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Feature

Effectively Utilizing Youths to Promote the Gospel

Ming-En Shaw

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14). This is the Lord’s answer to the disciples regarding the things that would be accomplished before the end comes. Before the Lord ascended to heaven, He commanded His disciples to “go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). Therefore, the gospel shall be preached continually and to all until the coming of the Lord. As such, in our plan and promotion of the gospel, we must strive towards the direction that makes our work sustainable and global.

In the 1950s, there was a group of youth, who attended a spiritual convocation at MinXiong Church. Afterwards, they started to reflect on what they could do for the Lord. They observed that the children in the church had no teachers to teach them biblical knowledge; instead, they followed the adults to the evening and Sabbath services and appeared to only understand parts of the sermons, so they often lost patience and started to play their own games. These youths were determined to promote the work of teaching the children at church. Their work has

gradually turned into the systematic religious education work that we see today. The initial idea and determination not only brought significant and long-lasting benefits to the church, but also set the foundation of faith for the children and youths in the church.

In 1983, when Elder John Yang was the chairman of the International Assembly, he felt that there should be a systematic plan and training to help the youths of the church to participate in the work of the gospel. As a result, he promoted the work of the youth groups in Taiwan. Today, many of the cadre members of the youth groups have become workers of the church, and some members of college and working youth fellowships have taken on the role of motivating the next generation.

The children we see today are the hope for tomorrow; the youths we see today are the pillars of our future. Children and youths are the future workers and pillars of the church. When Moses was called by God to work for Him, Moses had a young assistant, Joshua, by his side. Aaron had his son Eleazar to succeed his work, while Paul had younger fellow workers Titus and Timothy. Therefore, we can see that it is essential to incorporate the cultivation, training, development and assumption of responsibility of youths into all types of work. “It is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth” (Lamentations 3:27), because through bearing the yoke, a person may be trained, develop a sense of responsibility, and gain experience in serving God.

The biblical truth never changes. However, because of the need to widely spread the gospel and with the convenience brought by advanced technology, we urgently need more youths to participate in holy work. Especially with the present-day trend to have fewer children, we must actively think of ways to have more youths participate in holy work early on so they can develop a sense of duty, take initiative to learn and cultivate themselves spiritually, sanctify themselves from ignoble things, become noble vessels useful for the Lord prepared for every good work, and pursue after perfecting their spiritual virtues (2 Tim 2:21-22). Today, the True Church has established gathering places for the gospel work in over 60 countries and across five continents. However, we still face many language barriers and scarcity in human resources in many developing regions. Even the General Assemblies and the International Assembly urgently need more fulltime workers. On one hand, we ask the Lord of harvest to move His servants. On the other hand, we have to think of a human resource strategy for our worldwide holy work.

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Current Situation of Ministry in Moscow

1. Members

In Russia, the first baptism was held in May 1995. It has been held 26 times and totally 126 people received the baptism. In Moscow, the baptism has been held 23 times and totally 116 people received the baptism. All these people who received the baptism were from China and now most of them have returned to their homeland. Most members have no visa of permanent residence and also do not plan for long-term stay in Moscow. Since members' working and living conditions are not stable and it is very difficult to apply for permanent residence and immigration, the members' residences are unstable.

Currently six families reside stably. Within these families, 14 members in four families plan for long-term stay in Russia. There are three families who received permanent residence status or have purchased houses. Currently, there are a total of 53 members in Moscow and eight to nine members live outside of Moscow. (There may some members who did not contact us who reside in Russia.) Half of these members received baptism in China. The members in Russia from age 5 to 81 are mostly aged 20 to 25.

2. Service

Sabbath service is held in the chapel purchased in 2009. The service time is from 12:00pm to 5:00pm divided by three sessions--Sermon, Bible Study, and Basic Belief course--with time for love meal. The attendance of service is around 20 to 50 people and average 30. The Bible study is held in a dormitory of Moscow Industrial University every Wednesday night. There is a sermon fellowship held in a member's house every Friday night. (The online video of Moscow Church QQ group is opened for members who cannot attend the fellowship. Two members outside of Moscow and Two in Moscow attend actively.) Three online fellowship groups--which are market, outside of market, and children--were held respectively every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday night through QQ. They read the Bible, share, and pray together.

3. Religious Education

There are four active students and three RE teachers. The teaching content and curriculum is based on the RE materials of our church.

4. Church Activity

The evangelical service and spiritual convocation are held at the beginning of January and

beginning of May every year. Two gospel tea fellowships, two Children Special Services, and one Children Bible Knowledge Race are held irregularly every year.

5. Overseas Workers

Since Moscow Church established, overseas workers have been assigned over four times for visiting and assisting the holy work here. This year, seven visitations by overseas workers of UK, US, Canada, Taiwan, and China are arranged. They stay two to four weekends every visitation. The work they assist includes conducting the spiritual convocation, children special service, gospel tea fellowship, training, leading sermons, visiting church members, among other works.

6. Local Worker

Currently there are no fulltime workers or ministers in Moscow. The church board consists of five members, two Pastoring officers, two General Affairs officers and one Financial Affairs officer. Besides the board members, a few fervent core members devote in the church ministry actively.

7. Plan of Ministry and Execution

a. Pastoral Affairs

Our goal is to build up a church of prayer, learning, evangelizing, caring, and organizing. So we set up a prayer team, gospel team, and care team. Each team works with one board member. The theme of ministry this year is “Work for the Gospel in One Accord.”

Currently, we focus on evangelism. With prayer as the foundation, we actively work for evangelism and trigger other relevant holy works. Since December last year from 9:00pm to 9:30pm, every member pray in one accord at the same time more than an hour every night. The prayer team coordinator or other fervent member sends a reminder online. Until today, many members still hold on to this prayer. We categorize the truth-seekers into Chinese Group and Russian Group. Within the Chinese Group, there are people in market, overseas students, people from big companies, and overseas Chinese. Within the Russian Group, there are acquaintances, neighbors, and others. The main focus this year is to let more people acknowledge the existence of the True Jesus Church and to initiate Russian Evangelism.

Before the spiritual convocation last January, the gospel team coordinator printed 4000 Chinese flyers and invitation cards. Those flyers and cards were mostly distributed. Before the spiritual convocation in last May, 4000 Russian invitation cards were printed and most of them were sent out. In addition, there were 5000 fan-shaped Chinese and Russian flyers were printed and most were distributed. It is still in progress.

There is little progress in evangelizing to overseas students. Since last October, some members started to hold service in a member's dormitory of Moscow Industrial University. The gathering was initiated from a group of other denominations who lived in the same dorm. The attendance is eight to nine people. After our member recommended them to contact us, they agreed to let our members join them and gradually we started to lead the service. Among these attendants, four of them have joined our Sabbath service, three joined our entire spiritual convocation in January, and two received the Holy Spirit and received the baptism during the spiritual convocation in May.

This year, we mainly learned from the overseas workers on Sundays and Tuesday afternoons about church board members' cultivation & work coordination, training for core members' sermon speaking, training for leading Bible study, training for leading the truth-seeker class, and RE teacher cultivation. We plan to help the newly baptized members read the entire Bible, intensively study a book, and review our Basic Beliefs within one and a half year. To achieve this goal, we established a youth Bible fellowship. Except for the three newly baptized members, the church board members, RE teachers, and other eight young believers attend the fellowship. Currently, we study the New Testament by reading three chapters a day. The care team coordinator is in charge of ordinary care to the members inside and outside the markets and also visitation with the assigned overseas workers.

b. General Affairs

In addition to the ordinary duties, we installed a new set of AV equipment and purchased robes for Adult Choir and Children Choir members. Recently we have replaced the sunroof in the chapel and constructed the kitchen and dining room.

c. Financial Affairs

After paying off the loan on the chapel, our church has a surplus amount to help UK Leicester Church Construction by offering US\$15,000. It is resolved that from now on Moscow Church will take care of the advance study expenses of workers in Moscow church.

Moscow Church's development still needs more prayers from members in various places. May God open up the door of the gospel, so the believers will gradually increase and more True Churches can be built in this country of the land of Russia.



Children Choir Presentation



2014 Spring Spiritual Convocation



Children Bible Knowledge Race



Gospel Tea Fellowship

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Church News

Current Development of Holy Work in Sabah

Thanks to the guidance of the True God for the steady development of holy work in the Sabah region. The region of Sabah currently has 77 churches and 28 prayer houses. The establishment of every church and prayer house was accomplished through God's grace. Below are testimonies on the establishment of one of the churches and a prayer house.

Serudung Batu Church

In May 1964, the tribes of Murut and Iban moved to the colonized region of Serudung Batu. Because of the widespread of cholera, many villagers repeatedly sought the help of doctors but

could not be healed. It was a piteous state. By invitation, the late deacon Gaius Leong from the then Tawau prayer house (currently the Balung Church) came with others to testify the great power of the Lord Jesus Christ. It came to his attention that the villagers there were in a state of suffering from cholera. Many asked to be baptized after receiving a great amount of information. On May 13, 1964, 120 people lined up to receive baptism from the True Church. At that time, all who were ill were healed when they came out of the water and spiritual grace was abundantly showered down, which moved an additional 30 people to be baptized into the Lord.

After 50 years of hard work, there are currently 250 members. Because the chapel is too small, part of the congregation had to be outside of the chapel when they listened to the sermons. Therefore, in 2012, the Serudung Batu Church planned to expand the chapel area by 800 square feet. In addition, because the church was short of guest rooms and classrooms, a plan was made to build a three-level subsidiary building at the back of the church, with a total area of 2,380 square feet. The total expense for the building project was 600,000 Malaysian Ringgit. Under the work and guidance of the Holy Spirit, many brothers and sisters were moved to make offerings so that this project would soon be completed. The church dedication is expected to be held in 2015.

Boribi Prayer House

In 1985, many brethren from Wangkod church moved to Kanibungan and settled there. At that time, our members went to the gathering place in the nearby Simpang Tiga for Sabbath service.

In 1998, the family of brother Sungkiat Kindingan moved to Sinukab Kanibunga. From then on, their home became the gathering place for family services. Furthermore, they diligently engaged in personal evangelical work to guide people to the Lord.

Since 2000, the general assembly has sent preachers to Boribi and actively spread the seeds of the gospel there by evangelizing from house to house. Thank the Lord for His mercy, many households in Ranggal and Pias were baptized into the Lord.

Through the Lord's great love, His Spirit moved sister Renonggizing to offer a piece of land for constructing a chapel (area 24 feet by 52 feet). In 2007, the church council decided to commence the construction of the chapel. Upon hearing this news, members from many churches put this matter in their prayers and delivered a great amount of supplies and materials for the construction. Through the Lord's grace, Boribi Prayer House began using this chapel for service in 2012.

Currently, Boribi Prayer House has 41 members. An Evangelical Service and Spiritual Convocation were held from July 11 to 13, 2014. The dedication of the chapel was held on July 12, 2014.

God told Joshua, “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Appoint for yourselves cities of refuge, of which I spoke to you through Moses ...’” (Joshua 20:1-2). The Israelites followed God’s command, and set up six cities of refuge (Joshua 10:7-8). From this we know that the cities of refuge in the ancient times were established through God’s direct command. It is the same with us today. In order to spread the gospel to the ends of the world so that more could be saved, we must set up spiritual cities of refuge – True Jesus Church. May God guide the worldwide holy work and the work of constructing the chapels of True Jesus Church.



Serudung Batu Church



Boribi Prayer House

 **Intercession**

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

| Date | Location | Program | Personnel |
|-------------|-----------------|---|----------------------------|
| 11/7-18 | Sabah | Preacher Seminar/ Ordained Workers' Spiritual Nurture | HH Ko |
| 11/27-12/17 | | Student Theological Training Course/ Statewide | ZJ Huang |
| 11/20-12/1 | West Malaysia | Tamil Members Pastoral | Philip Senjoseph |
| 11/24-12/24 | | Short Term Theological Training Course | SL He |
| 11/27-12/24 | Singapore | Year End Spiritual Meeting/Students' Theological Course/Year End Evangelistic Meeting | JM Huang |
| 11/6-23 | Fiji | Pastoral visit and gospel outreach in Fiji | James Vun/ Wilson Liang |
| 11/3-20 | US | TTP Class | ZH Huang |
| 11/7-9 | Canada | Bible Seminar(Montreal) | Jacob Chen |
| 11/21-26 | Argentina | Evangelical Seminar | D. Liang |
| 11/27-12/1 | Chile | Pastoral visitation | D. Liang |
| Nov. | Ecuador | Pastoral Work | CM Chu |
| Nov. | Bolivia | Evangelical & Pastoral and Training | CM Chu |
| 11/14-24 | Dominican Rep. | Evangelical Service & Spiritual Convocation | Steve Hwang |
| 11/28-30 | Germany | Training & Special Service(Hamburg Prayer House) | HH. Ko |

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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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