

GuangFu, Taiwan; October 31 through November 3



This beautiful city, nestled in an Eastern Taiwan valley, about 20km from the Pacific Ocean, is home to the Ami people and other aboriginal tribal groups. We partnered with One Hope, who has been praying and doing research to understand the needs of the area in order to bring about community transformation. Their recent research has shown there is a high incidence of suicide among the teenagers and lack of vision for the future. We were privileged to witness the beginning of this transformation as the Lord brought together leaders, parents, pastors, youth and children who were desirous of a brighter future for themselves and their children. They came from different churches and organizations for the training. The meetings

were held at the FaTaan Church. Bethany, who is the founder of Woodpeckers, thought we could expect 12-15 people. The Lord had other ideas though; over 70 people came! What an awesome beginning to the week! During the first session, Kathleen spoke on Community, stating that children are a vital part of it; and the inherent need we have for each other. Those who attended were given a time to pray and journal about how they might be more inclusive with children in their families and communities.

The next evening's training focus was on the Characteristics of Pebbles and Stones. They include the many ways in which God Speaks to us, His children. Kathleen shared on the importance of creating a quiet and restful space in order to hear from God. Each participant experienced their own prayerful, listening place before the Lord. One the men drew a picture of God's arms enfolding children and shared how God had been touching his own heart for the hurting and abandoned children living in the tribal areas of Taiwan.



Certificates of training were given to 27 who had attended all training sessions. On the final day of our stay in GuangFu, we experienced the Pebbles and Stones model in three different settings; one in a public school, with 20 children and 5 learning adults in attendance; one at the church, with 25 children and 10 adults and the last in a tribal neighborhood group with 18 children and 5 leaders. The first two meetings were led by Francie, our translator, and the other by Bethany. At each place, the adults were participants of the training, they came with us to learn firsthand how to lead children in a time of worship, listening to God and praying for each other, with the intention leading their own groups. At each meeting we were thrilled to with the children, their response to the quiet reflective journaling time, the way God spoke to them, their prayers and how they shared their lives with all of us.



Before leaving GuangFu, we held our first organizational meeting with Bethany and those who had joined us in the first implementation of the P&S model. Each one shared their responses to the meetings and their thoughts of leading groups. One teacher had already implemented the model in her public school. She said that it went very well and the children wanted more time to listen, make their pictures, to share and pray. She showed us some pictures from her meeting. Another



"I want to hear more stories about the God who made me." said a young boy from a public school. "God does not want people to be angry with each other." said another. As I heard him, I wondered what anger he had already experienced. An older boy shared about his recent heart surgery, and asked if we could pray for God to heal him.

said he felt called to go to the different villages to share God's love and care for the children using the model. All feedback was positive. We are eager to hear more stories from the GuangFu leaders.

Blessings!
Kathleen & Sue

