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Feature

Rebuilding Walls, Extending Boundaries (Micah 7:11)

Shawn Chou

From ancient times to the present days, there have been famous city walls, such as the Great Wall of China, one of the Ten Heritage Sites of the World, and the Berlin Wall which was torn down. At the time of construction, they were to serve a purpose – some for defense, while others for setting boundaries among nations. Even though these walls were very strong when first built, through the passage of time, they were damaged by the wind and sun. Therefore, it is necessary to check regularly on the damage and make repairs accordingly. Otherwise, the walls will erode and eventually collapse, losing their original function. In the time of the Old Testament, rebuilding the city walls signified the revival of the Israelites' faith. Today, it prefigures that the development of the True Jesus Church should become more complete and prosperous.

When we look back at our church history of nearly a hundred years, our development to this day still consists of flaws that await improvement. But in time the church will be adorned properly for the coming of the Lord.

Today, which walls of the church require our repairs?

1. The Wall of Evangelism

“Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people” (Revelation 14:6). This was the vision of the End Times that the apostle John saw – the gospel that leads to salvation shall be proclaimed to every nation, tribe, language and people. When we examine our current status, it is clear that we still have a long way to go. Besides actively engaging in evangelical work in our local region, we can also proclaim the words of life to all nations, tribes, languages and people through the Internet. Utilizing various types of multimedia, we can put God’s teachings into different forms of message that people are prone to believe and accept, and thus prompt more unbelievers to take initiative to contact us. And, we should equip ourselves with more evangelical workers who will be able to travel anytime to lands not yet reached to evangelize and do the work of watering and harvesting.

2. The Wall of Pastoring

Before Jesus ascended to heaven after His resurrection, Jesus asked Peter three times whether he loved the Lord. The Lord taught him that to love the Lord is to feed and tend the Lord’s sheep (John 21:15-17) so that the sheep will obtain a life of abundance. We can see that this is an important task that the Lord has entrusted to the church. Currently, churches over the world face significant difficulties and challenges in their pastoral work. As the end time draws closer, the challenges grow bigger. Through the availability of mobile devices and tablets, people can easily access the Internet and various forms of media, leading to the convenience of obtaining all kinds of information. Some messages edify our heart, while others corrupt it. The invisible enemies look for people to devour through this. Some people of God who were initially zealous and active in pursuing their faith have gradually lost their direction amidst an environment full of temptations; they practice evil in God’s sight or simply lose their spiritual life overtime.

Today, the degree of difficulty of challenges in our pastoral work has far surpassed that in the past. The task of church workers as watchmen has become even heavier. Besides strengthening messages on the pulpit and fellowship activities, we can share spiritual articles and videos with the members through certain community apps, as well as encourage members to use their leisure time to listen to sermon recordings and videos posted on the e-Library section of our website, members.tjc.org. Only when we unceasingly listen to words that purify the heart will we be able to draw near to God and conduct long and deep prayers every day. Only in this way can the church’s pastoral work be simplified.

3. The Wall of Unity

“Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him.

And a threefold cord is not quickly broken” (Ecclesiastes 4:12). Thanks to the guidance and grace of the Lord, we have established General Assemblies and Coordination Centers one after another in different nations over the past 50 years. Besides more effectively developing holy work in their local region, they have also taken up work in various pioneering regions. Every GA and CC contributes effort and money to the respective pioneering region under its responsibility. This allows the true church to develop on a global scale, and it is a strategy for global evangelism that has been formed gradually under God’s guidance. Looking into the future of the true church, we must be even more united. Even though we are scattered around the globe, we must learn from the spirit of unity of the Israelites when they returned to rebuild the holy temple for God’s glory and laid the foundation of the temple as one man (Ezra 3:1). As the time approaches for our church to reach the one-hundred year milestone, no matter what challenges we face, visible or invisible, believers, churches, and GAs all around the globe must be even more united in prospering the gospel. Under the coordination of the International Assembly, all churches work together as one to supply human power, materials, and financial resources for our work of world evangelism. Then, our work of extending the boundaries of God’s kingdom will be more effective and unfold more rapidly.

From the path of our church’s development, we see clearly God’s wonderful guidance at every stage, because the Holy Spirit is with the true church. As a result, our church has been able to overcome many difficulties and continue to extend its boundaries. We believe firmly that this is not the work of men. However, every believer should still adopt a cautious attitude and examine our own faith frequently. Only then will the church keep prospering and the gospel spread to all nations, tribes, languages, and people.

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 [Church News](#)

Africa Church News

FF Chong

In the name of Jesus I present a brief report on the present situation of the church in both East and West Africa.

East Africa

The church in East Africa is progressing slowly but steadily and, as such, the church is still learning to cope with regional challenges. These include refusing financial assistance from other organizations and guarding against renegades who try to entice genuine believers with money from other denominational churches. Despite these challenges, however, some workers are firmly rooted in the faith, devoting much time to prayer, seeking God in all matters pertaining to the church.

There is always a 'sifting' time for every church and this is a testing and painful process. However, God's will is the best and thank God, although the church suffered some insincere workers causing confusion at the initial phase of church establishment, we have had some true members come through this 'baptism of fire.' They have shown that through thick and thin, they follow Jesus Christ wholeheartedly. In this way, the members' faith is generally stable. Having said this, a major problem in East Africa, particularly in one of the countries, lies with the workers. Some truthful brethren are currently being subject to physical attacks, vitriols, the destruction of church buildings and being incarcerated for being TJC members. Thank the Lord, however, these brethren have not succumbed to the threats. We ask TJC brothers and sisters throughout the world, who are living in peace, to intercede for these suffering saints.

West Africa



Full-time workers and TTP students in Ghana

The church in the western part of Africa is going through a defining moment in its faith. By this, I mean the workers and members must find a way to root their faith firmly in the Lord. There have been many questions raised regarding leadership, financial aid, and the organization of the church. The church must find a way with the wisdom of God and the fear of the Lord to stand on her own two feet. At this critical juncture, the leaders are to be advised and directed carefully, correctly, and spiritually.

The church in Nigeria is now independent, meaning the Nigerian brethren no longer require material assistance from other TJCs. The workers are able to hold their own spiritual convocations, seminars, and student convocations. We give thanks to God for making what was once deemed barren, now fruitful and abundant. The work of God is indeed great; however, caution should still be exercised in the midst of this joy. The church in Nigeria still requires out-station ministers to help fill in the gaps where the church is lacking.



Youth Training Seminar in Ghana

Additionally, some Nigerian workers are also actively involved with the work of pastoring the churches in neighboring countries. One of these countries is Liberia. Helping to build up the church in Liberia has been a very painful struggle. But, the Lord's way is always higher than ours. With the involvement of the Nigerian workers, the church in Liberia, by God's mercy, has sprung into life. This is something that none of us has ever expected it to occur in the manner

that it has. Truly, God knows how to choose workers for Himself and when to accomplish His work. Our duty, apart from doing the work, is to pray that God will send out more workers of His choice to build up the church in these areas.



Church members and RE students in Ghana

May all glory be given unto our Lord. Amen!

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Church News

The Lord Listens to Our Prayers and Looks After the Ministry in Thailand

Shun-Rong Tsai

1. God bestowed His grace and protection

In 1957, Sister Wen from Hat Yai of Southern Thailand went to Sungai Petani in Northern Malaysia to attend a spiritual convocation. It was brother Wu from another denomination who reached out to her to discuss biblical teachings. On March 11 of the same year, four

people, including Deacon He Chong Sheng, went to evangelize in Hat Yai and conduct baptism. On August 15, the Hat Yai church held a church dedication ceremony and spiritual convocation. In 1958, due to riots along the borders, the exit and entryways between the two countries were blocked. As a result, our workers could not enter into Southern Thailand. No one pastored over the believers there, so they scattered and the church fell into disuse. This lasted for approximately 25 years.

God never gives up on His children because of His love. As the Bible records:

A bruised reed He will not break,
And smoking flax He will not quench,
Till He sends forth justice to victory;
And in His name Gentiles will trust. (Matthew 12:20-21)

In 1983, Deacon He Chong Sheng and Deacon Mark Cai again entered into Thailand. They asked around to search for the lost flock. Sister Lin, a doctor, came to believe in the Lord and actively preached the gospel in Phran Kratai and Khao Khiao. Deacon John moved to Chiang Mai for the gospel but was evicted by all the villagers who belonged to the Pentecostal denomination. However, this strengthened his faith. Later, he moved to Bangkok and the gathering place of service was moved to his house. After a while, he moved to Chiang Mai again. The service place in Bangkok was then moved to brother Lu Mei Chang's house. Later, a prayer house was established.



Members in Bangkok

2. God opened a way: all things are possible by the Spirit of God

On June 1, 2013, the Thai Coordination Center held a meeting regarding the matters raised by the Taiwan General Assembly on establishing an assistance group for the house purchase in Mae Sai and establishing a True Jesus Church - Thailand Church and applying for registration with the government. The idea of purchasing a house in Mae Sai originated from the advice of the workers and volunteers who came to assist in the ministry over the past few years and who had visions for the development. The Taiwan GA reached a consensus with the Thai Holy Work Group and sought the assistance of the International Assembly.



E2 Student Convocation & Elderly Appreciation Service

In order to complete what was entrusted, the Northern Thai evangelical workers, the people in charge of the Coordination Center and the House Purchase Group did their best through various means to understand any legal and land-use rights issues. They spent much time negotiating and understanding the information they had. They even asked a Thai church worker to contact the house owner by telephone in the hope of negotiating for a lower purchase price. Thank the Lord, after the purchase was confirmed, the closing costs for two buildings were again lowered. The contract was executed on September 26, 2013. This was indeed by the help of God.

Therefore, the Evangelical department of the GA suggested the possibility of opening a school to promote our gospel work. However, due to limitations relating to the venue, teacher qualification, and financial resources etc. as laid out in the report by the Thai Holy Work Group, the matter did not go through, resulting in today's establishment of the Mae Sai Student Center.

In order to advance the development of the Student Center, the Dorcas Foundation put in its full effort to assist the Center in terms of its funding and its need for Chinese teachers so that the operation would be smoother and the learning more efficient. Currently, Maemor and Likai Churches are already training students on their Chinese listening and their translation skills from Chinese into Aka or Thai. After so much hard work from all, we now see the light of dawn. Let's pray for one another and continue to promote our work. Our work will surely advance.



J1 & J2 Students Convocation in Thailand

3. Protect our assets

The Evangelical Fellowship of Thailand (EFT) is a large Christian organization belonging to the Protestant denomination. In 1969, it was approved by the Office of Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Culture and Education to preach the gospel to its organizational members locally and worldwide. Even though our church is registered, we are still included

as a member of the EFT. As such, there is still uncertainty in many matters, including financial management. Therefore, in order that our church assets can be better managed, we held a preparatory meeting on January 25, 2014, regarding setting up a foundation to elect workers in-charge and to apply for the necessary information for every individual. On February 8 of the same year, a meeting was held to gathering the required information. The True Light Education Foundation was established on June 16.

During the stage when the application was under review, we encountered some difficulties. However, the workers did not lose heart. The church announced a prayer request for this matter. In addition, a special ten-minute prayer session was held for this matter after the Sabbath service. The brethren earnestly prayed in one heart and put this matter in their prayer whenever they prayed. Thank the Lord, He listened to all of our prayers. The application for the Education Foundation was approved on June 26, 2015. Despite this, there was still much to explore and learn at the initial operation stage. In order that the church can better promote the gospel work from now on, we hope that everyone can care for our work together and lift up your holy hands in prayers. May this glorify God and benefit us.

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Intercession

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
5/1-5/25	Sabah	Church's Pastoral Work	Habakuk Hee
5/4-5/19		Theological Training	Amos Chow
5/21-5/22		Ordained Workers & Divine Workers Spiritual Nurture	
5/26-6/27	Malaysia	Tamil speaking & Regional Malay speaking Spiritual Meeting	Sabah Preacher
5/30-6/27		Regional Malay speaking Spiritual Meeting	Sabah Preacher Indonesia Preacher

5/4-5/29	Indonesia	Preacher's Spouse Spiritual Nurture	MT Chien
		Bible Seminar/Spiritual Convocation	
		East/Central/West Java/Jakarta Region Divine Workers Spiritual Nurture	
5/11-5/23	Australia	Pastoral visits/ACB Council Meeting & National Church Conference	Fuming Tse J Phoong
5/6-5/16	New Zealand	Residential pastoral (Christchurch)	Shaw Shee En
5/7-5/26	Philippines	Seminar Of Accounting	Malachi/Philip/Zacchaeus
5/14-5/15		Spiritual Convocation	John/Philip
5/24-5/29		RE Teacher Seminar	Zebedee Chong
5/5-5/15	Myanmar	Youth Theological Course	Habakkuk Hee
5/12-5/23		Youth Bible Camp	
5/18-6/7	Fiji	pastoral & outreach work	Joshua Phoong
5/5-5/22	Thailand	Spiritual Convocation & Evangelical Service	CJ Chen
5/6-5/8	Canada	Spring ESSC (Montreal)	Raymond Chou
5/6-5/8		Spring ESSC (Edmonton)	Chun Hung Chou
5/3-5/30	Argentina	Pastoral Visitation	Enoch Hou
5/13-6/5	Brazil	Pastoral Work	Jonathan Chou
5/14-5/16	France	Seminar	Johnny Liu
5/13-5/16	Germany	Spiritual Convocation (Hamburg)	HH Ko / TK Chin
5/7-5/8	Austria	Special Service (Vienna)	HH Ko
May/June	Spain	Visit & Concern (Madrid/Albacete/Barcelona)	Chi-Jen Hsieh

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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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