



Left: Paul McLean watches as Hsu Su-chen typesets the Hakka Bible at the Bible Society in Taiwan. **Right:** The Yap sisters help proofread the Hakka Bible.

Looking at the Bible with Eagle Eyes

Your gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support the Reverend Dr. Paul McLean as he works with the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and the Bible Society in Taiwan to translate the Bible into Hakka. Paul works with a Hakka translation team to ensure that the text will accurately reflect the meaning of the original Hebrew Bible. The team is working hard to finish the Bible so that it will be ready in 2012 for *The Year of Hakka Mission*. Paul gives a glimpse into the complexities of preparing the Bible.

For the past two months, I've been here in Taiwan busy with my coworkers doing the final "typesetting" and proofreading for the Hakka Bible. Typesetting both Hakka-Han characters and their phonetic or Romanized equivalents in parallel columns is extremely challenging. For example, the Hakka word for "I" (spelled so simply in English) is spelled and pronounced <ng`ai> with an accent over the <a>, while its equivalent Hakka-Han character consists of 10 strokes! And we have nearly 2500 pages of Hakka words in complete sentences to layout in parallel Roman and Han columns! Thankfully computers are a huge help in this work, but even our typesetting program chugs along or stalls at times.

One of our dedicated coworkers, Hsu Su-chen, is the senior editor at the Bible Society in Taiwan. This is her first experience typesetting such a complicated Bible. She

has been doing very well. We thank God for helping us solve some major typesetting problems in September and October. The project has been proceeding more smoothly, although this week we were challenged to typeset the Psalms in clear poetic layout. As of the end of November, we have completed the entire New Testament, along with Genesis to Job, plus Ecclesiastes and Jeremiah. The Yap sisters, two retired Hakka ministers, and other team members have been tremendous proofreaders.

Please pray for Hsu Su-chen as she typesets the remainder of the Old Testament. Pray also for me and our team of Hakka proofreaders, that God will grant all of us health, strength, perseverance and eagle eyes to catch and fix any typos in the text or mistakes in the layout, before we send the Bible to the printers in December.

Presbyterians Sharing

Goal for 2011: \$8,300,000

Received by Nov. 30, 2011: \$5,784,339

Received by Nov. 30, 2010: \$5,860,068

Thank you for your faithful support of *Presbyterians Sharing*. Let us continue to work and pray together as we encourage congregations to reach and surpass their commitments in 2011.

Discovering Taiwan

Heather Chappell shares the experiences of the Presbyterian Church in Canada study tour which visited our partner, The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, in November 2011.



Left: Study tour members visit the Taiwan Bible Society **Right:** Members of Tavatavang Church at evening worship. **Below:** Sharing a quiet moment of prayer in Taiwan.

Eleven strangers get on a plane, leaving family, friends, the safety and comforts of home behind. They travel for hours to a faraway place. Nervous, a little scared, excited about new opportunities. What if they don't get along? What if they don't like the food? What if they get sick? In two short weeks, 11 strangers become friends, companions on the journey, brothers and sisters in Christ. So what is it that brings a group together?

It is shared faith. The sharing of laughter, and the sharing of tears. The holding of hands, the telling of stories, the ridiculous jetlag silliness. It is sitting on a bus for hours, flinching as scooters dart in and out of traffic, telling jokes and singing songs. It is shrieking at the lizard on the wall, stepping in freshly poured concrete, mastering chopsticks, wearing construction hats in case of falling rocks and buying a rubber chicken. It is being awed by mountains and gorges, humbled by incredible hospitality, touched by generosity and moved by stories of kindness, determination and faith. It is amazing grace.

On this two week journey we discovered the depth and breadth of Presbyterian ministry in Taiwan, much of it

started by or developed with Canadian Presbyterian missionaries. We visited Christian hospitals, theological colleges and universities. We met with colleagues from the Presbyterian church in Taiwan, and visited three PCC missionaries - Paul McLean, Murray Garvin and Louise Gamble. We saw houses rebuilt after Typhoon Morakot, three with funds raised by Presbyterian World Service & Development. We worshipped with an indigenous congregation in their church at the top of a mountain, where members (including the mayor) dressed in beautiful traditional clothing and sang for us. We attended a political rally for presidential candidate Tsai Ing Wen, waving flags and cheering with the huge crowd. We shared an intimate communion using rice and tea instead of the traditional bread and wine.

This study tour to Taiwan has changed the lives of 11 strangers, now bonded by closely shared experiences, who have returned home with new insights, recharged faith and stories to tell.

In the words of a toast given by one of the wonderful people we met: "Cheers! Hallelujah!"



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