

Church Growth and a Public Battle in Taiwan

Ms. Huang
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The Taiwanese model for recruiting among students is the Chin-hsin Club, at the National Chin-Yi University of Technology

After the Vision 2020 Strategy Conference In August, we launched a 120-day witnessing competition as a condition. In response to True Mother's hope for witnessing to young people, in the first forty-day stage, we focused on university students, because the new semester begins in September.

Members of all types went to campuses to recruit students, especially freshman. Most of them went to university areas and used questionnaires to "break the ice," and then invited students to an introductory meeting, a volunteer activity, a home group or a workshop on restoring one family under God. If the campus had student clubs, we sometimes erected a stall to recruit students or volunteers.

A model for outreach to students

In Taiwan, the Taichung church has the best foundation for witnessing to students. Others use their model. They built a service-oriented club, the *Chin-hsin Club*, at the National Chin- Yi University of Technology (NCUT).

During their introductory meeting for volunteers, the club introduces FFWPU and explains the club's church background to new students. If they want to join the club and help carry out service projects, the Taichung church arranges associated activities for each new student three times a week.

We invite these students to attend Divine Principle lectures or to study one-on-one with a member. We encourage them to join our Youth Home Group, which is led by core student-members.

They cook together, eat together and gradually become members of this Home Group. The Chin-hsin Club also conducts a weekly service project they can take part in.

In this way, they are able gradually to identify those that are interested in learning the Divine Principle or experiencing self-growth by attending a Happiness Workshop: One Family under God. After relatively long-term stable learning in the center, some of these students attend our Special Workshop for Inheriting God's Love, which is an avenue for experiencing God's heart, confessing their sins and being healed by the power of prayer.

Finally, staff members firmly encourage these new students to join a twenty-one-day or thirty-day training program during the winter or summer vacation.

The Taichung church leader, Mrs. Huang, says, "I appreciate that our twenty to thirty blessed wives can take action to support witnessing work. Some go to the campus to recruit students, some help to take care of others' children. Therefore, more than a hundred and fifty students joined our Introductory Meeting for Volunteers at NCUT in September."

During the forty-day witnessing condition this semester, we hosted three Happiness Workshops. The Taichung church also organized two Happiness Workshops for their sixty new students. Then they helped to organize a National Happiness Workshop that included other churches.

Fourteen new guests came from the Taichung church and twenty-six from other churches, including

students from China, Macau and Malaysia. A coach, playing the role of a parent or an older sibling, accompanies each new guest. We appreciate the assistance received from many blessed members as a coach or staff member.

These students can experience being loved, being praised and being affirmed by staff members and coaches and even other participants in the lectures and experiential activities. We want all participants to have the feeling that we are one family and for the atmosphere and culture to touch their hearts.

The Yilan center also focuses on witnessing to university students, though they have not established a campus club. Nevertheless, this semester, they had sixteen new guests join their Introductory Meeting and they seemed transformed after attending the National Happiness Workshop.

Though they are just new guests, they can actively respond and provide encouragement and inspiration to others.



A workshop for university students: The banner reads Love One Another; Make a Miracle; One Family under God

Worship service guidance

Although the situation of every church is different, church leaders generally invest their hearts into inspiring members through their worship services. The Taichung church leader, Mrs. Huang, always encourages family members in her sermons. She said, "Our church development stalled a long time ago. When you were young, you sacrificed or gave up your life plan to follow True Parents on the way of God's will. Today, we see that the church is stagnant. Can you tolerate that? Our church must break through and grow through restoring young people!" The most important point is that as long as young people are joining the church and transforming it for the better, older members will revive and be more joyful.

When we do university witnessing, school security officers sometimes obstruct members from coming on campus. Some Christians obstructed our plans to establish clubs on some universities. Despite this, we still go forward and are determined to witness on campuses.

The forty-day witnessing since September has been an important starting point for the Taiwanese church. Two hundred and sixty people came for the first time to our Introductory Meeting and a hundred more joined a Happiness Workshop. This helps improve their connection to our church and usually motivates them to learn the Divine Principle. We hope they can transform and be brought to our Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

Our Yunlin church is small. It belongs to our middle region and is managed by a sub-leader, Mr. Chen. It has three active members now. From the new semester in September, the regional leader, Ms. Huang sent nine members from the Taichung church to support the Yunlin witnessing work.

Perhaps as a result of the increased manpower, nine guests, university freshmen, come to Yunlin's Divine Principle Introductory Meeting. Three among them continued on to the Happiness Workshop, where they could more fully experience our church's vision.

Under one fulltime staff member and a few blessed members with families, they actively hold many outreach activities in Yunlin. They have planned future projects -- After-school Tutoring for Vulnerable

Children, character education workshops and Divine Principle workshops. We wish for and have reasons to expect good results from these, even though it is currently a small, pioneering center.

Battling against same-sex marriage

Last year, the Taiwan Inter-religious Confederation for Cherishing the Family (TICCF) formed as a coalition of Unificationists, Christians, Catholics, Buddhists, Taoists and other groups to fight against the Gay Movement in Taiwan, especially over the issue of a proposed law to legalize same-sex marriage.

On November 30, 2013, TICCF held a rally to oppose passage of the law. This rally, which was held across the street from the President's Office Building in Taipei, attracted three hundred thousand people. These people came to express their commitment to restricting legal marriage to couples -- one man and one woman.

Eventually, this law was blocked within the Legislative Yuan, Taiwan's parliament. However, in October, another effort to legalize same-sex marriage was resubmitted by a woman legislator,

Mrs. Yu. She wants to hold a public hearing to promote this issue. She has tried to gain recognition and support from society. Three hundred people met outside the Legislative Yuan to protest against this. Rev. Dai-Hsi Min, vice-president of the Unification Church guided this one-hour protest. We are one in heart with Christians, other religious people and many parents in expressing our opposition to this proposal. In the crowd were many placards bearing slogans supportive of traditional marriage and opposed to same-sex unions. Many members of the media covered the event.

Peace Ambassador Chang, the secretary-general of TICCF, gave a speech to the Media reporter. Our leaders, blessed members and peace ambassadors -- on behalf of all participants -- loudly spoke out. Other religious leaders highly praised our church and our members for leading the protest. Internet media outlets covered the demonstration well. Media reports are no longer overwhelmingly supportive of homosexuals.

Nevertheless, the woman legislator, Mrs. Mei-Nu Yu, said that she will continue to push for passage of a same-sex marriage law, which we will continue to fight to prevent.