



Letters From Chiayi

SEPTEMBER 2016

IN THIS ISSUE: BAPTISM AT SALVATION

This past Sunday, Pastor Alex baptized two teenage church members. The two prevalent philosophies towards Christianity in Taiwan were very evident in these two baptisms.

Education is extremely esteemed in Taiwan and this attitude works its way into the church as well. Many people will wait until they have prepared for baptism. This usually means they will wait until after they are eighteen and have gone through confirmation classes. Even if their family is Christian most people will wait until they are eighteen for baptism instead of infant baptism.

Another common stance for parents is to vehemently refuse to have their sons, especially the oldest son, be baptized in the Christian faith. This causes strain on family relationships as filial piety is of the utmost importance.

The week before the baptisms, I asked Tanner what he would do during the week. He answered with the normal responses: work, study, and various other things. Then he said something

that seemed very strange to me at the time, until I thought back to the pressure that his family puts him through. He said, he would prepare mentally and physically for his baptism. The mental strain of disobeying his parents by going through baptism is great. As such, he asked that I not tell his parents that he has been baptized. This pressure is unfathomable to me, but by the grace of God the Holy Spirit worked in the heart of Tanner to come to His loving arms.

Angel on the other hand, has been raised in a Christian family all her life and has attended many of the church functions from childhood. I remember her participating in the Christmas concerts as a child when I first came to Taiwan ten years ago. However, she had not been baptized a she felt that she wasn't ready. This past summer, Angel was able to participate in the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. She also traveled to many different states in the Midwest meeting up



Tanner baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

with former missionaries and people with connections to Taiwan. This helped alleviate a lot of her fears as she was able to talk with Christian kids her own age and also with adults that aren't on the mission field telling her it's ok not to have all the answers. God is a great mystery. He reveals his power and might to us, but there are many things we don't understand or comprehend.



Pastor Alex washing Angel in the baptismal waters of Christ.

As these two students will be going off to their respective colleges soon, pray that God keep them in the faith that they may continue to grow in his word. The one good thing about Taiwan is that while it may take longer for a person to receive the forgiving grace of baptism, they complacency of that faith is rarely found. Praise God that we can welcome two new members into the family of Christ. While you may not know a lick of Chinese this is your new brother, this is your new sister. Rejoice for we are on our way to Heaven in Christ our Lord!

Prayer Requests

- As we have three new missionaries pray for them as they settle into the team and various ministries.
- Pray for me as I have a lot more responsibilities as a senior member of the team and a mentor teacher to one of the new missionaries.
- Pray for Tanner and Angel as they continue growing in Christ.
- Pray for the Bible studies as they start up.