



Transformation in Taiwan

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When they arrived, Sway Lin had only eight older members and little hope for the future. Things have drastically changed since then. “They have reached out to non-Christian children and youth, and the church is full of energy and hope,” John says.

Changed lives

Between 40 and 50 children and youth regularly participate in the church’s ministries. The adults in the community are taking notice. One of them is the grandmother of two brothers who play in the worship band. The younger brother was known for his bad behavior at school. His behavior, John says, has totally changed thanks to the young man’s new life in Christ. The grandmother, an adherent of Taiwanese folk religion, used to forbid the brothers to attend church. She now is grateful to the church for the change she has seen in her grandsons. While she has not converted to Christianity, John says she “loves what the Christian faith has done for her grandsons.”

The principal of the local school has started looking to the two boys for leadership. The older brother and several other church youth invited the principal to the church to pray with them as they faced college entrance exams. College entrance tests cause great anxiety in Taiwan, where education is highly valued and competition for college admission is stiff. The principal, who had earlier accompanied some other students as they prayed at the local folk religion temple, gladly joined the Christian students as they prayed for wisdom and peace. In a community where Christians are a tiny minority the students’ invitation to join them at church “was an amazing step of faith,” John says.



Pastorial encourager

After serving for years as a full-time professor, John now teaches part time so that he can fulfill a new responsibility with the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan (PCT). He’s a leadership development facilitator, helping to strengthen the ministries of pastors serving in PCT churches.

“I spend almost every Saturday night in a pastor’s residence,” John says. “I spend a lot of time listening to them and encouraging them, and it’s a joy to see how these young pastors are doing a wonderful job for God.”

Presbyterian World Mission relies on congregations and individuals like you to support God’s work in the world. Please prayerfully consider joining us in mission through your financial support for John’s ministry in Taiwan. To donate online, visit www.presbyterianmission.org/give. To learn more about John’s ministry and read his letters, visit www.presbyterianmission.org/john-mccall. To learn more about other mission personnel and read their letters, visit www.presbyterianmission.org/missionconnections

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