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 ONE DOLLAR ONE SOUL

Feature

Be Useful for the Lord

Bill Tseng

God is omniscient and omnipotent. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood still (Ps 33:9). He can fulfill all things alone, but instead, utilizes men to fulfill His Will. For example, instead of directly forcing the Pharaoh to release the Israelites out of Egypt, God called upon Moses to be His vessel. Likewise, instead of directly moving people to return to Him after fulfilling the salvation plan, He entrusted the disciples and all the believers of His workers to perform the great mission of “going into all the world and preaching the gospel to every creature.”

It is an honor and a blessing to be useful for the Lord, which requires training and tribulation. Not everyone has this honor and blessing. God is pleased with those who meet the requirements of being His vessel. What kind of requirements are these? Paul mentioned three different types.

The first requirement is a willing mind. Paul said, “For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have” (2 Cor 8:12). God knows everyone’s talents, since they all came from Him. Those who are able to

be used by God, with a willing mind, can offer those talents and please Him.

The second requirement is someone who faithfully serves the Lord. Paul said, “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry” (1Tim 1:12). Paul knew that God used him because of his faithfulness, and not his ability. Those who faithfully serve God live for the Lord. Everything they do is for God, and not for themselves. Everything they accomplish is for God’s glory, and not their own glory. Only with a faithful heart, at the difficult times, can one still fearlessly strive forward to complete God’s mission.

The third requirement is one who cleanses himself from dishonor. Paul said, “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 2:21-22). To be both spiritual cultivated and sanctified are highly essential factors of being useful for the Lord. Even if a person possesses a great gift and power, with an incorrect mindset and deviant behavior, he cannot be God’s vessel for honor.

The Lord said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” (Mt 9:37-38). To attain more harvest, more useful people are needed for the Lord; people who are willing to offer their time, gifts, and money. When people are used by the Lord, God will abide with them and prosper in the church.

In order to let my children understand how our evangelical elders were used by the Lord, I brought my entire family of 10 people and joined church service in Heping Church, located in east coast of Taiwan. We flew to Taidong City and drove north to pass through the area where highest density of True Jesus Churches was. Within 60 kilometers, we saw more than twenty of our church buildings standing besides the highway and among the villages. Every one of us was so very joyful to see this view. Heping Church, where we visited, is in Heping Village. In this village, there are only four churches, respectively located in Heping, Babian, Yanbin, and Chiaping. Seeing this, we could see how the Lord guided His faithful workers going from high mountains and deep valleys, despite tribulations and persecutions for spreading the gospel. These workers did not have excellent wisdom, but they had a willing mind to faithfully work for the Lord and pursue holiness for being His vessel. Therefore, God sent them out for harvest.

When my family and I visited Heping Church, we reflected upon how God worked greatly, and with His abidance, the gospel was widely spread and many people came to believe in

Christ. When we compared this reflection to the sluggish pace of our ministry today, we became deeply sorrowful. Not only in Taidong, but in China around 1920 to 1930, and Taiwan around 1960 to 1970, many brothers and sisters who met God's requirements, had their spirits stirred, and with God's abidance and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the church became prosperous.

Hereby I would like to encourage our believers to strive forward to be useful for the Lord. This is the key for church's prosperity. May God guide us!

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Church News

Malawi Pioneering Works

TK Chin - Africa Ministry Committee

We thank the Lord Jesus for blessing the True Jesus Church for the past many years in Africa, with members now in more than 10 countries. God initiated the evangelical works in Malawi through Internet preaching for about a year. Later, God guided the first trip to Malawi in Jan, Feb 2014 when the Church started with 21 people being baptised on 29 Jan 2014 in Mkwate, Blantyre. We also evangelised in Matanda (in Phalombe) and Mbangu (in Nsanje). By God's mercy, 96 were baptised this trip. Since then, a number of trips have been sent to Malawi.



It is through God's guidance that Malawi divine works are growing. The Holy Spirit's vibrant involvement in His work is always profuse. Usually, in pioneering areas, we first expound Holy Spirit so that God leads the truth-seekers from the beginning. In all places of worship or new locations, God always bestows His Holy Spirit to many people. In a recent trip, well more than 100 people received the Holy Spirit. The Lord also accompanies His workers with power and visions evangelising and performing various miracles. Often, by His power, we need to preach to congregations of many hundreds of truth-seekers. It is always evident that God calls and chooses His people; we are only the unworthy servants.

(Water baptism on Oct. 13, 2014)

We often encounter obstacles. During a recent Malawi trip, we met a number of obstacles but, the Lord eradicated them all by His power for the battles are His. For example, we were betrayed by one named D. God in a dream told a female truth-seeker that D was not a faithful person. The Lord further told her that she must receive and listen to us who had been sent by God to preach to her and others the truth of salvation. Miraculously, through her, God provided more evangelical works though D denied us going to a number of places as previously scheduled (because we found out that he was dishonest). It is essential to recognise that there are always teething problems in pioneering areas. We thank God that He always eliminates hindrances as we work for Him.

The Lord's steering hand also guides us to befittingly accomplish His works that embrace the right time for baptising believers who have genuinely accepted the Truth with true repentance and motive. It is unfeasible to wholly discern the minds of truth-seekers or to guarantee spiritual growth after water baptism but, it is our responsibility with the God's help to convey the Truth wholeheartedly before their being added to the True Jesus Church for salvation. (Acts 2.47). "Silver and gold I do not have", "but we shall share with you the perfect Gospel of Salvation" is what we always accentuate.



Worker Seminar on Sep. 24, 2014

After water baptism, there are always instantaneous worker seminars. Essential abrupt trainings comprise homiletics, book studies, RE teacher training, spiritual cultivation. These works are indispensable for pioneering areas.

God has enabled IA WHEC, UKGA AMC (Africa Ministry Committee) and AMC VT (Voluntary Team) to shoulder Africa divine works. By God's grace, with the annual AMTC (Africa Ministry Training Course) and encouragements from various workers, many volunteers are trained and have laboured in Africa. Annually, AMC schedules at least 10 Africa trips or more when conducting fulltime worker seminars.

There are now more than 10 places of worship in Malawi and more than 300 baptised members. Thousands of truth-seekers are waiting to hear the perfect Gospel. It is vitally essential for future Malawi trips to emphasise follow-up works, evangelism, training up local workers, establishing RE, and so building up the church by God's grace, mercy and power.

Amen.



About 500 truth-seekers, some brethren, and about 200 children.

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 *Church News*

Report on the Ministry in Sabah

Journey to spread the news; Build in one accord

By Sabah General Assembly

From the beginning of 2015, the annual works of Sabah General Assembly started to unfold one by one and were completely smoothly under the guidance of the Lord Jesus. Now we are

coming near the year end after a journey filled with God's abundant grace and amazing guidance; we call it a "journey to build", echoing the theme topic of the International Assembly, "Increase the Nation, Expand the Borders". The following is a report on the current ministry of Sabah GA:

1. Secretarial Department

This year, the World Delegates Conference was along with various conferences of the IA biennial. The General Affairs held discussions to prepare for the conferences and coordinate with the main workers of Sabah so that they could stand by to help out during those days. All conferences held from March 24 to 30 concluded successfully under the Lord's guidance and protection. Thank the Lord that the brethren in Sabah had the chance to participate in such a major holy work and were edified through it.

2. Evangelical and Pastoral Department

A pre-ordination seminar was held from January 24 to 25 for 11 deacons-to-be in both the church of Kota Kinabalu (West Coast Division and inland regions) and Lahad Datu (East Coast Division). Following the seminar, these eleven brethren were ordained in due course in various local churches during the annual Evangelical Service and Spiritual Convocation event and became God's faithful and wise servants.

The third theology camp was held at Kota Kinabalu church from July 1 to 14. IA sent Elder Qiu Yi Xiong from Taiwan GA to teach at the camp. A total of 30 students attended the classes, hoping to receive spiritual cultivation and edify the churches.

In addition, in order for the brethren participating in music ministry to better understand the process of song writing, the Evangelical and Pastoral Department held a local hymn writing fellowship in Tawau church on August 1 and 2 and of Kota Kinabalu church on October 4.

A short-term theological training seminar was held from November 24 to December 14 at Kota Kinabalu church, Penampang church, and Tinuhan church. Even though the number of students reached 461, the seminar was completed through the Lord's guidance and the offerings from various churches. May all glory be onto the Lord's holy name.

3. Literary Ministry

The IA Literary Ministry department arranged Preacher Peter Hsu, the head of the

subsidiary department, and Deacon Luke Huang, the director of Internet ministry to conduct a training course in the conference hall from April 3 to 5. A total of 45 workers participated, all for the first time. Thank the Lord for guiding everyone to participate in this service.

4. Education Department

This year, we use a malady of society, “homosexuality”, as our topic. In addition to using Biblical teachings, we provided a variety of information to religious education teachers across the state. This enabled the teachers to not only educate their students, but also to better understand whether their students have a healthy romantic life, as well as provide timely guidance. Even though we received different feedback, the Sabah GA continued to treat similar issues seriously. A discussion forum was held on November 15 to further explore this topic in greater detail.

5. General Affairs Department

A 5.9-magnitude earthquake struck in the early morning of June 5, waking up the entire Sabah and causing damage to quite a few of our churches, with Ranau church suffering the greatest damage. Thank the Lord, none of our brethren lost their life in this calamity. However, the damage caused by the earthquake resulted in a shortage of water supply, which brought us to recognize the necessity of forming a disaster relief team.

In addition, Sabah GA’s major project over the past nearly two years – the construction of the inland training center – is close to completion. The total area is 23,164 square meters, costing approximately 1.8 to 2 million MYRs. The estimated date for the opening ceremony is January 31, 2016. May all glory be onto the Lord’s holy name. We welcome our church members and the readers to lift up their hands of intercession and make offerings willingly and joyfully in as much as being compelled by the love of the Lord. May the Lord remember your love!

6. The 41st Sabah Church Conference

Under the Lord’s guidance, the annual Church Conference was successfully held at GA’s premises from December 26 to 27. The total number of the delegates, observers, and members of GA was 118. They discussed harmoniously the major affairs of the house of God and reviewed the gains and losses of the entire year of ministry. Utilizing the holding of the Conference, the Evangelical and Pastoral Department completed the theological

training and practicum for the three preachers-to-be at Donggongon church on December 26. May this Conference bring us one step closer in achieving unity, humility, and submissiveness in serving the Lord. We pray that the Lord continues to guide Sabah GA in all its ministry. May all glory, honor, and praise be onto the Lord's holy name!



(Photo taken at the Sabah Church Conference)

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Intercession

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
2/13-2/14	Philippines	Spiritual Convocation (Maculay)	Pr James & Pr John Mon PMC
2/15-3/11	US	TTP Theological class (Cerritos)	TK Chin

2/16-3/14	Argentina	Pastoral visitation	Fuming Tse
2/2-2/21	Brazil	Pastoral Work & Spiritual Convocation	Wen Chuan Yeh
2/22-2/29	FOZ	Pastoral Work, Evangelical Spiritual Convocation	W. Yeh/M. Kuo
2/14-2/18	UK	National Adult Theological Course (Sunderland Church)	HH Ko
2/20-2/21	France	Spiritual Convocation	HH Ko
2/12-3/20	Germany	Preacher Theological Training class	HH Ko
2/26-2/28	Austria	Spiritual Convocation & Evangelical Service (Salzburg)	HH Ko
Feb./Mar.	Spain	Visit & Concern(Madrid / Albacete / Barcelona)	Bao Qin Wang
12/30/15-3/10/16	South Africa	Pastoral ministry / Johannesburg Spiritual Convocation/ Pastoral Visit PE/ Cape Town Spiritual Convocation	M. Chang
2/26-3/27	West Africa	Workers Training(Ghana)	Steven Shek
February	Mauritania	Pastoral Visit / Care	Johnny Liu / Silas Chan

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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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