8th February 2016

Rev. Lyim Hong-Tiong,

General Secretary,

Presbyterian church of Taiwan.

Dear Brother in Christ,

I write to let you know of the concerns, prayers and sorrow of the United Reformed Church and its people, as we have followed the news from Tainan in these last few days. The sight of rescue crews working so persistently, and bringing people alive from the rubble even today, has been impressive indeed. We thank God for every life saved, and for all the good work of the hospitals as they attend to those who are injured. Yet we grieve with your nation that so many lives have been lost, and so many people badly hurt, by this earthquake.

On Saturday I visited briefly the Chinese congregation that meets in London under the leadership of Rev Chung Shou-Hui, to bring greetings and express concern. We have also had a visit from Jonah Chang, researching into church history, and he tells us that no-one has been injured at the Tainan Seminary.

Yet we know that the Presbyterian Church will be concerned for the whole community, and not just for its own people. Are your congregations involved in particular relief projects? If people from here ask about giving money, is there a straightforward way of doing so?

Please be assured of our friendship and prayers at this difficult time. We wish you and your people courage and wisdom as you share in the sorrow and in the care and help of these days.

With cordial Christian greetings,

John