



# Taiwan Topics

**News and Notes from Bradley & Anita Halter**

*Serving in Taiwan with Hope International Missions (HIM)*

P.O. Box 328  
Chungli, Taiwan 320

halter@ms26.hinet.net

P.O. Box 1065  
Hobe Sound, FL 33475

July 2020

Dear Friends,

Among the various ethnic peoples in Taiwan is a 4-million-strong group known as the Hakka people. "Hakka" is a Cantonese word meaning "guest family". The Hakka are famous for migrating to various places within and outside China during their long history.

*"Where there is sunshine, there are Chinese. Where there are Chinese, there are Hakka."*

The name "Hakka" was given to them in derision, separating them from the "natives" of the various places to which they migrated. Because they were often treated poorly, they became very clannish, and held strongly to their own customs and practices. Some linguists believe that their language, one dialect of over 200 Chinese dialects, is the closest to the original form of the Chinese language.

Hakka people began coming to Taiwan in the early 1600's. Today, after several waves of migrations, they make up 16 percent of Taiwan's population. Taiwan is one of the few places in the world where the Hakka have retained much of their language and culture. In 2017, Hakka was designated one of the official languages of Taiwan.

Because of their history, the Hakka traditionally are resistant to other beliefs and for years not much effort was made to share the gospel with them. However God has raised up several groups of Christian Hakka with a mission to evangelize their own people. There is even a Hakka seminary to train workers to minister specifically to the Hakka people. Our church is located in one of the Hakka areas of Taiwan, so we have Hakka believers among us. Recently a Hakka gospel choir presented six songs, translated into Hakka from Chinese, in our Sunday morning worship service. Several people from our church sing in the choir and a lady from our church directs it. I can testify that the Hakka make wonderful Christians! Praise God, the gospel is for every race and every ethnic group. In Christ Jesus, the believing Hakka are *"no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God."*

Love in Christ,

Bradley and Anita

**Hakka Wisdom:** *"Farm when the sun shines and study when it rains."*

*"Not having a proper education is like having eyes but not being able to see."*

*"Start work when the sun rises and finish when it goes down."*

*"Frugality lasts a thousand years, spending leads to poverty."*