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Feature

Artisans Skillfully Built the Tabernacle with All Their Heart

Jonathan Chou

“See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship. And I, indeed I, have appointed with him Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and I have put wisdom in the hearts of all the gifted artisans, that they may make all that I have commanded you...” (Exodus 31:1-6).

God directed Moses to build a tabernacle as His meeting place with His people. At Mount Sinai, God gave detailed instructions to Moses regarding the materials and design of the tabernacle. God repeatedly commanded Moses to be careful in building the tabernacle in the way he was instructed on the Mount. God further appointed Bezalel and Aholiab to be responsible for building the tabernacle and all manner of workmanship. They were hand-picked by God in the work of building the tabernacle. Let’s try to learn a few things from these men.

1. Chosen by the True God

To be chosen is an enormous blessing. The Israelites once said to God: “In what way have You loved us?” God replied, “Was not Esau Jacob’s brother? Yet Jacob I have loved” (Malachi 1:2). Out of all nations, God chose the Israelites as His own people, not because they were more numerous or because they were better, but because God loved them (Deuteronomy 7:6-7). Today, we have also become God’s chosen group, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, out of His great love (1 Peter 2:9; 1 John 3:1-3).

In our service, what is most important is neither our ability nor talent. There might have been many who were more capable than Bezalel and Aholiab, but only they were called by God to be in charge of the overall plan of building the tabernacle. In the same way, God has called us to serve Him, to spread His good name, and to preach the gospel not because we are more worthy than others for doing these tasks, but because of God’s grace, through which we have been bestowed with the opportunity to serve and be blessed (John 15:16; 2 Cor 5:18-19; 1 Tim 1:12-14).

We should not rely on our own temperament, senses, and preferences in our service, but we should wait patiently; search diligently for God’s good, acceptable and perfect will; and offer our body and mind as a living sacrifice (Proverbs 3:5-6; Romans 12:1-2).

2. Filled with the Holy Spirit

When God called Bezalel and Aholiab, He filled them with His Spirit so that they had wisdom, understanding, and knowledge in all manner of workmanship, and even the ability to instruct others (Exodus 31:3-6; 35:34).

Those who built the tabernacle must be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to complete their work. God has similarly provided His instruction for rebuilding the temple through the prophets: “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit” (Zechariah 4:6). In the same way, those who serve God today must be filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:3-5). We should learn from the prophet Elisha to ask in this way: “Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me” (2 Kgs 2:9); we should ask to be filled with the Spirit so we can act by the Spirit.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is proof that one is sent. “How shall they preach unless they are sent?” (Rom 10:15). The Lord Jesus was sent by the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel, and He similarly sent out the disciples through the Holy Spirit (John 1: 31-34; Acts

10:38; John 20:22). On the other hand, there were some who preached in the name of the Lord, but the Lord said He never knew them (Matthew 7:21-23), because they did not have the proof that they were sent.

The Holy Spirit bestows spiritual wisdom. God's words are like sealed scrolls. Only God's Spirit can help us understand His will so that we may, through the teachings of the Holy Spirit, speak spiritual words and discern spiritual things (1 Cor 2:12-15). Therefore, we should pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit, so that we may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (Colossians 1:9).

The Holy Spirit bestows spiritual power. The Holy Spirit is the power from above. After the Lord Jesus was baptized, He first fasted for forty days and nights and gained the power of the Holy Spirit. After He started His evangelical work, He unceasingly prayed during His ministry in order to complete the grand work of salvation (Luke 4:14; Mark 1:34-35; Hebrews 5:7). Before He ascended to heaven, He commanded the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the power from above, then they were to spread the gospel to the end of the earth (Acts 1:4-5, 8). Paul said that only when we are filled with the Holy Spirit will we gain power to pull down strongholds, bring people back to God and lead their thoughts into obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:4-5). Further he said that we do not preach with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that the believers' faith shall not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God (1 Cor 2:4-5).

3. Gifts and Talents

God called Bezalel and Aholiabl and gave them wisdom and talents to complete the work that they were entrusted to do. Therefore, we see that God not only calls us to work for Him, but also provides all that we need to complete His work.

The Holy Spirit distributes talents to each one individually as He wills (1 Cor 12:11). Sometimes God also grants us gifts through the laying of hands by senior workers (Numbers 11:24-25; 2 Tim 1:6-7). Workers can also pray for more spiritual gifts to edify the church (1 Cor 14:12). Through God's gifts, we coordinate with one another to build up the church and glorify the holy name of the Lord.

We should seek spiritual gifts for the edification of the church (1 Cor 14:12), utilize our gifts and light them up like fire, and be a good steward of God (1 Peter 4:10-11; 2 Tim 1:6-7) because "[t]o everyone who has, more will be given... but from him who does not

have, even what he has will be taken away” (Matthew 25:29).

Gifts, talents, wisdom, and chance are all granted by God for the edification of the church and advancement of holy work. Therefore, we should coordinate with one another and utilize our function as parts of the one body to make the body grow strong. We should not boast or engage in competition, division, jealousy, or argument (1 Cor 4:7).

The Bible records that Bezalel and Aholiab not only could do all kinds of work, but they did it with skillful craftsmanship. This means they did not simply finish the tasks as instructed by Moses to fulfill their basic duty, but they wholeheartedly devoted themselves into the work, and did their best to complete the work skillfully.

4. Work Together in Unity

There is a Chinese saying that a single tree cannot make a forest. Regardless of how talented Bezalel and Aholiab were, they would have a difficult time accomplishing their work without help from others. In fact, in addition to Bezalel and Aholiab, God had moved many wise ones to help build the tabernacle (Exodus 36:1-2). The offerings made willingly and selflessly by the people were also essential to the work (Exodus 25:1-2; 36:3-4).

King Solomon emphasized the importance of companionship: “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor” (Ecclesiastes 4:9). God instituted marriage so that we would have a companion to help and support each other. This is the same with our faith. If a person believes in the Lord alone, the spiritual journey will be a tough one. But if we have spiritual companions to accompany us along our spiritual journey, we will not feel lonely (Matthew 18:19-20). The Lord sent out His disciples in pairs to preach and Paul had many fellow workers of Christ. And so they were filled with joy from serving in one heart (Luke 10:1; Philippians 2:19-30).

Today, we have many elders, deacons and church council members. However, we should not let all matters of service fall on these pastoral workers, but instead we need all members of the church to utilize their own function as parts of the one body and actively participate in church work. As a church grows, its work will increase continually. If only a few people participate in church work, each will carry a heavy load. If all share in the work, then things will be accomplished effectively and all will rejoice.

5. Obey and Submit

“According to all that the Lord had commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did all the work. Then Moses looked over all the work, and indeed they had done it; as the Lord had commanded, just so they had done it. And Moses blessed them” (Exodus 39:42-43). Bezalel and Aholiab did not act on their own will or as they deemed fit because of their abilities and talents, but they humbly submitted to the Lord in completing their tasks. “[A]s the Lord had commanded, just so they had done it”. How humbly and submissively did they complete all good work, so that at the end they received praises and blessings from Moses and the favor of God, who filled His the tabernacle with His glory (Exodus 39:42; 40:34-38).

Samuel once said, “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams” (1 Samuel 15:22). No matter how talented a person is, if he/she does not have a heart of submission, he/she would be of no use in God's eyes.

The ancient saints followed God’s instructions in building the ark, tabernacle, and temple. Today, we shall all the more build the True Church of the end times on the original foundation and not lay down a different one (Amos 9:11; 1 Cor 3:6-8). As God's servants, we should not act in accordance with our own will but submit to God's will in all matters of servitude. Only then can we obtain God’s favor. May we all emulate the example of servitude set by the ancient saints and complete God’s entrusted missions so that one day when we stand before God, we shall be praised: “Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your [L]ord” (Matthew 25:21).

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 [Church News](#)

Holy Work in Canada

Thank God for guiding the holy work in Canada. Here is a summary of the local churches holy work status:

Vancouver Church

1. Vancouver church held an ESSC on May 7-11 with the Theme “The True Church of Faith, Hope and Love” which is based on the Book of 1 Thessalonians. There were 193 Holy Communion Partaker. Pr. Chun-hung Chou from USGA assisted the ESSC.
2. RETW on April 18-20, Sis. Patricia Chen from USGA came to assist the workshop.

3. An Interpretation Training Workshop was held on March 23; Bro Tony Kuo came to assist this workshop.
4. A Holy Worker Training Workshop was held on April 27. Those who participate in the holy work in usher, cooking, and cleaning teams attended. Pr Hsieh conducted this workshop.
5. A Hymnal Training Workshop was held on May 25. Those who are participating in hymnal leading and pianist attended this workshop. Pr Hsieh gave some encouragement during this workshop.
6. A Youth Camp was held on April 17-20 at Charis Camp in Chilliwack, BC. The theme of this camp is “**A Spirit of Unity in Christ**”. Other than local youths, there are youths from Edmonton, Calgary and New Jersey came to attend.
7. A Hymnal Evangelical Service was held on May 3. The topic for this H.E.S. was “**Peace - Some Wonderful**”

Toronto

Toronto church held an ESSC on May 7-11, 2014 with the theme “Prosper the Gospel in One Heart”. There were 200 Holy Communion partakers and 5 members baptized: 5. Pr. Yeh came from USGA to assist this ESSC.

The Toronto True Jesus Church has been actively looking to branch out into a second chapel as the current chapel has a capacity of 160 but typical weekly attendance is about 250 members. In addition, some members traveled over 100 km to attend church services.

In anticipation of branching out to a second chapel, we have begun separate Friday evening services in the North East Region since July 2011. At these evening services we typically see approximately 40 attendees. We have also started training new holy workers; for example sermon speakers, translators, RE teachers, and ushers.

Calgary

Calgary church held an ESSC on April 25 - 27, 2014 with the theme “Ten Commandments”. Thank God that there were 53 Holy communion partakers. Pr. Jason Hu from IA assisted in this ESSC.

Calgary Church is still seeking to purchase a chapel to expand. We investigated the possibility of rebuilding on our existing property but our property size did not allow us to accommodate an expansion for a membership of 100. City of Calgary would require us to have 24 parking spots within our property (not counting street parking) which was not possible at our current

property. Therefore, the Church has decided in an EGM to only look at existing chapel for sale or purchasing a land and build. Please pray for this matter for Calgary church.

Edmonton Church

Here is our Edmonton report for April - May:

1. The Edmonton Spring ESSC of May 2-4 was conducted successfully.
2. Pr Jason Hu was leading the convocation and the theme for this time was “The Message of Calling”
3. Two evangelistic services were conducted on Friday night and Saturday afternoon. Topics were “Why Do We Need God?”, and “Why Do We Need the Holy Spirit?”
4. There were 4 truth seekers attending at each evangelical and continued through the ESSC. Another 3 others came briefly. They came because of the invitation cards they received.
5. 51 partaken the cup during the Holy Communion.
6. We had conducted special prayer during lunch for a few weeks prior to the ESSC. And we see God’s guidance and blessings by letting us have truth seekers coming to attend both the evangelicals and our regular services. Members are very encouraged to see the spiritual progress.
7. Currently we have another 2 more new regular truth seekers attending.

May the Lord continue to guide and bless His Church in Edmonton.



Edmonton Church



Toronto ESSC

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Church News

The 18th meeting of IA Eastern Hemisphere Department of World Mission

The 18th meeting of IA Eastern Hemisphere Department of World Mission (EHDWM) was held. The participants were the deacons, elders, preachers, and co-workers from the countries in the Eastern Hemisphere. They reported the situation of ministry in every pioneering area, discussed the challenges of outreach, exchanged evangelical strategies, and arranged the assignments for the 2015 work plan. It was suggested that sessions for spiritual cultivation and holy work symposium be added to the next meeting. The next EHDWM meeting will be held in Malaysia.



The 18th IA EHDWM meeting was held Sep. 1-2, 2014 at Hong Kong Church.

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 *Intercession*

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
10/10-12	Taiwan	IA Global Literary Ministry Meeting	Shawn Chou
10/6-19	South Korea	Spiritual Convocation(Jeon Ju/ Dong Bu)	Hua Wu
10/6-11/3	West Malaysia	Pastoral Work/National Malay Speaking Spiritual Meeting	Sosthenes Antului
10/23-11/17		National Regional Spiritual Meeting	EY Huo
10/3-19	Hong Kong	Autumn Spiritual Evangelical Convocation	CW Lin
10/15-16	Japan	IA SCO Meeting	IA
10/5-13		Evangelism/Pastoral/Volunteers training	DW Huang
10/2-26	Fiji	Pastoral Work and Gospel Outreach in Fiji	Ezra Chong
10/24-30	Philippines	Spiritual convocation/ RE Seminar & Music Seminar/ Ordained Ministers Spiritual retreat	Malachi Lee/Yosua Gusti /VMT
10/16-26	Myanmar	Myanmar Youth Programme/Sermons & Activities	Hosea Hoo
10/24-30	India	Gospel Outreach/ National Youth Fellowship/ RE Teacher Trainer Refresher Course	Joel Chong/ Grace Ho/ Soo Li Jia/ Hew Chen Yin
10/9-11/1	Thailand	Spiritual Evangelical Meeting	ZH Weng
10/3-11/9	Canada	National Adult Theological Seminar (Vancouver)/ Bible Seminar(Calgary/ Edmonton/ Toronto/ Montreal)	CY Chen
10/19-11/7	UK	Church Council Training/ Evangelical Spiritual Convocation(Leicester/Sunderland)/ Preachers Spiritual Cultivation Retreat (Elgin)	MY Chao
10/3-5	Germany	Autumn Spiritual Convocation(Heidelberg Prayer House	HH Ko/BQ Wang
10/31-11/2	Austria	Autumn Spiritual Convocation(Salzburg)	FF Chong
Oct./Nov.	Spain	Visit & Concern(Madrid/Albacete/Barcelona)	HH Ko/BQ Wang
Oct.	Greece	Member Visit & Concern	HH Ko/BQ Wang
10/9 – 11/30	South Africa	Pastoral ministry/Training	Luke Chan

10/3-5	Dubai	Bible Seminar/ Spiritual Meeting/ Evangelistic Service	Raymond Chou
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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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