Feature

From Beginning to the End of the Year

Nai-Hsin Chen

Time flies. The year 2014 has quickly passed. As we enter into 2015, I use a few points from the command, hope and words of encouragement for the Israelites that Moses received from the Lord as recorded in Deuteronomy 11 for our mutual encouragement. May the Lord watch over all brothers and sisters from the beginning of the year 2015 to the very end of it (Deut 11:12).

Take heed; do not be deceived (Deut 11:16)

To be deceived means to be unclear of the truth, as if a blind covers your eyesight so you neither see clearly nor accurately. In the end times, Satan knows that his days are numbered, so he uses all kinds of methods to deceive people, especially Christians. Therefore, we must be especially vigilant so that we would not be deceived by Satan. The deception of Satan leads us to the following:

1. Stray from the right path: Satan uses specious teachings or teachings that invert right and wrong to deceive the believers or stir up their sense of discontent towards the church and its system, leading them to stray from the truth and the true church.
2. Serve other gods: No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love
the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (Matt 6:24). Today, if Satan has enticed you to love the world more than God, then he has won. Satan often uses sin, materialism, lust, indulgence, greed, pride, self-centeredness to deceive us, causing us not willing to listen to the biblical truth. Especially with today's wide accessibility to the internet and media, we would fall further away from God if we were not careful. Therefore, the Bible encourages us this way: Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation (Matt 26:41).

Keep God’s commandments (the words of the Lord) (Deut 11:8)

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all (Eccl 12:13). Those who love the Lord will keep the Lord’s words. We often listen to sermons at services, but the most important thing is to reflect on God’s words, examine ourselves, and put the Lord’s teachings into practice in our life. Only then will we continually grow in the Lord.

Cared for by God (Deut 11:12)

Our ability is limited. We are often weak and in need of God’s care. God loves the prayer of the righteous. He favors those who act blamelessly, are honest and with faith, and offer up their body as living sacrifices. Our steps are set by God. Acknowledge Him and He will lead the way. May we gain God’s favor and care every day in this new year.

Nourished by rain (Deut 11:11) – Be filled with the Holy Spirit

Recently there are severe droughts in different regions worldwide, especially in our heart. We must examine ourselves as to whether we are only doing a routine when we pray and whether we feel weaker and weaker in our prayers. In this year, we must strive harder for spiritual growth, so that the Holy Spirit will nourish us like the rain. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we would know what to say or do, and what not to say or do.

Receive abundant blessings (Deut 11:14-15)

The Lord is the source of blessings. The God of blessings gives “rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness” (Acts 14:17). The greatest blessing from God is the salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may be called righteous without having to pay a price. This year, may God add grace upon grace to His already abundant blessings.
Love the Lord, and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul (Deut 11:13)

The greatest of all commandments is to love God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind and with all our strength, and to serve Him. In serving God, besides actively participate in all kinds of holy work, services and seminars, the most important thing is to spread the fragrance of a Christian in our daily lives so that others may see Jesus in us and know God through us, and God will be glorified. To love God means to follow Him closely, to be fervent and shine for the Lord, and to work hard in spreading the gospel. In our spiritual life, we must do our best in everything, meaning to offer all our love, time and strength and to effectively utilize our talents. This is the duty of all Christians.

Church News

Current Development of Holy Work in the United Kingdom

Thank God for His merciful love, and for watching over the development of holy work in the United Kingdom, so we are showered with His blessings every day.

The Special Service for Chinese Brethren was held in London Church from December 24 to December 26, 2013. Preacher Thien-Kiew Chin and Preacher Fook-Fah Chong led the service. Many brethren who were scattered around England due to work took this winter break to attend the service and worship in God’s house. The total number of attendees was approximately 110, which filled up the chapel. Holy Communion was held in the afternoon of the 25th. Everyone shared in the love of the Lord and reflected on the Lord’s grace. How joyful it was to share spiritual grace and food in the house of God!

The National Student Spiritual Convocation held from July 27 to July 31, 2014 had three classes. The lesson content included the following: The life of King Saul, the Lord’s Prayer, Water Baptism, Creationism vs. Evolutionism, and True Love; 1 Corinthians 12 to 13. Further lessons included the Sacrament of Foot Washing, Called to Serve, Parables of Election, the Miracles of Jesus, and the Festivals of the East. Eleven students from these two classes received the Holy Spirit.
The total number of students was 110: first year – 33; second year – 23; third year – 54. The content of the lessons was as follow:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Second Year</th>
<th>Third Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Doctrines 1</td>
<td>Basic Doctrines 2</td>
<td>Basic Doctrines 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Baptism</td>
<td>Sacrament of Foot Washing</td>
<td>One True God</td>
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<td>Introduction to NT</td>
<td>Introduction to OT</td>
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<td>Genesis</td>
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<td>Nehemiah</td>
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<td>Luke</td>
<td>Leviticus</td>
<td>Ezra</td>
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<tr>
<td>How to learn from the Bible</td>
<td>Ephesians, Philippians</td>
<td>1, 2, 3 John</td>
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<td>Basic methods of evangelism</td>
<td>How to learn from the Bible 2</td>
<td>Micah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepare to be the perfect companion</td>
<td>Basic methods of evangelism 2</td>
<td>Leading Bible study and Q&amp;A</td>
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<tr>
<td>College life</td>
<td>Marriage and you</td>
<td>Basic methods of evangelism</td>
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<td>(Evangelizing on the streets)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literary ministry workshop</td>
<td>Literary ministry workshop</td>
<td>Literary ministry workshop</td>
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By the grace of the Lord, many brothers and sisters from the pioneering regions are fervent in the truth and faithful in loving the Lord. Currently, the Manchester service location has found a suitable building and is in the process of purchasing it. They sought assistance from the UKGA and the local churches for fundraising and financing. May they successfully and promptly obtain a suitable location for service so they can spread the gospel and shine for the Lord.

In addition, the board members of the service location at Dublin, the capital of the Republic of Ireland, are very active in evangelism, and are also seeking a suitable building for future worship. In mid-August of 2014, five people received baptism in the Lord’s precious blood and joined His flock. May God continue to bless and guide the brethren and holy work in the pioneering regions. Amen!
Photographed at the Special Service for Chinese Brethren at the True Jesus Church in London
(December 24 to 26, 2013)

Ministers and UKGA board members
News Report on the Current Situation in India

Evangelical and Pastoral

Statistics
1. Number of Churches - 12 Churches; 2 Prayer House; 5 Places of Worship
2. Number of Believers - 1247
3. Number of Ministers - 14 Deacons; 5 Preachers
4. Number of REU students - about 476 (with 46 Teachers)

Evangelical work is satisfactory but mainly carried out by ministers and church leaders. Have to put greater emphasis on personal evangelism by members in general. There were 45 baptized for the year (2013/14). We have a growth rate of about 3.7%.

India Mission Committee (IMC) continues sending senior ministers for residential pastoral stay for a month; three times a year. To assist and work with the local ministers and churches and to correct and handle existing problems in India Coordination Board (ICB), ministers problems and church problems.

Situation in Bangalore, Karnataka State: ICB ministers are helping pastoral and evangelical work there (maintaining).

Situation in TJM / True Jesus Church in Vandiperiyar / Zone Three: We are focusing on the REU activities and the Youths development in TJC Vandiperiyar. At present the local leaders and the Preachers are keeping contact with the churches in Anbanadu, and Tirupur who has expressed their intention to return to the TJC fold. Munnar Church have returned to the fold and accepted as a church under the umbrella of ICB. With congregation of about 50, it is financially and administratively strong.

Administrative and Development of the Coordination Board in India

India Coordination Board remains weak and is not able to gather the strong support from the local churches. A lot have to do with leaders who are not able to command the respect of the local churches.
ICB with agreement of IMC terminated the service of a Preacher. This was due to some moral issues.

We see improvements to the financial situation in India. At the Annual Delegates Conference, the churches have decided to contribute 25% of the local church offerings to ICB.

This year, India Coordination Board is responsible for 90% of the Training Center maintenance cost, 25% of STTC Training expanses & 30% of the preachers’ and full time workers living allowance.

**Pioneering Work**

**Evangelizing to Chinese Community in Chennai**
No new developments. We are presently only at the stage of keeping contact with some other friends that we have been acquainted with.

**West Bengal**
In Kolkata we are working jointly with the workers from Singapore. Constant evangelism is carried out with a Bengali family and we are continuing contact with the Chinese community at the China-Town.

We are continuing with our work among the individual pastors in the Darjeeling District. Some are receptive. Presently our work is focus in the towns of Bagdogra and Mirik. We have held doctrinal seminars and will continue to do so.

**Imphal, Manipur**
Contact with Ps. Alexander started 4 years ago. For the last two years, we have been going there twice a year. This year, we have increased the visits to three. Doctrinal Seminar was held in every visit. Ps. Alexander understands the truth and has requested for baptism. We will continue to observe his preparedness and baptism will be conducted soon.

There were new groups who attended our seminar. They are from Church of North India and Independent Baptist. In total, five persons. They were attentive during the seminar and seem to agree to what was shared. We will continue with the groups.

**Sri Lanka**
ICB was requested to assist in the work. EHDWM Chair had a meeting with them. Every year, two trips would be organized. We have a baptized member there and a number of relatives of a
member where we can evangelize to. Work will be finance by IMC.

*Place of Worship in Kolkata*

*Place of Worship in Imphal, Manipur*
1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Personnel</th>
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<td>1/12-18</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Pastoral Work</td>
<td>Peter Shee/Joe Chong</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/19-2/16</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>e-Learning Project</td>
<td>HH Ko</td>
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<td>1/11-23</td>
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<td>Short-Term Theological Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/24-2/1</td>
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<td>Spiritual Convocation &amp; Evangelical Service</td>
<td>Raymond Chou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/21-2/3</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>Pastoral Work</td>
<td>CH Chou</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/3-10</td>
<td>Dominican Rep.</td>
<td>Pastoral Work</td>
<td>Richard Solgot</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2-3</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Meeting of workers helping in South Europe Pioneering Area (Heidelberg)</td>
<td>BQ Wong/CJ Hsieh/HH Ko</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/30-2/1</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Spiritual Convocation and Evangelical Service (Vienna)</td>
<td>Steven Shek</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/4-14</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Pastoral Work (Barcelona/Madrid/Albacete)</td>
<td>Steve Hwang</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2-19</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Pastoral Work/Spiritual Convocation</td>
<td>Timothy Yeung</td>
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<td>1/12-26</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Johannesburg Spiritual Convocation/ Lesotho Outreach/ Cape Town Church Building Dedication Spiritual Convocation</td>
<td>Derren Liang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/7-2/28</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Pastoral ministry/Training-Cape Town Church &amp; Port Elizabeth Sermon Speaker Seminar/Johannesburg Spiritual Convocation/Cape Town Church Building Dedication Spiritual Convocation</td>
<td>Luke Chan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/22-2/23</td>
<td>East Africa</td>
<td>Pastoral ministry/Training (Kenya/Tanzania/Malawi)</td>
<td>Fook Fah Chong/Volunteer</td>
</tr>
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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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