

# God's Sparks at the Haudenschields -A look back at 25 Years of Missions -

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Dear Friends,

Sparklers- Who didn't like them as kids?!

At Christmas or New Years Eve, under the starry sky, lighting the sparklers with a match. Wondering if and when the spectacle will get started.

And then, full of joy and shouts of wonder, the gaze fixed on the sparkling stars, which illuminate the night.

For a while you think it is never going to stop, the sparkling rain slowly moves down along the stick of fireworks, down towards the End of it.

„Aaah, ooooh“, The drama has come to an end. It's dark again.

I imagine our life like a sparkler which spurts God sparkles on its way. We cannot hold on to them, only watch it how it happens,...beautiful, exciting, spontaneous, unexpectatley, uncontrolable, finite. I can neither control nor hold what God works in and through my life. I can open myself up to it, perceive it and let it happen without holding on to it.

Our two sparklers are literally burnt down by half, but we are deeply impressed by God's sparks that we are allowed to see and wonder.

On the occasion of our 25th anniversary in missions, we want to let a few of those God's sparks pass by our eyes, and hope to elicit some awe and thanksgiving before God from you.



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1992- Become Chinese for the Chinese- an impossible task, that's for sure! Even today our long noses already tell on us! Accepted from the Chinese Brothers and Sisters, with lots of love and trust, we assist in two church planting efforts. One fruit of God's spark from the initiated mission prayer meeting at 6 AM is M., who today leads our teams in China and we are privileged to assist along the way. National Prayer campaigns, „March for Jesus,“ „Champion“ Program for students to equip them how to solve important life issues, personal problems and leadership training are our main themes beside our daily language and culture study. We do not just survive, but we inspire others through patience and prayer to become useful instruments for God in this culture.



The biggest surprise was, that God gave us a family. On February 4, 1998 Jonathan comes to us as a one year old Taiwanese citizen. After finalizing the adoption he becomes Swiss and German. Since that day we praise God daily for this gift.



1999.9.21 at 1:43 AM, together with the entire nation, we are abruptly stirred up from our sleep. We are close to the epicenter of the century quake which hit at a force of 7,2 on the Richterscale in Puli. Count: 84 % of the building structure in the city are affected, 2400 dead island wide to mourn, of which 800 in our town, Puli. Of the nine schools only one remains which is in Ai Lan, our quarters which is built on solid rock.

As Jonathans Kindergarten is also completely destroyed, Rita assists with her skills in Montessori education to establish up a Kindergarten in Ai Lan.

Through donations of our partner mission the destroyed roof of the church can be repaired and newly thatched. After several months we can celebrate church service again.

Instantaneously 10,000 of 86,000 inhabitants of Puli are leaving town, most of them women with their children, as the private households do not have running water for months, as the after- shocks go on.

As this accounts to one of the toughest experiences of our lives, it brings us closer to God and has a lasting impact in our lives. We say with Job: „My ears had heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you.“ (Job 42:5)

## Gods' Sparks in our Life and Ministry (1992-2001)

<i>Commissioning Service in July in Constance, Germany.</i>	<i>Chinese learning, Jesus March, Church – planting, Taichung</i>	<i>Church planting Puli, Mission Care, Mobilizing f. SEND</i>	<i>Conversions, home- and cell groups, growing Church</i>	<i>Call to a national ministry, investigating a ministry with CCEA in Taipei.</i>
<i>19.Aug. Arrival in Taiwan</i>	<i>Graduation of language school</i>	<i>We become Family!</i>	<i>921 Earthquake, Emergency Relief.</i>	<i>Jonathan Kindergarten in Owingen. Germany.</i>
<b>1992</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2001</b>



On home service in 2002 we experience God's protection as a Russian and a German airplane crash over the air space above the Lake of Constance region (Owingen). From the living room window Rita sees with her own eyes how the burning parts fall down from the sky.

When it hits the ground the shock wave is similar to the shaking of an earthquake. The windows rattle. In distance of only 150 meters away, heavy machine parts fall to the ground. Owingen gets completely looked up and becomes like a crime scene. All 71 people on board lose their lives. On ground **NO ONE** is insured. The newspapers call it a miracle! Shortly afterwards, during a routine check-up, Rita's uterus is diagnosed with a huge *leiomyoma* which requires immediate surgery. Unfortunately we have to cancel our tickets for a trip to our partner mission to U.S.

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In 2002 follows the mission to the national ministry and move to Taipei. After Pastor Hsia's visit in Germany and France we co-work with the nationwide ministry of church planting and mission movement (CCEA). The ministry is characterized through mission prayer groups, outreaches among Chinese in Germany France and Switzerland and the completing a Master Thesis about the Hakka of Taiwan. In addition the networking with like-minded churches help to establish a national cross cultural mission prayer group network. The churches long for renewal. Slowly we see changes. But, the number of commissioned missionaries from Taiwan is still very low.

2003-05: Invitation to train Vietnamese leader in Ho-Chi Ming, who could possibly help the migrant mission in Taiwan. The Theological Seminary Taosheng invites to teach the first mission course in 2005. Increase of invitations to teach about missions. In these years we have negative church growth in Taiwan.

The years 2006-2010 are full of God's sparks and statistically become the turning point in modern time church planting history of Taiwan. God hears our prayers. The big 2008 *Franklin Graham Festival* in Taipei takes two years' of preparation for us at CCEA. The *Taiwan Expatriate Caring Committee (TECC)* get's permission to translate all the basic gospel material of the *Billy Graham Evangelistic Association into Thai, Indonesian and Vietnamese*. More than 300 immigrants find Jesus as their savior. SEND Taiwan's church planting research project is completed by autumn 2009. Shortly after translation into Chinese it is introduced as "Vision 119". Interested bigger Taiwanese Churches focused some of their outreaches on the most neglected 60 cities of Taiwan with a predominantly *Hakka* and *Minnan* speaking population. We witness the fastest church planting growth of Taiwan since the mid sixties; in addition TECC counts more than 10 newly planted migrant churches, apart from 300 other reported *Filipino fellowships*. During that time TECC publishes literature to support regular evangelization and contextualization of the gospel, which is in line with plans of the local churches to target the 12 most influential professions with the gospel. At the same time God gives ideas and strength for two additional mission courses, "*Global Mission History*" – (from Jesus to 1689 A.D.) and "*Ecumenical Church Planting*."

## Gods' Sparks in our Life and Ministry (2003-2016)

<i>First publications of TW' Christians on Internet</i>	<i>Founding of TECC. Journey to Vietnam</i>	<i>FranklinGraham Festival, Taipei TECC grows</i>	<i>Over 500 commissioned missionaries from Taiwan, more South Asian Migrant Churches are planted</i>	<i>Student ii-Cafe, 4101 evang. Churches 6,2% evangel. Christians.<sup>1</sup></i>
<i>Jonathan starts elementary school</i>	<i>Childrens Group</i>	<i>2005: Start teaching: Taosheng Theol. Seminary.</i>	<i>Hakkaseminar</i>	
<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2015-16</b>

<sup>1</sup> Since 1992 the number of evangelical Christians nearly tripled from 2,1% (1992) to 6,2% (2015), the number of churches doubled.

2011 God gives the spark to start Elijah's Hut. Experience God as loving father, beside the written word, is the motto. Just to enter the plaza with the huge tree and the old stone house, brings you into a beautiful natural atmosphere and peaceful world. Some are blessed through the felt closeness to the Lord and his way to speak to them while others feel inspired to imitate the whole ministry. For us, that's a good result. Unfortunately in the summer of 2015 a typhoon destroys a big part of the roof. Rita has not rented it since. It remains the wonderful experience, that God means us well and is close to us. He has a place, gifts and talents for each of us.





2013: For the first time, Taiwan accounts for more than 500 missionaries commissioned abroad. Moreover 1,500 former Thai Buddhists have returned to Thailand as followers of Jesus and share now the gospel of Christ, start home-groups and lead uncounted people in the unreached villages of Eastern Thailand to Christ.



2014: Our son Jonathan leaves our nest! With only one application he secures his place at Technical University of Munich. We are grateful that during our home service in Germany we can support him in the initial phase and meet him monthly. Well, the adjustment probably is more difficult for Mummy than for Jonathan, as he quickly establishes new friendships and discovers new interests. In March, Alain's dissertation "Global Mission History" is published by Livingstone Edition, Taipei (ISBN: 978-986-99928-9-8).



2015: The ii-Cafe emerges as a new ministry (<https://www.facebook.com/iiCafeNCU/>); it is initiated by a Chinese Hakka brother; he wants to see the gospel shared to Taiwan's students. Rita invests several months of her time in the Hakka area, 55 km south from Taipei, to plan and design a student café and mobilizes Christians with a heart for International and Chinese students. God hears our prayers and calls Pastor Lü, a Hong Kong-born pastor, to establish an international fellowship for students. He heads the 1988 SEND founded Hakka-church in Zhongli. Awesome! Since his ordination as senior pastor, he can also supervise students from the Hakka seminary who want to serve the international students and ministering within the *Hakka Chung Cheng Church Association*. This new ministry opens new doors!



2015/16: Our eyes turn to the unreached 4880 peoples of Asia. The Taipei Mission prayer focus shifts to the unreached peoples; the invitation to teach Biblical Missiology at the globally only Hakka Theological Seminary complements this focus. At the 9<sup>th</sup> Global Conference of the Chinese Lausanne Movement in Taipei, cross-cultural missions, for the first time in history, becomes part of the declared mission vision of the Chinese Church Body. It seems the Taiwan church, apart from mission literature and research, has what is needed to fulfill God's Commission for their country and the world. Needs? – Yes, actually always. If you would like to participate financially, either a one-time amount or a monthly contribution you are welcome to transfer your love gift via the specified account(s) below. Finally, we would like to thank everyone for all expressed confidence, prayers and financial support throughout the whole year.

*Yours,*

*Alain & Rita Haudenschild*

**Ministry Accounts for East-Asia Ministries:**

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