

PROFILE



REV. DR. PAUL MCLEAN TAIWAN

Paul has been serving as a Bible Translation Adviser in partnership with The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) and The Bible Society in Taiwan (BSTWN) since 2012.

Currently, Paul is helping six indigenous Bible translation teams whose ethnic groups range from 200,000 to 6,000 people: 'Amis, Paiwan, Tayal, Bunun, Pinuyumayan and Tsou (Cou). Most of the teams are completing their Old Testament translations and making revisions to their previously published New Testaments. The Pinuyumayan team is translating the New Testament for the very first time. Paul also makes contributions towards a new revision of *Today's Chinese Version* of the Bible and the *Chinese Union Version Study Bible*, two Mandarin-Chinese projects sponsored by the BSTWN.

Paul is based in Toronto where he reviews computerized draft translations and communicates with his coworkers via the internet. During four month-long visits to Taiwan, Paul and his coworkers review their work together in person. He also visits indigenous and Hakka churches around the island where he preaches and promotes the new translations.

In 2012, after 28 years of committed team work, *Today's Taiwan Hakka Version* of the Bible was published. Taiwan has over three million Hakka people, yet only three in a thousand are Christians. Paul and his coworkers rejoice that Hakka people can now read the good news of Jesus Christ in their own mother tongue. The indigenous Ngudradrekai (Drekay) team also spent nearly 30 years translating their Bible. Paul worked with this team over the last five years of the project. In July 2017, 3000 copies were printed for Taiwan's 13,000 Ngudradrekai people, almost all of whom are Christians. They hope God will use the new Bible to strengthen their churches and families, and preserve and promote the minority Ngudradrekai language.

Other indigenous groups in Taiwan have been eager to have the whole Bible in their own language. In 2016, the BSTWN asked Paul to serve as the Translation Adviser for a new Tayal project. The Tayal NT was translated in the 1950s-1970s with help from PCC missionaries Clare and Grace McGill. The current Tayal team hopes to complete their OT and revise the NT for publication in 2021. In 2018, the BSTWN asked Paul to advise the Tsou team as they translate the OT; their NT was published in 2014.

Paul studied Applied Mathematics at the University of Waterloo, then graduated from Knox College in 1982. Called to cross-cultural mission work in Taiwan, he, his wife Mary Beth and their young family lived in Hakka communities over the next 12 years (1983-1995). Between 1993-1996, Paul also provided computer support for two indigenous Bible translation projects, 'Amis and Truku.

When the McLeans moved back to Canada in 1995, Paul pursued doctoral studies through Knox College and the University of Toronto. He focused on the Hebrew Bible (OT) and how it was translated in the Greek Septuagint, hoping that someday God might reopen the door for him to apply his knowledge of ancient and modern Bible translation back in Taiwan.

Paul and Mary Beth have three adult sons: Andrew (married to Heather), Peter and Mark (married to Sophia), plus four grandchildren.

