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## *Feature*

# The Lord Our God is One!

Chang Hui

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!” (Deut 6:4)

## 1. Preface

After 40 years in the wilderness, the Lord your God has humbled and tested you enough; these days have come to past (Deut 8:2, 1:6). Before entering the promised land of Canaan, God revealed to Moses in utmost patience, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!” This has repetitively recorded in Deuteronomy 5:1, 6:4, 9:1, 20:3, 27:9. This is the revelation of God, invitation of love, and the commandment of blessing and cursing.

## 2. The Lord our God is one!

After 40 years of shepherding, Moses had turned 80. God revealed to Moses in the burning bush, “I am who I am.” After 40 years of trial in the wilderness, Moses then turned 120. Moses spent his faithfulness in the house of the Lord while he faced the congregation days and nights, and connected to them in every way. Moses spoke to the chosen people of God who had gone through trial for 40 years in unmitigated reverence, “The Lord our God is one!” God has revealed this in Exodus 20:1, “I am the Lord your God...you shall have no other gods before Me.” This is not a conclusion from men’s observation and research.

During the time of Moses, the land of Canaan was filled with idolatry. In Egypt, people worshipped many idols; while Persians held many perspectives of gods. All these perceptions were twisted and wrong, in which they were walking “according to the prince of power of the air”. In the darkest time, God has prominently introduced Himself to His chosen people, “I am who I am”, “I am the only one”. This one and only true God, is one who brought them out of Egypt, out of their slavery house. This small portion of chosen people was about to enter into a region that is more civilized than themselves but a place that filled with many idols. Nevertheless, citizens of God ought not focus on others’ military status, wealth, or civilization; but seek only a way to prevent themselves from secularization – The Lord our God is one!

### **3. The “trial” of being in the one true God**

True Jesus Church is chosen by the one true God through grace. We are the ark of the end time. As true believers, we hold the faith of “the Lord our God is one”. In the like manner, we already acknowledged the scheme of the wicked who distorted the truth of God. Let’s give three examples that had happened in the past; queen of heaven from Babylon, Trinity that led people away from the truth of God, and blasphemy mouth of three beasts before the end time.

#### **3.1 The temptation from queen of heaven**

Before the destruction of the first holy temple in the time of Jeremiah, chosen people of God were tempted; they poured out drink offerings to the queen of heaven and provoked God to anger (refer to Jeremiah 7:18, 44:17-19, 25). In this generation, people’s hearts were hardened. Though God has repetitively risen up early, sent His prophets and has spoken to them (Jer 7:13, 25, 11:7, 25:3-4, 26:5, 29:19, 32:33, 35:14-15, 44:4), they did not listen. Their priests and elders worshipped those abominable idols in their midst (refer to Ezekiel 8:7-16). In the end, God acted in fury (Ezek 8:18), that led to annihilation of the chosen people, destruction of the temple and captivity of Israel in Babylon. Thus, “Lamentations” became a tearstained portrait of the once proud Jerusalem.

#### **3.2 The obstacle from “Trinity”**

A Christian historian, Williston Walker has written about the fall of the ancient apostolic church, “In year 70 – 110, history of Christian Church is considered ambiguous and unclear. We could only be certain of some fragment and pieces of attainment, which is unfortunate. In such a short 40 years, there were many alterations. When these churches went through

trials, only little Christian conception has remained which could be similar to that of Paul's. Many anonymous and preachers have worked so hard to maintain genuine Christian faith and tradition since Paul; however, there were also many believers of many denominations who brought in different rationalization to transform this genuine Christian's faith and tradition. There are especially things that are related to Holy Communion, fasting, and observation of Sabbath. In the beginning, the Holy Spirit led the churches in Christian's faith. This belief has not entirely ceased to exist, apparently it is not like before." (Walker: A History of the Christian Church, translators: Ling Xie, Yizhi Chao, published by Chinese Christian Literature Council Limited, Hong Kong, 1990, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, page 51)

Many theological viewpoints have appeared to overthrow downgraded theology from the past. For example; there are Docetism, Adoptionism, Monarchianism, etc. Thereafter, "Trinity" from Logos Christology was presented to the world. Without the presence of the promised Holy Spirit, Catholic Church soon accepted this theological viewpoint – which none of these have met the truth from the Bible. They have considered this an absolute truth, and pronounced it through the first 3 statements of Athanasian Creed: "1. Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the catholic faith; 2. Which faith except every one do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly; 3. And the catholic faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity."

This faulty "Trinity" has led Apostolic Church to the captivity of Babylon.

### 3.3 The blasphemy of "Satan's self-existence"

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the end time according to God's salvation plan, True Jesus Church has been established as the ark for salvation. Through the ark, the work of salvation is spread to every corner of the world (refer to Matthew 13:47-50). Also in "Reaping the Earth's Harvest" (refer to Revelation 14:14-16). The Bible has prophesied about this work of salvation long ago; "Other sheep I have which are not of this fold, savage wolves will come in among you" (refer to John 10:16, Acts 20:29-30). Book of Revelation, a guidance to the living of holy saints in the end time, has repetitively unveiled these beasts (refer to Revelation 6:1-8, 9, 11:7, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20). Though the ark of the end time is approaching its 100 years; Satan is utilizing his same old trick, tempting everyone with convoluted theological viewpoints. He is no longer using thing of actual physical appearance like "temptation from queen of heaven" or obstacle from "Trinity", but the blasphemy of "Satan's self-existence" from the cults.

If a man is tempted and has not understood the Lord our God is one, he must repent and ask

for the mercy of God. If a man persisted and contemplated in the perception of “Satan’s self-existence,” he must regain understanding in the Lord. “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted” (Galatians 6:1). If a man’s heart is snatched and be resolute to Satan’s self-existence conception that defiles God, and even more so he believes that he has received revelation from the Lord, he must know for certain that this allegation is not from the above. Thus, to such a man, we must “be merciful to those who doubt, snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh” (Jude 22-23).

#### 4. Conclusion

“Hear, O Israel!” 3,000 years ago, the Lord has pronounced Himself to the chosen people through Moses. This proclamation has gone beyond space and time, and pronounces to us once again – the true Israelite; “The Lord our God is one!” He is the only one, He is “I am who I am; He is the only “I am” and the only “self-existence” – “The Lord our God is one!” 2 Peter 3:17-18, You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfast, being led away with the error of the wicked, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen!

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### *Church News*

## Current Ministry in Canada

Canada Coordination Centre

### **Calgary Church**

By the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of the brethren worldwide, Calgary church purchased a new chapel in June. We will be moving into the new location later this year after completing renovation. Over the past 19 years, Calgary church has grown steadily to a membership of 59 brethren. As membership grew, the current worship place in the basement of the church house became overcrowded. Due to the lack of space, Calgary Church has been searching for a new place of worship for the past decade. After much searching, we were finally able to purchase this new chapel and adjoining house.

Please continue to pray for Calgary church, as we continue to journey forward with the tasks ahead: new chapel renovations, repayment of the mortgage, and most importantly, the work of the Gospel in the area of Calgary. If members are willing to contribute to the new chapel purchase, please go to: <http://tjc.ca/calgary/donate/> for more details.



## Toronto Church

Toronto is the largest city in Canada. Church members from South East Asia started to immigrate to Toronto in the 1970s. In the beginning, members gathered to worship God in family services, and a church was established later on. There are about 300 members to date. In the past recent years, many immigrants from mainland China have come to settle in Toronto. Therefore, the Chinese members in church have also greatly increased. Because of this reason, the International Assembly sent Elder Wang Qin Ru from Fujian Church, China, to visit Toronto in May 2016, to assist with the work of the Spiritual Convocation. Members were nourished by God's words, and greatly edified.



*True Jesus Church Toronto ESSC 2016 Spring on May 8, 2016*

## **Waterloo Prayer House**

In addition, a new church is established in Waterloo, a city west of Toronto, in the beginning of year 2016. Waterloo is a Canadian city known for its high technology industry. About 10 years ago, family services started to be held in Waterloo, but because of the long two-hour commute to Toronto, members consented through AGM to establish a new church in Waterloo. There are approximately 40 members right now, may God bless and guide the development of the sacred work here.



## **Montreal Prayer House**

Montreal is the metropolis of the French province in Canada. The prayer house has been established for about 20 years, with about 20 members as of present. Thank God, membership has been increasing because the growing number of students from China. The Church is now actively seeking for a chapel, in hopes of raising the Name of God in the French district, to spread the Gospel widely, and to lead people to believe in Jesus.

## **2016 Vancouver Church Overview**

Around 20 brothers, sisters and truth-seekers regularly gather at the Chinese Bible Study in Thursday mornings. With a recent focus on studying the Book of Esther, attendees are reassured of their lives under gentile-ruling, by God's wonders and protection. There are also around 10 brothers, sisters and truth-seekers who regularly attend the English Bible Study in Sabbath afternoons. The Bible Study group was established to encourage English-speaking attendees to share and edify one another. With the majority of truth-seekers being immigrants from Mainland China, every ESSC baptizes many truth-seekers who, in their various trials, find comfort and joy at our Church.

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## *Church News*

# Updates on the Ministry in New Zealand

Fu-Ann Shih

In this year, three churches in New Zealand had held two evangelical services and spiritual convocations, with a total of 34 people receiving baptism, among whom 24 were from Auckland Church, 5 from East Auckland Church, and 5 from Christchurch Church.

### **Auckland Church**

A prayer house was established in the Northern region. From November 2015, a service is held in the Northern region every Tuesday and Friday evening. Currently, the church council has passed a resolution to hold a half-day Sabbath service in the morning in a trial basis, and they are actively seeking a suitable rental place as the venue, so that the gospel work would advance. The gathering place in the Western region has also resolved to hold a half-day Sabbath service in the afternoon. Initially, the gospel works were carried out on Thursday mornings and geared mainly towards the elderly population; it is hopeful to expand the gospel works upon the youths. Currently, the Western region is also actively seeking a suitable rental place as the venue for holding Sabbath services.

### **East Auckland Church**

East Auckland Church is actively training members to be service leaders and promoting regional family services. The Eastern region holds family service once a month in Deacon Sheng Shan Li's house and the Central region in Brother Shang Yan Lai's house; the Southern region holds it twice a month. We hope that the gospel work can expand through this.

### **Christchurch Church**

Thank God that more truth-seekers regularly attend our services. More and more people receive the Holy Spirit.

### **Youth and Student Spiritual Convocation**

New Zealand churches have held an annual youth spiritual convocation (geared towards college students) on November 13-16, 2015. A total of 7 students and 2 observers attended. This year, more youth are attending college, so the participants of this convocation will likely increase. Starting from this year, the youth spiritual convocation will explore the topics set by the Taiwan General Assembly for college students. The four-year cycle of topics is set as follows: soteriology, Christology, ecclesiology, and the study on life. Each topic will be explored mainly by studying the Bible.

The spiritual convocation for junior and senior high school students was held on July 10-15, 2016. A total of 25 students attended; one received the Holy Spirit. The six-year cycle of the topics for the student convocation is blueprinted by the US General Assembly in textbook.

### **RE Teacher Seminars**

We occasionally hold RE teachers' seminars. This July, one was held at Auckland Church on the North Island and one at Christchurch Church on the South Island. The International Assembly sent Deacon En Guang Li to assist in the seminars. There were 9 students at the seminar on the North Island and 4 on the South Island.



### **Volunteers Training**

In order to strengthen the pastoral works in East Tonga and Samoa, the IA Department of Eastern Missions also held a volunteers training seminar in New Zealand, conducted by Elder Fu-Ming Tse and Elder Joshua Phoong.

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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>
8/29 - 9/13	Sabah	Theological Training Courses	C.C. Huang
9/16-9/18		Match-making workers Seminar	En Yuan Ho
9/29-10/27	Malaysia	Pastoral Attachment & National Malay Speaking Spiritual Meeting	Sabah Preacher
9/14-10/10		IA sent Internship	Yi-Yun Liu
9/2-9/25	Indonesia	Spiritual Convocation	Thomas Kam
9/2-9/12	Korea	National Youth Spiritual Meeting	E.T. Lin
9/5-10/9	New Zealand	Pastoral Visiting/Seminars	Ezekiel C.
9/8-11/8	Japan	Spiritual Meeting	I.F. Lai
9/6-9/29	Philippines	PMCC Pastoral Visiting(Mindanao)	Zacchaeus Y.
9/16-9/17		Spiritual Convocation & Church Dedication (Batungan)	Pr Zacchaeus & Dn Philip
9/12-10/8	Fiji	Pastoral & Outreach work	Joel Chong
9/5-9/20	US	TTP Training Courses	YJ Lin
9/21-10/24		TTP Training Courses	FF Chong
9/7-/9/11	Canada	ESSC(Autumn)-Vancouver	Derren Liang
9/16-9/26		ESSC(Autumn)-Edmonton/Calgary	Jason Hu
9/16-/9/18		ESSC(Autumn)- Montreal	KC Tsai
9/22-10/2		ESSC(Autumn) & Parenting (RE Week)-Toronto	Vuthy Nol-Manita
9/21-10/16	Argentina	Pastoral visitation	YJ Lin
9/19-9/26	FOZ	Pastoral Work& Training	GH Chen MT Kuo
9/10-9/18	Dominican R.	Pastoral Visitation	Jason Hu
9/23-9/25	Germany	Training & Special Service (Hamburg)	Johnny Liu
9/16-9/18	Austria	Spiritual Convocation & Evangelical Service (Vienna)	Michael Chan
9/1-9/12	Russia	Pastoral Visitation	Shawn Chou

9/20-10/23	South Africa	Pastoral ministry / Training / Lesotho Outreach/Visiting (Botswana)	Luke Chan
9/22-10/23	West Africa	Workers Training(Ghana)	Raymond Chou
9/15-10/16	East Africa	Pastoral ministry & Training (Kenya/Tanzania)	TK Chin Samuel Kuo
9/9-9/13 9/30-10/2	Mid East-Dubai	Bible Seminar with Holy Communion and Spiritual Convocation	Joshua Phoong

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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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