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Feature

Danger of the End Times

Written by Silas Chan

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come” (II Tim 3:1). Paul warned his successor, Timothy, of the danger and truth of the end times. Just like more than thirty years earlier, the questions the Lord Jesus asked the disciples at Mount Olive were all indications of the dangers of the end days: “Take heed that no one deceives you” (Mt 24:4). Jesus said, “For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places... Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here *is* the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe *it*. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; *or* ‘Look, *He is* in the inner rooms!’ do not believe *it*. (Mt 24:5-7; 23-26) In Matthew 24, the Lord Jesus carefully reminded the disciples two things that they “should not” do:

I. You Should Not Believe

The Lord instructed the disciples to “not believe” because they already submitted to “Truth of God’s kingdom” and listened to the “Gospel of Salvation from Christ”. They also knew that only through Jesus, men will receive eternal life. Aside from the Lord Jesus, there is no salvation, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved (Act 4:12). However, in the end times, Satan will destroy the work of God’s house even more (Rev 12:12). He will rise up a different gospel, a paradoxical truth to tempt men to depart from the truth through the control of emotions and interpersonal relationships. Men will be captive through the traditions and rudiments of the world. Therefore, do not believe what they preach, but firmly hold on to the original word of life. Paul then warned, “As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed” (Gal 1:9).

In II Peter 3:3-4, Peter mentions, “knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation’. Just as the serpent said to the woman in the Garden of Eden, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’” Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil” (Gen 3:1-5). There surely will have be this type of scoffers that will appear in the end times. They will be cynical toward our faith and ridicule our persistence, leading us to depart from our beliefs and follow their evil words. Let us not listen to them but continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and be not moved away from the hope of the Gospel which we have heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which Paul became a minister (Col 1:23).

II. You Should Not Go Out

Curiosity is human nature; however, it is also the same curiosity that leads us into traps. Just as the Bible says: “And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold” (Mt 24:10-12). In the last days, before Jesus’ second coming, these things will happen. “The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved” (II Thess

2:9-10). Paul said, “who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began” (II Tim 1:9). He then instructed Timothy “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” (II Tim 2:1). Those who are strong in grace will be able to endure, and those who endure to the end will be saved. The Lord told us “do not go out” so that we will not be tempted to leave the Truth. It would be a pity if we depart from the true church of salvation.

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life” (Jude 20-21). May every true disciple of the Lord all “take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand” (Eph 6:13).

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Church News

Thailand Holy Work Summary and Reports for 2012

Written by Chong-Ping Ko

Northern Thailand holy workers assisted in Mae Mo church for the two week summer counseling event from March 11-25. The main topic was “Edifying the Faith”. The curriculum included: Morning and evening prayer, Bible reading class, religious education classes, Thai hymnal sessions, Chinese children hymns, extra-curricular activities, holy work training, arts and crafts, and Bible cartoons. Fourteen students received the Holy Spirit through this event! In addition, they utilized two Sabbath afternoons for family visitation to understand each student’s family situation in depth. This will also help so that future pastoral and follow work will be better.

April 25-28, Phrankratai regions held special services for Elementary 2 students, also using “Edifying the Faith” as a goal. Curriculum followed the content of summer counseling event from Mae Mo. After a few days, the students were able to understand the basic order of service and were able to quickly turn to the Thai Bible. They were also very familiar with the Lord’s Prayer which helped them receive joy after a spiritual edifying event!

May 2-6, a student spiritual convocation was held in Bangkok church. Due to attendees who ranged from fifth grade to college, the classes were divided into two groups. Elementary

students focused on religious education topics. Junior high and above studied the book of Timothy as the main topic. Additional special topics included “Emotions and Marriage”, “International Missionary Experience”, and “Self Equipment”. Holy Communion was performed during afternoon Sabbath service as a conclusion of the activities.

Currently, the focus of Thailand’s holy work are the establishment of religious education and teacher’s training of Mae Mo church and Kao Chiao church. Through the summer training activities, students gained the basic understanding of the attitude they should have toward worshipping God. They also became more familiar with the order of the Bible. Therefore, they were able to implement the religious education into the weekly pastoral work, in order to pass on the faith and receive a positive and long term work of foundation. Thank the brethren of Taiwan and Singapore who bought Bibles for the children of both churches. May the Lord Jesus remember their love!

There are still regions in Thailand that need to be pioneered. The harvest are many, but the workers are few. May God continue to watch and keep the land so that His Gospel may be spread and His Holy name be uplifted!



IA Financial Statement of French-Speaking African Regions

IA Financial Department

Thank the guidance of the Lord, our church will soon approach the one hundredth anniversary. Looking at the trend of today's world, the environments are changing rapidly; the signs of end times are gradually revealing causing the mission of preaching the Gospel to be even more urgent. Churches and preachers around the world work together wholeheartedly in pastoral and evangelical work; the pioneering regions especially, receive more aid financially from many fellow brethren.

IA's balance of payment will adopt the budget system through related meetings to plan the budget and accepting the offers of churches and members. It will go through other incomes when there is a lack of funding for the expense.

Recently some members are concerned about the funds and expenditures of the French-speaking Africa regions. Paris church will submit the financial statements of 2012 French-speaking African regions' balance of payments for the holy work to IA. The Financial Department would like to include the offerings of the recent years for French-speaking African regions into the 2011 year end calculations. The total offering income is US\$86,813.11; expense is US\$118,756.92. The offerings for the holy work of French-speaking African regions are short in expense. The actual over-budget is US\$31,943 (Taiwan NT\$974,286).

Thank the support, prayers, and care of each local church toward the IA financial situation. May the Lord remember and bless all and continue to care for the prosperity and growth of holy work for all regions. May the Lord continue to guide us.

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NEWS FOR IA YOUTH MINISTRY COMMITTEE

To cooperate with the mission of world evangelism, the last World Delegate Conference (WDC) approved to structure International Youth Ministry Committee (IYMC). Apart from

the original task of youth connection, the Committee is to proactively counsel and assist the youths to participate in servitude. The first International Youth Ministry Committee Meeting is tentatively scheduled during the next WDC. The meeting will discuss the overall plan and relevant promotional matters. The coordinator of the preparation team is Pr. Timothy Yeung; the members are Pr. Zi-Hsin Huang, Pr. Yao-Zheng Wang, Pr. Steven Shek, and Pr. Enoch Hou. May the Lord grant His grace, guidance, and blessing to us, so that we would have good results to edify the church and the next generation. The followings are the international youth work plans:

Preparation of International Youth Ministry Committee

The 11th World Delegate Conference and relevant meetings are scheduled at the end of March 2013 in Irvine Church, California, US. The Youth Ministry Committee Meeting is one of these meetings. The events for the youth representatives to attend during the WDC next year are as follow: March 30-31, 2013: IA Holy Work Symposium; April 1st 2013: IA Youth Ministry Committee Meeting; April 2nd, 2013: Fellowship with USGA Youth Ministry Committee; April 3-4, 2013: Visitations to churches and observe fellowship activities.

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Intercession

1. IA WORK IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
8/30-9/19	Malaysia	Theological Training	CH Chang
9/3-21	USA	Theological Training	YJ Lin
9/3-10	FOZ	Pastoral Work & Training	W. Yeh/C. Chen
9/3-10/8	New Zealand	Spiritual Evangelical Convocation & Bible Study Seminar	DC Lai
9/6-17	India	Preachers & Ministers Spiritual Nurture Full Time Workers & CBI EXCO Spiritual Nurture Spiritual Convocation	Habakkuk Hee/ Isaiah Pan
9/6-10	Chile	Pastoral Work & Bible Study Training	CM Chu
9/6-10/7	East Africa	Pastoral Ministry & Training (Kenya, Tanzania)	T K Chin/ Volunteer
9/6-10/14	South Africa	Pastoral Ministry & Council & Sermon Speaker Training	Luke Chan

9/7-24	Argentina	Newly Church Council Seminar Evangelical Seminar Eld/Deacon/Church Board Member Nurture	Steve Hwang
9/9-10/15	Australia	Spiritual Evangelical Convocation	Joel Chong
9/13-18	Bolivia	Pastoral Ministry & Training	CM Chu/ Ruby Tsai
9/15-16	Germany	Training & Special Service - Hamburg Prayer House	Michael Chan
9/16-10/8	West Africa	Training (Ghana)	Steven Shek
9/18-10/29	USA	Spiritual Evangelical Convocation	EY Ho
9/19-10/1	Ecuador	Pastoral Work	CM Chu
9/20-30	India	Junior & Intermediate Youths Bible Camp Youth Spiritual Convocation	Volunteer
9/21-23	Austria	Spiritual Convocation- Salzburg	HH Ko
9/21-30	Dominican Rep.	Pastoral Work	Jason Hu
9/25-10/1	Chile	Pastoral Work & Sermon Leaders Seminar	Steve Hwang
9/26-10/14	Hong Kong	Autumn Spiritual Convocation- Tsuen Wan, Tai Po and Hong Kong churches	HT Chen
9/27-10/29	Russia	Pioneering & Training & Pastoral Work (Worker Training)	James Tang/ Michael Chan
9/27-10/28	West Africa	Pastoral Ministry & Training (Ghana,Liberia)	FF Chong/ Volunteer
9/28-10/8	Myanmar	Pastoral Work	Hosea Hoo
Sep.-Oct.	Spain	Member Visit & Concern-Madrid & Albacete	CJ Hsieh

2. DEVELOPMENT OF DIVINE WORK IN ALL NATIONS

3. WORKERS IN ALL PIONEERING AREAS

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 **Bulletin**

Western Hemisphere Africa Voluntary Missionary Workers' Training Seminar

Date: 6~11 January 2013

Venue: London, UK

Closing for registration: November 15, 2012

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 ***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!***

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