



MINUTE FOR MISSION

August 15, 2007

Taking Opportunities to Share Christ in Taiwan



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Each year in Taiwan, before the Lunar New Year, companies hold banquets for their employees. It is a time for the owners to show their appreciation for the hard work of all the employees.

Since Christians make up just 3 percent of the total population in Taiwan, folks here use creative methods to share the good news of the gospel. Elder Wang and her husband, Mr. Jang, are faithful Christians who own a company that makes electrical parts. For the past twenty years they have called their New Year's banquet a Service of Thanksgiving. They invite all their employees and their families and other friends. They use this opportunity to talk about God's



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grace in the past year and God's plan for the next year.

Most of the guests are not Christians, so for them it is a wonderful time to hear about God's love for all people. This year I was invited to speak at the New Year's banquet. It was held on the thirty-fourth floor of a high-rise in downtown Taipei. A church musical group began the program by singing a variety of songs that told of God's love. Then I shared that I left my homeland to come to Taiwan because of God's call and God's love for the people of this land. I talked about the grace that I receive daily from God through the people of Taiwan and about the privilege it has been for me to serve with the Taiwanese. I also talked about the American Presbyterians who pray daily for Taiwan. I mentioned Alita Peerbolte, who is 93 and from one of my supporting churches in Michigan. Whenever she sees news in her local paper of a natural disaster in Taiwan, she prays, because "the Taiwanese are my neighbors too."

After I spoke we had a wonderful banquet. Elder Wang, Mr. Jang, and their two children went from table to table to thank their employees. After we ate there was a drawing of door prizes, and I was asked to choose the winning number for the last prize.

Then Mr. Jang, the owner, rose and thanked everyone for coming. He spoke openly about God's grace in the past year and encouraged all the guests to receive the love that God offers to each of them.

It is not easy to share the gospel in this land. But Mr. Jang and his wife, Elder Wang, know that where two or three are gathered, Christ is in our midst. They use a traditional banquet as a venue to allow all to see that Christ is the host and we are guests. God has given them love that they cannot help but share with others.

Do you have a mission story to tell? Would you like to read inspiring stories of Presbyterians in mission? Visit the Witness Season Web site: www.pcusa.org/witness. New minutes for mission are posted on the 1st and 15th of each month.

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