

Outstanding Citizen of Ilan County



Ted and Beverly Skiles awarded with Taiwan's identification cards with excitement

The Home of God's Love - The story of Ted and Beverly Skiles

Located in among luxuriantly green trees surrounding Meihua Lake, a newly-built three-floor building with a big sign in big letters, saying, "but Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me,'" is the base of the Home of God's Love. An older two-floor red building to the right of the new one has had been the home to 1,000 or more children under the care of the Home for 44 years.

Furnished with amusement and sport equipment, a court lies between these two buildings; this is the space where children play, learn handicraft techniques, and participate all kinds of activities. Every evening the children do homework and study school work while the adults are busy with tutoring and even helping all study English. Having sensed such a harmony only possible in a warm household, one can hardly image that this family consists of members from different parts of Taiwan.

Toiling day and night simply for the welfare of the children

“Daddy Skiles” is what the children call their gray-haired Pastor Ted Skiles who does school run daily to and from the schools nearby. With the same color of hair and a face expressive of kindness, “Mommy Skiles” is Beverly Skiles, in the mouth of the children. She often directs the staff of the Home doing “chores” while feeding a baby with one arm carrying it and the other hand holding a bottle. Changing diapers is just a daily routine; one can hardly realize how tough her duty may be if any child is sick and in need of care.



the longest household registration record hold by Beverly Skiles

Daddy Skiles fetched out a household registration booklet, about 20 feet long, recorded with names of the children under the household of the Home. Such a long list of household record is very rare in the administration of household registry in Taiwan. What is more important, it witnesses the history of hundreds of children who have been cared and grown in such a great family as the Home.

In the office of Daddy and Mommy Skiles is a photo puzzle of many children with big and happy smiles on their faces. Both of them, contemplating or making lively gestures, told the stories and the latest status of the little ones while they were turning pages of yellowish correspondence booklet with their hands full of wrinkles.

Choosing seminary instead of college for the Great Commission

Though born in California, USA, Ted Skiles returned with his parents to their home town in Missouri. At the age of 10 his parents divorced. He went to live with his grandparents who were devoted Christians and whose lives influenced him deeply in

his life time. Graduating from high school with excellent grades , he was offered a scholarship to study in the department of Applied Mathematics and in a medical school. But the word of God, “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul,” changed his direction, he chose to pay for his education in a seminary.

For Daddy and Mommy Skiles 1968 was a year of turning point in their lives. That year, a missionary to Taiwan, Isabel Dittmore (Mrs. Dittmore, called by the church members), returned to the US for a furlough after years of service in Taiwan. She said to them, “There are so many preachers in the US while so little are willing to spread the gospel in Taiwan. Would you consider to commit your lives to Taiwan?” This invitation then turned to be a call of them to Taiwan. After traveling on the sea for 17 days, they finally stepped on the soil of Taiwan on January 14, 1969.

Settle their feet at Lotung for a shelter for children



Children studying at the Home



Children looking ahead to their future (Photo: the Home of God's Love)

In the first years in Taipei, Ted and Beverly met two brothers from Ilan County, Yang, Li-Hung and Yang, Li, Dian. In response to the appeal by the father of the two brothers, they went to Lotung in 1972 and decided to dedicate their lives there. The county government then suggested them to build an orphanage. Next year, the church in the US donated 10,000 dollars for the establishment of such an orphanage, later named The Home of God's Love. At that time the Magistrate of Ilan County, Chen, Jin-Dung, and the Chairman of County Council, Chen, Jing-Fu (both are brothers)

were in favor of such a plan and donated a piece of land, making possible the construction of the facility to proceed.

“I was among the first children when I was settled to the Home as a seventh grader in 1974; the facility was still under construction when I first came,” recollected Tang, Jing-Li, “the eldest son” in the mouth of Mommy Skiles. Daddy and Mommy Skiles were having difficult time then. One morning, there was no food left in the house, and nothing seemed to appear as lunch time was approaching. Daddy led everyone to pray. A miracle then happened. Suddenly, a man came and appeared to them with rice, oil, and dishes! In great excitement, the children expressed their gratitude to this man and said, “God really hears our prayer.”

One year, eight students of the Home were accepted by colleges. All were so happy about it until they realized that 7 out of 8 were accepted by private colleges and only one, by a public university. Worried for not being able to collect enough money for education, the Home was again on their knees. One evening, a person came from Taipei, carrying a box and giving it to Auntie Chang without requesting a receipt for such a donation. She opened the box and was shocked to discover a pile of gold coins in it. At first, everyone was suspicious and wondering if they were real ones. Next day they were verified to be of real gold and sold for a total of 450 thousand NT dollars! The money for colleges was therefore provided.

“It is unimaginable for an institute like us, which never asked the government or anyone for monetary support, that there had never been any lack of food and funds. Our kitchen has always been full of food and ingredients. We occasionally could even give from our surplus to the needy.” This is a testimony not only to the charity of many, but also to the wonderful gifts from God.

A Daddy and a Mommy for a life time

Because of the hard work and the love of Daddy and Mommy Skiles, many children have grown up here and left for all over the world in every walk of life. Many have already visited the Home from time to time to talk about old days. On Christmas or the birthdays of Daddy and Mommy Skiles, all would schedule a time to return “Home” for celebration, making the Home a house full of love and joy.

Paul Chen, existing director of the Home, was born to an extremely poor family. Four children from his family survived the hardship with help of the Home. “I regard

Daddy and Mommy Skiles as my birth parents, so I have two pairs of parents,” said he in a phone interview. “What do you want to say to them the most now?” asked the interviewing person. “Daddy...and... Mommy...Skiles, I...love...you!” answered from the other end of the phone in broken sobs.

“The love and heartily care and education I received from the Home are now extended to my children,” said Susan, a cram school English teacher. Yeh, Ming-De and Kao, Yia-Chin grew up in the Home together and then married. They expressed that life has become so wonderful thanks to Daddy and Mommy Skiles.

In August this year, both Daddy and Mommy Skiles were awarded with identification card of Taiwan. Their faces shine forth the joy of being given such a recognition by Taiwan’s government.

Ted amused himself by saying, “I may have been in Taiwan for too long. One time, after returning to the US, I forgot how to say ‘rainbow’ in English.” As a matter of fact, the long household registration record is exactly a beautiful rainbow. It is one that is built by Ted and Beverly Skiles with God’s matchless love and grace, and is to stay in the heart of each child who is nourished and cared here.