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Feature

Prosperity of the Gospel Starts With Prayers

Sheep Teeth

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Act 1:8) This is what the Lord Jesus has entrusted and promised to the disciples before His ascension. I have provided a few points from this passage, so we could learn and use it in evangelism.

I. One Will Receive Power when the Holy Spirit Comes

The establishment of the church and the prosperity of the Gospel started from an upper room in Jerusalem. Eleven apostles, a few women, Jesus’ mother and brothers prayed with everyone diligently in one accord. Then the disciples have been increased from one hundred twenty to three thousand in one day. After the Holy Spirit descended, the flame of the Gospel came into a full swing.

The apostles went from weak to speaking boldly (Act 2:14, 4: 29/31, 14:3). They explained the origin and prophecy of the descent of the Holy Spirit. (Act 2:14) With such great power, the

apostles testified the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and proved that God has established the Christ (Act 4:5, 10, 33; 9:22). When everyone heard the message that engraved into their hearts, they decided to repent and receive a baptism (Act 2:37, 42). The apostles also performed miracles and wonders to prove the truth of God (Act 2:43; 5:12; 14:3). The work and power of the Holy Spirit has been manifested since then.

II. The gospel strategy by the leadership of the Holy Spirit

By the Holy Spirit, the gospel strategy has formed naturally, started in Jerusalem then to Antioch, which is the future center for sending out workers (Act 8:14; 13:1, 3), . Likewise, the Holy Spirit has led the election and duties of the apostles (Act 13:2, 4), the path development and direction of the gospel (Act 8:1, 29; 10:19, 20; 11:12; 16:6, 10), the elaboration and unanimity of the truth (Act 10:19, 20; 15:28). Evangelism started from one single location to all corners, and to the far end of the earth. We can see the works of the Holy Spirit leading and giving direction. Although organization plans and strategy are requirement in evangelism, we cannot disregard praying and pleading for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

III. Prayer in combination with works.

The apostles were leading by examples (Act 1:13, 14; 3:1; 10:9). The council members of the church often are busy with administrative works and meetings; therefore, prayer is often neglected. Even though Peter was busy with the work of the gospel, he was able to follow the example of Christ and prayed quietly (Mt 14:23; Mk 1:35) in order to gain power through the Holy Spirit. In the end times, the watchers of the church also need to pray and be alert to keep away from confusion (Mt 26:40, 41).

Develop a habit of prayer (Act 3:1; 10:9). The saints and devoted people regarded highly on prayer and spent few times a day to pray (Ps 55:17; Dan 6:10; Act 10:1, 3, 30, 31). God listened to their prayers and gave them abundant of blessings.

Establish prayer fellowship (Act 1:13, 14; 4:23, 24, 31; 12:5). One of the reason apostles were often able to overcome difficulties in work and have fruitful results in preaching the gospel were due to intercession of church brethren. The evangelical work in the front line needs intercession of others. In this way, God will open the gospel's gate and allow men to speak the mystery of Christ. So the truth could be evangelized quickly. (Col 4:2, 4; II Thess 3:1; Eph 6:19, 20)

Praying earnestly in one heart and mind (Act 1:13, 14; 4:24). The believers praying in one

accord could bring unanimity and caring life. (9Act 2; 43, 47). In this way, the workers will serve God in one accord and abide with God (Act 5:12, 16).

Pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit (Act 2:4; 4:31; 9:17; 11:24). The first thing in servitude of God's kingdom is the power of the Holy Spirit and spiritual virtues. The servants of God are often filled with the Holy Spirit. We should also focus on seeking the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Since we are born by the Holy Spirit, we must do according to the spirit and bear good fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22, 25) to deliver wonderful testimonies with power, the Holy Spirit, and full assurance of faith.(I Thess 1:5, 8).

Prosperity of the gospel must start with prayer. Prayer must also come with deeds in persistence. May my brethren, who constantly rely on the Holy Spirit and pray persistently, become elite soldiers for the gospel. (Eph 6:18)

Sharing for mutual encouragement!

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Church News

Newly Pioneered Areas in Eastern Hemisphere

Pakistan

Pakistan is an Islamic Republic. Pakistan's history has been characterised by periods of military rule, political instability and conflicts with neighbouring India. The country continues to face challenging problems, including terrorism, poverty, illiteracy and corruption.

It has a population of 180 million. The population comprises several ethnic groups. The majority are Punjabi – 78.7 million (44.15%), Pashtuns – 27.2 million (15.42%), Sindhis – 24.8 million (14.1%) & others.



97% of the population is Muslim. Sectarian violence among Muslim denominations are common. Christians numbered about 2,800,000 (1.6%).

Punjabi dominated the economy in the country.

We started to have communications with individual Pakistanis when they contacted us through the internet in the last few years. A few show interest. After corresponding with them for some time, we decided to visit them in order to progress further. We made our first trip in January this year. Both our contacts at that time are in south-eastern Pakistan, in the province of Sindh.



Karachi – is the capital of Sindh. This is where the international airport in south Pakistan is located. The situation in the city was tense when we arrive. There was some shooting in the city yesterday. The taxi driver advised us not to go out. Telecommunication was cut off.

Karachi is quite a developed city. In the fringe of the city are settlements. Most Christians stay together in these settlements for safety reasons. Over here we share the gospel of salvation with a pastor. Although he does not understand our teachings, he welcomes us to visit & continue to share with him.

Five hours drive to the north of Karachi is a town called Dadu. Public transport will travel through Hyderabad. Dadu is about two hours drive from Karachi.

A Christian from this place read our articles of faith and found that it is true. After corresponding with us for more than a year, he left his former church. He and a few friends decided to practice and teach the doctrines of our church. He established a facebook account Tjcpak. In it he clearly states that he is not a member of True Jesus Church because he has yet to receive baptism. Through our contact with him, we find that he knows our basic beliefs. We have conducted a doctrinal study with him & his friends. They asked for baptism but we are cautious and praying for the guidance of God. We will continue to show urgency in this work.



Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is a country at the southern tip of India. It has a population of 20 million.

Sinhalese constitute the largest ethnic group in the country (74.88%), Sri Lankan Tamils are the second (11.2%), Sri Lankan Moors (9.2%), Indian Tamils (4.2%) & others.

Sinhalese and Tamil are the two official languages of Sri Lanka. The Constitution defines English as the link language. English is widely used for education, scientific and commercial purposes.

Sri Lanka is a multi-religious country. 70% are Buddhists. Hinduism is the second most with 12.61%, Islam – 9.71%, Christianity – 7.45%.



More than 10 years ago the Tamils frequently travel between Tamil Nadu in South India & Sri Lanka. It is during that period that Tamils baptised in our church in India settled in Sri Lanka. When there were some conflict between the Tamil Tigers and the Sri Lankan government, the Tamil Tigers was disbanded. This conflict also stopped the free flow of Tamilians between India and Sri Lanka. We lost contact with many of our members. Some moved out of Sri Lanka. Recently we again established contact with some members there. We went there to understand the situation of our members, sowing the seeds of the gospel along the way. The work in Sri Lanka is now allocated to India Commission Committee.



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Africa Ministry Committee (English) (AMCE) West Africa brief work reports 2013

Pr. TK Chin

We thank the Lord Jesus that the True Jesus Church in West Africa has been maturing throughout the past years. There are now more than twenty five churches and places of worship in **Ghana**, with more than two thousand members; five ordained full-time workers and one Deacon; one trainee preacher. New pioneering areas in Ghana include Asuboa Asutuare and Mempong. With help from Taiwan RWF and IA, there are now about ten proper church buildings in Ghana. The churches in Ghana are beginning to realise their responsibility to prosper the church in terms of financially taking care of fulltime workers and other church works, including various seminars and convocations.

By God's mercy, the church in **Nigeria** is growing gradually, especially after a number of workers were trained in Ghana through a series of worker seminars for a number of years. There are now more than four hundred members in a few churches in Nigeria; one ordained fulltime worker. Three brothers and one sister will be ordained as deacons and deaconess before the end of 2013. In terms of workers' allowances and other expenses, the church in Nigeria is now independent of IA financial help.

In **Liberia**, there is a church in Buchanan and a few places of worship in different areas, with a few hundred members. We need to train up more workers in Liberia to shoulder the works of evangelism and pastoral ministry.



Though **Togo** is a French-speaking country, it shares a same dialect with Ghana. As such, Ghana workers conversant with the dialect work together with AMC-sent workers in Togo. There is now one True Jesus Church building, which once belonged to the members before they were baptized into the True Jesus Church. There are about twenty members at the moment. By God's grace, there is a great deal of opportunity to evangelise and build up the church in Togo.



In **Sierra Leon**, including members in Free Town and Bo, there were about seventy baptised members. Due to a lack of faithful workers, the church is yet to grow. By God's grace, a trip will be sent to this country in 2014. May the Lord Jesus empower and guide us to work better for Him in this country.



By the Lord's mercy and help, in order to prosper the True Jesus Church further, we have been conducting worker seminars (national and district for local church workers), RE teacher seminars, national student convocations for the past many years.

AMC (Africa Ministry Committee) also sees the need to continue training up more volunteers to serve in Africa through the AVMWT (Africa Voluntary Missionary Worker Training) which has been going on for the past ten years. The 11th one will take place in London, UK, from 5-10 Jan 2014. The first AMC ARETTS (Africa RE Teacher Trainer Seminar) will take place in Leicester from 29 Dec 2013 to 3 Jan 2014.

The Lord has enthused not just fulltime workers to labour with assiduousness, but also voluntary workers, especially after the formation of AMC VT (Africa Ministry Committee Voluntary Team) in 2011. AMC VT consists of three groups: Religious Education Group (REG), Religious Seminar Group (RSG) and Recruitment and Awareness Group (RAG). May the Almighty God continue to encourage and strengthen all Africa workers, either fulltime or volunteers. May all of us pray for the growth of the True Jesus Church in Africa. All glory and praises be to our Lord Jesus Christ. Hallelujah! Amen.

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Intercession

1. IA WORK IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
10/10-12/16	Malaysia	Malay speaking Spiritual Convocation Spiritual Meeting /Short Term Theological Training Course	Sabah GA Preacher
10/21-11/20		National Regional Spiritual Meeting	XF Yeh
10/4-20	Hong Kong	Autumn Spiritual Evangelical Convocation (Tsuen Wan/Tai Po/Hong Kong Church)	EZ Chang
10/21-11/4	Philippines	Evangelizing to the Chinese Filipino	Malachi Lee/Indonesia preacher/SVMT
10/29-30		PGA Meeting/PGA Delegates Meeting	Sabah GA Chairman/PMC

			Chairman
10/31-11/6		Pastoral visit	Lemuel Leong/Malachi Lee
10/19-27	Myanmar	Youth Pastoral/Training	Hosea Hoo/Ling Yi/Wai Leng
10/18-20	Canada	Bible Seminar(Edmonton)	CCC
Oct.	UK	Evangelical Spiritual Convocation (London/ Sunderland)	ZK Tsai
10/31 – 11/7	UK	Preachers Spiritual Cultivation Retreat (Gifford Park)	
10/4-6	Germany	Autumn Spiritual Convocation (Heidelberg Prayer House)	HH Ko
10/12-13		Training for RE Teachers (Heidelberg Prayer House)	
Oct.		Special Service (Rhineland Prayer House)	Steven Shek

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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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