

Experiences & Reflections

**DELVE INTO OUR
CONTEXTUAL
WORLD OF MODERN
THEOLOGY**



**THE FOOD
EXPERIENCE**
AJ & FAITH



**CULTURAL
INTRODUCTIONS**
KHULUMANI



**REFLECTIONS ON
CHURCH PLACEMENT**
GROUP A & B

"ONE MORE"



WHAT TO EXPECT?

Journey with us as we begin our experience of a lifetime. "One More" promises to give you exclusive access to what we see, hear, smell, taste and touch. Traveling the world to get a greater understanding of Taiwanese Language, fishing in Kiribati and finding new heights New Zealand. We have come from different countries, different cultures and for different reasons but the CWM's Training In Mission (TIM) has united us into learning more about mission an context together.

An authentic and contextual insight and perspective into the weekly reflection of our experiences in Taiwan

The First Taste

The 12 of us trickled in 2 by 2, (sometimes 1), as we arrived we each had our own first taste of this new and unknown food. While I was waiting for my first meal to be served we all wondered, Chinese? Japanese? Korean? Tea? What do they eat? The first dish i experience was seafood noodles with a tomato sauce - with tea - and I soon learned that when it came to eating seafood, they didn't bother cutting off any bits, you either ate it or you didn't. "Well" i thought "This is quite nice, shouldn't be a problem living off this for the next 5 months", Oh how this idea soon changed so very quickly. Not all of it was as nice as my first meal, in fact, not everyone's first meal wasn't as good as mine. I guess that's just the luck of the draw really. The real trick was knowing what you like and didn't like, and unfortunately the only real way of telling this was trying everything. Tea, Bok Choi, fried chicken, spiced rice, tea, normal rice, fish rice, hot pork, fried pork, radish soup, tea, seaweed soup (and not the Japanese kind), radish something, fried tofu, tofu something, bitter melon also did i mention tea? The list goes on and on and on. We soon discovered that the worse it tastes the better it is for you, that's not to say that the better tasting the worse nutritional value it had, but the "top 3" healthiest foods here are rather distasteful to some of us.

It's hard to describe exactly what its like, but imagine some vegetables that you have never heard of, boiled in a way that makes them taste like nothing you have ever had before, possibly in a bad way. In spite of that there are plenty of greatdishes that can be had and these tend to be some sort of beef/lamb/chicken/pork, with some sort of sauce - usually cream or tomato - on top of (of course) rice or noodles. The Taiwanese like to put eggs with many things and some dishes lack some salt however their sauces are quite tasty. Breakfast is usually some sort of sandwich/bun which is most interesting but usually quite tasty, if a bit lacklustre in quantity. Last but not least; the beverages. Tea, never in my life have i seen so many different types of tea, and this isn't English tea, this is strong, unsugar-ed Taiwanese tea. Black, Green, Red, Lemon, Grape, you name it, they've got it. This is an adventure in itself because not all of the tea may be to your liking, but what to chose? There are so many? A word of simple advice. Start with the green tea, as most of the different ones are green tea with added product, so if you don't like green tea, that eliminate most of your options. Don't worry though, they also have strong coffee (rarely white), many kinds of juice and soy bean milk. So take your pick! So far the food here has been either superb or..... Interesting. We won't starve though, they seem quite intent on that. - **by Arthur Joel Llewellyn Key**

Discovering Unique Tastes in Taiwan



*"...there are plenty of great
dishes that can be had and
these tend to be some sort of
beef/lamb/chicken/pork, with
some sort of sauce"*

an excerpt

#1!
I AM FAITH
I AM GLUTEN
INTOLERANT.

Being Gluten Intolerant in Taiwan is Hard.
Nearly everything here is made with gluten, so
when it comes to meal times I am the first to finish
because I have the least options.

There is one thing I can count on. RICE!

I have rice for Breakfast, I have rice for Lunch, I have rice for Dinner!
It's overwhelming, But at least I am not starving.
And I am learning there are lots of
ways to make rice. Boiled, fried, noodles,
rice snack, etc.
It's a good job I like Rice.



Zimbabwe

- ❖ Zimbabwe was known as Rhodisa in Central Africa.
- ❖ The land of Coal known by its water fall called Victoria falls
- ❖ National Sports are Football and Cricket.
- ❖ Indigenous sports football and Cricket.
- ❖ Indigenous people are Shona people.
- ❖ Culture is Multi-Ethnic like the Shona, Mdebe, Khalanga and Thongas.



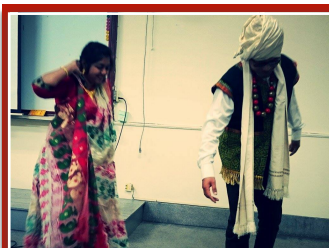
Kiribati

- ❖ The ancient names of Kiribati are Tugaru, Gilbert Islands, and Kiribati Island.
- ❖ Main Occupation are Fishing, Weaving Nets, etc.



Samoa

- ❖ independent from New Zealand in 1962.
- ❖ The main sports played in Samoa are Rugby Union, Rugby league, Samoan Cricket, Volleyball and Netball. Rugby Union is the national football code.
- ❖ Mission work in Samoa had begun in late 1830 by John Williams of the London Missionary Society.
- ❖ Currently 98% of the population identify themselves as Christian.
- ❖ The culture is the Faa-Samoa and the language is the Samoan language.



India

- ❖ India has 28 states and therefore has the different diversity in terms of Culture.
- ❖ The greatest celebration in India are Diwali, eid, holi, durga puja, onam, pongal, Christmas, etc...
- ❖ Favourite Sports in India are Cricket, Hockey, Kabbadi, etc...
- ❖ The most important food is Rice, Pulse, Vegetables etc...
- ❖ The two TIM participants from India, one represent the Church Of North India (CNI) and one is from Presbyterian Church of India (PCI).

			
<h2>Malaysia</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ethnic groups: Malaysia (50.1%), Chinese (22.6%), Indigenous (11.8%), Indians (6.7%), Other (8.8%). ❖ Religion are like Christian, Islam, Buddha, Hindus. ❖ National Sports are Football, and Badminton. ❖ Independence since 31st August 1957 ❖ Culture is Multiethnic culture i.e., Malaysia, Chinese and India. 	<h2>England</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Monarchy of which Queen Elizabeth II holds the title ❖ Various regional accents in 'Jordy' 'Manchester', 'Cornish', 'London' ❖ Football and rugby are the national sports. ❖ England has a population of 53 million of which 60% are Christian ❖ The two TIM represents from the UK represent from the United Reformed Church and the Congregational Federation. 	<h2>New Zealand</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Indigenous people are called Maori ❖ National sport is rugby. 'All Blacks' ❖ Kiwi is a national bird, sometimes you can refer the term Kiwi as a N.Z born person. 	<h2>Hong Kong</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ It's only a small city, many foreigner come and visit or live in Hong Kong. ❖ Multi-ethnic Cultures ❖ Hong Kong had returned to China in 1997, therefore still fight to get independence.

Church Placement

Group A: Janice, Arthur Joel (AJ), Kermeki, Ominell, Itele and Pearce

We arrived at Hu-Kiong Presbyterian Church on Sunday to do 10min introductions. Each of us had to explain to the Sunday School who we were, our church, our country and why we were in Taiwan. It was a challenge for all of us. Including the children, who were challenged to remember firstly our names and key things about our presentation to them. The theme for the Sunday school discussion was: "Prayer" and the reasons you pray for others.

We heard a story about a little girl who prayed for her friend after kids were asked to stand up and share who they want to pray for. After the main Sunday School Assembly of all the children. We were sent off to classrooms of different age groups. We had to lead in discussion and answer questions the children had. That was very challenging, but the children thought it to be rewarding. It was certainly a mutual feeling. One of the kids asked me why did Jesus allow another man to kiss him, because in our culture it is not allowed. The question was challenging, but I explained that it was a mark of respect. *By Pearce Robinson*

Group B: Ms Lopa Mudra Mistry, Memto, Chris, Faith, Cherry, Khulumani.

Khau-pi Presbyterian Church

On Saturday evening around at 7:00 Pm we arrived in Hu Tou Pi and we had a great dinner at Restaurant with the family of Rev.Dr.Hau-tiong Li the Pastor of Khau-Pi Presbyterian Church. After having dinner we reach the Church around at 8:30 pm. There pastor show the video about the church. Here we came to know about the missiological service of church.

The Establishment of the Church

Khau-pi is located in the south of the Hu Tou Pi, one of the twelve Tourist Attractions in Taiwan. Hsin-he Zhuang and Kou-pi are called “Zhi Mu Yi,” which can be translated as the Bamboo Forest Village according to Siraya, or the Grand Bamboo Forest . “Zhi Mu Yi” is a small village in the northeast part of Zhi Yi, Sin-hua. In 1953, because of the long distance to the Sin-hua Church in the downtown area, a church was built in Khau-pi. Wan-de Mu, the elder of the tribe, offered a thatched cottage functioning as the church. In the September of the same year, the Kou-pi Branch was formally established, promoted to be an Independent Church in 1958, and it started to have a Sunday school in 1962. In the 1990’s the Urban and Rural Mission Programme of the World Council of Churches used Khau-pi as a base for training . Many Socio-political workers were trained here and the church benefitted from a network of people and ideas from outside of the local community. In 1997, the church began to be aware of its Siraya heritage and began some social reconstruction to revive and promote the Siraya culture.

Mission Initiatives of Khau-pi church

Before the 1970’s the mission of the church was very church-centered and focused on maintaining the church membership. Since 1970’s when the church started to make contact with the community the focus of mission became the Missio Dei. (Missio Dei is the concept that we are engaged in the Mission of God. God wants to save the world so he sent Jesus and the Holy Spirit to the world to transform the world and bring about the reign of God. Church is the means by which this Salvific action takes place. The church also needs to be reformed and renewed to serve God in the community. In the light of Missio Dei, Mission in Taiwan became contextualized. We now understand Mission in terms of Context. Reflecting on Missio Dei is what prompted Shoki Coe to develop a theology of Context or Contextualization theology.

After watching video having orientation with Pastor Li, we met Sunday School Children. And we play football with them. After playing we had a worship service in which leader was Ms Cherry. We had a good time. Next morning we had a breakfast with Pastor. And we attend the church service. Service was at 9:00 am , we as a group B present a special song. After service we all went out for a Lunch in Green Valley. It is the hotel was run by the Siraya tribe..... we had a good lunch over there. And also we met with the owner and he told about the Siraya tribes who are fighting for their right to have Identity as a first indigenous tribes with Government. He shows the indigenous music instrument which he made with the recycle products. It was really good to here all the music instruments. From there we went to the intiere village where we attend Memorial Service. We had a Indigenous way of community prayer and also the good meal. We came back at 7:00pm with a good memory in our heart. ***By Lopa Mudra Mystery***



Traveling Alone: *My First Experience*

When I left home to come on this programmed, mom was in New Zealand for her usual medical checkup. So I have to back my bags all by myself. She always called home reminding me what to back and to make sure I've got everything I needed for this journey. "Get all information on where you will be staying, address, phone number- make copies and put it along with your name in your checked baggage, also keep a copy on yourself in case your luggage get lost. Make sure you have all your documents with you, (passport, tickets, ID ETC...) Also make sure you get to the airport with plenty of time to check in." That's what my mom always tells me to do when she calls. I'm a female at 26, this is my first time travelling alone, which seems pretty much nerve wracking but I ended up adapting so quickly to it, as I had no other choice.

I've always been a loner, introvert type, so I'm completely fine with my own company. It's a huge challenge for me, travelling alone, as I've always been such a shy and petite girl, So it's great, showing myself what I can do, and it also trebled my confidence. The first flight that I took to come to Taiwan, was from Samoa to Nandi Fiji. I was really felt mix between excited and also afraid. However I encouraged myself and try to have

window seat. We were on the air for 3hrs, and everything went well. I stayed in raffles hotel in Nandi for one night, that's where I learned it was so easy to meet new people. I then board a plane the next morning from Nandi to Hong Kong, and It was a 10hours on air flight. As I was on that flight I always remind myself to not worry, because God is always with me, guiding me to where I'm heading to.

I had an almost religious experience travelling alone, coming to Taiwan for the Training In Mission programmed 2015. It was a great experience, because I was able to prove myself that I can do things on my own, with my God who promises me that he will never forsake me. Then to my final destination which is Kaohsiung Taiwan. I got picked up from the airport together with other 4 members of the TIM. We got picked up by Hsun- Yi Chang our tim co-coordinator. I've had the trip of my life, and I gain so much independence and confident, and it also proves me that I can do things with God who was always with me through this journey. When we got to the Tainan Theological College and Seminary, Hsun-Yi showed us our rooms. I decided to "snap out" because I was so tired, "jet leg" I was genuinely excited to see the place the next day which is Sunday because we arrived on Saturday night, it was a thrill. I felt homesick at first, but I have to continue my mission to fill up time, to challenge, to be challenge and participate fully. I pray that God will use me, and open my vision to seek His will for me in my life and also to help other who are still in the darkness. By Itele Sua

FACT: Did you know that Training in Mission (TIM) is a 10 month programme of the Council for World Mission?



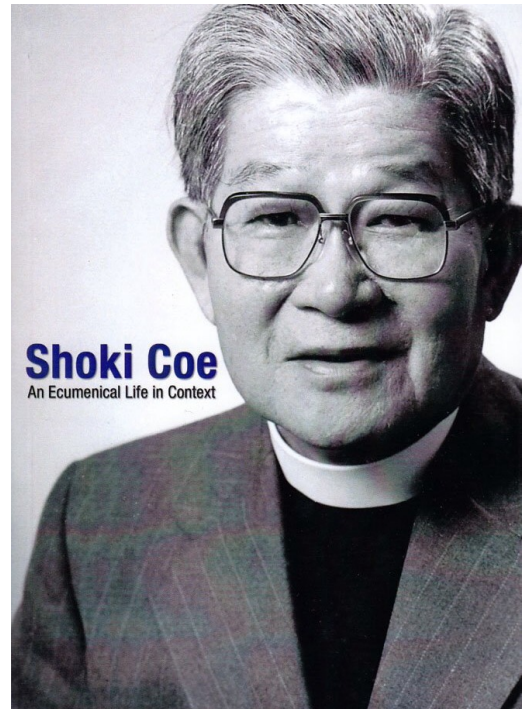
The Starting Point of TIM 2015
Ecumenical Movement In Taiwan

“United, we stand; divided, we fall.”

Outside the classroom in Shoki-Coe House, there is a banner hanged with the short sentence, “United, we stand; divided, we fall.” That makes me think of the lyrics of a kids song, “It is easy to break one wood stick, but difficult to break one bunch of wood sticks.”

In our society, we taught to be independence, to finish your job efficiently by yourself. Although sometimes we work in a group, we are still competing with one another, to prove who is better and who is worse. In group interview for a job vacancy, we fight for a job; in group discussion in speaking exams, we fight for chances of speaking. However, we might forget we are only a human, we have our own limitations.

However, in the coming ten months, we, the twelve people have to walk together on the way following Jesus. Like the twelve disciples, they lived together, learnt together, ate together and they growth together. Although all of us have weaknesses, we could still cover them with our strengths. Moreover, to learn to put our eyes upon Jesus and to have a united heart rather than our own desires. Let us hold our hands and meet the challenges throughout the journey, with God, all things are possible! *By Tang Yuen Ching (Cherry)*



Taiwanese Lessons by Janice Chow

In this orientation week, we have learned the Taiwanese in Taiwanese class teach by Ms Jin-sek Gou, and the Taiwanese class will be half hour lesson on each day. Taiwanese was a new language for us to learn and it was not easy to learn for us, but it was very fun when during the class, we were very enjoy and interest to learn it.

When the clock is turning to 2.30pm, all of us were already sitting on the seat, repeating the simple words we have learnt in the previous lesson. “To-sia!”, “Bian khe-ki!”, we kept practicing and waited for the teacher. And when we heard of “Peng-an!”, we know that our most interesting lesson was starting soon! In this Taiwanese class we have learn the basic Taiwanese like number, time, greeting, some word was using in daily life and learning few Taiwanese song. Teacher Gou and her husband are very nice person and very cordial, they treat us like their children.

They have bring the blue flower tea and peanut planted by themselves to share with us. Teacher Gou was work hard and try her best to teach us the Taiwanese. Thanks God was send them in this orientation week, to let us learned the Taiwanese and know some Taiwan culture through by them. Through this Taiwanese class, I has found that Taiwanese people are very love and treasure their Taiwanese language. They are try very hard to protect it, to teach and pass on to young generations to try do not let this Taiwanese language lost in transmission. It remind me that I should also have to protect my mother tongue and teach and pass on to next generations especially when in my country. Thanks God gave me a nice lesson during this orientation week.

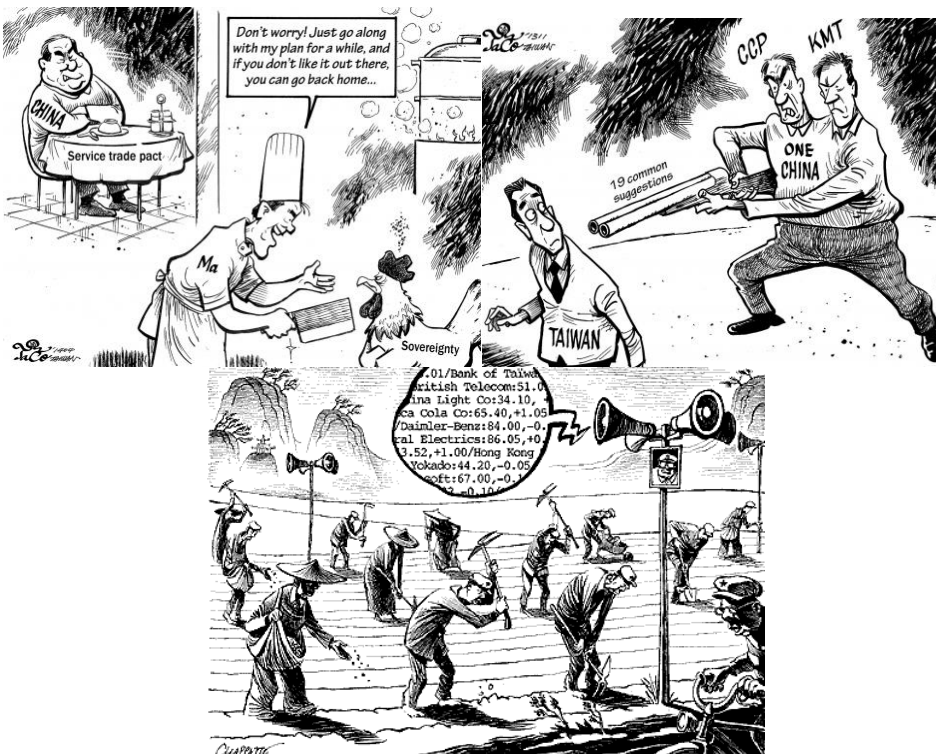
QUESTIONNAIRE OF TAIWAN

Challenge yourself, see how much you know about Taiwanese History.

- In the 16th Century the Portuguese explorers gave a name to the island of Taiwan. What name did they give Taiwan?
- What is the capital city of Taiwan?
- What is the currency in Taiwan?
- What is the largest lake in Taiwan?
- Taiwan is among the most densely populated countries in the world today second to Bangladesh. What is the population of Taiwan?
- Taiwan gets a lot of typhoons coming from the pacific. What season does the typhoon hit Taiwan?
- In 1895 the Chinese handed over Taiwan to Japan due to China losing the war against Japan. Japan colonised Taiwan. How long did Japan colonise Taiwan?
- What percentage of Taiwanese are Christian?
- There are 15 tribes in Taiwan that are recognised by the government as being indigenous. There is one extra tribe that considers themselves as being indigenous but are not recognised as being indigenous. What tribe is the name of the tribe that is not recognised as being indigenous?
- What was the name of the Chinese Nationalist group in power over Taiwan?

Questionnaire by Ngai Christopher Ngai

TAIWAN POLITICS IN PICTURES



POLITICAL & SOCIAL COMMENTARY | Written by Pearce Robinson**50,000 Protesters in Anti-Nuclear Rallies in Taiwan**

They gathered by the thousands, filling the streets, sidewalks and pathways. This mammoth symbol of purpose came just days after Japan marked the 4th anniversary of its Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant Disaster. Members of the Training in Mission (TIM) team were on hand to witness some of the activities on the day of the National Anti-Nuclear March in Taipei.

Protesters urged the government to reform its energy policy and focus on an economy based on renewable and sustainable sources of energy creation, while also making significant financial cutbacks or savings on the cost of production, maintenance and safety. The main concern of the Taiwanese people is that like Japan, Taiwan is earthquake prone and very often has earthquakes, sometimes you feel them sometimes you don't, but the plates are very active in this part of the world, which can be very scary when you sit back and think about it.

The Government of Taiwan has already expressed its reluctance to make any such adjustments to their energy policy, making it clear that Nuclear Energy in Taiwan contributes just about 20% of the islands electricity and if they were to take any of them out of service, there will be blackouts right across the nation, something they are not prepared to put to test. As a result of this reluctance to engage with renewable discourses, 50,000 people took to the streets through rallies to demonstrate their disapproval. Protesters made the point with reference to the Japan Disaster that in comparison Taiwan is a much smaller island and the plants are much closer to densely populated communities. Placards called for Taiwan to be Nuclear-Free and Greener. They also petitioned the state power company to put an immediate halt on the extension of their plans for nuclear waste.

**Reflection on Resolve of Anti-Nuclear Protestors**

It was very interesting to be part of this protest and truly witness first hand the constant challenge facing the people of this nation state. If it is not the Service Trade Pact Agreement (STPA) with China that sparked the Sun Flower Movement lead by Students and young people, who in protest stormed Taiwan's Legislative

House and occupied it for over 24 days and seeking to force politicians to bargain with them around the negotiating table to halt the , it is a fight to highlight the dangers of nuclear power to the densely populated

communities surrounding these plants and their reactors here in Taiwan. It's a never ending determinism to get things right, to seek after the best solutions for the best outcome for the people. It is even a challenge to the very notions of democracy to which many subscribe yet the government ignores, especially when it concerns violence to quell growing resentment for political inexactitude. There is a widespread feeling of disenchantment with the neo-political and social construct of Taiwanese society, it's mixture of various feelings of isolation, tied into an agenda of 'One China'. The belief that their Taiwan is being sold to the highest bidder and that their homeland is being neglected despite glaring evidence of the deadly dangers associated with earthquakes and nuclear power plants. Interestingly, I have seen democracy play itself out superbly here in Taiwan, the people take stands and those stands are often lead and spearheaded by the New Generation of young people. You look at many of the faces in these marches, for justice, fairness and equal standing, a call to be recognised as One Taiwan and not a province of China. a call for the world to take them (the people) not the politicians of both CCP, DDP and KMT, seriously in their determinism to achieve full-self determination for Taiwan, without the United States and other western countries hypocritically preaching democracy yet ignoring the plight of an independent nation and completely isolating it from the diplomatic community because of their economic ties to China. Such notions fly in the face of reason, particularly when one considers the main arbiter and chief driver of democratic rhetoric is the United States of America.

The Socio-Political Response of the PCT

I have been unabashedly enamoured by the resolve and commitment to social justice by the Presbyterian Church (PCT) here in Taiwan. I have always had my reservations about Church/State relations and how far it ought to go. But after witnessing the role and historical context of this church's given circumstance and how it inspired a nation. I have shifted my view completely. One would certainly expect during times of pain, that the church is a place to go along with others to feel the presence of God, pray and hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ yet the PCT felt called to answer an even greater call of duty. To understand the motivations of church in Taiwan and the context within which church came about, it has to be explained in 3 waves of transition. But I will go into that history in a subsequent article. This article will focus on the eventual sealing of the Presbyterian Church's historical relevance and influence in the quest for self-determination. We begin in the 1970's, a period of martial law and great tribulation. The discourse for democracy got even greater and the people began to talk about the political future of Taiwan which was the main priority, an proved to be a very divisive one at that, causing contextual fighting to break out between churches in Taiwan, those in favour of the status-quo as compared to those who wanted complete reform and self determination from the oppressiveness of the then regime. As a response to the social injustice taking place, the PCT issued three public statements entitled: "A Public Statement on Our National Fate," "Our Appeal," and "A Declaration of Human Rights."

The main call of the PCT was a call to reform. A call for social and political justice for all, a call for equality and fairness. While other churches choose to stick to the status quo, the PCT was not afraid to stand with the people in their fight. Proclaiming the right of Taiwanese people to self-determination, expressing the hope for a "new and independent country." Explaining that God was for the marginalised and underscored the importance of having God in in their collective hearts. As you would imagine, the Presbyterian Church consequently suffered the brunt of suppression by the ruling nationalist regime. But the PCT did not give in to government pressures. Till this day, the PCT continues to not only be a voice for the voiceless, but to act

out in social response to injustice. Stand up by organising protests, joining the people and sharing God's word in that organisation of people with purpose to express the meaning of the Gospel and restore the faith and icons of the Taiwanese people. This in my view is an excellent precursor and interpretation of mission in the context of an empire (China) that seeks to divide, conquer and rule. But the PCT stands ready and willing to stand up for the marginalised, who happen to be the vast majority of people in Taiwan who are isolated from the rest of the world due to Politics and a diplomacy of hypocrisy in the West. It truly is *missio dei*.

Biblical Quote of This Publication

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

THANKS FOR READING OUR NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Prepared and Designed by Pearce Robinson
With Assistance from Faith Mary Taylor & Kermicki Law

