**Feature**

**Be a Vessel of the Lord**

*Pr. Timothy Yeung*

“Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?” *(Rom 9:21)*

God has created us from dust and gave us breathe of life. After we have believed in the Lord, we are anointed by His grace. We have become His useful vessel, prepared for His every good work. We should not be a dishonor vessel but prepared ourselves to be an “honor” one.

**1. The Lord’s vessel must be sanctified**

“Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.” *(2 Tim 2:21)*

A vessel is precious to the Lord because it is sanctified. In a great house there are many different vessels; there are gold, silver, wood, and clay. In a church, there are many different people who came from different backgrounds and education levels. Some have great outer appearance, tall and handsome; some are well educated with great life experiences. Men are
looking at the outer appearance of people, but God is looking at our hearts. The Lord has not chosen the other sons of Jesse but David, because he has a pure heart. In him, there was no scheme or wickedness. Thus, the Spirit of the Lord filled him, be together with him, so that he became useful to the Lord and faithful servant who pleased Him.

If you wanted God to use you, first of all you must ask yourself: What is in my mind? Do I have wickedness inside of me? Do I have a bitter heart? Hatred? Greed? If there is any, you must plead to the Lord to sanctify yourself! “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew steadfast spirit within me.” (Ps 51:10)

2. The Lord’s vessel must be self-denial

“Elisha said to her, “Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors – empty vessels; do not gather just a few.”” (2 Kgs 4:3) A vessel must be sanctified and empty, if not, it is not fitting for use. When we are serving God and following the Lord, the most difficult parts are not lacking of grace or encountering problems, as these can be given. The hardest mindset is self-denial and eliminating oneself. Those who are highly skilled and gifted might have felt good about themselves; thus they serve according to self-will and not be able to glorify God.

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.” (Mt 16:24) Emptying yourself means your own will is not important throughout the entire progress of serving the Lord; your own glory is not important, as well as your own enjoyment. Christ made Himself of no reputation because He has denied Himself (Phil 2:7). Have you ever been in a situation where your will was so strong that church work halted because of you? Were you able to give up your comfortable life, so you could bear the cross of Christ? If a church were lack of “empty vessel”, no more oil could be given, where grace of the Lord will cease.

3. To be the Lord’s vessel, you must present your bodies a living sacrifice

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” (Rom 12:1) If a vessel was clean and empty, and you saved it for yourself, the vessel will be of no value. Peter lent his boat for the Lord, so He could preach on the lake. Later on, Peter presented his lifetime for the Lord and preached for Him, that fulfilled what Jesus said, “I will send you out to fish for men.” Thus, Peter is a vessel fitting for the Lord’s use. He has spent his entire life to preach for the Lord and glorified His name.
In the past, many youths have volunteered in pioneering areas. They have seen wonderful might of the Lord and deeply moved by it. Later on, they have devoted themselves in full-time ministry. Many brethren who love the Lord have presented their times, skills, and strength for the Lord to build up the church.

Conclusion: The Lord is coming soon! The world is full of disharmony, where people are not in peace. There are not many days left where we may hold on to our faith in peace. May we strive hard and cooperate with one another to be Lord’s useful vessel and fulfill the works He has entrusted us.

Church News

2015 World Delegates Conference

The World Delegates Conference was held on March 29-30, 2015 at Sabah GA.
**Hong Kong Current Ministering Work**

I. **Theological Training Seminar**

Lord Jesus has prophesied for the end times, “And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.” (Mt 24:10-11)

Thank God for His arrangement, Coordination Board has successfully held Theological Training Seminar on May 25, 2014. It has served to strengthen the knowledge of truth for ministering workers; so false prophets and anti-Christ may not able to tempt them. In addition to the knowledge of truth, it also served to give them opportunity for reflection, so they may know if their faith was firm for the Lord. Jesus said, “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.” (Mt 7:24)

We must know well of the Bible truth and come to acknowledge the basic doctrines of our faith and doing so will enable us to discern the truth and some error teachings. Then, we will not mislead others and ourselves. May we bear the truth like real men, rely on the might of the Lord, and become sturdy persons full of God’s grace, so that we are able to fight on spiritual warfare and receive the glorious crown in the days to come (1 Cor 16:13; Eph 6:10)

II. **Holy Work Personnel Seminar**

Thank God for His guidance! Hong Kong Church has successfully held Holy Work Personnel Seminar during June 16-20, 2014. Pr. Ming Yang Chao has demonstrated some easy to understand examples. He taught us the truth of evangelism, technique, and applicable skill.

On the first course, he encouraged us to live a meaningful life. We should connect our lives with the will of God, so we may take courage to evangelize. In the following days, Preacher Chao has introduced a few examples of evangelism. Brethren have familiarized themselves with the slogan he taught, “Evangelize monthly, follow up weekly, prayer daily, and show concern from time to time!” Preacher Chao concluded the course with “Evangelism EQ”, it was interesting. We had never thought that we need EQ to evangelize.

We were edified throughout the week. Pr. Chao taught us how to use Bible as the basics and shared his experience with his humor. We learnt a lot with laughter. In his encouragement, he mentioned that preaching the gospel is the responsibility of everyone; we can only choose
between preaching a little and preaching some more. He said, “If you have not done so, you have to do it for the rest of your life!”

We have observed Pr. Chao who is walking the talk, may we all do the same, encourage one another with the love of God, so we may harvest in the field of the Lord. May the churches in Hong Kong glorify His name, and make disciples of all the nations. (Mt 28:19-20)

III. RE Teacher Seminar

Coordination Board has successfully held RE Teacher Seminar on July 19-27, 2014. First of all, thank to Dn. En-Guan Lee and Sis. Ling-Rou Lee from Taiwan, who have been the speakers of this seminar.

We have gained much in these 9 days of courses with all different methods of teaching, class management, administration, organization, and five basic doctrines, etc. We have come to understand that it is not overly simple to be an RE teacher. We have to walk the talk, teach by examples, and be a good role model for others. We must perform our duties and rely on the Lord. As recorded in Zechariah 4:6, “Not by might nor power, but by My Spirit.”

Through teaching E2, J1 and J2 RE classes for many years, I come to understand the importance of Religious Education for the youths. “Train up child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Prov. 22:6) Religious education is very important to a church. As an RE teacher, you may not want to shove your responsibility to others. In years to come, may Lord continue to guide us so we could pass on what we have learnt to the students.

IV. J2 Student Spiritual Cultivation

Thank God! J2 Student Spiritual Cultivation was completed in August. There were 30 local J2 students attended with two truth seekers. Three students received the Holy Spirit in the SSC.

In teenage, youths are in the turning point of life. They are curious about their own-self, their life, and their faith, etc. They have many questions. The church has arranged SSC so they may be given a quiet time and space to reflect on their relationship with God through bible truth and spiritual cultivation.

In J2 SSC, students learnt how to overcome their selfishness and submit themselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit so they could focus on learning the truth; even more so, overcome their physical weariness and pray unceasingly. To be victorious, there is no easy way. Thank God! They were given opportunity to help out in general affairs, may God remember their love in ministering works.
V. J1 Student Spiritual Cultivation

Thank God! J1 Student Spiritual Cultivation was completed on August 16-20, 2014. This is the first SSC after remodeling of Hong Kong Church. There were 24 students, 3 counselors and more than 10 staffs. On first two days of classes, the topic was “How to submit to God’s word in our daily life”. On the third day, topics were related to the history of TJC, present situation, and faith, etc. These topics could help equip us for evangelical ministry.

Thanks to the diligent works of preachers, staffs, and counselors, may Lord bless and remember their loves. May we all walk in the path of the Lord after SSC, and glorify His name!

VI. Married Couples Fellowship

Married Couples Fellowship was held on November 23, 2014 at the fourth district of Hong Kong for the first time. The topic was related to the relationship of husband and wife. The fellowship was mostly for couples who are married for less than 15 years. Thank God! There were 11 couples attended this fellowship.
VII. EHDWM Meeting

EHDWM Meeting was held for the first time in Hong Kong on September 1-2, 2014. There were participants from Asian countries and pioneering areas. This is the biggest meeting ever held since the establishment of Coordination Board for 3 years in Hong Kong. Hong Kong Coordination Board has started the preparation works one year before the meeting with earnest prayers. There were many technical difficulties. Thank God for His guidance, through the assistance of other churches in Hong Kong, the meeting was successful. During the preparation, we have experienced the strength of coordinating from one another. May God prosper the ministering works of EHDWM, and the growth of Hong Kong brethren, so we could further contribute to the ministry of EHDWM in the future.

VIII. Middle-Aged Joint Fellowship

Middle-Aged Joint Fellowship was held on the last weekend of year 2014 at Tai Po Church. It provided an opportunity for the middle-aged to gather together for fellowship. In addition to the help from middle-aged brethren, sisters and brothers from youth fellowship have also helped out. Middle-aged brethren have worked hard to practice their hymn and have presented it well during the fellowship. I was given this wonderful opportunity to attend this fellowship and felt the diligent works of them. It is a great spirit in the Lord that everyone can strive hard for ministering works. On that day, there were over 100 brethren attended. There were old friends who knew each other for a long time, as well as newcomers. When fellowship started, over one hundred brethren stood up in one accord for the hymnal worship with beautiful voice. Though the weather was cold outside, our hearts and bodies were warm after 10 minutes.

Middle-aged group was the main participants in this fellowship. Different churches have presented their hymn correspondingly. In addition to the hymnal worship, two sisters have shared their testimonies. They have different encounters in life with different faiths, but God has protected them so they could walk through their tribulations and difficulties of life. Once again,
they are in the care of the Lord. After hearing both of them, we expressed our reflections and responses. After lunch, many brothers and sisters stayed behind and carried on their conversation. We left slowly and have arrived home safely. We look forward to the next fellowship.

VIII. Youth Testimony Session

What a precious event! Youths from different districts came to Tai Po Church to participate in Youth Testimony Session. They were given this opportunity to gather here and share their testimonies. Their testimonies were related to prayer and realized the arrangement of God.

There were brethren and truth seekers attended this session, as well as a foreigner. Thank God for His guidance in this unforgettable “Youth Testimony Session”.

X. Hymnal Evangelical Service

On February 1, 2015, Hong Kong Coordination Board held a Hymnal Evangelical Service at the lecture hall of Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Youth Committee from HKCB and
Sacred Music Team have prepared this activity. This is the first Hymnal Evangelical Service with a narrator on stage speaking about Bible truth related to the hymns. The hymnal service has included small and large choir groups with duet and solo presentations. Professional group was hired for AV. Thank God! The Hymnal Evangelical Service was successful. There were more than 160 truth seekers participated. Through various follow ups and activities, many truth seekers have returned to the church for sermon services. There are more than 300 seating capacity at the lecture where there was no occupancy. Many brethren were not able to get ticket for admission. We will proactively prepare for the hymnal evangelical service in two years, so more brethren and truth seekers could participate in the service and glorify God’s name.

Hymnal Evangelical Service

XI. The Voice of Macao

Macao has been holding family gathering every Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday Sabbath at Sister Chan’s house. They are using video conference to attend sermon services of Hong Kong Church and Fujian Church. Hong Kong Church will assign preacher or believer to shepherd brethren in Macao one Sunday of every month. Holy Communion will be held regularly. Since there were children in the service, in the beginning of year 2014, RE teachers were assigned to teach the children. There are approximately 10 brethren attending the service; however, there should be more believers somewhere else in Macao. Due to their works and other monetary reasons, they are not able to attend church.

Macao is a city well known for gambling. It is like Sodom and Gomorrah in the past. However, God’s miracle is always out of men’s expectation. In the mid-year, we have received phone call from truth seekers who were motivated enough to contact churches in Hong Kong area. They were hoping to know and accept the truth of our church. This has greatly encouraged our brethren.
May the Lord strengthen the brethren and truth seekers, awake the lost sheep, so to open a new and lively path for the ministry of Macao. Amen!

**TOP**

**Bulletin**

**International Youth Ministry Website**

1. The International Youth Ministry (IYM) committee has set up a website as a simple and quick platform to share important youth fellowship/training activities and ministry information/resources available to our youth members internationally. The URL of this website is [iym.tjc.org](http://iym.tjc.org). The main content of the website is as follows:
   
   (1) Brief Explanation of IYM  
   (2) International Youth Fellowship and Regional Fellowship Information  
   (3) Various GA’s NYTS Information  
   (4) Missionary Opportunities Information  
   (5) Youth Ministry Training Materials

2. Please share this website with youth members in your respective GA, Coordination Board, or IA-directed churches between the age of 18 to 40. If there are any questions about the website or any general suggestions for the IYM committee, please email them to the committee at [iym.tjc.org](http://iym.tjc.org).
Intercession

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

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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!**

▲ **TOP**