

IA Newsletter

International Assembly

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[WRITE TO EDITOR](#) 

CONTENTS

-  **FEATURE > WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE GOSPEL AT THE END TIMES**
-  **CHURCH NEWS > AUCKLAND CHURCH**
-  **CHURCH NEWS > UK GENERAL ASSEMBLY**
-  **INTERCESSION**
-  **BULLETIN**
-  **ONE DOLLAR ONE SOUL**

Feature

WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE GOSPEL AT THE END TIMES

Written by/ Jonathan Chou

The Apostle John saw a vision: I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred *and* forty-four thousands of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed (Rev 7:3-4). After these things John looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands...Then, one of the elders said to John: “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Rev 9:13-14). This is one of the prophecies regarding the salvation of end times.

True Jesus Church rose in 1917 in Beijing, China, from the promise of the Holy Spirit and was established through the latter rain of the Holy Spirit, for the purpose of spreading the perfect

Gospel in the end times to rebuild the fallen temple of David. This is so that the faith of the Apostolic church can be revived before the great woes of the end times destroy the world so that mankind can be gathered together to be saved and become the ark of salvation.

Thank the guidance of the Lord, through the great power of the Holy Spirit and miracles and wonders, the truth have been preached to the five major continents, and sixty countries and areas. There were great challenges and resistance during the pioneering process but, just as Paul said: "For which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, *even* to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained" (II Tim 2:9). The Lord says: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Mt 24:14). We truly believe that the promise of the Gospel for the end times will surely be fulfilled.

"Enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes. For you shall expand to the right and to the left" (Is 54:2-3). In a few more years, the history of the true church will reach a century. Looking back to history and remembering God's grace and blessings with gratitude, the pioneering spirit from the workers of previous generations built the result of the true church of today.

In order to finish building the temple of God and face more difficult challenges and missions, we must draw even closer to the Lord to keep the conviction of the faith. Completely submit to the guidance of the Holy Spirit to keep the spirit of one house and one body. "Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: 'The Lord knows those who are His,' and, 'Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity'" (II Tim 2:19). The True church is established through the promise of God, and is under God's reign; therefore, the Lord will lead it to His perfection. The Lord will use the reed as a measuring rod to measure God's temple and altar, and those who are worshiping inside the temple (Rev 11:1-2). Finally, she will make herself ready as the new bride waiting for the marriage of the Lamb to come. Just like the holy city, Jerusalem, that is filled with glorious light from heaven. The walls and the gates were decorated with precious stone, fine gold, and pearls. It has been measured by a golden rod (Rev 19:7-8; 21:10-24). Therefore, Paul says: "According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire" (I Cor 3:10-15).

A resolution was made during the previous World Delegates Conference, that each GA should establish an organized system that is according to the Bible. Each GA should have a spiritual “Godly democracy” system as the principle of the church’s organizational management. A “Godly democracy” system uses the true God and Christ as the leader of the church; the Holy Spirit is the only ruler of the church. Holy workers who are sent as God’s servants must serve according to the teachings of the Bible and be examples to the believers. All meetings and activities of the church should be under the guidance of the Holy Spirit through the principles of the Bible. All major matters must be discussed in a democratic manner through meetings and brainstorming. In short, God must be the ruler of the church. All things must submit to the will of God and let God reign over the church. Men are God’s servants; therefore, the church should not make decisions based on individual wills or follow autocracy. Apostolic churches truly became the kingdom of God. During the World Delegate Conference two years ago, the global church holy work plan was made. The International Assembly chair serves a four year term and will execute all meeting items. The six departments and each General Assembly and Coordinating region will carry out all the assigned holy work in a systematic manner.

For the sake of expanding the spreading of the Gospel globally, the International Assembly will have a series of seminars, hoping to bring together the wisdom of everyone so that the entire church will have the same goal for future developments. The International Assembly already decided to hold the WDC meeting in Irvine church of California, US, at the end of March. The topic for the special topic seminar before the meeting will be “Globalization and the prospects of True Jesus Church”. The sub topic for this year is “Looking Back to a Century of True Jesus Church’s Development and Future Visions”. Each church from every country needs to form a project group and collect data according to the content of the official letter, then perform analysis and provide detail reports. The International Assembly also invited some brethren to research and provides suggestions of the future development and globalization of the church. This will be discussed by all the delegates who will offer a more complete proposal to become a unified strategy that can be used by all churches in the future.

The topic for the last WDC was “The Heritage of True Church” for the continuous growth of the church, which includes things that should be passed down, such as faith, truth, servitude, and spirit. The International Assembly has been diligently training all kinds of talents in the recent years. The next WDC will include the election of new councils, which look forward to having more talented workers to join the servitude of IA so that the goal of passing on the baton will be reached. In terms of servitude of the youth, Youth Fellowship has been changed to Youth Servitude Committee. They are to integrate the youth into the ministry and all kinds of serving areas. It is scheduled that next year’s meeting time will also invite the Youth Servitude Committee to join the holy worker seminar so that they can directly learn from the experience and contribute

their gifts and wisdom. This will also reach the goal of heritage.

▲ [TOP](#)

 [Church News](#)

AUCKLAND CHURCH HOLY WORK

Thanks for the grace of the Lord Jesus, the International Assembly sent Deacon Daniel Chen from Malaysia to assist Auckland church's holy work from June 16 to July 12. This includes the holy worker spiritual cultivation seminar on 6/16, a Bible seminar from 6/18-22, and 25-29, a Religious Education Teacher Cultivation Seminar on 6/24, and a student spiritual convocation from 6/30 to 7/5. He also assisted in the morning and afternoon Sabbath service, Hua Qing fellowship, south district service, and north shore service by sharing through the Bible seminar.

Bible Seminar: The event was held from 6/18 to 6/22 and 6/25 to 6/29, every night from 7:30 to 9:00. The topic for the series of Bible seminars was: Looking at Crises of the Church through the Book of Acts. This is to remind us to recognize the status of our faith and the current situations of the church, which is deviating toward the trend of secularization. We must be encouraged to strive for the holiness of the church and our faith.

First Crisis is “Standing Crisis” (Acts 1:9-11) There are three reasons for lack of action. 1. Laziness in faith, forging ahead without thinking, and drifting along in life. 2. Complaining during crisis with a cynical attitude, but not coming forward to amend the difficulty due to knowing the harm it can bring. 3. Being not fervent but lazy in faith. We must immediately take action in order to reach a turning point (Act 1:12).

Second Crisis is “Crisis in Leadership” (Acts 1:17-20) One of the twelve apostles, Judas betrayed his teacher due to his greed for thirty denaries. Greed is the root of all evil; therefore, a devout and content heart brings great benefit (I Tim 6:10, 6). The workers of the church stand at the frontline of the battle and are the targets of Satan. If they are not alert, Satan would become victorious without their knowing. Paul reminds us that we might be abandoned by God even though doing work (I Cor 9:27).

Third Crisis is “Crisis of Insufficiency” (Acts 1:21-26) A gap means imperfection (Acts 1:21-26), Matthias was chosen (Matthias means grace of God) in order to mend the gap through commitment of love. The lot was through the decision of God, not of men.

The gap of worship: false worship. The gap of election: The duty of the work is not based on

“wages” and “rewards”. Those elected are not officials to administer the believers. We should not elect those we like, those who have done well to us, and those who are beneficial to us. We should choose according to the Bible God’s servants who have the attitude of glorifying God in all things they do, have good reputation, and the fullness of the Holy Spirit (bear the good fruits of the Holy Spirit), have wisdom (including the ability to complete their duties). This way, they can complete the work entrusted by God.

Fourth Crisis is “The Crisis of Misinterpreting the Word of Jesus” (Acts 1:6-7, 3) After the Lord Jesus’ resurrection, He spoke of the kingdom of God for forty days. However, the disciples misunderstood for establishing the kingdom on earth. God’s words are the spiritual food of the believers to nourish the spiritual life. Therefore, only those who obtain a healthy spiritual nutrition will not become malnourished spiritually. The teachers should clearly talk about God’s perfect truth and explain the word of truth with righteousness (II Tim 2:15).

Fifth Crisis is “Crisis of Forced Understanding” (Acts 1:6-7, 3) The Bible mainly tells the people of the world how to be saved. The Bible does not have unnecessary explanations. Those who misinterpret the Scriptures will twist them to their own destruction (II Pet 3:15-16). Just like in our church, there were holy workers who loved the topic of the Lord’s coming in 199. They need to admit that they are limited in knowledge. The Lord Jesus Christ’s date of second coming is only known to the heavenly Father, which is His authority.

Sixth Crisis is “Crisis of Slandering” (Acts 2:12-13; Lk 12:10) Those who blaspheme the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven (Acts 2:11, 41). The devout disciples received the Holy Spirit and spoke of God’s doings and three thousand believed and were baptized on that day. Slandering comes from Satan (Rev 13:6), but the rebuke of love is not slandering, it is the care and concern and reminder from love. Without the fruit of the Holy Spirit, Satan will have a chance to slander.

Seventh Crisis is “Crisis of Falsehood (crookedness)” (Acts 2:40) Believers easily deviate by crookedness, for example, by an evil spirit (I Kg 22:1-38), including the forsaken old prophets who deceived young men of God (I Kg 13:1-32). Therefore, the crooked actions occur in the church and those who perform crookedness would easily “rise”. We must save ourselves from this crookedness because that is not the action of God’s children (Deut 32:5). Student Spiritual Convocation: This is the first time using U.S. GA’s teaching materials for student spiritual convocation. The topic was A Prayerful Life. There were eight workers this time, four students from Christchurch and 12 students from Auckland.



[▲ TOP](#)

 [Church News](#)

UK GENERAL ASSEMBLY HOLY WORK STATUS December 2011 to June 2012

In order to tend to the brethren from China that are spread all over England who were not able to attend service regularly due to work, a special service was held during the Christmas holiday. The Special service was held from December 24 to 26, 2011, in London church. The two and a half day service was led by Pr. Joseph Shek and Pr. F.F. Chong. The topics were "Life of a Christian" and "Growing in Christ". Aside from services, hymnal, and praying for the Holy Spirit, the Holy Communion was also performed. There were about 145 attendees including truth seekers. Three of the truth seekers also received the Holy Spirit. The annual special service always brings spiritual benefits and edification to all who attend. Everyone thanks God joyfully in unison!

The African Missionary Committee from the International Assembly was held January 8-13, 2012, in London church. The instructors were Pr. Derren Liang (Spiritual Cultivation and Servitude), Pr. H.H. Ko (Discerning the Spiritual Realm), UKGA's Pr. F.F. Chong (Holy Spirit), Pr. T.K. Chin (Holy Communion and Foot Washing), and Brother Michael Hsu (Religious Education). This year's students consisted of three from Canada, four from U.S., and 18 from UK, totaling 25 students. The six-day seminar was smooth and edifying under

the guidance of the Lord.

February 12-16, the 2nd Adult Theological Seminar was held in Edinburgh Church. Pr. Jonathan Chou, the director of International Assembly's Training Department, was invited from the Pastoral Department to be an instructor. During the five days, Pr. Chou used "Spiritual Leadership and the Growth of the Church" to encourage the holy workers to be aware of God's commission and be faithful servants of God for the growth of the church. He also used the topic "Looking at Life through Ecclesiastes" to help people realize the true face of the world, which is "vanity". Only when men know God and obey His instructions will they be able to receive the fullness and contentment of the everlasting life.

UKGA's 11th Minister/Church Officers Meeting on the afternoon of May 7 was held at Sunderland church. A total of 32 ministers/church officers attended the meeting. The meeting consisted of an explanation of "Truth Research Committee Meeting" decisions on the truth of the Bible, as well as "The method of prayer and consecration during Holy Communion". This meeting also revised "Believer's wedding and funeral program". During the meeting, it especially reminded all workers to emphasize more on knowing the truth of the Holy Spirit and on helping the believers to pray for the downpouring of the Holy Spirit, as well as caring more about the work on the pulpit and the growth of the church.

May 14-15, the 22nd National Sisters Spiritual Cultivation Seminar was held in Gifford Park church. Pr. F.F. Chong talked about "The Virtuous Woman". There were also morning and evening prayers, testimonies, and hymnal sharing. About 200 sisters attended from churches all over UK.

May 27-30, Newcastle church held the 1st UK Ministry Volunteers Personnel Training. The classes consisted of "Spiritual Edification Team", "Evangelical Team", "Pastoral team", and "Internet Ministry Team". Students were able to choose one team to attend. The attendees were 22 years old and above, totaling 30 youth who have experience in participating in church work. This year's topic is "Perform Your Duty". We hope that through this training more determined youths will be trained to participate in all the holy works in UK and to become the soldiers of the Lord.

June 11-12, Newcastle church held the 19th National Evergreen Fellowship. The two days of fellowship were led by Pr. Michael Chan. The topic is "Joyful Twilight". Aside from sermons, the first day arranged presentations of choirs from different churches and hymnal fellowship. A farewell fellowship was held on the second day so that the elderly were able to have a fellowship in a casual and light environment. A total of 149 people attended.

The English Writer's Retreat initiated by International Assembly was held June 24-30 at the newly purchased and renovated Leicester church. It was led by the Literary Ministry Department director of I.A. Deacon Kar Chung Tsai and Brother Vincent Yang. A total of 15 UK brethren registered to attend this training. On June 29 and 30, two training topics "Editing/Proofreading Training" and "Graphic Design Training" were added. Twenty additional brethren attended these trainings. Thank and praise God!

Schedule for Spiritual Convocation of UK churches from January to June

2012 is below:

Date	Church	Workers	Number Baptized	Number Receiving Holy Spirit	Note
4/2-4/4	Portsmouth Church	T.K. Chin, Timothy Yeung	10	9	Topic: Return Your Heart to God (Cups received: 80)
4/13-4/15	London Church	Timothy Yeung, Joseph Shek	10	1	Topic: God's Love/ Obtaining the Likeness of Christ
6/24-6/26	Gifford Park Church	Johnny Liao, Silas Chan			Topic: You Have Prepared
6/30-7/1	Forest Hill Church	T.K. Chin, F.F. Chong			Spiritual Convocation and Church Dedication

The Forest Hill church that is located south of London in UK is officially established (Address is: 11 David Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3EP England, U. K.). It held its first spiritual convocation from June 30 to July 1, 2012, led by Pr. T.K. Chin and Pr. F.F. Chong. Church dedication was held on July 1. The Chairman of UKGA Deacon Silas Chan said words of encouragement. I.A. Literary Ministry Department director Deacon Kar Chung Tsai represented IA in saying words of encouragement after the English Writer's Retreat was completed. The choir sang beautiful hymns during the church dedication. There were approximately one hundred people who attended. Everyone thanks the grace and guidance of God in unity. We hope that the Forest Hill church will continue to shine for the Lord locally and preach the perfect gospel of salvation!

▲ [TOP](#)

Intercession

1. IA WORK IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES:

Date	Venue	Nature of Work	Worker
Aug-Sep	Japan	Pastoral and Pioneering work in Sumida and Chiba Aug Student Spiritual Convocation	IF Lai
8/8-19	HK/Kowloon	Short Term Theological Training Course	HH Hsieh
8/21-30	Malaysia	Preacher Spiritual Nurture	HH Ko
Aug	Malaysia	Regional Pastoral attachment	CC Yang
Aug	Sabah	Preacher & Preachers' Wives Seminar	HT Chen
8/15-9/30	Sabah	Theology College	CC Yao
8/1-27	Philippines	Evangelizing to Chinese Filipino Seminary Semester 5	WF Chen + SVMT + SVMT Joel Chong Lemuel Leong Zephaniah
8/11-12	Indonesia	Marriage Counselling Course	MY Chao/ TL Hsu/ YJ Lin
Aug-Sep	Indonesia	Theological College Spiritual Convocation	YS Wu
8/23-9/16	Fiji	Pastoral work and Gospel outreach in Fiji	Simon Chin
8/4-26	Canada	Youth Spiritual Camp; Spiritual Evangelical Convocation-Vancouver; Personal Evangelism Training- Calgary	HC Hsieh Derren Liang CCC
8/10-9/2	Brazil	Pastoral Work	W. Yeh
8/16-20	FOZ	Pastoral Work; Training	CM Chu
8/5-29	UK	National Youth Theological Training Course - Scotland Areas- AMC Meeting -London	Peter Shee AMC Members
8/9-14	Italy	Spiritual Convocation & Training- Prato	HH Ko/PC Wang
Aug	Spain	Madrid / Albacete - Member Visit & Concern	BQ Wong

2. DEVELOPMENT OF DIVINE WORK IN ALL NATIONS

3. WORKERS IN ALL PIONEERING AREAS

▲ [TOP](#)

 **Bulletin**

Western Hemisphere Africa Voluntary Missionary Workers' Training Seminar

Date: 6~11 January 2013

Venue: London, UK

Closing for registration: November 15, 2012

▲ [TOP](#)

 ***You Could Help the Worldwide Evangelism Mission Simply by Contribution
a dollar a day...***

How You Can Help



You are called to take action for the sake of worldwide evangelism and the spreading of the gospel...with **a dollar a day**. If everyone could daily extend one dollar towards the International Assembly World Evangelism Fund, we could, together, accomplish the commission that our Lord Jesus Christ left behind. Your financial commitment will open up possibilities and resources that will lead us to save many souls.

Please take time to fill out the offering sheet available at your local church, to pass this message on to loved ones and family, and to pray for God's ministry. May the Lord be gracious to you!

To find out more about the dollar-a-day program and donation options, ***please contact*** ia@tjc.org or tjciatwn@ms25.hinet.net.

✧ ***May our Lord remember your contribution and bless you abundantly!***

▲ [TOP](#)

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