



CONTENTS

 FEATURE > EMULATE CHRIST
 CHURCH NEWS > CONTINENTAL EUROPE PIONEERING AREA HOLY WORK CURRENT REPORT
 <u>INTERCESSION</u>
 ONE DOLLAR ONE SOUL

Feature

Emulate Christ

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Preface

There is a consensus that the core value of Christianity is love, which within Christians, contains “gentleness”, “humility”, and “submissiveness”. Gentleness will bring good interpersonal relationship because “a soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (Proverbs 15:1), and “By long forbearance a ruler is persuaded, and a gentle tongue breaks a bone” (Proverbs 25:15). Humility can help us identify our lacking and improve ourselves constantly. It also leads us to heed to the words of the wise (Proverbs 15:31-33) and to receive God’s blessings of “riches”, “honor”, and “life” (Proverbs 22:4). With submission to God comes resistance to the devil, and the devil will flee from you (James 4:7). With submission to authorities comes peace and joy and readiness for every good work (Titus 3:1).

1. Take the Lord’s yoke upon you and learn from Him

The Lord Jesus teaches us this: “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am

gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Matthew 11:29). Paul encouraged the believers this way: “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name” (Philippians 2:5-9). The Lord Jesus’ act of receiving the baptism of John the Baptist was also a sign of humility and submissiveness (Matthew 3:13-15). These three passages of the Bible clearly demonstrate that the example set by the Lord Jesus and the teachings from Him were that of gentleness, humility, and submissiveness.

Paul knew that the obligation and mission entrusted to him was to preach the Lord’s name before “Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel” (Acts 9:15). Therefore, despite being a learned, capable and powerful man, he humbled himself and submitted to the choosing of the Lord and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He wrote thirteen pastoral letters in the New Testament and embarked on at least three long missionary journeys in his life, treading on the lands of Asia Minor, Greece, and Italy and establishing many churches among the Gentiles. His influence was far-reaching and he was martyred in the end.

2. The meaning and value of physical life

“For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?” (1 Cor 4:7). The Bible reminds us that everything is from God, whether it be inward, such as our intelligence, wisdom or ability, or outward, such as our education, honor, status and wealth, etc., because our physical life is created by God and chance is given by God (Eccl 9:11). In the four Gospel books, every time the Lord mentions the parable of the servant, it relates to the matter of heaven and salvation. Through the parable of the servant, we are reminded of our role as of a servant and our duty to be a good, faithful, and wise servant, who distributes food in due season. Our ability to utilize our God-given resources from the role and responsibilities we are entrusted with to edify our organization and its members defines the meaning and value of our physical life.

3. Emulate Jesus’s concept on servitude

The Lord Jesus said, “[J]ust as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). Paul said, “For though I am free

from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more” (1 Cor 9:19) and “Now this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I may be partaker of it with you” (1 Cor 9:23). Paul’s description of the Lord Jesus shows that he knew by heart the example that the Lord Jesus has set for us. He not only personally strived to learn from the Lord Jesus, but also encouraged us to take up the heart of Jesus Christ. We must be willing to be a servant of all in the house of the Lord for the gospel’s sake.

4. Emulate the Lord Jesus to set an example and walk ahead to lead the sheep. After first setting an example, teach and encourage others.

When the mother of James and John went with them to see Jesus, she asked the Lord Jesus to grant her this wish: the two sons of hers may sit, one on the Lord’s right hand and the other on the left, in the Lord’s kingdom (Matthew 20:20-21). Jesus took this opportunity to teach his disciples that in a spiritual organization, whoever desires to become great shall be a servant and slave of all (Matthew 20:25-27), “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). Furthermore, prior to being captured and leaving His disciples, Jesus took up the likeness of a servant to wash the disciples’ feet, personally setting an example of His teachings to the disciples.

5. Concluding remarks

The nature of the evil one is pride and disobedience. Ministers should be cautious not to leave a foothold (chance to work) for the evil one so that good work can be accomplished. They should be gentle and humble toward others, submit to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in making decisions for the church, be of one heart, work and walk in unity, and strive together to prosper the church and spread the words of the Kingdom of God. Paul encouraged himself this way: “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13-14). This is also his encouragement for us today. Only when we emulate the Lord Jesus to become a faithful servant who is gentle, humble, and submissive, will the Lord be pleased with all our works and help accomplish them.

▲ [TOP](#)

Continental Europe Pioneering Area Holy Work Current Report

1. Pastor Region in Spain

There are a total of 90 believers in contact around Spain; currently there are three service locations: Madrid, Barcelona, and Albacete Balompié. Related geographical location image as below:



Madrid: The service location with most membership. However, only about 30 members can attend service; in addition due to irregular days off work, not everyone can attend service on the same day. In the recent years there is has not been a set location for Sabbath service. Right now Sabbath services are held in a rented classroom; service time is every Saturday from 2:30pm to 5pm. If there are out-of-town ministers or ministers visiting, they will rent a larger space for service.

There is service and religious education every Saturday. Currently, the average Sabbath service attendance is about 10-15 members, including 5 students. There used to be Thursday night services but has stopped since September 5, 2013, due to classes being held in the classroom we are renting.

Thank God, the Spanish government approved in January 2014 the application to establish a church.

Albacete: There are a total of 12 members all from the same family. Every Sabbath, they would gather at home to listen to an online service; total about 8 service attendees and 2 RE students.

Barcelona: There are 10 members. Sabbath service composed mostly of hymn singing and prayer and is held at a restaurant owned by a brother. Due to member's unstable job locations, there are currently only 3 regular members. We ask God to watch over and guide them.



Albacete Members – January 2014 Visitation by Elder Tse and his wife



2013 Madrid Members Group Photo

2. Italy Pastoral Region

The very first service in Italy was held on December 24, 2008, in a small upper room in Prato; a total of 5-6 square meters with little space left with a bed inside. There were a total of 7

members during the first service, led by Dn. Bao-Xing Wang who just migrated from Xiamen, China, to Italy. Sabbath service on the following day was held at an even smaller upper room. It was like a bird cage. Everyone could only sit and not stand. It was under this circumstance that the brothers and sisters had observed the first Sabbath in Italy.



2008 First Sabbath Service in Italy

There are about 30 members who've been in contact, the majority working in a garment factory. However, due to unstable working hours, many members have not joined services for more than 10 years. Through Dn. Wang's contact and arrangement with IA, the first spiritual convocation was held in mid-August 2009 in Prato. In the 3 consecutive days of prayer sessions, many people continued to receive the Holy Spirit. At its conclusion, a total of 11 brothers and sisters received the Holy Spirit. Small pastoral groups were established with the north, mid and south regions, each establishing their own coordinators and sub-coordinators to carry out pastoral and care work. In December 2009, a second spiritual convocation was held in Napoli. Under the guidance of the elders, religious affairs, general affairs and financial affair officers were appointed. The structure to the church in Italy was slowly formed.



2009 Spiritual Convocation in Italy

In August 2010 the members had decided to register the church and established an application team. However, due to language barriers, there were many challenges. At that time the co-workers decided the need to have at least one service each month, led by the coordinators of each region. That was a difficult step in setting down the church. Even though it was going on and off again, it had laid a good foundation in securing the service location.

In June 2011, when the elders and deacons first visited Napoli, there were only 10 some members. Now membership has reached nearly 30; the majority is members under 18 years of age. Starting in 2014 the European Continental Care Team would send RE Teachers to teach the children every month. Currently, a set total of 3 spiritual convocations are held each year, Mid-August in Prato; late December in Napoli, and mid-March in Empoli. Holding services through telephone is a God given wisdom. All the members in Italy are able to work and listen to sermons at the same time. Highest number of attendees was 50 people. Even though telephone service can easily be distracted by work and not as focused as in regular service, this is the only way that the majority of the members are able to join service and draw closer to God. We ask God for His mercy and continual guidance. On July 2, 2012, the church had completed registration. We are currently registering for a church account. The Italy pastor region is also currently planning to purchase a chapel. Please continue to pray for us.

3. Greece Pastoral Region

January 2010 – First visit by elders and deacons to a sister’s home. At that time there were only 5 people in the first service. In April 2010, a second special service was held in Athens. Thank God for His arrangement. A few newly immigrated members from China attended the service fervently; a few old members also joined the service. Some members have been in Greece for more than ten-some years but have not been able to find a church, just like sheep without a shepherd, but also like a group of wandering orphans who’ve finally found home. Thank God for His mercy. After this special service, a preliminary pastoral and organization structure was established. In 2011, God had arranged Bro. Jue Luan’s wife (he’s been in Greece for 10 years +) Sis. Ong Mei Yu to come to Greece. She was in charge of pastoring the members back in China and is very gifted in pastoring. Therefore, Greece added two workers with great faith and gift in pastoring. As the economy spirals downward in Greece, it is difficult for the members to earn a living. The majority of the members work at merchants or massages. Jobs are harsh and seasonal; therefore it was decided by the workers that every January, April and October will be set as the time for spiritual convocation to be coordinated by elders and ministers sent by IA. In the beginning, there were 35 members at the Athens service location. Due to the poor economy, many members have returned to China. Right now, only about 25 members are left. Thank God, because the council members work in one heart, the service location in Athens became steady,

holding Sabbath service every week. Currently, two suites are rented for service use. A couple is sharing the rent with church, with both sharing its burden, it is more convenient for pastoral work. The service location in Greece is also in the plan to purchase a chapel. Please pray for this holy work!

▲ [TOP](#)

 *Intercession*

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
6/2-30	Malaysia	Regional Malay speaking Spiritual Meetings	JC Chu
6/5-7/14		Pastoral Work	RM Tu
6/16-22	Hong Kong	Divine Worker Seminar/Divine Minister Spiritual Nurture/National Church Conference	MY Chao
6/27-7/3		Sacred Music Camp	I-Ju Fang
6/29-8/31	Japan	Evangelism/Pastoral /Volunteers Training(Sumida)	Eugene Yang
6/29-7/15	Philippines	Seminary Semester Methodology of Evangelism/Homiletics	WF Chen
6/20-22	Canada	National Marriage Coordinators' Workshop (Edmonton)	Mark Du
6/2-9	FOZ	Pastoral Work/Training	Enoch Hou/ M. Kuo
6/6-9	Germany	Training /Special Service (Hamburg Prayer House)	CW Chan
6/15 – 8/25	South Africa	Pastoral Ministry /Youth Services /Spiritual Convocation	MH Chang
6/26 – 8/3		Pastoral Ministry /Youth Services /Spiritual Convocation	Luke Chan
June	East Africa	Student Convocation (Tanzania)	Volunteer/ Kenya Workers

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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!*

▲ [TOP](#)

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