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Feature

What Can I Do For Literary Ministry?

Dn. Shawn Chou

When we ponder on this question, perhaps we can first look to the Bible to understand God’s work and guidance. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”: “Word” (Logos) refers to word or speech. The Christ is the word of God, unravelling God’s mystery. Since the days of old, countless servants of God have explored the path of literary ministry. Approximately four thousand years ago, Moses grew up in a palace and learned all kinds of knowledge of the Egyptians. Then, through God’s revelation to him, he wrote down the five books of Moses so that the later generations would understand the beginning of creation and salvation. Not only so, did not the prophets in the Old Testament times preach through literary work? Later, God sent us His only Son to preach the gospel to the world. The authors of the New Testament gospel books recorded the acts performed by Jesus and the words of salvation preached by Jesus during his ministry. Also, through epistles to the churches, Paul and other apostles have helped the later generations better understand God’s saving grace and the truth of salvation.

This shows us the importance of literary ministry. However, many brethren subconsciously feel disconnected with it. Some even believe that they are not qualified to participate in this type of

work. In fact, such concept is not correct. So, what can each of us do for literary ministry?

1. Spend more time reading our church publications, including books and magazines: Some people do not support publishing books for our ministry and believe that such books contain merely human discussion and analysis; they support only reading the Bible. If such thinking is right, then by the same logic, we also should not attend church to listen to sermons, as the sermons contain human speech. However, the Bible clearly teaches us to meet together and listen to one another (James 1:19; Hebrews 10:25). In addition, God has instituted preaching in churches so that we can gain a better understanding of the Biblical teachings through the speakers' explanation of the Bible. Therefore, we should read more books published by our church. If very few people are interested in reading books and magazines published by our church, the work of literary ministry will decline and those members who are truly interested in reading our publications would have no choice but to read publications by other churches. In due course, our church as a whole and the faith of each individual member will be affected.
2. Do our best to share with others books and magazines published by our church: Our church publish books in the hope to have as many people read or use them as possible so that the marginal benefit of each book would be maximized. Chapter 8 of the book of Acts records the account of the Ethiopian eunuch. Phillip was moved by the Spirit and approached the eunuch's chariot. He heard the eunuch reading the Book of Isaiah. The modern-day printing technology did not exist in the apostolic times and the text of the scrolls were copied by hands. Since the eunuch was not a Jew, how did he obtain the scroll of Isaiah? Very likely, he either received the scroll as a gift or borrowed it from another. If no one gave him the scroll, very likely the eunuch would not have the opportunity to receive salvation. Therefore, besides reading the publications ourselves, we should also our best to pass our books, magazines and flyers to those in need so that they can also receive spiritual food and even receive salvation.
3. Put our testimonies in writing and jot down notes of our reflection after listening to sermons and our reflection from bible reading, bible study and daily spiritual cultivation: writing these down can assist our own faith – we will keep a heart of thanksgiving when we remember God's grace on us. In addition, when opportunity comes, it allows us to testify God's grace through writing or speech so that others can be motivated and cultivated in their faith. Also, these notes of our reflection, after editing, may become articles for submission. Our church often lacks Chinese and English articles on spiritual cultivation; we only have a few workers submitting articles so we are in short. If more brethren are willing to participate in this holy work, it would bring vigor to our literary ministry.

4. Offer human power, financial support and intercession: Our literary ministry has officially entered into a stage of transformation at the start of the 21st century. As the Internet and electronic devices become widely available, there is an urgent need to adjust the direction of our literary ministry work. In the past, we mostly utilized printed publications for our literary ministry. However, as the time changes and more and more people prefer searching for information or watching videos online, it seems that our printed publications do not attract as many people as online information, regardless of how good these publications are. Therefore, in order to spread the gospel of heaven and the truth of salvation to more people and provide more information for spiritual cultivation to our members, it is important to transform our church website and make videos clips and films on various subjects such as evangelism, testimonies and introduction to our church's five doctrines. We must provide information not only in Chinese and English, but also in all other major languages around the world. Only then can we preach the gospel to all nations, towns and people. With the widespread of smart phones and tablet PCs, we can spread the information we have generated through these devices. These steps are only a start for our church. We need to ask the Lord to bless us with strength and wisdom so that we will efficiently utilize our human resources and finances to complete our plan. We need everybody's prayer in one heart in order to make a significant progress in our literary ministry within 2 or 3 years.

God has given the true church the truth of salvation so that we can spread the truth to the ends of the world. Therefore, we have to focus on literary ministry, online ministry, and ministry through various forms of multimedia. Because these ministries differ from sermons on pulpit or personal evangelism, its influence can be longer-lasting, quicker and more far-reaching. Dear brothers and sisters, if you feel the same way, please do what you can to assist in the work of literary ministry!

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 [Church News](#)

USGA Current Work Report

Thank God for His grace, holy work in the US churches continues to grow steadily under God's guidance. Even though in 2013 some churches have faced troubles and encountered challenges unlike ever before, under God's watch and through some members' prayers, they have safely passed through it!

Under the abundant grace and miraculous guidance of God, the US churches have smoothly finished the work of hosting the 11th WDC. It had been 24 years since hosting the last WDC. Therefore, in order to ensure a smooth carry-out of all the meetings, and that all the delegates from around the world could have a sound and comfortable meeting environment, all the churches in Southern California have mobilized everyone, including the elderly, young, sisters and brothers, in diligently preparing for this event. Although in appearance everything was done onto and for the delegates but, in fact, everything was done onto Lord Jesus. May the Lord accept this beautiful service offered by all the brethren. This hosting opportunity was also a test to the unity of all the Southern California churches as well as being able to work in one accord with the USGA. Thus this hosting opportunity has revealed a greater purpose.

US churches currently have approximately 3,500 members within 24 churches and houses of prayer. Even though there are about 11 full-time ministers, many preachers need to assist with holy work in South America and other regions. Therefore, they have only limited time available at their appointed residing churches. However, this is likened to the miracle, where the Lord Jesus, through the five bread and two fish offered by a child, was able to feed the 5000. To men, the amount of time may seem too little but, in fact, God's grace is sufficient for us. Man's ability alone is always limited; however, God is forever limitless. As long as men are willing to offer, then God will utilize the limited resources offered by men, along with His blessing, allowing men to witness the unexpected and unimaginable grace from God. This is how the churches have gradually grown through such grace and blessings.

In the past 30-40 years, under God's guidance US churches have gradually moved onto a mature phase—whether in evangelism, pastoring, training, literary ministry or any administrative department—all are able to carry out various holy work under God's guidance. In addition, with the 2nd generation youth growing up in the US having undergone many years of RE, SSC, and NYTS, they have gradually taken up leadership roles in various holy work such as RE teachers, RE coordinators, head teachers, council members or even GA council members. A few have already registered for the Theological Training Program. If God wills, then next year there will be a youth minister who was born and raised in the US.

Just as how Joshua succeeded the work of Moses before crossing the River of Jordan, passing down the various church holy works also requires time and opportunities. God gives men time to equip themselves to become useful vessels for God. When the time is right, then God will miraculously arrange the time for transition also granting the successor wisdom and strength to carry out the given work even better. Through the passing of time, the younger generation will slowly take up the work passed down. Especially from a once Chinese oriented church into western-oriented church, targets of evangelism will also be multi-cultured. Only by this can

evangelical work be expanded toward the locals. Joshua followed Moses for 40 years. It was right before the Israelites crossed over Jordan that God had arranged for him to take up the work of Moses in leading the Israelites. We believe the passed down work in the US is also the same. God surely has His wonderful and miraculous arrangement.

This generation will continually change, especially in the US, a land pursuing after freedom and a global leader in trends of thoughts. However, no matter how this generation will be in the future, we believe God has His entrustment for the churches and members in the US. Surely, there still awaits the next important phase of goals and responsibilities for us to work together toward. May God continue to bless and guide the growth of the US churches, that we may have a zealous heart to participate in His work, and that we may all continue to develop our self spiritual cultivation, to protect and guard the faith of our family, and to allow the church to continue to walk on a path pleasing to God, until the day the Lord comes again!

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Church News

Hong Kong Current Holy Work Report

The Holy Workers Seminar was held Kowloon Church June 24-28, 2013. IA Council Elder Fuming Tse assisted with the holy work. Over five evenings he shared topics relating to practical pastoring from the holy workers manual. All the participants felt that the classes were very practical and useful to holy work. Throughout the seminar there was an average of 55 attendees each evening. Everyone came to church to attend after work. May God remember everyone's willing heart!



2013 Holy Workers Seminar

Due to chapel renovation, Spiritual Convocation at Hong Kong Church was postponed and held from July 5-7, 2013. IA Council Elder Fuming Tse also assisted with the Evangelical Services and Spiritual Convocation. There were a total of five truth-seeking friends; three were baptized into the Lord's name. A Bible knowledge class was also arranged in order to build up and affirm with the foundation of faith. This time two members received the precious Holy Spirit and a total of 188 members received the Holy Communion. During these Evangelical Services and Spiritual Convocation on the Sabbath afternoon of July 6, an 81-year anniversary thanksgiving service was held upon the completion of the chapel renovation, remembering and giving thanks to God for how He had guided and blessed Hong Kong Church. The church also smoothly finished its large scale renovation, which takes place once every twenty some years; all is new inside out. Pr. Tien, who had once pastored Hong Kong Church, took the opportunity to visit us with his entire family and joined in the ESSC and Thanksgiving Service, sharing a few words of thanksgiving. After these few days of ESSC, even though the outer wall of the building was yet to be finished and this affected the air conditioning system, the sultry environment did not diminish the fervency of the members in attending the ESSC. Everyone came with a joyful heart. May God find them acceptable. Thank God!



The start of summer breaks marks the busiest time for church work. The Hong Kong liaison office utilized this break to first hold the High School Student Spiritual Convocation July 20 – 24, and the Junior High Student Spiritual Convocation August 3 – 7. We hope the students were able to first put down the heavy load of school work and take the time to truly focus on learning God's words, at the same time, to experience the fellowship and bonding between the teachers and students. Thank God! A total of 57 students attended the two events.

The holy events came one after another. The work of spiritual cultivation is not for students only; adult education is also crucial. After the student spiritual convocations, a six-day short-term theological seminar was held from August 12th – 18th. Elder Heng Tao Chen was the main speaker. The theme was the Ten Commandments and Truth of the Tabernacle. We once

again refreshed the teachings on the Ten Commandments and the teachings and meanings behind building the tabernacle and the materials used. An average of 80 people attended the short-term theological seminar, a reflection of members longing and thirsting for the truth. May God guide and bless all the churches in the Hong Kong area, that we may all take root in faith.



2013 Short-Term Theological Seminar

Before the end of summer on August 25, all the churches in Hong Kong held a RE Parents-Children Day, gathering all the churches' teachers, students, and parents totaling at 280 people. The program included presentations from each class, and overviews of what the teachers have put in in the past year, with the fruits and leaning growth of all the students. After the presentations, everyone shared a wonderful time with games and activities. May God bless these beloved little sheep of the Lord Jesus that they may one day become God's Christian soldiers.



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 *Intercession*

1. IA WORK IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
11/25-12/24	Malaysia	Short Term Theological Training Course/ National Married Youth Fellowship	ZJ Huang
11/19-12/18	Sabah	Theological Training	DS Chen
11/27-12/26	Singapore	Year-End Spiritual Meeting/ Students' Theological Course Lecture/ Students Theological Course Graduates Camp/Evangelistic Service	YH Chiu
11/1-10	Myanmar Ministry Committee	Pastoral	Titus/ Mang Za Lian
11/17-21	New Zealand (Auckland)	Youth Spiritual Convocation	HD Lee
11/11 – 11/15	USA	National Minister Workshop	HH Ko
11 月 Nov (1 weekend)	Argentina	Sermon Speaker Retreat	WHDWM
Nov	FOZ	Pastoral Work; Training	WHDWM/ M. Kuo
Nov	Ecuador	Pastoral Work	CM Chu
Nov	Bolivia	Evangelical & Pastoral and Training	CM Chu
11/15-25	Dominican Rep.	Evangelical Service & Spiritual Convocation	Steve Hwang
Nov	UK	Church Council Training	ZK Tsai
11/29-12/1	Germany	Training & Special Service - Hamburg Prayer House	Steven Shek
11/28-12/22	East Africa	Student Convocation/ Training(Kenya)	Michael Chan/ Raymond
11/29-12/2	Mid East- Dubai	Bible Seminar/ Spiritual Meeting/ Evangelistic Service	HH Ko

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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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