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Feature

To Keep Up With the Pace of the Lord

Yung Ji Lin

The Lord Jesus is God's servant; He did not come to be served by men, but to serve men. He is God's son, but took up the image of the servant and became the likeness of men. The events of the Lord Jesus' servitude are especially recorded in the gospel book of Mark. No matter where the Lord is, He always has the thought of saving people in mind. He would wake up before dawn and go to sleep late in the night. He often did not have time to eat. The author of Mark often used words such as "at once", "immediately", "shortly", "now", "promptly", and "then" which creates a deep impression towards the Lord. The Lord seems to rush to the already established goal in order to complete the mission entrusted by God. He diligently serves, which makes Him a "never tiring" servant.

The Lord is not only a good servant, but He also looks heavily upon serving as teams. He led the disciples to follow His footsteps so that they would work and walk together with Him. Completing the great work of the kingdom of God together is something we should learn from.

I. Emphasis on Praying in the Spirit.

One morning, the disciples brought the people to look for the Lord Jesus only to receive physical benefits. The Lord said to them, “Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth” (Mk 1:36-38) The Lord rejected the requests of the disciples because they had done something that is not in accordance with the Lord’s will. The reason is the lack of prayer. The disciples later all learned the Lord Jesus’ spirit of prayer so that they may be able to keep up with His footsteps in servitude.

We must adjust our pace in our lives so that we have more time to fellowship spiritually with the Lord. This way, we will all be able to understand the Lord’s will and keep up with His pace.

II. Constantly Communicate With Co-Workers.

When the disciples first started serving, they were not able to keep up with the Lord’s footsteps. Their reactions toward the Lord Jesus’ doings were slow: they did not understand the work that the Lord is to complete in the world. The Lord then revealed the mystery of the development of God’s kingdom through parables of the sower, lamp stand, measure, and mustard seed, etc (Mk 4:33).

Therefore, after the Lord chose the disciples, he spent time with them often. He constantly taught and communicated so that they could understand His will, to keep up with His pace.

In order to serve and promote holy work in unity, one must follow the example of the Lord to constantly communicate with his co-workers, to break through all the difficult blocks of the mind and search for the same viewpoint of developing the holy work according to the Lord’s will. In this way, it will be easy to keep up with the Lord’s footsteps and actively promote holy work.

III. Cultivate Spiritual Affection

When the Lord Jesus was busy serving, His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him. A multitude was sitting around Him and they said to Him, “Look, your mother and brothers are outside seeking you.” Jesus answered, “Who is My mother, or My brothers? And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother” (Mk 3:31-35).

The Lord Jesus elevated the fleshly family into spiritual so that everyone knows how precious spiritual family is. If everyone obeys the will of God, this kind of family is the most trustworthy. The many broken families in today’s society are because they don’t understand the importance of

spiritual family. If the church can train everyone to put emphasis on spiritual family and extend the family to the big spiritual family, then the members of the church can see how precious it is. They will know that it all starts with knowing and showing concern and support to trusting one another and feeling that the church is a place filled with love.

The Lord Jesus once reminded Sardis church through John saying, “Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember, therefore, how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent.” If Sardis church knows to administer the church with the concept of spiritual family, they will be able to keep up with the Lord’s footsteps.

IV. Making the Correct Decisions

When the Lord first sent the disciples to preach the gospel, He commanded them saying, “Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand’” (Mt 10:5-7). The Lord Jesus wanted to make sure that the disciples did not become discouraged in evangelism; therefore, He taught them to first preach to their own people regarding the gospel of the heavenly kingdom. Three years later, after the disciples became familiar with the holy work, their faith also grew. The Lord then had them go into the world to preach the gospel so that they could follow His footsteps.

When promoting the holy work today, not only do we need to have the right goals, we also need to ask the Lord to teach us and provide the correct plan. This way everyone will be able to follow it and keep up with the pace of the Lord’s footsteps.

Conclusion:

Promise of the Lord: “A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation. I, the LORD, will hasten it in its time” (Is 60:22). The Lord will fulfill His plan according to His time. This shows that not only does the holy work need a plan, but it needs efficiency; it should not delay.

If we can follow the servitude of the Lord in all things so that everyone can keep up with the Lord’s footsteps, we will raise the bar on productivity and follow the plan in order to complete what the Lord assigned to us.

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Recent Holy Work in South Africa

South Africa is at the most southern part of Africa with a majority of Catholics and Protestants. Before 1994, the white government enforced the Apartheid policy toward the blacks and caused bad reputations of the country to be known internationally. After a predominately black government took place in 94, the entire country entered into democracy and a new generation of racial equality. South Africa is a country full of resources where reside many different races; therefore, it is also called the “rainbow country”.

There are about four hundred members in South Africa. Ninety-nine percent are members from China, Fuqing, and 1% is members from Taiwan. The church was established in the earlier days by Taiwanese members. However, most of them moved to other countries due to the bad security. The members from Fuqing are spread all over the regions, from Limpopo County of the north to Cape Town County of the south. Most of them own clothing shops and many switch to owning super markets; the members also moved around a lot. Since the South Africa Committee was established, the emphasis has been to visit the members. Encourage them to establish family services to observe Sabbath to build up their faith. There were four visitations this year.

There are two areas in South Africa that are more systematic and have stable services. One is Johannesburg with its own chapel. Those who are within a to three hour car ride will attend services here. A Sabbath service is more stable with 40-70 attendees and 10-20 on Friday nights. Last year, Johannesburg church held spiritual convocations twice; January 20-22 by Pr. Derren Liang and Bro. Ming-Hsiung Chang with 135 receiving cups, 14 baptized, and 11 received the Holy Spirit. July 13-15, by Dn. Luke Chen, Pr. Steve Hwang, and Bro. Ming-Hsiung Chang, 171 receiving cups, 1 baptized, and 14 received Holy Spirit. July 8-12, a Youth Spiritual Cultivation Seminar was held by Pr. Steve Hwang and Dn. Luke Chen; 10 people attended.

Aside from Johannesburg church, Cape Town has about 100 members within a 1-2 hour car ride. About 30 will attend Sabbath service, 40-60 whenever there are pastoral visits from workers. Baptism and a special service were held last year on September 16. Seven were baptized (5 children, 2 adults). They are currently renting an office building from another church at this time; however, this is not a long-term solution. They are planning on purchasing a place for worship if all aspects permit. This is another area to develop into the second South African church. It is currently lacking sermon speakers. If the committee finds the right time and place, they will plan training sessions to build up sermon speakers.

Other than Johannesburg and Cape Town with regular systemic services, Port Elizabeth also has Sabbath service consistently. The first Holy Communion was conducted during the visitation last October with more than 20 receiving the cup. Other places such as Vanderbijlpark, Ladysmith, Durban etc., have members who gather Friday evenings or Sabbath for service. They will do Bible sharing, hymn singing, or watch VCD.



There is a country within South Africa inland, Lesotho that has more than ten members who would have Sabbath service regularly.

South Africa members also established a QQ social group online to help members who are not able to attend services. They can go online every week to share their experience in faith, Bible truth, questions, prayer requests, or member activities. This QQ group also helps the South Africa members greatly.

For the future growth of the church, Johannesburg church will hold a sermon speaker training seminar every year during the workers' visitation. They use this time to train the sermon speakers as well as the council members to take up the responsibility to carry out the pastoral work in the church. During the visitation of the committee, they encourage the church to marry members

within the Lord and value marrying in the church in order to receive the blessing of the true God and all the members. Thank the Lord, there were three couples who held their weddings in the church last year.



Due to the poor law enforcement of South Africa, Johannesburg has encountered many burglar attacks with prying of doors, stealing money from the offering box, and stealing audio visual equipment. Some members even got injured during the robbery. The members are not fearful even after these incidents. They continue to stand firm in faith and attend service. The Lord will surely guide and watch to take away the obstruction.

Due to the members being spread out in South Africa, the committee plans to take turns for long term stay in South Africa in 2013. They will help with the pastoral and visitation work to fulfill the needs of South African members. Please continue to pray for the holy work of South Africa and ask the Lord to keep and guide the members and the growth of the holy work.

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Taiwan Holy Work Current Report

Taiwan is a highly dense and populated island. Though it is small in size, thanks to the grace of God various church holy works continue to grow at a steady pace. Taiwan GA is divided into seven pastoral regions; within each region are various districts and local churches. Holy work is distributed among the churches and everyone shares the responsibility of spreading the gospel and pastoring churches with love and care. The current holy work report is as follows:

1. General Assembly Newly Elected Department Council Members:

Chairman: Yung Ji Lin, Chief Executive Officer: Ming-Chang Wang, Director of Evangelical Department: Chin-Jung Chen, Director of Pastoral Department: Chang Wei Lin, Director of Literary Department: Ming Yang Chao, Director of Administration Department: Ling Shui Lin, Director of Financial Department: Ming Jen Wu, Dean of Theological School: Fuming Tse, Executive Officer of Charity Executive Council: En Tang Huang.

Term: From January 1, 2013, to December 31, 2015

2. Social Youth Spiritual Convocation

2012 Social Youth's Spiritual Convocation has successfully concluded from December 7 to 9. Seminar was held at the General Assembly in the central region. The topic was the "Book of Ruth;" Pr. Tsan Kun Lo was the main speaker. Pr. Tsan Kun Lo shared in simple terms the depth and the many wonderful teachings within the Book of Ruth. Many youths were greatly edified. Even though it is such a short book, the Book of Ruth can bring about such deep impact and truthful expression of the radiance of human nature. Such infinite sense warmth and hope!

3. Ministers Advance Studies Seminar

The Ministers Advance Studies Seminar was held at the General Assembly November 26 – 28. This year all the course discussions focused on the theme of "Practicality of Evangelism and Folk Beliefs & Religions." Pr. Chang Wei Lin shared his experience with evangelism, emphasizing that the key in evangelism lies in personal evangelism and follow-up. The various evangelism events and activities are only preludes to evangelism. The real battle ground for evangelism is the follow-up work. In addition, Dn. Chun-Chia Chang Chang, based on his professional studies, led the discussion focusing on folk beliefs and religions in Taiwan, reminding everyone to be sharp in discerning various religions and disguise behind the so-called cultural and traditions and to be

watchful of organizations associated with local religions so to avoid using these organizations as a platform for holy work and mistakenly bring these practices and traditions into church.



Furthermore, an ordination ceremony was held during this seminar. Elder Tong Lin Hsu ordained Pr. Chou Shou Kuo as an elder. A retirement farewell was also held for Pr. De Li Chen. All the fellow ministers have seen the grace of God in Pr. Chen, leading every step of his ministry, upholding him and working with him through his life-long ministry.

4. Elders & Deacons Pre-Ordination Seminar



This year's Elders & Deacons Pre-Ordination Seminar was held December 7 – 9 at the General Assembly. A total of 20 elders and deacons who'd been approved attended the seminar. Elders and deacons play an important role of helpers to the full-time ministers in church development. We believe the newly ordained elders and deacons will become a new force in the church. By the great might of God, His grace has richly nourished the land of Taiwan, enabling our True Jesus Church to be able to continue to grow and expand steadily. Many workers have also been trained and brought up. In the future, we will continue to pass down this utmost precious faith from one generation to the next, to shine brightly for our Lord in every corner of the world. May God continue to watch over the expansion of holy work in Taiwan.

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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
2/1-3	Austria	Spiritual Convocation & Evangelical Service - Vienna	Michael Chan
2/5-25	Brazil	Pastoral Work/Spiritual Convocation	Wen Chuan Yeh
2/8-10	Austria	Spring Spiritual Convocation - Salzburg	Hong Hsiung Ko
2/8-10	Chile	Spiritual Convocation/Dedication Ceremony	Jonathan Chou Cheng Ming Chu
2/8-10	Austria	Spring Spiritual Convocation - Salzburg	Hong Hsiung Ko
2/8-3/4	Russia	Outreach/Training/Pastoral	Michael Chan

2/12-22	Myanmar	Pastoral/Evangelism/Training	Peter Shee
2/19-3/2	India	Pioneering work in West Bengal	Joshua Phoong Caleb Chang Ezra Chong
2/21-28	Indonesia	Systematic Theology	Huei Huang Tian
2/22-24	Germany	Training/Special Service - Hamburg Prayer House	Steven Shek
2/24-28	UK	National Adult Theological Course- New Castle	Hong Hsiung Ko
2/26-3/4	FOZ	Pastoral Work/Evangelical Spiritual Convocation	Wen Chuan Yeh Ming Tang Kuo

2. DEVELOPMENT OF DIVINE WORK IN ALL NATIONS

3. WORKERS IN ALL PIONEERING AREAS

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Bulletin

Relevant meetings during World Delegate Conference

IA 10-25 SCO Meeting: 26 March 2013 (Venue: Cerritos Church, US)

IA 10-8 EXCO Meeting: 27 March 2013 (Venue: Cerritos Church, US)

IA Truth Research Committee Meeting: 28-29 March 2013 (Venue: Irvine Church, US)

IA Holy Work Symposium: 30-31 March 2013 (Venue: Irvine Church, US)

IA 11-1 WDC Meeting: 1-2 April 2013 (Venue: Irvine Church, US)

IA 11-1 SCO Meeting: 3 April 2013 (Venue: Irvine Church, US)

IA 11-1 EXCO Meeting: 4 April 2013 (Venue: Irvine Church, US)

DLM/IMPAC Meeting: 5-7 April 2013 (Venue: Cerritos Church, US)

Please pray for these meetings.

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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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