

Sung, John (1901-1944)

Sung was a Chinese evangelist and revivalist who studied in the United States, including a period at Union Theological Seminary, New York City. He returned to China in 1927 and was married Yu Chin Hua in 1928. A Methodist, he eventually became an itinerating evangelist, and in 1931, he joined the Bethel Worldwide Evangelistic Band led by Andrew Gih. He edited the Bethel magazine, *Guide to Holiness*. The Bethel band was disbanded in 1933, and Sung again became an independent evangelist. Between 1935 and 1939, Sung conducted numerous crusades in Taiwan and Southeast Asia. In 1940, Sung began to suffer from cancer and tuberculosis, and he died on 18 August 1944.

Sung conducted his first revival in Siam in Bangkok in 1938, and in early 1939 he returned for a more extended series of revivals at the personal invitation of the Rev. [Boon Mark Kittisarn](#) in spite of the objections of other church leaders. Visiting nearly all of the Christian centers in northern, central, and southern Siam, Sung's revivals sparked an intense period of church renewal and aggressive evangelistic activity among the churches of the Church of Christ in Thailand. Pentecostals see Sung as laying the groundwork for the post-World War II emergence of Thai Pentecostalism. The Sung revivals also generated serious controversy and division, and supporters and detractors of Sung differ as to whether his revivals strengthened or weakened the churches as they entered a period of persecution before and during the War. Sung, in any event, had a strong impact on a generation of Thai church leaders, and his revivals stand as one of the key events in 20th century Thai Protestant church history.