has an interesting conversation with the Samaritan woman. What is “living water”? What does this “living water” do for us? Taitung was hot – we would sweat just by standing there, it was that hot and humid. Jesus and the Samaritan woman was at a well in the middle of the day where no one would normally be at that time of day. We were thirsty but for what?

I experienced that in Christ, with Christ, and through Christ, I and the team were protected from the elements, unified in Him, experiencing the fruits of the Spirit, overflowing with Joy, Love, Peace, Forbearance, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control. The “living water” is very real. The food and sustenance is obeying the Lord, to sow the seeds and to reap the abundant harvest. The joy of being co-workers’ with God despite being tired was proof that Christ was alive. Through our faithfulness and obedience, God’s kingdom was coming to fruition, His Will be done. We had the biggest harvest ever in the more than 10 years in this camp – 24 baptisms and countless more seeds sown for future harvesting! The transformation within us and around us in Taitung was *Amazing!*

Tunhow Ou and Wei Chang

(husband and wife)

Tunhow:



The most striking moment for me arose during one of my evening prayer walks with a few other members of our mission team. We spotted a small police station on our very first street, and after a brief hesitation, decided to approach and try to engage the lone officer inside. To be honest, I expected the grizzled veteran to be dead set in his ways, adhering to tradition and a code not only in his job, but in his spiritual life as well -- or so I imagined. Instead, I witnessed God working through our team -- a group that looked and sounded quite vastly different from any of the locals -- to break through this officer's facade. Over the course of almost an hour, I could sense his heart being opened and his spiritual yearnings being stoked. This first experience of cross-cultural evangelism was marvelous to me.

I am blessed to have many new friendships with both the team members and the locals. As this was my first mission, I am now able to appreciate how **God can work through a group of believers**, from different parts of the world and in a short period of time, to spread the gospel. I am grateful to have grown in my understanding of prayer and evangelism, as this will definitely shape

and influence our family's spiritual path.

Wei:

I have been on a few mission trips, but they were from a long time ago, and so I did not know what to expect on this trip. When I was assigned the role of a teacher, I realized it was a challenge and opportunity to explore my calling. I had no experience in this area, but always wondered if this could be my true vocation. God provided me wisdom, courage, and patience to teach my students. I tried to guide them with God's love, and they responded. On the first day, even though my kids had never studied the ABC's before, they were able to walk out of the class and say (and understand) "obey God." They were the first to line up for activities, eager to please. Some of the kids would actively come up to me, proud to show how they had memorized the bible verse of the previous day. At the end of the week, two of the students were baptized. I am very happy and moved to see the fruits of the labor, of **God working through me.**



From this mission trip, I've been able to discover some gifts from God, and plan to continue this growth and further equip myself. Through this service, I can feel a passion slowly but steadily rising within me. I hope to become more servant-like and go on more mission trips in the future. I sense the need and desire of unreached people to know God more and to feel His love.

Winnie Wong

"IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS TASK, ALL TEAM MEMBERS HAVE TO BE UNITED AS ONE."

This was my first mission trip. When I signed up for this Taiwan trip, I thought I would just be teaching English and provide some manpower to certain menial tasks. My first shock came at my first pre trip meeting when Pastor Tony taught us how to evangelize to strangers. I felt very uncomfortable doing it, but at the same time I was intrigued by the whole thing. Then there was this bible study and presentation of our personal testimony before the trip; to prepare ourselves for God's work. While I was studying those assigned bible passages, I realized the importance of this preparation. The passages showed me the importance of putting aside the 'I', and submitting myself to the leaders of this project who were assigned by God. In order to accomplish this task, all team members have to be united as one.

During one of the nights at camp, we had to visit the families of our students in JinLun, Taitung. My heart was dreading this activity. As it turned out, none of my students' families would participate in this activity. I was relieved because my mandarin was not good enough to engage in a meaningful conversation. That night I was paired up with Ben, a doctor from Houston with perfect Mandarin. We met up with the wife of the neighborhood pastor and she led us to this family. I witnessed God's perfect plans at work. She introduced us to a man who has diabetes for many years. Ben, being a doctor, was able to connect to this sick man right away. He was able to give him medical advice, followed by spiritual encouragement. He reminded the man of his wife's effort in taking good care of him all these years. He urged the man to participate in church activities, and set an example to others to follow his footsteps. If a sick man can attend church services, then the others would have fewer excuses for not going. In the end he blessed this man and his family. I can see that the man was deeply moved by the Holy Spirit. *God allowed me to witness His wonderful work being accomplished.*

This mission trip allows me to really appreciate Paul's early efforts in spreading the Gospel, building churches, and then kept going back to guide them and strengthen their roots. Enormous love and commitment are needed to nurture baby churches; just like parents bringing up their children. Pastor Tony and his wife Esther are following Paul's footsteps in fostering churches in Taitung. We witnessed God's blessings of their efforts - 24 people being baptized at camp.



I look forward to the day when a strong base of our Lord is firmly established in JinLun.

Janet Lin (with daughter, Natalie - 11 and son, Ethan - 9)

When I heard about this summer mission trip to Taitung awhile back, I thought it would be a great way to contribute and serve Taiwan, a special place where I spent some of my formative years of growing up. I also wanted my two children to be a part of this mission trip, because of what a meaningful experience it is to serve others with the love of Christ and have fun at the same time!

About two months before the trip, Pastor Tony and his wife Esther came from Taipei to Hong Kong to teach us how to use the Evangelical Card, EV Card. This card is unique in that its pages flip in clever ways to show images of Christ's love and simply conveys the story of His sacrifice and hope for us. After some practice with each other, we walked to a nearby park in Quarry Bay to share what we've learned. A bit nervous and apprehensive, we approached park goers with the Gospel by using the EV Card. Some hearts were open, some were hesitant, but overall the experience enlivened and encouraged me to continue this sharing of the Good News in the 2013 Joyful Hope English Camp in Taitung, Taiwan.



Our first day of camp in the small village of JinLun started out with a big bam with songs and music from a talented and energetic aboriginal worship team. During this four day camp, I was given the task to lead a group of 6th graders of aboriginal descent. Being that age, they were too "cool" to participate fully in all the singing and dancing that the worship team wanted them to do. There was one student in particular who was quite disinterested about singing and being in camp and even said out loud that he doesn't believe in Jesus Christ! My heart sank a bit upon hearing his comments, immediately make me think that this camp was not going to be as smooth as I thought. As we were in our small group teaching time, the same boy got into a spat with other students and left our group in a huff. As the lead teacher, I felt responsible for the altercation during class and felt a better job in teaching and managing the class would helped to avoid the quarrel. I didn't see him for the next few days, and would scourer the auditorium looking for him to no avail. It was only on the last day, that I spotted him and I called out to him to join me, to my surprise he came, sat next to me, and even sang along with worship too! At the end of that day, he gave me a big smile, letting me know he

really enjoyed his time here. My spirits were lifted and I praised God for bringing that special little boy closer in his walk with Jesus Christ.

Other memorable moments were the two evenings going out and inviting the villagers to the evangelism party given on the last day of camp. Even though the alleys and streets were dark, we passed by a couple homes where we heard people praising God and saw through an ajar door of a pastor reading the Bible to the people in their homes.

Seeing these scenes I thank God for all the workers that came before us in sowing His field and nourishing with His Word.

I also thank God for the village chief who is a devoted Christian and it was him that invited the Joyful Hope English Camp to come and lead VBS in this small aboriginal village.

The EV Card serves as a communication tool and it sure can attract attention. During the night walk through the village, our four person team came upon a boy sitting by himself who was totally immersed in the games on his phone. We said hello to him with no response and then chatted with his grandmother who was standing nearby. I took out the EV Card and showed the boy its colorful pages. The interesting pages of the card fascinated him enough to put down his phone and listen to what the card was all about! I took this “rare” opportunity and quickly told him about God’s love for us, and at the same time showing him how to use the EV Card.



Our time in JinLun quickly came for us to leave, but I knew already from the students that we taught in the VBS camp to the young and old people we met in our walks through their neighborhoods, God is with them all. I am privileged to be a part of this mission trip and happy to contribute in my small ways. From all the wonderful exchanges and encounters we had here, I truly feel if ever there was a place for God’s Word to grow mightily, it would be here, in this small, humble and warm hearted village of JinLun.

**“Go into all the world
and proclaim the
gospel to the whole
creation.”**

Mark 16:15 (ESV)

Natalie Chan, age 11

(with mom, Janet and brother, Ethan)

I enjoyed this mission trip a lot. I enjoyed it because we were able to go to a school and teach the children about God's stories. In each day's Bible lesson, we also taught them some English words, we made arts and crafts, played games with them, such as trying to have everyone on a certain number of newspapers. We sang praise and worship songs to God, I also enjoyed bringing and having lunch together with the children.



We also went from houses to houses sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, making them believers of God. There was even a bonfire at a night time presentation with all the groups that came on this mission trip.

Everything we did in Taiwan was amazing! **I'm glad that I came!!!**

Calton Chu

I have had an affinity for Taiwan ever since I spent 6 months in Taipei for a Mandarin program back in 2010. I love the people, food, culture...just almost everything about it. I visited Taiwan 2-3 times a year since then – mostly to see friends and explore the latest food fad there. However, as often as I visited the country, it never occurred to me that I can actually do more than just be a tourist when I am there until the opportunity to serve on a Taiwan mission team arose.

Being a tourist in Taiwan, you understandably only pay attention to things like night markets, beef noodles (牛肉麵), cashbox karaoke (錢櫃), and hot springs. I was curious when I learned that ECC is planning a mission trip to Taiwan because I never associated Taiwan, a country that I usually frequent for food and fun, with mission work. Yet it made perfect sense to me – I am familiar with their culture, I speak their language (sort of), and Christians only make up less than 5% of the Taiwanese population. I felt God calling me to return to Taiwan once again, this time for a different purpose.

I experienced God's presence throughout the entire trip, most notably when I was evangelizing one evening during our prayer walk. Unlike many other mission trips, this one is purely evangelism focused. I was initially hesitant because I did not have any evangelism experience. Furthermore, the thought of having to evangelize in my broken mandarin made

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me cast doubts on how effective I could be on this mission trip. I prayed to God many times prior to the trip that the language barrier would not hinder any evangelism work I do. During the prayer walk, I found that the locals I were talking to actually paid even more attention to what I was saying because of my broken Mandarin! They seemed to appreciate the fact that I was trying hard to find the right words in their language. By the end of the night, a teenage girl I spoke to decided to accept Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. Praise the Lord for transforming my weakness in Mandarin into a unique tool for evangelism!

I was initially unsure how receptive the kids were to what we taught at Vacation Bible School. One student in particular, Mark, was the troublemaker and seemed to have a hard time focusing. But on the 4th day, he took the initiative to remind his classmates to pray before lunch. He even accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior and got baptized with his mother's consent! Another student, Charlie, came up to me on the last day and said that while his family worships various idols, he will start praying to God every day from then on. I had a sudden surge of joy upon hearing that. At that moment, I felt like all the everyday life worries I had back in Hong Kong (e.g. grades in school, job security, etc.) seem so trivial and that nothing brings more joy and fulfillment than helping a brother or sister come to know Christ. All the locals we met were so passionate and full of love, and to see some of them start channeling these qualities towards God was the most rewarding experience ever.



I would recommend anyone who hasn't been on a mission trip to consider going to one. I had my doubts when people told me that going on a mission trip would change my life. But after witnessing God work in and through all of us, it drastically changed my perspective and priorities in life. I pray that more out there will be able to go through this similar experience!

".....nothing brings more joy and fulfillment than helping a brother or sister come to know Christ."

Gabriela (Gabbi) Li

This is my first mission trip. I am so blessed to be able to participate and thank God for blessing us throughout the entire trip.

Prior to departure, I honestly did not have any expectation at all. In fact, I got no clues as in what ways could I be of any help. God grants every of the team members distinctive gifts; and He puts us in circumstances where we can apply all such gifts to help. As the trip went on, it started to become apparent that God had sent me on this mission trip for a reason. He wants me to bring joy and to spread His love to the children and people in Jin Lun. God, indeed, always has plans for each of us.

Throughout the trip, different missionaries shared their stories telling how they surmounted all the obstacles they encountered and how they eventually succeeded in making themselves available for God's work in Jin Lun. This heartens me the most. Through them, I can see that God works through his people all around the world and whenever I saw smiling faces and heard laughter of the children in the school or on the street, Jin Lun confirmed to me of their hope

and I know that God is working on this land.

I once queried on as what kind of difference could we possibly bring to Jin Lun since our stay there was just as short as 4 days. However, I later realized that it is not the duration of our stay that really matters, but rather there are teams like us and we all act like a piece of the puzzle trying with all our best efforts to fill in the missing holes. It will then become a complete picture once the puzzle work is done.



Now that I am back to Hong Kong, I have become even more appreciative and grateful of what I have been in possession. Moreover, I have become aware of the need to step out of my comfort zone to gain new experiences within my environment and learn to confront challenges of different nature on my own.

This mission trip has provided me with a platform to know more about God as well as myself. I did face a number of challenges throughout the trip; a particular one was that I had to open up myself and share my belief in God with those who are totally strangers to me. I prayed to God for encouragement and strength and have turned to rely more on Him and less on myself and this helps to reinforce the importance of prayers. We started off doing the daily designated mission by saying our prayers through which we praise the Lord who will guide us, work with us and help us to complete the mission with efficiency.

“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)

In retrospect, I realize that not only did I learn from my fellow team members, but from the children there as well. Despite the fact that the children live a simple life, theirs might probably be more plentiful than ours in the sense that they embrace their virtues in life more wholeheartedly than we do.

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It is because ours might have been tainted by what we regard as indispensable and fundamental possessions as well as never ending desires for more during our life. Thank God for making this trip a blessing one for me. Thank every one of the team members for giving me the opportunity to serving and experiencing God with you.

Jean Marie Lau

(with wife, Puiman; son, Eliam - 8 and daughter Kirstin - 5)

Going on a mission trip is something I'm personally keen of; however it has never been an easy decision. What's the issue you may wonder - Just Do It!!!

Well with a 5year old and 8year old children, things aren't as straight forward, to add to this is my not-so-keen spouse. To clarify Puiman has no issues with herself as such but with the two little children, the challenges take on completely different dimensions. Parents can understand this I'm sure and if you aren't one just trust us parents. Nevertheless, this is our second family trip - made possible because of He is who He is - our Father in Heaven. Prayers are powerful especially prayers from the pure hearts. It's through prayers that the children acknowledged



God's calling to go. They were not keen at all beforehand. Praise the Lord. This is how our family ended in this year trip - trusting in God.

The team is has been great this year especially that another family went too. The Lord has indeed prepared a great team including some young adults who are the perfect product any parent desires. There were difficult moments and thank you all for bearing with us - thank you all teammates. My second lesson is teamwork and submit your needs to God - He will answer. The trip has given us a foretaste of heaven with the number of conversion, the level of engagement with the local team and aboriginal tribes, the high

morale - when the Holy Spirit is at work, the results are amazing and you just have to do your part. We had in-depth sharing with the local teams and members from

different churches - things just move and flow. Amen. What a beautiful teasing taste of heaven.

Telling others about Christ is something you can't walk away WITHOUT in this trip. We were trained right away and no matter you are 5year old or 55years old, this is what you will have to do right in these few days. My 5year old did it so can you.

As a second family mission trip, I see children and family grow in understanding God - how He works and how to put Him into the right perspectives not as a sidliner but at the center. The trip is also a good reflection of where we stand and where we CAN stand.

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See what they say:

Eliam: I love the craftworks and learn about Obey, Love, Forgiveness - it was very hot without air conditioning in the hall but we made it with a smile and smiles of other children.



Kirstin: The children look darker than we are but we all had great fun - I believe we are not so different + I can do the EV card now.



Puiman: The baptism was all but God's grace and affirmation of the mission. It was a long day every day for me not just for the kids. If you want to learn to unleash the power of prayer and depend on Him daily, this is the trip for you.

If you looking for these **4T** - **T**rust in God, **T**eamwork for the body Christ, **T**aste of heaven & **T**elling the words can come to life and shine in this part of Taiwan. Glory and Praise to Our God! Amen!



"The Lord has indeed prepared a great team including some young adults who are the perfect product any parent desires."

“We should be seeking the ONE THING in how to love God.”

Kevin lu

After working in Hong Kong for a year, maintaining an intimate and everyday relationship with God had been a big struggle to me. I was stuck spiritually for a really long time. When this mission trip opportunity first came up in IslandECC's bulletin, my first impression is that this could be my way out of my 'stuck' status. Lots of time was spent since then on 'thinking' logically whether I should go, but God was not the place I have turned to for seeking this answer. Most of the considerations made were actually just shadowing from the desire of getting a simple way out from my messed up spiritual life. But thanks to the grace of God, He simply reminded me with an article and a sermon Steven C. Hawthorne had given in IslandECC earlier this year.

In his article in the iGo magazine, Steven mentioned how we are always distracted by the many things worth doing, and simply neglected the 'One Thing' that should be done - ***make sure that God is loved***. So instead of trying to prioritize his life with all these good things to be done, Steven is trying to singularize his life by setting his heart on bringing about the 'one thing' of God being worshipped and loved in every people group as the integrating purpose of his life. God had reminded me how all this time I was just using my own effort to find the right things to do, and later finds out it's too heavy to carry everything. But instead, *God just simply wanted me to seek His presence, using His power to learn how to*

love Him gradually.



After a month of struggling, thankfully God did not stop me from signing up for this mission trip. But this time, I understood how to focus on God and Him alone in order to see the good work He's trying to work on us. Thanks to the resources provided by the team leaders, it had given me a chance to fully prepare my heart and mind through scriptures before departing to Taiwan.

The special thing of this mission trip is that there are six churches partnering together to plan for the daytime VBS and nighttime evangelizing in the village. During these 9 days, approximately 60 disciples from various churches were actively being a witness of God, despite their differences in language, background, culture, everyone were sent to the right places to deliberate the same love, share the same hope, and spread the good news of the same God. It is amazing to see how God is working amongst all these differences so efficiently, how He had put the right people at the right place and using the perfect gifts in the perfect settings. It is even more amazing to

see how everyone is doing nothing but trying to love God in action every day.

The most memorable experience was one night during our street evangelizing in the village, our team came into a drunk man, he shared how in his minimum sobriety that he was captivated to Cape Town when he was young to join a gang and had done all sorts of evil including murdering people. After returning to Taiwan, this past experience had kept haunting him. He could not forgive himself from all the work he had done even though he knows there is a God who had forgiven him (apparently the man had heard about Jesus while he was in Africa). The interesting part is that our team was formed by four people from four different churches. One of them is a pastor from Taipei, one of them is a doctor from the States who knew minimal Chinese, and the third one is an American lady who understood zero Chinese. Despite their minimal understanding in the



language, it was not difficult to see the need of forgiveness in the man's eyes. In our short conversation with him, I have witnessed how everyone on the team is so *focused on asking God's power to be present*, while at the same time trying our very best to show love to that man even though we didn't have the right words to say. All the barriers that were ahead of us were taken down by God. It was powerful. At the end, our team had managed to read him the full Gospel, whether he understood or even listened to us, we did not have the answer, but the experience of descending God was manifested.

'Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.' - Matthew 6:33

God was using this opportunity to strip down my schedule, my worries, and just simply spend time with Him with entire focus. Instead of just looking for an easier way to dwell in God, no matter what things, We should be seeking the ONE THING in how to love God. Not only just because He loved us first, but also that's the only way to understand the wondrous things He is trying to do, so that we could appreciate them with joy and have hope for the future.

Bridget Sew (Mission Trip Co-leader)

This is actually my fourth year going back to Taiwan for the mission trip. Each year returning to Taiwan has given me different experience in spiritual growth and experiencing God. Before the trip, I ask myself, what do I want to get out from this trip? In my heart, I want to sit on Jesus lap like Mary and not Martha...to be able to rest upon Him and holding tight to Him. Like a picture of daddy holding his princess on his lap, enjoying each other presence.

I told the camp director I did not want to be the lead teacher and to put me other than in a classroom setting. She said to me teasingly I could help out in the cooking department and filling me with satisfaction! When I got the schedule and responsibilities package, I was put in the classroom and in charge of games. Great, this was fine. Be flexible, right? Anyway, let's wait till the first day lesson and make changes along the way.

Everything was fine on the first day, when this student Toby, who was 7 years old, came in on his second day and put a spell into my heart...I wonder why? From here, I had given him a nickname "Wild Horse". Why?

Toby was a kid that ran around and couldn't sit still. He liked his teacher running after him and asked him to come back to sit down with his classmates. He jumped around and even fought with other kids. He was lead to the discipline corner but at the same time sought attention from big sisters. He even cycled on the street without any adult supervision...



Days passed, the teachers and I asked the students who would like to be baptized. All nine made the sinners' prayers but NONE wanted to be baptized! Even in my heart, there was no hope in Toby. Finally, when we were ready to get to the pool, Toby raised his hand. YES!

From this boy, God taught me a couple of lessons - no matter what is your well-being, God is an ultimate God that loves His child inside out because He made each one wonderfully and beautifully in His image. Secondly, rather than look at the situation with no hope - He is the Father of HOPE! All things are in His control!

All in all, God wanted me to look at my inner relationship with Him so that I could enjoy His presence wherever I am.

Psalm 139:13-14 (ESV)

¹³ For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

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3rd Row (from left): Calton, Tunhow, Lui, Jean, and Kevin
2nd Row (from left): Aletheia, Winnie, Wei, Puiman, Kirstin, Eliam, Ethan, Natalie and Janet
1st Row (from left): Bridget and Gabbi

Basketball Outreach



HK Debriefing at Maokong

