



MINUTE FOR MISSION

September 15, 2005

George MacKay, Pioneer Missionary to Taiwan

In 1871 George MacKay, a Canadian Presbyterian missionary, arrived in Taiwan. Since British missionaries were already serving in the south of the island, he decided to concentrate on the north. Like the missionaries in the south, MacKay chose to use the language of medical service to share the gospel with the Taiwanese people. Although he was trained at Princeton Seminary, he had great success in medical service and became quite well-known for his treatments of malaria and his skill at pulling teeth. He was also an ardent evangelist. By 1882 MacKay had established twenty churches and baptized three hundred believers. He later established a hospital and several schools. The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) continued in MacKay's pattern of mission, treating the spiritual, physical, and educational needs of the person. The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan continues to minister to the people through churches, hospitals, and schools.



Mission worker John McCall (center) portrays an early missionary to Taiwan, George MacKay, in a video produced by the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan.

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interest in his message. Even today, MacKay is revered by the people of northern Taiwan.

A current mission worker in Taiwan, John McCall, recently had the opportunity to play George MacKay in a video produced by the church. As part of the filming, one of McCall's students threw stones at him, just as the local people had at MacKay. But the person doing the filming was not very quick, and they had to film the scene four times. Each time, McCall was hit by a different stone.

Several months after the filming, George MacKay's granddaughter, who is now in her eighties, returned to Taiwan, the land of her birth. John McCall had the opportunity to speak with her and to share his experience of being hit four times by the stones. MacKay's granddaughter smiled and started calling McCall "grandfather."

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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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