Feature

Choices in Life

Ming-En Shaw

1. A person’s life is paved by his/her choices

From young to old, a man unceasingly faces his choices every day and every moment. Some matters do not matter much; however, some make great impact, even to a turning point of life. It is said that “the worst for a man is to get into the wrong business; the worst for a woman is to have married the wrong man.” On one hand, it indicates unguarded choices; on the other hand, it directly indicates the difficulties one has to go through in his/her life after making wrong choices. This reminds us to be prudent when making choices.

2. Choose to believe in God’s warning toward man

Noah believed God’s word and believed that God would destroy all living creatures, so he did all things God commanded (Gen 6:21). By faith Noah, being moved by the fear of God, made ready an ark for the salvation of his family, because God had given him news of things which were not seen at the time; and through it the world was judged by him, and he got for his heritage the righteousness which is by faith. Believers also believe that the day of the Lord will come like a thief; and in that day the heavens will be rolled up with a great noise, and the
substance of the earth will be changed by violent heat, and the world and everything in it will be burned up (2 Pet 3:10-13).

Today, God also warns us that the unseen things will be fulfilled, so we should take great care that when He comes we may be in peace before Him, free from sin and every evil thing, since God will come and judge all nations. The Lord who punishes evil-doers and praises those who do well will give to every man the reward of his work.

3. **Choose the blessing of listening to God’s words**

The book of Luke records that Jesus entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, also sat at Jesus’ feet, and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.” And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”

In this world, all men need to carry burdens from their works and lives. However, some people already know that, as believers, they need to rest from their burdens by relying on the Lord, and diligently join church services and listen to His words (Heb 10:25). These people have grasped the good part of blessing. They know that worrying cannot add one cubit to their stature, and seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Our heavenly Father knows all these things people need and He shall add them to those who seek for Him.

4. **Choose to serve God in sincerity and in truth**

Joshua brought the people to Canaan, God’s Promised Land. Before he departed the world, he once again declared God’s grace and mighty power. He also testified all God’s deeds to the people, encouraged them make a determination to serve God in sincerity and in truth, and declared to them that he and his house will serve the Lord.

The book of Matthew, chapter 24, records that the Lord told the disciples to take heed that no one deceives them, and near that time, people will deliver believers up to tribulation and kill them, and they will be hated by all nations for the sake of God’s name; but he who endures to the end shall be saved.

The trainings have never ceased in the old times, in Jesus’ time when the disciples suffered, nor until today when the believers suffer. But the Lord promised us that in the world we will have...
tribulation, but in Him we may have peace. The Lord will also keep us from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth, since we have kept His command to persevere (Rev 3:10). So we shall hold fast to what we have believed and serve God in sincerity and in truth.

5. Choose to forsake all that we have to follow Jesus

In the Book of Matthew, when the Lord called the disciples, they immediately left their nets, their boats, their parents, and followed Him. When Jesus was in the world, He had nowhere to lay His head. So when the disciples followed Jesus, they had left their stable income, stable lives, and adorable families. They chose to confront difficulties, painfulness, and weariness. But the Lord encouraged them that there is no one who has left everything for the sake of God who will not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life” (Luke, chapter 18).

Following the Lord requires sacrifices, such as giving up the enjoyment of the world, enduring the loss of career, and separation from family. Although we give up the physical and visible things, we will receive many times more the spiritual and heavenly blessings. The disciples chose to leave everything they had and followed Jesus. Those beautiful testimonies, left by many of our elders in faith, are like clouds surrounding us.

So what should we choose whenever the Lord Jesus leaves choices to us in our lives?

▲ TOP

 setData("Church News: US Church Development and Sacred Work Update\n\nSubmitted by USGA on June, 2016\n\nHallelujah, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we would like to share with our brothers and sisters around the world recent developments in the holy work of the USGA and among the churches in the United States.")
Evangelical and Training Videos

For the past few years the USGA department of literary ministry has been working on the new IA eLearning site, which is aimed to provide Biblical and ministry training to members around the world. Thank God, the site was launched earlier this year. Currently it is available only in Chinese. Please visit learn.tjc.org to view or listen to the available courses. In addition, the USGA has continued to develop more evangelical video content, including personal testimonies and short sermons.
East Bay

With God’s blessings, East Bay church branched off from San Jose and Pacifica Churches in 2004 and has been actively seeking for a church property since then. Praise and thank God, they finally found and purchased a church building last year. The East Bay church held its first service at the new location on December 25th, 2015. Because the building is historic, much repair and renovation work is still necessary.
Print-On-Demand

The USGA is in the process of adopting print-on-demand to make publications available to local churches in members. Publications are made available online, and anyone may order any number of copies, even as few as one, and the supplier will ship the publication directly. This greatly reduces the inventory cost and minimizes the dispatch work. Some publications are already available, including “Saving Grace” and “Freshmen Survival Guide.” Other publications, including RE textbooks, will also become available for order in the future.

Church News

Current Ministry in Tonga and Samoa

Current Ministry in Tonga

In Tonga, currently there are ten believers, who immigrated from Fuqing, most doing grocery business. In February 2015, Pr. Shih Fu-Ann specially held the Holy Communion in Tonga when he went there for a pastoral visitation. There are three truth-seekers who have joined the family services. The situation of the believers’ faith is described as follows:

Last June when Pr. Shih went to Tonga, he provided the local believers informative materials for studying the Bible, and hoped that it would help them have more knowledge about the Bible, so that some believers in Tonga may be able to lead Bible studying and church services,
briefly interpret the Bible, and share what they have learned in the Bible. But the local believers felt stressed. In addition to their inexperience with the words in the Bible, presently they hold church services by singing hymns and studying the Bible on Sabbath day and Sunday.

Among the local believers in Tonga, I observed that only two families devote more to their faith. They remain singing hymns and reading the Bible during the church service even when there is no assigned worker. Other believers seem not zealous, placing little value on their faith, and seldom join church services. Thus, it is not easy to develop the work of gospel, since it is even hard for the believers to grow. May God have mercy and bring their heart to return to God.

Some believers and truth-seekers in Tonga

Bro. Huang’s son is at the age of 15 and Sis. Liu’s son is at the age of 17. Both of them are adolescents and their lives and faith need to be cared by their families and by the believers through prayer. May God grant wisdom to their parents, so they would educate and foster their sons by God’s words and help their sons grow in the Lord.

Bro. Wang’s wife has further experience for the faith, and she is more devoted. The assigned workers can follow up with her, so that she obtains deeper understanding of the hope of the gospel and receive the salvation and bring the entire family to the Lord.
The evangelism work in Tonga is currently carried out by Eastern Hemisphere Department of World Mission, a residential preacher in New Zealand, and workers assigned by the three churches in New Zealand. Since the workers are not stably assigned, the period of each pastoral visit is short, and also the local believers are not zealous for evangelism, there seems not much result for outreach and edification to the faith of the believers. Many people from China and Fuqing immigrated and worked in this place, and some of them are familiar with our church members. They communicate with each other by Fuqing dialects. In a foreign land, people from the same hometown are like a family. If workers from Fuqing, China, can come here for caring and pastoring, they may move the faith of Fuqing believers and establish the gospel work in local.

**Current Ministry in Samoa**

In Samoa, currently there are about ten believers and one truth-seeker, immigrating from Fuqing, China. Most own retail stores or small markets. Their retail stores are closed on Sundays and their small markets are open 7 day a week. Church service would not be regularly held if there were no assigned work visiting. We can hold irregular services when there is a good time to gather all members, and then move forward to hold service regularly once a week. It will be better if the service can be held on Friday nights. If the members are busy on Friday night, we can hold service on Sunday nights. (Most members are not at work on Sunday, except those who own small markets.) Regular services can help the believers build up their habits of joining services and worshipping God, which will gradually strengthen their faith.
The period of each pastoral visitation is too short, so it limits the benefit of pastoring the local believers and moving the evangelical works. It would produce better results if the assigned workers can stay for long periods in each pastoral visitation.

**TOP**

**Intercession**
1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

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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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