



the *Stewarts*

Church Planting in Taiwan



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Exceedingly Abundantly

December 25th was our last big Christmas outreach, and we were looking forward to relaxing a little after a busy month. But that evening at prayer meeting a deacon hurried up to me as soon as we finished praying and told me about a big witnessing opportunity on January 5th (10 days later).

A local elementary school was having a big activity for Chinese New Year (CNY) and invited our church to come and set up a booth. (I found out later we were invited because too few vendors signed up – but that was God’s plan). I agreed it was a great opportunity, but asked if he thought we could be ready in time. He responded by asking me to write a tract based on my upcoming lecture in January comparing Chinese New Year with Passover. (Chinese New Year borrows MANY elements from Passover).

I wrote the tract three days later, then contacted a lady in our church about translating it and contacted another lady in our church about designing and printing it. The designer said it would be impossible to get it printed in time because of the New Year (January 1) holiday; I told her to try anyway. She called and said the companies could print the tract, but not fold it, in time. I asked her to print it and get it to the church before Saturday evening, so the teens could help me fold.

During our weekly teen meeting, the teens were a great help and folded 300+ tracts, but there were still 1,700 to fold. Sunday morning, I asked the church to help fold after the morning worship service and before the activity started that afternoon (Jan 5th). EVERYONE stayed until all the tracts were folded! I had hoped 10-20 people would help fold, but everyone did!

We arrived at the school activity with all the CNY tracts, and about 1,000 other tracts. We were also prepared to do some magic tricks that we’ve used in the past to share the gospel. A doctor, a new member, offered to take people’s blood pressure so he could have the chance to tell them about Christ. Also, about 20 church members came and passed out tracts.

PRAISE:

- The opportunity to join in on this school event.
- The whole church’s involvement in preparing the tracts, magic tricks, and balloons.
- Many church members helping out with the event and many people’s interest in the tracts they received and in the science camp.

PRAYER:

- God to work in the people’s hearts who received the tracts.
- Teen Winter Camp – Jan 20-22. Please pray that God will work in everyone’s hearts.
- Bible Science Camp – February 5-7 We’ll have three full days of teaching about dinosaurs from a biblical perspective. So far 10 non-church kids have signed up.



All told, we passed out more than 1,500 tracts, as well as invitations given to our Bible Science Camp in February. Throughout the afternoon I saw people actually reading the tracts they took. Usually 90% refuse tracts and those who accept just throw them away. Sunday wasn't like that at all. What a blessing!

To top it all off, we had MANY opportunities to very clearly share the gospel, especially with the magic tricks. After the school leaders watched us do the magic tricks and heard our gospel presentation several times, they asked us to go on stage and share the magic tricks with everyone there. They didn't do it because they were Christians. They (in their mind) did it because the tricks were interesting. But God led them to do it so that one of the deacons could give a clear gospel presentation.

The outreaches we held in December and this last one on January 5th encouraged us and the church members here by seeing so many willing to hear. Williness to listen is not a normal response in Taiwan.

One last blessing. Usually such a busy day is exhausting, and we've found that the day after a big event leaves us spent, perhaps even discouraged. Although we were tired Sunday, we didn't experience the normal exhaustion or discouragement on Sunday or Monday. I don't have any explanation except to say that God gave strength to do His work so that it was His strength, not ours, that was spent on Sunday in the outreach (Col 1:28-29, 2 Cor 3:5, Phil 2:13 & 4:13, 2 Cor 12:9).

To GOD be the glory, great things HE hath done. I hope you see God's mighty hand in this and don't think it's anything the church here did. This is so abnormal for Taiwan. God has done great things for us (Ps 126:2-3).

Josh, Rachel, Nate, and Anna



JingJing inviting kids to come to the Bible Science Camp in February.



Dr. Huang taking blood pressure and explaining the gospel.



Jerry explaining how the blood of Jesus cleanses our hearts from sin.



Josh and Jerry were asked to do their magic tricks on the stage for everyone to see.



Nate giving a Chinese New Year tract to one of the vendors.

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