

The

# JIWA JOURNAL

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## **INAUGURAL ISSUE: THE FOUNDING OF JIWA**



## The JIWA JOURNAL

A publication of Jiwa International, devoted to telling the stories of migrant workers around the world and keeping you up to date about the work of Jiwa to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of this often vulnerable population.

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We are pleased to provide this resource for free as we view this as part of our mission to advocate for migrant workers by telling their stories. However, if you would like to help cover the development and distribution costs of The Jiwa Journal, you may make a donation to Jiwa International at [www.jiwaintl.org/give](http://www.jiwaintl.org/give).

## FROM THE FOUNDERS

As workers overseas, we have had the habit of sending monthly newsletters to those who support us and want to keep up with what's happening in our personal and professional lives. But there is only so much we can communicate in those newsletters before they get boring, and so, we don't always get the chance to tell all the stories we'd like to.

The other side effect of those newsletters is that they're primarily about us and the things immediately around us. When we started Jiwa we looked forward to being able to tell others' stories. So many people have interest in what it's like for us to move and live abroad, and we have had it relatively easy compared to many other migrant workers. That's right, we're migrant workers too! However, the privileges and positive experiences we've had while living in Asia are often not the same experiences many migrant workers from less developed countries experience. Many experience unsafe and unfair work environments, are forced to pay burdensome fees and debts, and some even find themselves in a form of human trafficking. Our hearts break for those who experience Taiwan, the country we love and consider as home, in a different way that how we've been welcomed and cared for. We want to pay it forward and share the love of God with those migrant workers who are hurting, lonely, and taken advantage of.

And so, we've launched Jiwa International and this publication, The Jiwa Journal, to both keep you up to date about what's happening here at Jiwa International and also to tell some of the stories of brave migrant workers around the world who have taken courageous steps in pursuit of a better life for themselves and their families.

Enjoy this inaugural issue of The Jiwa Journal and may we never forget to care for the foreigner among us.

Nathan &  
Laura



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Migrant workers in Taiwan demonstrate for better treatment and laws.

# PRAYER REQUESTS

- PRAY for the continued development of Jiwa and that the 501c3 designation would come in from the IRS soon.
- PRAY for Nathan & Laura as they use the next few months to fundraise and connect with supporters before launching back to Taiwan in May 2024.
- PRAY for the many migrant workers around the world; pray that they would be treated well and could continue to provide for their families.
- PRAY for peace in the world.



**Jiwa** (*noun*)

**\\jee-wah \\**

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- 1: The Indonesian word for soul.**
  - 2: The totality of the person as a center of life, emotions, feelings, and longings.**
  - 3: The spiritual essence of a person.**

# THE FOUNDING OF JIWA INTERNATIONAL



Nathan & Laura right after submitting the paperwork to incorporate Jiwa International.

After eight years of working in Asia with the same organization, we were at a crossroads. There were a number of things that God was using to make it clear that it was time for a new chapter.

However, we were certainly resistant for a new chapter to begin so soon after so many previous chapters that had been much too short or seemed to end on a cliffhanger. Dating long-distance through the COVID-19 pandemic, getting married on Zoom, spending the first year of marriage living in three different countries, building and rebuilding community over and over again, all on top of the other stresses of moving and living abroad had made us hope that our move to Indonesia in 2022 was going to be the final international move for quite some time. However, looking back, it is clear that God was doing a special work.

We often hope that special works of God mean something fun, easy, positive, or enjoyable. However, there are many metaphors that demonstrate that the most beautiful things often come out of seasons of stress, and pressure. Think of the potter and the clay, the diamond coming from carbon atoms under tremendous pressure, etc. Just because the special works of God aren't always enjoyable doesn't mean that there is beauty in the process and in the end result.

Looking back, the beauty that God was working is more obvious. But in the moment we didn't see any positives of arriving at yet another crossroad. We left Indonesia in August 2023 stepping out into the unknown, knowing that the door to remain in Indonesia was closing but didn't see a new one opening up quite yet. Taking a step of faith from one thing to another is hard, but taking a step of faith out of one thing into the vast unknown can be so much more intimidating.

Our first stop after leaving Indonesia was Taiwan. It had been about two years since we had left and we were anxious to see old friends with whom we could process the rather sudden change of events. And it was with these trusted friends that God stated to reveal the next step he wanted us to take.

Some of the friends we wanted to visit were in southern Taiwan. These were the friends and former colleagues that we were actually planning on working with when we were originally thinking about moving to Tainan with before the opportunity to move to Indonesia presented itself. One of these team members is originally from Indonesia, and so this team naturally had a heart for the Indonesians who had migrated to Taiwan for employment.

This team had been working to meet the Indonesian migrant workers in the area and create events to create community and provide encouragement to these people. While we were in town, we were invited to meet a few of these Indonesians.

As we went from house to house meeting Indonesians, we heard stories that broke our hearts. One woman had been in Taiwan for six months but still couldn't sleep well because the room she had been provided didn't have a door, leaving her with almost no privacy and afraid something would come into her room while she was sleeping.

We met two other women who had been more or less purchased by Taiwanese men to be their wives. One of these women had come home from work one day in Indonesia to find a foreign man in her house. Her parents asked if she would be willing to marry this man in exchange for her family receiving a relatively large payment. She reluctantly agreed and soon found herself living in Taiwan married to a stranger. We later learned that there are places in Taiwan that single men can go in order to browse a catalogue of Southeast Asian women "available" for marriage.

A house in the neighborhood was pointed out to us with hushed whispers as that was where some people were hiding from Taiwanese immigration as they had overstayed their visas and were at risk of deportation.

Later, we went to a local park to hopefully meet some Indonesian domestic care workers who would often bring the elderly Taiwanese they look after to the park. The workers take these elderly Taiwanese to the park in order to get them fresh air and exercise, but also because this was one of the only times they were able to socialize with others from their home country or in a similar situation. Domestic care workers, unlike other categories of labor open to migrants, are not required to be given a day off. Meaning that they can end up working 24/7, unable to connect with friends who might live nearby on their own time. Going to the park is the window they have to socialize.

Our Indonesia friend tries to time her own visit to the park around the same time as these workers so that she can meet and encourage these women. The day that we went with our friend was especially hot and so it ended up that we didn't meet anyone, but it was there in Beigang Park in Yunlin County that we had a heart-to-heart with our Indonesian friend about the needs she sees and how we might be able to work together.

Beyond the physical needs we had witnessed, we heard our friend's heart for her fellow countrymen's spiritual needs. As Islam is the predominate religion in Indonesia (87%), a large number of the Indonesians working in Taiwan were Muslim. As only .3% of Taiwanese are Muslim, there is a large gap in cultural and religious awareness and sensitivity. The Taiwanese church sees the need and wants to both help and share the hope of God, but has such little experience with Islam that outreach to their new Muslim neighbors was extremely difficult and could even be harmful to building relationships.

While we are not experts by any stretch of the imagination after living in Indonesia for a relatively short period of time, we did have experience and understanding of the complexities of outreach to Muslims and had a heart for this population. We started to see glimpses of the beauty God seemed to be crafting, in spite of the challenging situation in which we found ourselves.

It was there in the park that we started really talking about the possibility of returning to Taiwan. I (Nathan) still have permanent Taiwanese residency and so visas and working limitations are nonexistent for me and it's easy to get Laura a dependent visa. We then talked with our American friends who have been in Taiwan for 30 years about logistics, our Indonesian friend again about strategy, as well as a Taiwanese church pastor about partnership opportunities. After initial conversations, it was clear that invitations were being extended by each party and so now the question was no longer "what's next?" but rather "how do we do this?" and "is this really what God is doing?"

After returning to the United States in September 2023, we discerned that God was asking us to take another step of faith and into the giftings and desires we had held in their hearts, but hadn't been able to fully tap into before.



Getting to meet the woman who said she couldn't sleep at night due to the lack of a door on her bedroom. Still smiling!



Below: Meeting with old and new friends from America, Taiwan, and Indonesia over mango shaved ice dreaming about the future opportunities and potential partnerships.

My (Nathan's) education in Business as Mission and Social Entrepreneurship gave me knowledge and theory about how to start companies in order to create social good, but I hadn't been able to put much of that knowledge to use yet. And so, it was in September 2023 that we filed the paperwork to form Jiwa International. It was a step of faith as we weren't sure if funding would come in, how our supporters would react, or how things would play out.

But as we started telling people about this potential we heard excitement and confidence that we were on the right track and were hearing God clearly. People offered funding, to be on the board, their connections, encouragement, and fervent prayers that God would open all the doors as we headed this direction.

A few months later, it is clear that God is going before us as well as this new organization. While there are still funding needs, Jiwa met its first financial goal in less than two months and funding continues to come in.

While the next few steps are coming into more clarity, we still aren't sure what all this next chapter will bring. In some ways we're hesitant to dream and hope, but we are excited to see where God leads both them and have faith that God will continue to create beauty, regardless of how fun the process is. Our connections and experiences are within Taiwan and Indonesia, but there are 500,000 other migrant workers in Taiwan that come from countries other than Indonesia. Might the next step be to develop ministries and outreaches to the Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Filipino, and other Southeast Asian population? Could Jiwa expand to other countries in East Asian and around the world?

Physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of migrant workers exist all over the world. God is passionate about seeing all of His children come into relationship with him and experiencing the hope and redemption that only Christ can offer. Bringing Heaven to Earth means bringing that Holy redemption and healing into the economic and social systems that are forcing people around the world into unjust and oppressive working environments. Meeting the physical and emotional needs of these migrants opens the door to share that ultimate Hope doesn't come from a better job or being able to provide for one's family, but rather in Jesus Christ. Jiwa will officially launch operations in early May 2024 when we return to Taiwan and we can't wait to this share the Good News with the Indonesian migrant workers there!

Thank you for joining Jiwa and us as we embark on this new exciting chapter and endeavor. ✝



Sharing at a church in California about the needs of migrant workers in Taiwan.

# FOLLOW JIWA INTERNATIONAL ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM!



- Keep in the loop
- See global news as it relates to migrant workers
- Learn about the economic realities that drive many to migrate
- Get book recommendations
- Hear the hearts of Jiwa staff



# HEADED INTO WAR: MIGRANT WORKERS PROVIDING NEEDED LABOR IN ISRAEL IN SPITE OF CONFLICT



Photo by Mansado Louis

*Written by Nathan Conklin*

The impacts of the Oct 7th Hamas attack on Israel and the Israeli subsequent response continue to have deep and ongoing impacts both near and far to the conflict. Our globalized world also means that those who experience those impacts are not even always people from that general region. Migrant workers from Asia were part of the casualties and African migrant workers are now filling the gap.

NPR reports that prior to the Oct 7th attack there were over 30,000 Thai's working in Israel, mostly in agriculture. There, they were able to make around \$1,300 a month, which is much more and goes much further in supporting their family than any kind of job they could get back home. But these migrant workers who were in this part of the world in pursuit of a better life found themselves in the midst of the Hamas/Israel conflict.

Thirty-four Thai migrant workers were killed and twenty-four taken hostage. Some of the hostages have since been released, but the violence led the Thai government to encourage its citizens to return home and more than 10,000 Thai nationals have since done so.

The departure of these Asian migrant workers and the Israeli government's decision to bar Palestinians from working in Israel, who at one point made up 20% of Israel's agricultural workforce, has led to a major labor shortage in the Israeli agricultural industry. The military calling up 360,000 military reservists also impacts the available labor pool. Israel's agricultural ministry told CNN that they needed 30-40,000 farm workers in order to maintain agricultural production. In order to find these workers, Israel is now looking to East Africa.





*Thai Migrant Workers in Israel before the war.*

*Photo by: Ilia Yefimovich*

## **“THIS IS ALL ABOUT MONEY. I AM HERE FOR GREENER PASTURES.... WHEN I GO HOME, I WILL BE A MILLIONAIRE.”**

Israel has stated that it is already working to recruit farm workers from Uganda and Tanzania. Some in Kenya expressed concern at this move as the conflict is not dying down; they wanted to know how the Israeli government could guarantee the safety of these migrant workers. Israel has said that additional protections have been put in place to both protect the lives of these workers as well as providing additional workplace protections in response to concerns about historical workplace abuses migrant workers have experienced in Israel.

The labor need Israel is facing is coming at the same time as an unemployment and economic crisis in East Africa. Kenya has an unemployment rate of 5.5% and other countries in the area see the economic benefit of their population going abroad to make higher salaries that they can send back home to support their families. The Malawian government is pledging to send 5,000 young people to meet the Israeli labor needs, and Kenya has similarly promised to send workers.

This situation highlights how migrant workers are often called upon in hard times to fulfill essential duties to support a nation's economic welfare. We can also see how desperate many people's economic situations are would make an offer like this attractive.

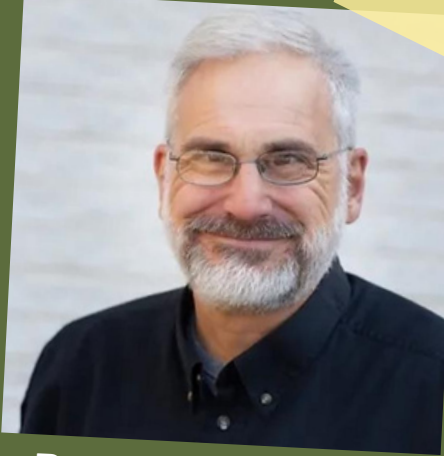
These migrant workers are braving an active war zone in pursuit of better incomes and the ability to better support their families. Andrew Chunga, 27, who was part of the first group of 221 Malawians who went to Israel in November 2023 said, “This is all about money. I am here for greener pastures.... When I go home, I will be a millionaire.”

The economic need of many in Africa and Asia drive them to make these hard decisions. Even one of the Thai men who was held hostage by Hamas for 51 days, Wichian Temthong, is considering going back in order to pay off the debt he incurred for his trip to and from Israel and still has to pay back to the brokerage service; a debt of about US\$6,500. He says that his wife has started working in a factory for 800 baht (US\$23) a day in order to help pay back this debt. He himself is considering going back to Israel “just for the chance to earn, and save, a little more.”

Let us pray for these migrant workers. We pray for their safety and that the protections the Israeli government has promised will be realized for these foreign workers. We also pray and work against extreme poverty that forces many to make difficult decisions like these. †

# MEET THE BOARD

The Board of Directors of Jiwa International serve a variety of roles. They are responsible for stewarding the mission of the organization, providing accountability to the staff, serving as providers of member care and encouragement to Jiwa leadership, and advocating for the work of Jiwa International.



**Rev. Nate Conklin**

Nate Conklin is Pastor at Spring Grove Area C&MA Church as well as Executive Pastor at York Alliance Church. Nate and his wife, Glenda, have been at the Spring Grove church for 30 years as of 2024. Nate's education prior to the pastorate was in finance and accounting, which brings a unique perspective to the various roles he has held on boards, at churches, and at other nonprofit organizations. This financial and church leadership experience will help Jiwa in its administration as well as ensuring close partnership with the global church and sound Christian practice.

Dr. LaFrance was a Professor of Economics at Messiah University and the Managing Director of the International Business Institute (IBI) before retiring in 2020. His experience teaching in IBI and leading IBI has taken him around the world each summer where he has experienced a variety of cultures and seen the outworking of globalization, all of which has given him a unique perspective on the world. Dr. LaFrance also taught a cross-cultural course in Costa Rica each January and a course on ministry in international business. Vince also helped start the Carlisle Evangelical Free Church where he remains active. His academic background and experience will bring a valuable perspective to Jiwa and help to keep it focused on its values and mission to identify and support vulnerable migrant workers around the world.



**Dr. Vince LaFrance**



**Chad Brubaker**

Chad Brubaker works as a professional engineer with central Pennsylvania's electrical utility, PPL Corporation. In his role, Chad supervises a team to ensure that companies and individual households have reliable access to electricity and the utility company can track electric usage in an effective and efficient manner. Chad's attention to detail and engineering experience brings a valuable perspective as Jiwa develops systems and processes that will maximize its efforts.

Emily Brubaker currently works as a Nurse Practitioner with Wellspan Health in Carlisle as well as an ER nurse at York Hospital. While she enjoys the adrenaline-rush pace of the Emergency Department, she also enjoys the slower pace of individual and long-term care as a primary care medical provider. Her experience in medicine and working within a large medical nonprofit brings a unique perspective to Jiwa. Emily cares deeply for individuals' physical and emotional health and will ensure that the organization is providing effective holistic care. Her experience in crisis management will also bring a wealth of knowledge in situations of abuse and/or trauma.



**Emily Brubaker**

Susan M. currently lives and works in Indonesia. She and her husband work with local ministries to reach out to the majority people group and religion. Susan works alongside Inspire Indonesia, a soccer and athletics ministry that works to develop young people and advocate against sexual and physical abuse. Susan's education and experience in art has also created opportunities to build relationships and develop skills in the lives of many Indonesian women. Susan brings a deep understanding of Indonesian culture and the Islamic religion and will help Jiwa have sound cultural understanding and sensitivity as it develops programs and activities for the Indonesian migrant worker population in Taiwan.



**Susan M.**

To contact any member of the board, you may send an email to [contactjiwaintl@gmail.com](mailto:contactjiwaintl@gmail.com) with "For the Board" in the subject line. Your message will then be passed along to the board.

## Why a guidepost?

As we were developing a logo for Jiwa, we wanted an image that would convey the difficult journey migrant workers embark on for the benefit of their families. We also wanted the logo to demonstrate how Jiwa provides guidance and support along the way. We ended up with a guidepost and feel like our logo is a great embodiment of this thought.

The graphic designer who developed our logo put it this way, "The logo is meant to inspire action and portray strength and energy to those who interact with it. It is [also] a respite to those in need and energizing to those who can help. Our logo represents the impact of Jiwa International."



# PROJECTS ON THE HORIZON

As Jiwa has been considering different ways to create relationships and support the migrant worker population, we've been brainstorming projects that will launch once Nathan & Laura arrive in Taiwan. Some of the initial development phase has already started so that we can hit the ground running in the spring. There is always a possibility that once we arrive we'll learn new things that cause us to shift our strategy, but we're excited about the possibilities!



When you live far away from home, having a “taste” of home can mean so much! One of our ideas is to open a cafe that sells Indonesian drink and food options in addition to a typical cafe menu. This would create a third-space where Muslims who are not willing to enter a church could join us for special events. In addition to being open throughout the week, we would also host classes and other events in this space.

The migrant workers who come to Taiwan are often provided with Mandarin classes before they arrive, but it's often not enough to feel comfortable in the language. Also, many of the elderly Taiwanese that they care for only speak the Taiwanese dialect, meaning they have little ability to communicate. Jiwa, with the help of a local Taiwanese church, will provide online and in person language classes.

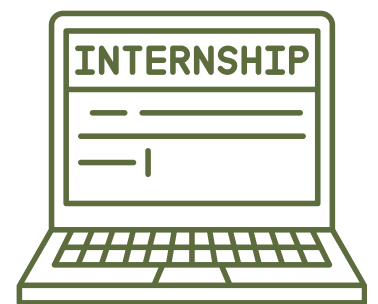
Migrant workers are able to earn a higher incomes while in their host country, but when they return home it is not guaranteed that they will be able to re-enter the local job market. Jiwa desires to provide training in vocational skill that can be used both in their host country and in their country-of-origin once they return home. These could include business skills, artisan & creative skills, digital marketing, health care skills, etc.



As we build relationships, our ultimate goal is that all we interact with will have the opportunity to personally meet with God and grow in community. We hope to help the local church develop an Indonesian service or house-church that would be a place where those we meet can grow in their faith.



Many migrant workers, especially those who work as domestic care providers rarely get a day off. We hope we are able to develop a program that would allow for a rotating relief labor force that would take a shift for some of the migrant workers. They could use this day off as they see fit, but also hopefully will spend some time at Cafe Jiwa!



Jiwa believes that it is important that any organization works to develop others so that the mission can continue, past the current leadership and staff. Jiwa plans to start accepting interns and short-term teams from the US, Taiwan, & Indonesia soon. Interns will have the chance to contribute to Jiwa's work and grow in their own abilities.

# HELP US MAKE THESE PROJECTS A REALITY!

## GIVE ONLINE



- Scan QR code or go to [jiwaintl.org/give](http://jiwaintl.org/give)
- Choose one time or monthly gift
- Type in your desired amount
- Fill out your information
- Under "confirm your donation," click on the pull down arrow, choose "other," and type in "0."

## GIVE BY CHECK

- Make check out to "Jiwa International."
- Use the pre-addressed envelope included with this magazine or address your own envelope to:  
 Jiwa International  
 213 North Main Street  
 Spring Grove, PA 17362

### WHAT SCRIPTURE SAYS ABOUT THE MIGRANT AND FOREIGNER:

“ Do not take advantage of a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether that workers is a brother or a foreigner residing in your own town.  
 Deuteronomy 24:14 ”

“ The foreigner who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the foreigner as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.  
 Leviticus 19:34 ”

“ When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God.  
 Leviticus 19:9-10 ”

“ Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt.  
 Exodus 22:21 ”



“ Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.  
 Romans 15:7 ”

# FIGHTING FOR RIGHTS



Written by Nathan Conklin

Protesters demonstrate for the end of the brokerage system in Taiwan in December 2023  
Photo by CNA

In early December 2023, over 500 migrant workers demonstrated in the Ximen district of Taipei City to bring attention to the oppressive practices of the labor brokerage industry alive and well in Taiwan. These brokers are bringing in massive profits, mainly off the backs of migrant workers from Southeast Asia.

The Migrant Empowerment in Network Taiwan (MENT) says that the Taiwanese government is largely to blame for allowing more than one thousand intermediary brokerage firms to profit off of illegal fees charged to migrant workers in exchange for work opportunities. The International Labor Organization, in “The Private Employment Agencies Convention of 1997,” states in Article 7 that “Private employment agencies shall not charge directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, any fees or costs to workers.’ The government may authorize exceptions, provided that they are ‘in the interests of the workers concerned, and after consulting the most representative organizations of employers and workers.’” MENT says that the Taiwanese government allows for too many exceptions that are not actually to the benefit of the migrant workers, but are rather exclusively to the benefit of the employers.

MENT said in a press release: “The result of the Taiwan government's thirty years of indulgence in the ‘privatization of cross-border job matchmaking for disadvantaged workers’ has not only resulted in the ‘monopolization of the entire migrant job market by private agents,’ but has also used the blood and sweat of migrant workers to benefit private agents.” MENT goes on to say that rather than addressing systematic abuses of migrant workers and illegal labor practices, the Taiwanese government has decided to rather deal with the problem on a case-by-case basis, leading to slow responses by the government to egregious harm and unfair labor practices.

The Taiwanese government says that the number of migrant workers illegally overstaying their visas or running away from their employers has dropped, claiming that this is an indication that their policies are working to address the problem.

However, even perfectly following Taiwanese labor law does not mean that migrant workers are well treated or protected. Not all migrant workers are covered under robust labor protections or have access to the same protections that Taiwanese citizens do.

Only the migrant workers employed by companies providing "institutional care," like nursing homes and medical institutions, and factory/construction jobs were covered by the same labor protections as Taiwanese citizens (Labor Standards Act (LSA) - '23 minimum wage = US\$856). Migrant workers providing in-home care for the elderly for individual families are covered under a different law called the Employment Service Act (ESA) which allows for employers to pay below the LSA minimum wage. Off-shore fishermen may experience even lower wages under the ESA.

These distant water fishermen, board fishing vessels outside of Taiwan and often never set foot on Taiwanese soil. Even if the ESA was fair, the distance from Taiwanese regulators and labor inspectors mean that these foreign fishermen have little to no protection, let alone confidence that they will be even be compensated according to their contract. Their monthly salaries reportedly may range between NT\$3,000 and NT\$9,000 (US\$100-300).

Contact substitution is also all-too-often experienced by migrant workers. Sarah Beech from the University of Texas says, "Contract substitution, [is] the process of overriding a contract and replacing it with a harsher, 'substituted' one." She goes on to say that this "is a dominant practice in nearly 161 countries. That is, more than 2.4 million victims of forced labor have been trafficked across the world market due to practices like contract substitution."

There is a fine line between a company looking abroad for foreign labor which will end up benefiting both the worker and the local company and explicit human trafficking. It is the role of governments to ensure that these brokers are legally contracting with foreign laborers to provide needed services in exchange for fair wages, not importing what can amount to modern slavery in order to enrich already developed economies.

Protesters demonstrate for the end of the brokerage system in Taiwan in December 2023  
Photo by CNA

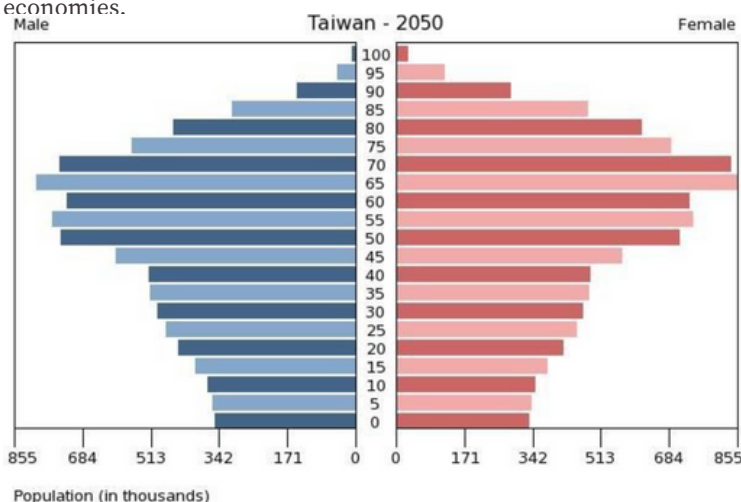


Many developed economies are finding themselves in what economists call the "inverted demographic pyramid." This means that there are more older people than young people in a given society, leading to economic challenges as there are not enough people in the upcoming generations to care, both physically and as a tax base, for the proceeding generations. Migration is often seen as one way to address this economic challenge.

These demographic challenges are being felt everywhere from East Asia, to Europe, to even the United States. Governments see the looming threat. But, rather than developing robust labor laws that makes migration appealing from lesser developed economies, these governments often allow brokerage firms and domestic companies to take advantage of migrant workers for their own economic gain.

This, however, is a short-term perspective rather than a long-term fix. As Southeast Asian, South Asian, and African labor markets continue to provide labor to the world's more developed economies, they will begin to compare and contrast which countries offer more protections and better economic results for their people.

Migrating labor provides huge amounts of economic benefit for home countries. In 2018 migrant workers from Indonesia sent back to Indonesia US\$111.2 billion. These funds are used to support families and communities, invest in education, and provide capital for the start of new small businesses. Developing economies see the value of exporting their demographic advantage to economies that do not have the same demographic makeup, but these developing economies are starting to see the economic power that they currently have and will increasingly have in the years to come.



Example of an inverted demographic pyramid, which Taiwan is experiencing.

This increasingly advantageous negotiating position will force developing economies to ensure it's labor laws and practices are fair and appealing to foreign labor.

In the meantime, migrant workers still are often forced to pay illegal brokerage fees and can end up in debt even in the midst of providing needed labor in a foreign country.

Jiwa International works to bridge the gap between policy and people. Global economic systems and countries' labor laws are slow to change and, even in the most ideal situations, there are always people overlooked and taken advantage of. Jiwa advocates for better treatment, but works to meet the needs of the migrant workers around the world. Join us in meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of migrant workers around the world! ✚

## MIGRANT WORKERS IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

The UN [reports](#) that Russia - Ukrainian war has caused the fastest-growing displacement event since World War II with nearly one-third of Ukrainians being displaced due to the conflict. 5.9 million people were internally displaced and 5.7 refugees and asylum-seekers have spread out into Europe and into other parts of the world.

NPR recently published [an article](#) about some of these Ukrainian refugees who have immigrated to the United States in the midst of this conflict who are using a program providing two-year US work permits to Ukrainian nationals fleeing the war. West Virginia, Iowa, Indiana, Arkansas and Alabama have also seen significant growth in their foreign-born populations.

While North Dakota may have colder winters than most of us are used to, the climate isn't too far off from the climate many Ukrainians are used to. These migrant workers provide a great source of labor for North Dakotan employers who are struggling to fill empty jobs in a location where many Americans don't want to move to in the midst of an already present national labor shortage.

Although migrant workers play vital roles in the medical, agriculture, manufacturing, education, and many more, these workers often are not always welcomed by the communities they support. They can face racist and xenophobic attitudes, protectionist mentalities, and a less than hospitable spirit.

As this NPR article explained, however, relationships break down these barriers and stereotypes. When people realize that migrant workers are simply people looking for better opportunities who have much to give to the local community their hesitation to engage with immigrant populations diminish.

May we all work to identify the needs and desires of the immigrants in our own backyards!! ✚

## SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR MIGRANT WORKERS WITH JIWA MERCH!

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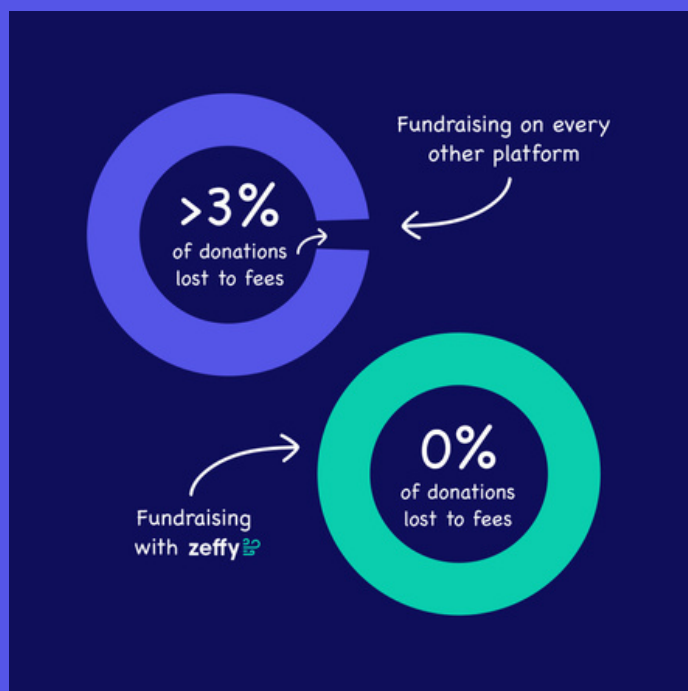


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## BOOK RECOMMENDATION



Migrante, by J.W. Henley, tells a powerful and emotional story about the challenges many migrant workers experience around the world, but specifically in Taiwan. Check it out to have a better understanding of the migrant worker experience and consider supporting Jiwa International as we work to meet some of needs explored in this novel.

**Available on**  
**Amazon**

**YOU'RE INVITED TO:**

# Jiwa's Launch Dinner!

Join us to:

- Enjoy a meal
- Learn more about Jiwa International
- Hear from our Indonesian colleague in Taiwan
- Practice your Mandarin & Indonesian
- "Jiwa Jeopardy"
- Exclusive Jiwa Merchandise
- Send off Nathan & Laura

*The events are pay-what-you-will, but registration is required. Scan the QR or go to [JiwaIntl.org/events](https://JiwaIntl.org/events) to get your tickets today!*

*Register  
Now* ↘



[JiwaIntl.org/events](https://JiwaIntl.org/events)

## Dates & Locations:

- March 10 @ Dillsburg BIC Church, **Dillsburg, PA**
- March TBD in **Lewisburg, PA**
- April 21 @ Grenada Berean Church, **Grenada, CA**



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