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Feature

Pastoring the New Immigrant Believers

Written by Yee Jen

God saves according to His will, even though men cannot understand His will (Ecc3:11). He has given the disciples the mission to preach the Gospel. If men can do their best to do God's will, they will be remembered by God.

“Preach the Gospel to the end of the earth.” God established the True church through the latter rain of the Holy Spirit. Needless to say, in order to grow the church, we must rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit until the end of the earth. During this process, the immigration of members is something worth paying attention to. With proper guidance it would preserve the Lord's sheep on one hand and become a way to preach the Gospel on a more widely basis on the other.

To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven (Ecc 3:1). In the 1970s and 1980s there was a wave of Taiwan and Hong Kong True Jesus Church immigrants mainly to English speaking countries such as in North America, the United Kingdom, and New

Zealand and Australia. Few are in non-English speaking countries in South America and European countries. Thinking back, this wave of immigration helped spread the establishment of the True church from Asia to around the world. There are sixty countries and areas with the True Church. God's guidance is rather miraculous.

From the 2000s, a new wave of immigrants from China has been consistently growing. First, from the coast of the province of Fujian, then other major provinces in China also started immigrating to all parts of the world for school, career, and business. Due to the great population from China, this wave can drive the immigration wave to ten times the scale. There are a few characteristics from this new wave of immigration:

- 1 The area of immigration expands to almost all parts of the world.
- 2 The type of immigration is broader, including students, business people, workers, etc.
- 3 The number of immigrants increased significantly, creating a new record high.

This is the same way with church members' immigration. In areas with existing church regions, newly immigrated members continue to increase at a fast pace, and the area of care becomes broader. More areas have members moving over, but do not have churches; therefore, it is either hard to reach or losing touch.

IA relies on the guidance of the Holy Spirit and contacting each church to be united in the Truth and preach the Gospel worldwide. We must care about the pastoring of the new immigrant members and continue to grow the new opportunity of preaching the Gospel.

Therefore, we must remind the churches to lead the work of pastoring the immigrant members. Contact each church area that has immigrating members to establish contact with those members in order to provide a systematic way to provide church information to those members or IA. At the same time, contact the immigrated members and provide hospitality. Also research on pastoral methods and plans to areas that do not yet have churches.

Furthermore, if the population continues to grow through the immigration of True church members globally and continues to spread out, we should leverage wireless technology to digital media to help each member's ease of contact. A few examples are listed below as reference.

1. We can use text to establish close contacting relationship.

There are already 460 million people with cell phone number; it is the most common tool for keeping in touch. Text messaging is a service on almost all cell phones. Even

though the content is short, it is the easiest way to communicate when compared with letters, email, or phone. It is also very personal, without junk mail and almost read by all. Therefore, it is suggested that each church around the world build a text message network to keep in touch with the members spreading all over the world.

2. Utilizing cloud technology to provide spiritual food network

New immigrants often are far away from the service areas, which makes it hard to pastor. They also have pressure from adapting to a new life, which makes it difficult to accommodate to a regular service schedule. Therefore, providing spiritual food through the Internet can be an option. Especially through the growth of cloud technology, the digital content can be accessed from platforms to provide content in different ways. The same content can be accessed through personal computers, tablets, cell phones, and televisions. The local churches can provide content on a regular basis. Each GA and IA can also provide the necessary spiritual food on a large scale.

3. Actively establish a family service network

Establishing family service is a major point for each local church to strengthen the pastoring of the immigrant members. Forming a family service for members in the same area will be the best way to pastor. The churches should emphasize on this area and improve on providing resources and assistance.

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Church News

Current Situation of Holy Work in Japan

Thanks to the lovely Lord for His guidance and with the direction of IA, the Coordination Board in Japan was successfully established in January 2011. Due to the lack of experience and configuration of the right way to handle things, holy work progresses slowly. Due to this we are pleading for the mercifulness of the Lord and His grace.

So far, there are two Liaison Offices in Japan (Tokyo and Sumida); two houses of prayer (Yokohama, Chiba); total believers are 636 people, including 7 elders and 2 pastors (1 long-term pastor, 1 short-term pastor). There are mostly Chinese in these churches, simply not much Japanese. Apparently, the second and third generation of Chinese-Japanese is increasing throughout the years; this is remarkable and could be the main sources of spreading the

Gospel in Japan.

Report of Holy Work

- Other than spring and fall spiritual convocations being held in each church at the same time, there is an annual student spiritual convocation (Junior and Senior classes), being held in Tokyo church and Sumida Church every other year, respectively.
- Utilizing nighttime for a Bible seminar before the spiritual convocation. There are not many participants due to work and distance, but the seminar was edifying. Video was recorded for the convenience of brethren who couldn't participate and as well for believers of the next generation.
- A Bible refresher course is being held for holy workers and RE teachers at random time; holy workers in each respective church get to reflect in spirit and share.
- Using holidays to hold an annual hymnal session with the rental of musical hall that involve all church groups (RE, Youth Fellowship, Women's Fellowship, Fellowship of middle-aged, choir) for the purpose of fellowship in hymn sharing, dedicating songs of praise, taking this opportunity to commune in spirit, and edify each other.
- Other than worshipping on the Sabbath day, brethren also take turns to arrange for family gatherings, gospel tea gatherings, and invite truth seeker friends to participate, as one of the ways to spread the Gospel.
- Utilizing the Internet, Chinese weekly publication to advertise sermon gathering times as well as live broadcasts of our sermons online (www.tjc.org.jp)
- Newsletter publication from Liaison Affairs (four issues annually), content including doctrines, preaching, testimonies, activity reports, prayer sessions, etc.
- Translate literature assigned by IA and other materials related to Religious Education, and sermons on spiritual convocation. Books that have released include *Essential Biblical Doctrines*, *Q & A on the Biblical Doctrines*, *Parables of Jesus*, *Sermon Meta (I, II)*. There are also a newly published hymn book in Japanese, CDs, and welcome for pick up, and distribute freely.
- Proofreading for the new Japanese hymn book is accomplished (469 hymns) and awaiting for publication. Other publications like "A Treatise on the Holy Spirit" and "Sabbathism" are in the progress of proofreading, and expected to be published next year.
- House of prayer in Chiba is planning to purchase a church building, and is in the progress of finding a suitable location. Tokyo church has purchased land next to it, planning to build a 3-story church building, and hope all brethren pray about it and show concern.



Sumida Church Spiritual Convocation



Tokyo Church Spiritual Convocation



Yokohama House of Prayer Spiritual Convocation

Epilogue

Japan 311 disastrous event has given all of us a wake-up call. Large group of Chinese is eager to return home, and those who wished to come to Japan are reduced, including TJC members. Learning from this natural disaster, the responsibility of being the true church of salvation is extensively huge. How we manage to handle brethren at each location to become messengers of the Gospel, each becoming a city of refuge (shelter) will be the direction of our holy work in the near future. Japan is one of the few highly developed countries in the world. As another side of its rich lifestyle, people are indifferent, enfeebling, and love to worship gods but far away from God in the heart. We could only hope for the strength coming from above, closely rely on the mercy of God, handle our part well, establish World Wide Web for the spread of the Gospel, and to achieve completeness of our church sites and online sermons, encourage youths with good deeds, good conduct, fluency in Japanese, and high spirituality to contribute themselves for the Lord. Cultivation of believers needs different aspect of ideas and understanding of cultural impact, while raising the attention on spiritual values. We strive to make changes to the representation of the Chinese church, hoping to break through the fact that our church can only do the work of shepherding, but lack of the ability of spreading the Gospel. Like the angels flying in heaven, we spread the seeds of the Gospel to the people on the ground, to different countries, different races, different aspects, and different citizens.

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Church News

REPORT OF SINGAPORE COORDINATION BOARD ACTIVITIES FOR 2012

Praise the Lord Jesus Christ that the Singapore Coordination Board (SCB) and in Myanmar have over the years gradually grown and that the ministry of the word of truth to the people has also increased. Presently there are three churches in Singapore namely TJC-Adam Road, TJC-Telok Kurau and TJC-Sembawang with a membership of 1200 baptized believers. There are five locally based preachers with another seconded to TJC-Taiwan GA for TJC Thailand work, eight deacons and six deaconesses.

A new SCB-EXCO comprising of thirteen members was elected in March 2012 and the program drawn up by the previous EXCO for the ministry of the Church was implemented. Raising of funds intensified for the acquisition of factory units at Woodlands 11 to be used for TJC-Sembawang as

worship and activity centre. To date, SCB is short of approximately S\$200,000 having raised a total of more than S\$3 million from the three church congregations. The Woodlands 11 units will be renovated with facilities for church activities and should be ready for use in early 2013.

Preacher Silas Kong Kai Yew is seconded to the TJC-Taiwan GA since February 2012 to assist in the church work in Northern Thailand, and Preacher Ho Jung Yu was posted from Taiwan GA to replace him in Singapore from January 2012. Preacher Ho is now the resident preacher of TJC-Telok Kurau. Both Pr. Kong and Pr. Ho have brought their families with them to Thailand and to Singapore respectively.

SCB was blessed to host the IA DELM/IMPAC Meeting from 24th to 26th March 2012 in which sixteen participants from nine countries attended, and also the IA Eastern Hemisphere English Writers Retreat from 6th to 11th May 2012 in which eighteen brethren participated including one from UK and another from Taiwan. Both events were held at TJC-Adam Road and the participants were accommodated in the church dormitories.

IA Preacher H.H. Ko conducted the Youth Theological Course from 3rd to 17th June 2012 in which Systematic Theology subjects like Bibliology and Theism was taught. There were twenty-five youths that included two from West Malaysia who attended the course. Pr. Ko also conducted the Adults Bible Course on Christology held over Sunday and week-nights simultaneously with the Youth Theological Course (3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, 11th, 13th & 14th June). The response was overwhelming and the participants benefitted much from the lessons.



Southeast Asia Youth Theological Training Course 2012

Sister Patricia Chen from USA conducted the RE Teachers Training for trainee teachers (11 participants) from 4th to 12th August 2012, and RE Teachers Retreat for Trained teachers (62 participants) on 19th & 20th August 2012, as well as a parenting talk.

Elder Chang En Che from Taiwan was in Singapore from 20th September to 2nd October 2012 to

conduct lessons at the Ministers' Spiritual Nurture Sessions (24th & 27th September evening), Preachers' Spiritual Nurture Meeting (24th to 28th September), Ministers' wives & Deaconesses Seminar (30th September), and also a session for the brethren on 23rd September in which he spoke on the theme "The Truth-Entrusted with it and passing it on". In the many sessions, he emphasized on the need to strengthen the family services so that believers in the church would get to know one another.



Ministers' wives & Deaconesses Seminar

The SCB also held other programs during the year such as the Mid-Year Spiritual Meeting on 25th to 27th May both in TJC-Telok Kurau (394 participants) and TJC-Adam Road (354 participants), Mid-Year Evangelistic Meeting on 15th to 17th June 2012, Evergreen Fellowship Spiritual Meeting on 8th July 2012 (86 participants) and also a Sports Day on 2nd September 2012 in which about 160-180 members took part in the various competitions. Also in conjunction with the Mid-Year Spiritual Meeting, a baptism sacrament was conducted on 20th May 2012 during which fourteen persons were baptized.

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Church News

IA New Book Publication: Q&A on Biblical Doctrines



Introduction: The Q&A on Biblical Doctrines, written by Elder Tze Yuen Kuo, was published by UKGA. The book utilize various guiding questions based on the theme such as True God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, Men, Angels, Satan, Salvation, provided relevant biblical answers to uncover the veils of each themes. Not only can the beginners familiarize themselves with Scripture, but the brothers and sisters who desire to search for the truth could also benefit from this precious resource.

This book was published in 2012. The subscription for this book is free, while free-will

contribution is welcomed. The cost of this book is US\$7 each for the contributors' reference. Be sure to indicate "IA LM Fund" on the contribution. IA encourages brethren to order this book. The book can be learning materials for individual's faith and bible study; it can also be a present to relatives and friends for studying the truth together.

※ Please refer to the following information to contact IA Office if you have any question or suggestion for this book:

IA Office in US: (Email: ia@tjc.org Tel: 1.714.533.8889)

IA Office in Taiwan: (Email: ia@tjc.org Tel: 04-2243-6960)

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Intercession

1. IA WORK IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
December-January 2013	Japan	Pastoral and Pioneering work in Sumida and Chiba; Theological Training- Konan Church	CR Pan
12/21-2013 /1/1	Myanmar	Annual Spiritual Meeting & Baptism	Isaiah Phan
December	Malaysia	Youth Theological Training Course	ZJ Huang
12/23-2013 /1/13	Australia	Lecturers for STTTC & NWYS	Peter Shee & Ezra Chang
12/22	Canada	Student Spiritual Convocation Counselors' Workshop- Toronto	Steve Hwang
12/23-27		Student Spiritual Convocation- Toronto	
12/23-29		Student Spiritual Convocation- Vancouver (E2, J1 & J2)	WC Yeh
12/6-10	Chile	Pastoral Work & Training	Derren Liang
12/20-24	FOZ	Pastoral Work & Training	C. Chen
12/22-26	Italy	Evangelical Spiritual Convocation - Napoli	Steve Hwang & BQ Wang
12/27-30	Germany	Pastoral Work	Steve Hwang
2013/1/1-3	Greece	Member Visit & Concern	Steve Hwang & CJ Hsieh

2013/1/4-9	Spain	Pastoral Work	Steve Hwang
12/6-24 12/20-1/13	Russia	Pioneering, Training, Pastoral and Worker Training	HH Ko Luke Chen
12/6-23	West Africa	Member Visit & Concern	Johnny Liu & Volunteers
12/6-23	East Africa	Student Convocation & Training- Kenya	Michael Chan & Volunteers
12/6-30		Student Convocation & Training- Zambia	Steven Shek & Michael Hsu

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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