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## *Feature*

### **Grasp the Present Time – Evangelize the Gospel**

The recession of world economy has affected the employment rate, and brings forth many issues. Citizens are not pleased with the government and use many ways to express their dissatisfaction. In fact, though much dissatisfaction has been raised, it is impossible to solve the problems.

This only shows that human power is not good enough to overcome difficulties of life. In contrast, we are aware of the importance to evangelize the gospel. How do we let the people in the world to know that, “I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil 4:12-13)?

In addition to the monthly evangelical services, family services and group evangelical services: Taiwan churches have held many other evangelical services. Here, we provide them for reference.

1. Life Education

Many countries have promoted life education. They believe that religious education could make people better. Thus they have recommended life education in the school campus. This idea is wonderful, but they have not achieved great result. It is effective only if a person's life has been changed. Then the method is considered effective.

Many churches have promoted children's gospel activities on regular basis since they were in primary school. For example, story telling, painting, science camp, and concert. So these children could bring along their classmates to come to know the Lord Jesus and experience His grace. Children who know how to evangelize may not turn out to be a bad person.

## 2. Life Experience Camp

At the rebellious stage of teenagers, these youngsters of the church present wonderful testimonies of their lives. Thus foreign scholars are amazed at our church: Why would many youngsters be willing to stay at the church and participate in services? As well, they have attracted many non-believers to participate in our life experience camp. They experienced miraculous changes in their lives afterwards.

## 3. Medical evangelism has expanded its horizon toward international evangelism.

Many young men have decided to become doctors when they were studying theological training program. They are to spare one month a year to do medical evangelism in the public, and have spiritual warfare with evil so they may save some souls. Today, they have walked the backwater villages, as well as many countries like India, Thailand, and Sabah. In the near future, they may travel to Africa, and evangelize to far corners of the world.

## 4. There may be evangelism only if there is service.

The Lord Jesus has the authority and power from the Holy Spirit. Through His loving service of sermon, healing the sick, and casting out demons, He has attracted crowds to receive the gospel. Our church is determined to be the compassionate living water not seeking our own benefit on earth; we must imitate the Lord Jesus, who brought forth authority and power, and walk into the society. We should show much loving care to the weak, children, women, and seniors (Lk 6:17-20). Thank God! Everyone is willing to give their effort and money, so that the salvation of the Lord may be reached out in all places through charity works.

## 5. Pioneering in unconquered lands.

Regional churches have established groups for pioneering in unconquered lands. Small

district or regional churches are to assume these unconquered lands, and establish ministering works in the areas (Rom 15:20). A pastor should be the leader in this evangelism, while deacons, elders, believers and volunteers should follow up on the ministry, especially in Kinmen, Matsu or some rural areas. We are hoping to have our church established in all villages and towns.

6. Develop and utilize apps to evangelize.

The Evangelical Department, Literary Ministry Department and information team of administration are coordinating with one another to provide apps for Bible, and hymns of praise. In addition, there are apps for the Holy Spirit Monthly, pamphlets of gospel series, flyer, Q & A on Biblical Doctrines, Daily Bread (Rev 14:6-7). As well, there is Cloud Technology for gospel evangelism, so believers could easily evangelize to others on electronic devices and follow up with the truth-seekers. We are hoping all churches could teach members to use these apps for evangelism so to improve awareness and ability for spreading the gospel to all corners.

7. Develop websites to build up children and teenagers.

The Evangelical Department is intended to edify children and teenagers in the church, as well as truth-seekers. Thus we have recruited skilled brethren to form “sheepfold web group”, to build up children and teenagers (Prov 22:6). Youngsters could thus receive right and proper messages in today’s world of massive information, so they may not be polluted with the world and improper information that could corrupt their spiritual lives.

Conclusion:

It is improper to pass on incorrect messages to others. It causes harm to oneself, to others, and may be forsaken by God (Mt 7:21). Thus we must focus on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, that we may prove what is good and acceptable to God (Rom 12:2). We would support the world evangelical ministry with prayer.

God will never change regardless of the changes of the world. Technology will not change people’s hearts, but God can (Zech 4:6). In this new world, we need spiritual men who give thanks, focus on the passing on of faith, rely on the might of the Holy Spirit, and initiate new concept. Through digital technology, the gospel could be spread afar.

## Holy Work Situation in the Northern Area of Thailand

Two churches and two prayer houses are located in the northern area of Thailand in Chiang Mai province attended by Thai people and in Chiang Rai province attended by Akha tribe in the mountain areas: Likai Church, Maemor Church, and Xian Jai Mai Church. There are total of 132 members. Currently, lent by Taiwan GA, Pr. Silas Kong from Singapore is the resident preacher.

Most members of Akha tribe live in the mountain areas of Thailand and they are a minority in the country. Their first and second generations were forced to move to the mountain regions in northern Thailand due to Myanmar's long-lasting civil war. Since they are unable to acquire Thailand's ID card, they have hard labor and live in poverty. Under the circumstance of limited job opportunity, many youth have to make a living in other cities. As a result, there is an age gap occurring in the churches and holy workers are hardly found. In addition, the communication problems due to language issues linger the works of truth teachings and pastoring. Training a local full-time minister is even more difficult.



RE Teachers in Maemor Church

In order to build up members' foundation and to pass on the faith, we started religious education to achieve the purpose of self-pastoring, self-sustaining, and self-evangelizing. Apart from providing systematic religious education classes, the teenagers are warmly encouraged to get involved in church's works. For example, starting from March 2012 there were 6 students

over 13 years old who received RE trainings, learning in Chinese schools, and trainings for interpretation (Thai, Chinese, and Akha languages). We hope this can help the youngers grow in spirit, so they may be able to carry on the responsibility of building a sound church to glorify the name of the Lord Jesus.

We have RE counseling classes in Maemor Church every summer. Some were held in March 2013 for 12 days and total of 33 students participated in this class. The main subject was “Music Servitude and Preaching the Gospel”. The content of the class is adapted from the textbook of E2 class—Beautiful Jesus and Beautiful Feet—which helps the students to know more about the teachings in the Bibles, and the importance of the gospel works. We also arranged 6 students of Maemor Church to interpret, leading the Bible study, and leading the activities to cultivate their ability of leadership and responsibility. During the entire church work training, Dn. RT Hsiao from Taiwan vividly instructed the hymns by playing various instruments, including recorders and piano, and provided the gospel training through Hymnal Gospel Service. Every student gained fruitfully and the training promoted the commission and motive to the church toward the gospel works.



*Summer Counseling Class in 2013. A total of 33 students including 9 truth-seekers attended this event. Six truth-seekers received the Holy Spirit.*

Within the pioneering areas of Northern Thailand, so far all believers who received the gospel are Akha in the mountain. They have been relying on outside resources for pastoring. Except for proactively pastoring the churches and training the holy workers, preaching to Chinese in Mesai can be the direction of evangelism, by which we may fulfill our mission of preaching to the nations which is entrusted by the Lord Jesus (Mark 16:15). Mesai is located on the boundary of Thailand and Myanmar. Most inhabitants are Chinese. It is a promising location of outreach because of communicableness. The local people are also more capable in finance, so

they can be independent, self-sustaining, and self-evangelizing in the future.

Gospel outreach is a long term mission. If we can own a location for evangelism, we will be able to freely utilize it and don't need to be bounded by rental limitations. Besides, some truth-seekers in Mesai have received the Holy Spirit, so it would be nice to have a fixed location for them to hold services. In the future, not only would the preachers and volunteers who assist the summer activities and spiritual convocations every year in Northern Thailand be accommodated conveniently, but also it would also facilitate the works of preaching to Chinese, such as free medical examinations, student activities, course training, etc.

Thanks to the Lord's guidance, the purchasing of two houses side-by-side in a row in Mesai as our evangelical center has been passed in the meeting of Eastern Hemisphere of World Mission held on August 21, 2013. Very soon and smoothly on September 27 Pr. Chin-Jung Chen (the director of Evangelical Department in Taiwan GA) and two sisters of Bangkok Church, Hsiu Chiao Lin and Mai En Chang, came together for handling housing transfer procedures. Originally the price for the two houses is 6,500,000. After bargaining, we purchased it for 6,000,000. At the end of 2013, we invited the truth-seekers in Mesai to attain Year End Thanksgiving Tea Fellowship, so that they may know that we have a place for service and that they are welcome to come.

The Lord Jesus said, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few." For intercession, we look forward to having more workers to work in the field. So we can offer what we have for the works entrusted by the Lord until His coming.



*The housing transfer for Mesai Evangelical & Pastoral Center was completed on September 27, 2013. We held a Thanksgiving Tea Fellowship on December 26, 2013. There were four truth-seekers who attended this event.*

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## **Holy Work Situation of South Africa**

Thank to God's protection and guidance, after our members in South Africa purchased the current chapel located in Bedfordview, Johannesburg, the largest city in South Africa, in 1998, IA assigned Pr. Timothy Yeung to reside there and support the ministry in South, East, and West Africa from 2001 to 2006. Pr. Kuo-Ching Chang then carried on the pastoral work in South Africa from 2006 to 2008. From 2008 until now, IA set up a South Africa Care Team for carrying out the pastoring and evangelism long term. Initially, a group of immigrant Taiwan members contacted each other to keep their faith. They later started family service in 1995 until the chapel was purchased in 1998. The services were held every Friday night and Saturday. Due to the poor local security, the intensive business competition, and the deterioration of Taiwan merchandise profitability, from 2001 the membership gradually decreased from 50 to about 20 in 2004.

In 2005, Chinese members increased in South Africa. The total number of members is more than 80 which includes Chinese members who contacted the church and have attended the Spiritual Convocation in South Africa Church and members from Taiwan. Thanks be to God's grace and mercy. He prepared spiritual home for the Chinese members. By the great love of the Lord Jesus, the church in Johannesburg became a haven and indicator of the members in South Africa. Centered in Johannesburg, the South Africa Care Team step-by-step triggered the visitation and pastoral works. The attendants of the spiritual convocation in July 2013 reached more than 200 people. 174 people received the cup during the Holy Communion. Members who resided within 350 miles from the church, and even those who lived 1000 miles away, traveled long way by car or airplane without hesitation to participate in this convocation. Many members started to treasure the spiritual convocation which only was held twice a year. At this moment, there are around 550 members registered in the Member Directory. According to the immigration list provided by the churches in Fuqing China, there are more than 800 members in South Africa including the members from Taiwan. The South Africa Care Team and local active members are in the process of seeking and contacting the lost sheep.

In 2011, the Holy Spirit started to work by inspiring the local youth to organize a youth fellowship and formally named it Isaac Fellowship. They also established a youth choir. After the service on Saturday is finished, the youth would stay at church to have Bible study and choir practice and to pray. They stayed over in church and then return to their place the next morning to shop at a wholesale mall. The fellowship contained 15 to 20 members. Everyone supports and cares for each other harmoniously. They sometimes visit member together once a

month or be drivers to accompany and to help South Africa Care Team members and assigned oversea ministers to visit the members who are unable to attend service due to the long distance or the lost sheep.

Around 100 members reside within 100 miles from Cape Town, the beautiful harbor in southern South Africa. Service is regularly held every Saturday afternoon and the attendants are about 40 to 50 people. The chapel was rented and shared with a Christian group which originally located in Congo and later relocated to South Africa. The time of using the chapel is restrained. On Sabbath we can only use it after 4:00pm to around 6:30pm and we cannot use it on Sunday. Our service and holding Holy Communion are confined by it. Even under this situation, the members in Cape Town still actively join the service and have started to value prayer. They are preparing to purchase a chapel.

Thanks to God's grace, He moved the members who reside in Port Elizabeth, another big harbor in southeast South Africa, to gather together every Saturday afternoon for family service. More than 10 people attend the service. It runs as an initial stage of a prayer house.

Currently there are more than 20 members in Welkom, a big city of mining industry in central South Africa. Due to lack of information of seeking True Jesus Church, more than 10 members from Fuqing attended church service in other denomination for a while. In 2011, led by the movement of the Holy Spirit, they returned to Jesus' fold. Presently, they are lacking members who are zealous and have the foundation of spirituality to lead the church. It requires prayer to establish a prayer house. May God guide them.

In addition, there are more than 10 members from Jiangyin in Fuqing, China, moved to Lesotho, the landlocked country located in the center of South Africa. They have service every Saturday afternoon. However, they can only watch sermon DVDs or sing hymns and pray during the service since there is no preacher. They are eager to have preachers visit them and to speak to them in sermon. Their craving for having service to listen to God's word touched us. Due to the limit of manpower and the difficulty of visa issuing, we can only assign workers who have UK, US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, or South Africa passport to visit and hold service 2 to 3 times a year.

Thanks to the Lord Jesus' grace, in January 2013 a couple assigned by the church in Fuqing China, Pr. Yu Jing Lin and Dns. Yuan Chen smoothly acquired visa of South Africa through the minister's status. They assisted in visiting the members from Jiangyin, Fuqing, in South Africa and also conducted the spiritual convocation in Johannesburg. Everyone met them with joy. Pr. Lin and Dns. Chen have also smoothly acquired visa of second application. They visited and

pastored South Africa from the mid of September to mid-October in 2013.

Future prospect of South Africa Church is as follows:

(1) Short-term plan: To complete the transaction of purchasing a chapel in Cape Town and establish a church there in 2014. To hold Sermon Speakers Seminar and training for core members of holy works to organize and train the basic pillar of the church before the year of 2015. In 2016, step-by-step to build up the faith of the local members who were scattered in various places and train the core members to be independent in the pastoral works.

(2) Mid-term plan: If not many members from China return to their homeland, in 2016 or 2017 we plan to request IA to assign a preacher who is equipped with basic English skills and have an international driver license to reside in South Africa; or South Africa Church can employ a retired minister who desires to assist the works of pastoring and outreach in South Africa to reside in South Africa.

(3) Long-term outlook: May God have mercy to grant the opportunity of spreading the truth to the local people in South Africa and Lesotho. May God's will be done.



*2013 Winter Spiritual Convocation in Johannesburg Church, South Africa*

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**1. IA WORK IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Personnel</b>
3/18-20	Taiwan	IA SCO Meeting/ IA EXCO Meeting	IA
3/2-21	Korea	Theological Seminary Training	HH Ko
3/24-4/4	Sabah	Preachers' Seminar	HH Ko
3/28-4/13	Hong Kong	Spring Spiritual Evangelical Convocation	SM Lin
3/16-4/21	Australia	Spring Spiritual Evangelical Convocation (5 cities)	Simon Chin
3/9-5/5	Japan	Evangelism/ Pastoral/Volunteers Training and SSC	CR Pan/SH Ho
3/3-4/4	Philippines	Seminary Semester	IA Lecturer
March		Evangelizing to Chinese Filipino	WF Chen
3/3-19		Ministers' Seminar and Minister Spouse Seminar	Zacchaeus Yong/ Malachi Lee
3/25-5/5	US	Spiritual Evangelical Service	HH Tian
3/1-9	Canada	Sacred Music Seminar(Vancouver/ Toronto)	Tina Yang
3/1-4	Brazil	Spiritual Convocation	WC Yeh
3/27-4/1	FOZ	Pastoral Work/Training	M. Kuo/ Sam Kuo
3/7-17	Dominican Rep.	Pastoral Work	Richard Solgot
3/13-17	Italy	Spiritual Convocation(Empoli)	BQ Wang/ CJ Hsieh
3/28-29	Dubai	Bible Seminar/ Spiritual Meeting/ Evangelistic Service	Peter Shee

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

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Tel: 886-4-2243-6960 Fax: 886-4-2243-7046

Address: No. 180 Songjhu Road, Taichung City 40673, Taiwan

E-mail: [tjciatwn@ms25.hinet.net](mailto:tjciatwn@ms25.hinet.net)

Web: [www.tjc.org](http://www.tjc.org)

Members.tjc.org