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Feature

Cultural Challenges to World Mission

The establishment of the True Church in the last days has the purpose of completing the commission that Jesus Christ has given, to reach out and to evangelize into new places where the Gospel has yet to be spread. In doing so, we garner the support of various countries where the truth has since been established, to increase their participation and support and to shoulder an even greater and broader role with respect to world evangelism.

To this end, reaching out to the four corners of the world remains in the forefront of our vision and is the focus, priority and principle driver of our establishment. Matthew 28:19 & Mark 16:15 tell us to “Go into the world and preach to all the creation and make disciples of all the nations.” This is a rallying call for us to go to different countries and to reach out to all manner of races, tribes and peoples, spreading the Good News to people and places where the true Gospel has yet to reach. In this we can draw our motivation from the apostle Paul who says that his ambition is to preach to where Christ has yet to be named (Romans 15:20 -21). This, likewise, should serve as center piece and be the ultimate goal and ambition of work of world mission work for us today.

In undertaking the work of world mission, this is not just a passive activity but is interactive in that we have to interact and connect with the different races and peoples, many of whom are so different from us. They are different not just in terms of physical appearance, but in language, culture, attitudes and social norms, etiquette, and behavior. When approaching such people, it is inevitable that we will manifest many inadequacies and shortcomings in our dealings, communication, and interaction with them.

Even though we may be venturing into a new or different country, our members and workers in these countries will have tendencies to associate themselves and socialize with people of their own race or creed as we often ourselves in our comfort zone of wanting only to interact with people having the same culture and language. With this, it is only natural for us to view, analyze, evaluate, and interpret others and their actions and behavior by reference to own deep seated thinking, culture, and values. Within our comfort zones we console ourselves with the thought that the Lord God has chosen us first before the Gospel is to reach other people. Let us awaken from such thoughts and concepts. The time for the Lord choosing us first before the others has already passed. We are now living in the last days and end time where the Good News and the Gospel of the Kingdom of God has to be preached throughout the world where we are witnesses to all nations (Matthew 24:14).

Our culture is so engrained and rooted into various aspects of our Christian life that sometimes we fail to distinguish the cultural aspects of what we practice and believe from the real message of the Gospel. While trying hard to achieve a Gospel outreach to others who are different from us, unknowingly and perhaps unwittingly, we are also trying to imprint our culture on them which indirectly imparts to them that to accept the truth, they have to adopt our culture. Sometimes, we feel that that ours is the only right way of doing things and are set in our own ways. Whether we have actually gone overboard and have invested too much time and effort in introducing our culture is something for us to consider with all honesty.

We are reminded that when the Gospel was first preached to the Gentiles, some of the Jews then felt that in order to be saved, the Gentiles must also follow Jewish cultural practices and customs in order to be accepted as a Christian (Acts 15:5). The council, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in Jerusalem made the decision then that Gentiles who have accepted the truth are not required to adopt and embrace the culture and customs of the Jewish people (Acts 15:19). On the other hand, it was ruled that what was important was to hold fast and be steadfast to the truth of the Gospel, which would suffice. The Apostles thus, when undertaking missionary work, set out to preach the true message of the Gospel and NOT Judaism or Jewish customs and practices.

The apostle Paul also exhorts us in 1 Corinthians 9:19 - 23: “For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more. To the Jews I became a Jew, in order that I might win the Jews; to those under the law, I became as one under the law that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law, I became as one outside the law that I may win those outside the law. To the weak, I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men that I might by all means save some.”

In addition, 1 Corinthians 10:32-33 reminds us that that we are not to give any offense to the Jews, or to the Greeks or to the Church of God. Instead, we are to be pleasing to all men in all things, seeking not our own gain or profit, but that of many that they many thereby be saved.

With this in mind, we must make a more conscious and concerted effort to detach ourselves and remove all such artificial hindrances in the work of evangelism and world mission work. We must come to the realization that all cultures, great or small, are relative and that in no way should we operate on the belief that our own culture or customs are better or more superior than those of others. However, if we know of certain cultural practices or customs that are contrary to the truth and the Gospel, we must work to change them. We pray to God for His divine guidance and providence as we advance His work and His will in this mission to reach out to all the peoples, races, and nations of the world.

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Church News

Hong Kong Coordinating Center Holy Work Update

Overview

There is a total of eight True Jesus Churches in the Hong Kong area, with approximately 1320 members. Holy workers include two resident pastors from I.A. (Foo An Shih and Shu Li Ho) and twenty elders and deacons. Aside from the pastoral work within the region, Hong Kong church is in charge of Dongwan, Shenjen, and Macau’s members and truth seekers.

Establishment of the Coordinating Center

Through the grace of God and the help of IA, Hong Kong area had its first meeting in January 2012 after preparing for two years. It also established the Coordinating Center in April of the same year. Eight churches will use the same regulations and combine resources to work

together for the prosperity of preaching the Gospel.



First Hong Kong Region Meeting

Evangelism

According to the census of the Hong Kong government in 2011, the population was close to 7.1 million, of those, 843,000 were Christians. Therefore, True Jesus Church members are not even two thousandths of Hong Kong Christians, and two ten-thousandths of the entire Hong Kong population. This shows that there is still a lot of room to grow for the work of the Gospel in this area.

In recent years, churches in each Hong Kong region have used different channels to preach the Gospel:

- ◆ Hong Kong, Kowloon, Tsuen Wan, and Tai Po churches held spiritual convocations in the fall and spring. There were also evangelical services that occurred once a month or once a quarter.
- ◆ Hong Kong, Tsuen Wan, and Tai Po churches held Gospel tea fellowships on a regular basis.
- ◆ Hong Kong church established a Gospel team with about twenty members who receive basic evangelism training.
- ◆ Hong Kong church conducts a truth edification class twice a month to allow truth seekers or newly believed members a means to ask questions about the truth. Lecture materials use “Understanding the Truth Q&A” as a blueprint. Pastors, deacons, and council members take turns leading after every other Sabbath service for 45 minutes each session. Approximately seven or eight people would attend regularly. Tsuen Wan

church holds newly believed member classes regularly.

- ◆ Kowloon and Tai Po church established a “Beautiful Door Fellowship” holding family services on Sundays to guide truth seekers and newly baptized members.
- ◆ On November 2011, Kong Jiu youth held a hymnal evangelical service in Hong Kong Technology College with “His Wonderful Love” as the topic. They successfully invited over one hundred truth seekers to attend, with good results. They will hold it again in 2013, may the Lord bless and abide.



Hymnal Evangelism Training

Hong Kong region churches provide training in many areas:

- ◆ Theology: Hold three short term theological training seminars every four years. IA will provide speakers to encourage youths to participate in the college youth theological training seminar in Taiwan.
- ◆ Holy Work: Annual Holy Worker seminar, using materials from the holy worker seminar.
- ◆ Religious Education: Holds religious education teacher seminars and cultivation seminars regularly to train training teachers and current teachers.
- ◆ Evangelism: Provides evangelical and accompanying training.
In addition, each church will schedule holy work for the youths according to age:
- ◆ Junior 1: Hymn leading before service.
- ◆ Junior 2: Interpreting.
- ◆ Senior and above: Religious Education, sermon, interpreting, and leading Bible study.

Literary Evangelism

Hong Kong regions literary evangelism is mainly organized by Hong Kong coordinating center. Under literary ministry, there are planning, information, and publication teams. Responsibilities include publishing, planning, and issuing all kinds of publications, brochures, fliers, multi-media items, and collecting Bible study materials. Preaching the Gospel externally, and edifying members internally.

Literary Ministry's Work Plan:

- ◆ External: Producing church website, making literary souvenirs, and testimony collections and short video series.
- ◆ Internal: Publishing newsletters, Hong Kong church 85th anniversary memoirs, making members website, and conducting Bible book fair.



真耶穌教會 香港教會

我們愛，因為神先愛我們。(約一 4:19)

哈利路亞！
歡迎來到我們的網站：

Eng

首頁 關於我們 本會信仰 本會活動 資料庫 聯絡我們

歡迎來到我們的網站：
很高興您來參觀我們的網頁。在這裡您可以通過文章、個人故事和其他資料來認識耶穌基督和我們的教會。如想再進一步的了解我們，歡迎您跟我們聯絡。我們很樂意的回覆您。

知道我們更多 ...

- ▶ 我們的教會
- ▶ 教會消息
- ▶ 教會活動
- ▶ 我們的信仰
- ▶ 找尋我們

我們的教會
我們的教會於1917年創辦，現在已有39個國家有我們的教會，信徒數已超過150百萬。[按此](#)尋找更多關於我們的教會之資料。

最新消息

- 新年快樂！當我在一月二十三日踏進會堂的那一刻，大家都微笑著歡迎我；弟兄姊妹都穿著漂亮、顏色鮮豔的衣服，互相祝福。有很多弟兄姊妹趁著當天是公眾假期，聚集在會堂，舉開新春特別聚會來迎接新一年的開始。[按此](#)讀更多有關此事
- 感謝神的帶領，由香港教會及西區教會合辦的敬老會於一月七日圓滿結束，共有三十八位我們敬愛的長者參加，場面熱鬧。[按此](#)讀更多有關此事

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聚會時間:
星期三/星期五:
8pm-9pm
星期六 11am-12pm,
2pm-3pm

Church's website (<http://www.tjc.org.hk>)

Challenges and Prospects

In recent years, Hong Kong church and Tsuen Wan church are getting more crowded. However, due to the high real estate pricing, it is very difficult to find a location with enough space and near public transportations. Comparatively, branching out is a better possibility. Hong Kong church's chapel has been used for twenty years without renovation. Remodeling will begin in November of this year. Members will need to rent nearby areas for services short term.

In order to continue the work of the church, Hong Kong Coordinating Center is considering hiring full time holy workers to help with local church work. Suitable candidates and the method of recruitment are to be studied. The Coordinating Center is hoping that the Hong Kong region will soon train a full time minister. In order to reach this goal, the younger generation of the church must receive a firm foundation in religious education.

May the Lord Jesus continue to guide each church and the evangelical work in the world.

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Church News

Canada Coordination Centre Holy Work Report

Canada is a multicultural country composed of different ethnicities and our members have immigrated successively to the country since the 1970's establishing churches. We plead for God's grace and mercy and continue the holy work throughout entire Canada. With rescuing souls being the most imperative work, below is the brief holy work report:

1. Pastoral Department

In charge of coordinating holy work nationwide. There are currently six hundred- some members, three churches, two houses of prayer, two full-time ministers, and one TTP student. With Canada being the second largest country in the world and having a wide spread of land, the work of pastoring is extremely difficult. While distance between the churches is also great, the pastoral department often services as the bridge between the churches in arranging nationwide holy work and work planning and schedule.

2. RE Training Department

In charge of hosting national holy work training seminars such as NYTS, NATS, RETS, and cultivation seminars held each year. The church can only continue to grow only when the church keep to elevating the spirituality and quality of theological and religious education of the holy workers.

3. Literary Department

In charge of needs in holy work relating to literary. Canada is a bilingual country in

English and French. Therefore, once every two years, the Canada Liaison Department will host a French Literary Seminar. In addition, a newsletter is published regularly in order to allow the flow of news throughout the local churches. The enhancement of literary work is a tool to further spread the Gospel.

4. Marriage Coordinator Committee

In charge of managing data of single youths nationwide, arrangement of matchmakers, and hosting related youth events. A national marriage coordinator seminar is also held once every two years.

We ask the Lord to continue to watch over the prosperity of holy work in Canada so the Gospel may one day spread throughout this great land, glorifying His holy name.

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Church News

International Youth Fellowship Activity

To enhance and improve interaction among worldwide youths, IA is to hold the International Youth Fellowship Activity on June 12-16, 2013 in Newcastle Church, UK. The itinerary includes visitation and sightseeing: June 9-11, 2013: Edinburgh to Newcastle; June 17-20, 2013: Newcastle to London. (The youth who participate in the activity is to arrive in Edinburgh on June 8 and leave from London on June 21.) The theme is The Mission of TJC Youths in the End Time. The eligibility is our church youth aged from 18 to 40 years old, and the expected participants: 55 UK youths and 45 youths from other countries. The participant is to register with the local churches, and the respective GAs, CBs or IA-directed churches will compile all the registrations and submit to UKGA (Email: ukga@tjc.org Fax: 44-1343-540-129) The registration period is from December 2012 to March 31, 2013 (It will be on a first-come-first-serve basis.) Participants are responsible for their own travel expenses in and out of UK and the related expenses of the trip (including local transportation, entrance fees of tours, and meals). May the local churches kindly subsidize the expenses for the participants. Each participant is to pay £300 (covering food, lodging, tours and others). This amount is to be submitted to the GAs, CBs or IA-directed churches at the time of registration, and it shall be handed by the leader of the participant in each country to UKGA. This fee is non-refundable. Please prepare £100 as offering.

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Intercession

1. IA WORK IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
November	Malaysia	Pastoral of Tamil Members	India Preacher
11/2-4	Austria	Special Service & Evangelical Convocation- Salzburg	HH Ko
11/5-19	Philippines	Evangelizing to Chinese Filipino	WF Chen & SVMT
11/15 –12/9	Fiji	Pastoral Visit and Gospel Outreach in Fiji	Stephen Shiu
11/15-12/10	Brazil	Pastoral Work & Evangelical Spiritual Convocation	G. Chen
11/16-18	Canada	RE Teachers' Workshop-Calgary & Edmonton	CCC
11/16-26	Dominican Rep.	Evangelical Service & Spiritual Convocation	Steve Hwang
11/22-27	Bolivia	Pastoral Ministry & Training	CM Chu
11/23-28	Argentina	Sermon Speaker Seminar	Derren Liang
11/26-12/16	Sabah	Short Term Theological Training Course	ZH Huang
11/27- 12/2	Ecuador	Pastoral Work	Shawn Chou
11/28-12/27	Singapore	Year End Spiritual Meeting Students' Theological Training Evangelistic Meeting	Hao Wu
11/29- 12/5	FOZ	Pastoral Work, Training & CSACC Meeting	D.Liang M. Kuo
11/30- 12/2	Dubai	Pastoral Visitation	Peter Shee
11/30-2013/2/6	South Africa	Pastoral Ministry & Training	MH Chang & Wife

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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