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UNLEASHING THE GOSPEL



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First Baptist Church Subang Jaya

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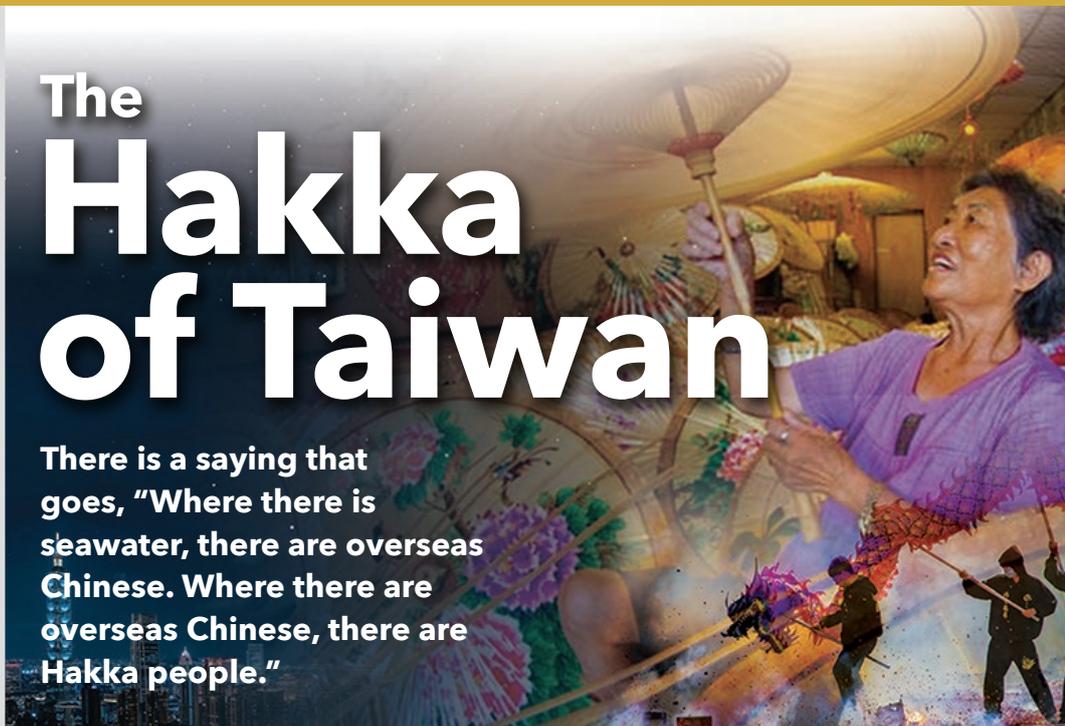
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The Hakka of Taiwan

There is a saying that goes, "Where there is seawater, there are overseas Chinese. Where there are overseas Chinese, there are Hakka people."



SCAN or CLICK on QR code to find out more

First Baptist Church (E) Subang Jaya
38 Jln Ss 17/1D, 47500 Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.

Telephone :
+03 5621 2623

Email : fbc.subangfamily@gmail.com

Though the history of the Hakka people is not as well recorded, there is enough to draw a general map of how the Hakka came to be. Early Hakka were forced to leave their hometowns to flee war or poverty, and have been "guests" in foreign communities most of their life. This gave rise to them being called Hakka, or literally translated, "Guest People". Eventually, most risked their lives to move overseas; however, they likewise had to survive wars, disasters, oppression, exploitation, and cruel persecution from colonialists. Nonetheless, their

hard-working, frugal, and courageous nature fueled their resilience.

They settled down, blended in with the local community, built homes and businesses, and took roots wherever they went. But they never lost who they were. It has been several hundred years since they migrated to Taiwan, but much of their living habits and lifestyle remain largely unchanged. They stay together in close-knit and family-oriented communities, and stick to their language, customs, and traditions. They also remember how hard they

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had to work in order to survive with very limited resources, and so are frugal and hard-working - even the rich among them are not wasteful. It was also such circumstances that kept the women from feet-binding, since they had to work in the rice paddy. Hakka women played a very important role as producers and managers of family finances and housework, and contributed much to the social economy. Today, it is still mostly the Hakka women who tend to their tea plantations.

But the strongest bond within the community is ancestral worship, which takes place in 2 seasons according to the lunar calendar. Although many Hakka now move out for work, they make it a point to come home for tomb sweeping and ancestor worship. In the spring, the Hakka would sweep the tombs of ancestors and then visit the ancestral shrine or temple in the autumn. Sacrificial offerings would mainly comprise of pork, fish, chicken, and fruits. In some cases, it would be pork, fish, chicken, duck, and eggs. These ceremonies are solemn, and are often

accompanied by Bayin music to create a solemn atmosphere. During tomb sweeping, the Hakka would place a large piece of grass paper with a small piece of red paper sprinkled with chicken blood on top of the head of the tomb. Then, they would place twelve pieces of small grass paper on the back of the tomb, or the "Twelve Pieces of Paper of Respect", which represent the twelve months of the year. In the event of a thirteenth month on the lunar calendar, thirteen pieces of paper are placed.

Taiwan is making headlines today for how they have been handling the pandemic, though they have always been one of the favourite travel destinations in East Asia. The island country boasts of a variety of tea, food, and cultural heritage - and the Hakka are one of the major contributors. We can't fly to Taiwan yet to visit the Hakka and see their crafts and opera, but we can see a glimpse of a Hakka village through this [video](#). And if you want to hear excerpts of the Bible read in Hakka, you can do so through this [link](#). 🎧

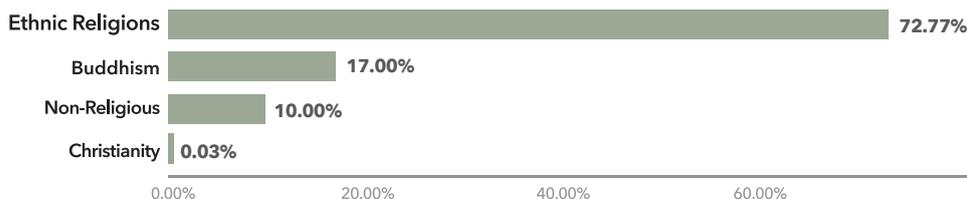
Challenge for Prayer:

- Praise God that more churches are praying for and ministering to the Hakka in their communities.
- Pray for Hakka families to be united in faith in Christ; for god-shelves and ancestral altars to be removed from homes; for Hakka believers to be disciplined and trained to take God's message to their families and communities.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to reach into hearts and draw people into God's kingdom as they choose Christ over gods, ancestors, and traditions.
- Pray for missionaries, as well as spiritual, educational, and financial resources.
- Pray for your unbelieving friends from the Hakka background.

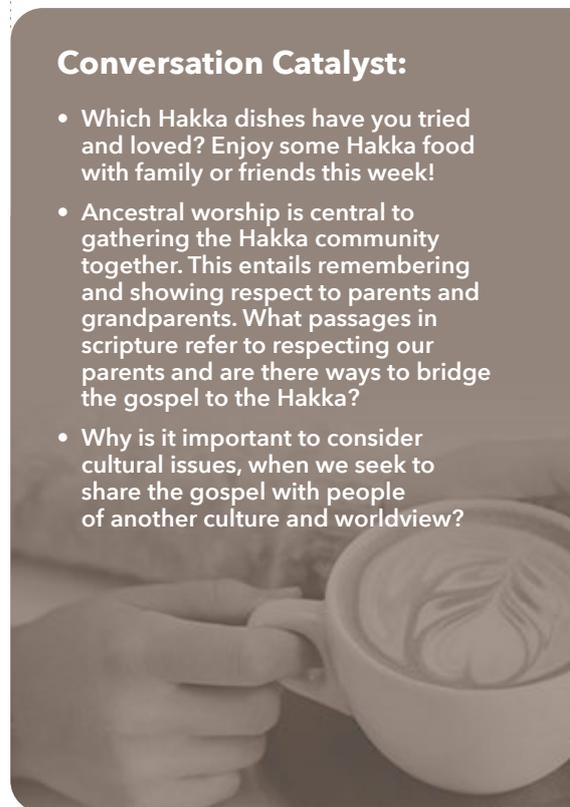
Conversation Catalyst:

- Which Hakka dishes have you tried and loved? Enjoy some Hakka food with family or friends this week!
- Ancestral worship is central to gathering the Hakka community together. This entails remembering and showing respect to parents and grandparents. What passages in scripture refer to respecting our parents and are there ways to bridge the gospel to the Hakka?
- Why is it important to consider cultural issues, when we seek to share the gospel with people of another culture and worldview?

Major Religions in the Hakka Community



Sources:
<https://taiwaneverything.cc/2020/10/08/hakka-people/>
https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12054/TW
<https://english.hakka.gov.tw/Content/Content?NodelD=676&PagelD=40022&LanguageType=ENG>
<https://english.hakka.gov.tw/Content/Content?NodelD=676&PagelD=39922&LanguageType=ENG>
<https://www.om.org/en/news/discipling-hakka>
<https://www.imb.org/prayer/people-of-central-taiwan-18/>



HAKKA



OF TAIWAN



1 **20%** of Taiwan's population are Hakka

2 They speak **5 main dialects:** Sixian, Hailu, Daipu, Zhoan, Raoping & **6 minor dialects:** Xihai, Yongding, Fengshun, Wuping, Wuhua & Jiexi

3 The Hakka were **the first** Chinese to enter South Taiwan in 7th Century AD

4 They are known to have renowned devotion to **family, clan, community & frugality**

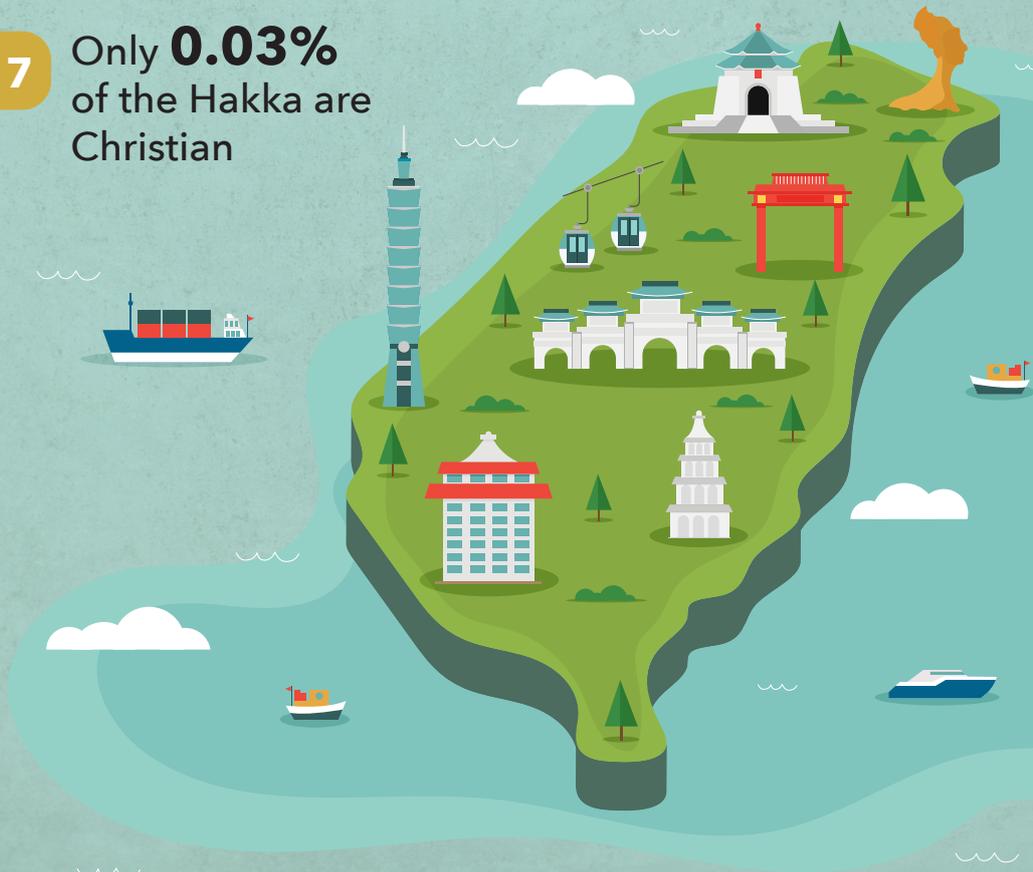
5 They also place a great emphasis on **education** and believe that "knowledge is better than money"

6 **A fully translated bible** has been available in Hakka since 2014

7 Only **0.03%** of the Hakka are Christian

8 Like most of Taiwan, **ancestral worship** is very strong within the Hakka community

9 For a Hakka, becoming a **Christian** feels like **disowning** their whole family





WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?



By Parimalam Balasubramaniam
*Pari is the ministry leader in
FBC's Missions Department.*

As we are still at the cusp of a new year, "What are you looking for this year?" Often people ask about resolutions, perhaps plans and hopes for the new year. But Jesus' question in the passage of John 1: 29-42 echoes in my mind and heart, "What are you looking for?"

The story begins with John the Baptist upon seeing Jesus walk by. Not only does he recognise him as the Lamb of God, but also points him out to two disciples with him which led to the two disciples following Jesus and Jesus asking them, "What are you looking for?". The disciples having heard about Jesus through John the Baptist were probably curious and answered by asking Jesus where he was staying. Jesus simply offered an invitation "come and see".

I imagine myself in the place of the two disciples, following behind Jesus, watching, listening. The year gone by was unprecedented and for most people a very trying time. The pandemic and its effects coupled with the political manoeuvrings, disrupted our lives. It was personally for me, a year of great upheaval with many changes and transitions in my ministry. So as the new year dawns,

still with so much unknown, Jesus' question "What are you looking for?" is like a sieve, sifting through my thoughts, motivations and longings. But then I hear his invitation to "come and see". My heart is thudding so loud, I am sure Jesus can hear my heartbeat as I walk with him. The God who created heaven and earth is inviting me! It's an invitation to lean into God, to watch and listen and encounter him.. Unlike the two disciples though, today, I cannot physically see Jesus. But Scripture tells us that God speaks to us through the Son and the Son is the Word, become flesh (Hebrew 1:1, John 1:1, 14). Leaning into God is leaning into scripture, to pay attention and encounter the living God.

Back to the story of the two disciples. They spent a few hours with Jesus and having seen and heard, Andrew could not hold it in. He quickly went to his brother Simon Peter and declared "we have found the Messiah". Bringing him to see Jesus for himself, resulted in faith and the brothers being counted among the 12 closest to Jesus. Like Andrew, when we truly encounter God, everything changes. Our thinking, behaving and purposes such that we cannot but help tell others about God. Jesus' invitation is not only for personal consumption.

God's invitation to come is one that brings life to us and the others who are yet to call on the name of Jesus. So beautifully described in Isaiah 55, the Lord bids us to come, listen, eat, delight, give ear, see, seek, let and promises it will result in joy, peace, becoming a witness, flourishing, yielding fruit, accomplishing God's purposes & be to the Lord's renown. In the story of John 1 it all began with the simple act of John the Baptist pointing out Jesus to the two. A simple act that led to changed lives and God's purposes accomplished.

Today as a follower of Christ, what are you looking for? As a church we want to see the Gospel Unleashed in our own lives, to other communities and the world beyond. But it begins with accepting the invitation from Jesus to come and see, to lean into God. The end result will be God's purposes accomplished for his renown. 🙏

For Reflection:

- What are 1 or 2 spiritual practices such as fasting, prayer, silence, simplicity, that you can inculcate to accept God's invitation to come and see?
- Are you actively pointing out Jesus to those around you? What are ways you can point out Jesus through your everyday life?

FBC NEEDS YOU

Are You Wondering How
You Can Serve God In Church?
Find Your Opportunity Here:



1. Creative & Communications

We are looking for videographers and video editors. You will be involved in recording and editing videos that engage the FBC family.



2. AV Team

We are looking for sound engineers. You will be involved in mixing audio for recorded content to help make Sunday services happen!



3. Sunday School

We are looking for teachers. (Men, especially!) You will be involved in facilitating Sunday School classes and building relationships with the children of FBC.



4. Alpha

We are looking for facilitators and befrienders. You will be involved in creating a safe space where people from all walks of life can discuss faith, life, and God.



5. When The Word Comes Alive

We are looking for moderators. You will be involved in facilitating lively and enriching discussion sessions about Christian living. (Questions will be provided.)



Call the church office
to sign up today!
03-5621 2623

| Pulpit Program

February 7, 2021

The Norms of the Kingdom: Poor in Spirit and Mournful

(Matthew 5:1-4)



PREACHER
Dr. Peter Ng

February 14, 2021

The Norms of the Kingdom: Merciful and Pure

(Matthew 5:7-8)



PREACHER
Samuel Khew

February 21, 2021

The Norms of the Kingdom: Peacemakers & Persecuted

(Matthew 5:9-12)



PREACHER
Ps. Joash Chan

February 28, 2021

The Norms of the Kingdom: Meek and Hungry

(Matthew 5:5-6)



PREACHER
Alex Tan

| Worship with Us



MAIN

| ONLINE |
Sundays 8:45am



YOUTH

| ZOOM |
Sundays 9:00am



SUNDAY SCHOOL

for ages 0-12yrs
| ZOOM |
Sundays



Call office to know more:
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PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

Sunday School Ministry



1. Pray for the team of teachers who have been faithfully serving in Sunday School Ministry (SSM). Give thanks for their dedication to serve every week.

2. Pray for more people to serve as teachers/ helpers in SSM, and the need for men teachers to mentor pre-teen boys before they move on to Youth.

3. Pray that the online training sessions organized by SSM will better equip SS teachers to ensure that lessons are Christ-centered, interactive, and interesting for the children.

4. Pray for parents to partner SS teachers in the spiritual development of their children by reviewing the Bible lessons taught each week and spending time in prayer together.

5. Pray for the children's enthusiasm and willingness to continue attending and inviting their friends to join the weekly Zoom SS class.

| Upcoming Events

Click on the respective events for more information.



**Is the Gospel
Too Western for
the Chinese?**
With I'Ching Thomas

7 February (Today)
2:00pm to 3:30pm

Zoom ID :
849 0529 3765

Password : **FBCMission**



**Is There More
to Life Than This?**

Every Wednesday
8:00pm to 9:30pm

CLICK to register.



**INSIGHTS FOR
The Persevering
Disciple**

**Study on The Book
of Revelation**

Link:
<https://fbc.com.my/gamma>
Password: **fbcgamma**



**Every Saturday
to Thursday**
9:00pm

Zoom ID:
929 735 694

Password : **pray**



Encountering God
27 February (Saturday)
2:00 to 3:30pm

Zoom ID:
851 5039 1038

Password: **pray**

[Click Here For The Full List of Programs](#)