



7 February 2018

TO: PCT PARTNER CHURCHES and ECUMENICAL ORGANIZATIONS

Dear Sisters and Brothers

Concerning Earthquake in Hualien, Taiwan on 6 February 2018

Many of you will have already heard through international news and social media of the recent spate of earthquakes that have raised concern in our country. Last night 6 February 2018 (Taiwan time), 11:50 a 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck with its epicenter just off the East Coast of Hualien City and Hualien County. At time of writing the current fatalities reported stands at four persons with a further 219 injured and 173 persons unaccounted for. Rescue work continues and residents are being cared for in temporary accommodation/shelters. Five buildings in Hualien City are reported seriously damaged and/or tilting in addition to infrastructure damage to roads and water pipes etc.. As is the norm in disaster response the initial critical focus is on the rescue efforts and care of the victims. In the coming days as thorough assessments are carried out it will become clearer as to the full extent of the damage.

Concerning the PCT disaster response, our teams are already in action under the leadership of our Programme Secretary for Church and Society, **Rev. Lim Ui-lian** and Programme Secretary for Indigenous Church and Society, **Rev. Omi Wilang**. A response and rescue centre was immediately established at Hualien Kang Presbyterian Church, under the direction of Rev. Lin who is at the site. In the PCT General Assembly Office, Rev. Omi is coordinating the assessment team in conjunction with our PCT indigenous churches and communities in four Presbyteries in the affected area namely, East Presbytery, Truku Presbytery, Pangcah (Amis) Presbytery and Bunun Presbytery.

Please pray for the victims and their families and the rescue workers especially their health and wellbeing; our country is experiencing a very cold spell and rain fall in many areas the recent weeks. Currently Taiwan's educational institutions are on winter vacation and the major Lunar New Year national holidays is fast approaching (15-20 February); the current disaster inevitably is impacting the tourists and hospitality industries in the affected area.

PCT 06/02 Earthquake disaster response fund is already established, if you desire to give a donation please visit PCT web (Giving and Supporting): <http://english.pct.org.tw/enGnS.htm>

Last but not least, on behalf of the victims and the response teams the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) express our sincere gratitude for the several messages already received from our international partners and friends. Each time such a natural tragedy occurs it is of immense comfort and strength to know sisters and brothers around the globe are praying with us and supporting those afflicted in their times of pain and deep sorrow. Thank you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

陳明志 牧師 議長

Rev. Tan Beng-Chi
PCT Moderator, 62nd General Assembly

林芳仲 牧師 總幹事

Rev. Lyim Hong-Tiong
PCT General Secretary

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