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## *Feature*

# Lift up Your Eyes and Look at the Fields

Fuming Tse

In the Old Testament time, the prophet Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord in a vision saying: “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” (Isa 6:8). In the New Testament time, Jesus also said, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few” (Mt 9:37). Therefore, we see that training workers is an important topic that we should explore.

The Lord Jesus came into the world to fulfill the salvation plan in order to save humanity. Before He ascended to heaven, He commanded His disciples: “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mk 16:15), making disciples of all the nations, teaching them to observe all things that the Lord has commanded. “And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Mt 28:19-20). The Lord Jesus said, “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8). While the Lord Jesus was in this world, He travelled through cities and towns to do His ministry, teach people, preach the gospel of the Kingdom, heal all kinds of sicknesses, and bring people to understand the Word of Truth - the gospel of salvation. The Lord Jesus saw that people were weak and prone to lose their direction

easily, as sheep without a shepherd would lose their way. But, out of His mercy and love, He had compassion on them, not willing even one to perish, but wanting all to be saved and understand the Truth, for the Son of men came to seek those who were lost. This world is a piece of field. All people in it are precious, valuable harvest. In God's eyes, the harvest is plentiful, as those who long to receive the Truth and salvation are many, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Mt 9:35-37).

Matthew 10 records that the Lord ordained the twelve disciples, gave them power and sent them out to work. Luke 10 records that the Lord appointed the seventy and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest (Lk 10:1-2).

When the International Assembly held the first World Delegates Conference, it divided the current global ministry into the Eastern Hemisphere and Western Hemisphere divisions. However, there is still the need for the General Assemblies and Coordination Centers in different regions to cooperate and share duties. As coordinate with each other, proceed in one accord, and labor together, there will surely be wonderful fruits to their labor (Ecc 4:9). As a result, divisions are made by geographic regions: Taiwan will support the holy work in Thailand, Japan, and Hong Kong; Sabah will support the Philippines; Malaysia will support India; Singapore will support Myanmar; the United States will support Central and South America; the United Kingdom and other parts of Europe will support Africa; New Zealand and Australia will support Tonga, Samoa and Fiji. In addition, we have the Canaan School of ministry work in Indonesia and pastoral and pioneering work in regions with immigrants. We can see that, currently, the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

The IA chose "Increase the Nation, Expand the Borders" as the topic for this World Delegates Conference. In order to accomplish the holy mission to preach the gospel to the end of the earth, we must strengthen our evangelical and pastoral work, as well as training for workers.

To advance our work of evangelism, all members should be encouraged to preach at all times, whether in season or out of season; being cautious in everything, with longsuffering, fulfilling our duty to preach (2 Tim 4:2, 5). In addition, we should actively encourage youths to dedicate themselves to be preachers. As Paul said, "For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship ... I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the

gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you" (1 Cor 9:16-23).

In order to strengthen our pastoral work, we must put more effort into training preachers, elders, church council members, and religious education teachers, as well as training youths to participate in church work and strengthening spiritual guidance and care for our members. Members must take root in Christ and build a church that is self-reliant and self-grown and preaches through its own members. It is very important for the church to train its workers, especially the preachers whose teachings may keep the church in truth, so that we can carry on our past work into the future.

The Lord Jesus told us, "Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors" (Jn 4:35-38). The Lord Jesus used the parable of sowing the seeds to explain that human hearts are like four types of field. In this era, we should not be the ones who observe the wind and do not sow, who regard the clouds and do not reap; instead, in the morning we should sow our seeds, and in the evening do not withhold our hand; for we do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good (Ecc 11:4-6). We are workers together with God and should not receive the grace of God in vain. Now is the accepted time and the day of salvation (2 Cor 6:1-2).

May the Lord's Spirit move and compel more youths to dedicate themselves to the ministry of gathering harvest. The harvest is already ripe and the time of gathering has come. May we work in one accord for the gospel. From the first day until now, we have worked in one heart and mind to prosper the gospel. We are confident of this very thing: He who has begun a good work in us will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ (Phil 1:5-6).

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## **Brief Report on Singapore & Myanmar**

### **Singapore**

By the grace of Christ Jesus, Singapore Co-ordination Board (SCB) expects to start its 4<sup>th</sup> place

of worship in the northeast within this year. Congregants will be under the pastorate of Telok Kurau Church, and after two years, to be considered for registration as a church under SCB. Believers residing in the vicinity number about 160 (including 28 RE students), mostly members of Telok Kurau Church, and a smaller number belonging to Adam Road Church. Workers allocated to the new worship location include 2 deacons and 16 teachers.

To-date, Singapore has only 2 proper church buildings, occupied by Telok Kurau and Adam Road churches. The difficulty in procuring gazetted land for church use in land-scarce Singapore constitutes a major obstacle to church planting. Three years ago, the Urban Redevelopment Authority opened a leeway for churches to rent light industrial units for worship during stipulated times, subject to certain rules. We have found a suitable light industrial factory space in the northeast, but there are various legal requirements have to be met before we could apply to rent it for worship services.

Pr Silas Kong ended his 4-year stint in northern Thailand and has started as resident of Sembawang Church. We have also seen the return of Pr Ho Jung-Yu and his family to Taiwan. He had served here for 4 years. Current deployment of Singapore preachers are as follows:

Pr Elisha Shim – Resident Preacher of Telok Kurau Church

Pr Barnabas Chong – Resident Preacher of Adam Road Church

Pr Silas Kong – Resident Preacher of Sembawang Church

Pr Peter Shee – Myanmar Mission

Pr Chin Aun Quek – Pulpit Ministry & Training

Pr Simon Chin will turn 70 this year. Thanks to the Lord, he will assist in church development and training before his retirement.

## **Myanmar**

Myanmar occupies a vast surface area of 676,578 sq km with a population of about 53 million. However we only have 2 regions reached with the word of truth – former capital Yangon and Kalay in the northwest, at the foothills. There is only one church in Yangon with approximately 110 members. Kalay is rural; hence believers are more dispersed, with 5 worship locations:

Church Buildings	Taungzalat	119
	Natkyikong	36
	Sawbwayeshin	73

Homes	Letpanchaung	42
	Mamauk	7

The Myanmar Mission Committee (MMC) initiated a campaign “Myanmar Revival 2015” (MR15) spanning April 2015 to March 2016:

- (1) 7-9 Mar ~ Myanmar ministers & MMC gathered in Singapore to finalise MR15 plans, with these 4 focus areas: leaders, one true church, religious education & morality
- (2) 2-15 Apr ~ MR15 launch in all churches ~ National Leaders Theological Training Course
- (3) 9-19 Apr ~ National RE Teachers Training
- (4) 6-18 Aug ~ National Bible Camp conducted in alignment with MR15 focus
- (5) July - Aug ~ MR15 presentation to all Singapore churches; regular prayer for Myanmar ministry at 5:50 pm on Sabbath initiated
- (6) 18-26 Sep ~ Leadership Training (Yangon, Kalay)
- (7) 24-18 Oct ~ Seminar for Myanmar Preachers’ Spouses & Myanmar Church Staff (Singapore)
- (8) 27-29 Sep ~ First half-yearly review of MR15 by MMC & Myanmar Ministers in Yangon
- (9) 19-27 Dec ~ Seminars on marriage and sexual morality (Yangon, Kalay)
- (10) 15-18 Mar 2016 ~ National RE Teachers Training
- (11) 16-19 Apr 2016 ~ Second half-yearly review of MR15 by MMC & Myanmar Ministers in Singapore

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## *Church News*

### **The Ministry in Central and South Americas**

Central and South Americas cover a large area. From Mexico in the north to Chile and Argentina in the southernmost tip, there are more than forty countries, regions, and territories.

Originally Indian culture dominated over Central and South Americas. The European colonizers imported black slaves after the death of a large number of Indians to supplement the labor force; the descendants in this area are complex. Since the Latin culture brought by Spain and Portugal dominated the area for a long time, it is often called the Latin America. However the Indian culture has not disappeared, and its integration and conflict with the black Africans form a

composite culture. It has enriched the culture in South America. Due to long-term colonization, the official national language of the country is mostly the language of the colonial mother country. A few languages such as Quechuan and Guarani (Paraguay) still exist today.

Spanish is the official language in most countries of Central and South Americas. Other languages such as Portuguese was spoken in Brazil; English in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Belize, Guyana, British Falkland Islands, British Cayman Islands and other former British Caribbean islands such as Antigua and Barbuda, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Grenada, and other countries; Dutch in Suriname; French in Haiti, Saint Martin, and Guiana.

### **Religion**

The most common religion in Central and South American countries is Catholic. There are also Christians. Among the Protestant denominations, Pentecostal believers are the majority. There are also believers of Judaism. The largest Jewish district has 20 million people in Argentina. Many synagogues can be seen in Jewish districts of Buenos.

### **The Ministry in Central and South Americas**

During late 1970s and early 1980s in the last century, TJC brethren arrived in this continent to work and to live. They also brought the gospel to this land. In order to maintain their faith, they started with family services in their own houses. By the guidance of God's grace, although going through many difficulties in their lives with limited resources, the flag of the True Jesus Church finally stands in several regions of Central and South Americas.



*Argentina Church Building*

In the early stage, by the Taiwan GA's assistance, the holy works in various regions were increasingly strengthened. In the 1990s, IA actively sent workers to assist the holy works in Central and South Americas. After the year 2000, IA made adjustment to the pioneering work in different regions, the holy work of Central and South Americas is assigned to be taken cared by West Hemisphere Department of World Mission (WHDWM) and USGA.



*Baptism in Ecuador*

Under the assistance and care of I.A, Taiwan GA, USGA, and prayer of the churches around the world, Central and South Americas have established various worship locations, prayer houses and churches. Some also have their own church buildings.



*Our members in Sao Paulo*

Every year IA's WHDWM, USGA, Central and South America Coordination Center sends four to six workers to conduct pastoral visitations and training in all worship locations, prayer houses, and churches.



*Our members in Dominican Republic*

**Situation**

Country	No. of churches	No. of prayer houses	Points of worship	No. of believers	No. of preachers	No. of ministers	No. of RE teachers	No. of RE students
Dominican Republic		1		21				
Guatemala				4				
Ecuador				26				
Bolivia			1	9				
Sao Paulo, Brazil		1		32			5	7
Foz, Brazil		1		17				
Chile		1		31				
Argentina	1			550	1	3	16	40
Total	1	4		680	1	3	21	47

There are only a few countries and regions with our believers' presence. In this vast land, there are still many places to be conquered. May God bless us with His mercy and refresh us with spiritual power, so that we have enough strength to walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it, enlarge the place of God's tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of the habitations on the right hand and on the left. Let us uphold God's name to the far end of the earth for completing the mission God entrusted to us to glorify God's name. We will be grateful that all the elders, deacons, and brethren in the world can intercede for the ministry of Central and South Americas.



*Church service in Chile*

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### *Intercession*

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Personnel</b>
6/22-6/29	Malaysia	Pastoral/Evangelical/Training	Yi-Ann Wang
6/26-7/15	Korea	Preachers' Spiritual Nurture	Yung-Ji Lin
6/3-6/21	Singapore	Adult Bible Study Course	Hung Jen Chao
6/5-6/19		Youth Theological Training Course	
6/30-7/5	Hong Kong	Hymnal Camp	Grace Hsu

6/22-6/29	New Zealand	Residential pastoral (East Auckland) & Combined churches meeting	Joshua Phoong
6/7-6/24	Philippines	PMCC Pastoral Visiting (Davao)	Pr Zacchaeus Yong
6/11-6/12		Spiritual Convocation (Cebu)	Pr Ezekiel & Pr Zacchaeus
6/18-6/19		Visayas Ministers Spouses Seminar	Pr Zacchaeus Sabah Preacher
6/25-6/26		Spiritual Convocation (Tabina)	Pr James & Pr John Mon
6/8-6/21	Tonga	Pastoral trip	Joshua Phoong
6/30-7/6	Samoa	Pastoral	Joshua Phoong
5/31-6/30	US	e-Learning Project	HH Ko
6/19-6/20	Argentina	Youth Spiritual Cultivation	S. Hwang /CM Chu
6/6-6/13	FOZ	Pastoral Work/ Training	Jonathan Chou/M. Kuo
6/22-7/17	Dominican Rep.	Pastoral Visitation	Francisco M.
6/20-7/17	UK	National Seminar for Ministers' Spouses (Sunderland)	Daniel Chin
		Evangelical Spiritual Convocation (Gifford Park)	
6/9-7/10	East Africa	Pastoral ministry/ Training (Malawi, Zambia)	FF Chong / Tony Kuo

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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](mailto:ia@tjc.org) **or** [tjciatwn@ms25.hinet.net](mailto:tjciatwn@ms25.hinet.net).

✧ *May our Lord remember your contribution and bless you abundantly!*

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