

BUDDHIST LAMA MEETS AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN



Buddhist lama

This month we would like to share this amazing story from missionary friends Steve's team helped prepare for work in East Asia.

He began his spiritual pilgrimage at age 13. His devout faith, stringent adherence to the rules, and favor with the unseen powers of darkness moved him up the religious ladder. 27 years later, he had become a very high level, very powerful Buddhist lama. He believed he was one of the original Buddhas reincarnated and could see spirits who regularly carried on conversations with him.

People even worshipped him! They gave him a lot of money for favors, and he had actual power to



Dr Pengyou's baptism

grant them wealth. His family's home was cluttered with symbols of his many years of devotion: pure gold idols, original scrolls from past Buddhas, expensive portraits of Buddha, prayer books, ceremonial costumes. Their total value was thousands of dollars.

But he had no peace. Evil spirits would not leave him alone, intimidating him and threatening to harm his family. He was troubled by the wrong he saw other lamas do and felt increasingly uneasy about taking money to do people favors. He thought God should bless people without expecting a payment for it.

Our missionary friends hosted a weekly Bible study that was attended by a very kind and helpful doctor they called "Pengyou," who was recently baptized. They were very surprised by the dramatic, far-reaching effect his Christ-like attitude of kindness would have!

His servant heart stood out in great contrast to that of others in his competitive workplace, and one woman co-worker asked him why. He shared the Gospel with her, and she became a Christian and began attending church with her 9 year old son. Her son absolutely loved church and could not be consoled if he missed it.

This was the Buddhist lama's wife and son. As he watched his wife's and son's lives



change, he realized his rituals and religious efforts did not change him at all.

So just a few weeks ago, the lama announced he was renouncing his former beliefs and now believed in Jesus!



Pengyou and another couple from the Bible study went to their house and helped him carry all his priceless idols and items of worship into the backyard, heaping them in a big pile. Pronouncing his new faith, he lit them all on fire! Just like in Acts 19:19!

He shared his testimony in their church the next Sunday and has been going ever since! Pengyou has come



alongside him to help him grow and last Sunday spent the whole day with him. Tears ran down his face as Pengyou taught him about his new faith. "He is a better Christian than I am!" Pengyou said to himself when he saw such a tender response.

One evil spirit returned after the lama became a believer and threatened to harm the man's family. Before he would have been

scared; now he just said some harsh words for "Get lost!" The spirit left and has not returned.

Christ shone brightly through Pengyou's simple words and kind actions. He led the woman to Christ; the woman led her son to Christ; the woman and the son's changed lives and Pengyou's words brought the Buddhist lama to Christ.

Can you imagine the confused looks on people's faces when they ask where their temple leader is? "Uh...he's not here. He...uh...decided to follow Jesus." Those who are sincerely seeking truth will also be led to Christ. As Pengyou told his story in the Bible study group, all the members were amazed and encouraged in their belief that we do indeed serve a powerful God!

When we read this story of the kind doctor who lived out his faith in Christ daily in his clinic and the far reaching effects he had, we were encouraged to keep on trusting and obeying Christ! We never know who is watching or what a difference it may make. Thanks for partnering with us to send others who follow Christ and faithfully see God change lives in awesome ways for His Glory! You too may create a domino effect as you follow Him in faith and obedience!

Please be in prayer for our team, that we all have wisdom and discernment as we work with applicants and help them follow God's call.

Pray for Rochelle as she has 2 training events coming up in February, one to do some training with the 75 new staff here now, and one to help her and other coaches improve their work.

Blessings in Jesus,
Steve, Rochelle, and Josh



Please pray for our son Ben as he starts campus ministry at Cal State Fullerton this month!

We are also very thankful to report that the Lord provided all of the funds for the year end that we were praying for! Thanks to so many of you who gave sacrificially to see this work keep going! We love you all!