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[WRITE TO EDITOR](#) 

CONTENTS

-  **FEATURE > TAKE ROOT DOWNWARD.....**
-  **CHURCH NEWS > UPDATE ON THE MINISTRY IN RUSSIA & DUBAI.....**
-  **CHURCH NEWS > INCREASE THE NATIONS, EXTEND THE BORDERS..**
-  **INTERCESSION.....**
-  **ONE DOLLAR ONE SOUL.....**

Feature

Take Root Downward

Derren Liang

“And the remnant who have escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward.” (Isa 37:31)

In the era of the prophet Isaiah, the Israelites faced the threat of the strong nation, Assyria. Through the prophet, God told the Israelites that the authentic crisis actually was inward, in terms of their spirituality: They left God and observed the culture of the Gentiles to worship idols. Justice and righteousness could not be found in their lives, and they had never truly relied on God. They fled on horses to ally with Egypt in attempts to solve the crisis they had, which only added sin to sin.

God said, “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength” (Isa 30:14). Return to God and resume the relationship of covenant with Him and He will help us in all of our difficulties. King Hezekiah was unable to defend the attack and threat of Assyria, but when he returned to God, entered His temple, and sought for Him in quietness, God helped him defeat the enemy and the Israelites were saved from crisis (Isa 37).

The problems which church faces today are the same as those from the past. Men have limitations in doing things, but is there anything too hard for God? When we ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it, we will find answers of God.

How did the disciples accomplish their God-entrusted missions of increasing the quantity and improving the quality by spreading the gospel and shepherding the sheep?

Church is a body of Christ and she is spiritual. She is in the world, but not of the world. The temple in Ezekiel's vision was on the mountaintop. This is the law of the temple: The whole area surrounding the mountaintop is most holy (Eze 43:12). The former temple lost God's glory. To complete the mission entrusted by God, filling God's glory in this temple is not conforming to various models in the world, it is upon returning to the guidance of the Bible. Invisible roots taking downward in our heart, which should be deeply planted in God, determine the quality of visible fruits. When we embrace abundant life of God, we will bear fruit, living a life to glorify God and edify men.

“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrines and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:41-42). The apostles led the newly baptized believers to live a new life and a life of rooting downward:

To continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrines

Apostles' doctrines is the teachings of our Lord Jesus with a purpose of sanctifying our lives (Jn 17:17). Following these teachings, the disciples would be able to truly love the Lord in their daily lives (Jn 14:15; 15:10), magnify Him, and have God's constant abidance (Mt 28:20).

To fellowship with one another

They accepted each other in the love of Christ and bore one another's burdens. They shared the knowledge of God and their experiences with the Lord. They placed God as 1st priority and established God's house with one accord.

Breaking of bread

They often dined together with a thanksgiving heart and enjoyed the gladness in God's kingdom.

Prayer

The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, so their lives were renewed, full of faith and power.

This life of rooting downward produces much fruit through uniting with God in truth, in love, and in spirit; therefore, the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:47)

▲ [TOP](#)

🍷 *Church News*

Update on the Ministry in Russia

Recently, due to the economic sanctions placed on Russia by the European Union and the United States and the falling of oil prices around the world, Russia – a nation that relies on export of oil for profit – faces a major financial crisis. The ruble has suffered a substantial devaluation. As a result, those of our brethren that came from Southern China and rely on doing business for an earning also face financial difficulty. Some members have already left Moscow; those who have stayed maintain their faith in the Lord. Currently, there are approximately 30 attendees at weekday services.



The first Evangelical Services and Spiritual Convocation in 2016 was held January 1 to 3. The first day was an Evangelical Service. The workers from IA shared four topics: “Jesus gives you peace”, “Jesus gives you freedom”, “Jesus gives you contentment”, and “Jesus brings

salvation”. More than 20 truth-seekers attended. The second and third days were a Spiritual Convocation. The main topic was “Cherish the Lord’s grace, Repay the Lord’s love”. Referring to the ways of preparing for a Spiritual Convocation by our churches in U.S., the Russian holy work group members fasted and prayed every morning for one month prior to the evangelical services. Thank God, many brothers and sisters took initiative to invite friends, and relatively more truth-seekers attended this time.

Because the state religion of Russia is Orthodox Christianity, there are more regulations for Christian churches surrounding their application for registration to become a legal religious entity. Currently, Moscow church is dealing with this matter. Please pray for this.

Going forward, in addition to the workers from IA, the churches in China will send workers to assist in the ministry in Russia for three months every year.

Update on the Ministry in Dubai

Currently, there are nearly 20 members in Dubai. Most came from Nigeria, while a few came from Malaysia and other Southeast Asian countries.

Dubai is currently the only place among the Middle Eastern countries to have a True Jesus Church. Because it is fairly convenient for people from African countries to get a visa, a family of our brethren from Nigeria relocated to Dubai for the sake of their children’s education. They began to do business there. Later, this family gradually led other church members from Nigeria to work in Dubai, and thus the number of members increased.



Dubai is the commercial center of the United Arab Emirates and is a very prosperous place in the Middle East. Therefore, it offers many employment opportunities. As a result, some Southeast Asians also came to seek work. We have members from Malaysia, Singapore, and the Philippines.

In December 2015, a Youth Spiritual Convocation was held. Twelve people took the cup. The members in Nigeria and Dubai still keep their habit of eating two meals a day. On the Sabbath, they would take meal only after the service. In addition, they have a morning prayer session from 6:30 a.m. to 7 a.m. from Monday to Friday. The session includes Bible reading, hymn singing, praying, and sharing.



Even though they are few in number, they all are devoted in worshipping God.

Dubai provides an opportunity for the members in Nigeria to know another country and widen their perspective. They have also gained understanding on how services are held by True Jesus Churches in other countries. This should contribute to and help the future development of the church in Nigeria.

▲ [TOP](#)

Increase the Nations, Extend the Borders

Thank God! Through the spirit of wisdom and revelation bestowed by the Lord, our church truly comprehends the Ten Basic Beliefs, the Five Basic Doctrines, and the Word of Truth from God which is the Gospel of Salvation where we came to the true knowledge of the true God and are able to abide with Him. The “90th Anniversary of True Jesus Church’s evangelism in Taiwan” and the “Centennial Commemoration of TJC Mission” aim to display the spirit of spreading the doctrines of salvation, which was demonstrated by our Lord Jesus on earth. He has entrusted the disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to all nations. Those who preach the true gospel will receive the crown of righteousness as their reward in the future.

To act in concert with the spirit of IA’s theme “Increase the Nations, Extend the Borders,” Taiwan GA is proposing two plans for promoting and implementing evangelical work of saving souls: 1. To revitalize the church situation through the 90th Anniversary of True Jesus Church’s Mission in Taiwan--“Adding to the Lord’s sheep” project. 2. To promote evangelical activities in coordination to the “Centennial Commemoration and Thanksgiving of TJC Mission.”

1. Revitalize the church situation through the 90th Anniversary of True Jesus Church’s Mission in Taiwan project--“Adding to the Lord’s sheep”
 - (1) To integrate the team servitude (Each church region, sub-region, local church to propose project action plan). The project coordinator shall implement and carry out the servitude of gospel teams and regularly evaluate and review the work so as to fulfill the set goals. Where there are services, there comes the gospel. Members of different occupations and fields are to be integrated to provide good services, in coordination to the “strategies of evangelical practice”, to enable people to experience the love of Christ and willingly come the church to understand the truth and be baptized. The church may hold various gospel events or fellowship services (day or night). Within sub-regions, various gifted members, upon basic training, can be integrated and coordinated into performing family and congregational evangelism, in addition to utilizing the gospel van used for multimedia preaching. Members would serve in love and see the joy of leading people to the Lord, God’s mighty power, and the value of servitude.
 - (2) To intensify the family group fellowship (Project for the local church): To encourage

each church to motivate evangelism through family groups. Pastoral affairs officers are to gather the group coordinators and instruct them how to lead the group members in preaching the gospel. Family fellowship groups shall guide the truth-seekers in prayer, caring, follow-up, truth-seeking, and baptism.

- (3) To intensify the Evangelical service & Spiritual convocation (ESSC) (Project for the local church): The local church shall often remind the members to be equipped with the spirit of evangelism, to learn and hold onto the truth of salvation, live a life of being salt and light of the world, grasp every opportunity to care for people and preach the gospel, and give all glory to the Lord. The church shall reinforce the emphasis on daily prayer arrangement of the members with preachers, elders, deacons, and the church officers “showing example” to lead. The church council shall make a proper work arrangement for ESSC. Each church may hold activities such as evangelical week or month to strengthen the evangelical work. Truth-seeking friends need to be followed-up proactively to see whether they are ready to receive baptism. All work arrangement during ESSC is to be implemented accordingly and evaluation is to be made after ESSC for future prospect.

2. Coordinating missionary activities for the “Centennial Commemoration of TJC Mission.”

- (1) To compose and produce a video clip of Taiwan GA’s historical development and future prospect, so that our members in Taiwan and other countries as well as people who do not belong to our church may come to understand the historical development and future prospect of the True Jesus Church in Taiwan.
- (2) To make and produce a video clip for introducing the Truth of True Jesus Church, so that our members and non-believers would easily comprehend the essentials of our basic beliefs and the truth of salvation. It is to affirm our faith and also help the non-believers to come to know the essential doctrines of our church, so that they may truth-seek the truth and eventually receive the Truth and be baptized.
- (3) To publish gospel tracts and testimonial booklets. It is to help the evangelical workers to testify that Christ’s love and grace abide in our church. It is also a practical use for conveying the gospel of salvation, and to glorify God’s name.
- (4) To compile and publish gospel musical composition for Centennial Commemoration of TJC Mission and provide the church’s copyright of spiritual praises to members. It shall benefit our believers’ spiritual life of praising the Lord, and it can be shared within the church or during outdoor gospel praise activities.

(5) To complete a set of evangelical APP package as a tool for door-to-door family evangelism and personal evangelism in coordination to the Centennial Commemoration of TJC Mission in Taiwan. It is to enable users of smart phones and notebook pads with 3~4G wi-fi capability to be equipped with the truth all the time to build up a true faith. Moreover, acting in concert with the Centennial evangelical project, they may easily employ it for door-to-door evangelism when testifying the truth, answering gospel questions, and having discussion of the truth with others through the multimedia resources.



Evangelical APP package: App for “I want to read the Bible”

(6) Returning Home Activity for centennial commemoration. Evangelical Department of Taiwan GA building is to set up and prepare historical information and pictures in audio and video formats for exhibits. It is open to members to visit, so they would understand various activities of different strategies in the past through the historical materials, photos, videos, literatures, pamphlets, and charts. It is to let everyone have the knowledge of the audio/visual and publication production of our church. Through mutual communication, everyone may intercede for one another and engage in the march of evangelism and strive in one accord for the gospel which we believe in.

(7) To hold gospel evangelism with gospel van to spread throughout Taiwan in coordination with the centennial commemoration project plan. Let the entire church be motivated together for the work of saving souls and reach out to pioneer the land to be possessed. May those who seek God find the true God Who creates the Universe and all things. Let those who seek a church find the true church of salvation. May the mission of spreading the gospel to people throughout Taiwan entrusted by the Lord be accomplished. Let us march forward into the four-fifths land in Taiwan yet to have our church established.

(8) To develop and build websites for children and junior youths “The Lord’s Sheep

accompanying web”. To encourage children within the Lord overseas to learn to read Chinese in the hope of understanding better the thoughts and viewpoints of junior youths’ through the sharing of experiences. With a proper way they would be able to build up their faith, character, concept of value and utilize all to preach the gospel everywhere.



Taiwan GA Evangelical Dept. develops websites for children and junior youths “The Lord’s Sheep accompanying web.” Lead them from learning Chinese to cultivate virtues and faith.

- (9) To make and produce in digital file format of mp3 file for “Nomads of Spirit and Mind” in Mandarin version, “Greetings to our Neighbor” in Taiwanese version, and mp4 format for “The Sound of the True Light” and “Extended Theology”. Actively interact with the listeners in a timely manner and obtain their contact information for local church’s follow up and to guide them in the truth-seeking process. Assist and follow up with the truth-seekers who have listened to the evangelical media and help to propagate the gospel in local churches and lead people to believe in the truth.
- (10) To publish and print “Joy and Faith” publication in coordination with the Centennial Commemoration. To strengthen in the aid of local churches in publishing special evangelical issues and deliver for the purpose of family evangelism, personal evangelism and follow up.
- (11) To post mini gospel video selection/series in coordination with the Centennial Commemoration of TJC Mission in Taiwan. This will be posted on various websites of our church to serve as an attractive notification for everyone for carrying out the preparation work of sowing the seeds.

(12) To publish pamphlets and flyers of Essential Gospel theme in Simplified Chinese version for preaching the gospel to the Mainland Chinese tourists. Mainland China covers a vast territory. It is our hope that Mainland Chinese tourists from all regions to Taiwan would have the opportunity to access to the Word of Truth and the Gospel of Salvation.

(13) Brief introduction of True Jesus Church in Taiwan (3 minutes for each church). Let each local church be able to reflect and be thankful to God’s salvation and the church development when organizing the materials for the short video clip. May the perspective of every member and truth-seeker be expanded to a greater horizon in terms of TJC development in Taiwan through the church introduction video.

(14) Training of gifted members in Mae Sai Student Center in Thailand: To build up the faith of second generation and train local members for pastoral and evangelical purposes.

May the Lord work together with us and guide us in promoting and carrying out smoothly the various evangelical work in the “90th Anniversary of True Jesus Church’s Mission in Taiwan” and the “Centennial Commemoration of TJC Mission” activities and may we obtain the expected results.

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 **Intercession**

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
3/28-4/6	Sabah	Theological Seminary Training	Chiang Yao Hsiang
3/18-3/20	Malaysia	Spiritual Convocation (Johor Baru/Seremban/Malacca/Subang Jaya)	IA EXCO Members
3/23-3/24		IA EXCO Meeting	
3/25-3/27		Spiritual Convocation (Gombak/Cheras/Klang/Petaling Jaya)	
3/1-3/29	Australia	Pastoral visit, conduct seminar, Spiritual&Evangelistic Convocation	HY Yen Malaysia worker
3/3-3/24	Philippines	PMCC Pastoral Visiting (Luzon)	Zacchaeus Yong

3/19-3/24		Spiritual Convocation (Ozamis)	Ezekiel / Philip
3/20-4/2	Thailand	Northern Thailand Maemor Summer Music Camp	ZT Hsiao
3/3-3/6	Canada	National Ministers and Church Council Workshop & National Church Conference (Calgary)	Steve Hwang
3/18-3/20		Sacred Music Seminar (Edmonton)	Tina Yang
3/24-3/27	Argentina	RE Teacher Seminar	CM Chu
3/4-3/6	Germany	Training & Special Service (Hamburg)	HH Ko
3/23-3/25		Students Training (Heidelberg)	Church Board
3/25-3/27		Spring Spiritual Convocation (Heidelberg)	HH Ko
3/11-3/14	Italy	Spiritual Convocation (Empoli)	BQ Wang / CJ Hsieh
3/10-3/21	Russia	Pastoral Visitation	FF Chong
3/25-4/24	West Africa	Workers Training (Ghana)	Johnny Liu
3/17-4/17	East Africa	Pastoral Ministry & Training (Malawi/Zambia)	TK Chin / Volunteer

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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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