



## CONTENTS

 <b>FEATURE &gt; A NEW AGE OF GRACE</b> .....
 <b>CHURCH NEWS &gt; TRUE JESUS CHURCH SINGAPORE COORDINATION BOARD REPORT 2013</b> .....
 <b><u>INTERCESSION</u></b> .....
 <b>ONE DOLLAR ONE SOUL</b> .....

## *Feature*

# A New Age of Grace

Fu-Ming Tse

### **Foreword:**

Based on the law of God's creation, "cold and heat, winter and summer, day and night" shall alternate and never cease (Genesis 8:22). The people living under the grace of the Lord Jesus have passed through the year 2013. In terms of time, an old year has passed and a new year has come. For us, the "new creation" made in Christ, old things have passed away and all things have become new (2 Corinthians 5:17). New things will unfold in the coming year. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we welcome these new things with hope. With the hope that is deeply rooted in the Lord Jesus Christ, we have entered into his grace by faith and received the wonderful proof of faith – a year with grace upon grace, honor upon honor, and strength upon strength. We have lived spiritually under the Lord's promised hope. Through the Lord who gives us strength, we receive with a thankful heart the crown of a year that the true God has prepared for and bestowed upon us as we move forward to the year 2014. Let us together lift up our heads to tread on the path dripping with abundance (Psalm 65:11).

By the grace of God, He has made "new" promises through the Scriptures to show us the progress of faith:

### 1. Be born again and become "new"

After we have freely received God's salvation from the Lord Jesus (John 3: 3-5), which is through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5), we should walk in newness of life, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father (Romans 6:4).

We serve the Lord in newness of the Holy Spirit, in the likeness of Christ – resurrected and regenerated – and devote our new life and being to Him; we present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God and are transformed by the renewing of our mind, with our inward self renewed day by day (Romans 6:19, 7:6, 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 4:16). We are a "new creation" in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). Therefore, we have to bear the heart of Christ and become a spiritual person, differentiating ourselves from the people who belong to this world and whose hearts are entangled by gluttony, drunkenness, worries and temptation of money. We who are spiritual judge all things, not concerning with what we see, but with what we cannot see - the final, eternal glory (1 Corinthians 2:14-16, 4:16-18).

### 2. Living in the holy city – the "New" Jerusalem

The Lord Jesus has renewed us with His precious blood and delivered us from the power of darkness. At the same time, the heavenly Father, the true God, conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love (Colossians 1:13). The Bible tells us that He "... raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:6). Here, "heavenly" refers to the spiritual kingdom built by the Lord Jesus with His precious blood. Therefore, we who are the saved people of God "have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem" (Hebrews 12:22). This is the place that Paul referred to as the "Jerusalem above" (Galatians 4:26) – the spiritual true church.

For the elect of the end times, in order to live out a spiritual life at True Jesus Church and become victorious, we must hold fast to what we have, so that no one may take our crown. The Lord Jesus will make us a pillar in the temple of God and we shall go out from the kingdom of God no more (Revelation 3:10-13).

### 3. Follow "new" commandments in the house of God

“And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” (1 John 2:17). While living in this world, the people of the Lord will have troubles, but we must not be shaken by afflictions (1 Thessalonians 3:3). Instead, we have to be content whatever the state we are, and to know how to be abased and how to abound. Everywhere and in all things we have to learn both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Phillipians 4:11-13). We should always follow God’s will, persevere in bearing a heart that loves God and others. As the gracious Lord Jesus repeatedly instructed, “[L]ove the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind ... And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mathew 22:37-38).

As those whom the heavenly Father has chosen out of the world and have been blessed with a life in the spiritual kingdom of the true God, how shall we conduct ourselves in the house of God, which is the church of the living God and the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15)? We should bear the truth in our heart and conduct ourselves in accordance with the truth. We work for the truth and we love one another for the sake of the truth (3 John 3-4, 8; 2 John 2). Therefore, in God’s house, we must follow the new commandment the Lord Jesus has given us: love one another (John 13:34).

The Lord Jesus loved us first, even giving up His life for us. Therefore, we must build ourselves in love, help one another with love as parts of one body, love one another, and build up the body of the Christ to cause growth of the body into the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:12-16).

#### 4. Hope for a “new” heaven and “new” earth

When the Lord comes again, the heavens will pass away and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up (2 Peter 3: 8-13). However, according to His promise, as God’s people we will receive a new heaven and a new earth on which righteousness dwells. While we still live in this world, we set our hearts to hope for the coming heaven and earth. Even though we are now separated by what Paul refers to as a “mirror,” the joy that springs from this hope is nonetheless indescribable. So, when we see the Lord face to face, the satisfaction and joy we will feel will be even harder to describe with words.

The new heaven and earth are not built by our own mighty power or strength, but are prepared by the merciful heavenly Father for His children. While we still live in this world, we must prepare for our new life in the coming heaven and earth, just as Peter tells us, “[B]eloved,

looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless” (2 Peter 3:10-14).

#### 5. Make ourselves ready to be the “new” bride

After the judgment on the harlot that corrupted the world with her adulterous acts, there is “a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, Alleluia!” (Revelation 19:1-6). At this time, the good news of the end will be proclaimed: “Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready” (Revelation 19:7, 21:2).

We do not wait passively for the Lord’s second coming to take us up as His bride, but we wait with a lively hope, in joy and with glory. In our hope and joy we prepare ourselves and are granted to be arrayed in fine linen, which is the righteous acts of the saints. We must make ourselves ready to become the wife of the Lamb (Revelation 19:8).

#### **Concluding Remarks**

In this new year, may we all be a “new” creation through our acceptance of salvation and rebirth. May we live in the holy city – the “New” Jerusalem, follow the “new” commandments in the house of God, and hope for the “new” heaven and “new” earth. In addition, we shall make ourselves ready to be the “new” bride as we wait for the second coming of the Lord to take us up as His wife.

Lastly, at the beginning of this new year, may our High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, bless each one of us.

“The LORD bless you and keep you;  
The LORD make His face shine upon you,  
And be gracious to you;  
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you,  
And give you peace” (Numbers 6:24-26)

▲ [TOP](#)

# **True Jesus Church Singapore Coordination Board**

## **Report 2013**

Praise the Lord Jesus Christ for His blessings on True Jesus Church in Singapore.

SCB also commenced a fulltime preacher four-year theological training course for two Myanmar brothers at 17-D Adam Road. The course commenced on 7 July 2013 with SCB preachers namely Peter Shee, Simon Chin, and Barnabas Chong conducting the theological lessons from Monday to Friday each week. The semester ended on 31 October 2013 and the two trainees begun their two month practical training on the first week of November.

SCB deacons and brethren conducted regular Sabbath services twice monthly at Batam Island to the south of Singapore in support of the TJC-GA Indonesia pioneering ministry. They travelled on Saturday morning by ferry on a forty-five minute sea journey and returned to Singapore in the evening.

Youths and RE Teachers travelled by car to Batu Pahat in Peninsular Malaysia thrice a month to conduct Sabbath service and Children and Youth RE lessons. This is in support of the work of the TJC-GA Malaysia.

Twice monthly youth volunteer workers travelled to Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam over the weekend, flying from Singapore on Friday or Saturday morning and returning on the following Monday.

SCB has been given the responsibility by IA to take charge of the ministry of TJC Myanmar since the year 2000, Preacher Peter Shee and youth volunteer workers went to Aizwal India and Myanmar regularly over the months of 2013. Thank the Lord Jesus Christ, the church at Yangon is increasing in number of believers. But the churches among the Chin Hills tribes at Kalay Valley to the north west of Myanmar need much pastoral care.

### **Major Events in 2013**

1. SCB Mid-Year Spiritual Meeting 24-26 May 2013 at Adam Road (398 partook Holy Communion) and Telok Kurau (410 partook Holy Communion). Baptism: 11 persons.

2. First church service at new premise in Woodlands for TJC Sembawang on Saturday 1 June 2013. Holy Communion was served to more than 100 participants.
3. Youth Theological Course 2-16 June 2013 conducted by Pr H.H. Ko and Pr Peter Shee. Subjects covered were Pneumatology, Ecclesiology and Deuteronomy.
4. Adult Bible Course 2-16 June 2013 (weeknights and Sundays) by Pr H.H. Ko on Soteriology.
5. SCB Mid-Year Evangelistic Meeting at Telok Kurau (14–16 June 2013), 50 observers including 27 who came for the first time.
6. SCB 1<sup>st</sup> Middle-Aged Members Combined Fellowship at Telok Kurau 19 May 2013 (70 participants).
7. RE Teachers Retreat & Workshop & Training Seminars and Parenting Workshop conducted by Sis. Patricia Chen TJC-USA GA (20-26 June 2013).
8. GA Malaysia and SCB Joint Evergreen Fellowship Program at Port Dickson Malaysia on 6 & 7 July 2013 (38 members from SCB traveled by bus to Port Dickson).
9. GA Malaysia and SCB Intermediate Youth Camp (Port Dickson) (7-9 June 2013).
10. EHDWM Meeting (21 participants from GA Malaysia, GA Indonesia, GA Korea, GA Taiwan, GA Sabah, Singapore CB, Australia CB, Japan, Hongkong CB, Kampuchea & Myanmar). (20 Aug to 21 Aug 2013)
11. Malaysia Combined Choir Fellowship at Port Dickson (31 August-1 September 2013)- 30 choir members from Singapore traveled by bus to Port Dickson).
12. SCB Preachers Retreat (24-30 August 2013).
13. Adult Bible Course conducted by Elder Tse Fu-Ming on the Gospel of John (1-12 September 2013).
14. TJC Sembawang Appreciation Day on 20 October 2013.
15. Year-End Spiritual Meeting at TJC Adam Road and TJC Telok Kurau (28 November-1

December 2013). Baptism: 13 persons.

16. Year-End Evangelistic Meeting at Adam Road (13-15 December 2013).

17. Student Theological Course (3-24 December 2013) – 59 participants including 9 youths from Perth Australia, 4 from Brunei, and 1 from Sabah.

18. Student Theological Course Graduates Camp (17-24 December 2013).

\*Eld. Chiu Yi-Hsiung from Taiwan was sent by IA to assist SCB to conduct the lessons.



17th EHDWM Meeting



Batu Pahat Ministry-Members in Batu Pahat



Youth Theological Course

▲ [TOP](#)

 *Intercession*

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
2/4-27	Indonesia	Preachers Spiritual Nurture/Counseling Seminar	Daniel Chu
2/24-3/2		Preachers Spiritual Nurture/ Truth Seminar	SD Hsieh
2/27-3/23		Spiritual Convocation/Bible Study	Daniel Lee
2/27-3/14		New GA Council Course/ Spiritual Convocation	FM Tse
2/9-20	Malaysia	SEA Preachers who with 15yrs Experience Spiritual Nurture	FM Tse/ MY Chao
2/12-3/3	Christchurch	Pastoral Work / Uni Students Fellowship	Michael Lee
2/21-23	Canada	Sacred Music Seminar (Calgary)	Tina Yang
2/28-3/2		National Ministers and Church Council Seminar/ National Church Conference (Toronto)	Shawn Chou
2/1-2	Argentina	Evangelical Spiritual Convocation	HD Chang/ Raymond Chou
2/28-3/4		Spiritual Convocation for Social Youth	Steve Hwang/ HD Chang
2/12-3/4	Brazil	Pastoral Work	WC Yeh
2/5-11	FOZ	Pastoral Work/Evangelical Spiritual Convocation	WC Yeh/M. Kuo
2/21-26	Bolivia	Evangelical & Pastoral/Training	Steve Hwang

2/17-20	UK	National Adult Theological Course (Sunderland)	HH Ko
2/21-23	Germany	Training & Special Service (Hamburg)	HH Ko
2/21-23	Austria	Spring Spiritual Convocation (Salzburg)	Johnny Liu
Feb./Mar.	Spain	Pastoral Work (Barcelona/ Madrid/ Albacete)	BQ Wang
2/6-3/3	Russia	Children Special Services	Michael Chan

▲ [TOP](#)

🍌 *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!*

▲ [TOP](#)

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