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# Straight from the Heart

Joshua Phoong

The topic of World Evangelism is such a common topic for us in the True Jesus Church and is often discussed and talked about at many different levels for a long time now. We have always said it is the commission of our Lord Jesus which was entrusted to all of us that we have to preach to all nations, and make disciples of all man.

We all know the importance of this divine commission that the true gospel of the kingdom must be spread and reach out to all the world and once we can witness to all nations, we would have fulfilled this task and the end will come. Knowing unfortunately is far from sufficient, but how do we go about fulfilling this commission? From the signs that we have seen in the world in recent times, we tell ourselves that the end is near. With the end of time approaching, how then can be accomplish this task and preach to all the world?

Yes we feel the need to accomplish this and have concerns that we are not able to undertake the role that has been entrusted to us. In our desire and anxiety to be successful in World Evangelism we continue to plan for this and hold many strategic discussions. On the surface, we seem to have very appropriate, ambitious and expansive themes for our strategic discussions

on World Evangelism. Amongst the themes we have already discussed "Globalization and Prospects of the True Jesus Church", "Global Evangelistic Strategies".

We have had our strategic discussions, and have recorded many opinions. But what now, and what next? Things are the same as before these discussions, as if nothing was done. What has happened to those big and ambitious plans that was discussed and presented? When are we going to implement the methods that we talk about? The same few workers who are laboring in the fields as before, are the same few who are continuing now.

In my personal opinion, it is not that we are lacking in awareness to accomplish this commission but we have a fundamental lack of drive and desire to fulfill this task. On reflection, it is with great sadness that what we have done is but a token effort in World Evangelism. Whenever we make our reports, we comfort ourselves that we are very much involved in World Evangelism, but how can we make such claims?

It is true we do have ample evangelical pamphlets. We also have a website that can be seen by all in the world. There are also the handfuls who are trying to bring the gospel to those who have not yet heard of the glad tidings. We also have had members baptized in some new pioneering areas. All said and done, is that all that we can do? Even with the little that we have done, what is clearly demonstrable is that we lack the passion in our hearts to accomplish this task for our God.

We approach the work of world evangelism as if we have plenty of time left to save souls and that the Lord's coming is not imminent. We show little urgency in this work and are have not committed ourselves wholeheartedly to the task. What we have done and accomplished is merely a token effort to comfort ourselves as if to placate ourselves and our heart that we have done something about the commission entrusted to us.

Where are our love and our feelings for those perishing souls waiting for deliverance? What seem to be lacking is a true spirit of service and a selfless heart of sacrifice. Most of us are going about our own life in a selfish manner to satisfy ourselves and the call of our flesh. The failings of us man, to be heartless and selfish, complacent and comfortable. It may seem that these words are harsh and unfair as this is all a matter of personal choice, borne out from each individual, but what is being observed here is an honest evaluation from the actions that have been borne out by all of us. We can see the inner feelings of the heart by our individual actions. We are supposed to be people who are separated and chosen, those who are already enlightened by the Lord. **Eph 1:18** puts it plainly to us that as one who is enlightened we must have understood the hope of His calling, and to know what is the riches of the glory of His

inheritance. Why then have we not conducted ourselves in haste and urgency to answer strongly to the Lord's Calling for us to advance the work of saving souls?

When Moses spoke to the people concerning the building of the tabernacle and the holy garments of the ministry, it is recorded in **Ex 35:21** "Then everyone came whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing; brought the Lord's offering for the work of the tabernacle of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments".

What a stark comparison, these are actions of one whose heart was stirred in the service of the Lord. What now of our own heart? Is the stirring still strong and rejuvenated or is it distant and far removed?

We are reminded of the incident in **Mt 3:7-10**, where when the Pharisees and Sadducees came to John the Baptist for baptism, John the Baptism gave them a very stern warning that to flee from wrath that is to come, they must bear fruits worthy of repentance, not just any token outward sign. He was also very blunt, chastising them not to take comfort on the fact that they are descended from Abraham, that they will be saved. Far from that, even with this fact, they would just as well suffer the consequences of a tree which does not bear good fruit which is cut down and thrown into the fire. With this harsh warning are our hearts still hardened and unmoved? Do we tempt the wrath of our Lord?

The way ahead is plain and simple. We need no further methods or plans. Let us revisit he decisions of our past two symposiums and implement them. **Lk 12:47-48** tells us that those who know the Master's will and have not done His will be severely punished. For those who did not know the Master's will, they too will not escape punished. We cannot claim ignorance anymore. It is beholden for us to know the will of the Master and to accomplish it. Only then can we claim to be a wise steward whom the Master will take pleasure in and make him ruler of His household.

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## Cambodia Holy Work Update

Pr. Wan Fa Chen

Thank God! By the mercy of our Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit has moved the holy workers in Cambodia to continue in prayer and the ministry of the word. There are 4 scheduled prayer

times in Phnom Penh House of Prayer: 0500~0600, 1000~1030, 1500~1530, 2000~2030, more than half an hour each time. Everyone puts prayer first before service during Sabbath in each worship location. They all focus on prayer.

#### 1. The situation of service in each area

#### **Phnom Penh City**

Phnom Penh House of Prayer: Service Time: Every Tuesday and Friday night at 7:00pm. Every Sabbath at 9:30am and 2:30pm.

Suburban area of Phnom Penh: Service is held at the house of a truth-seeker friend, Zhan Ti, on every Wednesday night at 7:00pm and every Sabbath at 7:00am.

#### **Prey Veng Province**

Service is held at the house of Sis. Mei-Ying Hsu's parents (every Friday evening), at the house of Sis. Mei-Ying Hsu (every Sabbath morning), at the house of Sis. Laly (every noon time of Sabbath, combining with the members who joined service at Sis. Mei-Ying Hsu's house), and at a brother's house (every Sabbath in the morning, combining with the members who join service at Sis. Laly's house.) There is service for children in Ken Mae Chai.



Photo taken after the ESSC in Prey Veng Province

#### **Kampong Speu Province**

Vearl Thom: At Bro. Phun Pen's house (service is held every Sabbath in the morning)

Obort: At Bro. Chhun's house (service is held every Sabbath at noon), at Bro. Ngoun Hok's house (service is held every Sabbath at 3:00pm), and at Sis. Long's house (service is held every Sabbath in the afternoon)



Photo taken after the ESSC in Kampong Speu Province

### **Svay Rieng Province**

At Sis. Tep Kem's house (service is held every Sabbath afternoon. There is service for children.)

#### Takéo Province

Service is held every Sabbath in the morning

#### **Siem Reap Province**

Service is held every Sabbath in the morning and afternoon

#### 2. Hold Spiritual Convocation

Thank the Lord! The spiritual convocation had been held three times from August to December 2015 and there were totally 40 new baptized members:

The first spiritual convocation was held from August 20 to 23, 2015 at Phnom Penh House of Prayer. Assisting worker: Pr. Jien Chung Chen (from Taiwan GA). People who received water baptism: 7 (male: 3; female: 4); people who received the Holy Spirit: 11.

The second spiritual convocation was held from October 17-18, 2015 at Sis. Laly's house. Assisting worker: Dn. Luke Yip (from Kowloon Church in Hong Kong). People who received water baptism: 17 (male: 6; female: 11); people who received the Holy Spirit: 8.

The third spiritual convocation was held from December 19-20, 2015 at Bro. Bian's house in Kampong Speu Province. Assisting worker: Dn. En-Lin Lin (from Dokuang Church in Taiwan). People who received water baptism: 16 (male: 7; female: 9); people who received the Holy Spirit: 6.

#### 3. Testimonies during the mission trip

First testimony: The gospel was expanded through seeking the lost sheep

Sis. Zhan Ni was a lost sheep. The pastor was worried about her and did not know where to find her. However, with the encouragement of the promise, recorded in Mt 7:7-8 "seek, and you will find," the sister was then found. Thank the Lord! Her boss owns a business of sewing clothes and she has 5 to 6 employees. She, named "Zhan Ti," is a Christian. By chance we asked her if she was willing to open her house for service, and thank God that she agreed right away. By God's grace, there is service held every Wednesday night and Saturday morning.

Second testimony: To expose the devil's tactics with the Bible

One of the female employees of Bro. Qian-Hua Wang, named So Khehg, who was 20 years old at the time, was disturbed by devil. People brought her to the church to quiet her down. During the day, she muttered, and at the evening she uttered like a news broadcast with particularly loud voice by shouting. We were afraid that her voice disturbed the neighbors.

We were able to cast out the demon on the first night. However on the second night, at midnight, she made noises even louder, which became out of control. After examination, we

realized we were wrong. If the parents do not believe, it is impossible to cast out the demon. It is recorded in the Bible that a father whose son had seizures came to Lord Jesus and pleaded Him to cure his son. A mother whose daughter was demon-possessed came to the Lord to plead Him and then her daughter was healed. Thus, the pastor commanded to three youth in church to bring So Khehg back to her hometown and exhort her parents to believe in the Lord and remove the idols. Thank God! By God's mercy, the demon was cast out and So Khehg was awake. All her family studied the truth and believed in the Lord with peace.

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# 2016 Europe Care Team Work Report

Europe Care team

Thank God! The Europe Care Team is assisting seven worship locations, joined by Chinese members, located within three countries. The situation of evangelical works is as follows:

#### Madrid

There are around 50 members. With local members' contribution and IA's subsidy, members in Madrid signed a contract for purchasing a chapel on October 9, 2015, which ended their need to having services in unstable locations. The new chapel is about 200 square meters on two floors of the building. After the purchase was completed, brothers and sisters worked together to remodel the second floor as a dining hall, kitchen, religious classrooms, and lounge. The main chapel on the first floor is also under intensive remodeling. May "the Lord provide." And we hope that not long after we can present the best and most beautiful to the Lord!

(Photo: The appearance before renovating the newly purchased chapel in Madrid, Spain. It was a body shop before purchasing.)



Upon the calling of God's love and grace, on January 23, 2016, most of the members who own businesses resolved to hold service every Friday night and Saturday. Now we urgently need sermon speakers and religious education teachers. May everybody pray for us. In 2013, the believers set up a prayer team to encourage everyone for praying every night at 23:00-23:30 for individual, church, holy works.

#### **Albacete**

In the beginning the church was started by a family and it has steadily developed. The brother who is in charge of purchasing a chapel in Madrid dedicated himself with all his heart and strength to church title registration, negotiating, and signing a contract with the seller. May God remember his labor!

#### **Barcelona**

Around 10 people attend service. One of the truth-seekers, Mr. Fan, was attracted to our church's doctrines after he occasionally met Bro. Jin-Hsin Huang in September 2015, who owns a restaurant. In these ten years Mr. Fan visited all the Chinese Christian denominations and proactively searched online for a church which completely abides with the teachings of the Bible. He was distressed for no result.

Out of his expectation, he found our church as much as "beyond the pale in hunting." After he confirms his career planning, he can receive baptism. May God guide him.

#### <u>Italy</u>

There are about 113 believers in three worship locations: Prato, Empoli, and Napoli. Empoli became the main location for worship due to the environment in recent years. In addition to the spiritual convocations held annually, national seminars are to be held in summer and in winter in these places.

The establishment of the worship place in Empoli and its winding path of development revealed the grace and guidance of the Lord. As other church's development, members in Empoli also started having family service in the beginning. However, it often brought out the neighbors' complaints, police officer's warning, and the landlord's moving out request with a deadline. Within three years, the location for church service had been changed eight times. Just at the time when it seemed it was a dead end, accidentally we heard that other church denominations always seek for a place of worship and they would hang the sign of the church

on the building, so neighbors and passengers would clearly know this is a church where people worship God.

In the past, the members worshipped in the house of a believer. Since there was no sign of church on the building, the neighbors saw many people coming in and going out and did not know what prayer is, so they complained to the police who gave us a ticket for noise. Thank God that in summer 2015, not long after the council decided to change the location for seeking the church building, we learnt that there was a place which was on the first floor of a building nearby a member's house posted for renting with a reasonable price. After negotiating the price with the seller, the members in Empoli signed a contract for renting. Finally, the location for service in Empoli was settled.



Members in Empoli, Italy, held a spiritual convocation in the newly rented place.

It has been half a year since renting the place. Our brothers and sisters can finally worship together freely. Although the believers went through many difficulties for holding service, it also revealed that our God is a faithful God who keeps His covenant and gives mercy.

In Napoli and Plate, since the attendants of church service are few, the church members are seeking places for worship. May God guide us!

### Athens, Greek

There are about 23 believers in Athens. The church service is held in the house of a brother. Presently, the members are in process of church registration with the government. May God guide! Three evangelical services are held every year (January, April, November), led by IA and Europe Care Team.

### **Future Prospect and Intercession**

Situations of local churches in Europe Pioneering Areas and prayer requests are listed as follows:

Country		Believers	Prayer Request	
Spain Madrid 50		50	Disbursement of chapel repairmen and other expenses     The harmony and coordination between church council and the construction committee     The urgency of cultivating sermon leaders and RE teachers     Correct most brothers' smoking habit	
	Albacete	13	Coordination and communication with the place of worship in Madrid	
	Barcelona	10	<ul><li>Brothers' and sisters' health and faith</li><li>Leading the truth seeker friend, Mr. Fan Juan</li></ul>	
Italy	Empoli	65	Cultivating the sermon leaders	
	Prato	35	• The rising rate of Sabbath service	
	Napoli	13	<ul><li>attendance</li><li>Settle down the places of worship in Napoli and Prato</li></ul>	
Greece	Athens	23	<ul> <li>Church title registration with the government</li> <li>The rising rate of Sabbath service attendance</li> <li>Cultivating the sermon leaders</li> </ul>	

### **I**ntercession

# 1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel	
4/1-4/30		Church's Pastoral Work		
4/3-4/15	Sabah	Preacher's Seminar	Timotius Farich Mid	
4/8-4/9		Ordained Workers & Divine Workers Spiritual Nurture		
4/28-5/25	Malaysia	Regional Pastoral  Malaysia Visit/Evangelical/Training by  IA(Southern Region)		
4/2-4/3	Indonesia	Kalimantan Region Divine Workers Spiritual Nurture	CJ Huang	
4/4-4/24		Bible Seminar/Spiritual Convocation		
4/7-4/25		Spiritual Meeting & Bible Study Service	YH Chiu	
3/31-4/18	Korea	Seminar on Evangelism in Pioneering country	Guo You Hui	
4/9-4/12		National Youth Spiritual Meeting		
4/29-5/22	Australia	Pastoral visits/ACB Council Meeting & National Church Conference	FM Tse Joshua Phoong	
4/1-4/17	Hong Kong Spring Spiritual & Evangelical Convocation		KC Jiang	
3/31-5/16	Japan	Voluntary minister Spiritual Meeting	Daniel Chin	
4/4-5/8	New Zealand	Spiritual Meeting/ Bible Study Seminar	Lee Ying Choo	
4/5-4/7		Preachers Seminar	Simon Chin	
4/8-4/16	Philippines	Short-Term Theological Course	Philippines workers/ Lemuel/ Zaccheus/ Malachi Lee	
3/29-5/9	110	Spiritual Evangelical Service	FM Tse	
4/15-5/28	US	TTP Training Class	MC Wang	
4/20-4/24	Canada Spring ESSC(Vancouver)		JR Wang	

4/25-5/8		Short Term Pastoral Visit & Spring ESSC(Toronto)	
4/29-5/1		Spring ESSC(Calgary)	WC Yeh
4/21-4/25	FOZ	Pastoral Visitation	Sheng Ming Chen
April	Ecuador	Pastoral Work	CM Chu
April	Bolivia	Evangelical/Pastoral/Training	CM Chu
4/2-4/10	Dominican Rep.	Pastoral Visitation	Samuel Kuo
April/May	Italy	Pastoral visitation	HH Ko Bao Qin Wang
April	Greece	Member Visit & Concern/ Spiritual Convocation	Bao Qin Wang
4/28-5/9	Russia	Pastoral Visitation/Spiritual Convocation	D. Liang
4/20-5/30	South Africa	Pastoral ministry / Training	Luke Chan
3/25-4/24	West Africa	Workers Training(Ghana)	Johnny Liu

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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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