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General Secretary  
Presbyterian Church in Taiwan  
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TAIWAN

25 November 2016

Dear General Secretary and Moderator,

Greetings from the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Further to my letter of 21 November, I can update you further following the 7.8 earthquake.

The Alpine Presbytery has let me know more of those impacted by the earthquake. While the major impact has been Kaikoura, the reality is that those affected come from Amuri, Kowai/Cheviot, Kaikoura, Awatere Flaxbourne and Blenheim parishes. Kaikoura is isolated, as are parts of the Awatere Flaxbourne parish.

In terms of prayer, please ask and invite those who are praying, ask for prayer for wisdom in decisions having to be made, gratitude for what we the people have and thanksgiving for what has been lost; perseverance in face of hardship and faith and the sustaining presence of the Holy Spirit for the long haul. Also may compassion and understanding, kindness and aroha be the hallmarks of the Christian church members. It is so easy to lose sight of such human kindnesses in the face of hardship. This is no quick fix situation and places like Kaikoura and Cheviot are now simply towns at the end of a cul de sac. This will have significant effect on both the lives of the people and what it means to be the church of Christ in these areas.

In addition, we should not forget that the earthquakes have come on the top of a two and a half year drought in North Canterbury. They could be the straw that destroys the livelihoods and income of many as well as placing significant stress on relationships and a personal sense of worth.

Again, let me express our sincere thanks for the expression of concern and prayer; we are deeply appreciative and value highly the concern expressed by the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan.

Yours in Christ,



**Wayne Matheson**