

The island of Taiwan is located in the western Pacific Ocean, roughly 100 miles off the coast of southeastern China. It has an area of 35,808 square kilometers, with mountain ranges dominating the eastern two-thirds and plains in the western third, where its highly urbanized population is concentrated.

Taipei is the capital and largest metropolitan area on the island. With 23.7 million inhabitants, Taiwan is one of the most densely populated countries in the world.

Of Taiwan's population of 23 million, the working class is the majority, with approximately 16 million people. Less than 1% are Christians. The two largest formal religions are Taoism and Buddhism, but the majority of the people are Chinese folk religionists.

# World Team

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### **Taiwan** Bringing Hope to the Working Class

#### **University Students**

Taiwan is steeped in idol and ancestor worship. The working class, especially those in rural areas, is very traditional and resistant to the gospel.

Reaching college students in Taiwan is a strategic way to approach the working class as many of these students not only come from working-class backgrounds, but upon graduating from university, 50% will end up in workingclass jobs.

College students tend to be more open to the gospel as they are away from their families and communities where idol and ancestor worship are expected.

Most of Chiayi's institutes of higher education are not among the best on the island. Additionally, many of these students come from the unreached rural areas.

To that end, we have an outreach center/coffee shop to reach students, disciple and train them, and prepare them to be instruments of change in their communities, especially those from the rural areas.

#### **Taiwanese Peoples**

The population of Taiwan is composed of four ethnic groups: aboriginal peoples, two groups of Taiwanese—the Fukien Taiwanese (or Hoklo) and the Hakka, and Chinese who came from mainland China after WWII.

The main languages spoken are Mandarin and Taiwanese, with most of the working class speaking Taiwanese. Mandarin is the language of education and business, but Taiwanese is the heart language for many people.

World Team's ministry is primarily among the Hoklo, the Taiwanese group who make up the working class.

## **Training and Releasing Student Leaders**

World Team has been working in Taiwan since 2000 to bring hope and healing through the establishment of reproducing churches throughout the country.

While the church is growing, it is a slow process, requiring discipleship and leadership development. We need more workers to help make our vision a reality come join the work in Taiwan!

#### Discipleship

Discipling students and young adults is the heart of the ministry. These young adults need to grow in their understanding of the Word and of God. It is a hard environment to boldly share their faith with friends and classmates. Coming alongside them, encouraging them and praying with them is a great need and privilege.

There are many communities without a gospel witness. Training Taiwanese workers to minister in these rural communities is essential. Our hope is that many students will return to their unreached communities to continue the work of outreach and discipleship.

#### Sunday Evening Fellowship

Sunday nights, we host a fellowship meeting for students. Some who join are already working. We have a meal together, study the Word, pray and plan. Half of the group are Christians. The other half are seekers.

#### **Training and Releasing Leaders**

It is our desire to train students to take on more of the leadership role in the fellowship group meetings. Our hope is that young leaders would be trained and released to not only continue to develop the fellowship group but to see it multiply into many groups all over the island, including the communities students come from, as they return to their hometowns to reach and disciple others after graduation.

Identifying, developing and releasing leaders who will take the Good News of God's abundant love and grace is at the center of all we do.

#### **Ministry Overview**

People	Working class students
Language	Taiwanese or Mandarin
Location	Taiwan
Opportunities	Leadership development
	Evangelism and discipleship
	Student Ministry
	Church planters
	• ESL
	Music and sports

# World Team is looking for young people to join the team!

It is through the gospel that any and all spiritual change happens in the lives of individuals or groups of people. This principle, before all others, guides us as we relate to others.

Are you interested in building relationships and discipling university students? Come and get involved with students through various activities at the outreach center like Bible studies, English conversation, playing games, music and sports.

For those looking for a semester or a whole year abroad, come and take Chinese classes at the university as a way to meet students and share the love of Christ.

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