



### Pastor Paul's Call

Pastor Paul is a theological educator in Taiwan, serving with the China Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC) and China Lutheran Seminary (CLS). He is called to teach, write, and help plant and pastor Lutheran churches.

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to [michael.paul@lcmsintl.org](mailto:michael.paul@lcmsintl.org) with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

A few weeks ago I was asked to visit the home of Cuihong, a middle-aged Vietnamese woman, who is losing her battle with cancer. We understood that she wanted to be baptized, and several of the members of our mission station's Vietnamese fellowship went along. As I always do in such situations, I prepared to first teach her the basics of the Christian faith, including explaining the blessings of Baptism. Cuihong actually can converse in Mandarin Chinese very well, but one of our Vietnamese members still translated for me, especially for the sake of the Vietnamese present who don't understand Chinese well. To teach the Christian faith, I used a series of eight pictures highlighting the problem of our sin, and the free gift of God's salvation through Christ.

## An “Almost” Baptism



It took 20-25 minutes to go through the teaching. We were surprised, though, to hear Cuihong say several times that my teaching was rather different from what she heard from another Church group that had visited her recently. She also said that she did *not* want to be baptized. We didn't stay much longer, as she was not feeling well, and when I began saying a closing prayer, she quickly interjected her own cries of “Please relieve my pain, please relieve my pain.” While we were disappointed that she did not confess Christian faith and did not wish to be baptized, we were certainly grateful for the chance to teach her and the others present God's Word. We also certainly pray that God's Spirit will soon work through His Word to grant her repentance and faith...and that she will be reborn to eternal life through Baptism.

**Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.**

Acts 2:38 ESV





### What can you pray for?

#### Thanks for:

- the opportunity to teach God’s Word to Cuihong and others
- Yixin’s profession of faith, and joining us now in receiving the Sacrament
- good progress on editing Lutheranism 101
- time spent with Elizabeth

#### Petitions for:

- God to grant Cuihong repentance and faith
- the four Moms—Emily, Lisa, Vanessa, and Yawai, that they would be interested to study God’s Word more

#### Our mailing address:

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TAIWAN, R.O.C



our mission station’s crucifix

Our official website:  
[www.lcms.org/paul](http://www.lcms.org/paul)

## God’s Mission in a Nutshell



This picture was taken last Sunday during the Divine Service when Yixin publicly professed the Christian faith and became a member of our mission congregation. The picture nicely captures the essence of God’s mission, and even includes the part I am blessed to play in it. Front and center is the baptismal font, through which our Lord brings people into His Kingdom. Next is Yixin, who after being brought into the Church through Baptism is now confessing the Christian

faith publicly, and will then, just minutes later, begin receiving the Sacrament of the Altar--our Lord’s body and blood--with the rest of the congregation. Beyond her I stand, covered up in the vestments of the Office of the Holy Ministry, representing our Lord and speaking His Word. What a humbling and sacred Calling that is! Above us all is Christ crucified, the power of God and wisdom of God (1 Cor 1:22-24). God’s mission is all about Christ crucified, and connecting Him to us sinners through God’s Word, Baptism, and the Lord’s Supper.

### Brief Updates:

- Irene’s Mom & Tots group continues to go well, with four Moms & Tots in particular coming very regularly.
- I will soon begin a new Book of Concord class, this time in Taipei.
- I’ve recently spent lots of time working with others to edit the Chinese translation of Lutheranism 101. We can soon send the draft on to the next stage.
- Our youngest child, Elizabeth, was able to be with us for winter break, and is now back at college at Concordia University, Wisconsin.

**Keeping up-to-date:** If you’re not receiving this newsletter by email but would like to, please contact us at [michael.paul@lcms.org](mailto:michael.paul@lcms.org). For frequent Facebook updates, go to the facebook group: “Michael Paul family Taiwan mission.”

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at [www.lcms.org/service](http://www.lcms.org/service). Click on “Service Opportunities.”

To support our work financially, you may make checks payable (memo line: “Support of Missionary Michael Paul”) to “The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod” and send your tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861



You can **ALSO** make checks payable to “**Mission Central**” and send your tax-deductible gift to our friends at: Mission Central, 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, IA 51034.