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## *Feature*

### **Jeopardizing Life to the Point of Death (Judges 5:18)**

*Steve Hwang*

In ancient times, a war broke out like turbulence. As the Scripture records, “The earth shook, the heavens poured, the clouds poured down water. Then thundered the horses’ hooves — galloping, galloping go his mighty steeds. The people of Zebulun risked their very lives.” Under the help of God and the full force of men, the enemies were completely wiped out.

Now let’s enter into the year 2015. Wars of the gospel have broken out in all corners. God’s instruction is to spread the gospel to the entire world. God is ready to work, but where are those who will fight with full force? Some “stay among the sheep pens to hear the whistling for the flocks” (Judges 5:16). They relax under the shades while their brothers fight; they hear the whistling for the flocks while others hear the sounds of swords and spears; they sit with one leg over the other while others work. As the prophet Amos said:

“You lie on beds adorned with ivory  
and lounge on your couches.  
You dine on choice lambs

and fattened calves.  
You strum away on your harps like David  
and improvise on musical instruments.  
You drink wine by the bowlful  
and use the finest lotions,  
but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph.”

The longer we work, we gain more calmness while losing part of our zeal; we gain more wisdom while losing some impulsiveness. We sometimes become unmoved even when huge calamities hit us. We believe that someone will take care of things even when the sky falls. After a period of time, we sit and relax as if nothing is happening and nothing is important enough to be concerned about. Jesus was so anxious for God’s temple that He burned at heart. How about us?

Some set high aspirations and lay out great plans. (Judges 5:15)

It is not the right time to be a bystander or make plans while your companions are in the battlefield. Before the battle, you should have already set your aspirations and drawn up your plans. Ezra aspired to study and follow the Lord’s laws (Ezra 7:10) and wrote Psalm 119. Daniel set his heart not to partake in the king’s wine and meals. The Bible tells us that he had a good spirituality. Paul aspired not to spread the gospel where the gospel was already preached, so that the gospel may be spread to the ends of the world. When you climb your way up to high grounds, your aspirations are the stairways. Therefore, the greater your aspirations, the greater God’s work will be. The Bible tells us: “It is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose.”

The brethren are often moved by the love of the Lord at every Holy Communion and aspire to live for the Lord who died for us. However, when the battle begins, when we should be saving souls, when we should be setting off to volunteer in Africa, where are we?

Thank God. There are still those who risk their lives for the Kingdom of God (Judges 5:18). One thousand went with Barak up to Mount Tabor. At the right time, they advanced down the mountain for battle. In the midst of their bravery, we see God’s wondrous work: from their courses the stars fought against the enemies, and the old-age river Kishon swept the enemies away. God also drove a peg through the temple of the commander of the enemies through the hand of a woman who was not afraid of death. This ended twenty years of oppression and brought a new era of peace.

There are so many historical accounts, written by blood, that move us to tears. From the account of the bravery of the seventy-two martyrs of the Huanghuagang uprising, we see Lin Jue Min's determination to die for his conviction through the way he bade farewell to his wife. The Japanese kamikaze shouted "Long live the Emperor," believing that they would return as butterflies after death. There are people in this world who would jeopardize their lives for their convictions, ideologies, or kings. Would we do the same for the Kingdom of God?

Jesus said, "... whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

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 [Church News](#)

## **True Jesus Church Africa Ministry Committee (English) (AMCE) March Reports 2015**

*TK Chin*

By God's grace and power, True Jesus Church in West Africa has been maturing throughout the past years.

**Ghana:** There are almost thirty churches and places of worship. Membership is more than two thousand. There are six fulltime workers and one deacon. The churches in Ghana have recognised their responsibility to prosper the church in terms of financially taking care of fulltime workers and other church works, including various seminars and convocations. We need to encourage the brethren to be financially independent as soon as possible.

**Nigeria:** There are now four to five hundred members in a number of churches and places of worship. We thank the Lord Jesus, the Church in Nigeria is now able to financially support themselves. The country is blessed with one fulltime worker, one deaconess, and three deacons who were trained in Ghana by IA AMC-sent workers. We pray that more workers from Nigeria will render help to work in neighbouring countries. They started assisting works in Liberia.

**Liberia:** There are a few hundred members in a few churches and places of worship. By God's grace, we need to train up more workers to shoulder the works of evangelism and pastoral ministry. With God's mercy, much effort is still needed to prosper the church in Liberia.

**Togo:** Though French-speaking, Togo shares a same dialect with Ghana. As such, Ghana

workers conversant with the dialect work together with AMC-sent workers in Togo. There is now one church. By God's guidance, evangelical works have started in two other places. If the Lord wills, there are great opportunities to evangelise and build up the church in Togo.

**Sierra Leon:** Church growth has been strained due to unfaithful workers. By God's mercy, three workers and I managed to go and evangelise in May 2014. Quiet a number of serious truth-seekers received the Holy Spirit. They were eager to be baptised. However, due to outbreak of Ebola, work cannot be enhanced for now. By God's mercy and love, works will be stepped up.

We thank the Lord Jesus who has been guiding the Africa Ministry Committee (AMC) to take care of the works in Africa. AMC sees the need to continue training up more volunteers to serve in Africa through the AVMWT (Africa Voluntary Missionary Worker Training), which has been going on for the past 12 years in London. To enhance the AMC works, God helped us to form the AMC VT (Africa Ministry Committee Voluntary Team) in 2011. AMC VT consists of three groups: Religious Education Group (REG), Religious Seminar Group (RSG) and Recruitment and Awareness Group (RAG). Through fulltime workers and volunteers, the Lord Jesus has been enabling us to conduct worker seminars (national and district for local church workers), RE teacher seminars, and national student convocations for the past many years. Successful RE works are vital for church growth. For this reason, by the Lord's mercy, we have been trying our best to heighten these works by training up more RE teachers.

A vibrant way to go forward, apart from the Lord's mighty hands, is for countries that are blessed with workers conversant with English to be enlisted to do more works in Africa.

May the Almighty God continue to encourage and strengthen all Africa workers, either fulltime or voluntary. May all of us pray for the growth of True Jesus Church in Africa to glorify His Name. All glory and praises be unto our Lord Jesus Christ. Hallelujah! Amen.



Ghana-Accra Church



Nigeria Ministry Training

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## *Church News*

### **Recent Development of Holy Work in Northern Thailand**

There are two churches and two prayer houses in the region of Northern Thailand. A prayer house of 16 people belonging to the Thai is situated at Chiang Mai Province. Others are situated in Chiang Rai Province in the mountain region belonging to the Aka Tribe: Likai Church (21 people), Maemor Church (91 people) and Xian Jai Mai Prayer House (7 people). The number of members totals to 135. Currently, the International Assembly arranged Preacher Silas Kong from Singapore to pastor over this region for the fourth year.

#### **Maemor Summer Classes**

These classes were held from April 17 to May 6, 2014, for a period of three weeks. Forty-four students attended (28 brethren and 16 truth-seekers; 4 people received the Holy Spirit). The instructors included Preacher Silas Kong and Preacher Shun-Rong Tsai, the local preachers in Thailand, and Deacon Jung-Tsan Hsiao and Brother Yao-Tseng Huang from Taiwan. Sister Hsiu-Chiao Lin was the translator. The topic of the classes was “Jesus who served”. The objectives of the classes were centered on three areas: spiritual cultivation, music ministry, and evangelical work. The content of the classes was focused on spiritual cultivation and used the Gospel of Mark for Bible reading and studying, group discussion, and sharing.

Worship classes were led by Preacher Silas Kong and Preacher Shun-Rong Tsai with the youth class learning topic, “The Revival of Faith”. Classes on music ministry and evangelical work were led by the



volunteers from Taiwan: Deacon Jung-Tsan Hsiao and Brother Yao-Tseng Huang, who guided the students to play musical instruments, namely, the guitar, flute, and electric piano. The students were divided into groups so that each would have sufficient time to learn some skills relating to holy work and hymnal evangelism. At the same time, arrangements were made for the youth students to participate in holy work, such as taking up the role of group counselors; leading hymns, class review, class study, outdoor activities, and evening prayers; planning indoor and outdoor hymnal evangelism schedule, work assignment, as well as to learn about follow-up work and visiting truth-seeking friends, etc.

We wanted to students to be able to apply the hymns and musical instruments they had learned to praise God at the three hymnal and evangelical services. (Note: the first outdoor evangelical service was held at Piao Pai Village in the tribal village of the YunLan Tribe, two kilometers away from the church. Approximately 100 people attended. The second outdoor evangelical service was held at a Thai school in the in Maemor Village. There were approximately 50 attendees, the majority of whom were school friends of the students. The third indoor evangelical service was held at Maemor Church, with 32 truth-seeking friends attending). At every hymnal evangelical service, each group of students took up different tasks: some handed out invitation flyers to truth-seekers, distributed memoirs, and obtained basic information; while some decorated the venue and looked after the musical instruments (guitar, keyboards), audio systems, electrical wires, racks for music books, and microphones, etc. Every student joyfully spread the gospel for the Lord.

After three weeks of classes, many parents saw their children's growth through learning about the Bible, hymns, musical instruments, and evangelism. Truly we thank and praise the Lord! All students bore much affection for the teachers from abroad, which motivated them to want to converse with the teachers in Mandarin. The students hoped for more instructors and volunteers from abroad to teach them classes on serving God.

### **Mesai Student Center**

Among the members in the Northern Thailand Maemor Church, some parents have financial burden due to poverty while others worry that their children would get bad influence from friends and neglect their academics or even use or sell drugs. In addition, there are limited resources for school education in the mountain region, as well as problems with the quality of teachers' skills and teaching materials, etc. As a result, in 2013 and 2014, a total of 14 children (among them four were religious education teachers) were sent to the Antun Buddhist school more than 800 kilometers away from home. The main reason was that it was free to attend this particular school, and all room and board were provided free of charge. In addition, the school was strict with regulating the children. These benefits solved the problem of their finances and education. We can imagine that in the coming years, there will continue to be groups of children sent to attend the Buddhist school. We are concerned that the religious education system that was established through so much hard work over the past years and the youths that we trained to be teachers and translators will be lost. This also poses a crisis for the future development of the church.

In order to save the faith of the children studying at the Antun Buddhist school and to prevent them from

having to live in the school, chant Buddhist scriptures, and sit in meditation every day, our church wished to transfer them to the Mesai school district for pursue their study. Therefore, the Thailand working group made a plan in June 2014 called “Thai churches’ assistance to low income students to study at the Mesai Student Center”.

Thank God for His providence, on August 21, 2013, our church obtained the approval at the EHDWM Meeting and purchased the two neighboring three-floor buildings for use as the Mesai Student Center. They can also be used as a training center for evangelism and pastoral work, as well as accommodation for the students, preachers, and long-term church workers so that the member’s faith can be built and passed on. In addition, we can train the youths in all kinds of church work and service. The Rehoboth Welfare Foundation and Dorcas Love Mission have passed the resolution in August to support and subsidize the facility expenses at the Student Center, the student’s tuition and incidental fees, room and board, and management fees, etc. The students at the Meamor church can now transfer to the school district near the Mesai Student Center and live at the Center. The church will care for their daily living and look after their faith.

Thank God’s guidance, during October 2014, all of the thirteen students at the Antun Buddhist School transferred back. Among them, 10 students transferred to the Mesai school district to pursue their studies and live in the house of God – Mesai Student Center! The other three had to go back to the Meamor schools in their village to study due to their grades not meeting the expectation.

Currently, there are fifteen students at the Mesai Student Center (5 in elementary, 8 in junior high, 2 in senior high). On November 1, 2014, Preacher Wu Cheng Wen was officially retained to be the director of the Mesai Student Center to look after the student’s daily activities and board so that the students can focus on their studies during the day. Every morning and evening, the students would pray, sing hymns, and learn Chinese. Everyone lives under the Lord’s love and is often immersed in God’s words and spiritual interaction with God. How good and wonderful is this!

May God continue to guide every child’s study and faith and the continuous development of the Mesai Student Center, as well as establish the faith of the youths and stabilize the gathering places for the gospel in Northern Thailand!

### **Holy Work Training for the Church Youths**

In order to continue strengthening the faith of the youths and train them to pastor the members and evangelize, we hold intensive training for the students at the Mesai Student Center. Every day there would be a person leading the morning prayer, translating (from Chinese to Thai), and playing accompaniment with guitar or other musical instruments. In addition, every two weeks, two students will accompany the resident preacher to the Maemor Church to lead religious education classes and provide translation for sermons, etc. We hope that in the future, when preachers from Taiwan come to pastor the Northern Thailand region, these youths would be able to translate for them, which will solve the communication barrier problem for the local Thai and Aka tribe.

If the Lord is willing, God will raise from among the students future full-time local ministers, fulfilling the long-term goal of having locals engage in evangelical and pastoral work. We also hope for the continuing care and support from the brethren abroad, so that the churches in the pioneering region of Northern Thailand may obtain full hope in the development of the gospel.



Photo of students at the Mesai Center



2014 Summer classes at Maemor



## International Youth Fellowship 2015

Hosted by Malaysia General Assembly, with the theme “Equip Oneself, Succeed the Ministry,” the International Youth Fellowship 2015 provides participants with the opportunity to share ministry-related issues on a local and global level. There will also be fellowship and testimony sessions, and a rare opportunity to join the local medical mission work in the state of Perak. The program also includes a tour of three major cities in Malaysia. Don’t miss this opportunity to meet and get to know youths from other parts of the world!

### **Date & Venue:**

- Fellowship:

June 4–7, 2015 at Olive Garden, Port Dickson, Malaysia.

- Sightseeing and medical mission:

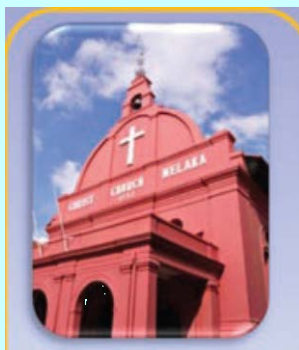
June 8–12, 2015: (1) tour to Melaka, Kuala Lumpur; (2) medical mission in Perak; (3) tour to Penang.

*Please note: Participants are to arrive at Kuala Lumpur International Airport on June 4, and depart from Penang International Airport on June 13.*

**Target group:** TJC members who are between 18 and 40 years old.

**Registration period:** December 2014 to April 15, 2015  
(first-come-first-serve basis).

For more information, please contact the youth committee at your local church.




 *Intercession*

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Personnel</b>
3/16-4/27	Australia	Spiritual & Evangelistic Convocation	Ezekiel Chong
Mar.	India	Pioneering work in North East India/ Residential Pastoral	Ezra Chong
3/6-29	Indonesia	Ministers Seminar/ Preachers fasting and pray/ Daan Mogot Church Spiritual Convocation/ Daan Mogot Church Bible Course/ Jakarta Church Spiritual Convocation/ Bandung Church Bible Course/ Sunter Church Spiritual Convocation	QZ Hu
3/19-4/26	New Zealand	Evangelized training / Autumn Evangelical Services	JG Tsai
3/11-18	Philippines	Ordained Minister Seminar / Philippine Theological Training Course	FF Chong
3/2-18		Theological Training Course	Amos Chow
3/24-5/3	US	Spiritual Evangelical Service	Daniel Chin
3/1-5/16	Argentina	Argentina work	Daniel Lee
Mar.	Germany	Special Service (Rheinland)	Simon Ho/ Thomas Chan
3/6-8	Austria	Spiritual Convocation (Salzburg)	TK Chin
3/13-17	Italy	Spiritual Convocation (Empoli)	BQ Wang/ CJ Hsieh
3/26-30	Dubai	Spiritual Meeting	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](mailto:ia@tjc.org) or [tjciatwn@ms25.hinet.net](mailto:tjciatwn@ms25.hinet.net).

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

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