



## CONTENTS

 <b>FEATURE &gt; PRAY AND PREACH</b> .....
 <b>CHURCH NEWS &gt; RECENT DEVELOPMENT OF HOLY WORK IN SOUTH AFRICA</b> .....
 <b>CHURCH NEWS &gt; CURRENT DEVELOPMENT OF HOLY WORK IN DUBAI</b> .....
 <b><u>INTERCESSION</u></b> .....
 <b>ONE DOLLAR ONE SOUL</b> .....

## *Feature*

### **Pray and Preach**

**-The Basic Principle**

*Fook-Fah Chang*

While the True Jesus Church is fast approaching her centenary, at the same time, many are sanely aware of the impact that the fast moral decline of the world has on the church. The Bible tells us that in the last days, perilous times will come. Men will become lovers of themselves (2 Tim. 3:1ff). Somehow, this subtle Bible-contradicting mind-set has also found its way into the church. It has, to a large extent, affected many of us. Such a situation presents a great difficulty to the priority of the church, in particular, that of the divine workers – to put our house in order or spreading the good tidings to the entire world – which one should come first?

The difficulty we are facing is, no doubt, real, but the Bible has provided a paradigm for the church to follow. In three out of the four Gospels, the key message to the disciples before Jesus' ascension is centred on spreading good tidings. This does not in any sense undermine the importance of pastoral work. Nor does the church try to shy away from challenges. There are problems that could only be resolved when Jesus comes again. One such example is the parable of the wheat and weed (Mt 13:24ff, 36ff). Another example is the Corinthian Church. Paul did not get himself bogged down by the Corinthian problems; he continued with his preaching ministry, while resolving the thorny issues.

Insofar as the church has done her level best to deal with the false teachers and warn the brethren against falsehood, the hand of the Lord shall always be with the church. In all circumstances, the work of evangelism is expected to be at the forefront of the church ministry. The repertoire of church activities should not take the place of preaching to others or cloud the importance of the work of organising evangelism on a collective scale. After all, the purpose of church activities should always be geared towards enhancing the work of evangelism.

As far as the church work is concerned, no full-time worker can detach himself from the work of evangelism. The principle prescribed by Jesus is clear, "...you are witnesses to these things [preach]...but tarry...until you are endued with power [pray] from on high" (Lk 24:48f). This had become the practice of the apostles immediately after the downpour of the Holy Spirit. Having received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the apostles, especially Peter, preached a powerful sermon, which convicted three thousand souls to repentance (Acts 2). It then naturally followed that pastoral work would emerge as important (Acts 2:40ff), with the apostles as the pioneers of the work.

Undoubtedly, the work of evangelism of the early church could not have been so successful without the church offering incessant prayers. In the midst of this work, the apostles did not fail to make time to pray. On their way to the synagogue to pray, Peter and John healed a lame person (Acts 3:1ff). By this miracle, Peter turned the situation into a preaching opportunity and brought five thousand more souls to the Lord (Acts 4:4). What transpires in the next few chapters is that the apostles persisted in praying and preaching (Acts 4:5ff; 23ff; 5:22ff).

Somehow, the church became more and more spiritual. There was clear evidence of God's presence in her midst. Examples range from the chastisement on the lying couple (Acts 5:1ff), to the increase of membership (Acts 5:14). Yet, the pastoral work of the early church was never neglected (Acts 5:42). Here, we can deduce that through constant prayer, their relationship with God grew stronger daily. They knew exactly what to do whenever they were faced with difficulty. By spreading the gospel in season or out of season, God's abidance was ever present and clear in their lives of preaching (Mt 28:20). Guided by the Holy Spirit through their obedience to Jesus' commands, against all odds, they led the church powerfully forward, with increasing membership.

Nothing could stop the apostles from abiding by the basic principle of the Lord, not even the confusion stemming from the murmuring against the Hebrews by the Hellenists (Acts 6:1). With wisdom from God, the apostles speedily resolved the matter by selecting seven personnel to look after them. In this way they could "continually give themselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4). Even the selected seven did not just stick to the task of

ministering to the physical needs of the members. They were great preachers as well. Stephen and Philip are two glorious examples.

When the growth of the church expanded to the gentile world, Paul and the other workers held on to the basic principle. The Holy Spirit disclosed and separated for themselves workers for preaching to the gentiles (Acts 13:1ff), at the prayer of the church at Antioch. In spite of severe opposition against the work of evangelism, the workers continued to establish churches. Although they were so much engaged in preaching, yet they were given the spiritual foresight to know exactly when to do pastoral work to the newly established churches (Acts 14:21ff).

Since the church of God is never free from troubles, the apostles and the elders resolved the issue surrounding circumcision with the direct guidance from the Holy Spirit. Had they not been prayerful and always carrying out the mission of preaching, it would not have been so expediently resolved. With the matter resolved, the church entered into a new phase of evangelism, the gospel went further afield - the Macedonian territory. Throughout the entire chapter of Acts 16, the workers prayed and preached whenever possible (16:13ff, 16ff; 25ff). Eventually, the gospel reached the end of the world, Rome (cf. Acts 1:8; 28:17ff).

In sum, the growth of the church is solely dependent upon the abiding presence of the Lord with His workers. The presence of the Lord with the church is conditioned upon the church upholding the commandment of preaching the gospel (Mt 28:20). In carrying out this command, prayer becomes an inseparable part of church life, which enhances her relationship with God. Surely, the church becomes more spiritual and knows clearly what to do in time of difficulty – performing pastoral work and handling problems would naturally fall neatly in line with the teachings of the Bible.

By practising what the early church did, the True Jesus Church, by God's grace, will be able to accomplish what the Lord has entrusted upon her. Collectively, we must engage in constant prayers to ask God to grant all workers with strength and wisdom to spread the gospel of salvation far and wide globally. Why don't we start now? Why doesn't the church make it a point to encourage our brethren that each of us should preach to at least one person in the year 2015? To preach is the will of God. By the power of the Spirit, many souls will be added to the fold.

Amen!

▲ [TOP](#)

## **Recent Development of Holy Work in South Africa**

There are nine provinces in South Africa. Including Lesotho, the nation enclaved within South Africa, South Africa is divided into 10 regions where our members scatter throughout. Based on the visitations done over the past years, the approximate number of members in the regions is as follows: 230 in Gauteng Province, 220 in Western Cape Province, 120 in Eastern Cape Province, 20 in Northern Cape Province, 90 in Free State Province, 80 in Limpopo Province, 60 in North West Province, 120 in Kwazulu Natal Province, 68 in Mpumalanga Province, and 15 in Lesotho. The total number of members in South Africa is estimated to exceed 1000.

Thanks to the grace of the Lord, through the care and assistance of the South Africa Working Group and the International Assembly, there has been stable development in the gathering places where regular Sabbath services are held. The members in other regions have also become increasingly active in pursuing their faith.

Ministry workers include those from the South Africa Working Group (Deacon Luke Chan, Brother MinHsing Chang), International Assembly (Preacher Derren Liang, Preacher Steve Hwang), and the Church of China (Preacher Yu-Jin Lin, Deacon Juan Chen). A summary report of holy work is provided below:

The gathering place of service in Cape Town purchased a building for holding services at the end of November 2013 at a price of 1.8 million South African rand. After remodeling and renovation, it started to hold services in early April 2014. The chapel can hold over 60 people. There are also a vice-hall, room, and parking lot. The purchase transaction was completed. Currently, the application for church registration is underway. The church dedication and Spiritual Convocation was held on January 24 and 25, 2015. Besides offerings from the church of Johannesburg and members from South Africa, members from Taiwan, Canada, and the United Kingdom also made offerings to help with the purchase. May God remember their love.

Development in Lesotho: we came across a family of devoted Christians in Lesotho many years ago, and they once attended the Spiritual Convocation held in Johannesburg. Through many visitations and discussion of the Truth with them in the recent years, the mother was moved by the Holy Spirit and wished to receive baptism. The son also has interest in studying about the Truth. This has become the focus of pioneering work in 2015 in Lesotho.

Currently, there are five gathering places of service in South Africa that hold regular Sabbath service: Johannesburg, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Welkom, and Lesotho.

The public safety in South Africa has become increasingly alarming. In 2014, several members were robbed, and some were beaten. We ask all brothers and sisters to pray for the brethren and churches in South Africa so that the members can live a stable life amidst an unstable environment. May God look after the development of the churches.



The chapel in Cape Town



Winter Spiritual Convocation held in Johannesburg Church on July 2014



Baptism in Port Elizabeth



Evening service in Port Elizabeth

## **Current Development of Holy Work in Dubai**

*Raymond Chou*

As I heard the sound of airplane wheels hitting the ground of the world renowned Dubai, I felt excited, yet slightly anxious. Thank the Lord for the chance to come here to hold a Spiritual Convocation with the brothers and sisters and to share the grace of the Lord.

There are approximately over twenty members in Dubai. Other than a young couple from the United Kingdom, the members are brothers and sisters from Nigeria. Thank the Lord that during the three-day Spiritual Convocation, several truth seeking friends attended and studied the words of the Bible with us. Even though the intense discussion revealed that we had a different understanding of the Truth, it showed that we were all pursuing the Truth and we all had strict learning ethics.

The topic for mutual sharing of this Spiritual Convocation is the re-building of the wall as recorded in the book of Nehemiah. Through the change in the history of the elect, we pondered on the challenges faced by the believers and the breakthrough that must take place. A busy life, blinded eyes, and hidden enemies became the main obstacles causing the elect to stop their work. Perhaps today we are also trapped in the same difficult situation. Only when we have learned how to reset our steps, see through the tricks of our enemies, and have spiritual companions to help one another will we be able to rebuild a magnificent city wall for our faith in this crooked generation.

The baptism that took place on Sunday marked a historical moment for the Dubai gathering place of service as this was the first baptism held there. Thank the Lord's grace, four brothers and sisters became new members of the house of God. Before the baptism, the church arranged a near-two-hour discussion class to reconfirm their understanding of faith and determination to come under the Lord. May the Lord continue to bestow grace and blessing and guide them so that the members of Dubai may be encouraged in their faith, stand firm in a challenging environment and bear good fruits to glorify the holy name of the Lord Jesus in the land that God has blessed them with.



2014 Dubai Spiritual Convocation



Photo taken at the first baptism conducted in Dubai

▲ [TOP](#)



 *Intercession*

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Personnel</b>
2/6-22	New Zealand	Volunteering work	James Vun
2/13-15	Canada	Sacred Music Seminar(Toronto)	Tina Yang
2/ 27-3/1		National Ministers and Church Council Seminar/ National Church Conference (Vancouver)	Fuming Tse
2/13-3/2	Brazil	Pastoral Work	WC Yeh
2/4-12	FOZ	Pastoral Work/Evangelical Spiritual Convocation	W. Yeh/M. Kuo
2/16-19	UK	National Adult Theological Course(Newcastle)	Steve Hwang
2/27 -3/2	Germany	Training/Special Service(Hamburg)	HH Ko
Feb./Mar.	Spain	Visit & Concern (Madrid / Albacete/ Barcelona)	BQ Wang

▲ [TOP](#)

 *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](mailto:ia@tjc.org) *or* [tjciatwn@ms25.hinet.net](mailto:tjciatwn@ms25.hinet.net).

✧ *May our Lord remember your contribution and bless you abundantly!*

▲ [TOP](#)

International Assembly of True Jesus Church © 2007  
Tel: 886-4-2243-6960      Fax: 886-4-2243-7046  
Address: No. 180 Songjhu Road, Taichung City 40673, Taiwan  
E-mail: [tjciatwn@ms25.hinet.net](mailto:tjciatwn@ms25.hinet.net)  
Web: [www.tjc.org](http://www.tjc.org)  
[Members.tjc.org](http://Members.tjc.org)