

Tainan, Taiwan; November 5-10, 2010



Pastors of Tainan Assembly of God

Friday, November 5th, started with a beautiful train ride around the southern coast of Taiwan and then north to Tainan. Tainan is fourth largest city of Taiwan, the oldest city and former capital of Taiwan. The train ride took us past rice paddies, pineapple farms, citrus farms, small villages, and magnificent views of the Taiwan Straits. We also passed through an area completely washed out by the last typhoon. Five hours later, we arrived at the Tainan Assembly of God Church and were taken to their guest house; a delightful apartment on the third floor of the church building.



Learning New Songs



Saturday, we began training the 50+ attendees, with a reading from Deuteronomy 6:4-9:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."



Parents praying for their daughter

Observant Jews call this passage "Shema" which means: to hear in order to understand and do. It is recited twice daily as a religious commandment. Traditional Jewish parents teach this passage to their children and read it to them as the last words they hear before going to bed. "We teach children what to love, we direct their hearts." said Kathleen. "Children's ministry is about raising a generation of children who know and love God. From knowing and loving Him springs all ministry." The people of Tainan AoG were inspiring to watch, they dug into their Bibles, seemed eager to listen, to learn, and to apply these teachings.

Sunday morning brought us to a session with the children. Children and adults wanting to learn from Kathleen, totaled 50+ people. The majority of the children were under the age of 6. "God is telling me, that I will be a teacher." said a precocious girl who loved music and loved to teach. It was a privilege to be a part of the meeting; journaling, sharing and praying for each other. Monday and Tuesday nights we continued the training, with 50+ people in attendance both evenings.



Thoughts on Asia as a whole: God showed Himself powerfully on behalf of all of us as we met with our brothers and sisters in Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. We heard of their desire to have God transform their lives and the lives of their children. They were eager to break the hereditary and cultural cycle that children cannot know God or hear from Him. They had a reverential fear of God and a desire to live humbly.

They were God fearing, God loving people with teachable hearts who love their children. The opportunities for the Holy Spirit to work and the desire for the lessons Kathleen teaches were been abundant in each area we visited. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few!

We want to thank you all for the support you have offered us during and for this trip! Without you, God's Word would not have gone out. Please continue to pray that the Word will flourish in our hearts and children will be brought up to know the God who loves them and will do exploits in His name.

Please pray and consider how you might be able to support Pebbles and Stones as we look to answer invitations to Mexico, India, Ethiopia, Uganda, Liberia and a follow up trip to South East Asia. May God richly bless you all.

*From our hearts to yours,
Kathleen and Sue*