

Indigenous Interests

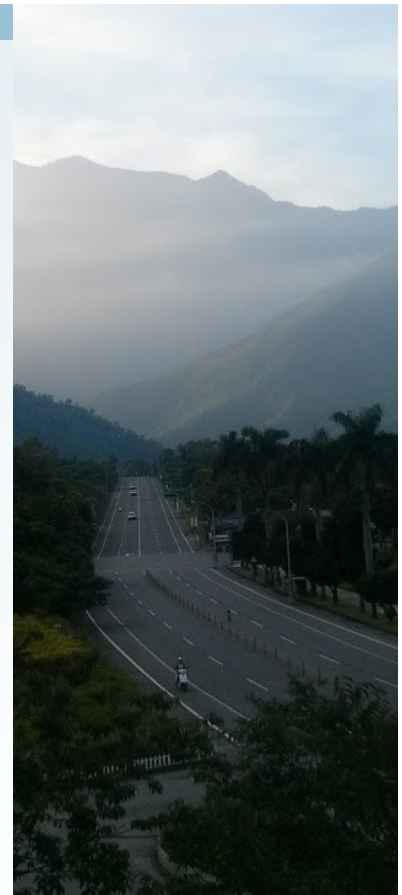
The Summer Camp in Tang-Ming Presbyterian Church ... By Kermeki Law

The Summer Camp was a Children's Programme i.e., the Junior High School Student. The age range for this programme is below 20 years old. This programme was started in the year 1998. In the beginning there were less who participate this programme and gradually the number of children who register this camp increase from year to year. The approximate number of the participant is around 50 children who register every program. They have these programme 5 times in a year.

The most interesting about this camp is that some of the children are non-Christian who participate in this programme. In the City of Taipei the Summer Camp was not given a free registration. Most of the family did not afford to let their children to participate. It was only in the church that they get it for free. Therefore, the family encouraged their children to participate in this programme.

Before the start of this programme they invite all the teachers who is from the church to be part of this programme. Two weeks before the start of the camp they made an announcement in the church and also put some advertisement in some places outside the church in order to let the people know about the camp. They did a lot of decoration work in order to attract the service. They made banners and also have their uniform for this camp. The Women's Fellowship is responsible for the food and snacks. They produced their own text book and Cassette Videos for songs lesson in every year.

In this Programme the children get involved in the different activities that the organisers had prepared the whole week. They have a Camp leader who will organise the different setting of the program. The Camp will start at 2-5 pm in the afternoon and during these hours they have different activities for the kids. The class was divided into different section according to the age. In the different section they have their own activities to show to the kids. The activities that they do is singing, playing skit, playing games, story telling etc...and the teacher will give a reflection and question in each of the activities that they present. After the programme they had food and snacks together and the kids were really enjoyed.



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Bunun's Culture and Language relate to my Culture. (Samoa)

... By Itele Sua

Being able to experience life in the East of Taiwan is exciting. Even though I had motion sickness on our way from Tainan to Taitung, I got to sleep a lot and not able to see the beauty of Mother Nature on the way. But I feel like I'm home already when we arrived. The very exciting part of coming to the East was when we arrived in the Bunun Farm Centre. We had the chance to interact with people of Bunun tribe, they introduces us to their culture and their costumes.

During our whole week, working, interacting and sharing culture, costumes and understanding with the Bunun people, I think it was quite interesting for all of us. For me per-

sonally, I found out that most of the Bunun culture is almost the same with our culture, the (Faa-Samoa). Another participant (Ominell Boyce) along with me, were the first to participate in Bunun dancing and learn a little bit about their culture, and realize that they have something similar to my culture. For example, we had this little traditional we called it the Kava Ceremony. A village will do this Kava ceremony for village special occasion, a village meeting or even to welcome village guest. During this kava ceremony, we first pour some (kava) on the ground as a way of respecting the Creator, which is God.

"...working, interacting and sharing culture, costumes and understanding with the Bunun people.."

And I kind of experience that when we were invited to participate and learn about the Bunun culture. The Bunun had something look familiar with our kava ceremony, but I was told that they only do it, when the hunters come back with a big catch or after they harvest the land. It's their way of showing respect and thanking their ancestors for being with the hunters and helping them with their farms. Since the arrival of missionary in Taiwan and in the Bunun tribe, their culture still exists but they change just a little bit. So whenever they do the harvest ceremony they will honour God first. My Samoan way of liv-

ing is almost the same with the Bunun. It made me think that scientific research is kind a true. It is believe that our ancestors are from the South East Asia. Not even our culture is almost the same as the Bunun and most of Aboriginal tribes, but some of our words are similar or the same with theirs for examples Mata for eye, ulu for head, Lima for hand and so forth...

I'm so thankful and blessed to be part of this programmed. I gain and experience a lot, and learn Gods love in different ways.

“The Tremendous purpose of creatures through the Amis tribe Culture” ... By Toantemam Ueanteiti

In the Book of Genesis through the creation story there is a repeated phrase which is always concluded the day and the completion of each creature. This phrase says “And God saw that it was good” God is the Creator and the goodness of each creature implies the true identity that God is Good. If there is goodness there will be a purpose that gives and proves the goodness of each creature.

Amis tribe is one of the indigenous tribes of Taiwan that they really know how to use the purpose of each and every creature of the land (Taiwan). It is a great chance for us (TIM participants) to hear and to see how these creatures being used through the knowledge and skills of this tribe. These skills and knowledge were passed down from their ancestors to the new generation and maintained in their lives and minds.

Moreover, for them, these skills and knowledge help them to survive on their local soil. The creation is enough for them to meet their needs and wants for their daily lives. Perhaps the skills and knowledge that they had born with help them to know the purpose of the creation for them. In fact they are capable to get their food and drink, shelter and protection and at the same time happiness and satisfaction will emerge into the life of their community.

In addition, this tribe really knows their relationship with the creation around them whereas it is their culture to respect the creation as their great ancestor. They rely on the abundant of the land. From their traditional thought It is uncultured (rude) to disrespect or mistreat each creature of the land.

Tracing back to the phrase “And God saw that it was good” the meaning is actually demonstrated through the culture of Amis tribe. Yes it was good every creature is created with purpose. Respecting each other along with respecting the creation will give us the fullness of different purposes. We are all called creatures of Earth bonded with purposes to prioritize the relationship between us (Creation).

JOKES!!!

A man went to a store to buy
curry.

He asked the shop keeper
where is the curry?

What did the shop owner say?

It's INDIA (in-there)

Which country won the Kung-
Fu fight?

Taiwan (taiwon)

What do you get when you
cross a guy and a banana?

Guyana

What did the Samoan guy say
when the beer was finish?

I want some more. (Samoa)

What did the Samoan girl say
to the two British guys kissing?

Are you gay (U.K)

... by Christopher Ngai

Bunun Coffee House

by Faith Taylor

In this past week I have swept cockroaches, cleaned windows with newspaper, cleared tables, cleaned tables, served people, made waffles, made coffee, made coffee ice cream, made ice coffee, made lattes, made ice lattes, cappuccino! I never knew there was so many different ways to make coffee. I have learnt how to use a coffee machine, and how to clean it. I have learnt how to make ice tea, with milk, without milk, with sugar, without sugar. The list can go on and on. This experience has been so enriching in so many ways. Not just in what I have done and learnt, but also with meeting the people who live and work here. Even though we don't speak the same language and sometimes there is miss communication.well most of the time....They are still so accepting and warm, I have definitely found a home here.

I feel like I have achieved something great in this past week. I have learnt all that I have mentioned, with a huge language barrier, so I had to work hard to figure out what I was being taught. This will definitely be going in my CV. 'Worked in a coffee house in Taiwan. Able to follow instructions without the use of English'



Class of Hope and Suffering: Tong Men Church and Bo Ai New Village

We had a class of “Basic Human Communities, Communities of Solidarities and Hope” which was delivered by Dr. Walis. In the morning, he brought us to Bo Ai New Village to visit a church there, and asked Mimi Elder to tell us the story there.

Mimi Elder told us about the mudslide 25 years ago, that killed a lot of people in the village. How the government reacted was suggesting them to move to another area, and they would help them to build a new house. Although the government received a lot of donations, they only put little money on building their new houses and hence the quality of their houses is really bad that there were cracks on the rooftop after they lived for a year. Moreover, after the government asked them to leave that area, government themselves wanted to get that area from the indigenous!

For me, it is ridiculous that even in such dangerous situation, the government did not try their best to protect the people (at least provided them a safe environment to live in) but even wanted profit (donations, land) from them. This is not what a government should do! However, through what the villagers have suffered, they stood up together and protested against what the government tried to do to them.

Mimi Elder told us about her daughter, which was passed away last year. The being of the land was just like the being of her daughter, accompanied her for 30 years, and their relationship was so close that nothing could separate them. For them, their land is not a symbol of power, not a source of getting money, but their land is given by their ancestor from one generation to them, it is a place where they grown up with tons of memories and happiness and they cannot measure by the amount of money.

Maybe for people who lived in the city, the term of “Land” is rarely appear in our mind and we would not really value a place too much. If the house become older or we have a better financial situation, we could move to a better place. The sharing of Elder Mimi and her persistence of fighting for their land really touched me and reminded me about valuing the place we live and strive for our “Home”! We can do all things through the power of God!

Thank you!

...by Cherry Tang

JUST A FEW MORE JOKES

Where is the worlds largest supply of cigarettes?

Trinidad and Tobacco (Trinidad and Tobago)

What can of food do people from Hong Kong like eating?

CAN TOE KNEES (CANTONESE)

Where do poor people go to sing?

Singapore

What did George Bush say when he found out that the next president of the U.S was an African American?

O-Bummer (Obama)

Which country invented the delivery system?

Korea (courier)

Where is the farthest place in Asia?

Mile-Asia (Malaysia)

... by Christopher Ngai

Biblical Quote of this Publication

Deuteronomy 6: 4-5

⁴Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

⁵Love the Lord your God with all your heart and
with all your soul and with all your strength.

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