



MINUTE FOR MISSION

May 15, 2006

Abundant Life is Not Measured in Length of Years

Shortly after taking up my new duties as General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT), I was in hospital for unexpected surgery. Among the many messages and assurance of prayers I received, one phone call touched me deeply. The woman who rang was instructed by her son to tell me he was praying for me. I'd like to share the story of this family. They are PCT members whom I had the privilege of baptizing when I served as their pastor.



E-Chi is baptized while smiling
E-Khai looks on.

In Taiwan, like many other Asian countries, our traditional culture still favors having sons, especially as the first-born. This particular family should be considered very fortunate because they have two boys, but instead of joy in the household, they have deep sorrow. The marriage had been shattered and the young mother was in deep despair. Why was this? Both brothers were born with a genetic disorder, and their life spans will inevitably be short.

Embraced by the caring fellowship of the congregation and touched by the loving grace of God, the mother slowly began to view life differently. With renewed purpose and the hope of Jesus in her life, today you will find her sharing her gifts and experiences with others. The two boys, E-Khai and E-Chi, have gained friends and support in the church and community. The elder boy is artistic, and to



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encourage him to develop his gift, the church commissioned him to make a book cover for their "Book of Witness." While comprehending life in years and opportunities is limited for the boys, this family discovered abundant life is measured not in terms of ability and longevity, but rather in terms of quality, inner peace, joy, and total acceptance of individuals created in the image of God.

The Rev. Andrew T. C. Chang
General Secretary
Presbyterian Church in Taiwan



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For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org.

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