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Feature

Working with God

Shawn Chou

The advancement of technology in recent years has brought significant impact to our lives. In addition, with the wide accessibility to smart phones and laptops, the world seems to have undergone another revolution. Steam power and machines brought about the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century and resolved the issue of power resources during industrial development. The technological revolution that began in the 21st century again changed people's life style as technology brought significant convenience to people's lives.

In dealing with such a huge change, impacts were made on our church and members' lives, as well as on our faith and church work. Many things in life are double-edged, such as success, which can give people self-confidence but also self-conceit and arrogance. Similarly, technology can bring much convenience to people's lives, but can also be applied for an evil use to lead people's heart away from God and towards destruction. When men's wisdom is separated from godly matters, it will be applied to fulfill men's fleshly desires – men whose minds the god of this age has blinded (2 Cor 4:3-4).

Therefore, as Christians, when we are benefiting from technological advancement, we must try

to utilize it not only to help us with our daily lives, but also to influence others through technology and the media to lead us into the crowds, where we can live out a Christian life to change others. There was a deacon whose Facebook posts frequently contained a spiritual proverb or testimony. Certainly, his friends or brethren would reflect on them after they read these posts. If all preachers, ministers, or brothers and sisters who love the Lord frequently shared their daily Bible reading reflection, their own testimonies, or short video clips of testimonies made by the church on their social media account such as Facebook, Twitter, Googl, etc. for their relatives, friends and other brothers and sisters who may share these posts with others, this will certainly be spiritually influential to society. This will not only edify the brethren, but also spread the gospel to our friends.

Today, the transfer of information has reached a rate of thousands of miles per second. The gospel – the good news – is no longer spread only through sermons on a pulpit, literary ministry publications, or words of mouth. As long as we are willing and we utilize technology and social media, each one of us will become God’s fellow workers (1 Cor 3:9). Of course, we still must pray unceasingly, because our work will only be fruitful if God is with us. Guided by God’s hands of grace, we will spread the precious gospel to the ends of the earth and bear wonderful testimonies for the Lord.

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 [Church News](#)

Status Report on the Holy Work in the German Speaking Area

Germany, Austria and Switzerland are neighbouring countries. All three, in parts, share a common language, which is German. The German speaking area consists of all churches within these three countries. Currently there are 4 prayer houses and one place of worship.

Churches and Current Status of Service

Germany

In Germany, there are three prayer houses, which are located in the northern, western and southern area.

Hamburg prayer house:

The services in Hamburg are officially held in a recently bought building, which was dedicated in 2012. Most of the members live in Hamburg. The members in Berlin, Braunschweig and Bremen come regularly for services as well. Altogether, there are around 20 members.

On Sabbath, the church holds 2 services, religion education class, and an intercession prayer session, which take place from 10:30 a.m. until around 5 p.m. Some members stay in church during weekend in order to pray and hold Bible study or have hymn fellowship.

A spiritual convocation is held annually. Youth fellowship was held annually since 2013 in summer, where youths from different countries were invited. UKGA supports Hamburg prayer house by regularly sending preachers to hold special services.

We pray to God to lead the work of pastoring and evangelism in Hamburg.



Group photo of special service September 2014

Rheinland prayer house:

In 2011, by God's grace, a church building was bought. In September 2014, thank God, the official approval of the government was given. It is planned to start regular service in October. Currently the interior of the church is being purchased, such as chairs, kitchen appliances or the sign.

Usually there are around 20 to 25 members attending Sabbath service. RE classes include 3 to 7 students. The youth fellowship meets once or twice per month and around 5 to 10 youths attend. The members of Rheinland prayer house mostly live in the western parts of Germany. Some other members live in neighbouring countries (such as the Netherlands) and also attend service on a regular basis. UKGA regularly sends workers to pastor members in the Netherlands, especially those who cannot attend service on a regular basis due to their work. This applies to around 13 members and service is held in Cantonese and English.

The plan is to dedicate the church in April 2015. Please pray for this event and pray that Rheinland prayer house can complete this task with a heart of unity.

Heidelberg prayer house:

Heidelberg prayer house is located in a flat within a residential building close to the city centre. Currently a new chapel is searched for. May God have mercy and guide Heidelberg to find a suitable chapel.

Most members of Heidelberg prayer house live in the southern parts of Germany. The total members are 28. Usually 20 members attend Sabbath service. There are three students receiving religious education in three classes, divided by age. About 5 to 10 members attend the youth group.

Heidelberg has two convocations per year and the annual Continental European convocation is usually held in Heidelberg at the end of the year as well.



October 2014 Group photo of Autumn convocation, with brothers and sisters from Heidelberg, Hamburg, Rheinland and Salzburg.

Switzerland

In Switzerland we have members in Basel and Zurich. Because of the limited amount of members, Heidelberg prayer house pastors these areas. The church board of Heidelberg prayer house has three or four opportunities per year to go to Basel and Zurich to pastor the members and help leading the Sabbath service.

Basel:

There are two members living in Basel. Members and truthseekers living within the border region around Basel often meet there for Sabbath service. Usually they listen to recordings of sermons and study the Bible together.

Zurich:

The only member in Zurich is a retired lady. Usually she has Sabbath service on her own. Sometimes she invites friends for Bible study. She regularly invites members from Heidelberg and preachers in order to keep the Sabbath together.

Austria

Salzburg prayer house:

Salzburg prayer house has bought a shop-lot about five years ago, which is used as a gospel information centre and place of worship. Thank God for His guidance, service is going smoothly. Currently there are 10 members and around 5 truthseekers.

Every Friday evening there is a Bible study at a member's home for 1 hour. Sabbath service is held from 2 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. During that time there is a youth fellowship, a prayer session and one sermon. After service there is a common dinner at church. At the moment the youth fellowship visits a sister in a nursing home every Sabbath to have Bible study, since it is not convenient for her to come to church.

There are two convocations held in Salzburg every year.

Vienna place of worship:

Currently there are 10 members, including two families and students. The service is led in turns by the brothers and sisters. Around 6 members attend the youth fellowship.

There is a Bible study every Friday evening at a member's home. The Sabbath service is held at a rented meeting room within a youth hostel. Sabbath service is held from 1 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. During that time there is a youth fellowship, hymnal, prayer and one sermon.

Vienna holds two convocations and one special service within a year.



Group photo of Autumn convocation September 2014

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🍌 *Church News*

Current Development of Holy Work in Indonesia

Youths are the hope for the future, the prospect of the church, and the successor of the church. Therefore, the Indonesia General Assembly holds annual preparatory Bible study seminar, introductory Bible study seminar, and advanced Bible study seminar in various regions during school breaks. The church has a duty to educate the children, teens, and youths so that they understand how to revere God and love one another. “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). God commanded the Israelites

to diligently teach God's words to their children (Deuteronomy 6:4-7). The church must cultivate youths faith and virtue from a young age, so that they grow up to be good youths, good members, and good workers of God.

The participants of the preparatory Bible study seminar were junior high students, the participants of the introductory Bible study seminar were senior high students, and the participants of the advanced Bible study seminar were college students.

The contents of the preparatory Bible study seminar and introductory Bible study seminar were: foot-washing sacrament, "Why do we need to serve the Lord?", and the twelve apostles. The contents of the introductory Bible study seminar also included the book of Nehemiah. The contents of the advance Bible study seminar were: The Book of Acts and Angels and Satan. The students studied from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. under the guidance of the counselors, with a lunch break of three hours. The counselors led students who came from different regions. These students were divided into groups of 10 to 12 students for sharing and discussion. There were three prayer sessions every day. All students who had not received the Holy Spirit prayed earnestly. Currently, most students have already received the Holy Spirit.

Every year, quite a few colleague students from abroad came back to attend the advanced Bible study seminar in Indonesia. How joyful it is to be able to return to their home country once every year and learn and grow spiritually with their brethren! We trust that God will continue guiding the youths in Indonesia to be renewed spiritually every day, improve continually, glory God, and bring good to others.



Preparatory Bible study seminar in the Jakarta and West Java regions



Students' discussion group

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 **Intercession**

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
12/21-2015/1/12	Australia	STTTC/NWYS	Peter Shee
12/20-21	Canada	SSC Counselor Training (Vancouver)	W Yeh/ J. Jung
12/21		SSC Counselors' Workshop (Toronto)	Samuel Kuo
12/21-26		SSC (Toronto)	Samuel Kuo
12/21-27		SSC (Vancouver)	J. Jung, W. Yeh.
12/12-14		Brazil	Pastoral Work/ES/SC
12/5-8	Chile	Spiritual Convocation	CM Chu
12/3-10	FOZ	Pastoral Work/Training	D. Liang/ M. Kuo
12/21-25	Italy	Spiritual Evangelical Convocation (Napoles)	HH Ko/ S. Hwang/ BQ Wang
12/26-2015/1/1	Germany	European Continent Spiritual Cultivation	
Dec./Jan.2015	Spain	Visit & Concern (Madrid/Albacete/Barcelona)	S. Hwang/ CJ Hsieh
Dec./Jan.2015	Greece	Member Visit & Concern	
12/31-2015/1/19	Russia	Spiritual Evangelical Convocation	Timothy Yeung

12/28-2015/3/8	South Africa	Pastoral ministry/Training	MH Chang
12/4-29	West Africa	Pastoral ministry /Student Spiritual Convocation (Ghana/Togo)	Johnny Liu/ Raymond
12/3-29	East Africa	Student Spiritual Convocation/Training (Kenya)	Michael Chan/ Volunteer
12/3-29		Pastoral ministry /Student Spiritual Convocation (Zambia)	Steven Shek / Volunteer

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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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