



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church



# TAIWAN

Overseas Voyage 2019 - 2020



# Pilots Overseas Voyage 2019-2020

## TAIWAN

### Introduction

**Welcome to the 2019-20 Pilots Overseas Voyage! Every year, inspired by our hero John Williams, we invite companies to explore another country and find out more about the worldwide church.**

The purpose of this pack is to familiarise you with the country of Taiwan.

You will learn about some of the festivals, some geography and meet some of the young people who live there or who have visited from the UK. There are opportunities to create things and to think about things as you work through the pack.

There are games to play and worship material to explore.

Taiwanese Stamp showing the National bird; the Taiwanese Blue Magpie



You do not have to do everything. You can dip in and out of the pack and feed bits in to your normal Pilots sessions.

We hope you enjoy learning about this stunning country.

**Addie and Barbara Redmond, Leo Roberts**

228 Peace Memorial Park 二二八和平公園 (Taipei City)



# TAIWAN - FACTS

Taiwan lies between Japan to the north and the Philippines to the south. The east coast faces the vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean, while the west faces the Taiwan Strait and the southeast coast of China.

A country of big cities, small villages, mountains, lakes and forest, it is 395Km (about 245 miles) long and, at its widest point, 145Km (about 90 miles) wide.

Taiwan's Capital City, Taipei, is in the north of the country. This is where the government is based and is also the economic centre. In 1905 there were only 3 million people living in Taiwan. Today it has a population of over 23.5 million and nearly one fifth of them (3.9 million) live in Taipei.

Of the 23 cities in Taiwan, including Taipei, there are 5 cities with a population of more than 1 million people.



## History

For thousands of years Aboriginal tribes were hunting and farming on the island. Before 1600, Taiwan was self-governing. A series of foreign countries (The Netherlands, Spain and Chinese Ching Dynasty) took control of various parts of Taiwan from the 17th to 19th centuries. Around 15-20% of population today is descended from Hakka who migrated from south east China in the mid-seventeenth century. In 1895 China lost the first Sino-Japanese war, and Taiwan became a Japanese colony for 50 years. During this time Taiwan experienced considerable development in agriculture, industry, transportation, city planning, public health and education. Following Japan's defeat in the Second World War in 1945, China was given temporary control of Taiwan on behalf of the Allied Powers.

In 1949, China fell to Communist forces, and the Nationalist KMT Government, along with many soldiers and civilians, fled to Taiwan. Once again, the people on Taiwan were under the rule of people from outside. A massacre, which began on 28 February 1947 (228 massacre) wiped out at least 20,000 elite Taiwanese leaders and

youth by KMT Nationalist troops. Martial Law, including a one language policy, was immediately enforced by the KMT – and not lifted until 1987. About 3 million (13%) of the current population of Taiwan consists of these Chinese “Mainlander” troops and civilians and their descendants. More recently migrant workers and ‘foreign brides’ have added to the cultural diversity. Aboriginal (or indigenous) Taiwanese are now estimated to be only 2% of the island’s population.

(adapted from <http://www.pct.org.tw>)

## Languages

The official language of Taiwan is Mandarin although Taiwanese (Ho-Lo) is also spoken (mostly by older people). This is because The People's Republic of China claims Taiwan is part of China. There are many Taiwanese people who disagree with this and claim that Taiwan is an independent country. Other languages include Hakka and indigenous or Aboriginal languages.

**ACTIVITY: CAN YOU FIND THE LORD'S PRAYER IN ANY OF THE LANGUAGES SPOKEN IN TAIWAN?**



# TAIWAN - FACTS

## Geography

Taiwan is a volcanic country and there are often earthquakes as a result of this. The most recent large earthquake was on 6 February 2018, which reached 6.4 on the magnitude scale. 17 people died as a result of this earthquake and nearly 300 were injured. Exactly two years earlier, a similar earthquake claimed the lives of 119 people.

More than two thirds of Taiwan is covered by mountains with more than 40 peaks being at least 300 metres (10, 000 feet) high.

The western side of the country is much flatter and, because of this, is where most of the farmland, and population, is situated. The best harbours are also on the west of the island. The east coast and its mountains doesn't provide much room for settlement!

## Climate

Taiwan has a mostly sub-tropical climate (except for the very southern tip of the country which is classed as tropical). The summers last from April to October and are hot and humid. It rains. A lot! Taiwan gets more than 100 inches of rain every year – although this falls mostly on the mountains.

## Religion

Freedom to practice religion is guaranteed under the constitution and there are 23 recognised religions, although people can choose to follow other faiths if they choose.

Most people (about one third of the population) follow Buddhism, with Taoism also being popular. Just under 4% of the population identify as Christian. Taiwan is said to be one of the most religiously tolerant places in the world.



The main gate of National Taiwan Democracy Memorial Hall, Taipei



# TAIWAN - FACTS

## Festivals

Festivals are an important part of Taiwanese life, and celebrations often include fireworks. Some we are familiar with because of all the diverse communities that live in the United Kingdom, such as the Lunar (Han or Chinese) New Year. Interestingly it has become popular (especially among young people) to also celebrate the Gregorian New Year and welcome the first of January with great fun and fireworks!! This points to the global world we live in – as major cities around the world “ring in” the New Year.

## The Chinese New Year

The CHINESE OR LUNAR NEW YEAR is one of the most colourful and important festivals. Like Easter, its date is movable and can be anytime between 21 January to 21 February. Each of the twelve years in the cycle is signified by an animal. Each year is known as ‘The Year of the...’ and people believe that the animal year you were born in affects how you are – just like some people in the UK believe that the star sign you were born under affects you.

2019 is the Year of the Pig and 2020 will be the year of the Rat. The other animals in the cycle are Ox, Rabbit, Tiger, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster and Dog.

### What animal sign were you born under?

#### Rat

With a motto ‘I rule’, the rat is ambitious and hard-working. Also very loyal.

#### Ox

An ox is a born leader, who knows his or her own mind. Patient and well organised.

#### Tiger

A confident risk-taker who likes adventure. Also emotional and sensitive.

#### Rabbit

Affectionate and gentle, rabbits don’t like conflict and tend to be peace-makers.

#### Dragon

The dragon’s motto is ‘I reign’ and dragons tend to be self-assured and inspiring to others. The only mythical creature in the zodiac and thought to be very lucky!

#### Snake

Snakes are charming characters who enjoy the good life! They are also good with money and born perfectionists.

#### Horse

‘I control’ says the horse’s motto, and horses are diligent, self-reliant and able to juggle lots of tasks.



#### Sheep

The artistic creatures of the zodiac. Sheep are also daydreamers who don’t like arguments but have strong ties to their families.

#### Monkey

The Monkey’s motto is ‘I entertain’ and fittingly they are extremely well-liked, clever and sparky. Also very mischievous!

#### Rooster

The confident rooster is a stickler for punctuality and is often quite outspoken. They love a bit of flattery but can be a little critical of others. Also very well organised.

#### Dog

Loyal, honest and a very good listener. The dog is a most trustworthy sign and gains the respect of others easily. But can worry too: the dog’s motto is ‘I worry’.

#### Pig

The even-tempered and tolerant pig makes a good friend, though they can go into meltdown if pushed too far! They also fall in love easily and can be a bit on the messy side.



# TAIWAN - FACTS

Animal	Years
Rat	2008, 2020, 2032
Ox	2009, 2021, 2033
Tiger	2010, 2022, 2034
Rabbit	2011, 2023, 2035
Dragon	2000, 2012, 2024
Snake	2001, 2013, 2025
Horse	2002, 2014, 2026
Sheep	2003, 2015, 2027
Monkey	2004, 2016, 2028
Rooster	2005, 2017, 2029
Dog	2006, 2018, 2030
Pig	2007, 2019, 2031



ACTIVITY: MAKE A BADGE TO SHOW WHAT ANIMAL YEAR YOU WERE BORN IN.



# TAIWAN - FACTS

## The Lantern Festival

The lantern festival brings to an end the New Year celebrations. It is a real carnival with puppet shows and dragon dancing.

In the activity section there are instructions for making a paper lantern.

## The Harvest Festival (or mid-autumn festival)

This festival, like Harvest Festival in our own churches, takes place in the autumn – which is when the moon is believed to be the brightest. In Taiwan, this is normally celebrated on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month (August). There is a special food that is eaten to celebrate Harvest Festival, and there are many legends behind it: the Moon Cake.

One myth holds that the Earth once had 10 suns circling it. 5000 years ago one day all 10 suns appeared at once, scorching the planet with their heat. It was because of a skillful archer named Hou Yi that the Earth was saved. He shot down 9 of the suns. He became the big hero at that time, but later, corrupted by fame and fortune, he became a tyrannical leader. Chang-Er, his beautiful wife, could no longer stand by and watch him abuse his power so she left him and fled to the moon to escape his angry wrath. And thus began the legend of the beautiful woman in the moon, the Moon Fairy.

The second legend has it that during the Yuan Dynasty, an underground group led by Zhu Yuan Zang was determined to rid the country of Mongolian dominance. The moon cake was created to carry a secret message. When the cake was opened and the message read, an uprising was unleashed which successfully defeated the Mongolians. It happened at the time of the full moon, which, some say, explains why mooncakes are eaten at this time. Some also say that the rebels passed messages to each other on pieces of paper baked into cakes so the Mongolians wouldn't find them. As these messages were passed along under cover of darkness they became known as 'Moon Cakes'.

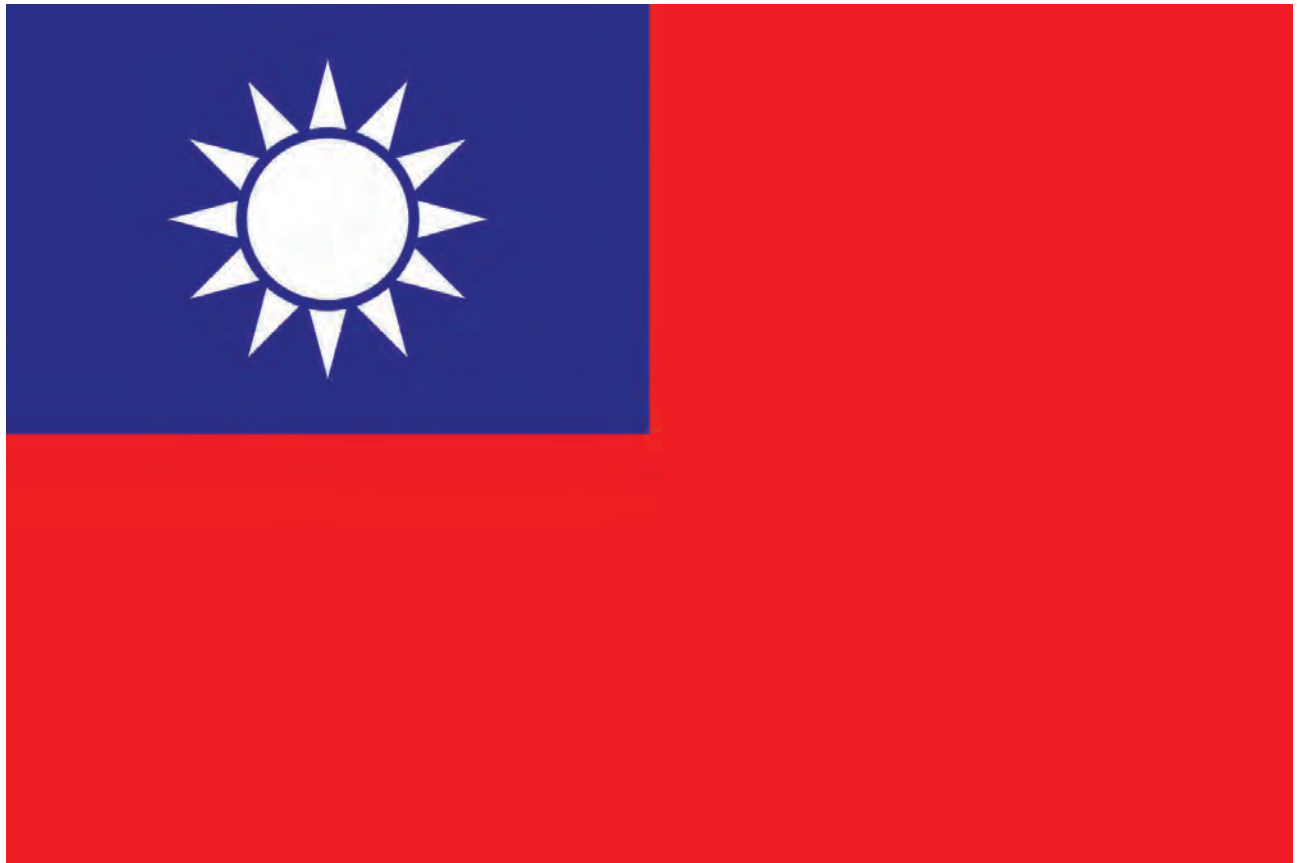


### ACTIVITY:

**THERE ARE MANY RECIPES FOR MOON CAKES ON THE INTERNET. SOME ARE EASY, SOME ARE MORE ELABORATE. IF YOUR PILOTS COMPANY HAS ACCESS TO A KITCHEN, WHY NOT TRY MAKING SOME MOON CAKES?**



# TAIWAN - FLAG



The Taiwanese flag is often referred to as the flag of the Republic of China (different from the flag of the People's Republic of China) and, as you can see in the picture, is red with a white 12-rayed sun in the middle of a navy blue rectangle in the top left.

- The 12 rays of the sun represent the twelve months of the year
- The red represents the blood shed by those who fought to overthrow the Qing Dynasty
- The white stands for equality and democracy
- The blue represents liberty and nationalism

The flag is described as “Blue Sky, White Sun and a Wholly Red Earth.” It was designed by Lu Hao-tung and Sun Yat-sen and was adopted in 1928.

Taiwan isn't allowed to use its national flag when it participates in international organisations or sporting events such as the Olympics or Asian Games. The Taiwan flag is replaced by the Chinese Taipei flag on those occasions.



**FACT: IT IS ILLEGAL TO FLY THIS FLAG IN CAMBODIA.**

**ACTIVITY: CREATE A FLAG FOR YOUR OWN PILOTS COMPANY.**

**PROJECT: LEARN WHAT THE PILOTS FLAG REPRESENTS.**





# ACTIVITIES

## Eating with Chopsticks

Many of us will have seen south east Asian restaurants or take-aways near our homes. Asian food is usually very tasty and, in Taiwan, because it is an island, fish is a large part of the diet. Whilst we in the UK have potatoes and bread as staple parts of our diet, in Taiwan it is rice. Almost every meal is accompanied by boiled rice.

And, whilst we tend to use knives and forks to eat our meals, in Taiwan they use chopsticks.

Chopsticks take a lot of getting used to. You can get advice on how to use them here: <https://thewoksoflife.com/how-to/how-to-use-chopsticks/>

Arrange some bowls with decreasing sizes of food in them (e.g. a Mars Bar cut in two, Maltesers, M&Ms).

Have a race to see who can finish the bowls quickest (if you don't want to eat the food, have a race transferring the food to an empty bowl).



## Chinese Alphabet

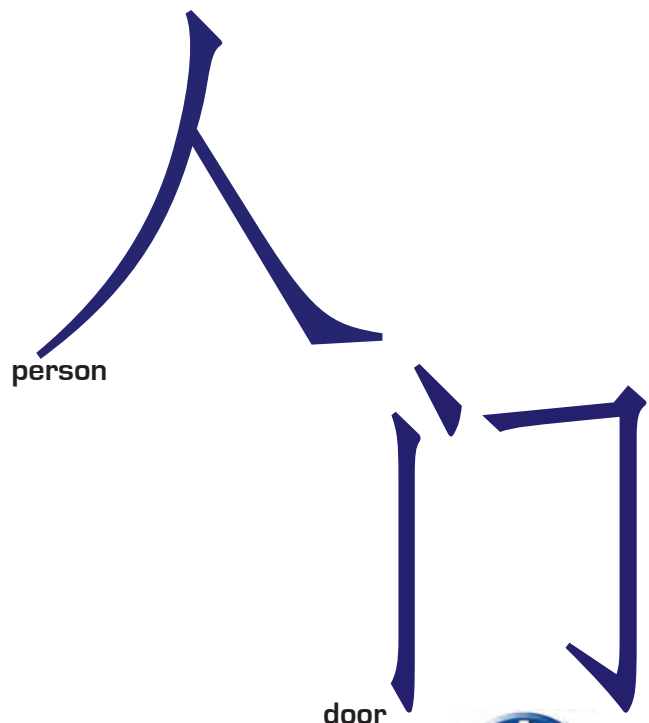
The Chinese language is very different to English. There is no Chinese alphabet. Whilst we use letters to write words, in the Mandarin written language, every syllable that is pronounced is represented by a written character, and every character responds to a word.

The characters are actually 'ideograms' or picture writing – some of them look like the things they represent.

As every word has its own character, children learning to read have to memorise thousands of different characters. For day-to-day living they need to know about 3,000! Traditionally, when reading Chinese, you start at the top right of the page and read straight down to the bottom before going back to character at the top of the column on the left. However, nowadays, some texts are written so that they are read left to right as we do in the UK.

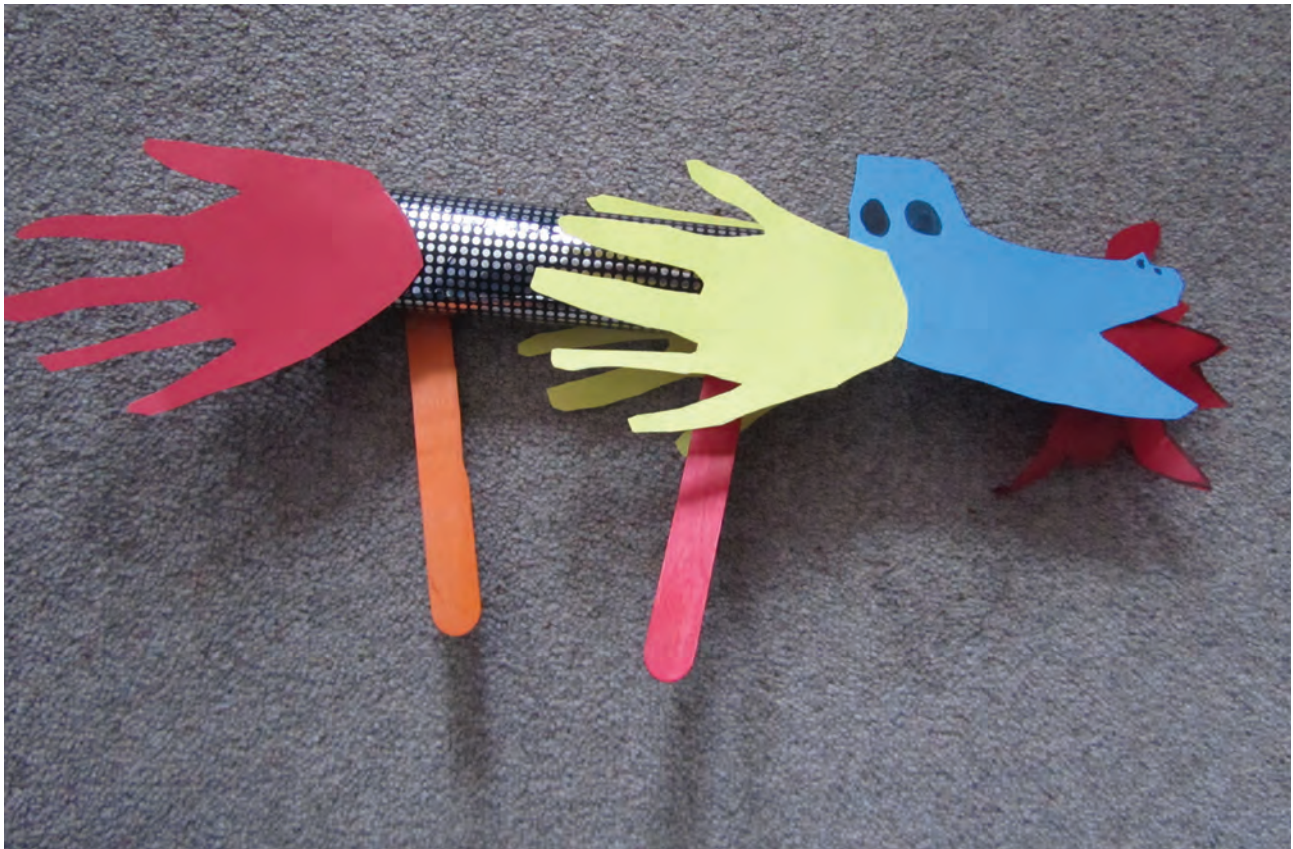
The art of Chinese writing is called Calligraphy and you don't use a pen – you use a brush.

Print out a sheet of Mandarin characters from the internet and have a go at brush painting yourself. You can find some easy characters (and what they mean and how to pronounce them) here: <https://www.fluentu.com/blog/chinese/2016/08/31/easy-chinese-characters/>



# ACTIVITIES

## Dragon Making



Dragons have an important role in Taiwanese mythology.

Dragons in Taiwan are friendly and helpful. Have a discussion with the Pilots about how they can be friendly and helpful. Make your own Taiwanese dragon.

### Equipment

Kitchen roll tube

Shiny wrapping paper

Coloured paper for hand shapes

Coloured card for head shape

Tissue paper

Googly eyes

Large lolly sticks

Glue stick

1. Cut a dragon head shape from card and stick on googly eyes
2. Cut the tissue paper as shown above, gather up the solid end and glue it behind the mouth as fire
3. Cover kitchen roll tube in shiny paper tucking the ends inside the tube
4. Cut a slot about 1 - 2 cm long at each end of the tube for securing the lolly sticks
5. Draw round hands on coloured paper to get 3 hand shapes and cut them out
6. Stick 2 of the hand shapes as wings on the sides of the tube at the right hand end (ensure the slots are clear)
7. Glue the head to one of the wings on the front of the dragon
8. Use the other hand as a tail piece coming out of the back of tube
9. Insert the lolly sticks into slots



# ACTIVITIES

## Flower Circles

These circles are used to announce a celebration of events in Taiwan.

### Equipment

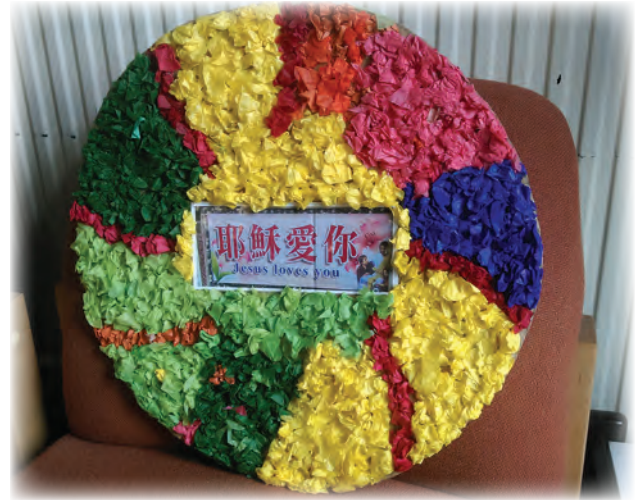
Large piece of cardboard

Circles of tissue paper

Jesus loves you photograph

### Method

1. Draw and cut out a circle with diameter about 30cm from a large box
2. Screw up circles of tissue paper to create the effect of flowers
3. For the centre you can use the photograph below
4. Alternatively use the centre to announce an event as it is done in Taiwan
5. Jesus loves you is pronounced "Ye Su Ay Wo"



# ACTIVITIES

## Taiwanese Pineapple Cakes

Pineapple cakes are often made in Taiwan and eaten or given as gifts around the Lunar New Year.

“Pineapple” sounds similar to a phrase meaning “to come forth, prosperous and thriving”. This conveys the hope that many children will be born to the family and so pineapple cakes are often given as engagement gifts.

### Filling

50g granulated sugar  
50g demerara sugar  
400g tin crushed pineapple  
1 teaspoon of lemon juice

1. Strain and drain crushed pineapple and press to remove as much liquid as possible. There should be about 1½ cups of pineapple
2. Mix pineapple, sugars and lemon juice in a saucepan and cook over a low heat until the pineapple is soft and the liquid has evaporated. (About 10 mins). It should have a jam like texture
3. Transfer the mixture to a bowl and let it cool. This can be done quickly by standing the bowl in cold water. Then put in the fridge to chill and firm up



### Shortbread

100g unsalted butter  
50g icing sugar  
200g plain flour  
20g powdered milk  
1 teaspoon of baking powder  
1 egg  
Pinch of salt

1. Mix butter with icing sugar
2. Add salt, baking powder, powdered milk and egg and mix

3. Add flour slowly

4. Roll dough into a ball and then into a log shape. Cool in fridge for 20mins



5. Cut into 9 pieces and then roll each piece into a ball



6. Flatten each ball into a circle, about 8cm, using rolling pin

7. Take a scoop of pineapple filling (about 1 tablespoon) and put in centre of dough



8. Close and pinch together the dough, removing any excess dough if needed

9. Put balls on baking sheet and press down to flatten and make approximately square in shape

10. Cook in preheated oven at 150 degrees C for 10 mins

11. Remove and flip the cakes over and cook for another 5 to 7 minutes

12. Remove for the oven and allow to cool. They are lovely to eat slightly warm

This may find this you tube video useful

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ij1Py11DtrU>



# ACTIVITIES

## Making a Making a Paper Lantern'

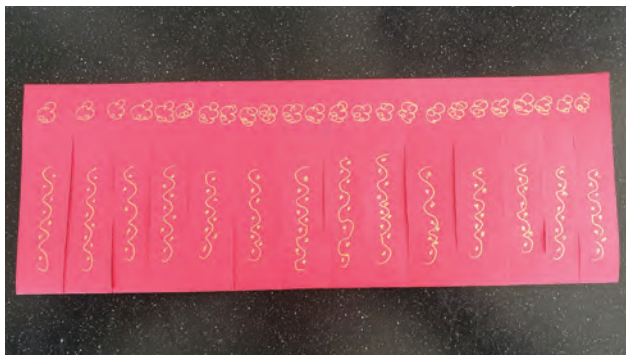
NB Do not use as a real lampshade for light bulbs or candles (risk of fire)

1. Take an A4 sheet of paper. From the long edge cut a strip about 2-3cm wide – this will be used for the handle
2. Fold the sheet in half lengthwise
3. Starting at the folded edge, carefully cut strips towards the raw edge stopping 2cm before the edge
4. Decorate the strips and band left at the top on both sides
5. Unfold the paper, then form into a tube. Attach at the top and bottom using sticky tape or staples

6. Attach the handle using sticky tape or staples

### FURTHER SUGGESTIONS:

- Make lots and string them together
- Use different sizes of paper to make different sizes of lanterns
- Cut wider or narrower strips
- Cut wavy strips, or alternate narrow and wide strips
- Tape a slightly smaller lantern inside a larger one- use contrasting colours for the best effect



# TAIWAN STORIES

The Protestant Church in Taiwan began in 1865 when Dr James Maxwell from the Presbyterian Church in England began missionary work in Tainan, in the south of Taiwan. 7 years later, in 1872 Dr George MacKay, a member of the Canadian Presbyterian Church, began missionary work at Tamsui, in northern Taiwan.

Many modern institutions were introduced to Taiwan by the church. For example, the first schools, including the first school for girls, the blind and deaf, the first western hospital, care for leprosy patients, and the first printing press in Taiwan were all established by the Presbyterian Church (PCT).

During the Japanese colonial period, though under strong pressure from the authorities to use Japanese, the PCT continued to use the Taiwanese language in its activities. In the late 1930s all foreign missionaries were expelled by the Japanese. Evangelism among the indigenous tribes started at this time despite ruthless Japanese opposition and by the end of the war 4,000-5,000 indigenous people were ready for baptism.

Since World War II Taiwan has been inundated with every variety of Christian missions and sects. Among the Protestant churches the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) remains the largest denomination. About 70% of the indigenous tribal people are professing Christians (about 30% are Presbyterian). Evangelism has been slower among the Han people - about 3.5% are Christian, including about 1% Presbyterian.

(adapted from <http://www.pct.org.tw>)

**In 2015 a group of young people from the North Western Synod of the United Reformed Church visited Chiayi in Taiwan as part of a youth exchange with the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan.**

Ali Greaves comes from Bamford, near Rochdale in Lancashire. She is currently studying to be a nurse in Newcastle and is the Northern Synod's Youth Representative on the United Reformed Church's Youth Executive.

Dan Morrell comes from Stockport in Cheshire. He is a former Moderator of the United Reformed Church's Youth Assembly. He recently qualified as a pilot.

Here are their stories about the time they spent in Taiwan.



# TAIWAN STORIES

## Ali's Story

Three and half years on, Taiwan still influences my little life.

It was young people's involvement and role that I think I found most poignant. At the summer camp that I helped with, for both children of faith and no faith, the young people who ran the week were not asked to by their church, nor did it become their default job role within their church; it was just their mission to work with their local community.

They never seem to question that. Perhaps the language barrier hid some of the strain and stress that the organising and running of the summer camp took, but it seemed to just happen with no effort at all. I think the hierarchy that we have present in much of today's society was removed within the Taiwanese church.

This allowed everyone's mission to come to fruition without a thought about resources or time. Each young person used their own talent in a way they felt was fitting and everyone accepted it all. There was no wrong way of leading sessions and no interference from others around, just support and active listening.

I think this may have been why there were 30 young people helping out, as they had ownership of their mission and individual interpretation of what God's plan for them was. It was very freeing and definitely stuck with me.



# TAIWAN STORIES

## Dan's Story

When the opportunity to go to Taiwan arose in my synod, I jumped at the chance. I have had no regrets about going since, nothing but thankfulness and joy that it happened.

Christianity is a significantly minor religion in Taiwan. Census data suggests somewhere between 4-6% identify as Christians. A huge cultural difference, therefore, from the UK, where this figure is roughly 60%. One doesn't tend to associate any religion with far-eastern countries, potentially because China (quite clearly forming a majority of people in the far east) has approximately 75% of its people without a religion, or part of more 'local' Chinese folk religions. Religion in far eastern countries is rarely portrayed in the media. But for other far eastern countries, Taiwan included, what lay beneath was very much a religion-rich society. For Taiwan, 43% of the country belong to a folk religion, 20% Buddhist. Despite being a minority religion in Taiwan, the Christians we met did not feel oppressed, they were accepted and respected.

The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT), the main protestant denomination present in Taiwan, has links with the URC in many ways. One of the URC's predecessors, the Presbyterian Church in England, sent a missionary, James Maxwell, to help form the PCT in the 1800s. They're also linked through shared membership of the World Communion of Reformed Churches, and Council for World Mission.

So these historical ties clearly unite the two countries very closely. But that didn't stop the visit being so eye-opening and awe-inspiring. The first thing we immediately noticed on arrival was the warmth of the welcome. Our entire two weeks was spent meeting new people almost every day, often travelling to totally new churches/cities, meeting ministers, church members, doctors, chaplains, Deputy Mayors, the lot! Each time we were greeted as if we were already friends.

Isn't this the welcome and hospitality that Christ preached and showed during his time here on Earth? Every church I walked into was full of life. Bright and energetic. That was independent of the congregation number and age too, I must add!





# TAIWAN STORIES

It was incredible to see so many young people around my age engaging in the church's life. They weren't considered 'tokens' (as it often feels for me in the UK), but integral members of the church community, and the village's community. This trip was indeed the first leg of an 'exchange', so we engaged fully in all that was going on.

Our first week in Taiwan was spent in holiday camps/clubs in local church settings. The area of Chiayi county (mid-way down the west coast of Taiwan) where we were is fairly sparsely populated. Many families are self-sufficient, or work in agriculture/rural-based employment.

This was quite a culture shock for us city-bred people! Many of the children who attended the club were from poor backgrounds, and seldom associated with the church. This club, therefore, wasn't your generic holiday club. It was a staple of the community, needed, not simply wanted.

During family visits at the weekend, we were still welcomed with open arms, cups of (herbal!) tea were a plenty. Almost every visit was accompanied by beautifully homemade food.

Eating together is not only a strong cultural tradition in Taiwan. But, as with the UK too, it is engrained in the Christian faith too. Jesus spent much of his time eating with others, indeed one of his very last acts was eating with his disciples at the Last Supper. Sharing a meal and everything that goes with it, laughter, sharing stories, fellowship, is crucial. The gatherings to eat together are earthly representations of the heavenly banquet on offer to us.

Jesus refused to discriminate against the marginalised, all were welcome. Just as we were welcomed in Taiwan, not greeted as strangers from a foreign land, but as friends.



# TAIWAN STORIES

## But what's it like to be a young person in Taiwan?

Two of the young people we met on our trip wanted to share with us what it was like to be a young Christian in a non-Christian country. Here are their thoughts in their own words – they have written in English so that we can understand. As with many Taiwanese young people they have a Taiwanese name that Westerners find difficult to pronounce, so they also have a 'western' name. Here are Eric and Angus' stories.

### Eric was 17 when we first met him. He writes:

Being a Christian in a non-Christian country is just like a weirdo (that is what my classmates think I am).

Of course, it depends on what kind of Christian you are. I know some of my Christian friends seldom go to church only when they encountered the difficulties or on Easter or Christmas Day. They don't serve God or even read the Bible.

However, as for me, I go to church almost every weekend. I serve God and take part in the missions. Then, my friends said that I am a theomania (God botherer). But actually as it was said from the Bible, "No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."(Matt. 6:24) It is just like the dichotomy.

You can choose only one side. I did some Disciple Training, based on the Bible. We learned to serve like Jesus as a servant. It also helps us to put on the full armor of God so that we can stand fast in the faith. Frankly, it is not easy at all to be a Christian especially in a non-Christian country. Fortunately, with the training and sufficient grace from God, we gradually learn to be a bit more like Jesus.



# TAIWAN STORIES

**Angus is now 21 years old. His story is more suitable for sharing with older Pilots.**

The word 'mission' can be interpreted, according to my church, into two simple explanations. The first one is simply the Great Commission called by Jesus. The second meaning is evangelism, namely expressing the good news to non-believers.

What it is like being a Christian in a non-Christian country?

Indeed, the religious atmosphere in Taiwan, as a non-Christian country where Christianity still remains minor, is quite tense in recent years, especially when it comes to sensitive issues such as the adoption of same-sex marriage act which has even already divided Christians in Taiwan.

But this is just one of the examples. First of all, Taiwan's traditional religions still remain the principal trend that people follow, while Christianity is regarded as a "foreign" religion. Why? It is not abnormal to witness some awkward moments no matter young or experienced Christians are facing with Taiwan's "Tomb Sweeping Festival", namely the day people gather and worship their ancestors by burning incense and "bills" for them.

This ceremony is obviously against God's discipline in Christianity. Hence, some Christians feel marginalized and alone, in particular those

first-generation Christians who are faced with family pressure when such traditional ceremonies arrive. Subsequently, as the scriptures and doctrines given by God and noted down in the Holy Bible, most non-believers in Taiwan impose strong stereotypes on Christians, regarding them as very conventional and old-fashioned people.

On one hand, for instance, you may confront a conversation among believers and non-believers under the discussion of "sex before marriage". In most situations, believers are seen as "freaks" if they admit that they don't support sex before marriage. On the other hand, people have the impression that Christians are living under doctrines and restrictions, if they do not understand the meaning. Finally, it is not surprising to experience the above mentioned scenarios if you follow Jesus in Taiwan.

## THINK ABOUT...

**ERIC AND ANGUS BOTH USED THE WORD 'FREAKS' IN THEIR ARTICLES.**

**HOW DO YOUR FRIENDS THINK OF YOU WHEN YOU TELL THEM THAT YOU COME TO PILOTS AND PRAY AND WORSHIP?**

**SOME YOUNG PEOPLE ARE NOT ONLY THE ONLY CHRISTIANS IN THE SCHOOL CLASS BUT ARE SOMETIMES THE ONLY CHRISTIAN IN THEIR FAMILY. IF YOU WERE TRYING TO EXPLAIN TO A FRIEND OR A FAMILY MEMBER WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?**



# TAIWAN STORIES

My name is Isaac Barger, I'm eleven years old. I was born into a Christian family and I was brought into the David Landsborough Memorial church when I was 1 month old. As I grew up (when I could sit down by myself), I went to Sunday school almost every Sunday. Our Sunday school teachers taught us about the Bible and we had fun activities sometimes. My dad and I would often read the Bible together. I have been doing home schooling in Taiwan, but I have many friends from the church. When I attended our Church's preschool and kindergarten, I felt that I was so blessed because I often went to the pastor's house.

During the Sunday school we can get snacks and prizes, especially when we answer questions correctly or when we memorize Bible verses. On Easter Sunday we learn about the story of Jesus in how he died and how he lived again, and we get to go hunt for eggs and everyone can find many eggs. On Christmas we also have performances to celebrate Jesus's birth.

Taiwan is a special place because there are so many idols all over the place and you can feel as though you're like the apostles when they went to foreign countries to spread the Gospel.

Two years ago I wanted to join the Vienna boys choir in Vienna, Austria. So I and my family prayed hard and finally I got into the fourth grade of the Vienna Boys choir. But my goal was to get in to the fifth grade, the formal choir. So we kept praying and finally I was accepted into the formal choir. Praise God. In Vienna I also go to church.

I'm so happy that I could go to church when I was young. Those days that I went to David Landsborough Memorial church were very wonderful and I will remember them for the rest of my life. Thank God.

## 耶穌愛你

(God loves you).



# GAMES

## Chinese Whispers

Resources needed: none.

**Learning point:** Mandarin (Chinese) is the language most widely spoken by people in Taiwan. Some older people speak Taiwanese but it is not taught in schools. The Chinese government made Mandarin the official language in 1945. Young people are likely to speak better English than Taiwanese.

To play Chinese Whispers, sit the Pilots in a circle. One Pilot chooses a phrase and whispers it to the person on their left. It cannot be repeated. This Pilot whispers it to the person on their left and so on around the circle until it gets back to the Pilot who started. See how the phrase has changed as it got whispered around the circle.

## Pictorial Chinese whispers

Resources needed: paper and pens

Sit in a circle. At the top of paper, write a sentence (eg. a dog played on the swing) and pass the paper left. Draw a picture of the sentence, fold over the paper so the sentence is hidden & pass left again. Write a sentence of what the picture is, & fold over again. Repeat!

## Rock, Paper, Scissors

Resources needed: none

**Learning point:** This game is very popular in Taiwan and is used, not just as a game, but also to settle arguments and make choices.

To play pair up the Pilots. As the leader calls '1, 2, 3' they tap their fist on the palm of the other hand. After 3 they immediately make the shape of a rock (fist clenched), paper (hand flat) or scissors (two fingers making blades). Rock beat scissors (blunts them); paper beats rock (wraps it); scissors beat paper (cuts it). Play best of three games in that pair. Then the winners play each other and so on.

Organise a knockout tournament for the Pilots. The winner gets to choose the next game.

## Maths Tower

Resources needed: empty tins or drinks cans, 2 leaders

When a group of young people from the United Reformed Church visited Taiwan, we watched this game being played:

Split the Pilots into two groups which each line up at the same end of the room. Each group has a leader (question master) and a supply of cans.

The leaders ask the first person in the line a maths question (suitable for the ability of the individual). If they get it correct, they grab a can from the pile and run to the other end of the room and place it on the floor before running back and sitting at the back of the line.

The leader then asks the next Pilot a question. When they answer correctly they grab a can and place it on top of the 1st can, and so on.

The winners are the team who can make the highest tower without it falling over.

Variations: the questions can be about spelling, Pilots, Taiwan...

## Bent Back Snake

Resources needed: none

Have the Pilots line up behind each other. Each pilot (apart from the one in front) must then bend down at the waist and grab hold of the knees of the Pilot in front of them. The leader then walks around the room and everyone must follow – until someone complains or falls over.

**Learning point:** In much the same way as bread is a part of our diet, in Taiwan it is rice. People in Taiwan could easily say, as part of The Lord's Prayer, "Give us this day our daily rice"! Rice must be grown on flooded land and, particularly in the poorer rural farms, each plant needs to be planted by hand. This means bending over for hours at a time – imagine what your back would feel like after a day of doing that!



# WORSHIP/PRAYERS

Because the Christian church in Taiwan was started by western missionaries, many of the hymns they sing use tunes which are well known to us today, although the words have been changed as they are sung in a different language. If you look for “Taiwanese worship songs” on YouTube there are many examples. Few churches have an organ – although almost all have a piano. Music is very important in Taiwanese churches and many churches will have a number of different choirs – men’s, women’s and youth choirs, for example.

The Christian churches in Taiwan have asked that we pray for them and their mission.  
<https://omf.org/asia/taiwan/tw-get-involved/pray-for-taiwan/>

**ACTIVITY:  
WRITE A PRAYER  
FOR THE CHRISTIAN  
CHURCHES IN TAIWAN  
FROM YOUR PILOTS  
COMPANY. SEND IT TO:  
YOUTH MINISTRY  
COMMITTEE  
3,LANE 269, ROOSEVELT  
ROAD, SEC.3, TAIPEI,106  
TAIWAN**

**OR E-MAIL: PCT@MAIL.  
PCT.ORG.TW**



Ximending street market in Wanhua district, Taipei



# WORSHIP/PRAYERS

**Prayer from a Taiwanese minister for suffering political conflict, Kho Thian-Hian, written in Taiwanese, 2003.**

My Lord, My Lord, please walk with me.  
My Lord, My Lord, accompany my steps.  
The way dark, long and difficult.  
I fear the mean and evil.  
My spirit is alone, no one else is with me.  
Please, Lord, walk with me.  
My Lord, My Lord, please walk with me.  
My Lord, My Lord, accompany my steps.  
Worldly winds blow danger and assault.  
Terror all around! I'm afraid.  
It seems there is no way out.  
Please, Lord, walk with me.

**God's Way written in Prison by Rev. Ko Chun-Beng, 1982.**

I asked the Lord  
for a bunch of fresh flowers  
but instead he gave me  
an ugly cactus  
with many thorns.  
I asked the Lord  
for some beautiful butterflies  
but instead he gave me  
many ugly and dreadful worms.  
I was threatened,  
I was disappointed,  
I mourned!  
But after many days,  
Suddenly,  
I saw the cactus bloom  
with many beautiful flowers,  
And those worms became  
beautiful butterflies  
flying in the Spring wind.  
God's way is the best way!

**ACTIVITY: YOUTUBE HAS MANY VIDEO CLIPS OF ABORIGINAL AND TAIWANESE HYMNS AND WORSHIP.**

**CAN YOU JOIN IN WITH OR CREATE ACTIONS OR DANCE MOVES TO ONE?**

**WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO WORSHIP IN A LANGUAGE YOU MIGHT NOT UNDERSTAND?**



Aboriginal people singing and dancing during a Council for World Mission meeting



# WORSHIP/PRAYERS

## Pray for Taiwan – game

Use the board (on the last page) and divide the Pilots into teams. They can create a counter shape for their team.

Use a dice – all teams start at the top, take turns to roll the dice and move their counter.

If they land on a square with a prayer they pray and then roll again. Read out the information (if appropriate for your group).



Jiufen Village





# TAIWAN

Many of OMF's ministries focus on **The WORKING CLASS**, an unreached social group in Taiwan.

**16 Million** Working Class People  
**70%** of the population  
**0.5%** of whom know Christ

Follow Wey as he navigates life as a working class person in Taiwan, learn about the challenges he and his family face and the opportunities they have to hear about Jesus.



1

Wey's parents work long hours as they struggle to earn enough money. This leaves little time for family and means Wey and his siblings must take care of each other and the home.

**PRAY FOR** Taiwanese homes to be a place of stable, loving family life.

**PRAY FOR** people to hear about the freedom to be found in Jesus Christ.



2

From a young age Wey's Grandmother takes him to the temple to make offerings to the gods. She teaches him Taiwanese traditions which combine Buddhism and ancestor worship.

**PRAY FOR** ministries which reach out to children and students through schools, universities and local centres.

3

When Wey struggles with his English homework his parents are unable to help. A school friend invites him to an English class run by mission workers who use Bible stories as a part of their lessons.



**PRAY FOR** those who fear the spirit world.

4

During Ghost Month people believe that hungry ghosts are released into the world. Many rituals are performed to ensure protection from the ghosts. As a child Wey is told not to go swimming as a ghost will drag him under water.

5

After graduating Wey works hard running his own business. He is invited to a "Late Night" church by a shop worker friend and enjoys the singing and sense of community.

**PRAY FOR** Taiwan's churches to use new and imaginative ways to reach out to working class people.



6

Wey's family encourage him to consult a fortune teller to find out what his future will hold and for advice on who to marry. The fortune teller uses palm reading, numerical charts and has a bird to select fortune cards.

**PRAY FOR** people to put their trust in God.

**PRAY FOR** new Christians to boldly share their faith with others.



7

After dating for several years Wey and his girlfriend Mei decide to get married. Mei's sister recently became a Christian and is keen to share the gospel with them.

**PRAY FOR** churches in Taiwan to be accessible to the disabled.

8

Mei and Wey's third child is born with a physical disability and needs a lot of care. Through the support of a social group for the disabled at a local church Mei and Wey decide to give their lives to Christ.



## Overseas Voyages

2016 - Canada

2017 - Pakistan

2018 - South Korea

Our next Overseas Voyage will be to Fiji 2020-21



# TAIWAN

Taiwan - Pilots Overseas Voyage 2019 - 2020

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