

Scott and Leslie Powell

(潘天信牧師及盧靜慈師母)

SEND International (國際差傳協會)

“Our Call and Service to the Hakka People
of Taiwan”

【我們的呼召與事奉—台灣客庄】

● 培育與醞釀



潘天信牧師，出生成長於一個基督化的家庭。他的父母兩人都回應了成為亞洲宣教工人的呼召，上帝指引他的雙親停留定居在美國，於此期間，其父擔任了身兼牧師與教師之職的服事，直到他於 57 歲逝世，安息主懷為止；潘牧師的母親在一所基督教的學校教導孩童，最後，她終究回應了上帝的呼召，於 1987 年，來到台灣，在此地服事了一年之久，之後，轉往印度，在那裏也服事了有一年，那時，她正值芳華 76 歲。藉由其父母雙親的教導，五歲時，潘牧師漸漸認識了主耶穌基督，並對祂的救贖恩典確信不疑，隨即，他很快地就明白瞭解，他有責任與他的朋友及同學們，分享主耶穌的救恩大能。

● 主！我願為祢去！

經過一個嚴重的健康危機之後，以人為的方式與肉體的限制來看，潘牧師體悟到一個真理：「您不再是屬於您自己，因您是重價所買贖回來的。」他遂將他的生命委身於服事耶穌基督的大業，並很快地知曉，上帝對他的呼召，是使萬民作門徒，特別是在亞洲地區，那些極少機會聽聞上帝救贖之愛在耶穌基督裡展現的人們當中。就在潘牧師與靜慈師母結為連理，展開新婚生活的開端，他們隨即禱告著尋求上帝，祈求按祂自己的旨意，能指引他們到一個特定的地方，及一群人當中，全心全意服事主。

在 1982 年，潘牧師與師母被問及關於到台灣客家地區服事的呼召，並為此禱告之事，同時，他也看見並瞭解，若能在客家信徒間建立教會團契，而其結果是，他們這些人將帶著上帝的恩典與轉化的大能，進入其家庭中與城鎮裡；當他們越發地禱告主，並

徵詢教會領袖們的協商之時，上帝終於確認了他們來到台灣地區的這個呼召，要在說著客家話的居民中間，宣教服事祂自己。

●來到台灣客家之地~中壢區

於 1984 年，潘牧師夫妻家被「國際差傳協會 SEND International」所差派，來到台灣宣教，展開服事。為了要在說客家話的社區當中，建立客家團契，他們於 1985 年 10 月 11 日攜家帶眷，偕同兩個年幼的孩子，一家共四人抵達台灣，當「國際差傳協會」正考慮著要向北台灣擴展客家事工之際，彭德郎牧師與崇真堂的其他領袖們，以及客家福音協會宣教聯會，齊來拜訪了在台中的宣教辦公室，並給予關心與鼓勵。在台中期間，潘牧師完成了兩年的國語課程學習，之後，於 1987 年 8 月 15 日，他們搬到離中壢附近的宋屋社區居住，是為了要與當地的客家鄰居與朋友們建立關係，同時也要建立教會，以便接觸住在中壢的台灣客家人。伴隨著國語語言的學習，潘牧師也開始學習說客家話，以備與較年長的鄰居交談，他們有幸被從美國來的李貝文及馬天業牧師，以及他從德國來的家人，連結合一，並且樂意於看見這個團契的延伸出去與增長。

在中壢社區服事了數年之後，終於為平鎮與中壢的當地居民，搭起了友誼的橋梁。在 1990 年 9 月，兩地些許會友們受了洗，於是「國際差傳協會」團隊，開始主領主日崇拜時段，這是建立〈中壢客家福音中心〉的開始，後來接續是〈中壢崇真堂教會〉的開展。

●1996 恩典豐盛年

1996 這年，明顯標記出三件重大的事件。中壢教會已經成長到約有 14 位會友，而我們為當地一位牧者禱告，盼他能來牧養這團契，以便看見更多的門徒被裝備建立，於是在 1996 年 7 月，上帝引導黃成熹牧師與他的家人們來到中壢服事，這為會友們帶來極大的鼓勵，而黃牧師家在後來的 14 年間，犧牲地忠心的服事了這團契會眾。同時，在 1996 年，「崇真會客家教會聯會」接納了〈中壢客家福音中心〉成為其子教會，中壢教會的成員遂擁有了崇真聯會的其他教會肢體的團契情誼，以及被支持的祝福。1996 第三重大事件，是「國際差傳協會」的事工，在台灣終於有了新方向；潘牧師與協會的督導諮商，並擁有了他的支持後，開始步出台灣之外的地區，為台灣會友尋求開展機會，邁向跨文化的宣教事奉，終究，這導入了〈差派機制〉的形成，以及協會在台灣〈差派部門〉的設立，這差派部門及其同工遂正式地促成了三位長



期宣教士的養成，完全被台灣眾教會支持，與「國際差傳協會」一起同工，在亞洲與中國以及日本服事主。

● 輾轉到第二驛站~新豐區

從 1997 到 2000 年，潘牧師家向外開展，幫助並促成了新竹北部〈新豐崇真堂〉的建立。透過社區英文班與青年活動，以及其他社區服事，當地居民因此聽聞了耶穌救贖大能的好消息，而一群信徒會友就在新豐成型了。靜慈師母與其他同工在夏令營與教會兒童主日學，以及一對一聖經陪讀與輔導中，訓練年輕女孩及婦女們成為門徒，以生命教導姊妹們，緊緊跟隨主耶穌，藉由這些婦女們的代代相傳，第三代的門徒正在持續不斷地繁衍增長中。

在 1998 年，潘牧師偕同伴隨彭德郎牧師到達菲律賓，為要拜訪一位長老牧者，因〈台北崇真堂〉委任他，託付給他一個使命，要在馬尼拉的中國人中服事，崇真教會聯會的宣教異象，就在這些年間延伸開展，行出去。

自從應允了彭德郎牧師的邀請，於 2000 年，潘牧師協助來自印尼~加里曼丹到達台灣服事的鍾華操牧師，兩人一起負責分擔屬於崇真聯會之下的〈新豐崇真堂〉因而，透過鍾牧師及他的妻子，許多當地兩國聯姻的同工--印尼籍或客家人，都被吸引來到此新豐教會聚會及服事哩。

● 宣教的擴展：中台灣契與客神

為了顧及宣教的領袖責任，潘牧師家選擇了在台中定居，之後，潘牧師協助客家教會領袖，建立了中台灣每月一次的〈客家信徒團契〉，由於他們的鼓勵，因而，也延伸到尚未接觸的其他台灣中部的客家居民，尤其是在台中及東勢。這個信徒團契是由當地客家牧師及信徒領袖所主導，他們也為所有參加此團契的信徒們，提供鼓勵與支持。幾年前，潘牧師在竹東的「客家宣教神學院」曾成為一位院務委員，多年來，佐以行政事務的服事，也有機會與職責參訪此學院及拜訪師生，就憶起當時全院正預備著參與在全台客家的復興之中，迎接〈教會拓植增長：2005~2014 十年倍加運動〉的來臨。

● 艱難傷痛中得安慰

於 2010 年，潘牧師全家經歷了一個艱難的時刻。藉此，上帝向他們證實了祂永不改變的慈愛與信實。他們的大女兒~藹玫從台灣返美並完成大學教育，然後，她在一所基督教學校服事，成為一位教師，在這年一月的一個早晨，她開車前往學校的路途中，

發生車禍逝世了，當許多朋友與領袖們聚集在台灣為她聚集追思哀悼時，潘牧師心裡受到安慰；不久之後，在同年的 2010，潘牧師自己也因騎機車發生車禍而受傷，在等待復原之時，再一次地發現並感受到許多前來拜訪之朋友們的照顧，給予他極大的安慰。在 2012 年，上帝呼召潘牧師與師母返回美國，為要一邊照顧年邁的母親與岳母，同時也繼續在〈國際差傳協會〉服事。目前，潘牧師是擔任此協會全球化工事工的協理主任，在國際宣教部服事工作。

●獻上感恩



潘牧師十分地感謝上帝的恩典，帶領他經歷這超過三十年來在台灣與亞洲的服事。因主自己的憐憫，他們感謝上帝，在中壢與新豐兩地，親自建造穩固根基，以至於使信徒會眾得以恆久持續，並不斷增長繁衍。提到同工共事之時，他們極讚賞客家同工的工作，為了紀念客家會友的先祖與家庭成員，一起齊心努力發展符合現況處境的策略，以珍視客家的文化與風俗習慣；他們為此禱告，祈願客家鄉親能經歷到上帝的恩典與憐憫，就被吸引而歸信主耶穌基督，他們也感謝上帝有此機會督導幾個此地的弟兄姊妹，他們已將人生精華全部投入多年，服事了主基督；甚至，有的是在其他國家內。在台灣，當他們與親愛的客家同工，也是僕人與領袖共事時，就深深被他們的榜樣所挑戰與激勵，正如保羅所描述的：「我們原不是傳自己，乃是傳基督耶穌為主，並且自己因耶穌做你們的僕人」

●參考資料

從潘天信牧師本人 2016.11.24 所惠賜的電郵 Mail 英文篇 "Our Call and Service to the Hakka People of Taiwan" /如下文/翻譯英文成爲此中文篇/何等榮幸獲得客神副院長「何榮泰長老」的審稿及校對~獻上感恩。

Scott and Leslie Powell

SEND International (國際差傳協會)

“Our Call and Service to the Hakka People of Taiwan”

Rev. Scott Powell was born to Christian parents who were responding to the call for mission workers in Asia. God directed Scott's parents to remain in the U.S., where his father served as a pastor and teacher until he died at the age of 57. Scott's mother taught children in Christian schools, and eventually answered God's call to Taiwan in 1987 where she served for a year, and later to India, where she served for a year at the age of 76. Scott came to the knowledge of Jesus Christ and put his faith in His saving grace at the age of five through the teaching of his parents. He soon realized that he had a responsibility to share the saving power of Jesus Christ with his friends and classmates.

Through a serious health crisis, Scott understood in a fresh way the truth that “you are not your own, for you were bought with a price.” He committed his life to serving Jesus Christ, and soon understood that God's call was to make disciples among those who had little opportunity to know of God's saving love in Jesus Christ in Asia. As Scott and Leslie began their married life, they prayed for God's direction to the specific place and people He desired for them to serve.

In 1982 Scott and Leslie were asked to pray about God's call to serve the Hakka people of Taiwan, and to see church fellowships established of Hakka believers who could then bring God's grace and transforming power to their families and towns. As they prayed and asked their church leaders for their counsel, God confirmed His call to serve among the Hakka-speaking residents of Taiwan.

In 1984 the Powells were appointed by SEND International to serve in Taiwan, and to establish church fellowships among the Hakka-speaking communities. They arrived in Taiwan on October 11, 1985 with two small children. As SEND International considered expanding its Hakka ministry to the north of Taiwan, Rev. Peng Deh-Lang and other leaders of the Tsung Tsen Tang and Hakka Evangelistic Association visited the mission office in Taichung and offered encouragement. After two years of Mandarin language study in Taichung, on August 15, 1987 we moved to the Sung Wu community near Chungli in order to begin to establish relationships with local Hakka neighbors and friends, and to establish a church to reach Hakka Taiwanese living around Chungli. Along with Mandarin language study, Scott began to learn Hakka language to converse with older neighbors. We were joined by Ms. Isabel Lee (李貝文) from the U.S. and Pastor Ernst Malich (馬天業) and his family from Germany to see this fellowship develop and multiply.

After several years of community service and building bridges to local residents of Ping Chen and Chungli, two believers were baptized and the SEND team began to lead Sunday worship times in September 1990. This was the beginning of the “Chungli Hakka Gospel Center” and later, the Chungli Tsung Tsen Church.

The year 1996 marked three significant events. The Chungli church had grown to about 14 believers, and we prayed for a local Hakka pastor to shepherd the fellowship to see more disciples made. In July 1996 God led Pastor Huang Cheng-Hsi and his family to serve in Chungli. This brought a great encouragement to the believers, and the Huangs sacrificially and faithfully served this fellowship of believers for the next fourteen years. Also in 1996 the Tsung Tsen Tang Association of Hakka churches accepted the Chungli Hakka Gospel Center as a member church of the Association. Members of the Chungli church have been blessed by the support and fellowship of the other church fellowships of the Tsung Tsen Association. The third event of 1996 was a new direction in the work of SEND International in Taiwan. Scott consulted with SEND's International Director and, with his support, began to develop opportunities for Taiwanese believers to step out into cross-cultural mission service in places outside of Taiwan. Eventually this led to the formation of a “sending function” and a sending office of SEND in Taiwan. This office and staff

formally facilitated three long term mission workers fully supported by Taiwan churches that served in Russia, China and Japan with SEND International.

From 1997 to 2000 the Powells assisted others in establishing the Hsinfeng Tsung Tsen Church north of Hsinchu. Through community English language classes, youth activities, and other community services, local residents heard the Good News of Jesus saving power, and a group of believers formed in Hsinfeng. Leslie served with others to disciple young girls and women in summer camp, in church children's classes, and in personal Bible study and mentoring relationships with women to be followers of Jesus. Through several of these women a third generation of disciples continues to grow.

In 1998 Scott accompanied Pastor Peng Deh-Lang to the Philippines in order to visit an elder who was commissioned by the Taipei Tsung Tsen Church to serve among Chinese in Manila. The mission vision of the Tsung Tsen Association of churches developed in these years.

At the request of Pastor Peng, in 2000 Scott assisted Pastor Chung Hua-Tsao who had come to Taiwan from Kalimantan, Indonesia to assume responsibility for the Hsinfeng church under the Tsung Tsen Association. Many local Indonesian Hakka contract workers were attracted to the Hsinfeng church through Pastor Chung and his wife.

After the Powells relocated to Taichung to care for mission leadership responsibilities, Scott assisted Hakka church leaders to establish a monthly central Taiwan Hakka fellowship of believers, for their encouragement and to extend the outreach to Hakka residents of central Taiwan, especially in Taichung and Tungshih. This fellowship was led by local Hakka pastors and lay leaders, and provided encouragement and support for those believers who attended this fellowship. Scott served for several years as a member of the governing board of the Hakka Mission Seminary in Chutung, and was privileged to visit the school and students as they prepared to join the "Doubling in Ten Years" movement of church planting among Taiwan's Hakka communities.

God proved His loving faithfulness to the Powells through a difficult time in 2010. Their older daughter, Aimee, returned from Taiwan for her college education, and then served in a Christian school as a teacher. She was killed in a vehicle accident as she drove to the school one morning in January. The Powells were comforted as many friends and leaders gathered in Taiwan to celebrate her life. Scott was injured in a motorcycle accident later in 2010, and again found great comfort in the care and comfort of many friends who visited him as he recovered. God called Scott and Leslie to return to the U.S. in 2012 in order to care for their ageing mothers as they continue to serve with SEND International. Scott presently is the Assistant Director of Globalization and he serves in the International Office of the mission.

Scott is grateful for God's grace through over thirty years of service in Taiwan and in Asia. We thank God for His mercy in establishing a foundation for lasting and multiplying fellowships of believers in Chungli and in Hsinfeng. We appreciate the work of our Hakka colleagues as we worked to develop contextualized approaches for memorials of Hakka believers' ancestors and family members, valuing Hakka culture and customs. We pray many Hakka compatriots will be drawn to faith in Christ as they experience His grace and mercy. We also thank God for the opportunity to mentor several men and women who have gone further in a life of service to Christ, even in other nations. As we have served with dear Hakka fellow servant-leaders in Taiwan, we are challenged by their example as expressed through Paul: “我們原不是傳自己，乃是傳基督耶穌為主，並且自己因耶穌做你們的僕人。”