Outreach to Mahayana Buddhists in Taiwan

Taiwan is a beautiful island with a population of 23 million, 95% are of Chinese origin. Religions from Chinese backgrounds dominate the island, especially Chinese Buddhism. In September 2010, the Buddhist Study Center launched a new effort to reach Mahayana Buddhists in northern Asia. This branch of Buddhism is also the majority in Taiwan. Samuel Wang, a mainland-born native Chinese, was placed in Taiwan for the purpose of leading this new effort.
Meetings in the capital city

Close to one year after the Wang family’s arrival, Samuel was invited to hold evangelistic meetings in the northern district of Taiwan especially for people with Chinese religious backgrounds. The meetings will be held in three cities with six Seventh-day Adventist churches. In view of a world filled with disasters, Samuel entitled his series “Listen to Revelation from the Classics in the Midst of Disasters”. It is further divided into eight subtitles, each focusing on a specific topic commonly of interest when people want to know why. Each meeting is introduced through a familiar Chinese cultural gateway, but focused on the essentials of the present truth for this time.

Four Noble Truths of Life

One week prior to the meetings, 200,000 copies of Four Noble Truths of Life, a pamphlet to reach Buddhists, were distributed. People reported that these tracts were accepted even in Buddhist stores, and the church members passing them out were warmly greeted. This is unlike what they have experienced in the past when trying to distribute literature that was easily recognizable as Christian. These new pamphlets proved to be an easy way to approach people.

Two series completed

As this eNewsletter is being written, the first series in the capital city of Taiwan is finished. With limited budget, the meetings were held in two Seventh-day Adventist churches, but still many guests showed up. One student from Cultural University in Taipei (who is earning his second master’s degree in Chinese culture) told Samuel that he now has begun to understand the true legacy of Chinese culture as well as the real purpose for life. Another non-SDA wrote in his email, "Nice to meet you all in Dr. Wang’s meetings here in Taipei. I benefited a lot from them and was very impressed by his abundant and detailed Biblical knowledge."

Most of the Seventh-day Adventist members come from minorities which are only 3% of the island’s population. In a way, the evangelistic meetings seem to be more like a demonstration for reaching the 97% majority and a training workshop for the church! Members were excited to find a new way to reach the Buddhist majority. There are still two more series scheduled in other locations. The first of these two starts September 1.
How to pray...

Please pray for Dr. Wang as he finishes up these last two series of meetings. Pray for his listeners, and that not one will stay away that should attend. There is still much darkness; so many not yet had opportunity to hear about our soon-coming Savior. Pray for those who came to the first two series of meetings, a couple of their responses were included above. Pray for our church members on the island to take the new tools they have received and reach out to the 97% Buddhist majority still unreached. Pray for Samuel's family.

The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer.
Psalm 6:9

Who sends this eNewsletter...

Sue Lundquist, from the Buddhist Study Center. We are part of the Global Mission of Seventh-day Adventists. We have prepared materials to help you in reaching out to Buddhists with the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. For these resources please visit our website @ bridgesforministry.org.