

# **The Messengers on the Bike**

## **--A case study of LDS missionaries' life in Taipei**

Yang Shu-An 楊舒安

Chen Tzu-Yin 陳姿吟

**Taipei First Girl' Senior High School**

二年忠班

### **I Introduction**

#### 1. Research Motive

Walking on the street in Taipei, we can often see some foreigners wearing well-pressed suit, riding bicycles and chatting with people on the street enthusiastically. In fact, they are Mormonism missionaries.

We are curious and at the same time afraid when we face these Mormonism missionaries. It is not easy for people to accept their Church. Not only is the reason the incomprehension of their religion but also the language barrier. What are worse, people might misunderstand and repel them. At the thought of Mormon, people often make connection with the image of a strange religion which is regarded as heathenism. Actually it is not appropriate to call them Mormon. Although the Church accepts the name of Mormon, they prefer "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints" to Mormon. "The LDS Church is the largest of the denominations from the Latter Day Saint movement that claim to be a continuation of the Church of Christ, founded by Joseph Smith, Jr. on April 6, 1830 in New York. The church rapidly gained a large

following of individuals that viewed Joseph Smith as their prophet. During the twentieth century, the church experienced a period of strong growth resulting from both a high birth rate and extensive proselytism. Since the 1990s, the church's growth rate has moderated, but the church continues to gain approximately 300,000 new members annually.”<sup>1</sup>

In Taiwan, LDS is well-known for their missionary works. The missionaries would leave their own country and go abroad to itinerate for about one year. The compulsory missionary work not merely helps spread the religious principles but let the young missionaries learn more things different from their former cognition. In spite of various obstacles, missionaries still dedicate themselves to the Church with great passion. We can not help but wonder about these enthusiastic missionaries.

## 2. Research Purpose

We are curious about these missionaries, so we expect to discover the real concept of the missionaries and more information through this study. Have they gone through any difficulties in Taiwan? What do they feel about being in foreign countries? Is there any culture shock? What kinds of life do they live in Taiwan? We hope to understand their life in Taiwan and discuss the difficulties and problems they might be confronted with. Besides, what kinds of impacts do the compulsory missionary works have on missionaries? Will they learn an entirely different culture? Or do they just learn a foreign language? What do they think of the compulsory missionary work? Finally, we anticipate clarifying the misapprehension of LDS by interviews.

## 3. Research Methods

In order to conduct our research, we interviewed three missionaries and gave out 100 questionnaires. The interview was divided into five parts- the reason of missionary work, the missionaries' life in Taiwan, the missionary work in Taiwan, the discipline in the church, and future plans. The questionnaire is about the public opinion about the LDS missionaries.

## II Thesis

We will discuss under the following parts: interview part A, questionnaire analysis, and interview part B. Conducting our research, we first interviewed two LDS missionaries and then gave out questionnaires. After we finished these two sections, we thought that our research would not be complete without another interview. So we interviewed another missionary.

- Interview Part A

We interviewed two missionaries working in headquarter of the LDS church in Taipei. The female missionary has stayed in Taiwan for eighteen months: the male missionary has stayed here for three months.

### 1. The reason of missionary work

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the fifth church now in America. Now its head quarter is at Utah, and most of religious followers are from Utah. To date, there are over five million followers in USA, and there are more than one hundred million believers all over the world. To say the least, it could be referred as one of the most influential religions worldwide. For the more, the church has done missionary work in Taiwan over fifty years. The missionaries' enthusiasm and great efforts enable the church to expand faster in Taiwan.

Through the interview, we could infer that most LDS missionaries come from Utah. Generally, the missionaries would stay in Taiwan about one and half a year, no more than two years. Because the most missionaries haven't been to Taiwan before, they have to receive some training before they go abroad to do missionary works. They usually spend several months learning a new language. Some learn on their own, others learn from the textbook given by the church. In addition, they need to have good conversational skills and convincing speech, so they have to learn how to teach other with their belief and messages from god.

The church claimed that the main purpose of the establishment is to help all the children of Heavenly Father have eternal lives. There are three vocations in the church; one of the vocations is doing missionary work. Missionaries should share the gospel to others but they couldn't force other people to accept their belief. The fifteenth President Gordon B. Hinckley once said that the missionaries could bring better lives to people and their families. He also said that the country would change because people's hearts were full of respect and love. From our point of view, the missionaries are more willing to do missionary works oversea due to such a strong sense of responsibility,

According to the interview, we found the truth that they believe in is deep-rooted and can't be changed. The reason why they decided to do missionary work, all the same, is to deliver their belief and the gospel.

In terms of family background, most missionaries' families support this belief and agree their children to do missionary works. "Most believes convert to Mormonism as entire families"<sup>2</sup> relates Jared Yang, chairman of the LDS Church's Taipei Key City Public Affairs Council.

However, from the missionaries' point of view, they might face lots of pressure in oversea missionary works. For example, if the missionaries already had a job in their own country, they would have no income during these two years. Or they have to break off their studies. At the same time, the missionaries might sacrifice their lives, family and time in order to do missionary works. Missioner M indicated that they sacrificed money and family just to come here.

## 2. The missionaries' life in Taiwan

### 1. Culture shock

All the interviewees indicated that language is the biggest problem. Although they had already received language training before they came to Taiwan, there are still unexpected language barriers existing. The missionaries seldom discouraged when they faced the difficulties. On the contrary, they thought the more they talk to others, the more they could improve their Mandarin.

Besides language, food is another culture shock. One of the missionaries we interviewed dislikes stinky tofu. Another missionary thinks animal's organs soup (such as pork liver soup) is very delicious.

On the other hand, one of the missionaries we interviewed was surprised at the enthusiasm of Taiwanese. In fact, she never expected that Taiwanese would be so friendly to foreigners. "And everybody is so helpful to me, I can't speak Chinese, so when I go shopping, and I need help, and the strangers just stopped what they were doing and come to help me."<sup>3</sup> She even said that there are few people in her own country willing to help others. Last, the traffic is a big trouble. The missionaries have to ride bike though the cars and motorcycles. It is very different from the missionaries' own country.

## 2. Interesting experiences

Missioner M indicated that working with other missionaries is the most interesting experience. They all devoted themselves to the church. They speak same language; they believe in the same principles; they love the messages they send to people. Even more they all love doing missionary work.

This kind of faith let us associate the LDS with Tzu Chi Foundation. They devote themselves to social works, too. Certainly sometimes there are conflicts between the missionaries and their families. But these kinds of conflicts seldom happen to the LDS. "Most believes convert to Mormonism as entire families"<sup>4</sup> relates Jared Yang, chairman of the LDS Church's Taipei Key City Public Affairs Council.

## 3. Impressions on Taiwan

"A lot of people" was the first impression that most missionaries had when they got here. After a few months, they still think there are a lot of people here. The only difference is a lot of "good" people. Most missionaries have positive impressions about Taiwan. Because this is their first time come to Taiwan, we can not compare the changes of Taiwan between ages.

### 3. The missionary work in Taiwan

## 1. Daily schedule

The missionaries' daily routines are very regular. Their schedules are well-planned. They spend more than eleven hours doing missionary work every day. They catch every chance to talk to people. The schedules are as follows:

6:30-wake up

6:30 to 7:00-exercise.

7:00 to 8:00- get ready for the day

8:00 to 10:00- study

10:00 to 10:30-study language

10:30-21:00-go outside to talk to people

## 2. Start a conversation.

Through the interviews, the missionaries revealed the way they communicate with others on the street. They usually choose the people who are looking at them curiously. Then, they walk to people and start talking with greetings. If the person acts kindly and friendly, they can have further contact.

## 3. Difficulties

There are many difficulties when the missionaries get along with people. Above all the problems, language is the hardest part to the foreign missionaries. Lots of the missionaries said that they only had a short period of time learning language and they have not been here for a long time, so they might face obstacles communicating with people. To improve their Chinese, the missionaries often practice with Taiwanese partner. In addition, they have to learn how to take rejection well. Missioner M said, "They are too busy to listen to the missionaries. Normally people who take the time to listen to the missionaries will find interesting, find something they are interested."<sup>5</sup>

Sometimes they would meet people from other religious groups. The general public might think that since they have different opinions about the truth, they might have conflicts. But the missionaries we interviewed claimed that the LDS missionaries were here not for argument but for gospel delivery. Some principles are the same; some are different. They just want to help others understand the church more. They will never force others because they respect other religious groups.

#### 4. Values

##### 1. The discipline in the church

The disciplines of LDS actually bring a lot of limits to the members, like no smoking and no drinking. According to the interview, the missionaries don't consider the rules to be limit. On the contrary, they regard the rules as good protection. " They are very smart because they protect us."<sup>6</sup> They even think this kind of rules let them have longer lives, higher education rates and lower divorcing rates. "I very much appreciate the rules cause they made my life better."<sup>7</sup>

##### 2. Gender equality

We could find that there used to be gender inequality in LDS from the literature. But in the conversation with the missionaries, we did not find this problem. As Missioner M said, "My feelings are that girls are as worth to the world and to our heavenly father. I do not believe one is better than another or one should be loved more. I think men and women are equal. In my feeling, they are precious. But I also believe that we have different natures and personalities. They are both important as the other."<sup>8</sup>

##### 3. Homosexual people

The missionaries regard the homosexual people as the children of Heavenly Father, just like others. But they just think homosexuality is wrong." I think the marriage is between a man and a woman, is not between a man and a man, or a woman and a

woman. And it's the core of our society. And if we change that, our society will be confused and dissimilate."<sup>9</sup> Missioner M said.

## 5. Future plans

The missionaries will stay in Taiwan no more than two years. Most missionaries will go back to their own country and continue their work or studies. They have different ideas about future. In general, they will not keep doing missionary work but they will continue joining the activities in the church. Besides, we also asked the missionaries of their opinions about learning Chinese. They all think Chinese is a beautiful language; they would be glad to learn Chinese if they have time and chances in the future.

## 2. Analysis of questionnaires

In order to understand more about the effects of LDS missionary work in Taiwan, we conducted a survey using a questionnaire form. One hundred passersby participated in the questionnaire investigation. We only received 96 questionnaires. There are 95 effective questionnaires. One questionnaire is fruitless owing to different religious belief. Most people who accepted our questionnaire were female. The range of the participants' age was between fifteen and fifty. After analyzed the questionnaire form, we put the results into three categories- The LDS in Taiwan, The Public Comprehension of the LDS Missioners, and The Missionary Work.

### 1. The LDS in Taiwan

#### 1.

More than sixty percent participants know about the LDS. This result indicated that most of people in Taiwan have heard of LDS before. However, there were still some people knowing nothing about the LDS.

#### 2.



There were 40 people been taught religion within sixty people who have heard about the LDS. It was found from the result that lots of people had had contact with the LDS missionaries. In the interview, it is found that the missionaries spend over ten hours every day doing the missionary work. Although not every one accepts their ideas, we can say that the missionaries' effort have feedback.

### 3.

There are several ways that the participants used to get the information of the LDS-the mass media, personal experiences, religion causes, and through friends and families. The maximum is through mass media. The second are personal experience and through friends and families. Some participants even have friends who are missionaries so that they know about the LDS so well.

## 2.2 The public comprehension of the LDS missionaries

### 2.2.1 The public image

The public comprehension of the missionaries would certainly affect the missionary works in Taiwan and also affect their life and their impression in Taiwan. The survey showed that over 30% of people consider the missionaries are people who wear neat suit; there are 21% of people think that the LDS missionaries speak Chinese very well. In the survey, there are 19% of the people think that the LDS missionaries are the most enthusiastic missionaries. Other people think that LDS missionaries like visiting people's house to do missionary work. There were few people mentioned that they consider the LDS missionaries are in good manners and their life must be orderly.

According to the survey, we could perceive that most people do not have much understanding of the LDS missionaries. On the other side, the missionaries' active ways to do the missionary work really make a deep impression on people's minds. But do the ways really benefit their missionary work? We need further researches. In addition, because of the strict disciplines in the church and the regular schedule, the missionaries make an impression of being nice and polite on most of people.

## 2.2.2 The reason of oversea missionary work

Many people realize that LDS is an enthusiastic religion group; however, few people really understand LDS. So we wanted to know whether the public know the reason why they go abroad doing missionary work or not.

The survey showed that over 50% of people think they only want to share their belief. And there are about 30% of people believe that they want to experience a different culture. The most noteworthy point is a man said that the missionaries would receive some financial assistance, so sometimes they go abroad for the financial cause.

Some people think that only the religious cause couldn't prompt the missionaries to do oversea missionary work. But most of the missionaries we interviewed before indicated that they could not find out other reason but only wanted to share gospel to others. On the other hand, a senior missionary we interviewed indicated that they had no income during the time they came to Taiwan, so they sacrificed not only the time but also the money.

After we compared the results we got from the questionnaire with the interview, we found that the public does not understand the LDS missionaries well. There is still some misconception. The misconception might affect the impressions on missionaries and the will to accept the gospels.

## 2.3 The missionary work

According to the survey, most of the people do not accept the religion when they meet missionaries on the street. So we wanted to find out other ways that people could accept for the missionary work.

About 43% of the people are willing to take part in the activities held by the church and agree to understand the religion in those activities. And about 20% of the people consider the printed advertisements are the most useful methods. However, only 15% of the people accept the missionaries doing missionary work on the street. It showed that Taiwanese people are not used to this enthusiastic way and are not used to chat with strangers.

## 3. Interview Part B

Combining interview part A with the analysis of questionnaire forms, we obtained more information about the missionaries. For further research, we decided to

interview one more missionary randomly. We classified the interview questions into three groups: the reason of missionary work, the missionary work in Taiwan, and the values.

## 1. The reason of missionary work

### 3.1.1 The reason of missionary work

As the previous part mentioned, the missionaries decided to do the missionary work because they believe in the LDS church and they want to share their gospels with other people. The last missionary we interviewed is no exception.

### 3.1.2 The compulsory missionary work

Missionary R indicated that he was not forced to do the missionary work. The church would not blame people who decided not to do the missionary work.” The church really encourages us to go, but we’re not force to. It’s our own choice, so if I didn’t go, people might be sad, but they wouldn’t have blamed us.”<sup>10</sup>

## 2. The missionary work in Taiwan

### 3.2.1 The gender of the missionaries

We often see a pair of missionaries with two men or two women, but we seldom see a pair of missionaries with a man and a woman. The missionary R said,” We focus on the gospel on the church not on finding a girlfriend or boyfriend, so you will not see another girl and you will only see two boys.”<sup>11</sup>

### 3.2.2 How to choose the person to talk to

According to some data we have read, the missionaries would avoid talking to the opposite sex. Especially the male missionaries, they would almost not to talk to young women along. But missionary R told us that the missionaries could speak with young girls. ”We can talk to girls and girls can talk to us. There’s no limit.”<sup>12</sup> We can get the result that there is no limitation of who they decide to teach the gospels from the interviews.

We asked the missionaries how they chose the people to talk to on the road. In interview part A, they indicated that they would choose people smiling or looking at them. On the other hand, missionary R indicated that the missionaries would choose not only people who look happy but also people who look sad to talk to.

### 3.2.3 Starting a conversation

The missionary R said they would start a conversation with friendly greetings and find some casual topics to chat with people. If other people are curious about the church and are willing to keep talking, they would have further contact.

### 3.2.4 The perspectives on the way of missionary work

According to the result of the survey, most of the people have talked to LDS missionaries, but few people accept their ideas. And some participants thought that giving advertisements would be a better way to share their gospels than talking to others on the street. The missionary R thought that it is difficult to judge which is better. The following explains the reason they keep talking to people on the street: “Our missionaries go out and give advertisements to people. And we have big building like this with our name on it, so people can come in. So every building we have is an advertisement on the side of the road. But most people have questions like you do, and if they want to know more and it’s easier for them to ask us than look at the billboard that can’t talk.”<sup>13</sup>

## 3. The values

### 3.3.1 The disciplines in the church

The discipline in the LDS church is relatively strict. We had discussed about the missionaries’ opinions on the rules of the church in the interview part A. The missionaries in the previous interviews mentioned that they do not drink alcohols and coffee because these two beverages are not good for their bodies. And the missionary R in part B also said, “It’s not a discipline. It’s our choice. We can drink that if we want to. But our church said that, well, it’s healthy. Coffee is not really good for you.”<sup>14</sup>

### 3.3.2 The Belief

As the previous interviews mentioned, the missionaries indicated that they would respect other religions, so we wondered if the missionaries would change their beliefs when someone tried to persuade them to convert to another religion. However, the missionary R didn't answer this question directly, he only said that they respect other people and they often meet people from different religions group. Although their ideas are not the same, they are still willing to share their gospels with them.

### III Conclusion

- Discussion and conclusion

The foreign missionaries indeed face a lot of difficulties and culture shocks in Taiwan. After all, eastern culture is quite different from western culture. Through this research, we understood the foreign missionaries' opinions about their life in Taiwan. Although the missionary lives in Taiwan are invariable, they still enjoy doing missionary works with great passion. They think that Taiwanese are friendly

and

eager to help. Besides, Taiwanese seldom reject foreigners and they are willing to help foreigners as well. Despite all the advantages, the missionaries still confront many obstacles in Taiwan. The most difficult part for the foreign missionaries might be the language and the food.

As for the missionary life, the missionaries consider it meaningful. The missionaries enjoy learning language and getting in touch with different people. Of course they love Taiwan: nevertheless, the most important part is that this compulsory missionary work helps the missionaries to improve their language ability and their wills. The compulsory missionary work also makes them live healthier; lets them trust the gospel they believe in

;

allow them to learn sharing and to help others. In the future, these challenges in foreign countries indeed will become their wonderful memories. *In addition,*

*missionaries were not forced to do missionary work.; they could refuse to do the missionary work.*

According to the

survey, we found out that most of Taiwanese have contact or have heard of LDS missionaries. It shows that LDS church is widespread in Taiwan. We could also discover that the strict disciplines of the church indeed make the missionaries more friendly, neat and polite. That helps them a lot when they

contact people. Besides, their enthusiasm about the missionary work makes deep impressions on people.

However, the missionaries we interviewed indicated that though Taiwanese treat them friendly, there are few people willing to accept their ideas. After we compared the survey, we also found that more than 50% people do not accept the messages from the missioners. In addition, instead of talking to the missioners on the street, most of the people get information of the church from mass media and their families or friends. It seems that their missionary works do not make great effects.

In terms of the survey, we concluded several ways that the public is willing to accept the gospels. The best way is to hold more church activities. The public also considered using advertisements an appropriate way. These two methods would probably be more efficient than talking to people on the road. *However, the missionaries think that talking to people on the street is necessary. For some conception that can not be delivered through words, the missionaries insisted on doing missionary work enthusiastically. From the standpoint of the LDS church, the most difficult part is to judge what the better way to teach gospels is. The LDS church uses both methods —giving away handbills and contacting to people—to deliver gospels.*

We can infer from the research that the LDS missionaries' way of teaching gospels can not make effect in Taiwan. Nevertheless, the interview indicates that teaching religion is the cultivation of patience and the endurance of religion to the missioners. The missioners can also learn how to share and teach other people. They learn not only language and culture but also how to communicate with people, especially people from a different country. To sum up, the intention of compulsory missionary work is not just to spread religion. It is an experience of learning and baptism of fire as well. The missionary work makes the LDS members more united.

In the beginning, we assumed that we could obtain some critical perspectives through the interviews. But the answers from the missionaries we interviewed are official and not clear. We could acquire two possible reasons that they did not answer our questions directly. The first reason is they are not allowed to speak up to publics. The second reason is that they are well-educated by the church, so they would not say negative things about the church.

- Limits and suggestions

The LDS missionaries' daily schedule is so tight that we did not have adequate time and chances to do more interviews. Besides, the disciplines in the church are strict, so they did not allow us to have more and deeper conversation with the missionaries. The backgrounds of the interviewees were too different for us to compare. Furthermore, the results we got from case studies were not appropriate to fit all the missionaries. As to the questionnaire part, the number is few and the participants' gender mostly is female. According to some participants of the questionnaire form, they considered that the expressions used in some items are not very appropriate and objective.

Given more time and chances, we should take part in the LDS church more and associate with more LDS members. We even plan to follow the missionaries to observe how they do missionary work. Incidentally, we need to have more participants in the questionnaire survey in order to have more accurate data. If we are able to overcome all the limitations, we can conduct a further research to discuss about the LDS missionaries.

### **III References**

- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia ◦  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Church\\_of\\_Jesus\\_Christ\\_of\\_Latter-day\\_Saints](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints) ◦  
(Searching date:2007/12/19)
- 李國勝。「單車上的使徒-摩門教來台 50 年」。臺灣光華雜誌。民 96.03。p.51
- Recordind data 2.1
- 李國勝。「單車上的使徒-摩門教來台 50 年」。臺灣光華雜誌。民 96.03。p.51
- Recordind data 2.1
- Recordind data 2.2
- Recordind data 2.1

- Recordind data 2.1
- Recordind data 2.1

#### 10. Other reference and informations:

- 論文

陳淑娟。「以宗教為目的之華語文教學－耶穌基督後期聖徒教會傳教士之個案研究」。國立臺灣師範大學華語文教學研究所。民 93

- 期刊
- 李國勝。「單車上的使徒-摩門教來台 50 年」。臺灣光華雜誌。民 96.03。頁 44-56
- 耶穌基督後期聖徒教會。「耶穌基督後期聖徒教會～『摩門教』在臺灣的發展」。心鏡宗教季刊。民 94.12。頁 32-35
- 書籍

Floyd C. McElveen

- 「摩門教的真相」。基督教中國主日學協會

二版1997[民 86]三刷

- 網路資料
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day SaintsFrom Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia ◦  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Church\\_of\\_Jesus\\_Christ\\_of\\_Latter-day\\_Saints](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints) ◦ (檢  
索日期：2007/12/19)
- Official Web site of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints ◦  
<http://www.mormon.org/mormonorg/eng/> ◦ (檢索日期：2008/02/10)

### III Appendix

- **The questions of interview**



## Part I [Personal]

- What is your name?
- Where do you come from? ( Which state of USA/Canada?)
- How long have you stayed in Taiwan? When did you come here? Have you ever been to TW before?
- Did you receive any training before you came to Taiwan?
- Why did you decide to do missionary work? (Besides the cause of religion) What do your family think?
- Will you have any trouble because you break off your work or studies in your country?

## Part II [About Taiwan]

- Can you tell us your daily schedule? Did you feel tired or difficult?
- Did you have any interesting life experience in the life in Taiwan?
- Have you ever been a culture shock in the life in Taiwan when you first came here? What is that? (Can you give us some examples?)
- What do you think is the most beautiful or unacceptable place or thing of Taipei?
- Has your impressions changed after you have been to Taiwan?

## Part III [Missionary Work]

- How do you usually start a conversation with a stranger? And there're many people in the street, how do you choose the person to talk to?
- Have you ever met any Christians or people from other religious group? What happened? What are the people's reactions? (Just walk away, tell you that he is busy, or something else.)
- Do people often accept your ideas or turn you down? What is your reaction after people turn you down?
- What do you usually chat with the person you talk to? When you communicate with people, what do you think the most difficult part is?
- How do you improve your Chinese?

## Part IV [Values]

- What's your opinion about the discipline in the church? (Ex: No drinking; No smoking etc.)
- What do you think about the opposite sex? And what do you think about homosexual people?

- What's your opinion about the gender equality?
- About the disagreement and criticism from other religious group, what's your opinion?

Part V [Future]

- Do you have any plan after you go back to your own country? Will you continue doing the religious work? Will you keep learning Chinese?
- **Recording data**

1. The interview with missionary M J=姿吟 A=舒安

J

:

Where do you come from?

M

:

Utah.

J

:

How long have you stayed in Taiwan?

M

:

A year and half, 18 months.

J

:

Is it your first time in Taiwan?

M

:

No, second time

J

:

So, you have been to Taiwan before.

M

:

Yes.

J

:

How do you think about Taiwan?

M

:

I love Taiwan.

J

:

Did you receive any training before you came to Taiwan?

M

:

Yes.

J

:

What kind of training?

M: Religious teaching. Learned to be a teacher.

J

:

Why did you decide to do missionary work?

M

:

Because I love the message that I have to share.

J

:

I mean, is there any reason besides the cause of religion? like you want to learn a different language, you want to learn a different culture...

M

:

No. Just the cause of religion. Because of what I believe in.

J

:

Will you have any problem because you break your work or studies in your own country?

M

:

Yes.

J:

:

What kind of problem?

M

:

We don't have any income. And so when my husband, I came with my husband. He quit working. And so I can't help my daughter with school as much. So she gets her job, and she helps herself. So this work is good. But we don't have this much money to come. We sacrifice making money to come.

A:

:

And can you tell us your daily schedule?

M

:

I rise about 5:30. I read my scriptures. And then I go exercising. And then I eat the breakfast. I have a little different schedule than they do because I ...the office....the missionaries, answer phone calls, make sure everybody is healthy, the office is running smoothly, the missionaries have everything they need, call their parents if there is any trouble,. Just make sure everything does the track. There is a lot of work about taking care of the missionaries. But I also go out and meet the members of the church here. I should get support as I go place to place.

A

:

Do you sometimes feel tired or difficult or do you feel interesting?

M

:

Of course I feel tired. Every night I go to bed very tired, but I love what I do. And it's very interesting. I don't discourage. ...I love what I do. I love being here. I love Taiwan. I love the people. They are very friendly. They are very kind. It's very beautiful here. I love the food. But some of the food I don't like so much.

A

:

Like what?

M

:

Like stinky tofu.

A

:

What is the most interesting experience you have in Taiwan?

M

:

Un, that's a tough one. ...All interesting, probably working with the missionaries. Cause they are also young and .....they excited to be here. They give up , they sacrificed. And they love what they do. They love what they teach. They knew what exactly the truth is, they want to share that,

A

:

Have you been a culture shuck when you first came here?

M: Yes. I will tell you the biggest culture shock was how kind and gracious everybody is.

A

:

Why?

M

:

Because they don't demand each other when they drive, It's not true. They just not like what I used to. I just feel the different culture was. *And everybody is so helpful to me, I can't speak Chinese, so when I go shopping, and I need help, and the strangers just stopped what they were doing and come to help me. (The reference 3)* And I just very...that was culture shock to me. Because where I come from, people are And here the culture is very kind to me, I was...almost being cry.

J

:

Maybe Taiwanese are only kind to foreigners.

A

:

What do you think the most beautiful or unacceptable place or things of Taipei?

M

:

Well, I think the people is the most beautiful... (answering the phone call)

A

:

Has your impression of Taiwan changed after you came here?

M

:

That's a good question. I didn't understand Taiwan very much before I got here. I just been here for short visit before. I heard about Taiwan from my husband who served the mission here 35 years ago. And he loved it. He loved being here. He loved this mission. So my impressions of Taiwan were very good. And since I been here, they are very good, so I don't think they changed.

J

:

Have you ever met Christians or people from other religious group?

M

:

Yes. Very many.

J

:

What happened? Are there any conflicts?

M

:

No. I haven't met any conflicts before.

J

:

But some ... other religious group think that your truth are different from theirs.

M

:

They are not the same. Some are the same, some are not. Some are different.



J

:

Do people often accept your ideas or turn you down?

M

:

We have over 40 thousand members in Taiwan, so there is a lot of people accept our ideas, and there are many of them don't listen to missionaries. *They are too busy to listen to the missionaries. Normally people who take the time to listen to the missionaries will find interesting, find something they are interested.*(**The reference 5**)

J

:

Can you speak Chinese?

M

:

I can not. My husband can. And the missionaries can. I work almost everyday with the missionaries, they all speak English. So...but I am trying to learning a little bit. So I can get alone. But my time schedule that I am not able to practice a lot.

A

:

What's your opinion about some rules of the church? Like no drinking, no smoking.

M

:

I am very pleased with the . These kinds of rules help us have a healthy life style. Mormons, which is a nick name of the Jesus Christ Later Day Saints, we have a

longer life, expectancy, our divorced rate is lower. We have the courage, high education...., so *I very much appreciate the rules cause they made my life better. (The reference 7)*

A

:

What do you think about homosexual people? Because some people in Taiwan may think they are not good.

M

:

I think all people are children of god. I think they are loved by their heavenly father. And they are my brothers and sisters. I believed homosexuality, to have sex outside a man and woman in marriage is wrong. And *I think the marriage is between a man and a woman, is not between a man and a man, or a woman and a woman. And it's the core of our society. And if we change that, our society will be confused and dissimilate. (The reference 9)* So I believe a family should be... a man and a woman,

A

:

In Taiwan, some people will think boys are better than girls, what do you think?

M

:

I have sons and daughters. *My feelings are that girls are as worth to the world and to our heavenly father. To me, as a mother, I do not believe one is better than another or one should be loved more. I think men and women are equal. In my feeling, they are precious. Men are precious, women are precious. But I also believe that we have different natures and personalities. They are both important as the other. (The reference 8)*

A

:

Do you live in Taiwan?

M:

:

Yes, I live in this building.

A

:

Will you go through learning Chinese in the future?

M

:

I would love to. I think .... I 've learned a little bit from teaching. It's a beautiful language, absolutely a beautiful language. I would love to learn it. I don't know if I will take that opportunity if I have the time to do that. But certainly...well, here I am. I've studied a little bit every week, so I would love to keep learning.

2. The interview with missionary K J=姿吟 A=舒安 T=the Taiwanese partner

J

:

Where do you come from?

K

:

America.

J

:

And which state of America?

K

:

Unta

J

:

How long have you stayed in Taiwan?

K

:

5 months.

J

:

And is it your first time here?

K

:

Yes.

J

:

Did you receive any training before you came to Taiwan?

K

:

Yes.

J

:

What kind of training?

K

:

I studied Chinese for 3 months.

J

:

Why did you decide to do missionary work?

K

:

Because I know my church is true, I want people in Taiwan know what is it.

J

:

Is there any reason besides the cause of religion.

K

:

Uh, no.

J

:

What do your family think about that?

K

:

They think it's really cool.

J

:

Ok

J

:

Will you have any trouble because you break off your work or studies in your country?

K

:

Can you say it again?

J

:

Will you have any trouble because you break off your work or studies in your country?

K

:

No.

J

:

Ok.

A

:

Can you tell us your daily schedule?

K

:

Yean. I've write it down.

Ok. We wake up at 6:30. (Everyday)Then, from 6:30 to 7:00, we exercise.

運動

And then from 7:00 to 8:00, we get ready for the day.

Then from 8:00 to 10:00, we study.

Then from 10:00 to 10:30, we study our language. I study Chinese. (I study English.)Yean, he studies English.

A

:

Did you feel tired or difficult?

K

:

Yes.

A

:

Did you have any interesting experience in the life in Taiwan?

K

:

Yes.

A

:

Can you give us some examples?

K

:

Do you have any? (Asked his Taiwanese companion)

T

:

I live in Taiwan. There is one time; I bring my companion to have organ soup. He really likes it.

A

:

What do you think is the most beautiful or unacceptable place or thing in Taipei?

K

:

The most beautiful?

A

:

Of Taipei.

K



:

Taipei,

烏來

is the most beautiful.

A

:

And, what's your first expression of Taipei?

K

:

It's really big. Lots of people

A

:

Has your impression changed after you have been to Taiwan?

K

:

Now, it's still very big, but the people are really nice.

J

:

How do you usually start a conversation with a stranger?

K

:

I asked them how their day is going.

J

:

And there're many people on the street, how do you choose the person to talk to?

K

:

The person who is looking at me. I go and talk with them.

J

:

Have you ever met any Christians or people from other religious group?

K

:

What?

基督教會嗎

? Oh, yes.

J

:

What happened? Is there any conflicts?

K

:

Sometimes. But we are not here to argue. We just help them understand our church.  
We respect people.

J

:

Do people often accept your ideas or turn you down?

K

:

They usually turn us down. But they often accept us.

J

:

When you communicate with people, what do you think the most difficult part is?

K

:

Uh, what do you mean?

J

:

I mean, like starting the conversation, or language problem or culture shock or something

K

:

Un. Trying to understand what they are talking.

聽不懂

. The language.

J

:

How do you improve your Chinese?

K

:

I study everyday. I speak as much as I can.

A

:

What's your opinion about some rules in the church? No drinking; No smoking

K

:

I think they are very good. *They are very smart because they protect us.*(**The reference 6**)

A

:

What do you think about the opposite sex? Some religious group will against them. I want to ask you about what's your opinion about gender equality.

K

:

Un, girls are just as good as boys. No one is better than the other. We both need each other.

A

:

And what do you think about homosexual people?

K

:

They are good homosexual people. They are. But we don't think the homosexual are the right thing to do.

A

:

About the disagreement or criticism from other religious group, what's your opinion?

K

:

I just try to explain to them our church. Help them understand why we are here.

A

:

The last question, do you have any plan after you go back to your own country? Will you continue doing the religious work?

K

:

I won't do the missionary work everyday, but I will still be a member.

A

:

Will you keep learning Chinese?

K

:

Yes.

A: And where do you come from?

R: America.

A: We often see a pair of missionaries with two men or two women talking to people on the street, we seldom see a pair of missionaries with a man and a woman, why is that?

R: Because on our missions *we focus on the gospel on the church not on finding a girlfriend or boyfriend so you will not see another girl you will see two boys. (The reference 11)*

A: Why did you decide to do missionary work?

R: I decided to do missionary work because I know that this church is true. It helped me grow up, so I want to help other people.

A: And have you ever thought about if you decided not to do the missionary work, is there anything going to happen to you? Or somebody will blame you?

R: Um ..... *The church really encourages us to go, but we're not forced to. It's our own choice, so if I didn't go, people might be sad, but they wouldn't have blamed us. (The reference 10)*

A: As you know, is there anyone in your church rejecting to do missionary work?

R: Yeah, there are some people they don't want to go. And that's their own choice.

J: How did you feel when you first knew you will do missionary work?

R: In Taiwan?

J: Um ... Yes.

R: I was really excited.

J: And as far as we know, it is prohibited for you to drink some beverage, such as coffee and alcohol or eating some kind of food, what do you think about this discipline?

R: Um ... *It's not a discipline. It's our choice. We can drink that if we want to. But our church said that, well, it's healthy. Coffee is not really good for you. (The reference 14)* Some people in the morning they drink coffee that cause like this... So that is not good for your body. So we don't drink it because it's not good for your body not because it's a rule.

J: Since you have been to Taiwan for several months, do you have any Taiwanese friends?

R: Yeah, I have a lot of Taiwanese friends.

J: How do you usually start a conversation with stranger?

R: It's different every time. Mostly, I usually say, "Hey, how are you? Have you ever seen us missionaries before? Do you want to ride a bike?" They try to talk to us about the bike.

J: And there are many people on the street, how do you choose the person to talk to?

R: Hmm ... That's a good question. Usually when we go on the street we're riding our bikes, we try to look at the people who, we try to feel the person who want to know the message. Because everybody needs to hear it, but maybe some people might want to talk more. So we look at them and we say, "That person looks really happy we think they really want to talk to us, or maybe that person looks really sad and let's go to make him happy." So we try to choose like that.

J: When you choose the person to talk to, do you have any limitations? Such as sex, age, occupations?

R: Um ... If they're really young, we usually don't try to talk to them. Usually about eight years old and younger. They're still little kids and they can't really choose for themselves, but they can choose for themselves to talk to us. So we love to talk to them. But *we can talk to girls and girls can talk to us. There's no limit. (The reference 12)*

A: And we have done a survey about LDS missionaries with Taiwanese. And some of the participants thought that your church should give advertisements on the road instead of talking to passersby. What do think about that?

R: The challenge is to find the right side. I think we do both. Sometimes, *our missionaries we have this,*

傳單

*, and we go out and give to people. It's just like advertisements. And we have big building like this with our name on it, so people can come in. So every building we have is an advertisement on the side of the road. So we do that sometimes, but most people have questions like you do, and if they want to know more and it's easier for them to ask us than look at the billboard that can't talk. (**The reference 13**)* So we like to talk to people.

A: As far as we know, you are going to try is to persuade other people to convert their religion into your religion. If someone from other religions just ask you to convert to other religions, what do you think?

R: My companion about two days ago, we're in the park and we're talking to people and we talked to a guy who was playing the flute. And he said, "Hey, I want to have you talk to someone." "Oh, okay.", we said. So we walk over and there was a Buddhist monk right there. So we sat down and we talk to the monk, and they told us about Buddhism. And we listen and we thought that was really nice. So we can listen just like we like everybody else to listen.

A: How long have you been to Taiwan?

R: I've been to Taiwan for eight months.

A&J: Thank you.

R: If you have any more questions, you can come and find us.



- **Questionnaire**

您好，我們是北一女中高二人文社會班的學生，我們要進行一個關於摩門教

(

耶穌基督後期聖徒教會

)

傳教士在台生活的研究。我們希望能透過此份問卷，了解社會大眾對於摩門教傳教士的一般印象。懇請撥冗填寫這份問卷。

- 性別： 男  女
- 年齡： 15 歲以下  15-25 歲  25-35 歲  35-50 歲  50 歲以上
- 您知道摩門教傳教士嗎？ 是(繼續回答 2)  否
- 曾經有摩門教傳教士向您傳教嗎？ 是 (繼續回答 3)  否(繼續回答 4)
- 您是接受還是拒絕他的傳教呢？ 接受  反對
- 那您是透過什麼管道得知摩門教傳教士的相關資訊？(多選)
  - 個人知識、經驗  新聞媒體  宗教信仰  從第三者得知
  - 其他 \_\_\_\_\_
- 對摩門教傳教士的印象？(多選)

西裝筆挺騎腳踏車

一夫多妻

積極傳教

很會說中文的外國人

隨處找人搭訕

喜歡做家庭拜訪

其他

\_\_\_\_\_

• 就您的看法而言，您認為是什麼原因使這些外籍傳教士到台灣傳教？(多選)

○ 純粹的信仰因素  為了解不同文化  學習語言  家人期許

○ 其

他 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

• 您能接受何種傳教方式？(多選)

- 路上搭訕
- 家庭拜訪
- 電話傳教
- 廣告文宣
- 教會舉辦的活動
- 其他 \_\_\_\_\_

感謝您的配合。

此份問卷只會用在論文當中，不會用於其他用途。

謝謝。