Feature

A New Man

Jesus answered them, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working” (Jn 5:17).

At a pool called Bethesda by the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem, Jesus healed a man who had an infirmity for thirty-eight years. Immediately the man was made well, took up his bed and walked. That day was the Sabbath, and so the Jews said to him who was cured, “It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed.” He answered them, “He who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your bed and walk.’” Then the Jews asked Jesus for the reason He had done this thing on the Sabbath. Jesus answered them, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.”

Our Heavenly Father used six days to create the world and everything in it. On the seventh day God ended His work that He had done, and He rested from all His work that He has done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work that God had created and made (Gen 2:2-3).

“He rested from all His work that He had done”—this phrase has been mentioned twice in
Genesis. Why would Jesus say, “My Father has been working until now”? What did God do?

What God had done is the work of salvation. The man that God made in His own image and according to His own likeness—Adam—had sinned. What God had been doing is creating “a new man.” Ephesians 2:10 says, “For we are originally (‘originally’ is not in the NKJV translation) His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.” Colossians 3:10 also says, “The new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.” Thus what the Lord Jesus meant by “My Father has been working until now” is that God has been creating “a new man.” This new man has the likeness of God through the Lord Jesus who died on the cross for him and redeemed him. Through the Lord’s gospel, teachings, and truth, he is renewed in the spirit of the mind and has put off the old man and put on the new man which was created according to God (Eph 4:20-24).

After God made man in His likeness (in true righteousness and holiness) and saw that everything He had made was good, He rested. But man disobeyed His word and sinned, and seeing his own nakedness, he must hide away from God. But how can man flee from an omnipresent God (Ps 139:7)? To have to hide away from Him is a very dreadful matter! Lest he eat of the tree of life and live forever, bearing sin and shame and having to hide away from God for eternity, God sent him out of the garden of Eden.

God drove out the man and guarded the way to the tree of life out of His love and mercy. In fact, before the world was even created, God had already prepared a way for man to return to the tree of life (Eph 1:4, 2 Thess 2:13). From the Old Testament to the New Testament, God prophesied step-by-step until the apostolic time when He fully revealed the mystery of this path through the church. On one hand, the manifold wisdom of God was made known to the spiritual and physical world through the true church (Eph 3:8-11). On another hand, man can come to know the Lord Savior anointed by God and receive His salvation, cleansing his mind and spirit and regaining the right to the tree of life (Rev 22:14). God had always been working—a long preparation from the perspective of human history—and for that reason, the Lord Jesus said, “My Father has been working until now.”

When the Jews asked the Lord Jesus, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent” (Jn 6:28-29). God’s work is saving sinners and bringing them back to the tree of life, and more importantly to the Paradise (Rev 2:7) and His presence. This would require man to be made new (2 Cor 5:17, NKJV: a new creation) so that man can once again have the
likeness of God, that is, true righteousness and holiness. Today, man should work the works of God, the basic of which is to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. God had completed the preparatory work of salvation, which is presented in front of us. This invitation to believe is non-forceful. If man could use his heart to get to know Him, treat Him as the most precious, believe in Him, love Him, and learn to be like Him, then he is participating in God’s work of salvation, working with God to create “a new man” (Col 3:1-10).

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Church News

The Current Situation of Cambodia’s Ministry

As we are using a thanksgiving heart to glorify the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are here to share the evangelical work in Cambodia.

1. The motivation from the Holy Spirit

For almost three years, we have evangelized to university students; a few of them have received the Holy Spirit. These students are distributed throughout Cambodia, so it is difficult to trace their whereabouts after graduation. We have reached a bottleneck in the follow-up work. As we worry for these students who have been seeking the truth for a long time, we have not given up on preaching the gospel. We have held evangelical services on June 12 – 15, 2013. In the final evening (15th), five of them received the Holy Spirit through the grace of the Lord. Dalis, a second-year female university student, after having received the Holy spirit, was beckoned by the Holy Spirit to tell Sarum, her male classmate (they went to high school together, presently a third-year university student in Phnom Penh) to be baptized into the True Jesus Church together, to hold a marriage ceremony in the church, as well as to help out the church ministry.

We handled this situation cautiously with prayer. We first talked to Sarum, and then called up both of their parents and relatives for discussion and consent. On August 21, 2013, a special report is presented at the EHDWM meeting in Singapore, and ministers have shown no objection in regard to this. On August 31, Sarum and Dalis both received baptism, and were married on September 08 in Phnom Penh Church. All believers have agreed to let the newly-wed couple stay at the church and help with the church ministering work.
2. Earnest prayer to the Lord

The first thing this newly-wed couple had learnt is prayer. Everyday, we have four brethren who pray together with them. We have earnestly prayed to the Lord to open up the door of evangelism and to send workers. Our faithful and trustworthy God has heard our prayer. Volunteers from Taiwan, Sabah and Malaysia have come forth to help with the evangelical ministry; they have in turn been edified as well. There were four visitations so far this year, and five visitations are forthcoming. Thank God for giving us so many evangelical workers.

We began preaching in the household of Dalis. There were a few family evangelical services at her house. Dalis’ father invited a pastor from other denomination to gather in his house for biblical discussion twice. We explained the Truth using the Holy Bible, so that people in attendance could understand better that True Jesus Church preaches in complete accordance with the Bible. Dalis’ parents, younger sister, aunt and uncle have attended Sabbath services at Sister Mei-Ying Xu’s home in the Dian Guang area numerous times. They have decided to be baptized into the church.

Sarum’s family believes in Buddhism but his parents let us gather at their house for family services. We have brought people over for family evangelical services several times already. This is a new pioneering venue for the area.

After marriage, both Sarum and Dalis live in the Phnom Penh Church to voluntarily help with cleaning, receiving of guests and pastors, evangelical work, and transporting truth seekers to church services. When their family members and relatives come to stay at the church, they grasp hold of the opportunities to preach the gospel, teach them how to pray, and lead prayer sessions. Sarum has brought along his university classmates to attend services. Some have received the Holy Spirit and are continuing to seek the truth.

3. The Holy Spirit continue to open the gate for preaching

On November 03, 2012, five family members of Sister Lai-Xing including her husband, her brother and sister, from Dian Guang Area, Prey Veng Province, have received baptism. Later on, Sister Lai-Xing returned to her parents’ home. On October 05, 2013, departing from Dian Guang Area, Prey Veng Province at 5am in the morning, we went to Sister Lai-Xing’s parents’ house at Kampong Speu Province for family service to follow up their faith. They have been observing Sabbath in their own home for over a
year, since they left their previous Christian denomination. During the service, we emphasized the importance of observing the Sabbath once again. Since they have firm faith for the complete gospel of True Jesus Church, we invited four truth seekers to Phnom Penh Church on October 8-9, 2013. We talked about Sabbath Day, Baptism, Footwashing and One True God. Thank God for His grace, Mr. Ngon Hok initiated seeking the truth. Both he and his wife received the Holy Spirit at a different time.

Since the four truth seekers have come to understand the importance of baptism and believed that the past doctrine they once knew was in error, they requested to receive water baptism, which is fitting to the Bible doctrine. Holding on this opportunity, every Sabbath we went there to lead the service for them. Mr. Ngon Hok has a clear understanding for the importance of observing the Sabbath, thus he quitted his house chores and business on Saturday and observe the Sabbath in his own house.

On November 24, 2013, EHDWM assigned Elder Stephen Hee and Deacon Timothy Chen from West Malaysia to discuss with us for the truth seekers who have been observing Sabbath for a year. We have cautiously discussed matters related to the truth seekers who requested to receive baptism. After questioning and proper investigation, eight believers (including the four truth seekers mentioned above) received baptism, which is effective for sin remission, on November 27th.
A new location for spreading the gospel of True Jesus Church was found; number 4 highway 87 kilometers of Kampong Speu Province. Brother Ngon Hok’s house is located right beside this highway, while this location has the most convenient traffic transportation in Cambodia so far. There is Sabbath service at this location every Saturday. Another location for gospel gathering in Kampong Speu Province is at the house of Sister Lai-Xing’s parent [OBORT], which is approximately 13 kilometers of muddy road before this location. These are the two new locations for gospel gathering, both places commence Sabbath service.

In order to keep their faith, on January 21, 2013, we held a spiritual cultivation while Elder Joshua Phoong traveled to Cambodia for pastoral visitation. Participants were Brother Ngon Hok, his wife, Sister Lai-Xing’s parents. None of these truth seekers from Kampong Speu Province came to the Lord through us; instead, it is the Lord Jesus Himself who found and brought these lost sheep into the sheepfold of one shepherd; who is the Lord Jesus Christ.

True Jesus Church relies on the guidance of the Holy Spirit based on simple faith and
true doctrine. The Lord Jesus has let us enjoy the harvest that we have not labored. Thank to the Lord, praise God!

4. The Holy Spirit again works in the area of Phnom Penh

Since the work of the Holy Spirit in 2006, many truth seekers have received the Spirit. One truth seeker who had been looking forward to a baptism wrote this, “I am about to be baptized into the Lord, and become a new man and the children of God…” His wording was filled with rejoice and hope. We have received a letter from EHDWM concerning arranging Preacher Wan-Fa Chen to perform a baptism. However, since EHDWM has not assign a pastor for assistance, to perform a baptism was delayed. On May 18, 2008, Elder Joshua Phoong baptized eight believers. This is the first baptism held in Cambodia.

_Baptism in Mekong River on October 27, 2013_

Some truth seekers, who had joined our service for four to five years, came to the service during this period of time; they still continued seeking the truth. Gospel evangelism is still an ongoing process in the suburban areas of Prey Veng Province and on university students.

Phnom Penh is the capital city of Cambodia. We will not let go the goal to establish an evangelical center for True Jesus Church in this place, since it could serve the functions
of theological study, spiritual cultivation, and lodging location for volunteers and visitors. Thus, we pray every day and hope that God opens a gate for gospel.

The Holy Spirit has been a great guidance in 2014. Some parents, who have ever resisted in letting their daughter to come to the service and rejected visitation of ministers, have eventually come to the service and received the Holy Spirit. They took away their traditional belief of ancestral veneration and idols in the house and determined to worship the only true God.

A 70-year old senior who used to work for the government had come to realize his hopeless life. He felt tremendous bitterness and depressed in his heart and once decided to take away his own life. Lord Jesus has been guiding him to come to the church. After he told his tales to the young brethren who are around 20 – 30 of age, these young brethren shared their understanding of biblical teachings and experience of their faith with the senior. Thank God! Seeing these young and old brethren are mingling well with one another during the gatherings in the church, my heart was full of thank-giving to the Lord.

Recently, a truth seeker has been driving a lady to the church. This lady has been using sleeping pill before the night but was found ineffective. So she felt distressing. Thank God! Young brethren have proactively showed tenderly care and share the gospel with her, guided her, and prayed with her. We can see that these young brethren have grown spiritually in servitude.

5. List of 49 believers who have received baptism in different cities and provinces

Phnom Penh area, Phnom Penh city:
7 brothers, 8 sisters; total of 15.

Dian Guang area, Prey Veng Province:
8 brothers, 15 sisters, total of 24.

Kampong Speu area, Kampong Speu Province:
4 brothers, 6 sisters, total of 10.
**Intercession**

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

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Greece
Member Visit & Concern
BQ Wang

4/17-5/7
Russia
Evangelical Service Spiritual Convocation
FF Chong

4/10-5/25
South Africa
Pastoral Ministry / Training (Cape Town / Port Elizabeth)
Luke Chan

4/10-5/11
West Africa
Pastoral Ministry/ Training (Ghana/Togo)
T.K. Chin/Volunteer

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