



PRAY FOR EAST ASIA

Pray for Taiwan

We love because he first loved us.

— 1 John 4:19

Country Profile

About Taiwan

The Republic of China (Taiwan) is situated between Japan and the Philippines. About the size of the Netherlands, Taiwan has a population of over 23 million people. While Taiwan's population is predominantly Han Chinese (more than 95% of the population), there are also indigenous Malayo-Polynesian peoples and immigrants from all over the world. In recent years, there has been an influx of new migrants from China and Southeast Asia (over 520,000), mostly through cross-cultural marriages. Taiwan has three major language groups: Taiwanese, Hakka and Mandarin.

Religion

Most Taiwanese are strongly influenced by traditional Chinese folk beliefs (i.e. ancestor worship and the worship of various gods). Taoist, Buddhist, and Confucian beliefs have combined with other beliefs. Although the church has seen growth, a significant spiritual breakthrough has yet to come.

Christians are a small minority in Taiwan. Among Taiwan's aborigines, this proportion is about nine out of ten. Roughly half of Taiwan's Christians are Catholic, and half are Protestant. The highest concentration of Christians is found in Taipei, where the number could be as high as 10%, but in other cities of Taiwan, the number is closer to zero. Most Christians in Taiwan are middle or upper-middle class, well-educated, and comfortable speaking Mandarin. The working class however, are less educated, less open to ideas from the outside and much more comfortable using Taiwanese. Many of these people have not heard the gospel.

Churches need God's help in helping people busy with ancestor worship, gambling, growing materialism, and opposition from family members. Although there is much evangelistic activity and many respond to the gospel, follow-up is often challenging and the attrition rate is high. New Christians are often looked upon as disrupting the family and not fulfilling their roles and obligations as expected in traditional Chinese culture, possibly alienating one's family.

OMF Church Ministry

Over the last 60 years, OMF has partnered with existing local churches and organizations such as Campus Evangelical Fellowship, Taiwan Industrial Evangelical Fellowship, Christian Communications Limited, the Spring of Living Waters (church for the homeless), and the House of Mercy (AIDS hospice). (OMF helped to start some of



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these organizations.) Since 2002 OMF's focus has been on the working class and urban marginalized peoples, as these groups remain largely unreached.

OMF Missions Sending Ministry

In 1977, OMF Taiwan sent out its first missionary to Japan. In 1981, the OMF Taiwan Home Council was established. We hope that by using creative ways of mobilizing and sharing, more Christians and churches will catch the vision for missions on their doorstep and beyond, working together to fulfill God's Great Commission.

Population

- **Total:** 23.6 million
 - Chinese: 95%
 - Austronesian aborigine: 2.39%
 - Others: 2.61%
 - (figures from www.ris.gov.tw)

Religions

- **Chinese folk religion:** 61.2%
- **Buddhist:** 27.3%
- **Evangelical Christian:** 2.8%
- **Non-religious:** 2.9%
- **Other:** 1.4%
- **Islam:** 1.2%
- (figures from *Joshua Project*)

Thank you, Lord, for growing your church in Taiwan, and thank you for your love for the people of Taiwan. We pray that you would continue to build partnerships between local churches, foreign missionaries, and other organizations to share your gospel with the working class and urban marginalized peoples. We pray that you would use your people in Taiwan to be a blessing to other peoples throughout the world. Please raise up people to pray, send, and go in mission.