INTRODUCTION

During the summer of 1952 a group of athletes from Taylor University and a former Wheaton College net captain made a trip to the Orient as a missionary venture, using the unorthodox approach of basketball. Raising their own finances, securing passports, playing two games a day in the hot tropical sun on cement courts, adjusting to food, sleep, and foreign groups of people...plus being 12,000 miles from home presented a tremendous challenge. Faithful to their task they won 86 out of 87 games, conducted 169 services before 300,000 people, and saw over 10,000 indicate a personal desire to accept Christ. Basketball was a means to getting men into the Kingdom of God. Playing before an average crowd of approximately 4,000 twice a day opened up a new door in the methods of missions. Everywhere the group was urged to come back with their team and bring the good news of salvation.

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Dedicated to six college boys who burned every ounce of energy, gave up their summer salaries, and literally lost their lives to find them again...

Don Granitz
John Nelson
Bud Schaeffer
Howie Habegger
Jack Jackson
Norm Holmskog
It'll be Bibles and basketballs for the high-scoring Taylor university team of Upland, Indiana, for 10 to 12 weeks this coming summer.

A seven-man team composed of five Taylor varsity cagers, Athletic Director and coach Don Odle and Bud Schaeffer, former Wheaton college star now studying at Fuller Seminary, has been approved by Youth for Christ International as an official team to go to Formosa on or about June 1.

The idea started in the rapid-fire mind of Dick Hillis, YFC director on Formosa, who wired Ted Engstrom, executive director of YFCI, asking for a college basketball team that could tour the island playing exhibition games as well as conduct Youth for Christ services. Mme. Chiang Kai-shek approved it.

Basketball is the No. 1 sport on Formosa, Hillis reported, and a top-notch American team would thus open many doors to the preaching of the Gospel.

Taylor has had an exceptional season, with a record of twenty wins and four losses as of Feb. 26, including an offensive average of 81.4 points. THIS PLACED IT THIRD IN THE ENTIRE NATION. Forrest Jackson, one of the players, led the state in scoring as of Feb. 26. Each Monday night during the season found an athletic prayer meeting in the Taylor gym, with an average of 25 attending.

An article in the Indianapolis Times of Feb. 24 stated, "They'll be traveling light...basketball equipment, prayer, hymn books and a message....They're selling Christianity and the American way of life. Basketball is secondary....The cage sport will be sandwiched in between church services and lectures on American democracy."

Joining the team in Formosa will be Norman Cook, a former Taylor cager who with his wife already is there under YFC banners.

A committee has been set up at Taylor to finance and make plans for the trip. It includes Rev. Evan H. Bergwall, president of the university, Maurice Berry, Alumni head, two faculty men, Odle and Prof. Ralph Cummings, and two student representatives, Don Jacobsen, senior president, and John Nelson of the cage team. The entire school has rallied behind this "Venture for Victory."

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Telegram from Madame Chiang Kai-Shek

Lt. Taylor University
Upland, Ind.

In behalf of Free China I extend a hearty welcome to your Christian Basket Ball Ambassadors to visit Taiwan.

Madame Chiang Kai-shek

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Telegram from Governor Wu

Lt. Taylor University
Upland, Ind.

As Governor of Formosa I assure you a warm welcome. Your team will help in our great task of moral and spiritual reconstruction.

K. C. Wu
Greetings from Madame Chiang

Taipei, Taiwan
June 3, 1952

To the Members of the Youth For Christ Basketball Team:

I take great pleasure in extending to you a cordial welcome to the anti-Communist bastion of the Republic of China.

The motives which have prompted you to come here are most laudable. May I wish you success in the novel ideal of combining sportsmanship and Christian evangelism?

Taiwan is truly ripe for the acceptance of the Divine Word. We have about 100,000 Christians living here. This means that out of every 100 persons there is one Christian. At a revival meeting last summer in the New Park at Taipei 600 persons out of an attendance of 800 embraced Christianity.

I feel that God will help us if we continue fighting His enemies. We are making a last stand, ever trustful of God.

On behalf of the women of Taiwan, I want to express to you my warm appreciation of your efforts in winning more hearts for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Madame Chiang Kai-shek
Coach Odle’s Statement to China Press and Radio

COACH DON ODLE

June 4, 1952

Our Mission:

We have been sent to Formosa by the Christian people and the real friends of Free China, under the sponsorship of the Youth for Christ International organization. Our friends back home realize that America has sent political, military, and economic help to these wonderful people. However, the Christian people of America feel that the moral and spiritual aid is not only necessary but essential in building a strong nation. We have come to assist Mr. Dick Hillis and the Youth for Christ organization in their attempt to bring the Gospel to Formosa. We believe that the U. S. program of sending political, military, and economic help is timely and even mandatory at this hour. These forces, however, can only check and give a temporary answer to the real problem of war against Communism. A permanent solution can only be found in transformed lives of people. This idea is not new. It was expressed and believed and practiced by the founders of America. Our intentions these next few months are to use whatever meager talents we have in music, in speaking, or in playing basketball to bring to these people the story of Christ who can transform lives.

We spent almost three months in churches, in schools, in civic organizations telling them of our purpose and enlisting their prayers and gifts for this work. Because of the Christian peoples’ response we are here. Gov. K. C. Wu and Madame Chiang sent us telegrams encouraging us and inviting us to the island. The proceeds of our games will go to her charities. Madame Chiang’s womens’ prayer group is our official hostess and as we met with them this morning we were overwhelmed with their sincerity and passion to help in the moral and spiritual task of reconstruction on Formosa. We consider it a privilege to be here and to assist in anyway possible.

Coach Don J. Odle
Athletic Director
Taylor University
Upland, Indiana
American Giants Outplay Filipinos

(From the Sunday Times, Manila, June 1, 1952)

Height and bullseye shooting last night gave the visiting Taylor University "Bible-Teaching" dribblers from Indiana a convincing 71-56 triumph over the Philippine Olympic quintet minus Carlos "Pomfret" Loyzaga before a packed house at the Rizal Coliseum.

The visitors displayed several tricks which caught the local boys flatfooted, especially under the basket. Although bigger, the Taylor U cagers proved to be faster than Coach Fely Fajardo's charges.

John Nelson and Forrest Jackson thrilled the somewhat disappointed crowd with their spectacular long-distance push-shots. Jackson, the team's pivot-man, was most deadly from under the basket. Nelson was the spot shooter. Bud Schaeffer was not only outstanding in the defense but also a "scoring machine" from any angle.

The Philippine Olympic hoopsters fought back during the first two quarters. After Jose Gochangco gave the local team an early 4-0 lead with two successive shots, the Americans went to work and had the score see-sawed several times in the first ten minutes of play.

Taylor U held the upperhand at the end of the first quarter, 19-16. Jackson and Schaeffer kept the visiting team on top in the second canto which ended in 33-29. Meliton Santos and skipper Pocholo Martinez bothered the Americans with their well-placed shots within the foul area. Martinez grabbed the lead with a flying carpet, 36-35. Nelson, Habegger and Schaeffer retaliated with a series of twin-markers from any angle and the third quarter ended with Taylor U again on top with a commanding lead this time, 54-47.

The Philippine Olympic team went down to pieces in the final quarter as the visitors kept on shooting with remarkable accuracy. The Taylor U cagers were the masters in all departments of the game as they marched on to a convincing victory, 71-56.

Individual scores:

**Taylor U**—71

Habegger 7
Odle 6
Jackson 19
Nelson 19
Schaeffer 18
Holmskog 2
Granitz 0

**PI Olympic**—56

Santos 10
Saldana 8
Martinez 7
Tolentino 7
Genato 7
Campos 6
Gochangco 6
Lim 2
Hechanova 2
Bautisa 1
Tantay 0
Reports from Taipei

CHRISTIANS GIVEN NOD TO BEAT TIGERS

Taipei, June 14 (China News): Tonight’s cage tilt between the favored Youth for Christ team and the Seven Tigers relegated all political and military news to the background as this provisional capital of China went mad in a scramble for tickets. Devout worshippers of King Basketball, hundreds of them, took bedclothings with them and slept on the pavement outside of the Armed Forces Stadium last night, braving drizzles, winds and early morning chills, just for the tickets.

Gatecrashing is expected. This art for the masses, long lost to America but still raising its head now and then in China, will show the Christians that their skills are much appreciated here. Sports quarters are trying to solve one problem: how to get the ballplayers, especially the Tigers, into the stadium. The fans early this year kidnapped one Tiger and held him as hostage on condition they be allowed to watch the game between the Tigers and the visiting PAL Skymasters of the Philippines.

CHRISTIANS MEET SEVEN TIGERS

Taipei, Aug. 7 (China News): Casting a lingering glance about, the Youth for Christ basketball team tonight takes to the field to meet for the fourth time the Christians’ 77th Free China encounter. The Taylor University boys, coached by ball-playing, Bible-preaching Don J. Odle, are yet to be beaten and they are the 3 to 1 choice to win tonight’s crucial game.

Both teams, themselves good friends, will file onto the field at 8:30 in the Armed Forces Stadium before an expected capacity crowd. Tickets again became scarce today as scalpers resumed their activities despite the slump Tuesday night.

The Seven Tigers are the only Free China team which managed to lead by an impressive margin during its encounters with the Christians. Three times, the Taylor boys had to come from behind to beat the Tigers in order to keep un­ tarnished their unbeaten record. And the Odle boys made it no secret they regard the Tigers as their arch foes afield.

SCORE: 65 TO 53;
CROWD GETS ROUGH

Taipei, June 15 — (UP) — The Youth for Christ basketball team, wearing the colors of Taylor University, Indiana last night wound up their five-game series of cage contests in Taipei with a 65 to 53 victory over the seven Tigers. A crack Chinese team.

The young collegians, who mix basketball with intensive missionary campaign in Taiwan under the sponsorship of Madame Chiang Kai-shek, won all games in the series.

The match last night had all the trimmings of a basketball contest in Brooklyn.

The fans mobbed the referee at the end of the game and the official had to leave under police escort.

Many fans had showed up before the gates Friday night and spent the entire night and the whole day Saturday in line for tickets.

Scalpers profited, some getting T$100 (US$6) per ticket.

The collegians will play several games in southern Taiwan then go to Hongkong for a series, returning again to Formosa to continue their missionary meetings in every major city of the island.
Visit to Hongkong

VISITING US CAGERS BEAT SOUTH CHINA

Saturday, July 8, 1952 (Hongkong Standard).—A spectacular 14-point scoring spree in the last three minutes of play, in which they showed they could have piled up points in the earlier stages of the game, gave the Youth of Christ cagers their second straight win last night at the Caroline Hill. They beat South China by 63-43.

The visiting team from Indiana delighted a crowd of 2000 rooting spectators with its smooth passing and court-craft. Local cage circles, including players and spectators, consider the team as one of the best ever seen here.

Leading by 33-21 at half, the visitors easily coped with South China's offensive game and when they grabbed the initiative the local players were literally left standing.

The Youth of Christ team will play the Chinese YMCA, last year's champions, tomorrow, Chee Lai on Friday and its final game on Saturday against a combined Chinese team. The game will start at 8 p.m. on each day. In their local debut, the visitors trounced a picked Hongkong side by 95-40.

CHRIST YOUTH CAGERS WIN

Tuesday, July 12, 1952 (Hongkong Standard). — Bringing their five-game series to a successful conclusion, the Youth of Christ cagers walloped an All-Star Hongkong team, 94-44, last night at Caroline Hill in one of the most staggering defeats ever handed a local team by a visiting quintet.

Earlier in the day, the Youth of Christ cagers visited the Kau Yan English School where they gave a one-hour exhibition of the game, after which Messrs. Don Granitz, Norman Holmskog and Bud Schaeffer spoke to the gathering comprising students and their friends. About 30 boys and girls, apparently inspired by the talks, said they wanted to become Christians.

The tempo was fast when the Youth of Christ cagers opened their final game against the Hongkong All Stars. A semblance of a rout gradually developed as the visitors after leading by 51-17 at half went on a scoring rampage in the final two quarters. Were it not for the local players holding on to the ball, the Youth of Christ team would have undoubtedly hit the 100 mark.
Here's What They Said
about “Venture for Victory”

United Press Reporter:
August 8, 1952

In the course of the last seven years as a sports reporter, I have come across numerous athletes, basketball players included. Never have I been more favorably impressed by any other team or any other individual than by the Youth for Christ cage outfit and its players.

Without reservation, I state here that they are the tops. There may be better players. There may be stronger teams. But there could seldom by any other team which is more devoted to its work and which sets a better example of clean living, good sportsmanship and excellent discipline.

I am not commenting on the athletic merits of the Taylor boys. Their record of 78 straight victories speaks for itself. But I want to stress this. This team is the best beloved quintet in Free China. The number of booing and hisses they received here are so few that I begin to doubt the fans here have forgotten the art of rooting. They don’t complain about the decisions of the referees. They don’t give the opponents the “works.” I am yet to hear any one of the boys swear or use blasphemous language.

I am not a Christian. But I am inclined to say what the boys did here makes me believe Christianity teaches people to take a positive viewpoint of life. As a Chinese, I welcome the team and other teams of the same quality. As a reporter, I say here: “Hats off to the Youth for Christ team.”

Shen Shan

Philippine YFC Leader:
August 18th, 1952

Mr. Donald Odle, Coach
Taylor U Basketball Team
% YMCA of the Philippines
Concepcion, Manila

On behalf of the Youth for Christ Philippines and The Joint Chinese-Philippine Youth for Christ Manila Committee, we wish to extend our deepest appreciation for the wonderful showing you and your Team have made in your series of games here with leading Manila basketball teams and also for your testimonies in the Youth for Christ Rallies held last Thursday at the downtown YMCA and in various churches in the City of Manila.

There is no doubt that your coming has been a great blessing and inspiration to many of us Christians in this country.

We also can not overemphasize the importance of the Youth for Christ International’s sending such a novel team not only to enter into a series of sports games with local teams, but at the same time to conduct Evangelical meetings for lost souls.

We certainly would appreciate your conveying our appreciation for the Youth for Christ International for sending a team like yours to the Philippines and it is our fervent hope that more teams like yours can be sent to us for the promotion of the Gospel in this country.

We wish to call your attention to the Sports Lens Column in today’s
issue of the Manila Times, copy of which we are enclosing for your information. We believe that it expresses the compliments of the whole Manila populace for the Taylor U Team.

In conclusion, we wish you God-speed and hope that next year you will be able to come back to our country and spend more time with us here not only playing basketball games in Manila, but in different parts of the country and holding Evangelical meetings for lost souls.

Youth for Christ Philippines
By: John Z. Sycip

**Sports Columnist:**
(From Manila Herald)

The bible-preaching Taylor U Trojans are leaving this afternoon for home, Upland, Indiana, with a very imposing record in both athletics and the pulpit.

As basketball stars, the Taylor U Trojans played and won 83 games in Manila, Formosa and Hongkong and the Pescadores. As missionaries, their record is no less than 10,000 converts to Christianity in revival meetings. During their stay here they also devoted their rest day to a "Youth For Christ" rally last Thursday evening.

When not winning games they were preaching—just the seven of them. In the court, their sportsmanship was something that the Filipino cagers will never forget. They have shown that it's not impossible after all—scoring converts between scoring points.

Ricky Clanos in "Sports-Lens"

**Missionary:**

Dear Basketballers

It was a real thrill to see a basketball game last night, mostly because of who played the game, and how you did it, from start to finish! To see you boys bow in prayer!... God Bless you for putting Christ first not only in the game but also in your lives!...that was a joy to see you just begin!

Then your testimony at the "Half-Time" when you would have rather needed a rest! He'll reward you for what you are doing from game to game. Only He knows how his Word works in the lives of the hearers!

For us missionaries who get so "back-woodsy" even in a city like Hongkong, last night's game was just one of the specials He gives once in a while. It was fun to see the game played, and to see such big strapping young American boys who love the Savior, do it...well, it was just good for the missionary! How I hope you've each seen enough of not only needs but the opportunities to serve Christ in lands where His name is so little known...that you'll all want to come back.

Opal Anderson
Missionary to Hongkong
LT. Ellsworth Culver

While in America please convey to Christian friends deep appreciation of members Chinese Christian Women’s Prayer Group as well as myself for making possible visit of YFC basketball team to Taiwan. Members of team in my opinion represent ideal American youth. Their sportsmanship and clean play now known everywhere; their preaching is spiritual inspiration to our people and as youthful ambassadors of goodwill they are contributing much towards promotion Sino-American friendship. Also please tell American friends how presence of team helping work of our Chaplain Corps.

Madame Chiang Kai-shek
Taipei, Taiwan
July 28, 1952

Mr. C. R. Hillis
Director of YFC
P. O. Box 555, Taipei

To Basketball Team:

On the eve of your return to the United States I wish to express to you my hearty appreciation for what you have accomplished during your sojourn in Taiwan. By preaching the Gospel in various parts of this island during the last two months and through the games you played before our armed units and civilians you have done much to heighten the morale of the people of Free China. In addition, your stellar performances on the court have enabled our teams to have a better understanding of the finer points of the game and will doubtless help to raise the standard of basketball in this country. I have the highest admiration for the skill, sportsmanship and evangelistic zeal you have displayed, and sincerely hope you will find it possible to visit Free China again in the not far distant future.

K. C. Wu
U. N. Correspondent Wrote:

Missionary Athletes Stir Formosa
by Fred D. Jarvis

It was in the third quarter and the score was 35-19. I was only one of the five thousand fans in attendance and they were screaming for an upset as it was the first time the Youth for Christ cagers had been behind in 33 games on the Island of Formosa. Time-out was taken by one of the players and a huddle was formed. "Listen fellows" the coach states, "It is no testimony to be this far behind." The players returned to the middle of the court and started a thrilling scoring spree that left almost every person in the place spellbound. The number one Chinese team started crumbling on defense and found themselves behind 45-43 as the timer's signal ended the game.

Between halves the team had sung Christian choruses in Chinese and the old standby "Onward Christian Soldiers." Each boy gave a testimony and the quartet of basketball dribblers sang. Then one of the players gave a gospel message. Following the game an invitation was extended to all who wished to accept the same Savior as these boys knew. One hundred and twenty-five seekers came to the center of the floor and the interpreter taught them a prayer of repentance and instructed them on the essentials of becoming a Christian. All the boys then passed out decision slips and then collected them again from those who were interested in receiving the Gospel of John and the follow-up course offered by the Navigators.

This same program had been presented all over the Island of Formosa and in Hongkong by these energetic basketballers. Their audiences included Army camps, prisons, high schools, universities, military colleges, hospitals, refugee camps, a leprosy colony, factories, a rotary club, playgrounds, orphanage, and even street meetings. Anywhere the Gospel could be presented they took advantage of the opportunity.

This team consisted of six athletes from Taylor University and their coach Don Odle who had won the Hoosier Conference Championship last season. These players Jack Jackson, Howie Habegger, Norm Holmskog, Don Granitz, John Nelson were joined by Bud Schaeffer, a former Wheaton College star. Once on the island the adjustment to the climate, food, beds, and the playing conditions was a big task for these college shooters. Missionaries usually have a period of adjustment but these court-cagers had to be in top shape, ready to play a full length game immediately. It wasn't long until they were averaging two games a day on the cement courts and playing in the hot tropical sun. There were only eight in the total squad which included a former player, Norm Cook, now a missionary on the Island. Despite a small squad and numerous injuries they never missed a game or a meeting.

Their circle of friends on the Island who have invited them to dinner include such important people as Madame and President Chiang, Admiral of the Navy, City Mayors, and distinguished Army Generals. This has opened a new door in the field of evangelism. Without question this group has stirred the whole Island of Formosa and left a testimony for Christ that will not soon be forgotten. Whether this unorthodox approach to Christianity will grow remains to be seen. But, a new door has been challenged in evangelism.

Fred D. Jarvis
U. N. War Correspondent
Taipeh, Formosa—Basketball and evangelism have been combined in a novel program carried out in Formosa by a group of earnest Americans from Taylor University, Upland, Ind.

The group came to this island bastion of Nationalist China at the invitation of Madame Chiang Kai-shek, wife of China's President and K. C. Wu, Governor of Formosa.

Madame Chiang calls them "Christian basketball ambassadors."

And a Chinese newspaper described them as a "formidable, non-smoking, good-preaching and hard-playing basketball team."

The team has played and won 57 games in Formosa and six in Hongkong.

The players have been entertained by President and Madame Chiang Kai-shek, honored by parades and bands, welcomed by flower girls and enthusiastically received by thousands of basketball fans.

At Kaohsiung in Southern Formosa, some 10,000 fans packed a stadium for about half that number.

It was impossible for the scheduled game to be played because every inch of the court was filled. A near riot occurred when the contest had to be called off.

**SPECIAL STADIUM BUILT FOR GAME**

At Taichung, also in Southern Formosa, a special stadium was built for a game in which the American players, who are named the Youth for Christ team, were to take part.

The team is composed of Johnny Nelson, Jersey City, N. J.; Don Granitz, Cambridge, Pa.; Norm Holmskog, Concord, Calif., and these Hoosiers: Howie Habegger, Berne; Jack Jackson, Chalmers; Norman Cook, Warsaw, and Bud Schaeffer, Fort Wayne.

The team is coached by Don Odle, Upland. Each of the games the team plays is begun with preaching, and the players alternate at testifying or preaching during halftime.

They all join in singing hymns and choruses in Chinese and English. They never fail to explain their purpose in coming to Formosa is to help Nationalists in their "heroic efforts to resist Communism, to raise funds for Madame Chiang Kai-shek's prayer group, which is supporting the new Chaplain's Corps in the Army, and above all to recommend Jesus Christ as the "Saviour of men and the answer to the problems of the world."

Despite difficulties in adjusting themselves to new climate, food, beds and playing conditions, the Bible-carrying, preaching, praying players have averaged two games a day, often playing in hot tropical sun.

Schaeffer, their star player, has been in the hospital with a leg injury, but the players believe that the Lord is with them and enables them never to miss a game. The Christian cagers have played for and preached to over a quarter of a million fans in stadiums all over the island.

**7,000 ENROLLED IN BIBLE COURSE**

Their audiences have included people from Army camps, prisons, universities, military colleges, refugee camps, a leper colony and a Rotary Club.

At the close of each game the athletic evangelists extend an invitation to those who want to become Christians to come forward for prayer.

Over 7,000 persons have responded and are enrolled in a Bible correspondence course.
A Hoosier basketball coach says Formosa is more basketball crazy than Indiana is.

He is Don Odle, mentor of Indiana's most successful basketball team last year, who just returned from a barnstorming "Bible and basketball" tour of the Far East.

Odle's Taylor University Trojans won 21 games and lost 4 last year. Then six of them, along with another Hoosier star, took off for Formosa to play basketball and preach Christ.

They returned to Upland Wednesday after preaching to more than 300,000 persons. Of those, more than 10,000 decided they wanted to accept the Christ the athletes preached.

But they were unprepared for the reception they got.

**SOME MADE 25-MILE TRIP**

"Some Chinese Nationalist soldiers told us they'd walked 25 miles to see our games and hear our sermons," Odle says.

"They play basketball the year around," he pointed out. "Everywhere we went we saw them playing on their outside courts." Crowds at games averaged more than 3,000 persons.

At Kaohsiung in Southern Formosa, some 10,000 fans packed a stadium built for half the number. The game had to be called off because there was no room to play.

But the players filled every other game on their schedule, playing two a day in Formosa.

The evangelistic team played 87 games on the tour—79 of them on Formosa itself. They lost only one of the games—by one point, to the Philippine Olympic team.

Each game was begun with preaching, and the players alternated at testifying or preaching during halftime.

Admission was charged at 20 of the games, and the team cleared $20,000 from them. All the money went to Madame Chiang Kai-shek's prayer group, which supports the new chaplains' corps in the Nationalist Army.

The money will support 401 chaplains for a year. The Nationalist Army previously had no spiritual leaders.

"We found opportunities to present Christianity to prisons, orphanages, factories, Army camps and colleges," Odle points out.

**PLAYED MILE AWAY FROM RED CHINA**

The team's most interesting game site was Kinman Island, just a mile off the Communist China coast. "We could see Communist territory from the outdoor court."

Their most interesting spectators were probably the head-hunters who came from small nearby islands.

All the players lost weight, and the coach says it'll take a month to get back to normal health. But all agree that it was worth it.

"If they had to eat that food over here, they'd certainly gripe," Odle says. "Over there, they didn't complain a bit." The boys slept on the floor, on bamboo beds, on cots or anywhere possible.
Mr. Don J. Odle,
Youth for Christ,
Taipei

On the eve of the departure of you and your associates from Formosa for the United States, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my personal reaction to the cause you serve and the success that has met your efforts while here.

There is no room for doubt that a great service in the name of Christianity has been given. There is no question of the vast amount of good will that has been created. The combination of missionary work with that of an athletic program is a happy one. The tremendous reception given your work, both in the missionary field and in the attendance at your games is ample testimony.

As you know, the work you have been doing is closely related to the work being done by Madame Chiang Kai-shek and her associates in developing Christianity particularly among the young people and the women in the home.

I am sure that Madame Chiang Kai-shek and all the other thousands of friends you have made in Formosa hope that you will be able to return next year.

A. M. Goul
China Manager
United Press

American Youth For Christ Basketball Team
Section 3, N., Chung Shan Rd.
Shuang Cheng Chieh Lane 10, House 29
Taipei

Your visit to this Academy on June 10th had deeply impressed our students and faculty members. You had brought us both the goodwill of the American people and the message of Jesus Christ the Savior. This Academy, being the cradle of modern police officers of Free China, needs very badly the spirit and principles of Christianity. We sincerely hope that you would let us contribute what we could in your most august "Youth For Christ" movement. I am sure the whole Academy would like to co-operate and do our best.

We wish your representative here in Taipei would contact us often so that you may check our progress in the direction of Christianity. If all our students become the followers of the Lord, I am sure the society and the nation as a whole can be greatly benefitted.

Indeed, your mission is a great and priceless one. What you have done in Free China has been an admirable success. I pray that more success would greet you in the future.

Enclosed are prints of the pictures which we took when you played in this Academy. I hope every member of the Team would get one print so that you would never forget that you had been with us once. And you can be sure that our hearts and blessings are always with you.

With best wishes, I am,

Ko-wang Mei, Dean
Taiwan Police Academy
YFC DIRECTOR INVITES TEAM BACK

Dear Men,

Some have wondered whether evangelism and basketball could be successfully mixed; would it pay off in precious souls or would it just be a form of entertainment.

As the director of Youth For Christ I have been on Formosa for nearly two years. It has been my privilege to see a real harvest. Thousands have indicated their desire to know Christ as their Saviour. However, the great mass have seemed unaware of the preacher or his message. Seven million people have been unaffected by his work. Then came the idea of inviting the Taylor Team to this basketball-loving island. As their work has been a spiritual one, it is impossible to measure the full extent of the results, but as an eye-witness I want to record what the eye can see.

The team's excellent playing was all that was needed to attract a crowd and to make them front page news on every paper. Their clean playing and sportsmanship won the admiration of the entire population and was a real testimony of their Christian character. Today you can mention the team name "For Christ" anyplace on the island and all know of whom you are talking.

I feel that the team's mission here has been priceless. It opened many doors to the preaching of the Gospel. It awakened the Church to the opportunity to preach the Gospel. It revealed to the Church that thousands all around are hungry for the Gospel. It showed the Christians that the Gospel can not only be preached but also lived.

As for the fellows and the coach, we found them bears for hard work, day after day playing and preaching three and four times under rough conditions, under the Orient's burning summer sun. Best of all we rejoiced that they never missed a chance to preach and present Christ to the people. As a result God gave them a great harvest of over 10,000 souls. These new believers will be carefully followed up with Bible classes and a correspondence course, and before long will be winning others to Christ—thus the harvesting will continue. There is no way to measure the fruitfulness of the ministry God gave to the team this summer.

Looking at it from this end God did what He promised in Matthew 19:29. They gave up a summer at home to serve Him out here. In return He gave them one hundred fold, or 10,000%. Come back again men and help us gather another harvest.

C. R. Hillis
Director China YFC