

Taiwan

FORMOSA: BEAUTIFUL ISLAND



Fast Facts

Location : Taiwan is an island located off the southeast coast of China. It is in East China Sea (Pacific Ocean).

Population: The population of Taiwan is estimated at 23,036,087 (July 2006 est.). The life expectancy is at 77.43 years for the total population.

People/Ethnic Groups: The majority, 84% of the population, are descendants of the Han Chinese known here as Taiwanese. This includes a smaller offshoot of Hakka people. 14% of the island are mainland Chinese, 2% are aboriginal (malayo-polynesian/ others) within 13 district linguistics/ cultural indigenous groups. Altogether there are 22 languages spoken in Taiwan and the entire Bible has been translated into 5 of those. The New Testament alone has been translated into another 6, and other parts have been translated into a different 3. 8 languages do not have access to any portion of scripture written in their language.

Economy: Taiwan became a dynamic capitalist economy through 1980-1990; and it has had less government guidance in its foreign trade. Many banks and firms were privatized prior to 2000. Agriculture accounts for less than 2% of GDP because Taiwan is a major investor in SE Asia. China is its largest export market, and second largest import market after Japan.





Recent History

In 1895 China was forced by Japanese forces to cede Taiwan to them. At the end of WWII Taiwan was returned to the mainland. However, when Communist forces took control of the Chinese government in 1949, two million Nationalists fled to the island of

Taiwan. They set up a government based on the constitution drawn up for the whole of China in 1946. Since the dropping of military rule in the early 1990s, Taiwan has been progressing toward democratization. In 2000 Taiwan leadership peacefully transferred

to the Democratic Progressive Party from the Nationalists. The island has prospered and become a powerful figure in East Asia, despite many political tensions between China and Taiwan, especially concerning eventual unification.

Over the years, many in Taiwan have viewed it as an independent nation, separate from China, but the mainland views it as a renegade province. Since it has its own government and rules, religion is much freer than in mainland

China. There are an estimated 963 missionaries to Taiwan and another 295 coming from there. Since 1990, the Church in Taiwan has been growing rapidly, but primarily among educated upper middle class. Blue collar suburbans and the

rural population are largely unreached.

Religion in Taiwan

93% Buddhist, Confucists, Taoist
4.5% Christian
2.5% Other

Ministry in Taiwan

Mission to Unreached Peoples' ministry in Taiwan stretches from the neglected and poor of Taiwan to the student and business elite of the island.

We work with you to facilitate God's call on your life to reach the Unreached of Taiwan for Christ Jesus, whether your interest is short-term or long-term. While the primary target

is unreached peoples and minority groups, we utilize a variety of entry platforms and ministry strategies that provide ministry opportunities for those with God's call to Taiwan.

Placement Options in Taiwan

Current Mission to Unreached Peoples Involvement:

- Mission-oriented radio and TV
- Developing local leaders
- Editing English books and media materials
- Preparing local students to go overseas, as well as aiding those who went overseas and have since returned as seekers or believers
- Working in local universities in foreign languages departments and administrative capacities
- Working in Christian schools
- Serving as house parents for students whose families do not live in the area
- Freedom Band: young Christian leaders who play indigenous music in a band and travel to local high and middle schools
- Forming relationships with local community
- Reaching out to young adults
- Serving as local Church staff, English or bilingual
- Leading Bible studies, discipleship
- Serving on praise and worship teams
- Partnering in small businesses focused on training and equipping disadvantaged or disabled people
- Raising up local believers who can reach the working class of Taiwan through orality-oriented methods.

Other Opportunities: See a MUP Representative or check out our Website at www.mup.org!

Personal Qualifications

- A mature Christian with a working knowledge of the Scriptures and a consistent walk with God.
- If married, a godly family which is also committed to missionary service.
- Demonstrated skills in evangelism and discipleship.
- Unusual flexibility and adaptability, perseverance, independence, good communication skills, and sense of humor.
- A willingness to experience the rigors of life and abroad while maintaining an excellent Christian witness.
- Ability and commitment to build and maintain good interpersonal relationships.
- A local church body and pastor who are supportive of your application for missionary service and who will commission and send you out from the church as a missionary.
- A willingness to learn the language and understand the culture.

Important Information

- **Training Provided:** Excellent training and preparation is vital for successful ministry in Taiwan. Mission to Unreached Peoples' training program includes Cross-Cultural Living, Friendship Evangelism, Interpersonal Relationships, Spiritual Warfare, Language Acquisition, and a variety of other ministry related topics. Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) training is also available.
- **Local Support:** A supporting team of co-workers is important to us. You will be connected to and have fellowship opportunities with MUP personnel and other missionaries and have the opportunity to develop a strong local team of co-workers.
- **Support Services:** Mission to Unreached Peoples is dedicated to providing the support that will facilitate your ministry. Services include newsletter and electronic mailings; online, automatic, and manual receipting of the financial gifts from your friends and supporters; and full online web access to financial and other organizational information. In addition, our national and field offices are available to respond to and help with special requests. Field and organization-wide conferences are scheduled regularly for spiritual and emotional refreshment, encouragement, and further equipping for the work.
- **Pastoral Care:** Pastoral care is a very important part of our ministry to you. While you are in Taiwan, field-based or itinerant member care personnel will visit with you to encourage, counsel, share, and pray with you. Our staff is there to help with special needs.
- **Financial Arrangements:** Financial needs vary depending upon the missionary's unique situation: family size, schooling options, personal standard of living, and transportation costs, etc. A customized budget is created for each missionary. One-time initial costs must be raised or paid to cover the outgoing costs such as airfare, training, and health insurance. In most cases, you will need to raise personal support to cover personal expenses, health insurance, home leave transportation, and monthly Support Services.
- **Terms of Service:** The normal term of service is two-four years, with three months of home leave for every year overseas. Actual service terms vary with the type of placement and work. Shorter placements, including short-term, summer, and internships are also available, depending on need and individual qualifications.

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