

PROFILE



REV. DR. PAUL MCLEAN TAIWAN

Since 2004, Paul McLean has worked as a full-time Bible translation consultant in partnership with The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) and The Bible Society in Taiwan (BSTWN). His main responsibility has been to help a team of 20 Hakka pastors and elders ensure that their translation of the Bible is an accurate rendering of the meaning of the Hebrew Old Testament and the Greek New Testament.

In April 2012, after more than 26 years of committed team work, *Today's Taiwan Hakka Version* of the Bible (Old & New Testaments) was published and presented to Hakka churches. Paul and the translation team are deeply grateful for God's steadfast love and faithfulness over the years, and rejoice that Hakka people can now read and understand the good news of Jesus Christ in their own mother tongue. The name Hakka means "guest families" and refers to their identity as the "sojourners" within the large family of Chinese ethnic groups. Of Taiwan's 3-4 million Hakka people, only 2 or 3 in a thousand are Christians.

Paul is now helping several indigenous groups (Amis, Drekay, Paiwan and Bunun) complete their Old Testament translations. He is also one of the Old Testament editors for the Chinese Union Version Study Bible sponsored by the BSTWN. Paul lives 7-8 months of the year with his family in Toronto where he carefully reviews computerized draft translations and where he can correspond with his co-workers via the internet. During three or four intensive 6-week visits to Taiwan, Paul and his coworkers finalize their work together. On each trip he visits Hakka churches around the island where he preaches and promotes the new Hakka Bible.

Paul grew up in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Brampton, ON. After studies in Applied Mathematics at the University of Waterloo, he felt God's call to full-time ministry. He graduated from Knox College in 1982. Offering himself for overseas service in Taiwan, he began an exciting cross-cultural journey in which he became "a Canadian grain of wheat planted in a Hakka rice field". Paul's name in Hakka is "Mak Muk-su" or "Pastor-teacher Wheat." He and his young family lived beside Hakka rice fields and in Hakka cities during their 12 years in Taiwan (1983-1995). During that first period of missionary service, Paul worked with the PCT's Hakka Mission Centre and helped the Hakka team translate the New Testament & Psalms (published in 1993, revised version 2012) then Proverbs (published in 1995, revised version 2012). In 1993-1996 he provided technical help to the Amis and Truku Bible translation projects supported by the PCT and the BSTWN.

After 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 Old Testament and its translation in the Greek Septuagint, with the hope that some day God would allow him to apply his knowledge of ancient and modern Bible translation back in Taiwan.

Paul is married to Mary Beth who is the Finance Administrative Assistant for the Life and Mission Agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. They have three sons: Andrew (married to Heather), Peter and Mark (married to Sophia), plus two grandchildren, Ian and Fiona.

