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## *Feature*

### **Establishing the Body of Christ**

Written by K.C. Tsai

*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. (Eph 4:11-12)*

“He Himself gave” mentioned by Paul means Christ gave (Eph 4:7-8). Christ gives wisdom and ability; some receives the role of apostles, some prophets, some preaching the gospel, and others teachers and pastors. In I Corinthians chapter twelve, Paul says, “God established in the church, first is apostles, second is prophets, third is teachers, and then is those who performs miracles....” Both sections of the scripture regarding each duty allow us to see the responsibility the Lord gave to the church during apostolic times. The planning of works and the direction He set for the church. The blueprint He drew is also laid out in front of us—how to establish the church, the body of Christ, and how to grow it?

God (Christ) established these positions in order for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry.

Not only those who receive the ministry, but also who participate in the church establishment works. The growth of the church is not only the growth of the chapel or number of members, but more importantly, the growth of individuals. Growth into adults so that we are no longer children in our mentality, but become spiritually mature.

*Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting (Eph 4 : 13-14)*

The most important thing in the growth of the church is the confirmation of the truth of salvation. If the church cannot come to a consensus on the core of the faith and the knowledge, they have not yet reached maturity, and reached to the full level of where the church should be. At this time, some people will become like children who have not reached maturity in faith and spirituality, they will be easily influenced and fall away, due to the inconsistency of faith or those who explain the scriptures through their selfish ambitions. This is also what the Lord Jesus once warned us about. When the disciples asked Him regarding the signs of His second coming and the end of the world, He said, “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” (Mt 24:10-11).

“Many will fall,” what the Lord Jesus said must be fulfilled; we can only be alert and discipline our body and bring it to subjection for the sake of receiving the heavenly reward so that when we preach to others we may not become disqualified (I Cor 9:24-27).

From Eph 4:13, we see that the church is truly growing while becoming unified with the truth of salvation.

The establishment of the apostles is contemporary and eternal. At the time when the Lord Jesus chose the twelve disciples He let them record what He said and did during His life of preaching. They were able to live in the enjoyment of His grace and miracles and listen to His teaching of the Truth. They were able to experience the process of His betrayal and crucifixion; witnessing His ascension to heaven. This, adding what Paul’s epistles described about the salvation of truth, will be the root of the eternal meaning of church establishment. Therefore, the Bible said that the churches of the beginning “they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship” (Act 2 : 42).

Prophets, established in church by God according to 1 Corinthians Chapter 12, refer to the

prophets in the apostolic time in the New Testament. Some prophesied, such as Agabus (Act 11:27-28). However, most prophets were preachers (I Cor 14:1, 39), which means those who delivered the words of God through the revelation of the Holy Spirit.

The ability to prophesy comes from God, it is not something a person can ask for; however, becoming a prophet to speak the words of God is a spiritual gift desired by all men (I Cor 14:1). The first steps in pursuing the gift of prophecy is to cultivate ourselves spiritually and diligently learn the words of God. Then edify the church according to God's words. If the entire congregation pursues the gift of prophecy, makes a great effort to understand the will of God from the Bible, and ponders upon the word of God through the revelation of the Holy Spirit to deliver His will, the church will be almost perfect.

The establishment of apostles and prophets has another spiritual meaning.

Gentiles (non Jews) in Christ want to become the same heir as the saints and receive the promises through the gospel. This is the mystery that is hidden in God throughout generations. This mystery has not been revealed in the past, but during the apostolic times through the revelation of the Holy Spirit to the apostles and prophets at that time.

Therefore, the Bible says, Gentile believers become the member of God's house. They have "been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone" (Eph 2:20). Therefore, in I Cor 12 it says, what God established in the church, first is apostles, second is prophet. They were the beginning of church establishment. The apostle's testimony and prophet's preaching is also the foundation of the establishment of the church.

As for the preaching of the gospel, it must be assigned by the church through the Holy Spirit because it is the duty given by the Lord in the church. Just as the church in Antioch, at the time, the Holy Spirit sent Barnabas and Paul to do the work He had called them to do.

Therefore, The Holy Spirit sent them through the church (Act 13:1-4).

*For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? (Rom 10 : 13-15)*

"How shall they preach unless they are sent?" has two layers of meanings. First is the Lord (Holy Spirit). How will men know to preach if not sent? Second is if a person was not sent, how can he preach? The work of the gospel is not doing each thing individually or

preaching according to individual will. Peter was a representative of the apostles who was sent to preach, an apostle who was circumcised. Paul was sent as the apostle of the Gentiles. He knew that in order to preach to the Gentiles, he must receive the hand of James, Peter, and John, who were the pillars of the church, to send him (Gal 2:8, 9). The first of Paul's three missionary trips returned directly to Antioch, where he encountered the issue of whether to receive circumcision from the Gentile apostles. He then had to go to Jerusalem to report how the Gentiles received grace in the Lord, and had the apostles and elders handle the situation of circumcision. He would always return to Jerusalem in his future two trips to greet the church and to report his works of preaching in the foreign land.

Preaching must be sent in order to not deviate from the church to work individually. This will also edify the church and glorify God.

*But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (Eph 4 : 15 - 16)*

Speaking the truth in love is talking about Paul speaking the truth in love in one translation. It is the bridge of the sentence “so that we are no longer children... we speak the truth in love, and must grow in all things...” In another translation, it says speaking the truth of God in love. When believers can grow in the center of faith and knowledge from God, no longer being children, but have spiritual maturity to speak the truth of God in love, this is when the church can grow in all things and fellowship in the Lord. Each member will serve in their own position and gift with a mature attitude so the church will grow in the direction that is according to God's will.

Growth in Love.

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 [Church News](#)

## **Philippines' Holy Work Overview**

The Philippines is an archipelago comprising of over 7100 islands; thus given the name of the kingdom of thousands of islands. The Philippines has fertile soil, abundance in rain and is ideal for cultivating tropical crops. Although the Philippines is a multiracial country,

Catholicism serves as the main religious belief of the residents.

The Philippines is also one of the top twenty most populated countries. By the end of 2012, its population had reached close to one hundred million. Such a populated and resourceful country should be one of great wealth and strength. However, political instability and frequent insurgent activities that have lasted more than a decade, official government corruptions, and ethnic unrest are all main causes for the collapse of the country and its economy.

In 1982, God's grace came upon this barren country filled with unrest. The gospel was first preached to the central region of the Philippines. The first church established was Mansilingan Church. Shortly after, God's tabernacle continued to expand toward the northern and southern regions. Today, there are churches established in 12 locations, houses of prayer in another 12 locations and service points in more than 20 locations. There is a total membership of approximately 2,400 people. In the beginning, General Assembly for pioneering regions was set at Mansilingan Church. Later on with the consideration of Manila being the capitol of the Philippines and its strategic location as the domestic and international transportation hub, in addition to their sufficient manpower and resources, it was approved in 2010's WDC to relocate the General Assembly to Manila. While membership in Manila Church continues to grow each year, the chapel can no longer accommodate all the members. They are planning to rebuild the chapel and still is short of one million Malaysian Ringgit. We hope all the members can offer generously to aid Manila Church.



In recent years, members in the Philippines continued to move into the major larger cities. Truth-seekers membership continued to increase and the location of spreading the gospel also continues to rise. This is a very pleasant phenomenon. However, while these strongholds are spread far apart and only six full-time workers can be sent, this has become a great challenge in the work in pastoring. While in this good field of gospel outreach, there is much harvest to reap. Yet the lack of workers is a major concern for the churches in the Philippines. In the view of this, the Philippine's evangelical work team must always be especially mindful of the allocation of workers when drafting their work plan. While kindly requesting the help of the Sabah GA and IA in lending workers, they also seek the support of Sabah GA's volunteer teams in filling up any gaps. These doings are only for the short run. Their long-term plan is to train local workers so to take up all the work. For this reason, the evangelical team not only has evangelism and pastoring as their direction of work, but training new workers has become their main task and focus from 2012 to 2014.



Since 2004, the Philippines Theological Seminary has successfully cultivated five ministers who are now serving in the ministry. There is now one minister in practicum who will graduate in 2013. The Theological Seminary is now recruiting, so it is our wish that those with a determination to service may offer themselves as a living sacrifice.

In the city of Manila, there are a considerable number of Chinese immigrants. The majority are better-off financially than the local residents. The annual schedule by the evangelical team includes about 4-5 evangelical events directed at the Chinese residents. Most of the local Chinese speak Tagalog or Minnan dialect, so the evangelical team has urged the Taiwan GA to assist in sending workers who can speak these languages. Over a two-year span, the result is not very significant. However, thank God, in November 2012 with the help of IA, Pr. Wan Fa Chen was sent to assist with holy work in Manila. There was a good turnout as many truth-seeker friends were successfully contacted and they expressed their interest in continuing studying the Bible.

In terms of holy work training, apart from the routine seminars such as holy work seminar, ministers cultivation seminar, etc., every five months the evangelical team would hold a short-term student theological seminar. This is for youths between the ages of 14-16 so to prepare and train them to become future workers for the church. After these years, hundreds of youths have graduated and are all serving in their local churches.

In terms of sacred music worship, the evangelical team has entrusted the planning and execution of this work to the volunteer team. The volunteer team first found the reason why sacred music worship has fallen behind in the Philippines. It was because there are no members who specialize in music, especially in playing the piano. Therefore, the volunteer team started with the youths. They formed both piano classes and youth choir. After several years of training, there are now many youths who have no difficulty playing hymns at church. Both Mansilingan and Manila Church have also established youth choirs. Afterward, music and piano lessons were also held for the children. Sacred music camp and seminars were held to further strengthen this ministry.

In terms of religious education, the volunteer team was also entrusted with this ministry. In their short-term plan, the task of training new teachers still lies with the members from Sabah. Ministers and workers from abroad are sent to assist with various activities such as RE Camp, RE Teacher's Training, and RE Teacher's Seminar. Their long-term goal is for the members in the Philippines to be able to train their own local teachers. For this reason, a program for cultivating the trainers was created. The first training was held this year in October. A total of eight members who are involved in the religious affairs in various churches, along with two ministers, attended. All the participants were very attentive and had a very positive attitude. We believe they will surely be able to take up the training roles in the near future.

This year is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Church in Manila. However, as their spirituality is still like an infant and unable to be independent, to evangelize and pastor their own faith, we

ask that everyone to please pray for all the True Jesus Church in the Philippines so they may be that bright shining gospel light in the world of chaos, leading men to God.



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### *Church News*

## **Malaysia GA – TJC Current Report**

In the beginning of November 2012, the four districts of the Singapore-Malaysia GA — Southern District, Central District, Perak District and Northern District — has each held a joint Spiritual Convocation within their districts. The theme for the Spiritual Convocation was “Challenges of Faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” Included was a discussion on the impact this Internet world has on our faith and the recognition and understanding members should have in response to it. In addition to the nine ministers from Singapore and Malaysia who were assigned to lead service in the different districts, three elders, including Pr. Yao Chen Wang sent by the Taiwan GA, also devoted to this ministry. In the two-day spiritual convocation held in the Central District, members were encouraged to fast and pray both in the morning and afternoon. Apart from praying for the down-pouring and fullness of the Holy Spirit, more importantly, the members were urged to pray for the mercy and help of God so all the True Jesus Churches worldwide may unite as one.



At the end of November, GA council members, along with all the ministers gathered at Klang Church, convening the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> Period GA Council Meeting. In the two-day meeting, they reviewed the holy work reported by various work teams as well as the work schedule for the next year. Proper adjustments were also made in the allocation of ministers for the coming year. Following the meeting was the 65<sup>th</sup> National Church Conference. A total of 40 members representing the 26 churches and two houses of prayer attended the annual Singapore-Malaysia National Church Conference.

The GA Chair utilized the opportunity of the conference and made clear the vision and mission of the Malaysian GA to all the participants, giving every church a clear direction for expansion. The NCC also passed proposals by the GA, authorizing the GA Council to make use of 85 million RM of the Evangelism Fund, putting it to greater use and benefit by lending funds to churches in need of rebuilding or purchasing a chapel.

The last important event by the Malaysian GA is the short-term Youth Theological Seminar held every December. This event takes place during the winter break. This is a training seminar designed for youths ages 14-16 and has been in effect for more than 20 years. It has cultivated many Christian soldiers for the local churches and taken great effect in the work of passing down the faith to the next generation. What is most delightful is that with the number of attendees increasing year by year, the olive garden training center at Port Dickson will have a need to further expand its dormitories and facilities after completing its third phase of construction.



The Malaysian GA plans to host a national holy workers & spouse tour in 2013. This is a follow up activity from the Malaysian minister's visit to Fuqin and Xiamen Churches in China in March of 2012, who brought back many positive messages and responses from the trip. Therefore as many elders and deacons have long heard about the churches in China, they look forward to be able to personally visit them, to see the actual situation of the churches and to learn from one another.



May God continue to bless and watch over His churches in Malaysia in 2013.

## 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:

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## *Intercession*

### 1. IA WORK IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
1/4-28	Sabah	Divine Workers Seminar for all 3 zones, Church Pastoral Work, Preacher Refresher Course ,Preachers' wives Refresher Course and Literary Ministry Refresher Course	FF Chong
1/6-11	UK	Africa Missionary Volunteers Training - London Church	AMC
1/6-20	Argentina	Short-Term Theological Class Spiritual Convocation & Evangelical Services	Enoch Hou & CM Chu
1/13-2/8	USA	e-Learning Project	HH Ko

1/14-20	Australia	Pastoral visit after STTTC in Melbourne & Brisbane	Peter Shee Ezra Chong
1/18-28	Dominican Rep.	Pastoral Visitation	Daniel Chu
1/24-2/3	Fiji	Establish & Follow up Evangelical contacts. Pastoral & Evangelical. raining in Suva and Lautoka	Zephaniah Li & Ben Chen
1/25-2/6	Argentina	Pastoral Work	Jonathan Chou
1/29-2/11	Chile	Pastoral Work & Training	CM Chu

## 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](mailto:ia@tjc.org) or [tjciatwn@ms25.hinet.net](mailto:tjciatwn@ms25.hinet.net).***

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

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